

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA)
)
COUNTY OF SULLY) : SS

IN CIRCUIT COURT

SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

PROBABLE CAUSE
AFFIDAVIT

Plaintiff,

v.

WEST, STEVEN HAROLD
DOB: [REDACTED]

Defendant,

(In the matter of a sexual assault investigation within Sully County)

Your Affiant, Hank Prim, being first duly sworn, deposes and states:

1. Your Affiant, Hank Prim, is a Special Agent with the South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI), and has been so employed since March of 2018. During Your Affiant's tenure with the DCI, he has conducted numerous investigations of felony-level criminal activity to include sex offenses, theft, bodily injury, financial violations, and illegal drugs. Your Affiant is a certified law enforcement officer in the State of South Dakota, receiving said certification after successfully completing the State of South Dakota's 520-hour basic law enforcement certification course. Your Affiant is currently assigned to investigate general crimes and drug-related offenses occurring within the State of South Dakota. Prior to employment with the South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation, Your Affiant served as a Reserve Deputy Sheriff with the Hillsdale County (MI) Sheriff's Office, and graduated magna cum laude from Hillsdale College with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Economy.
2. On May 13, 2021, Your Affiant was contacted by Hughes County Sheriff's Office Chief Deputy Dustin Drew and requested to assist with the investigation of a sexual assault which involved three juveniles who had run-away from a residence in Blunt, South Dakota earlier that day. Chief Deputy Drew identified these three juveniles as [REDACTED] (DOB: [REDACTED]), [REDACTED] (DOB: [REDACTED]), and [REDACTED] (DOB: [REDACTED]). Chief Deputy Drew advised that, following law enforcement's location of the three missing juveniles, disclosures of sexual contact were made. Given the disclosures, Your Affiant conducted interviews with each of the three juveniles.
3. On May 13, 2021, Your Affiant conducted an interview with the juvenile female [REDACTED] who advised Your Affiant of the following:
 - a. Between 12:50 AM and 1:00 AM, [REDACTED], [REDACTED], and [REDACTED] snuck away from the Blunt residence and met with a male named Steve at the church near her home. [REDACTED] described the male as being short, really old in age, with numerous wrinkles. Moreover, [REDACTED] stated he had gray hair, blue eyes, and white pale skin.

- b. After retrieving the three juvenile females from Blunt, Steve drove them to what [REDACTED] believed to be Steve's residence in Onida, South Dakota.
 - c. Once at the residence, the three girls utilized an electric razor provided to them by Steve to cut their hair.
 - d. After a period of time, [REDACTED], [REDACTED], and [REDACTED] went with Steve into a basement bedroom where [REDACTED] observed [REDACTED] and Steve engage in sexual intercourse.
 - e. Following sexual intercourse, Steve drove all three juvenile females to a gas station in Vivian, using a pick-up truck parked in the Onida residence's driveway. During the drive, a light-blue jacket with no zipper and connecting pockets belonging to the juvenile females was left in the rear of the pick-up truck.
 - f. [REDACTED] advised Steve gave \$180.00 in cash to [REDACTED]
 - g. To arrange for the ride from Steve, [REDACTED] advised [REDACTED] utilized [REDACTED] phone to message Steve.
4. On May 13, 2021, Your Affiant conducted an interview with the juvenile female [REDACTED] who advised Your Affiant of the following:
- a. [REDACTED] advised that at approximately 12:00 AM, her, [REDACTED], and [REDACTED] left [REDACTED]'s residence in Blunt, following which they met with an older male possibly named Stevie. From there, Stevie drove all three-juvenile females to Stevie's residence in Onida, South Dakota.
 - b. After shaving their heads using what Your Affiant understood to be an electric razor, [REDACTED] heard [REDACTED] and Stevie have— what she understood to be— Stevie and [REDACTED] did sexual things in a downstairs room, citing the fact she heard sounds of the bed moving. Following such, [REDACTED] confided in [REDACTED] that Stevie and [REDACTED] had sex. In return for sex, they were provided approximately \$280.00.
 - c. Following such, [REDACTED] advised Stevie drove the three juvenile females to a gas station using a white pick-up truck.
 - d. [REDACTED] stated [REDACTED] and Stevie were in contact through Instagram, citing the fact [REDACTED] saw [REDACTED] go to his Instagram page.
5. On May 13, 2021, Your Affiant conducted an interview with the juvenile female [REDACTED] who advised Your Affiant of the following:
- a. At approximately 12:00 AM, a male named Steve West came to Blunt and gave all three juvenile females a ride to his residence in Onida, South Dakota. [REDACTED] described West to be an elderly Caucasian male with white balding hair.
 - b. [REDACTED] arranged this ride from West by messaging Steve via Instagram. [REDACTED] identified West's Instagram profile as possibly being "stevewestsh2000," adding West's profile picture depicted him and his family.

corroborated his role in providing transportation to all three juvenile females. In addition, West confirmed engaging in various sexual acts with all three juvenile females, specifically:

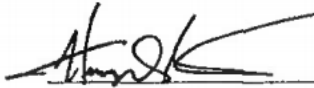
- a. [REDACTED] who is 13 years old, performed oral sex on West.
- b. [REDACTED], who is 12 years old, performed oral sex on West.
- c. West performed oral sex on [REDACTED], who is 13 years old, and then engaged in penile-vaginal sexual intercourse with [REDACTED]

Based on the aforementioned information, Your Affiant reasonably believes STEVEN HAROLD WEST to be guilty of the following charges:

- SDCL 22-22-1 (1): Rape in the First Degree
- SDCL 22-22-1 (5): Rape in the Fourth Degree – 2 counts

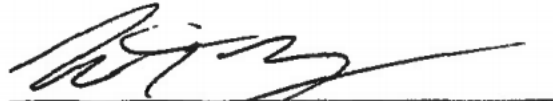
This report is made based upon Your Affiant's best knowledge, information, and belief.

Dated this 14th Day of May, 2021.



Hank Prim
Special Agent
South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation

Subscribed and sworn to before me this ___ Day of _____, 2021.



Notary Public

My commission expires: 5-1-26