



Agency ORI Number FL05300000

INCIDENT NUMBER 2008-067185

Victim Notification

Pursuant to Section 960.001(1)(b), F.S., in the case of homicide, sexual offenses, attempted murder, stalking, or domestic violence, as a victim of the crime or appropriate next of kin of a homicide victim, you have the right to be notified or designate a person to be notified, of the defendant's release from incarceration.

Victim's Name _____ Mailing Address _____

City _____ Zip Code _____ Phone: Home _____ Work _____

Alternate Telephone # _____ Victim wants to be notified if the defendant is released Yes No

Victim Confidentiality

Section 119.07(3)(s), F.S., states; Any information not otherwise held confidential or exempt from the provisions of Section 119.07(1) which reveals the home or employment telephone number, home or employment address, or personal assets of a person who has been the victim of sexual battery, aggravated child abuse, aggravated stalking, harassment, aggravated battery, or domestic violence is exempt from the provisions of the Public Records Laws upon written request by the victim, which must include official verification that an applicable crime has occurred. Such information shall cease to be exempt five years after the receipt of the written request.

I request the Polk County Sheriff's Office exempt from public inspection, any and all records revealing my home or employment telephone, home or employment address, or any personal assets. I understand these records will be confidential and exempt from public inspection for five years from the date on this request.

Defendant's Name (Print) _____

Intake Referral

I understand a sworn statement from me is necessary in order to prosecute this case. I must contact the number provided to me within three working days, excluding holidays, for an appointment. Failure to contact the Region Intake Detective indicates I am no longer interested in prosecution. Failure to cooperate will result in the case being cleared pursuant to office procedure.

___ NORTHWEST DISTRICT - 815-6515 ___ NORTHEAST DISTRICT - 297-1100
___ SOUTHWEST DISTRICT - 499-2400 ___ SOUTHEAST DISTRICT - 534-6291

Waiver

I hereby request the POLK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE not to prosecute _____ regarding my complaint. I am satisfied with the manner in which the investigation was conducted and release the Sheriff's Office of any responsibility regarding this complaint. I request no further investigation be pursued.

Certification

Was the Victim's Right's Pamphlet given? Yes No

SIGNATURE OF VICTIM/WITNESS/NEXT OF KIN

Was the Domestic Violence Pamphlet given? Yes No

I swear or affirm this report is correct and true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

DST Mark Jones 45765
Signature of Deputy/Agency Member

4/15/08
Date

Sworn before me this 15 day of APRIL 20 08

Notary/Law Enforcement Officer

**SUPPLEMENTAL
INSERT**

**Sheriff's
Polk County**



**Office
Bartow, FL**

INCIDENT NUMBER 2008-067185	
RELATED INCIDENT NUMBER NA	N/A
ROUTE TO	

Agency ORI Number FL05300000		HATE CRIMES 1 VERIFIED 2 UNVERIFIED 3 UNFOUNDED 4 N/A		EXCEPTION TYPE 1 - EXTRADITION DECLINED 2 - ARREST ON PRIMARY/SECONDARY OFFENSE WITHOUT PROSECUTION 3 - DEATH OF OFFENDER		4 - V/W REFUSED TO COOPERATE 5 - PROSECUTION DECLINED 6 - JUVENILE/NO CUSTODY	
CLEARANCE CODE 0 - OPEN 1 - ARREST 2 - EXCEPTIONAL 3 - UNFOUNDED 9 - CLOSED		4					

REPORTING DEPUTY/AGENCY MEMBER DET. RICKY NEWMAN	MEMBER # 4707	SUPERVISOR	MEMBER #	REGION/DIVISION WEST REGION	DISTRICT/BUREAU SW DISTRICT	SECTOR 21
---	------------------	------------	----------	--------------------------------	--------------------------------	--------------

VICTIM'S COMPLETE NAME

LAST LINDSAY	FIRST VICTORIA	MI	DATE/TIME OF REPORT 04/02/2008 / 09:03
-----------------	-------------------	----	---

STATE STATUTE NUMBER	N/A	OFFENSE DESCRIPTION	N/A
CHANGE TO	N/A	CHANGE TO	N/A

ADDITIONAL CHARGES:

OFFENSE	TYPE	OFFENSE DESCRIPTION	ATTEMPT/COMM	STATE STATUTE NUMBER	NCIC/UCR CODE
1	1	KIDNAP	COMMITTED	787.01(2)	
2	1	TAMPER WITH VICTIM / WITNESS	COMMITTED	914.22	
3	3	BATTERY-CAUSE BODILY HARM		784.03(1A2)	

NARRATIVE:

CRIME SCENE:
A SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENCE LOCATED AT 6124 CALANDER COURT WEST IN LAKE LAND, FLORIDA 33812.

PERSONS INVOLVED:

VICTORIA LINDSAY (VICTIM)
W/F

MERCADES NICHOLS (SUSPECT)
W/F

KAYLA HASSAL (SUSPECT)
W/F

BRITTNI HARDCASTLE (SUSPECT)
W/F
1

BRITTANY MAYES (SUSPECT)
W/F

CARA MURPHY (SUSPECT)
W/F

NARRATIVE
CONTINUATION
INSERTSheriff's
Polk CountyOffice
Bartow, FLINCIDENT NUMBER
2008-067185RELATED INCIDENT NUMBER
NA N/AAgency ORI Number
FL05300000APRIL COOPER
W/F

(SUSPECT)

ZACHARY ASHLEY
W/M

(SUSPECT)

STEPHEN SCHUMAKER
W/M

(SUSPECT)

LISA KELLY
W/F

(WITNESS)

MARY NICHOLS
W/F

(GRANDMOTHER OF SUSPECT NICHOLS)

CHRISTINA GARCIA
W/F

(MOTHER OF SUSPECT NICHOLS)

TALISA LINDSAY
W/F

(MOTHER OF VICTIM)

INVESTIGATION:

ON 04-01-08 I WAS ASSIGNED THIS CASE BY DETECTIVE SGT. WILKINSON #3963 OF THE POLK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE SOUTHWEST DISTRICT GENERAL CRIMES UNIT.

ON 04-02-08 AT APPROXIMATELY 1100 HOURS I SPOKE WITH TALISA LINDSAY, MOTHER OF THE VICTIM.

TALISA ADVISED ME HER DAUGHTER, VICTORIA "TORI" LINDSAY, HAD BEEN ALLOWED TO STAY WITH HER FRIEND, MERCADES NICHOLS, DURING SPRING BREAK DUE TO PROBLEMS AT HOME.

THROUGH MY INVESTIGATION I LEARNED MERCADES NICHOLS LIVES AT 6124 CALENDAR COURT WEST IN LAKELAND, FLORIDA.

TALISA ADVISED ME ON THE EVENING OF 03-30-08 HER DAUGHTER, VICTORIA LINDSAY, WAS ON HER WAY BACK FROM COCOA BEACH WITH HER FRIEND CHRISTINE.

NARRATIVE
CONTINUATION
INSERT

Sheriff's



Office

FORM #9002A - Revised 01/08/03

INCIDENT NUMBER
2008-067185

RELATED INCIDENT NUMBER
NA N/A

Agency ORI Number
FL05300000

Polk County

Bartow, FL

WHEN VICTORIA ARRIVED AT SUSPECT MERCADES NICHOLS' HOME, WHERE THE VICTIM HAD ALSO BEEN STAYING, SHE WAS JUMPED, AND BADLY BEATEN BY SIX TEENAGE FEMALES WHILE TWO MALE TEENAGERS STOOD WATCH OUTSIDE THE RESIDENCE.

TALISA ADVISED ME HER DAUGHTER HAD TO BE TAKEN BY AMBULANCE TO LAKE LAND REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER IN LAKE LAND, FLORIDA FOR A CONCUSSION AND POSSIBLE PERMANENT INJURY TO HER LEFT EYE AND LEFT EAR.

TALISA ADVISED VICTORIA INFORMED HER THE ENTIRE INCIDENT WAS VIDEO TAPED AND THE SUSPECTS HAD INTENDED ON POSTING THE BEATING ON MYSPACE AND YOUTUBE TO FURTHER EMBARRASS HER.

TALISA ADVISED ME ON 03-31-08 SHE CONTACTED SUSPECT KAYLA HASSAL, VIA TELEPHONE, WHILE KAYLA WAS AT MERCADES NICHOLS' HOME.

TALISA ADVISED ME SHE DEMANDED THE VIDEO FROM KAYLA BUT WAS MET WITH SARCASM AND EXCUSES SO SHE REQUESTED TO SPEAK TO MERCADES' GRANDMOTHER, MARY NICHOLS.

TALISA ADVISED ME SHE SPOKE WITH MARY NICHOLS AND EXPLAINED THE SITUATION TO HER.

TALISA ADVISED ME MARY TOOK POSSESSION OF THE VIDEO FROM MERCADES AND KAYLA AND TURNED IT OVER TO DEPUTY SHERIFF MAHONEY #4975.

ON 04-02-08 I CAME INTO POSSESSION THE MEDIA CARD AND THE SUSPECTS SWORN WRITTEN STATEMENTS OBTAINED BY DEPUTY SHERIFF MAHONEY (PLEASE SEE DEPUTY SHERIFF MAHONEY'S REPORT FOR DETAILS).

I WATCHED THE VIDEO AND, UNDERSTANDING THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE SITUATION, I IMMEDIATELY CONTACTED SGT. WILKINSON #3963 WHO MET ME IN MY OFFICE WHERE HE WATCHED THE VIDEO.

THE MEDIA CARD CONTAINED, ALONG WITH THE VIDEO OF THE BEATING, A PICTURE OF THE INJURED VICTIM AND SEVERAL PICTURES OF KAYLA HASSAL AND OTHER YOUNG GIRLS.

AFTER WATCHING THE VIDEO SGT. WILKINSON INSTRUCTED ME TO REPORT TO THE VICTIM'S RESIDENCE, GET A SWORN TAPED STATEMENT, AND TO PLACE THE EIGHT SUSPECTS UNDER ARREST FOR FALSE IMPRISONMENT AND FELONY BATTERY.

ON 04-02-08 AT APPROXIMATELY 1230 HOURS I ARRIVED AT VICTIM VICTORIA LINDSAY'S RESIDENCE LOCATED AT 4247 SPRING LANE IN LAKE LAND, FLORIDA.

UPON ARRIVAL I MADE CONTACT WITH VICTORIA AND HER MOTHER, TALISA LINDSAY.

I WITNESSED VICTORIA TO HAVE TWO BLACK EYES, AS WELL AS TO HAVE BRUISES ON HER ARMS AND LEGS.

I TOOK SEVERAL PICTURES OF VICTORIA'S INJURIES AS EVIDENCE.

ON 04-02-08 AT APPROXIMATELY 1243 HOURS I INTERVIEWED VICTORIA IN THE KITCHEN OF HER RESIDENCE.

VICTORIA STATED ON 03-30-08 SHE AND HER FRIEND CHRISTINE WENT TO COCOA BEACH FOR THE DAY.

AT THE TIME OF THIS INTERVIEW VICTORIA COULD NOT ADVISE NEITHER THE LAST NAME NOR A TELEPHONE NUMBER FOR CHRISTINE, HOWEVER THROUGH FURTHER INVESTIGATION I FOUND CHRISTINE'S FULL NAME TO BE CHRISTINE DORSETT WHO WAS LATER INTERVIEWED (PLEASE SEE DEPUTY SHERIFF CAVANAH'S #5846 REPORT FOR DETAILS).

VICTORIA STATED SHE AND SUSPECT MERCADES NICHOLS HAD GOTTEN INTO AN ARGUMENT PRIOR TO HER LEAVING FOR THE BEACH BECAUSE VICTORIA HAD BORROWED MERCADES' HAIRBRUSH AND RAZOR WITHOUT

NARRATIVE
CONTINUATION
INSERT

Sheriff's



Office

FORM #9002A - Revised 01/08/03

Agency ORI Number
FL05300000

Polk County

Bartow, FL

INCIDENT NUMBER
2008-067185

RELATED INCIDENT NUMBER
NA N/A

PERMISSION.

VICTORIA STATED SHE HAD RECEIVED SEVERAL RUDE AND THREATENING MESSAGES THROUGHOUT THE DAY FROM MERCADES ABOUT THE INCIDENT BUT THAT AS SHE GOT CLOSER TO MERCADES HOUSE THE TEXTS AND TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS BECAME NICER, TO WHICH SHE FOUND SUSPICIOUS.

VICTORIA STATED SHE RECEIVED SEVERAL TEXTS FROM MERCADES ASKING WHERE SHE WAS AND WHAT TIME SHE WOULD BE HOME, TO WHICH SHE ALSO FOUND SUSPICIOUS.

VICTORIA STATED SHE GOT TO MERCADES' HOME AT APPROXIMATELY 2000 HOURS ON 03-30-08.

VICTORIA STATED WHEN SHE ARRIVED AT THE HOME SHE WITNESSED SUSPECTS STEPHEN SCHUMAKER AND ZACHARY ASHLEY TO BE SITTING ON THE PORCH OF THE RESIDENCE.

VICTORIA STATED WHEN SHE WALKED INSIDE WHERE SHE WAS MET BY SUSPECTS MERCADES NICHOLS AND BRITNI HARDCASTLE.

VICTORIA STATED NICHOLS AND HARDCASTLE IMMEDIATELY BEGAN TO YELL AT HER AND TOLD HER TO LEAVE SO SHE WALKED OUTSIDE TO ASK CHRISTINE WHAT SHE SHOULD DO.

VICTORIA STATED NICHOLS AND HARDCASTLE FOLLOWED HER OUTSIDE AND CONTINUED TO YELL AT HER UNTIL BEING JOINED BY SUSPECT KAYLA HASSAL, WHO THE VICTIM STATED HAD NO IDEA WAS AT THE HOME UNTIL THIS MOMENT.

VICTORIA STATED THE THREE SUSPECTS CONTINUED TO YELL AT HER UNTIL CHRISTINE TOLD THEM TO CALM DOWN AND ASKED IF THERE WAS GOING TO BE ANY PROBLEMS IF SHE LEFT VICTORIA THERE BECAUSE SHE NEEDED TO LEAVE.

VICTORIA STATED THE THREE SUSPECTS THEN CALMED DOWN AND STATED THE SUSPECT COULD STAY SO CHRISTINE LEFT.

VICTORIA STATED SHE WALKED INSIDE THE HOME IN ORDER TO GATHER HER THINGS AND CALL A FRIEND TO COME GET HER BUT AS SHE WALKED INTO HER ROOM SHE WAS SURPRISED BY SUSPECT APRIL COOPER WITH CLINCHED FISTS, WHO SHE BELIEVED HAD BEEN HIDING IN THE ROOM.

VICTORIA STATED SUSPECT BRITTANY MAYES THEN ENTERED THE ROOM HOLDING A CAMCORDER AS BRITNI HARDCASTLE, KAYLA HASSAL, MERCADES NICHOLS, AND CARA MURPHY BLOCKED THE HALLWAY AND BEGAN TO YELL AND CHANT FOR SUSPECT COOPER TO HIT HER.

VICTORIA STATED SUSPECT COOPER THEN BEGAN TO HIT HER WITH CLOSED FISTS IN THE FACE.

VICTORIA STATED SUSPECT COOPER THEN BEGAN TO BEAT HER HEAD AGAINST THE WALL THUS KNOCKING HER UNCONSCIOUS.

VICTORIA STATED WHEN SHE AWOKE AFTER BEING KNOCKED OUT BY SUSPECT COOPER SHE WAS LAYING ON THE COUCH IN THE LIVING ROOM OF THE RESIDENCE.

VICTORIA STATED AS SHE REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS SHE FOUND HERSELF SURROUNDED BY ALL SIX FEMALE TEEN SUSPECTS.

VICTORIA STATED AS SHE ATTEMPTED TO GET UP AND LEAVE SHE WAS AGAIN ATTACKED BY HARDCASTLE SO SHE STRUGGLED TO GET ON HER FEET BUT WAS HELD DOWN BY SUSPECT MAYES AS SUSPECT HASSALL BEGAN TO HIT HER.

VICTORIA STATED SHE FINALLY GOT LOOSE AND ATTEMPTED TO RUN FOR THE DOOR BUT WAS MET BY MERCADES WHO BLOCKED HER EXIT AS HARDCASTLE AGAIN BEGAN TO ATTACK HER, THUS KNOCKING HER BACK ONTO THE COUCH.

VICTORIA STATED HARDCASTLE CONTINUED TO BEAT HER UNTIL SHE AGAIN GOT ON HER FEET AND ATTEMPTED TO GO FOR THE DOOR BUT WAS STRUCK BY CARA MURPHY WHO WAS HOLDING A CAMCORDER.

NARRATIVE
CONTINUATION
INSERT

Sheriff's



Office

Polk County

Bartow, FL

INCIDENT NUMBER
2008-067185

RELATED INCIDENT NUMBER
NA NA

Agency ORI Number
FL05300000

VICTORIA STATED IMMEDIATELY AFTER MURPHY HIT HER SUSPECT COOPER AGAIN ATTACKED HER STRIKING HER SEVERAL TIMES AS SHE ATTEMPTED TO GET TO THE DOOR.

VICTORIA STATED AS SHE MADE IT TO THE DOOR AND ATTEMPTED TO LEAVE SUSPECT HARDCASTLE BLOCKED HER EXIT AND TOLD HER SHE WAS NOT LEAVING.

VICTORIA STATED SUSPECT HARDCASTLE AGAIN BEGAN TO ATTACK HER TRAPPING HER IN THE CORNER OF THE LIVING ROOM.

VICTORIA STATED AS THE SUSPECTS TEASED AND INSULTED HER THEY BEGAN TO MAKE FUN OF SUSPECT MAYES BECAUSE MAYES HAD NOT YET ACTUALLY HIT HER SO MAYES THEN BEGAN TO ATTACK HER STRIKING HER SEVERAL TIMES WITH A CLOSED FIST.

VICTORIA STATED AFTER MAYES WAS THROUGH HITTING HER SUSPECT COOPER AGAIN BEGAN TO ATTACK HER.

VICTORIA STATED AFTER COOPER ATTACKED HER HARDCASTLE AGAIN BEGAN TO STRIKE HER.

VICTORIA STATED AFTER THE GIRLS HAD FINISHED ATTACKING HER THEY FORCED HER INTO MERCEDES' BEDROOM WHERE THEY HELD HER UP AGAINST A WALL AND MADE HER POSE FOR PICTURES OF HER INJURIES.

VICTORIA STATED DURING THIS ENTIRE INCIDENT THE SUSPECTS VIDEO TAPED THE INCIDENT, TOOK PICTURES, AND BRAGGED THAT THEY WERE GOING TO POST THE CRIME ON MYSPACE AND YOUTUBE.

VICTORIA STATED AFTER FORCING HER TO POSE FOR PICTURES SUSPECT HARDCASTLE PACKED HER BELONGINGS IN A BAG AND TOLD HER TO GET INTO MERCEDES' GRANDMOTHER'S CAR.

VICTORIA STATED SHE TOLD THE SUSPECTS SHE DID NOT WANT TO GET IN THE CAR WITH THE SUSPECTS AND THAT SHE WANTED TO CALL A FRIEND TO COME GET HER.

VICTORIA STATED WHEN SHE REFUSED TO GET INTO THE CAR WITH THE SUSPECTS SUSPECT HARDCASTLE TOOK HER BY THE ARM AND FORCED HER INTO MERCEDES' GRANDMOTHER'S CAR.

VICTORIA STATED SHE SAT IN THE FRONT PASSENGER SEAT, MERCEDES DROVE, AND BRITTANY MAYES AND BRITNI HARDCASTLE SAT IN THE BACK SEAT OF THE CAR AS THE FOUR LEFT THE RESIDENCE.

VICTORIA STATED THE FOUR DROVE WEST ON CR540A AS THE SUSPECTS BEGAN TO TRY AND BE NICE TO HER, GIVING HER A SODA, TELLING HER THAT HER INJURIES WERE NOT THAT BAD, AND ASKING HER NOT TO TELL ANYONE.

VICTORIA STATED WHEN SHE TOLD THE SUSPECTS SHE WAS GOING TO TELL HER MOTHER AND FATHER WHAT HAPPENED THE SUSPECTS AGAIN BECAME AGGRESSIVE.

VICTORIA STATED THE SUSPECTS THEN BEGAN TO TELL HER THAT IF SHE TOLD HER PARENTS OR WENT TO LAW ENFORCEMENT THEY WOULD BEAT HER EVEN WORSE NEXT TIME.

VICTORIA STATED SHE THEN TOLD THE SUSPECTS IF THEY WOULD GIVE HER A TELEPHONE TO CALL A FRIEND TO PICK HER UP THAT SHE WOULD NOT GO TO THE AUTHORITIES.

VICTORIA STATED SHE WAS ONLY THEN GIVEN A CELL PHONE TO WHICH SHE CALLED HER FRIEND LISA KELLEY WHO AGREED TO MEET HER AT MERCEDES' GRANDMOTHER'S WORK.

VICTORIA STATED THE GIRLS THEN DROVE HER TO THE HAWTHORNE INN LOCATED AT 6150 LAKE LAND HIGHLANDS ROAD IN LAKE LAND, FLORIDA WHERE SHE WAS MET BY HER FRIEND, LISA KELLEY, WHO PICKED HER UP AND DROVE HER HOME.

LISA KELLEY WAS LATER LOCATED AND INTERVIEWED, PLEASE REFER TO DEPUTY SHERIFF CAVANAH'S REPORT FOR DETAILS OF THE INTERVIEW

VICTORIA STATED LISA KELLEY THEN TOOK HER HOME WHERE AN AMBULANCE AND THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE

NARRATIVE
CONTINUATION
INSERT

Sheriff's



Office

Bartow, FL

FORM #9002A - Revised 01/08/03

INCIDENT NUMBER
2008-067185

RELATED INCIDENT NUMBER
NA N/A

Agency ORI Number
FL05300000

WAS THEN CALLED.

SEE DEPUTY SHERIFF TORRES' ORIGINAL REPORT FOR DETAILS OF THE ORIGINAL CONTACT WITH THE VICTIM

I SHOWED THE VICTIM AND HER MOTHER THE VIDEO THAT I HAD IN MY POSSESSION OF THE BEATING AND ASKED VICTORIA TO IDENTIFY THE SUSPECTS ON THE VIDEO TO WHICH SHE DID.

VICTORIA PROVIDED A SWORN TAPED STATEMENT ATTESTING TO THE ABOVE EVENTS (PLEASE SEE THE TYPED TRANSCRIPTS OF VICTORIA'S INTERVIEW FOR FURTHER DETAILS).

PICTURES OF THE VICTIM'S INJURIES WERE TAKEN AND SUBMITTED INTO EVIDENCE.

TALISA LINDSAY SIGNED A MEDICAL RELEASE WAIVER SO I MAY OBTAIN A RECORD OF VICTORIA'S MEDICAL RECORDS FROM LAKELAND REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER.

AFTER INTERVIEWING THE VICTIM AND HER MOTHER I CONTACTED SGT. WILKINSON #3963, BRIEFED HIM ON MY FINDINGS, AND THE RESULTS OF THE INTERVIEW WITH THE VICTIM.

SGT. WILKINSON #3963 ADVISED ME TO IMMEDIATELY TAKE THE SUSPECTS INTO CUSTODY.

ON 04-02-08 AT APPROXIMATELY 1430 HOURS I MET WITH DEPUTY SHERIFFS RHODES #4771, GILBERT #5600, AND FOSTER #5723 AT THE 7-ELEVEN STORE LOCATED AT THE INTERSECTION OF CR540A AND HIGHWAY 98 SOUTH IN LAKELAND, FLORIDA.

I BRIEFED THE THREE DEPUTIES ON THE SITUATION AND ADVISED THEM I WOULD BE REPORTING TO SUSPECTS NICHOLS, SCHUMAKER, AND ASHLEY'S HOMES TO PLACE THEM UNDER ARREST AND THAT I NEEDED THEM TO LOCATE THE OTHER FIVE FEMALE SUSPECTS, PLACE THEM UNDER ARREST, AND TRANSPORT THEM TO MY OFFICE LOCATED AT THE POLK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE SOUTHWEST DISTRICT SUBSTATION.

ON 04-02-08 AT APPROXIMATELY 1443 HOURS DEPUTY SHERIFF GILBERT #5600 AND I RESPONDED TO MERCADES' PLACE OF RESIDENCE LOCATED AT 6124 CALENDAR COURT WEST IN LAKELAND, FLORIDA. UPON ARRIVAL I MADE CONTACT WITH MERCADES' GRANDMOTHER, MARY NICHOLS.

NICHOLS ADVISED ME MERCADES WAS ON HER WAY HOME AND SHOULD ARRIVE WITHIN A FEW MINUTES.

AFTER ONLY A FEW MOMENTS AT THE RESIDENCE MERCADES' CALLED HER GRANDMOTHER AND STATED ZACHARY ASHLEY HAD JUST CALLED HER AND TOLD HER DEPUTIES WERE THERE FOR HER.

MARY ADVISED MERCADES SHE NEEDED TO COME HOME IMMEDIATELY AND TO DO THE RIGHT THING OF TURNING HERSELF IN BUT MERCADES HUNG UP.

MARY ATTEMPTED TO CALL MERCADES BACK SEVERAL TIMES BUT MERCADES WOULD NOT ANSWER.

AFTER SEVERAL ATTEMPTS BY MARY TO CONTACT MERCADES I CALLED MERCADES FROM MY CELL PHONE.

AFTER LEAVING SEVERAL MESSAGES FOR MERCADES TO CALL ME BACK SHE FINALLY DID.

I ADVISED MERCADES WHY I WAS AT HER HOME AND INSTRUCTED HER TO COME STRAIGHT HOME.

AFTER SEVERAL MORE MINUTES MERCADES CAME HOME WITH KAYLA HASSAL IN THE PASSENGER SEAT.

I PLACED BOTH GIRLS UNDER ARREST AND HAD THEM TRANSPORTED TO THE POLK COUNTY SHERIFF'S SOUTHWEST DISTRICT SUBSTATION.

I MADE CONTACT WITH ZACHARY ASHLEY AT HIS PLACE OF RESIDENCE (NEXT DOOR) AND PLACED HIM UNDER ARREST IN THE PRESENCE OF HIS MOTHER HEIDI DEASE.

NARRATIVE
CONTINUATION
INSERT

Sheriff's
Polk County



Office
Bartow, FL

FORM #9982A - Revised 01/08/03

INCIDENT NUMBER
2008-067185

RELATED INCIDENT NUMBER
NA N/A

Agency ORI Number
FL05300000

I THEN REPORTED TO THE POLK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE SOUTHWEST DISTRICT SUBSTATION WHERE MY OFFICE IS LOCATED.

I CONTACTED SUSPECT APRIL COOPER'S RESIDENCE, VIA TELEPHONE, AND MADE CONTACT WITH HER MOTHER LORI COOPER.

I BRIEFED LORI ON THE SITUATION AND INSTRUCTED HER TO BRING APRIL TO THE POLK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE SOUTHWEST DISTRICT SUBSTATION.

DEPUTY SHERIFFS RHODES AND FOSTER LOCATED THE OTHER GIRLS AND TRANSPORTED THEM TO THE POLK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE SOUTHWEST DISTRICT SUBSTATION.

THE FOLLOWING IS LIST OF DATES AND TIMES CONTACT WAS MADE WITH THE PARENTS OF THE JUVENILES:

*04-02-08 @ 1524 HOURS I MADE CONTACT WITH MERCEDES NICHOLS' MOTHER CHRISTINA GARCIA VIA TELEPHONE.

*04-02-08 @ 1600 HOURS I MADE CONTACT VIA TELEPHONE WITH KAYLA HASSAL'S MOTHER CARY HASSAL.

*04-02-08 @ 1714 HOURS I MADE CONTACT WITH BRITNI HARDCASTLES' GRANDFATHER CHARLES PLATT VIA TELEPHONE.

*ON 04-02-08 @1728 HOURS I MADE CONTACT WITH ZACHARY ASHLEY'S MOTHER HEIDI DEASE VIA TELEPHONE.

*ON 04-02-08 @1732 HOURS I MADE CONTACT WITH BRITTANY MAYES' MOTHER DEBRA BENNET VIA TELEPHONE.

*ON 04-02-08 @ 1800 HOURS I MADE CONTACT WITH CARA MURPHY'S MOTHER MICHELLE MARISH IN PERSON AT THE SOUTHWEST DISTRICT SUBSTATION.

*04-02-08 @ 1802 HOURS I MADE CONTACT WITH APRIL COOPER'S MOTHER LORI COOPER AT THE POLK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE SOUTHWEST DISTRICT SUBSTATION.

AS THE GIRLS WERE PLACED IN THE HOLDING CELLS AT THE SOUTHWEST DISTRICT SUBSTATION, WHICH IS LOCATED NEXT TO MY OFFICE, I COULD HEAR THE GIRLS LAUGHING, PLAYING, JOKING, AND AT ONE POINT, MAKING THE COMMENT "GUESS WE ARE NOT GOING TO THE BEACH TOMORROW".

AS I CHECKED ON THE SUSPECTS IN THERE HOLDING CELLS THE GIRLS MADE THE SPONTANEOUS STATEMENT "WHAT ABOUT STEVE-O, HE WAS THERE TOO, IF WE ARE GOING TO JAIL FOR THIS HE NEEDS TO GO TOO".

AT THE TIME OF THIS COMMENT NONE OF THE SUSPECTS KNEW "STEVE-O'S" LAST NAME ONLY THAT HE LIVED IN THE SAME NEIGHBORHOOD AS MERCEDES AND ZACHARY.

THROUGH FURTHER INVESTIGATION I FOUND "STEVE-O" TO ACTUALLY BE SUSPECT STEPHEN SCHUMAKER (SUSPECT SCHUMAKER WAS LOCATED AND ARRESTED ON THE MORNING OF 04-03-08 AT APPROXIMATELY 0900 HOURS, PLEASE SEE HIS POST MIRANDA INTERVIEW LATER IN THIS REPORT).

AFTER MAKING CONTACT WITH ALL THE SUSPECTS PARENTS, TYPING THE SEVEN AFFIDAVITS, AND COMPLETING SEVEN BOOKING SHEETS, ALL SEVEN SUSPECTS WERE TRANSPORTED TO THE POLK COUNTY JUVENILE ASSESSMENT CENTER IN BARTOW, FLORIDA.

DUE TO THE FACT THE SUSPECTS HAD ALREADY PROVIDED NON-CUSTODIAL SWORN WRITTEN STATEMENTS PRIOR TO THEIR ARRESTS AND THE VIDEO EVIDENCE, I DID NOT CONDUCT INTERVIEWS WITH THE SUSPECTS, THE ONLY QUESTIONS ASKED OF THE SUSPECTS WERE THE NECESSARY INFORMATION NEEDED TO COMPLETE THE BOOKING SHEETS (NAME, NEXT OF KIN, CONTACT INFORMATION, ETC.)

NARRATIVE
CONTINUATION
INSERT

Sheriff's



Office

FORM #9002A - Revised 01/08/03

Agency ORI Number
FL05300000

Polk County

Bartow, FL

INCIDENT NUMBER
2008-067185

RELATED INCIDENT NUMBER
NA N/A

WHILE COMPLETING SUSPECT KAYLA HASSAL'S BOOKING SHEET KAYLA MADE THE SPONTANEOUS STATEMENT "AM I GOING TO BE OUT OF JAIL IN TIME TO GO TO CHEERLEADING PRACTICE, BECAUSE I DO COMPETITIVE CHEERING AND COULD NOT MISS A SINGLE PRACTICE".

ON 04-03-08 AT APPROXIMATELY 0900 HOURS DEPUTY SHERIFF RHODES #4771, AT MY DIRECTION, LOCATED SUSPECT SCHUMAKER AT HIS RESIDENCE, PLACED HIM UNDER ARREST, AND TRANSPORTED HIM TO MY OFFICE LOCATED AT THE POLK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE SOUTHWEST DISTRICT SUBSTATION FOR QUESTIONING.

ON 04-03-08 AT APPROXIMATELY 0919 HOURS I MADE CONTACT WITH SCHUMAKER IN MY OFFICE, READ HIM HIS MIRANDA RIGHTS FROM A POLK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE MIRANDA WAIVER FORM (FORM #9008).

SUSPECT SCHUMAKER STATED HE UNDERSTOOD HIS RIGHTS, SIGNED THE MIRANDA WAIVER FORM, AND RECEIVED A COPY OF THE SIGNED FORM.

DURING HIS POST MIRANDA PRE-INTERVIEW SCHUMAKER STATED HE WAS AT HIS FRIEND ZACHARY ASHLEY'S HOME, WHICH IS LOCATED NEXT DOOR TO MERCADES NICHOLS HOME, ON THE EVENING OF 03-30-08.

SCHUMAKER STATED PRIOR TO THE VICTIM'S ARRIVAL AT THE HOME HE OVER HEARD THE FEMALE SUSPECTS TALKING ABOUT JUMPING THE VICTIM.

SCHUMAKER STATED HE WAS NOT A LOOKOUT WHILE THE BEATING COMMENCED BUT WAS SITTING ON ASHLEY'S PORCH WHEN THE INCIDENT OCCURRED AND SEEN ASHLEY GO TELL THE GIRLS THEY NEEDED TO QUIET DOWN BECAUSE NEIGHBORS (MAINLY ASHLEY'S FAMILY WHICH ALSO LIVED IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD) WERE GETTING SUSPICIOUS.

SCHUMAKER STATED AFTER THE BEATING OCCURRED HE WITNESSED THE CRYING VICTIM GET INTO MERCADES' GRANDMOTHER'S CAR ALONG WITH SUSPECTS NICHOLS, MAYES, AND HARDCASTLE.

SCHUMAKER STATED HE WAS THEN APPROACHED BY SUSPECTS HASSAL, MURPHY, AND COOPER WHO AFTER ASKING HIM FOR A RIDE TO THE COBB THEATER IN LAKELAND, FLORIDA.

SCHUMAKER STATED SUSPECTS HASSAL, MURPHY, AND COOPER SHOWED HIM FIVE DIFFERENT VIDEO CLIPS AS WELL AS PICTURES OF THE CRIME.

SCHUMAKER STATED HE, ALONG WITH THE THREE SUSPECTS, FOLLOWED MERCADES, THE VICTIM, HARDCASTLE, AND MAYES TO THE HAWTHORNE INN WHERE VICTORIA WAS DROPPED OFF AND THEN HE LEFT TAKING THE GIRLS TO THE COBB THEATER.

SCHUMAKER THEN PROVIDED ME WITH A SWORN TAPED STATEMENT AT WHICH TIME HE CHANGED HIS STORY ON SEVERAL DIFFERENT ACCOUNTS ONCE THE RECORDER WAS ON.

ONCE ON TAPE SCHUMAKER THEN CHANGED HIS ACCOUNT OF THE INCIDENT AND STATED HE HAD IN FACT NOT HEARD THE GIRLS PLOT THE CRIME IN ADVANCE EVEN THOUGH IN THE PRE-INTERVIEW HE STATED HE DID.

ONCE ON TAPE SCHUMAKER STATED IT WAS ASHLEY'S GRANDMOTHER, NOT ASHLEY, HE SEEN GO TO THE FRONT OF THE SUSPECT'S HOME, EVEN THOUGH ON TWO SEPARATE NEIGHBORHOOD CANVASES, ASHLEY'S GRANDMOTHER AND COUSIN STATED THEY DID NOT SEE ANYTHING AND DID NOT WANT TO GIVE STATEMENTS NOR TALK TO LAW ENFORCEMENT IN REFERENCE TO THE CASE.

ONCE ON TAPE SCHUMAKER STATED HE HAD HEARD THE GIRLS TELLING EACH OTHER NOT TO POST THE VIDEO AND PICTURES ON MYSPACE EVEN THOUGH DURING HIS PRE-INTERVIEW HE STATED HE HEARD THE GIRLS BRAGGING ABOUT THEIR INTENTIONS OF POSTING THE VIDEO AND PICTURES ON MYSPACE AND YOUTUBE (PLEASE REFER TO THE TYPES TRANSCRIPTS OF THIS INTERVIEW FOR DETAILS).

SCHUMAKER WAS THEN TRANSPORTED TO THE POLK COUNTY JAIL WITHOUT FURTHER INCIDENT.

NARRATIVE
CONTINUATION
INSERT

Sheriff's



Office

Bartow, FL

INCIDENT NUMBER
2008-067185RELATED INCIDENT NUMBER
NA N/AAgency ORI Number
FL05300000

ON 04-03-08 AT APPROXIMATELY 1515 HOURS I RESPONDED TO 6124 CALENDAR COURT WEST IN LAKELAND, FLORIDA WHERE I MADE CONTACT WITH MARY NICHOLS (MERCADES' GRANDMOTHER) AND CHRISTINA GARCIA (MERCADES' MOTHER).

ON 04-03-08 AT APPROXIMATELY 1522 HOURS MARY NICHOLS PROVIDED A SWORN TAPED STATEMENT AS SHE AND I SAT AT THE KITCHEN TABLE OF HER RESIDENCE.

CHRISTINA GARCIA STOOD OUTSIDE THE RESIDENCE AS I CONDUCTED THE INTERVIEW WITH MARY.

MARY STATED SHE WAS AT WORK AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT AND DID NOT FIND OUT ABOUT THE INCIDENT UNTIL LATER THAT NIGHT BUT WAS TOLD BY MERCADES ONLY THAT A FIGHT HAD OCCURRED AT THE RESIDENCE.

MARY STATED MERCADES LIVES WITH HER BECAUSE HER MOTHER, CHRISTINA GARCIA, DID NOT WANT MERCADES THUS GIVING MERCADES ABANDONMENT ISSUES.

MARY STATED MERCADES HAS ANGER MANAGEMENT ISSUES AND REGULARLY YELLS AT, INSULTS, AND CURSES AT HER.

MARY STATED MERCADES HAD RECENTLY BEEN ARRESTED AND CHARGED WITH STALKING AND VIOLATION OF A RESTRAINING ORDER IN AN INCIDENT WITH HER BOYFRIEND.

MARY STATED MERCADES HAD BEEN PREGNANT WITH THE CHILD OF A BOY NAMED JACOB JOHNS AND THAT AFTER LEARNING OF THE PREGNANCY JACOB BROKE OFF THE RELATIONSHIP.

MARY STATED MERCADES LOST THE BABY AND BEGAN TO STALK AND HARASS JACOB.

MARY STATED ON THE AFTERNOON OF 03-31-08 SHE RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL FROM THE VICTIM'S MOTHER, TALISA LINDSAY, ADVISING HER OF THE EXISTANCE OF THE VIDEO.

MARY STATED SHE TOLD KAYLA AND MERCADES TO GIVE HER THE VIDEO.

MARY STATED ONCE SHE GOT THE MEDIA CARD CONTAINING THE VIDEO FROM THE GIRLS SHE WATCHED IT AND IMMEDIATELY CALLED LAW ENFORCEMENT TO TURN THE VIDEO OVER.

MARY STATED SHE HAD NO IDEA AS TO THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE SITUATION UNTIL SUCH TIME SHE WATCHED THE VIDEO BECAUSE, ONCE AGAIN, SHE WAS TOLD THERE WAS ONLY A SIMPLE FIGHT BY MERCADES (PLEASE REFER TO THE TYPED TRANSCRIPTS OF THIS INTERVIEW FOR FURTHER DETAILS).

ON 04-03-08 AT APPROXIMATELY 1535 HOURS I INTERVIEWED CHRISTINA GARCIA AT THE SAME KITCHEN TABLE WHILE MARY WAITED OUTSIDE THE RESIDENCE.

GARCIA STATED THAT WHILE SHE DID NOT KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE INCIDENT UNTIL IT BECAME PUBLIC SHE DOES KNOW THAT A LOT OF GIRLS DO NOT LIKE THE VICTIM BECAUSE OF COMMENTS SHE MADE ON MYSPACE ABOUT THEM.

GARCIA STATED MERCADES DOES HAVE ANGER MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS AND OTHER ISSUES DUE TO THE FACT HER FATHER ABANDONED HER (PLEASE REFER TO THE TYPED TRANSCRIPTS OF THIS INTERVIEW FOR FURTHER DETAILS).

ON 04-03-08 AT APPROXIMATELY 1630 HOURS I AGAIN MADE CONTACT WITH TALISA LINDSAY AT HER PLACE OF RESIDENCE AND OBTAINED A SWORN TAPED STATEMENT FROM HER (PLEASE SEE TYPED TRANSCRIPTS FOR DETAILS OF THIS INTERVIEW).

ON THE EVENING OF 04-07-08 I RESPONDED TO THE RESIDENCE OF MARY NICHOLS AND REQUESTED

NARRATIVE
CONTINUATION
INSERT

Sheriff's



Office

Bartow, FL

FORM #9002A - Revised 01/06/03

INCIDENT NUMBER
2008-067185

RELATED INCIDENT NUMBER
NA N/A

Agency ORI Number
FL05300000

Polk County

PERMISSION TO LOOK IN MERCADES' ROOM FOR EVIDENCE TO WHICH SHE AGREED.

LOCATED IN MERCADES' ROOM I FOUND A CELL PHONE ON THE COMPUTER DESK TO WHICH MARY ADVISED BELONGED TO SUSPECT KAYLA HASSAL.

I CONTACTED SGT. WILKINSON #3963 VIA TELEPHONE AND HE INSTRUCTED ME TO TAKE THE CELL PHONE FOR EVIDENCE, I TOOK THE CELL PHONE AND GAVE IT TO DETECTIVE STRICKLAND #4621 TO BE TRANSPORTED TO THE POLK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE BUREAU OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS TO BE PROCESSED.

DURING THIS VISIT WITH MARY I TOOK PICTURES OF MERCADES' BEDROOM AND OF THE LIVING ROOM OF THE RESIDENCE AND SUBMITTED THEM INTO EVIDENCE.

WHILE I WAS AT MARY'S HOME CHRISTINA GARCIA (MERCADES' MOTHER) CALLED MARY AND WAS FURIOUS WITH HER FOR ALLOWING ME TO ENTER HER HOME.

I COULD HEAR GARCIA YELLING AND CURSING AT MARY THEN GARCIA HUNG UP ON MARY AND CALLING BACK SEVERAL TIMES.

I ASKED MARY IF MERCADES HAD A CELL PHONE TO WHICH SHE REPLIED "YES, BUT CHRISTINA TOOK IT".

MARY ADVISED ME ON THE NIGHT OF MERCADES' ARREST GARCIA CAME TO HER HOME, WENT IN MERCADES' ROOM, AND TOOK SEVERAL ITEMS OUT OF THE ROOM.

I THEN CALLED CHRISTINA AND ASKED HER IF SHE HAD THE CELL PHONE.

WHEN CHRISTINA ASKED ME WHY I WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT THE CELL PHONE I TOLD HER I NEEDED IT AS POSSIBLE EVIDENCE TO WHICH SHE REPLIED "MAYBE I HAVE IT AND MAYBE I DON'T".

I ADVISED CHRISTINA IF SHE HAD THE PHONE (TO WHICH MARY STATED SHE DID) IT WAS CONSIDERED EVIDENCE AND NEEDED TO BE TURNED OVER TO ME IMMEDIATELY.

CHRISTINA STATED "I AM NOT GIVING YOUR SHIT, SO YOU CAN GO FUCK YOURSELF".

I ADVISED CHRISTINA IF SHE DID NOT GIVE ME THE CELL PHONE SHE WOULD BE PLACED UNDER ARREST FOR TAMPERING WITH EVIDENCE TO WHICH SHE REPLIED "PROVE IT YOU FUCKING ASSHOLE" AND THEN HUNG UP ON ME.

I LATER LEARNED THAT CHRISTINA HAD CALLED DEPUTIES IN THE POLK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE NORTHWEST DISTRICT AND HANDED THE CELL PHONE OVER TO THEM FOR EVIDENCE.

ON 04-04-08 AT APPROXIMATELY 0900 HOURS DETECTIVE SGT. WILKINSON #3963 AND I MET WITH VICTORIA LINDSAY'S FATHER, PATRICK LINDSAY, WHO PROVIDED US WITH NOTES HE TOOK WHEN HE FIRST RESPONDED TO THE LAKELAND REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER ON THE NIGHT OF THE INCIDENT.

PATRICK ADVISED ME HE IMMEDIATELY ASKED HIS DAUGHTER DETAILS OF THE INCIDENT AND TOOK NOTES OF HER ACCOUNT OF THE CRIME.

PATRICK PROVIDED ME WITH A COPY OF THE NOTES (COPY ATTACHED TO THIS REPORT).

ON 04-08-08 AT APPROXIMATELY 0930 HOURS I AGAIN RESPONDED TO MARY NICHOLS' PLACE OF RESIDENCE AND MADE CONTACT WITH HER.

MARY AGREED TO ALLOW ME TO SEIZE MERCADES' COMPUTER AND PROCESS HER CAR FOR EVIDENCE SINCE IT WAS HER CAR WHICH WAS USED TO TRANSPORT THE VICTIM.

MARY SIGNED A WAIVER (PCSO FORM #9008) GIVING ME PERMISSION TO SEIZE HER GATEWAY

NARRATIVE
CONTINUATION
INSERT

Sheriff's



Office

FORM #9002A - Revised 01/08/03

INCIDENT NUMBER
2008-067185

RELATED INCIDENT NUMBER
NA N/A

Agency ORI Number
FLO5300000

Polk County

Bartow, FL

ESSENTIALS COMPUTER BEARING SERIAL # 0017137628 AND TO PROCESS HER CAR FOR EVIDENCE.

ON 04-08-08 @ 1025 HOURS I MADE CONTACT WITH DETECTIVE PARKER #5973 AT MARY'S RESIDENCE.

DETECTIVE PARKER ADVISED ME HE HAD CONDUCTED A CANVASS OF THE BUSINESSES IN THE AREA OF THE HAWTHORN INN IN AN ATTEMPT TO LOCATE SURVEILLANCE VIDEO OF THE DROP OFF POINT BUT WAS UNSUCCESSFUL (PLEASE REFER TO DETECTIVE PARKER'S REPORT FOR DETAILS).

ON 04-08-08 AT APPROXIMATELY 1033 HOURS I GAVE THE COMPUTER I SEIZED FROM MARY TO DETECTIVE PARKER TO BE TRANSPORTED TO THE POLK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE BUREAU OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS TO BE PROCESSED.

04-08-08 AT APPROXIMATELY 1027 HOURS CST BEAUDRY #3669 ARRIVED ON SCENE AND PROCESSED MARY'S 2005 FOUR DOOR TOYOTA BEARING TAG #H688GI.

ON 04-08-08 AT APPROXIMATELY 1043 HOURS I MADE CONTACT WITH MICHELLE MARISH, MOTHER OF CARA MURPHY, VIA TELEPHONE.

I ASKED MICHELLE FOR CARA'S CELL PHONE AND ADVISED HER IT WAS NEEDED AS EVIDENCE.

MICHELLE ADVISED ME CARA'S CELL PHONE WAS IN HER PROPERTY AT THE DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE OF JUSTICE DETENTION CENTER IN BARTOW, FLORIDA.

ON 04-08-08 AT APPROXIMATELY 1046 HOURS I CONTACTED MS. ADAMI SUPERINTENDENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE DETENTION CENTER IN BARTOW, FLORIDA AND REQUESTED ACCESS TO THE SUSPECT'S PROPERTY IN ORDER TO SEIZE ANY CELL PHONES.

MS. ADAMI ADVISED ME I WOULD NEED A SEARCH WARRANT, PER DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE POLICY, TO RECOVER THE CELL PHONE.

ON 04-08-08 AT APPROXIMATELY 1135 HOURS DETECTIVE DOYON #5014 PROVIDED ME WITH VICTIM VICTORIA LINDSAY'S MEDICAL RECORDS THAT HE HAD RECEIVED FROM THE LAKELAND REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER MEDICAL RECORDS DEPARTMENT EARLIER IN THE DAY.

MY REVIEW OF THE MEDICAL RECORDS SHOW THE TERM "POSITIVE LOSS OF CONSCIOUSNESS" THUS VALIDATING THE VICTIM'S CLAIM SHE WAS KNOCKED UNCONSCIOUS DURING THE BEATING.

ON 04-08-08 AT APPROXIMATELY 1410 HOURS I WAS CONTACTED BY REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE MYSPACE INTERNET LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT WHO VOLUNTEERED THEIR SERVICES. I INSTRUCTED "DOMINIC" FROM MYSPACE TO FREEZE ALL EIGHT SUSPECTS AND THE VICTIM'S MYSPACE PAGES IN ORDER TO PRESERVE DATA FOR LATER REVIEW TO WHICH HE AGREED TO DO.

ON 04-08-08 AT APPROXIMATELY 1709 HOURS I MADE CONTACT WITH DETECTIVE SGT. WILKINSON #3963, DETECTIVE SMITH #4565, AND DETECTIVE WOODS #5152 IN THE PARKING LOT OF THE JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER IN BARTOW, FLORIDA FOR THE PURPOSE OF EXECUTING THE SEVEN SEARCH WARRANTS ON THE PROPERTY OF THE SUSPECTS (PLEASE SEE DETECTIVE SMITH'S REPORT FOR DETAILS AS TO HIS ACTIONS OBTAINING THE SEARCH WARRANTS).

ON 04-08-08 AT 1755 HOURS WILKINSON, SMITH, WOODS, AND I MADE CONTACT WITH ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT MYRON HARDEE WHO ESCORTED US TO THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE FACILITY WHERE ALL SEVEN JUVENILE SUSPECTS PROPERTY BAGS WERE WAITING FOR US.

THE FOLLOWING IS THE CHRONOLOGICAL EVENTS AND TIMES THAT TOOK PLACE ON 04-08-08 AS THE SEARCH WARRANTS WERE BEING EXECUTED:

*1755 HOURS I TOOK PHOTOGRAPHS OF ALL CLOSED PROPERTY BAGS.

STATEMENT OF FACTS CONSTITUTING PROBABLE CAUSE
Case Number: 08-73162 SAC 08-75

Warranted
27th
4-3-08

Your affiant, Detective Mark Smith, is a sworn deputy of the Sheriff of Polk County, Polk County Florida. Your affiant has been a deputy with the Polk County Sheriff's Office, Polk County Florida for approximately nine and a half years and has been a detective for approximately five years of that time. Your affiant's duties are to investigate both property and persons crimes within Polk County Florida. Currently your affiant is assigned to the Southwest District General Crimes Unit of the Polk County Sheriff's Office.

On 03/30/08 the victim, Victoria Lindsay, arrived at her temporary residence located at 6124 West Calendar Court Lakeland, FL 33813. The victim was staying with her friend, Mercades Nichols, due to the fact that she was having problems with her parents at the time. Upon entering the residence the victim was confronted by Mercades Nichols and Brittni Hardcastle who began yelling at her and threatening her. The victim walked into the room she was staying in and was confronted by April Cooper who was yelling at her and threatening her with clinched fists. The victim was struck in the face several times by Cooper. Cooper then slammed the victim's head in to the bedroom wall which knocked her unconscious. When the victim woke up she was on the couch in the living room of the residence. The victim was surrounded by April Cooper, Mercades Nichols, Cara Murphy, Brittany Mayes, Brittni Hardcastle, and Kayla Hassell. All six female suspects then took turns striking the victim with their hands and feet. While the attack was occurring the female suspects took turns recording the incident on a video recording device. The victim advised the female suspects blocked the door, held her down, and prevented her escape, while they attacked her for approximately thirty minutes. The victim advised the female suspects bragged as they struck her and recorded the incident that they were going to post the beating on the websites known as My Space and You Tube. After the attack the suspects forced the victim into Mercades Nichols' Grandmother's vehicle and drove her to another friend's house where they allowed her to get out of the vehicle. The suspect's told the victim "if you got to the Police the next beating will be worse." Once free from the suspects the victim was transported by ambulance to the hospital where she was treated for a concussion, damage to her left ear and eye, and numerous bruises.

On 04/02/08 Detective Newman #4707 came into possession of a video recording of the attack on the victim. The footage shows the victim struck multiple times by multiple suspects and her attempts to escape the residence were blocked. The video and other still photos recovered by Detective Newman show other cameras being used during the attack and afterward in a manner consistent with using them to take photographs or use the video recording device installed in some cellular phones. Detective Newman's investigation also revealed that Mercades Nichols' neighbors, Zachary Ashley and Stephen Schumaker, acted as look outs while the beating occurred inside the residence. Schumaker advised during a taped statement that he was shown four to five different video recordings by the female suspects of the attack. At least one of the suspects, Cara Murphy, was in possession of a cellular phone at the time of her arrest. It is undetermined at this time if more of the suspects were in possession of their cellular phones when they were arrested or if they were in possession of portable media storage in their purses or other property.

The evidence described above demonstrates Probable Cause that the suspects committed illegal acts and recorded them using either cell phones, cameras, video cameras, or other recordable devices. Some of these types of devices have removable and portable media storage capabilities. It is therefore respectfully requested that the search warrant for the property removed from the suspects at the time of their arrest and held for safe keeping by the Juvenile Detention Center be issued.