



## Sexual abuse case 16--09465, re: [REDACTED] family

4 messages

Wed, Dec 11, 2019 at 11:37 PM

To: mdannels@cochise.az.gov  
[REDACTED]

Good afternoon Sheriff,

I hope you can put yourself in my shoes and look at this case as if these were your own boys since we are both part of a larger law enforcement family and brotherhood.

Per our discussion from last Thursday, I'm sending you an email to make some points about our case and to add facts that have occurred since 2016. According to Mike Powell's email to our attorney Mel McDonald, the County Attorney's Office (CAO) is refusing to pursue charges against the McConnells due to statements made by their expert witness Wendy DUTTON (forensic interviewer from Phoenix Children's Hospital).

The [REDACTED] family (hereafter referred to as CF), through attorney Mel McDonald, advised the CAO that the CF had in their possession new evidence to add to case 16-09465 and further inquired as to the possibility of filing criminal charges against the MCCONNELLS. This new evidence included the children's disclosure to their therapists during therapy sessions, along with pictures of play therapy depicting the violent and sadistic nature of the suspects tactics while using fear and intimidation to sexually assault the CF children. The CAO responded that because of Wendy DUTTON's opinion that the kids were essentially coached by the mom, and is the reason no further forensic interviews would be taken, is why the CAO has refused prosecution. DUTTON had reviewed the CCSO's case file and issued her opinion in 2016 via letter. Mel McDonald attempted to contact DUTTON to advise her of the new disclosures and the expert opinions of two highly qualified child therapists caring for the CF children. DUTTON refused to speak to Mel McDonald other than stating she did not want to get involved, as relayed by her attorney at Phoenix Children's Hospital. CF takes issue with the following:

1. DUTTON has never met or interviewed the CF children. How can DUTTON be an expert witness in this case regarding the details when DUTTON is not a material witness to those details? DUTTON is at best, a "cold" expert witness used to educate jurors about general characteristics of how children act re: child sex abuse i.e. why children delay disclosure, why they don't disclose, why they sometimes recant, and mindset of childhood trauma victims.
2. The CF daughter disclosed in her forensic interview (Lori's Place) that "Ricky" (Richard MCCONNELL) had touched her vagina (at approximately the 7 minute mark on the video).
3. The forensic interview took place prior to mom's interviews. How is there coaching when the child had already made the claim? (THERE WAS NO COACHING)
4. DUTTON states in her own training programs that the job of the forensic interviewer is to interview the child, not determine the child's veracity (ability to tell the truth). Yet she has determined the veracity of the CF children without interviewing them. Isn't it CCSO's job to determine veracity?
5. DUTTON stated in her own training materials that the forensic interviewer's job is to simply collect evidence.
6. DUTTON further stated in court, "that victims of child sexual abuse will more likely disclose their situation to a forensic interviewer, but that it was not necessary." Meaning a child does not have to disclose to a forensic interviewer for the disclosure to be valid i.e. our pediatrician, child's therapists, police officers, parents, grandparents...can all be material witnesses to the disclosures.
7. DUTTON has stated under oath, coaching is typically seen in cases in which there is a high conflict divorce or custody dispute. The CF case is not a divorce or custody battle.
8. DUTTON testified that "piecemeal disclosure is common..." How do you get piecemeal disclosures if not through multiple interviews?
9. Diane Kerrihard (Forensic RN at the Southern AZ Advocacy Center, Tucson) has also testified that it is normal to see escalated disclosures of details,...as the child may feel more comfortable sharing more information once they realize that people believe them. [https://www.nogalesinternational.com/news/jury-deadlocks-in-child-sex-abuse-case/article\\_3994ec2a-7034-11e8-8924-a7d59a724625.html](https://www.nogalesinternational.com/news/jury-deadlocks-in-child-sex-abuse-case/article_3994ec2a-7034-11e8-8924-a7d59a724625.html)
10. As you and I agreed over the phone, DUTTON was involved the moment she reviewed the case and issued a formal letter to the CAO. Anything less is ridiculous and shows a lack of candor, a bad look for expert witnesses representing Cochise County!
11. DUTTON had reviewed this case in 2016 and issued a letter determining the CF children's veracity, as requested by CCSO Detective Todd Borquez. DUTTON's refusal to review new evidence of child sex abuse is highly

- unethical, negligent, and lacks consistency. I find it disgusting that DUTTON calls herself a child advocate!
12. DUTTON lied under oath during either a 2003 or 2006 trial (not sure which is the lie, but she gave contradicting testimony between the two trials) and by overstating and bolstering her qualifications. DUTTON should be considered an unreliable witness <https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/6483955-Precludedutton-Mot-1.html>
  13. DUTTON's signature line ends with "PhD., forensic interview specialist" leading the reader to believe she is a doctor in forensic interviews or possibly child psychology. DUTTON's PhD is in **Philosophy**, specifically in Justice and Social Inquiry, which is described as **Social Justice (warrior)** per ASU where she attended. DUTTON LinkedIn describes her qualifications.
  14. DUTTON appears to be a FRAUD!
  15. We have 8-9 experts and professionals (who have actually met the children) willing to testify on behalf of the children and refute claims of coaching by DUTTON.
    1. These experts consist of 3 therapists (one PhD in Psychology) that specialize in treating children (two in [REDACTED], one in Sierra Vista)
    2. The two therapists who have treated the children over the past 3 years have both adamantly stated these children are not coached! They further stated they have experience treating coached children and are very familiar with what coaching looks like and it is typically found only in divorce cases and custody battles.
    3. Other experts include a Physical Therapist, Occupational Therapist, Speech Therapist, and Developmental Pediatrician (Autism specialist) who would all testify how child sexual abuse would mimic developmental problems and signs of autism. These professionals have treated, observed, or examined our son (victim). All symptoms of autism and General Anxiety Disorder ceased shortly after removing the male child from the abusive situation. The male child has excelled in school and now participates in the school's gifted students program.
    4. Children's disclosure of abuse to their pediatrician located in Sierra Vista, AZ. Pediatrician is available for interview and willing to testify to children's disclosures as documented in her letter given to Detective Borquez.
    5. [REDACTED] County Sheriff's Office CID (located in [REDACTED]), which specializes in sex crimes against children, further explained to the CF parents that it is not uncommon for children to disclose more details of sex abuse as the children begin to feel safer, are believed, and develop higher levels of communication. They further stated it was not uncommon to have multiple forensic interviews as the victim continues to remember details.
    6. The CF parents also consulted with the San Diego County District Attorney's Office and a District Attorney Office in Long Island, NY. Both offices stated multiple forensic interviews with children were not uncommon.
    7. The CF parents consulted with multiple Homeland Security Investigation Agents, from the Phoenix, AZ, and Boston, MA, offices, specifically assigned to child sex crimes units. Agents in both offices stated multiple forensic interviews was not uncommon or a reason not to prosecute.

#### Other considerations:

1. Both children state they are ready and want to tell the police everything about what the MCCONNELL's did to them.
2. Several indicators of grooming are evident i.e. free babysitting, lavish gift giving, pressuring parents to see children...there's more examples we can provide.
3. Medical records documenting rectal bleeding and chronic yeast infections (another indicator of sexual abuse in children).
4. Richard MCCONNELL's deceptive interview and few other interesting facts (see attachment).
5. Additional recordings of children free talking about the sexual and sadistic abuse they endured i.e. gun held to head, knife held to throat and vagina (see attachment)
6. Written and signed statements describing sexual abuse by CF oldest child.
7. Can provide therapy notes and photographs of play therapy showing scenes of naked dolls in sexually charged positions or situations.

Initially this case was rejected by the CAO because the children were under six, which is not a prohibiting factor for pursuing justice. We accepted the reasons not to pursue the case due to the children's age and how difficult it would be for them during cross examination. We reported the children were disclosing more details and simply requested a 2nd forensic interview to officially document what was being, We realize we initially recommended DUTTON as a resource, but we had recommended her as a forensic interviewer, not someone who should determine the future of this case for prosecution! If Brian McIntyre is really going to hang his hat on DUTTON's weak expertise (in the fact she has never met the victims, contradicted herself in court, and has contradicted her own training practices and methods in this specific case) as the excuse not to pursue this case, this tells me that even when my children become adults and can eloquently articulate themselves, they would never be able to obtain justice! How does this make any sense? We are sickened by that thought!

I hope after reviewing this email, attachments, and links, you can be a champion for our family and convince the CAO to pursue charges against the MCCONNELLS. This case is a winnable case! Murderers have been convicted with less evidence!

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

A loving father

4 attachments

 Cochise County additional evidence (6).docx  
16K

 [REDACTED] Therapy Notes with Registered Play Therapist Jennifer [REDACTED] (1).docx  
23K

 Therapy sessions for [REDACTED] (1).docx  
30K

 [REDACTED] latest about gun and oral sex.mp3  
934K

Dannels, Mark <MDannels@cochise.az.gov>

Mon, Dec 16, 2019 at 12:48 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Good Morning Mr. [REDACTED]

I have sent your email/attachments to my Investigative Commander/team for review.

I, (we) will keep you posted upon review/recommendations/updates reference this case.

Thanks,

Sheriff Mark Dannels  
(520) 432-9505 office

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 11, 2019 9:37 PM  
**To:** Dannels, Mark <MDannels@cochise.az.gov>  
**Subject:** Sexual abuse case 16-09465, re: [REDACTED] family

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5/23/2020

Gmail - Sexual abuse case 16-09465, [REDACTED]

Mon, Dec 30, 2019 at 4:01 PM

To: "Dannels, Mark" <MDannels@cochise.az.gov>

Good afternoon Sheriff,

Has your Investigative Commander/team made a decision on our case?

Thank you,

[REDACTED]  
[Quoted text hidden]

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Dannels, Mark <MDannels@cochise.az.gov>

Mon, Dec 30, 2019 at 4:14 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: "Alinen, Tom" <TAlinen@cochise.az.gov>, "Smith, Thad" <TSmith@cochise.az.gov>

Greetings [REDACTED]

I cc'd my Investigative Commander, Tom Alinen regarding your question?

Thanks,

Sheriff Mark Dannels

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