FILED
07-26-2021
Barron County, WI
Sharon Millermon
2021CF000254
Honorable James C. Babler
Branch 1

STATE OF WISCONSIN	CIRCUIT COURT	BARRON COUNTY

STATE OF WISCONSIN

Plaintiff,

-VS-

DA Case No.: 2021BA000329
Assigned DA/ADA: John M O'Boyle
Agency Case No.: 21SO00166
Court Case No.: 21 CF 254

ATN:

Leslie Allen Toews
[redacted]
Clayton, WI 54004
DOB: 10/06/1976
Sex/Race: M/W
Eye Color:
Hair Color:
Height: ;
Weight: ;
Alias:

Defendant,

Criminal Complaint

The undersigned, on information and belief, being first duly sworn, states that:

Count 1: SEXUAL ASSAULT OF A CHILD UNDER 16 YEARS OF AGE

The above-named defendant on or about or between March 1, 2011 through November 30, 2011, Barron County, Wisconsin, did have sexual contact with a child under the age of sixteen, [redacted], DOB [redacted]1997, contrary to sec. 948.02(2), 939.50(3)(c) Wis. Stats., a Class C Felony, and upon conviction may be fined not more than One Hundred Thousand Dollars ($100,000), or imprisoned not more than forty (40) years, or both.

PROBABLE CAUSE:

Basis for this complaint is a statement by the undersigned that he/she is District Attorney/Assistant District Attorney with the Barron County District Attorney's Office and as such has access to all reports and complaints filed with his/her department. Complainant is informed by the report of Barron County Detective Mary Dexter.

On February 12, 2021, Barron County Detective Mary Dexter had telephone contact with an individual named [redacted], who advised that he had a question involving a male who used to be a member of the Mennonite Church but was excommunicated. The male's name was Leslie Toews. Mr. Toews was hoping to return to the church, however, there was something he needed to disclose involving incidents that occurred with [redacted] approximately 12 years ago. The incidents were believed to have occurred in Barron County. Mr. Wenger advised Detective Dexter that Mr. Toews was hoping to come and talk with her along with two of his pastors. Detective Dexter made arrangements for an interview to be conducted on February 12, 2021.

Detective Dexter's report indicates that a male she identified as Leslie Toews, came to the Barron County Justice Center to meet with her. The interview took place at his request, in the presence of his wife [redacted] and two of his pastors.

During the course of the interview, Mr. Toews advised that the incidents involving [redacted] would have occurred at his farm located at [redacted], in Clayton, Wisconsin. He initially told Detective Dexter that it was “basically a one-time deal”, that had happened in about 2015, and that it involved [redacted]. He indicated [redacted] was [redacted]., whose date of birth is [redacted]1997. He also provided information concerning her parents and where she currently lived.

When Detective Dexter asked him when the incidents took place, Mr. Toews indicated it was late fall and early winter, and he thought that [redacted] was roughly 17 ½ years old at the time. When Detective Dexter asked him to tell her what had happened, he indicated that [redacted] was what he described as “a favorite [redacted]”, and that there was a little touching involving her breasts. He further indicated he did not think it was more than three times and that it was not all at once. He stated that it had happened over a two to three week period of time, that the incidents took place likely in the farm shop, and that it never happened in the house. When he was asked whose idea it was to engage in the touching, he indicated he was not going to blame [redacted], and further acknowledged it was his idea.

When Detective Dexter asked him how it came to be that [redacted] was in the farm shop area, Mr. Toews indicated that she and her mother would come in the evening to visit his parents, and they would also be there when people were doing chores. When he was asked if there was any type of kissing, he denied that and indicated that it only involved touching. Detective Dexter confirmed with him that it was him touching her. When she asked if [redacted] had ever touched his private area, he indicated no, and that there was never any type of sexual intercourse. Further, he stated that one of the times the touching occurred it was on bare skin, rather than just over clothing. When Detective Dexter asked him if he ever touched her vaginal area, he shook his head no. He further indicated there was never alcohol involved or any type of force.

Detective Dexter asked him if that was all that took place and his response was that he thought so. When Detective Dexter asked him if he thought [redacted] would have any additional information, he responded “I doubt it, unless there might be some minor details” that would be different. Detective Dexter again asked him if there is any type of sexual intercourse, or whether [redacted] had touched him, and he again answered no to those questions.

Detective Dexter’s report indicates she spoke with the two pastors that had come to the interview with Mr. Toews. They indicated that in approximately 2017, [redacted] had shared with them what had happened to her by Mr. Toews. They further indicated that they talked to Mr. Toews and confirmed the details as to what had happened. They advised and agreed that the information that had been disclosed to them by [redacted] was not reported to anyone.

Detective Dexter’s report indicates that on February 15, 2021 she received a call from Leslie Toews. He advised her that he had a dairy farm and milked about 145 cows. Mr. Toews asked her if there would be jail time involved because he needed to think about who could care for his cows if he were in jail. He further advised her that what had happened with [redacted] was “totally my fault”.

Detective Dexter reports on February 16, 2021, she conducted an interview with [redacted]. concerning the information Detective Dexter had learned from Mr. Toews on February 12, 2021. During the course of the conversation with [redacted], she disclosed that the touching by Mr.

Toews started when she was 13 years old and continued until she was 14 years old. She indicated it occurred during the time period of March 2011 to November 2011. When Detective Dexter asked her whose idea it was for the touching to take place, [redacted] immediately responded “not mine”.

[redacted] disclosed and described several incidents that took place. She indicated the first time Mr. Toews touched part of her body was when he stuck his hand down the front of her dress and touched both of her breasts under her clothes. When she was asked by Detective Dexter what she was thinking when this happened, [redacted] advised that she was not okay with it, but he was the adult so she was not going to question it. She thought she could get through it, let it pass, and simply deal with it. She stated that neither of them said anything to each other, but she understood that with him being the adult, that she “was supposed to comply”. She further indicated that most of the incidents involved touching her bare breasts, including one of the first incidents that took place in a building on the farm that has since been torn down and replaced. Mr. Toews tried to put his hand down the front of her dress and because his young son was in the room, she had turned her body to the side so the child could not see what was happening. She indicated that she did this to protect his son from what was going on.

[redacted] further disclosed another incident that occurred in the barn office when Mr. Toews put his hand up her skirt and into her underwear from the top. She indicated that he touched her bare vagina. She indicated that nothing was ever inserted into her vagina, including any portion of his hands.

[redacted] further advised that the last time any touching occurred was toward the winter. She stated that she was so desperate for him to stop that she actually tried to safety pin her dress and slip to her snow pants, or whatever she was wearing, to keep it from happening. When she was asked how the touching stopped, she indicated he just stopped doing it and that she thought she was about 14 ½ years old at the time. She advised that the very first person she told was her mother and that she thought she was almost 18 at that time.

Detective Dexter’s report indicates that on February 16, 2021, she spoke with [redacted], who was [redacted]’s mother. [redacted] confirmed that [redacted] had told her of the touching when she was approximately 17 to 18 years old. She further described [redacted] as being sad and emotional, and that it was not easy information for her to share. [redacted] further indicated that she and her husband went to the ministers, and the ministers ended up talking to Mr. Toews about it.

The statements made by the law enforcement officers can be considered truthful, credible, and reliable because of the positions of trust they hold. The statements of the citizen witnesses can be considered truthful, credible, and reliable because they are made by citizen witnesses. The statements of the defendant(s) can be considered truthful, credible, and reliable to the extent to which they are admissions against interests.

Subscribed and sworn to before me on 07/22/21
Electronically Signed By:
Julie L Matucheski
Assistant District Attorney
State Bar #: 1104805

Electronically Signed By:
John M. O'Boyle
Complainant