

OFFENSE:

Aggravated Abuse of and elderly person or disabled adult (four counts) F.S. 825.102 (2) (b) (c)
Location of Occurrence: SW Hawthorne Circle, Port St Lucie, FL 34953
Date Time of Occurrence: 7 6 07

PROPERTY:

NA

DETAILED NARRATIVE

Summary:

On July 4, 2007, [REDACTED] was abandoned at a Publix in St Petersburg, FL by her "adoptive mother", Judith Leekin (aka Judith S. Johnson). Investigation has revealed that Judith took [REDACTED] to that location, under the guise of going to Busch Gardens, and sent her into the store to purchase some items. When [REDACTED] came out of the store, Judith was gone. [REDACTED] was eventually taken to St Vincent Depaul Shelter, which led to a DCF investigation in Port St Lucie when [REDACTED] began to disclose details of abuse occurring in Port St Lucie.

Initially, two DCF Investigators were assigned in Port St Lucie, Roger Lemaster and Shirley Olaleye. This was due to both adults and juveniles being alleged victims of abuse. Upon initial contact, at the residence on Hawthorne, Judith took an unusually long time to come to the front door. At initial contact, Ofc. Byrne and Lemaster were told she lived there alone with just one "son" known as "[REDACTED]". Judith told investigators [REDACTED] had left over a year prior. Allegations were denied. None of the above listed victims, except [REDACTED], were initially found in the home. This was determined later that day to be due to the fact they were hiding, at Judith's direction, from the police and DCF. They were hiding in an upstairs bedroom by Ofc. Byrne, who learned that just prior to that they hid in a bathroom on the lower level off of the kitchen/laundry room.

The initial investigation revealed the following facts:

- (1) The children & mentally-handicapped adults hid from police/DCF first in Bathroom then in the bedroom when investigators returned about 10 minutes After leaving the first time (when second DCF investigator arrived and more was learned from T.W. that they would be hiding inside).
- (2) The house is equipped with surveillance systems, as [REDACTED] had said, so that Judith could see the police/DCF at the door and have the others hide.
- (3) Handcuffs and zip-ties were found and recovered in a candy bowl after one of The children disclosed how they were utilized to Ofc. Byrne

(4) Judith admitted to Ofc. Byrne that she lied initially. She also admitted to using restraints but played it off as keeping those restrained from damaging the house.

Under the circumstances known to investigators at that point, it was determined to have CPT conduct medical exams and forensic interviews with the children. When DCF returned to make arrangements with Judith for CPT, the house was found to be closed up with the hurricane shutters closed and it appeared to Lemaster that no one was at the house.

I received the case file on Monday, 07-09-07, late in the afternoon. I learned from Lemaster that Judith and the all the adult and juvenile "children" were gone. Sgt. Carmichael and I responded to the residence, and found it was still closed up. We conducted a neighborhood canvass and found that no neighbor ever saw any of the children (or challenged adults) except for [REDACTED] (an adult) outside.

I also learned from Lemaster that there was a similar DCF case in 1999 for similar allegations for the same children. He advised that Judith left the area to avoid the DCF investigation and the case ended up being closed out.

At that point in the investigation, there was substantial concern for the welfare of the children (as well as the mentally-challenged adults) as their whereabouts were unknown. The fact that Judith had abandoned 18 yr. old T.W. in St Petersburg gave further cause for concern. We determined that it was necessary under exigent circumstances to verify that no children were present in the house on Hawthorne. Sgt. Carmichael and I made entry through the garage window. We conducted a sweep of the interior of the residence and found no persons. We found signs that the residents left quickly, including closets open with some clothing removed. Further, there were several picture hangers on the wall in the upstairs hallway and scuff marks on the walls indicating the prior presence of pictures.

I was able to locate a second residence for Judith in Sanford, FL (near Orlando). I contacted Sanford Police Dept. and requested they check that residence to determine if the children were there with Judith and check on their welfare. Ofc. Davila met with resistance by a person at the door. He contacted me by phone and I advised that we had information that Judith was known to hide the children and obstruct officers and DCF. Eventually, Sanford P.D. was able to get inside the residence and found Judith there with the four children (as well as the four "adult" adoptees). Florida Department of Children and Families responded to the address in Sanford and sheltered the children, coordinating this with Lemaster.

On Tuesday, 07-10-07, CPT in Stuart, FL conducted medical exams and forensic interviews on the four children. Of particular note, CPT Nurse Beth Herold overheard T. G. Coaching J. G. on what to say to CPT in the bathroom, prior to [REDACTED] being interviewed. Only Ray was willing to disclose what was occurring in the household, during the interviews. Detective S.Klearman attended CPT while the children were examined.

On Tuesday, July 10, 2007 I went to the St. Vincent De Paul Shelter in St. Petersburg, Florida and conducted an interview with T.W (now an adult). T.W. told me that she has been with "Judith" since she was five years old and had lived in several different apartments and houses, and during this time she wasn't allowed to go outside for any reason. T.W. told me that she had never

been to a doctor or dentist and had never been to a school, but rather was given books by the suspect and told to read them. There was never any testing, quizzing or assignments to determine her aptitude on particular subjects.

T.W. told me that starting at the age of fifteen through her departure which occurred at age eighteen, she would often wear white zipties around her wrists and when the suspect would leave the residence the zipties that were around her wrists would be connected with another ziptie and then she would be ziptied to another person [REDACTED]. This treatment occurred on nearly a daily basis and I observed scarring to both wrists which is consistent with these statements. The restraints were used so that she could not wander around and also she was told to sit on a floor until the suspect returned. If someone had to use the bathroom, they just "went on themselves". T.W. told me that she may have urinated on herself on more than one occasion.

T.W. told me that she along with at least eight other "adoptive brothers and sisters" were made to sleep in a small hallway on a tile floor while only being allowed to sleep on a sheet and one pillow. There were no blankets and nobody was allowed to cover up and if was cold, they just dealt with it. T.W. was very afraid of the suspect due to the fact that she had regularly threatened her life on several occasions telling her that she would shoot or cut off her head and someone else would bury her where she would never be found.

T.W. told me that she is currently happy in her situation, because she knows she needs to go to school and obtain a job and she's determined to make herself a better person.

On July 11, 2007 I prepared a search warrant for the residence at [REDACTED] SW Hawthorne Circle based upon the totality of circumstances of statements and evidence gathered to this point. The search warrant was served the same day and items seized during the warrant included: pillows, sheets, computers, text books and paperwork. The small hallway that was detailed by T.W. was found to be next to the garage and the interesting thing about that was there were three access doors to the area and they were all locked from the outside, meaning that anyone that was inside the hallway would be locked down until one of the doors were opened with a key as they were all equipped with dead bolt locks. There were also large cabinets in that hallway that contained clothing that belonged to the multiple people that resided in that small area.

It is clear that T.W. had suffered years of abuse which included: being deprived medical or dental care, deprived of an education, made to sleep in a small hallway on a tile floor only using a sheet and pillow, constantly restrained using plastic zipties and on a few occasions she had to urinate on herself because she didn't dare defy the suspect or want to make her angry in any way.

On July 20, 2007 Detective Klearman interviewed [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and they corroborated the details as given by T.W. as to the living conditions and abuse that was occurring to them over the recent years. [REDACTED] exhibited large scars similar to that of T.W. to where he was restrained with zipties for long periods of time causing extensive scarring.

Dr. Mauldin from Florida Department of Children and Families psychologically examined the four other adults to determine their competency and forwarded a written report that in summary stated: [REDACTED] has limited verbal skills, often non responsive appears to read, but minimal comprehension, appears developmentally disabled. [REDACTED] has been in adoptive home 14-15 years, obvious signs of handcuffs, no school since 3rd-4th grade, functionally deprived, minimal reality orientation obvious signs of medical, dental neglect. [REDACTED] has been in

adoptive home 20 years, no school since 3rd-4th grade, minimal reading/writing skills, socially/functionally deprived "brainwashed". [REDACTED] is blind and has minimal verbal skills, needs assistance, near continuous self-stimulation, rocking and mumbling to self, appears developmentally disabled. These adults were isolated socially from interacting with other people, denied educational opportunities, denied medical or dental care and often restrained utilizing zipties or handcuffs and forced to sleep in live on a small hallway floor and only able to use a sheet and single pillow. They were not allowed to cover up and were often locked in said room. This treatment subjected upon the victims from the suspect went on for a number of years.

SUMMARY

Judith had a pattern of flight and is clearly a flight risk for the following reasons:

- (1) Fled to avoid DCF investigation in 1999
- (2) Fled to Sanford FL to avoid investigation currently
- (3) Has contacted Exit Realty to list PSL residence for sale
- (4) Has two Florida Driver's licenses, under different last names and social security numbers. One lists Venezuela and the other Trinidad-Tobago as her country of origin
- (5) Judith's true identity cannot be confirmed at this point in the investigation
- (6) Birth certificates provided to DCF may be falsified and the true identity of the four children, as well as the 5 adults "adoptees" cannot be positively determined.
- (7) Judith does not show up in INS records under either name
- (8) Judith failed to show up in person to DCF hearing 7-10-07, but spoke to judge on the phone
- (9) DCF reports a neighbor in Sanford saw Judith and others load up into two vehicles at 1100 hrs, 7-10-07.
- (10) On July 13, 2007 the suspect dropped off the special needs adults and went into hiding until July 18, 2007 where she surrendered to the St. Lucie County Jail for her outstanding warrants that were on the suspect for Aggravated Child Abuse (five counts), tampering with victims and possession of multiple driver's licenses while using different names and social security numbers.

Warrants are requested for the above charges with NO BOND due to the flight risk which she has already displayed and future risk of fleeing the State or Country.

I swear the above statement is
Correct and true to the best of
My knowledge.

Sworn before me the undersigned
this 21st Day of July, 2007.