



OFFICE OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY ATTORNEY

PETER J. ORPUT COUNTY ATTORNEY

Press Release

Contact: Pete Orput
Phone: 651-430-6115

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: February 9, 2017

School Bus Aide Charged with Sexual Assaults of Students

County Attorney Pete Orput today announced the filing of charges against Harvey Kneifl, age 70, of Woodbury. Kneifl was charged with 6 counts of 2nd Degree Sexual Assault. He will have his first appearance tomorrow.

According to the complaint filed in the case, Kneifl is a school bus attendant assisting children on the bus with special needs for the South Washington County School District on routes in Woodbury. After an investigation by the Woodbury Police Department, with the cooperation of the school district, Kneifl is seen on video from inside the bus on two occasions, touching 6 children under age 13 on their genitals over their clothing. At least 3 of the children confirmed to law enforcement that which was readily visible on the school district's video of the bus interior.

Orput stated, "The first duty of this office is the protection of our children. What this defendant is alleged to have done is totally abhorrent to society. The case will be prosecuted with that standard in mind."

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(Criminal Complaint follows)

State of Minnesota
County of Washington

District Court
10th Judicial District

Prosecutor File No. CR-2017-235
Court File No. 82-CR-17-575

State of Minnesota,
Plaintiff,

COMPLAINT
Order of Detention

vs.

HARVEY THEODORE KNEIFL DOB: 06/25/1946

7555 Bailey Road
#308
Woodbury, MN 55125

Defendant.

The Complainant submits this complaint to the Court and states that there is probable cause to believe Defendant committed the following offense(s):

COUNT I

Charge: Criminal Sex Conduct-2nd Degree-Victim Under 13-Actor greater than 36m Old

Minnesota Statute: 609.343.1(a), with reference to: 609.343.2(a)

Maximum Sentence: 25 years and \$35,000

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 01/27/2017 to 02/03/2017

Control #(ICR#): 17602550

Charge Description: engage in sexual contact with another person under the age of 13 years, to-wit: [REDACTED] and said defendant is more than 36 months older than the victim

COUNT II

Charge: Criminal Sex Conduct-2nd Degree-Victim Under 13-Actor greater than 36m Old

Minnesota Statute: 609.343.1(a), with reference to: 609.343.2(a)

Maximum Sentence: 25 years and \$35,000

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 01/27/2017 to 02/03/2017

Control #(ICR#): 17602550

Charge Description: engage in sexual contact with another person under the age of 13 years, to-wit: [REDACTED] and said defendant is more than 36 months older than the victim

COUNT III

Charge: Criminal Sex Conduct-2nd Degree-Victim Under 13-Actor greater than 36m Old

Minnesota Statute: 609.343.1(a), with reference to: 609.343.2(a)

Maximum Sentence: 25 years and \$35,000

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 01/27/2017 to 02/03/2017

Control #(ICR#): 17602550

Charge Description: engage in sexual contact with another person under the age of 13 years, to-wit: [REDACTED], and said defendant is more than 36 months older than the victim

COUNT IV

Charge: Criminal Sex Conduct-2nd Degree-Victim Under 13-Actor greater than 36m Old

Minnesota Statute: 609.343.1(a), with reference to: 609.343.2(a)

Maximum Sentence: 25 years and \$35,000

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 01/27/2017 to 02/03/2017

Control #(ICR#): 17602550

Charge Description: engage in sexual contact with another person under the age of 13 years, to-wit: [REDACTED] and said defendant is more than 36 months older than the victim

COUNT V

Charge: Criminal Sex Conduct-2nd Degree-Victim Under 13-Actor greater than 36m Old

Minnesota Statute: 609.343.1(a), with reference to: 609.343.2(a)

Maximum Sentence: 25 years and \$35,000

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 01/27/2017 to 02/03/2017

Control #(ICR#): 17602550

Charge Description: engage in sexual contact with another person under the age of 13 years, to-wit: [REDACTED] and said defendant is more than 36 months older than the victim

COUNT VI

Charge: Criminal Sex Conduct-2nd Degree-Victim Under 13-Actor greater than 36m Old

Minnesota Statute: 609.343.1(a), with reference to: 609.343.2(a)

Maximum Sentence: 25 years and \$35,000

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 01/27/2017 to 02/03/2017

Control #(ICR#): 17602550

Charge Description: engage in sexual contact with another person under the age of 13 years, to-wit: [REDACTED] and said defendant is more than 36 months older than the victim

STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

The Complainant states that the following facts establish probable cause:

Your Complainant is a licensed Minnesota peace officer with the Woodbury Police Department. Complainant offers the following statement to establish probable cause:

On February 4, 2017 at approximately 8:20 p.m., Officer Ryan Schroeder of the Woodbury Police Department was contacted by [REDACTED] the father of [REDACTED] who reported that his daughter takes the bus to school in the South Washington County School District. On this bus route there is a driver and a school bus attendant/aid to assist children because some of the children have special needs. On February 3, 2017, [REDACTED] took the bus and noticed that the normal bus attendant/aid was not on the bus. The new bus attendant was identified as Harvey Theodore Kneifl, herein known as Defendant, DOB 6/25/1946. When [REDACTED] sat down on the bus the Defendant sat next to her and first then rubbed [REDACTED] leg. After rubbing her leg the Defendant then proceeded to rub the child's genital area in a rough manner "four or five" times. [REDACTED] reported to her parents that she was scared by the Defendant's actions. The route of this bus always travels in Washington County.

After taking the initial report, your Complainant was assigned to the case for further investigation. Investigator Miller made contact with the bus company director Carrie Olson. Ms. Olson had been made aware of the assault. The bus company is South Washington Transportation Company (SWTC). Upon learning of the assault the bus company began working with law enforcement providing information on all children who were on that route, identification of the bus driver, the identity of the Defendant and video from the bus taken on February 3, 2017. SWTC reported that this is a bus route for pre-K and special needs children. The Defendant duties were to aid children who got on the bus and make sure that they were traveling safe. When the Complainant reviewed the video the Defendant is seen touching the genital area of multiple girls in a sexual manner over their clothing.

After SWTC was made aware of the Defendant's actions they obtained video from a bus dated January 27, 2017. The Defendant was [REDACTED] as the bus attendant/aid on that bus route. The bus route was the same route as mentioned above. In that video, the Defendant is seen touching female children in the same aggressive sexual manner. On January 27, 2017, the children sexually assaulted by the Defendant were identified as [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].

A review of the video from February 3, 2017 identify [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] as victims of sexual assault by the Defendant. In the video the Defendant is seen touching these children over their clothing in their genital area in a sexual manner.

All parents of the children were immediately notified and three children were seen at Midwest Children's Resource Center (MCRC) by a physician. The following children were interviewed and examined: [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. All three children disclosed that the Defendant would touch and rub their genital area with his hands.

On February 8, 2017 the Defendant was interviewed after being read his Miranda Rights. He agreed to speak with law enforcement officers. During that interview the Defendant confirmed that he was on the above mentioned bus routes. He admitted that he likes to tickle, poke and hug the children, that he puts his hands on the girls thighs rubbing them. He denied rubbing any of the genital areas, claiming he makes the girls feel good because "they come from a hard life and likely do not get any sort of affection at home', he believes he becomes closer to the children than their parents, and he likes sitting by the girls on this bus because they are "more fun".

Defendant was subsequently arrested and transported to the Washington County Jail.

SIGNATURES AND APPROVALS

Complainant requests that Defendant, subject to bail or conditions of release, be:
(1) arrested or that other lawful steps be taken to obtain Defendant's appearance in court; or
(2) detained, if already in custody, pending further proceedings; and that said Defendant otherwise be dealt with according to law.

Complainant declares under penalty of perjury that everything stated in this document is true and correct. Minn. Stat. § 358.116; Minn. R. Crim. P. 2.01, subds. 1, 2.

Complainant

Stephen Wills
Commander
2100 Radio Drive
Woodbury, MN 55125
Badge: 607

Electronically Signed:
02/09/2017 12:20 PM
Washington County, Minnesota

Being authorized to prosecute the offenses charged, I approve this complaint.

Prosecuting Attorney

Thomas D. Wedes
Assistant County Attorney
PO Box 6
15015 62nd Street North
Stillwater, MN 55082
(651) 430-6115

Electronically Signed:
02/09/2017 12:16 PM

FINDING OF PROBABLE CAUSE

From the above sworn facts, and any supporting affidavits or supplemental sworn testimony, I, the Issuing Officer, have determined that probable cause exists to support, subject to bail or conditions of release where applicable, Defendant's arrest or other lawful steps be taken to obtain Defendant's appearance in court, or Defendant's detention, if already in custody, pending further proceedings. Defendant is therefore charged with the above-stated offense(s).

SUMMONS

THEREFORE YOU, THE DEFENDANT, ARE SUMMONED to appear on _____, _____ at _____ AM/PM before the above-named court at 14949 62nd Street N PO Box 3802, Stillwater, MN 55082-3802 to answer this complaint.

IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR in response to this SUMMONS, a WARRANT FOR YOUR ARREST shall be issued.

WARRANT

To the Sheriff of the above-named county; or other person authorized to execute this warrant: I order, in the name of the State of Minnesota, that the Defendant be apprehended and arrested without delay and brought promptly before the court (if in session), and if not, before a Judge or Judicial Officer of such court without unnecessary delay, and in any event not later than 36 hours after the arrest or as soon as such Judge or Judicial Officer is available to be dealt with according to law.

Execute in MN Only

Execute Nationwide

Execute in Border States

ORDER OF DETENTION

Since the Defendant is already in custody, I order, subject to bail or conditions of release, that the Defendant continue to be detained pending further proceedings.

Bail: \$
Conditions of Release:

This complaint, duly subscribed and sworn to or signed under penalty of perjury, is issued by the undersigned Judicial Officer as of the following date: February 9, 2017.

Judicial Officer Susan R Miles
District Court Judge

Electronically Signed: 02/09/2017 01:45 PM

Sworn testimony has been given before the Judicial Officer by the following witnesses:

**COUNTY OF WASHINGTON
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

State of Minnesota

Plaintiff

vs.

Harvey Theodore Kneifl

Defendant

*LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER RETURN OF SERVICE
I hereby Certify and Return that I have served a copy of this Order of
Detention upon the Defendant herein named.*

Signature of Authorized Service Agent: