

**Bessemer City Police Department
Investigative Note, Jan. 2, 2014.**

Krista Sorghum came in to report that her daughters, Ashley Millingham (age 14) and Kayla Winston (age 4) are being molested by her husband Randall. Ashley is pregnant and is expected to give birth within 6-8 weeks.

Krista reported that while she worked at the Gastonia Walmart from 2 pm-10 pm, Randall took care of the girls. Krista was relieved to have a good man in her life because her first husband, Jeff Millingham, sexually molested Ashley for years. Shortly she married Randall, Jeff made a last ditch effort to get back into their lives. In June 2013, Jeff came to Krista's house and picked up Ashley on his motorcycle. When Jeff brought Ashley home, he and Randall got into a fist fight. Krista was concerned that something inappropriate had occurred between Ashley and Jeff, but she was so proud of Randall for standing up to Jeff that she did not worry about it.

After she became pregnant, Ashley told Krista that the baby's father was a boy named Curtis from school. However, sometime later, after breaking down and crying for 2 days, Ashley told Krista that Jeff raped her on the night of the motorcycle incident. She also said that she believed that Randall was the father of her baby. Ashley told Krista that on the day after the motorcycle incident she had sexual intercourse with Randall and did so on several other occasions over the next 2 weeks.

Ashley recorded a phone conversation between her and Randall. Ashley gave the tape to Krista, who provided it to this officer. In the conversation, it is apparent that both Randall and Ashley believe that he is the baby's father. Randall is making arrangements with DSS to pay child support for the child.

When Krista asked Kayla if Randall ever touched her in any bad way, Kayla said, "Sometimes he touches my bum bum but he says it is OK because he is my new Daddy." She also said "once he put his finger in my Kitty Cat."

Jeff Willingham was charged with several counts of sexual assault against Ashley. He eventually plead guilty to First Degree Statutory Rape and is serving a 20 year prison sentence.

Supplement to Investigative Report: February 16, 2014: Krista Sorghum called to say that Ashley gave birth yesterday. Baby's name is Megan Sorghum. I made arrangements for blood to be drawn from Ashley and Megan for DNA analysis.

Supplement to Report: February 20, 2014: Met with Randall Sorghum at BCPD for non-custodial interview. I advised him that he was not under arrest. Randall said he was contacted by DSS and gave them a statement, but he did not wish to make any further statement to me. He agreed to provide a DNA sample by buccal swab, which has been submitted for DNA analysis.

Supplement to Report: March 12, 2014: Received telephone call from Alice Modeen, Gaston County DSS. Modeen said she has received calls from anonymous "family members," expressing concern that Jeff Willingham often watched porn movies in the presence of Ashley and Kayla. These people told Modeen that the girls used shocking and sexually explicit

language, probably learned from watching the dirty movies. Modeen also said that the DNA analysis indicated a “99.42% probability” that Jeff Willingham is Megan’s biological father.

The DNA evidence conflicts with what Ashley and Randall had assumed about the child’s paternity. Nonetheless, in view of the admissions on the taped phone call and admissions made by Randall to DSS workers, I obtained warrants against Randall for First Degree Statutory Rape, First Degree Statutory Sex Offense, Statutory Rape and Statutory Sex Offense against a 13, 14 or 15 year old victim, Incest, and 6 counts of Indecent Liberties: 4 counts as to Ashley and 2 counts as to Kayla. Also obtained a warrant for First Degree Statutory Sex Offense as to Kayla for the digital penetration. I served the warrants on Randall and placed him under arrest today. When serving the warrants I noticed that Randall has a number of computers with Internet access. I have prepared a search warrant to present to a magistrate to take possession of those computers to have them searched for evidence that might be relevant to these charges.

Supplement to Report: May 1, 2014: Computers seized from Randall Sorghum’s home pursuant to search warrant were submitted to the SBI for forensic analysis. SBI report states that they contain numerous pornographic photos and videos downloaded from the Internet, some of which are extremely graphic. At least 2 videos depict an adult male engaging in sexual intercourse with what appears to be a 6-7 year old female. I requested a meeting with the District Attorney to determine whether or not additional charges should be filed based on these materials.

Supplement: July 10, 2014: Ashley called to advise that she has gotten married to Curtis Rawls, a boy she met at the beach. She has not discussed any of these matters with Curtis. ****Please note—any officer making calls to this victim should use extreme caution in not mentioning any details of the sexual abuse allegations to Ashley’s husband. SPEAK ONLY TO ASHLEY ABOUT THESE MATTERS.**

Additional Facts: Approximately one month before trial, the defendant served a subpoena on Facebook seeking postings made by Ashley. Facebook, through its attorney’s, refused to produce any postings from Ashley’s account. The defendant filed a motion to compel Facebook to comply with the subpoena and offered an affidavit from a friend of Ashley’s that attached certain postings which discussed the allegations she has made against the defendant. This discussion was not entirely consistent with Ashley’s statements to law enforcement. Facebook’s attorneys appeared in court and contended that federal law prohibited them from complying with the subpoena issued on behalf of the defendant. The District Attorney’s office advised the court that they did not have any Facebook postings made by Ashley in their possession and consequently they did not have any to produce in discovery or in response to any *Brady* requests. The District Attorney’s office further indicated that they did not intend to attempt to investigate this matter for the defense.