

IN THE CIRCUIT/COUNTY COURT IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA

COPY

WARRANT/OTTIC ON HOLD
 REPORT NO: OCSO17ARR008479

OKALOOSA CO SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Jail Booking No	Offense No OCSO17OFF006466	Other No OCSO17CAD084394	OBTS
-----------------	-------------------------------	-----------------------------	------

[SUSPECT]

Last First Middle Title Race Sex DOB Age Hgt Wgt
 STILLIONS MARLYNN F 2/22/1958 59 5'06" 0
Eyes Hair MNI Number SSN I.D. No. St Type OCA/Agency ID
 BLN OCSO13MNI001931 FL E

Birth Location: City: ATLANTA County: State: GEORGIA Nation: US Citizenship: US
 Address

1100 BAY CT DESTIN FL 325

Occupations (Current/Last Known is Listed First)

Business: KENWOOD ELEMENTARY, Job Title: TEACHER, Phone: (850)-833-753 Entered: 2/21/2013
 15 EAGLE STREET FORT WALTON BEACH FL 32547

Aliases (Last, First Middle Title DOB)

* none found in MNI *

Street Names

* none found in MNI *

[INCIDENT INFORMATION]

Occurred Date Range: 8/10/2015 08:00 to 6/3/2016 15:30 Lat / Long 30.44218 / -86.57912
 No. Di Street Apt/Lot City ST Zip (GEO)
 15 NE EAGLE STREET FORT WALTON BEA FL 32548 2 - 19 - -

[CHARGES]

827.03.2c

CRUELTY TOWARD CHILD

ABUSE CHILD WITHOUT GREAT BODILY HARM

<u>Counts</u>	<u>Level</u>	<u>Degree</u>	<u>GOC</u>	<u>UCR</u>	<u>NCIC</u>	<u>AON</u>	<u>Bond Amount</u>
4	Felony	Third	Principal	130B		3802	\$5,000.00

[STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE / NARRATIVE]

On May 17, 2017, [redacted] came to the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office Headquarters building located at 50 2nd Street, Shalimar, Florida in reference to a child abuse/neglect complaint in which his son, [redacted] who is currently six years old, is the victim.

[redacted] in a sworn written affidavit of complaint, stated his son, [redacted] has been attending Kenwood Elementary school since he turned three (3) years old due to having a "learning delay". According to [redacted], [redacted] is on the "Autism Spectrum" and was nonverbal when he began attending Kenwood. From the time [redacted] started school until almost the end of the 2015-2016 school year, he always had the same teacher and teacher's aide. [redacted] teacher was the Defendant, Marlynn Stillions and the teacher's aide was Gina Mercer. Towards the end of the school year he began to notice Mrs. Stillions was no longer at Kenwood Elementary. [redacted] asked Mrs. Mercer what happened to Mrs. Stillions and she replied "I can't talk about it". A few weeks after asking Mrs. Mercer about Mrs. Stillions, he was approached by a "mutual friend" of his and Mrs. Stillions. The "mutual friend" told [redacted] that Mrs. Stillions asked him to reach out to him to see if he would be willing to meet and talk to her. The "mutual friend" told him Mrs. Stillions was in trouble with the school district and wanted his help. [redacted] stated he told the "mutual friend" he would meet with her, however, he never heard anything further from either one of them. On an unknown date, prior to the 2016-2017 school year starting, [redacted] found out that Mrs. Stillions had been transferred, for an unknown reason, to Silver Sands School.

On an unknown date in May of 2017, [redacted] was talking to an "individual" at which time Mrs. Stillions' name came up. According to [redacted], this "individual" made reference to an investigation that was conducted at the end of last year against Mrs. Stillions. According to this "individual", the investigation was based on allegations of abuse (physical and mental) that other Kenwood teachers, teacher aides and cafeteria workers reported. While speaking to this "individual", [redacted] learned the investigation in question was completed by the School District Investigator, Mr. Farley, and the entire

COPY

WARRANT/OTTIC ON HOLD

OKALOOSA CO SHERIFF'S OFFICE

REPORT NO: OCSO17ARR008479

=====
investigation was in regards to his son possible being abused.
=====

On May 12, 2017, [redacted] spoke to the secretary of personnel for the School District at which time she informed him that everyone is busy and is unable to speak to him at this time. [redacted] stated he told the secretary that if he did not get a return phone call as well as a copy of the abuse report involving his son, he would be going to the State Attorney's Office and contacting the National Autism Society. Approximately one hour later, [redacted] received a phone call from Lindsey Maxim advising he could retrieve a copy of the abuse report on Monday (05-15-17).

On May 15, 2017, [redacted] picked up a copy of the 12 page abuse report and after reviewing the report, [redacted] elected to notify the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office.

According to [redacted], he was never notified of the alleged abuse and/or investigation the School District conducted regarding his son.

The report [redacted] provided to your affiant was a redacted version. On May 25, 2017, an investigative subpoena was served on the Okaloosa County School District for a non-redacted version of the "Investigative Summary Report". On May 31, 2017, the request was provided to your affiant.

The twelve page "Investigative Summary Report" is a summary of the allegations made against the Defendant and the 21 individuals who either provided a written or verbal statement regarding those allegations. The "Investigative Summary Report" was written by Mr. Arden Farley who is employed by the Okaloosa County School District. According to Mr. Farley's report, he began an investigation on June 17, 2016 in reference to "Code of Ethics and The Principles of Professional Conduct of the Education Profession in Florida and improper student interactions/procedures". The grievant was identified as Gina Mercer, the Defendant's classroom aide, and the Respondent was identified as the Defendant, Marlynn Stillions.

During the investigation, it was determined the Defendant's classroom was a VPK-D class. This class consisted of 3-4 year olds who have disabilities or behavioral issues. Some of these students are completely non-verbal.

Mr. Farley's report identifies ten allegations against the Defendant. During my investigation, independent interviews with identified witnesses were conducted. The following information is your affiant's investigative findings:

On August 09, 2017, a sworn interview was conducted with Gina Mercer. She provided the following information. Gina Mercer stated the Defendant instructed her to spray students in the face with a small squirt bottle as a form of punishment. The squirt bottle would contain water or vinegar. Mercer refused to use the spray bottle. During one incident Mercer stated the Defendant took an unidentified student into the bathroom. When they came out of the bathroom another child commented on the smell. Mercer stated the smell was vinegar. An interview was conducted on August 7, 2017, with Sandy Triplett. Triplett advised she was an aide for the Defendant approximately five years ago. During her time as the Defendant's aide she stated she was instructed to use a spray bottle with vinegar on the students. Triplett advised she refused to do that, but did observe the Defendant spray students in the face with the vinegar bottle. On August 10, 2017, an interview was conducted with Penny Powell. Powell stated she observed the Defendant spray [redacted] in the face with a small squirt bottle approximately twice a week. Powell described the spray bottle being approximately 6 inches from [redacted] face when he was sprayed by the Defendant. Powell stated she assumed the liquid in the bottle was water but did not know exactly.

On August 3, 2016, a sworn interview was conducted with Randy Murphy. Murphy described seeing the Defendant "trying to keep student [redacted] under control with her foot" [redacted] had been screaming and was sitting on the floor. He said the Defendant, using both her left and right foot, started moving [redacted]. He does not believe the Defendant was trying to be hurtful in her actions but did admit he feels she used poor judgment.

On August 3, 2017, a sworn interview was conducted with Melonie Smith. Smith stated there are two lines that students retrieve their meals from and both lines end with her. Smith said she knows the Defendant and feels that her behavior is inappropriate. Smith discussed [redacted] and said it seemed the Defendant had a personal vendetta against him but did not know why. Smith described [redacted] as a very sweet boy. Smith detailed different incidents in which the actions of the Defendant were, in her opinion, uncalled for and not appropriate behavior for the teacher to demonstrate. Asking for elaboration, Smith said there was a time in which the Defendant grabbed [redacted] by the arms and made "grunting" noises

COPY

WARRANT/OTTIC ON HOLD

OKALOOSA CO SHERIFF'S OFFICE

REPORT NO: OCSO17ARR008479

while doing so. Smith said the Defendant yelled a lot and displayed erratic behavior; citing a time when the school administrator and school resource officer had to be summoned. When discussing the events detailed by Murphy, Smith said she observed the Defendant utilizing her foot, describing it as "kicking". To elaborate, she said the Defendant would push him forward with her feet and described it as "kicking". She said the Defendant "kicked sideways" and demonstrated by pulling her foot and leg backward before moving it in a forward direction. Smith said she had a difficult time watching this behavior but was told by the Defendant to not get involved as she had everything under control.

On August 10, 2017, during the interview with Linda Carpp, Sgt. Suhi-Moore described the events of the Defendant moving with her foot across the lunch line. Upon hearing this, Mrs. Carpp closed her eyes and shook her head. Sgt. Suhi-Moore asked Carpp for an appropriate reaction to a student refusing to move in the line. Carpp stated the appropriate reaction would be to get on the student's level or offer the student an alternative option. If the student doesn't get up and is hurting himself or others the teacher should use a CPI transport move. The teacher should re-direct the child or sit and wait.

On August 7, 2017, a sworn interview with Chrystal Ramer was conducted. Ramer stated the Defendant's tone was always harsh. While Ramer was in the cafeteria she observed the Defendant take food away from and then when he got upset, she used an iPad to film his reaction. She said it was as if the Defendant was purposely trying to get the reaction to film it. Ramer said she also informed Principal Vaughan about that incident. She said Vaughan told her she would speak to the Defendant about the incident. During another incident, Ramer took us to the cafeteria and showed us exactly where the Defendant picked up by his pants and collar. She also demonstrated how, after threw himself back down on the ground, she used her foot to push him along the floor as he lay there.

On August 7, 2017, a sworn interview was conducted with Leslie Prince. Leslie Prince is the custodian at Kenwood Elementary school and a member of the school staff. Prince described an incident where she observed the victim was running from Stillions and she was chasing after him, trying to pin him against the wall. Prince demonstrated how Stillions was kneeling the victim in the chin four times. She described the kneeling as if Stillions was trying to escort but was hitting him in the chin every time. Prince stated she was shocked by the incident and also heard a 5th grade student who she could not identify say "oh my god" in reference to Stillions actions. Prince advised she ran out of the lunch room to notify someone. She immediately bumped into Ms. Morrison who told her she looked like she had just seen a ghost. Prince stated she told Ms. Morrison who told her to notify the School Principal, Ms. Vaughan. Prince stated she then went to the Principal Ms. Vaughan and the Assistant Principal Ms. Pickard and advised them of the situation. When asked if anything happened, she said Ms. Pickard came into the lunchroom for the next few days to monitor. When asked how hard Stillions was hitting the victim with her knee, she said it was with enough force to move his head each time she struck him.

On August 9, 2017, a sworn interview was conducted with Mary Elias-Evans. Elias-Evans explained that would typically act out in the breakfast line. As he was coming through the line was crying. She observed carrying his tray and the Defendant stuck her foot out and purposefully tripped causing him to fall to the ground and spilling his tray all over the floor. The Defendant then yelled at him to pick it up. When asked if she told anyone of the tripping incident, Elias-Evans said she did not report it to anyone.

Elias-Evans also described an incident where she heard the Defendant calling over the radio saying she needed the CPI team. The CPI team is a group of trained teachers and staff who are trained specifically to handle students who are acting out physically. Elias-Evans said typically, when the Defendant would call, it was always about She said on this day, she was calling for the CPI team to come to the courtyard for assistance. Elias-Evans explained the courtyard was outside the classroom she was in, so she looked out the window to see what was going on. She said she saw the student was the Defendant was calling about. She described as "playing cat and mouse", where he was on one side of a tree and the Defendant was on the other and he was running from her. She said the Defendant would go one way to try and catch and he would run the other way. She explained that was a "runner" and he was laughing and it was as if it was a game to him. She said eventually the Defendant got close enough to and she reached out and pushed him to the ground and then grabbed him and held him while continuing to call for assistance on the radio stating "he's beating me up." She said the Defendant was claiming that was striking her as she held him. Elias-Evans said that is not what occurred and she never saw strike the Defendant. Elias-Evans also explained that she is the support staff union representative. She stated the Defendant's classroom assistant, Gina Mercer had come to her early on in the first school year she was at Kenwood. She said Mercer began to tell her things that were occurring in the Defendant's classroom. First she mentioned the use of the spray bottle and asked Elias-Evans if they used a spray bottle (spraying in the face) in

COPY

COPY

WARRANT/OTTIC ON HOLD

OKALOOSA CO SHERIFF'S OFFICE

REPORT NO: OCSO17ARR008479

their classroom if children were misbehaving. She said she told her that she didn't think they could do that and she needed to report it to the principal. Mercer told her that she feels like when she reports things happening, it's like she is the problem. Elias-Evans said this bothered her and later that day, she emailed Mrs. Vaughan, who was the principal at the time and asked Vaughan to call her at home. She said, almost immediately, Vaughan called her and she told Vaughan in detail what Mercer had told her was occurring in the classroom. Elias-Evans said she told Vaughan she didn't want things to elevate to the level where DCF became involved. She could not say if Vaughan acted on any of the information provided to her.

On July 7 2017, a consensual interview was conducted with the Defendant, Marlynn Stillions regarding the allegations made against her. Stillions denied the majority of allegations and had excuses for any of the allegations that were confirmed Mr. Farley.

Based upon the above information, including interviews with multiple witnesses your affiant has probable cause to believe the Defendant, Marlynn Stillions engaged in a continuing course of conduct which was focused on her student. These acts did not serve any legitimate purpose, and were not acceptable practices by a teacher for a special needs child and raised the concern of several school staff members who witnessed the acts. At the time of these incidents the victim was diagnosed with autism and nonverbal. could not articulate what was happening to him while at school. This diagnosis created a greater burden for the Defendant to act in his best interest. Numerous witnesses described the defendant's behavior against as inappropriate and not acceptable behavior as an educator. The Defendant was in a position of custodial authority over the victim and responsible for his welfare. Her continuous conduct involving were intentional acts that could have reasonably been expected to result in physical or mental injury to a child to wit:

- Using her foot to kick or push the victim across the lunch line floor
- Kneeing the victim repeatedly in the chin as a way to move him along
- Intentionally tripping the victim, causing him to fall onto the floor and spill a tray of food
- Intentionally pushing him down to the ground to gain control of him

These acts occurred in violation of F.S.S. 827.03 (2), Child Abuse. These events occurred at Kenwood Elementary School located at 15 NE Eagle Street, Ft. Walton Beach, Okaloosa County, FL where your affiant is a sworn law enforcement officer.

Signature (Arresting Officer) Name ID/SSN

Subscribed and sworn to (or affirmed) before me this 12 day of September A.D., 2017 by who is personally known to me or has produced as identification.

Signature Notary Public LEO CO

Commission No: My Commission Expires

Supervisor Signature Date Supervisor Name (Please Print) Rank

COPY

IN THE CIRCUIT/COUNTY COURT IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA

COPY

WARRANT/OTTIC ON HOLD

OKALOOSA CO SHERIFF'S OFFICE

REPORT NO: OCSO17ARR008479

[PHYSICAL EVIDENCE] [NO PHYSICAL EVIDENCE LISTED]

[ARREST INFORMATION]

Arrested	Residency	Injured	Extent of Injury	Resist
	Within jurisdiction			
		Arrested Prior	Arrest Jurisdiction	Alcohol
				Drugs
No.	Di Street	A/L	City	ST Zip
				Lat / Long
Arresting Officer		Unit	(GEO) - - -	Officer Type
Reporting Officer		Unit		Original Offense Jurisdiction
088 HENDERSON, KELLY J		OCSO/FSV/INV/CID		OCSO
Forward to for approval				
OCSO/FSV/INV/CID				

Bond Set by LEO at Time of Arrest & Booking: \$0.00

- None
- ROR
- Cash
- Pro

Bond Set by Judge	<input type="checkbox"/> None	<input type="checkbox"/> ROR/Sign
<u>\$5,000.00</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cash	<input type="checkbox"/> PTR
	<input type="checkbox"/> Any	
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pro	
	<input type="checkbox"/> PtrIQ	

Purge SCANNED

SC _____

Return Court: CIRCUIT COURT: FELONY Date: _____ Time: _____

Instructions: SUBJECT TO SELF SURRENDER BY NOON 9-13-17

[COURT INFORMATION]

Court	Judge	Date
Sent		
Revd CIRCUIT	FLOWERS	9/12/2017
Court Case Number 17-8479		

Assigned To:

[DISPOSITION]

<u>Disposition Type</u>	<u>Release Type</u>	<u>Other Desc</u>
<u>Release Date</u>	<u>Release Time</u>	<u>Release Officer</u>
		<u>Printed</u> <u>Printed By</u>
<u>Released To</u>		No

IN THE CIRCUIT/COUNTY COURT IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA

COPY

WARRANT/OTTIC ON HOLD

OKALOOSA CO SHERIFF'S OFFICE

REPORT NO: OCSO17ARR008479

Court DispositionType

Court Disposition Description

[ADDITIONAL PERSONS]

COURT DISPOSITION: _____

(right index)

- No Bill / Petition
- Issue Warrant
- Prosecution Approved

Signature of Assistant State Attorney

Date

COPY

IN THE CIRCUIT/COUNTY COURT IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA

COPY

WARRANT/OTTIC ON HOLD

OKALOOSA CO SHERIFF'S OFFICE

REPORT NO: OCSO17ARR008536

Jail Booking No	Offense No OCSO17OFF006466	Other No OCSO17CAD084394	OBTS
-----------------	-------------------------------	-----------------------------	------

[SUSPECT]

Last First Middle Title Race Sex DOB Age Hgt Wgt
 FARLEY ARDEN EUGENE B M 6/17/1947 70 5'10" 0
Eyes Hair MNI Number SSN I.D. No. St Type OCA/Agency ID
 BRO BLK OCSO01MNI022649 FL E

Birth Location: City: County: State: TENNESSEE Nation: UNITED STATES Citizenship:
 Address

CALINDA LN Apt/Lot: 135 NICEVILLE FL 32578

Occupations (Current/Last Known is Listed First)

Business: OKALOOSA COUNTY SSCHOOL BOARD, Job Title: , Phone: (850)833-3126 Entered: 12/28/2001
 Suite:

Aliases (Last, First Middle Title DOB)

* none found in MNI *

Street Names

* none found in MNI *

[INCIDENT INFORMATION]

Occurred Date Range: 8/10/2015 08:00 to 6/3/2016 15:30 Lat / Long 30.44218 / -86.57912
 No. Di Street Apt/Lot City ST Zip (GEO)
 15 NE EAGLE STREET FORT WALTON BEA FL 32548 2 - 19 - -

[CHARGES]

39.205.1

PUBLIC ORDER CRIMES

FAIL REPRT SUSP CHILD ABUSE/ABANDON/NEGLEC

Counts	Level	Degree	GOC	UCR	NCIC	AON	Bond Amount
4	Felony	Third	Principal	9000		7399	\$3,500.00

[STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE / NARRATIVE]

On May 17, 2017, came to the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office Headquarters building located at 50 2nd Street, Shalimar, Florida in reference to a child abuse/neglect complaint in which his son, who is currently six years old, is the victim.

provided your affiant with a copy of a twelve page "Investigative Summary Report" that was written by Arden Farley who is employed with the Okaloosa County School District as an Equity Specialist tasked with conducting internal investigations. The report detailed numerous allegations during the school year 2015-2016 involving VPK-D teacher Marlynn Stillions. VPK-D students are 3-4 year old children with disabilities and behavioral issues. Some of these students are completely non-verbal. The "Investigative Summary Report" identified witnesses who provided verbal or written statements regarding Stillions actions against the victim, that they felt were inappropriate. Victim, at the time of these incidents was a 3 year old child diagnosed with being on the autism spectrum and was non-verbal.

The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office conducted an independent criminal investigation into the allegations involving Marlynn Stillions. During witness interviews it became apparent a criminal course of conduct constituting child abuse was being conducted by Marlynn Stillions toward the victim

The twelve page "Investigative Summary Report" is a summary of the allegations made against Marlynn Stillions and the 21 individuals who either provided a written or verbal statement regarding those allegations. According to Mr. Farley's report, he began an investigation on June 17, 2016 in reference to "Code of Ethics and The Principles of Professional Conduct of the Education Profession in Florida and improper student interactions/procedures". The grievant was identified as Gina Mercer, Stillions' classroom aide, and the Respondent was identified as, Marlynn Stillions.

COPY

The following is a synopsis of the ten allegations Mr. Farley identified in his report:

1. Teacher Assistant Gina Mercer alleges the following behavior of Teacher Stillions: Stillions responded to a student sticking his tongue out by shoving her finger long ways inside his mouth, putting his lips together and pulling them out. Teacher Stillions told him to close his mouth by using her hand under his chin. She took the student out of his miss out chair and turned him around. She sat behind him and held her hand on the back of his head with his face in the wall. He was crying and she said you will not look at your friends.
2. Teacher Stillions has a "wand" (see attached picture) wrapped in some type of fabric which was soaked in a mixture and placed in students mouths or on their lips. This was done to get a student to behave.
3. Teacher Stillions instructed her (Mercer) to spray children with the bottle which contained vinegar. Teacher Stillions (2014) would also spray a student's face with water when he threw a fit or screamed.
4. Both Gina Mercer and Sandy Triplett stated in 2014 they were instructed by Stillions to spray vinegar in students mouths. The two teacher assistants stated students (with disabilities) were sprayed in the mouth with vinegar.
5. Teacher Stillions would put a student in a basket, put a bean bag in his lap and put her foot on top of the bean bag.
6. Melonie Smith stated: "I've seen many things as far has handling kids that have concerned me, student especially. He dropped to the floor when upset and she (Mrs. Stillions) would use her foot to push him down the aisle." Cafeteria employee Penny Powell stated, "It has been awhile, around the beginning of the year. I saw Teacher Stillions push the student with her feet. Sometimes she get really angry and yells at the kids. I think she holds them too tight and squeeze their hands." Teacher Ramer stated she has witnessed Teacher Stillions "scoot" student through the line with her foot while "student" was laying on the floor.
7. Teacher Ramer alleged Teacher Stillions inappropriately picked up a student by the waistband of his pants and the back collar of his shirt and carried him into the lunch line and placed him on the floor.
8. Teacher Ramer alleged she witnessed Teacher Stillions refuse to give a student a portion of his breakfast. This caused the student to become upset. She then took out a tablet with a blue case and began "filming" the student. Teacher Ramer stated she has witnessed trays full of food being thrown away, if students do not eat in a particular order. Teacher Amy Rynearson stated she witnessed the allegations of Teacher Stillions taunting students by making them throw their food away or making them carry their own tray when they clearly are unable to do so.
9. Custodian Leslie Prince alleged that Teacher Stillions kned in the face four times to get him to sit down.
10. Teacher aid Mary Elias-Evans alleged in October or November in the school year 2015-2016 she was sitting in the cafeteria with her class for breakfast. Teacher Stillions came through the serving line with her class. Elias-Evans looked up because a student in Teacher Stillions class was screaming. This was one of her more challenging students and the behavior was common. Elias-Evans noticed the teacher standing at the threshold of the entrance joining the serving line and the dining area. When the student who was screaming came through, Elias-Evans saw Teacher Stillions stick her foot out and trip the student causing him to fall. Elias-Evans further stated, earlier in the school year (2015-2016) Elias-Evans heard Teacher Stillions call on the walkie talkie for a code yellow. She stated that a student had run away from the rest of the class and that she needed assistance. There was talk back and forth about her exact location between Teacher Stillions and other staff. Elias-Evans looked through a nearby window to see if she could see Teacher Stillions and the student. She wanted to see if the student was coming toward her so she could offer assistance. She noticed Teacher Stillions and the student were actually in a corner of the campus. The student was on one side of the tree and the teacher was on the other. While waiting for assistance, the teacher and student were playing "cat and mouse" going around the tree several times. When the teacher got close enough to the student, Teacher Stillions pushed the student so he fell to the ground. Before the CPI team arrived, Elias-Evans heard Teacher Stillions on the walkie talkie stating that the child attacked her which did not happened.

During a sworn interview with Mary Elias on August 9, 2017, she stated while being interviewed by Arden Farley he asked her why she did not call the DCF abuse hotline. She stated she told him she did not know that she was allowed to make the hotline call and in the past the teacher she assisted or the principal would make the hotline notification

IN THE CIRCUIT/COUNTY COURT IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA

COPY

WARRANT/OTTIC ON HOLD

OKALOOSA CO SHERIFF'S OFFICE

REPORT NO: OCSO17ARR008536

regarding suspected abuse.

The Florida Department of Children and Families does not have a record of Farley notifying the Abuse Registry Hotline of suspected abuse involving these incidents.

Florida State Statue 39.201 (1a) requires that "Any person who knows, or has reasonable cause to suspect, that a child is abused, abandoned, or neglected by a parent, legal custodian, caregiver, or other person responsible for the child's welfare, as defined in this chapter, or that a child is in need of supervision and care and has no parent, legal custodian, or responsible adult relative immediately known and available to provide supervision and care shall report such knowledge or suspicion to the department in the manner prescribed in subsection (2)."

Florida State Statute 39.201(d4) identifies "Reporters in the following occupation categories are required to provide their names to the hotline staff" and identifies in subsection 4, "School teacher or other school official or personnel".

Based upon this investigation, the Defendant, Arden Farley had reasonable cause to suspect that victim was abused by his teacher, Marlynn Stillions who was responsible for his welfare. Farley was made aware of multiple allegations and a continuing course of conduct of child abuse directed at the victim by Stillions. During the Defendant's administrative investigation, he was made aware of the following allegations :

- Stillions using her foot to kick or push the victim across the lunch line floor
- Stillions kneeling the victim repeatedly in the chin as a way to move him along
- Stillions intentionally tripping the victim, causing him to fall onto the floor and spill a tray of food
- Stillions intentionally pushing him down to the ground to gain control of him

Despite all of these concerning allegations, he failed to make a mandatory report to the Florida Department of Children and Families Abuse Hotline as required by Florida law. Instead, he conducted his own investigation and "confirmed" some of the allegations and "unconfirmed" other allegations. Even the allegations he "confirmed" were not reported to the abuse registry or law enforcement.

In failing to report the above incidents, the Defendant, Arden Farley is in violation of F.S.S. 39.205, Mandatory reports of child abuse, abandonment, or neglect to the abuse hotline. These events occurred at Kenwood Elementary School located at 15 NE Eagle Street, Ft. Walton Beach, Okaloosa County, FL where your affiant is a sworn law enforcement officer.

Signature (Arresting Officer) Name ID/SSN

Subscribed and sworn to (or affirmed) before me this 12 day of September A.D., 2017 by who is personally known to me or has produced as identification.

Signature Notary Public LEO CO

Commission No: My Commission Expires

Supervisor Signature Date Supervisor Name (Please Print) Rank

IN THE CIRCUIT/COUNTY COURT IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA

COPY

WARRANT/OTTIC ON HOLD

OKALOOSA CO SHERIFF'S OFFICE

REPORT NO: OCSO17ARR008536

[PHYSICAL EVIDENCE] [NO PHYSICAL EVIDENCE LISTED]

[ARREST INFORMATION]

Arrested	Residency	Injured	Extent of Injury	Resist
	Within jurisdiction			
		Arrested Prior	Arrest Jurisdiction	Alcohol
				Drugs
No.	Di Street	A/L	City	ST Zip
				Lat / Long
Arresting Officer		Unit	(GEO) - - -	Officer Type
Reporting Officer		Unit		Original Offense Jurisdiction
088 HENDERSON, KELLY J		OCSO/FSV/INV/CID		OCSO
Forward to for approval				
OCSO/FSV/INV/CID				

Bond Set by LEO at Time of Arrest & Booking: \$0.00

- () None
- () ROR
- () Cash
- () Pro

Bond Set by Judge	() None	() ROR/Sign
<u>\$3,500.00</u>	(X) Cash	() PTR
	() Any	
	(X) Pro	
	() PtrIQ	

()Purge SCANNED
 ()SC _____

Return Court: CIRCUIT COURT: FELONY Date: _____ Time: _____
 Instructions: SUBJECT TO SELF SURRENDER BY NOON 9-13-17

[COURT INFORMATION]

Court	Judge	Date
Sent		
Rcvd CIRCUIT	FLOWERS	9/12/2017
Court Case Number 17-6466		

Assigned To:

[DISPOSITION]

<u>Disposition Type</u>	<u>Release Type</u>	<u>Other Desc</u>
<u>Release Date</u>	<u>Release Time</u>	<u>Release Officer</u>
		<u>Printed</u> <u>Printed By</u>
		<u>No</u>
<u>Released To</u>		

COPY

IN THE CIRCUIT/COUNTY COURT IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA

COPY

WARRANT/OTTIC SENT TO JUDGE
 REPORT NO: OCSO17ARR008530

OKALOOSA CO SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Jail Booking No	Offense No OCSO17OFF006466	Other No OCSO17CAD084394	OBTS
-----------------	-------------------------------	-----------------------------	------

[SUSPECT]

<u>Last</u>	<u>First</u>	<u>Middle</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Race</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>DOB</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Hgt</u>	<u>Wgt</u>
VAUGHAN	ANGELYN	SOWELL		W	F	9/26/1955	61	5'03"	150
<u>Eyes</u>	<u>Hair</u>	<u>MNI Number</u>	<u>SSN</u>	<u>I.D. No.</u>	<u>St</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>OCA/Agency ID</u>		
BRO	RED	OCSO07MNI022978			FL	E			

Birth Location: City: County: State: ALABAMA Nation: Citizenship:
 Address

603 AUTUBON DRIVE FORT WALTON BEACH FL 32547

Occupations (Current/Last Known is Listed First)

- Business: CINCO CHRISTIAN SCHOOL, Job Title: PRINCIPAL, Entered: 8/11/2017
 26 YACHT CLUB DRIVE Suite: FORT WALTON BEACH FL 32548
- Business: KENWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, Job Title: PRINCIPAL, Entered: 12/6/2013
 15 NE EAGLE STREET FORT WALTON BEACH FL 32547
- Business: PRYOR MIDDLE SCHOOL, Job Title: ASST. PRINCIPAL, Entered: 12/12/2007
 201 NW RACETRACK RD Suite: FORT WALTON BEACH FL 32548

Aliases (Last, First Middle Title DOB)

* none found in MNI *

Street Names

* none found in MNI *

[INCIDENT INFORMATION]

Occurred Date Range: 8/10/2015 08:00 to 6/3/2016 15:30 Lat / Long 30.44218 / -86.57912
 No. Di Street Apt/Lot City ST Zip (GEO)
 15 NE EAGLE STREET FORT WALTON BEA FL 32548 2 - 19 - -

[CHARGES]

39.205.1

PUBLIC ORDER CRIMES

FAIL REPRT SUSP CHILD ABUSE/ABANDON/NEGLEC

<u>Counts</u>	<u>Level</u>	<u>Degree</u>	<u>GOC</u>	<u>UCR</u>	<u>NCIC</u>	<u>AON</u>	<u>Bond Amount</u>
3	Felony	Third	Principal	9000		7399	\$3,500.00

[STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE / NARRATIVE]

On May 17, 2017, [redacted] came to the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office Headquarters building located at 50 2nd Street, Shalimar, Florida in reference to a child abuse/neglect complaint in which his son [redacted] who is currently six years old, is the victim.

[redacted] provided your affiant with a copy of a twelve page "Investigative Summary Report" that was written by Arden Farley who is employed with the Okaloosa County School District. The report detailed numerous allegations during the school year 2015-2016 involving VPK-D teacher Marlynn Stillions. VPK-D students are 3-4 year old children with disabilities and behavioral issues. Some of these students are completely non-verbal. The "Investigative Summary Report" identified witnesses who provided verbal or written statements regarding Stillions actions against the victim, [redacted] that they felt were inappropriate. Victim, [redacted] at the time of these incidents was a 3 year old child diagnosed with being on the autism spectrum and was non-verbal.

The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office conducted an independent criminal investigation into the allegations involving Marlynn Stillions. During witness interviews it became apparent a criminal course of conduct constituting child abuse was being conducted by Marlynn Stillions toward the victim

On August 9, 2017, an interview was conducted with the Defendant, Angie Vaughan. During the Defendant's interview her attorney Michael Gates was present. At the time of the allegations made against Stillions, the Defendant was the

Principal at Kenwood Elementary School. The Defendant admitted to Mary Elias-Evans approaching her with numerous concerns that were made by Gina Mercer, Stillions' classroom aide. The Defendant advised she had a conversation with Stillions regarding vinegar use in the classroom. The Defendant stated she met with Stillions and discussed with her alternatives regarding using the vinegar approach with students. The Defendant told Stillions that the vinegar was not something she wanted to be used at the school regardless of what she may have done in the past. The Defendant was asked if Stillions acknowledged that she was using the vinegar spray bottle and the Defendant said "no".

On August 9, 2017, an interview was conducted with Mary Elias-Evans who is the union rep as well as a classroom aide. Elias-Evans explained that Stillions' classroom assistant, Gina Mercer had come to her early on in the first school year she was at Kenwood. She said Mercer began to tell her things that were occurring in Stillions' classroom. First she mentioned the use of the spray bottle and asked her if they used a spray bottle (spraying in the face) if children were misbehaving. Elias-Evans said she told Mercer that she didn't think they could do that and she needed to report it. Mercer told her that she felt like when she reported things happening, it was like she was the problem. Elias-Evans said this bothered her and later that day, she emailed the Defendant, Mrs. Vaughan, who was the principal at the time and asked Vaughan to call her at home. She said, almost immediately, the Defendant called her and she told her in detail what Mercer had told her was occurring in the classroom. She said she told the Defendant she didn't want things to elevate to the level where DCF became involved. She could not say for sure if the Defendant acted on any of the information provided to her.

On August 9, 2017, an interview was conducted with Gina Mercer. Mercer stated she reported the incidents and concerns involving Stillions to the Defendant and she believed she was doing the right thing when she reported it to her boss (Vaughan).

During the interview with the Defendant she was asked about Chrystal Ramer coming to her regarding the following complaints: Stillions videotaping with an iPad, taking food away from to instigate a reaction from him and Stillions inappropriately picking up and moving him with her foot. The Defendant admitted to Ramer coming to her with those concerns. She stated she met with Stillions to discuss the "videotaping". And told Stillions regardless if that was a request of a parent they would not be doing that at school and Stillions complied. The Defendant also discussed with Stillions eating as being part of the pre-school curriculum and that Stillions needed to let the children eat what they were choosing to eat regardless if the curriculum stated she was to be helping them make good choices. When asked about Stillions using her foot to move, the Defendant agreed it was inappropriate and told Stillions not to do it.

When asked about the incident Leslie Prince witnessed of Stillions kneeing in the chin, the Defendant advised she did not remember Prince coming to her with that information.

On August 7, 2017, an interview was conducted with Leslie Prince. Prince explained an incident where was running from Stillions and she was chasing after him, trying to pin him against the wall. She then demonstrated that she struck in the chin with her knee 4 times. She said she could not believe what she saw and she ran out to go to the office. When she ran out, she said she saw Mrs. Morrison and Morrison told her she looked like she just saw a ghost. She told Morrison what she had seen and she told her to go to the office and report the incident and she went and told the Defendant and Pickard. When asked if anything happened, she said Pickard came in for the next few days to monitor the lunchroom. When asked how hard she was hitting - she said it was with enough force to move his head each time she struck him.

The Florida Department of Children and Families does not have a record of Vaughan notifying the Abuse Registry Hotline of suspected abuse involving these incidents.

Florida State Statue 39.201 (1a) requires that "Any person who knows, or has reasonable cause to suspect, that a child is abused, abandoned, or neglected by a parent, legal custodian, caregiver, or other person responsible for the child's welfare, as defined in this chapter, or that a child is in need of supervision and care and has no parent, legal custodian, or responsible adult relative immediately known and available to provide supervision and care shall report such knowledge or suspicion to the department in the manner prescribed in subsection (2)."

Florida State Statute 39.201(d4) identifies "Reporters in the following occupation categories are required to provide their names to the hotline staff" and identifies in subsection 4, "School teacher or other school official or personnel".

Based upon this investigation, the Defendant, Angelyn Vaughan had reasonable cause to suspect that victim was

IN THE CIRCUIT/COUNTY COURT IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA

COPY

WARRANT/OTTIC SENT TO JUDGE
REPORT NO: OCSO17ARR008530

OKALOOSA CO SHERIFF'S OFFICE

abused by his teacher, Marlynn Stillions who was responsible for his welfare. Vaughan was approached by Gina Mercer, Mary Elisa-Evans, Chystal Ramer, and Leslie Prince who all had concerns about Stillions' inappropriate behavior against the victim. The Defendant was made aware of the following allegations:

- Stillions' spraying the victim with a spray bottle containing either water or vinegar
- Stillions' using her foot to kick or push the victim across the lunch line floor
- Stillions' kneeling the victim repeatedly in the chin as a way to move him along

Despite all of these concerns being relayed to Vaughan she failed to make a mandatory report to the Florida Department of Children and Families Abuse Hotline as required by Florida law.

In failing to report these incidents, the Defendant, Angelyn Vaughan is in violation of F.S.S. 39.205, Mandatory reports of child abuse, abandonment, or neglect to the abuse hotline. These events occurred at Kenwood Elementary School located at 15 NE Eagle Street, Ft. Walton Beach, Okaloosa County, FL where your affiant is a sworn law enforcement officer.

Signature (Arresting Officer) Name ID/SSN

Subscribed and sworn to (or affirmed) before me this 12 day of September A.D., 2017 by _____ who is personally known to me or has produced _____ as identification.

Signature _____ Notary Public _____ LEO _____ CO

Commission No: _____ My Commission Expires _____

Supervisor Signature Date Supervisor Name (Please Print) Rank

[PHYSICAL EVIDENCE] [NO PHYSICAL EVIDENCE LISTED]

[ARREST INFORMATION]

Arrested	Residency	Injured	Extent of Injury	Resist
No.	Di Street	A/L	City	Lat / Long
	Within jurisdiction	Arrested Prior	Arrest Jurisdiction	Alcohol
				Drugs
Arresting Officer		Unit	(GEO) - - -	Officer Type
Reporting Officer		Unit		Original Offense Jurisdiction
088 HENDERSON, KELLY J		OCSO/FSV/INV/CID		OCSO
Forward to for approval				
OCSO/FSV/INV/CID				

Bond Set by LEO at Time of Arrest & Booking: \$0.00
() None
() ROR
() Cash

COPY

IN THE CIRCUIT/COUNTY COURT IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA

COPY

WARRANT/OTTIC SENT TO JUDGE
REPORT NO: OCSO17ARR008530

OKALOOSA CO SHERIFF'S OFFICE

() Pro

Bond Set by Judge () None () ROR/Sign
\$3,500.00 () Cash () PTR
() Any
() Pro
() PtrIQ

()Purge

()SC

Return Court: CIRCUIT COURT: FELONY Date: _____ Time: _____
Instructions: _____

[COURT INFORMATION]

Court Judge Date
Sent
Rcvd **CIRCUIT**
Court Case Number

Assigned To:

[DISPOSITION]

Disposition Type Release Type Other Desc
Release Date Release Time Release Officer Printed Printed By
No
Released To

Court DispositionType Court Disposition Description

[ADDITIONAL PERSONS]

COURT DISPOSITION: _____

(right index)

No Bill / Petition Issue Warrant Prosecution Approved

Signature of Assistant State Attorney

Date

COPY