



C.A.T.S. Chats

CHILD ABUSE TRAINING SERVICES
PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION OF MI

Together we can make a difference.

WWW.MICATS.ORG

November 2009

Julie A. Welch, Editor

The Holiday season is upon us!

With Thanksgiving around the corner I would like to take this opportunity to give thanks and recognition for the support so many of you give the Child Abuse Training Unit at PAAM. Since October 2008 we've held more than 40 days of training and trained 1636 professionals in the fields of Child Protective Services, prosecution, law enforcement and advocacy center workers. We couldn't do this without all of you!!!

I also want to welcome our newest forensic interviewing trainers:

- * Keith Clark, Wayne County Prosecutors Office
- * Mark Boody, Novi Police Department,
- * Ed Kolakowski, Kent County Sheriff's Department
- * Kendra Masunas, Oceana County
- * Elizabeth Brown, Forensic Interviewer
- * Josh Lator, Michigan State Police

So whether you're an attendee, a trainer, part of our advisory committee, or just someone that calls us from time to time to recommend a subject or trainer, thank you! Jennifer and I both enjoy working with all of you!

Keep up the good fight!! Together we all make a difference!

Happy Holidays.

Forensic Interviewing

Remember that the Michigan Forensic Interviewing Protocol is required by Michigan's Child Protection Law for child abuse professionals interviewing children. Please make sure you are attending an authorized

Michigan training. The Child Abuse Training Services department within PAAM is governed by DHS and the Governor's Task Force to provide this two day training. **It is the only approved training within the state by these two entities.** You can always check our website to assure you are attending an actual PAAM training. Attending out of state trainings also does not fulfill your obligation of forensic interviewing training.

There is no charge to attendees for registration fees or materials. **DHS employees only** can contact our office to see if funds are available to cover meals, mileage and overnight expenses.



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KNOW WHO IS AROUND YOUR KIDS!!!

CHECK OUT:
WWW.FAMILYWATCHDOG.US

KEEP YOUR SCHOOLS INFORMED OF OFFENDERS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD!!

Best Holiday Quote

"The best thing to spend on your children is time"

Louis Hart





SEX OFFENDER KILLS TEEN WHILE UNDER GPS MONITORING

CNN—March 12, 2009

VANCOUVER, Washington (CNN) -- When 13-year-old Alycia Nipp didn't come home from a trip to Wal-Mart, her family had no idea where she was, but a tracking device was transmitting the location of her alleged killer.

Darrin Sanford, 30, was one of several homeless people living near the field in an abandoned home slated for demolition, police said.

He was convicted in 1998 of communicating with a minor for immoral purposes and luring minors with sexual motivation; he was sentenced to probation, said a Clark County sheriff's report. When he was released from jail in January, following a November probation violation, Sanford was fitted with a global positioning tracking unit on his ankle, according to the Washington Department of Corrections.

Sanford was wearing the device seven weeks later when he tried to rape Alycia before beating and stabbing her in a field a couple of blocks from the street where she lived, according to police.

Authorities said they used GPS to corroborate Sanford's confession. A Clark County judge this week postponed his arraignment until June so the defense and prosecution can prepare for death penalty arguments.

Debate over GPS

"They can't monitor it live, and even if you could monitor it live, him being in the field wouldn't have told you [if] he was murdering the girl," said Evan Mayo-Wilson, an Oxford University lecturer who has studied the use of GPS.

There are two types of GPS monitoring: active, in which the offender's whereabouts are surveyed in real-time, and passive, in which probation or parole officers check an offender's movements after the fact.

Sanford was passively monitored, said Anmarie Aylward, the Washington DOC's program administrator.

Both types of GPS are important tools for law enforcement, Mayo-Wilson said, but the technology must be coupled with other efforts to reduce recidivism, including treatment programs, personal visits and interviews with neighbors, family members and employers.

Sex offenders should be assessed on a case-by-case basis, and supervision programs must be based on fluid assessments that weigh the likelihood of reoffense, said Peter Ibarra, a sociologist at the University of Illinois-Chicago who studies the use of GPS in stalking and domestic violence cases.

"You have to use it very responsibly," Ibarra said. "It's a technology that cannot stand alone, especially if you're thinking about using it with offenders who imperil the public."

Sanford told detectives he met Licy near the vacant homes and walked with her to an isolated area of the field, police said. There, he attempted to have intercourse with her "but wasn't able to complete the sexual act," according to the probable cause affidavit filed in court.

"After she giggled at him," continued the affidavit, "he was overcome with a violent rage and hit her with something in the back. She turned to face him and he kept hitting her, knocking her to the ground."

Sanford told police he wasn't sure what he hit her with -- maybe a stick, knife or beer bottle, the affidavit said. The 180-pound Sanford left the body but came back later and moved Licy, a scant 100 pounds, to an area where her stepfather found her early the next morning, according to the affidavit.

"His GPS unit verified that he was in the area and his movements," the affidavit said.

Attempts by CNN to reach Licy's mother and stepfather, Maranda and Jason Hannah, were unsuccessful.

Sanford violated his probation three times between November 2006 and November 2008, the DOC said. When he was released in January, he was required to check in daily with a probation officer, which he did the day before Licy's murder and the day after her body was found.

Continued on Page 5

Other Child Abuse News....

Top 'offensive' iPhone apps

When Apple recently pull "Baby Shaker" from its App Store, it wasn't the first "offensive" iPhone program to be vilified, yanked or rejected since the App Store opened last July. More than 35,000 applications, or "apps," are part of the online iTunes Store, and so far, Apple says, only about 4 percent of apps submitted have been rejected, some for security or competitive reasons, other because of taste.

...What's considered "objectionable" to one person or group may leave others nonplussed.

Some programs Apple has approved—like "Baby Shaker"—can stir outrage. "Baby Shaker," a game in which a crying virtual infant was calmed by shaking the iPhone, was in the App Store for two days when protests resulted in the app being pulled and Apple apologizing for ever approving it in the first place.

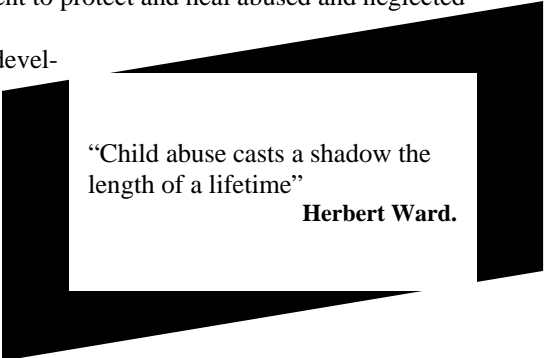
The Bottom Line: Investing in Kids Saves Lives and Money

Excerpt from Fight Crime: Invest in Kids Michigan

FOUR ACTIONS TO DRAMATICALLY REDUCE SCHOOL AND YOUTH VIOLENCE

- * Provide all families access to quality preschool and educational child care programs proven to reduce crime
- * Help at-risk parents improve their parenting and prevent child abuse and neglect by offering in-home parenting coaching. Make sure child protective services have policies and resources sufficient to protect and heal abused and neglected children.
- * Provide all school-age children and teens access to after-school youth development programs to shut down the "Prime Time for Juvenile Crime."
- * Identify troubled children and teens as early as possible, intervene and provide them and their parents with the training and counseling necessary to help them avoid crime.

www.fightcrime.org/mi



CATS UPCOMING TRAININGS

WHAT TO WATCH FOR

Nov 19	Interviewing & Interrogation	Escanaba
Dec 1-2	Forensic Interviewing	Jackson Co.
Dec 2-3	Forensic Interviewing	Frankenmuth
Dec 16	The Bodies & Brains of Children	Mt. Pleasant
Jan 26-27	Forensic Interviewing	Mt. Pleasant

9th Annual Multidisciplinary Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect
Late summer 2010

Forensic Interviewing in a NEW LOCATION:
Holiday Inn Express Dundee (CABELLA'S!)
Summer 2010

CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR TRAINING UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
WWW.MICHIGANPROSECUTOR.ORG/CATS



(CNN) -- A 14-year-old California boy told police he drowned his 4-year-old neighbor on Friday because the child had threatened to tell his mother the older boy had molested him, according to an affidavit made public Wednesday.

Raul Renato Castro has been charged in Fresno County as an adult, with special circumstances including murder during a child molestation, sodomy, kidnapping and murder of a witness to prevent testimony, according to the district attorney's office.

He faces separate felony charges of kidnapping, sodomy and child molestation.

The affidavit, filed by the Fresno County Sheriff's Department, says Castro told investigators he lured the victim, Alex Christopher Mercato, into his apartment "by telling the victim he had something to show him."

Police have said no one else was in the Mendota, California, house at the time.

Castro then talked the boy into entering the bathroom, according to the document. Castro said he then sodomized the toddler, after which "the victim tripped over the carpet, fell, and hit the back of his head on the bathtub," the affidavit says.

"Castro said the victim started crying and told Castro he was going to tell his mother. Castro said he panicked and decided to kill the victim by drowning him in the bathtub.

"Castro turned on the water to the bathtub and filled it up just enough to put the victim's face underwater and drowned him. Castro said he held the victim underwater 2-4 minutes. Castro got into the bathtub with the victim, held him down until the victim died."

"Castro then carried the victim over his left shoulder and put him [in]... the clothes dryer to conceal him."

The incident occurred Friday afternoon, after Mercato's parents discovered that their child, who had been playing outside their house, was missing, Fresno County Sheriff Margaret Mims told reporters Monday.

The parents called police, who searched the neighborhood and nearby parks in Mendota, 33 miles west of Fresno, she said. Soon, the FBI was called in.

On Saturday, authorities resumed the search and found the body stuffed inside the dryer in the apartment next door.

An autopsy determined the victim had drowned. Under California law, a 14-year-old is not eligible for the death penalty or a sentence of life without the possibility of parole. If found guilty, Castro could receive no more than 32 years to life plus 15 years.

Parent's Place

Sibling Abuse

What is sibling abuse?

Sibling abuse is the physical, emotional or sexual abuse of one sibling by another. The physical abuse can range from more mild forms of aggression between siblings, such as pushing and shoving, to very violent behavior such as using weapons.

Often parents don't see the abuse for what it is. As a rule, parents and society *expect* fights and aggression among siblings. Because of this, parents often don't see sibling abuse as a problem until serious harm occurs. Besides the direct dangers of sibling abuse, the abuse can cause all kinds of long-term problems on into adulthood.

How common is sibling abuse?

Research shows that violence between siblings is quite common. In fact, it is probably even more common than child abuse (by parents) or spouse abuse. The most violent members of American families are the children.

Experts estimate that three children in 100 are dangerously violent toward a brother or sister. A 2005 study puts the number of assaults each year to children by a sibling at about 35 per 100 kids. The same study found the rate to be similar across income levels and racial and ethnic groups.

Likewise, many researchers have estimated sibling incest to be much more common than parent-child incest.

It seems that when abusive acts occur between siblings, family members often don't see it as abuse.

How do I identify abuse? What is the difference between sibling abuse and sibling rivalry?

At times, all siblings squabble and call each other mean names, and some young siblings may "play doctor". But here is the difference between typical sibling behavior and abuse: If one child is always the victim and the other child is always the aggressor, it is an abusive situation.

**Some possible signs of sibling abuse are:**

- One child always avoids their sibling
- A child has changes in behavior, sleep patterns, eating habits, or has nightmares
- A child acts out abuse in play
- A child acts out sexually in inappropriate ways
- The children's roles are rigid: one child is always the aggressor, the other, the victim

The roughness or violence between siblings is increasing over time

What can parents do?

When one sibling hits, bites, or physically tortures a brother or sister, the normal rivalry has become abuse. You can't let this dangerous behavior continue. Here's what to do:

- Whenever violence occurs between children, separate them.
- After a cooling off period, bring all the kids involved into a family meeting (See Sibling Rivalry for more on family meetings.)
- Gather information on facts and feelings.
- State the problem as you understand it.
- Help the kids work together to set a positive goal. For example, they will separate themselves and take time to cool off when they start arguing.
- Brainstorm many possible solutions to the problem, and ways to reach the goal.
- Talk together about the list of solutions and pick the ones that are best for everyone.
- Write up a contract together that states the rights and responsibilities of each child. Include a list of expected behavior, and consequences for breaking the code of conduct.
- Make sure you don't ignore, blame, or punish the victim—while at the same time, not playing favorites.
- Make your expectations and the family rules very clear.

Written and compiled by Kyla Boyse, R.N. Reviewed by Brenda Volling, Ph.D.

GPS Monitoring continued:

Experts say GPS can create a false sense of security because its capabilities are overestimated. Jill Levenson, an associate professor of human sciences at Lynn University in Boca Raton, Florida, said many people believe it is "some magic bullet or panacea that prevents crimes."

Levenson also concurs with other experts who say the technology is used too sweepingly.

Twenty-seven states have some mandatory requirement that the devices be used on sex offenders, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. Only six states have no specific provisions for such monitoring.

Most sex offenders are neither violent nor pedophiles, and they re-offend in about one of 20 cases, said Levenson, who studies sex crime policy.

Added Oxford's Mayo-Wilson, "[GPS] could be used effectively to help shape behavior, but it's being used too bluntly." GPS is more likely to work with low-level offenders while the technology's deterrent effect on the most dangerous perpetrators is limited, Levenson said.

"[GPS] is not necessarily going to deter people from having sexually deviant intentions," she said. "Many crimes are more impulsive and opportunistic, and that level of thinking may not go into it."

"To some extent, it's been oversold and misunderstood," said Bill Carbone, executive director of the Court Support Services Division of Connecticut's Judicial Branch. "I think it is a tool -- not the sole tool -- needed for proper supervision of offenders."



Together we can make a difference.

CATS

Prosecuting Attorneys Association of MI
116 W. Ottawa, Ste. 500
Lansing, MI 48913

Phone: 517-334-6060

Fax: 517-334-6787

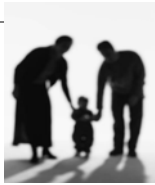
Email: welchj@michigan.gov

Email: doerrj@michigan.gov



Prosecuting Attorneys
Association of MI

www.michiganprosecutor.org
cats



The CATS mission is to promote multi disciplinary expertise in the prevention of child abuse by providing professionals with up-to-date information about suspected or alleged sexual or physical abuse, neglect and the training of Forensic Interviewing.

What are our counterparts offering?

- * Florida National Child Advocacy Center - August 4-6, 2010—Orlando, FL
- * San Diego International Conference on Child and Family Maltreatment—January 25-29, 2010—San Diego, CA
- * Male Survivor—March 18-21, 2010—John Jay College New York
- * NICWA's 28th Annual "Protecting our Children" - April 11-14, 2010—Portland, OR

The Children's Advocacy Center of Saginaw County

The Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) of Saginaw County started in 1999 under the name United for Kids (UFK) Children's Assessment Center. In 2003, UFK merged with the CAN Council Saginaw County due to financial strains. The CAC is a National Children's Alliance (NCA) accredited program and is due for its re-accreditation this year.

The CAC has four full time employees, five part time nurses and one part time medical director. The CAC Program Director, Bonnie Skornia has been employed at the Center since its inception in 1999 and the director since 2005. She is the Center's nurse as well as the back up forensic interviewer. She received her interview training from PAAM in 2003 & 2007 and also attended the forensic interview training in Huntsville, AL in 2004. She has had the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) training for adult/adolescent and pediatrics. This past year, she wrote a grant through NCA which allowed her to hire five nurses and send them to SANE adult and pediatric training as well. Besides fulfilling her duties as the director, nurse and back up interviewer, Bonnie goes out to community groups such as Kiwanis, Lions, teachers and school administration, middle school and high school classes. She presented at Grand Rounds for physicians and residents at Covenant HealthCare, the police academy at Delta College and nursing students at Saginaw Valley State University. At the local university, she presents information on the myths surrounding child abuse and neglect issues, especially the myth surrounding the 'infamous hymen'. Her focus is to educate as many professionals and potential jurors regarding the many myths surrounding child abuse. She assists in the training of professionals with regards to mandated reporting.

The CAC has a Care Coordinator; Laura Cosier, is a Master's prepared and licensed social worker employed with the CAC for four years. She makes the initial contact to the family giving them information regarding the interview and assesses their emotional status. She is their first contact at the Center when they come for their interview and refers them for counseling as needed.

The Case Coordinator, Sarah Bertrand, is the one that coordinates the interviews, does follow up with the Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) and runs the MDT meetings every other month as well as monthly case review. Both the Care and Case Coordinator are VOCA funded positions.

The Forensic Interviewer, Barb Andrews has been employed with the CAC for four years now. She received her initial training in forensic interviewing with PAAM in fall of 2005 and then in Huntsville, AL in the winter of 2006.

Dr. Harry Frederick has been the medical director since the CAC's inception in 1999. He is an emergency room physician at Covenant Hospital in Saginaw. He received his training in San Diego, CA in 1998 and has attended the national convention on child abuse and neglect in San Diego almost annually. Dr. Frederick also presented on preadolescent sexual abuse examination: SAEM to Emergency Medical Residents in San Francisco, CA in May 2006.

As many CAC's our main source of revenue is fund raising and grant writing. Their largest fund raiser is the CAN Council's annual auction which is February 25th of this year. This fund raiser raises over \$100,000 and helps to support the needs of the CAN Council as well as the CAC.