

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE TWENTY-THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF
 OKLAHOMA SITTING IN AND FOR POTTAWATOMIE COUNTY

FILED
 DISTRICT COURT

OCT 31 2024

POTTAWATOMIE COUNTY, OK
 VALERIE W. TITZEN COURT CLERK
 BY: *[Signature]* DEPUTY

Case No. CF-2024-438

THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA,)
)
 Plaintiff,)
)
 vs.)
)
 CHARLES SULIVANT)
)
 ADDR: 39119 Highway 59B)
 Macomb, OK 74852)
 DL: ****1835)
 SSN: ***-**-1835)
 DOB: April, 1933)
)
 Defendant(s).)

INFORMATION

FOR:

- COUNT 1: LEWD OR INDECENT ACTS TO CHILD UNDER 16 ~ 21 O.S. § 1123(A)(2), a FELONY
- COUNT 2: LEWD OR INDECENT ACTS TO CHILD UNDER 16 ~ 21 O.S. § 1123(A)(2), a FELONY

STATE OF OKLAHOMA, COUNTY OF POTTAWATOMIE:

I, Adam R. Panter, the undersigned District Attorney of said County, in the name and by the authority of the State of Oklahoma, give information that in said County of Pottawatomie and in the State of Oklahoma, CHARLES SULIVANT did then and there unlawfully, willfully, knowingly and wrongfully commit the crime(s) of:

COUNT 1: LEWD OR INDECENT ACTS TO CHILD UNDER 16 ~ a FELONY, on or between the 25th day of April, 2008 and the 24th day of April, 2013, the Defendant Charles Sulivant committed the crime of Indecent or Lewd Acts with a Child by knowingly and intentionally touching and/or rubbing the chest area of B.T., who was between eight (8) and twelve (12) years of age at the time, underneath her dress with his hand and/or kissing B.T. on the mouth in a lewd and lascivious manner when he was three years of age older than B.T. in Shawnee, Oklahoma.

This crime is punishable by imprisonment in the State Penitentiary for not less than for not less than 25 years to life.

COUNT 2: LEWD OR INDECENT ACTS TO CHILD UNDER 16 ~ a FELONY, on or between the 10th day of September, 2008 and the 9th day of September, 2009, the Defendant Charles Sulivant committed the crime of Indecent or Lewd Acts with a Child by knowingly and intentionally touching and/or rubbing the body of A.S., who was nine (9) years of age at the time, and/or kissing A.S. on the mouth in a lewd and lascivious manner when he was three years of age older than A.S. in Shawnee, Oklahoma.

This crime is punishable by imprisonment in the State Penitentiary for not less than 25 years to life.

ADAM R. PANTER
 DISTRICT ATTORNEY

By: *[Signature]*
 Lori McCannell
 Assistant District Attorney

WITNESSES ENDORSED FOR THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA

S A, 4020 N Market Ave, Shawnee, OK 74804

R B, 1509 Gaddy Rd, 12, Shawnee, OK 74801

Drew Dinnel, 801 N 45th Street, Muskogee, OK 74401

Cpl Matthew Dougherty #83, SHAWNEE POLICE DEPARTMENT, Shawnee Police Department - 912 E. Independence, Shawnee, OK 74804

Ptl William Manship #72, SHAWNEE POLICE DEPARTMENT, SPD - 912 E. Independence, Shawnee, OK 74804

Rebekah Smith, 14601 NE 10th, Choctaw, OK

A. S, 353738 E 1070 Rd, Choctaw, OK 73020

Johnny Stephens, 109 Kale Ln, McLoud, OK 74851

Debra Stephens, 109 Kale Ln, Dale, OK 74851

B. T, 324 W, Georgia, Shawnee, OK 74804

FILED
IN THE DISTRICT COURT
OCT 31 2024

STATE OF OKLAHOMA)

POTTAWATOMIE COUNTY)

POTTAWATOMIE COUNTY, OK
VALERIE N. UELTZEN, COURT CLERK
BY Shelby Haley DEPUTY

CF-24-428

**AFFIDAVIT OF PROBABLE CAUSE FOR
ISSUANCE OF FELONY ARREST WARRANT FOR
Charles J. Sulivant**

- Charges:
1. Lewd Acts to a Child Under 16
 2. Lewd Acts to a Child Under 16
 3. Lewd Acts to a Child Under 16
 4. Sexual Battery
 5. Sexual Battery

Cpl. William Manship, being duly sworn and upon his oath, states as follows:

Your Affiant is currently a commissioned officer with the Shawnee Police Department currently assigned to the Criminal Investigations Division and has been assigned to that position since December of 2022. Your affiant was previously assigned to the District 23 Family Justice Center as a domestic violence and child abuse investigator and was assigned to that position from 2016 until 2019. In the past your Affiant has experience working patrol on Day Shift, Evening Shift, and Night Shift patrol. Your Affiant has been certified as a police officer in the State of Oklahoma by the Oklahoma Council on Law Enforcement Education and Training since 2014. Your Affiant has had specialized training in investigation and enforcement of laws pertaining to Domestic Violence, Child Abuse, Sexual Assault, Robbery, Theft, Homicide, and property crimes. Your Affiant has received advanced training and proven to be proficient in the areas of Law Enforcement Defensive Driving, and Firearms Proficiency.

On 7/11/2016 R.S. reported that her then 16 year-old daughter (A.S.) had been sexually abused by a fellow-church Member at the Shawnee Church of the Nazarene when she was 9 years-old. R.S. reported that Sulivant had taken A.S. to his truck in the parking lot of the Church (401 N. Market) where he then touched and kissed her, R.S. reported that Sulivant was trying to "get under her clothes" when A.S. ran back into the church. R.S. reported that Sulivant had lured A.S. to his truck by telling her that he had a gift for her. R.S. also reported that when she talked to the Pastor (Johnny Stephens) about it, he told her that there were at least four other girls that he knew of that Sulivant had "tried something with".

A.S. (DOB: 9/10/1999) PHONE INTERVIEW-4/9/2024

On 4/9/2024 at approximately 1400 hours, I (Detective William Manship) interviewed A.S. over the phone in reference to case # 16-03506. A.S. advised that she had called the District Attorney's Office and was told that nothing had ever been sent to the District Attorney's Office related to this case. A.S. advised that is when she called the Shawnee Police Department and spoke with Lt. Fulton about it. A.S. advised that she asked her mother (R.S.) why she had not pushed for something to be done in 2016 when she made the initial report. A.S. stated that R.S. told her that she had received an email from the District Superintendent for the Oklahoma Church of the Nazarene (Terry Rowland) at the time. R.S. told A.S. that Rowland informed her that if she pursued the issue against Charles Sulivant further then she would lose her Minister's license.

A.S. stated that after she spoke with R.S. and was informed that Rowland had told her mother not to pursue the case in which she was victimized by Sulivant, she began speaking with friends that she knew from church when she was a child. A.S. advised that 5 other girls, R.B., S.A., M.P., B.T., and R.A. had been victimized by Sulivant as children. A.S. advised that all of the girls were now adults, and provided me with phone numbers for each of them.

A.S. scheduled a time to come to the Shawnee Police Department and speak with me further about the incident on 4/12/2024.

A.S. INTERVIEW-4/12/2024

On 4/12/2024 at approximately 1755 hours, A.S. came to the Shawnee Police Department to speak with me further about the situation. During the interview, A.S. advised that she had initially disclosed the abuse from Sulivant to Drew Dinnel, who was the Choctaw Church of the Nazarene youth pastor at the time. A.S. advised that after she disclosed to Dinnel, he made a DHS referral about the incident. A.S. advised that the Church of the Nazarene District Superintendent (Terry Rowland) had also threatened Dinnel's job if he reported it. A.S. advised that Dinnel left the Choctaw Church of the Nazarene a short time later before he could be fired.

S.A. (DOB: 03/05/1993) INTERVIEW-5/1/2024

On 5/1/2024 at approximately 1503 hours, I interviewed S.A. at the Shawnee Police Department. S.A. advised that she had been sexually harassed and molested by "Charlie" (Sulivant) at the Church of the Nazarene in Shawnee, Oklahoma.

S.A. advised that she had one incident with Sulivant in early to mid June, 2016 after he senior year of high school. S.A. advised that she was 18 years-old at the time. S.A. advised that she was in the gym with her step-brother who is autistic, while her parents were in a meeting. S.A. stated that Sulivant came up behind her in the gym and started rubbing her hair. S.A. said that Sulivant then ran his hand down her chest to the hym of her dress. S.A. stated that she then grabbed Sulivant's hand, and he started holding her by the shoulder with his other hand. S.A. said that she tried to get away from Sulivant but he wrapped his arms around her. S.A. stated that she ended up facing him, and he started trying to kiss her on the mouth. S.A. turned her head to the side, and Sulivant was kissing her cheek. S.A. stated that Sulivant then told her "I could really go for a girl like you"(SEXUAL BATTERY).

S.A. stated that she got away from Sulivant and ran and told her parents and the pastor (Johnny Stephens). S.A. stated that Stephens told her that Sulivant would not be allowed anywhere but the lobby anymore, and that he would not be allowed to be alone with females anymore.

B.T. (DOB: 04/25/2000) INTERVIEW-5/2/2024

On 5/2/2024 at approximately 0830 hours, I interviewed B.T. at the Shawnee Police Department. B.T. stated that "Charlie" (Sulivant) was a greeter at church. B.T. described Sulivant as being an old guy who goes to the Church of the Nazarene. B.T. described Sulivant as being "really weird". B.T. stated that when she was approximately 8 years-old, Sulivant picked her up and was holding her with his arm between her legs, and his hand on her chest underneath her dress (LEWD ACTS). B.T. stated that Sulivant would kiss her on the mouth, and spin her around and call her his "little girlfriend". B.T. stated that these things happened until she was approximately 12 years-old. B.T. advised that she stopped wearing dresses to church because of what Sulivant was doing to her.

R.B. (DOB: 08/25/2992) INTERVIEW-5/2/2024

On 5/2/2024 I interviewed R.B. at the Shawnee Police Department. R.B. described Sulivant as being "a gentleman that goes to Shawnee Church of the Nazarene". R.B. advised that she used to play bass in the praise team, and that her mother (Now Deceased) was the church secretary. R.B. stated that one day after getting off stage with the praise team, she went into her mother's office to get money out of her purse. R.B. stated that she was "bent over on all fours" getting her mom's purse from under her desk. R.B. stated that Sulivant then walked up behind her, and grabbed her by the hips and "butt" with both hands. R.B. stated that Sulivant pulled her into him, and started rubbing his penis against her butt. R.B. stated that Sulivant reached up and grabbed her breasts and started squeezing them. R.B. said that as Sulivant started to reach inside of her shirt she elbowed him in the testicles and got away from him (LEWD ACTS).

R.B. stated that after she got away from Sulivant, she had someone go get her mom from the church service. R.B. stated that she told her mom what happened, and they met with the pastor (Johnny Stephens) after church that day. R.B. stated that during the meeting, her mom left the room, so that R.B. could speak to Stephens alone. R.B. stated that Stephens told her that she was a "bad kid" with a bad reputation in the church, and that nobody was going to believe her. R.B. said that Stephens continued by telling her that if people did believe her, and Sulivant had to leave the church and was unable to tithe, then the church would not be able to pay her mom's salary, and her mom would lose her job.

R.B. advised that Sulivant is protected by the church, because he is wealthy and pays a lot of money to the church. R.B. advised that was the only incident of sexual abuse from Sulivant that had ever happened to her. However, R.B. stated that Sulivant would sit by the doors of the church, and have girls sit on his lap and kiss them on the cheek. R.B. stated that Sulivant would give the girls candy and "groom them".

I later called R.B. back on the phone and confirmed how old she was at the time when Sulivant did what he did to her in her mother's office. R.B. advised that she was 14 or 15 years-old at the time.

R.S. PHONE INTERVIEW-8/21/2024

On 8/21/2024 at approximately 0857 hours, I made contact with R.S. by phone. I explained to R.S. that I was asked to follow-up on the report she made in 2016 in reference to what Sulivant had done to her daughter (A.S.). R.S. told me that at the time that she made the report, she was aware that there were more victims other than A.S. R.S. also told me that Sulivant had even done something to her as an adult. R.S. said that at one point while she was at the church, Sulivant came up to her, grabbed her, put his hands down her shirt and tried to kiss her (SEXUAL BATTERY).

R.S. told me that when she talked to the pastor (Johnny Stephens) about what had happened to A.S., he told her that he was aware of it. R.S. said that Stephens told her that there had been issues with Sulivant's behavior with multiple girls, and that he had taken care of it by not allowing Sulivant to be way from the foyer if he was not with his wife.

R.S. also told me that she was emailed at the time by the district superintendent (Terry Rowland). R.S. stated that Rowland told her that if she pursued going against the church for what he (Sulivant) had done to her child then she would not pastor in the district going forward.

DREW DINNELL PHONE INTERVIEW-8/21/2024

On 8/21/2024 at approximately 0919 hours, I made contact with Drew Dinnel by phone. I asked Dinnel if he remembered the situation in which a police report was made in 2016 involving A.S.. Dinnel told me that he was aware of that report. Dinnel advised that A.S. had attended a church camp for teens that summer, and she and a second juvenile female (R.A.) had disclosed while at the camp about what "Charlie" (Sulivant) had done to them in the past. I asked Dinnel what he remembered about A.S.'s disclosure. Dinnel stated that the group was talking about things that had happened to them in their lives. Dinnel said that A.S. shared with the group that Sulivant had gone with her to the parking lot, and pressed her against his truck, and "felt up on her". Dinnel stated that R.A. said that Sulivant "had been creepy" to her too.

Dinnel stated that he did not ask any further questions of A.S. and R.A. at the time, because he knew that he was a mandatory reporter and that he did not want to cause any issues for potential forensic interviews.

Dinnel stated that he initially reported the girls' disclosures to the district superintendent (Terry Rowland). Dinnel stated that Rowland tried to tell him not to report it, and to leave it up to the girls' families to report it. Dinnel stated that he also spoke with his lead pastor at the time (Mike Meaks). Dinnel stated that Meaks told him that they were not allowed to report the incident because they were staff members of the church. Dinnel also told me that at that time, the church tried to pass a board motion stating that church staff could not report issues like this to DHS. Dinnel stated that he sent them the state law and made an anonymous DHS referral.

Dinnel stated that he was let go from his position approximately 6 months later, and was told that the church would not have the money to afford him anymore. Dinnel stated that he was the associate pastor and youth pastor at the Choctaw Church of the Nazarene at the time. Dinnel stated that he is currently still employed by the Nazarene Church. However, Dinnel now works at a church in a different district.

Dinnel advised that all of his conversations with higher ups in the church were in person, or in public forums. Dinnel stated that he does not believe that he has any emails about the situation because the Church was trying to avoid documenting the conversations.

JOHNNY STEPHENS INTERVIEW-8/22/2024

On 8/22/2024 at approximately 0945 hours, Det. M. Dougherty and I went to Johnny Stephens' residence to speak with him. Det. Dougherty and I made contact with Johnny and his wife (Debra Stephens) outside of the residence. When I told Johnny that I was following up on an old report that was made in 2016, Johnny knew that I was there to talk about Sulivant. Johnny also asked initially before I told him what girls were involved if I was there to talk about R.B. When I told him that it was actually the A.S. situation that was reported in 2016, Johnny advised that he was familiar with that situation too.

Johnny stated that he had been told that Sulivant had touched A.S. "inappropriately" when she was around 5 years-old. Johnny stated that after A.S.' mother spoke to him about it, the issue got forgotten about until A.S. was approximately 12 years-old and it came back up. Johnny stated that at that point, he called Sulivant into his office and talked to him about the situation. Johnny stated that he told Sulivant that he "has to stop this". Johnny said that he had never seen Sulivant be inappropriate to any of the girls, but he had "always heard about it".

I explained to Johnny that I had talked to multiple girls that had told me that things had happened to them at the church from Sulivant. Johnny said "okay" and then stated that I may have talked to R.B. Johnny confirmed that R.B. came to talk to him and told him what Sulivant had done to her at the time. However, Johnny stated that he did not know why R.B. feels like he just "fluffed it off". Johnny said that he told R.B. "Charlie is old. I don't know what this will do to his life. I don't know how you want to pursue it, but I am going to go talk to your mom". Johnny stated that after the incident with R.B. he talked to Sulivant again and told him "Charlie, if you don't stop this, you're going to jail son. You have go to stop this".

Sullivant stated that he does not know what Sulivant did, and he just knows what he was hearing. Johnny and Debra both stated that they had seen him "flirting" with girls from the ages young girl to adult. Johnny confirmed what R.S. said about the fact that he had to make Sulivant stay in the foyer or stay with his wife. Johnny stated that he told Sulivant "Charlie you have got to stay away from these young girls and we are watching you".

I asked if Johnny had ever reached out to anyone else, higher up in the church. Johnny said that he reached out to Terry Rowland, who was the district superintendent at the time. Johnny stated that Rowland told him that he needed to continue doing what he was doing to handle the situation.

During the interview, Johnny stated that he was aware of another girl (S.E.) that had issues with Sulivant. However, Johnny stated that he knows that S.E. was not going to pursue anything against Sulivant, because he had heard the conversation in which she said that.

Johnny stated that at no point did he or anyone else in his church make any police reports, or DHS referrals about what Sulivant was doing. Johnny denied any knowledge of people's jobs being

threatened or losing their jobs for doing the right thing in this matter. However, Johnny stated that those people should "sue somebody".

CHARLES SULIVANT INTERVIEW-8/23/2024

On 8/23/2024 at approximately 0945 hours, I interviewed Charles Sulivant at the Shawnee Police Department. The interview was conducted in the soft interview room, and it was voluntary. At no point in time was Sulivant under arrest, or detained during the interview. I explained to Sulivant prior to asking him any questions about the case, that he was not under arrest, and that the interview was voluntary and he was free to leave at any time.

Initially in the interview, Sulivant stated that he did not remember much about the disclosures that were made against him. However, Sulivant did confirm that he had attended the Church of the Nazarene since 1972 or 1973. Sulivant stated that approximately 10 years ago he was on the board of the church.

During the interview, Sulivant stated multiple times that Johnny Stephens had called him into the office on multiple occasions and told him to stop touching the little girls. When I asked him why Johnny had to tell him multiple times to keep his hands off of the girls, Sulivant replied "stupidity I guess". I asked what the reason was that he kept putting his hands on the girls, and Sulivant stated that he did not know if he could explain it. Sulivant then said that it was "just something that he had at the time". Sulivant continued and said that he does not know what to call it, but stated "it's, you know you have those sexual drives, and things like that". Sulivant stated that he did those things to the girls to make himself feel good. Sulivant confirmed that he was feeling the sexual drive towards the girls. Sulivant later described the feeling that he felt towards the girls as being lust.

Sulivant stated that he never thought of the girls as being kids, and acknowledged that when he saw them, they made him feel aroused and he was acting on that.

When I asked if there was anything else that I needed to know about the situation, Sulivant said no, but stated that he has regretted it, and repented for it. Sulivant stated that he had apologized to some of them for it in the past. Sulivant stated that he had apologized to S.A.'s parents for what he had done to her. Sulivant stated that he told S.A. and her parents that he was sorry and that he owed them an apology. When I asked what he would tell the other girls that he had not already apologized to, Sulivant stated that he would tell them the same thing.

Near the end of the interview, Sulivant confirmed that he had done what S.A. had said that he had done. Sulivant could not remember many details of the incident with A.S. However, when I asked him what he could remember about that incident, Sulivant stated that he remembers that "she (A.S.) was an attractive girl. It should be noted that A.S. was 9 years-old at the time that he assaulted her. Sulivant admitted that he did know B.T. but did not reply when I told him exactly what she said he had done to her. When I talked to Sulivant about the specifics of R.B.'s disclosures against him, Sulivant stated that he had already been in the office when R.B. walked in. Sulivant explained that he shared the office with R.B.'s mother. Sulivant stated that he could not remember but, R.B. could have been getting something from under the desk. When I asked if he remembered R.B. elbowing him, and running out of the office, Sulivant replied "yeah".

When I told Sulivant that I was going to forward the report to the DA's Office, and they would make the decision on whether or not to file charges against him, Sulivant said "you know, I had forgot all about this". Sulivant continued and said "I know that I did regret it, and I apologized to some of them". When I pointed out that the girls had not forgotten about it and that it had caused them issues for a long time, Sulivant replied "yeah". Sulivant then said "well, all I can say is I'm sorry about it". Sulivant stated "we all do a lot of stupid things. . . and this was one of them".

It should be noted that during the interview, Sulivant admitted that he knows that what he did to the girls was inappropriate, criminal, and wrong. Sulivant also stated that he had never done anything to his daughters or their friends in the past, and the only times that he had done anything to young girls was at the church.

On 8/26/2024, I was out of the office investigating an unrelated case, when Det. Dougherty called me and informed me that Sulivant had come to the police department and was wanting to speak with me again. Det. Dougherty told Sulivant that I was out of the office at the time, and asked if he wanted to talk to him. Sulivant told Det. Dougherty that he did not want to talk to anyone but me about it and that he would return to the police department that afternoon.

CHARLES SULIVANT INTERVIEW 2-8/26/2024

On 8/26/2024 at approximately 1300 hours, Sulivant returned to the Shawnee Police Department to speak with me again. Again the the interview was conducted in the soft interview room, and at no time was Sulivant under arrest or detained.

Sulivant started off the conversation by telling me that the case with S.A. should not be included in the investigation because he had already settled the situation with her parents and they were "satisfied". I explained that whatever he agreed on with S.A.'s parents back then did not matter as far as the criminal case was concerned, and that he had admitted on 8/23/2024 that what he had done to the girls was wrong, inappropriate and criminal. Sulivant then began to ask questions about what would happen if the girls dropped the charges. I explained to Sulivant that only the DA's Office has the ability to file charges or drop charges. I also explained that if he was thinking about reaching out to any of the girls to have them drop charges he would face additional charges. Sulivant then began asking questions about the legal process, attorney's and bonds. I told Sulivant that he should probably talk to a lawyer and have them help him with those issues.

Near the end of the interview, Sulivant stated "okay, I guess it's time to pay up (for what he had done)".

At this time, the investigation is closed, pending the discovery of additional evidence. This report is being sent to the DA's Office along with a warrant request affidavit for Charles Sulivant with the charges of Lewd Acts to a Child Under 16 (for the assaults on A.S., R.B. and B.T. when they were approximately 8, 9, and 16 years old) and Sexual Battery (for the assaults on S.A. and R.S. when they were over the age of 18).


These incidents occurred in the city of Shawnee, Pottawatomie County, Oklahoma.

Based upon the above facts and authority, your Affiant would respectfully request this Honorable Court make a finding of probable cause to believe that the above referenced individual has committed the crime as specified above, namely **Lewd Acts to a Child Under 16, Lewd Acts to a Child Under 16, Lewd Acts to a Child Under 16, Sexual Battery, and Sexual Battery.**

Charles J. Sulivant is described as a W/M, 6'01", 165 lbs, DOB:04/08/1933, SSN:446-32-1838, Oklahoma Driver's License: M080985316, last known address is: 39119 HWY 59 B, Macomb, OK, 74852

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT

Dated this 6th day of September 2024.

 #72

Detective William Manship #72
Shawnee Police Department

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 6th day September of 2024.

NOTARY PUBLIC - STATE OF OKLAHOMA
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES DEC. 12, 2027
COMMISSION # 23016080

_____
Notary Public

My Commission Expires 12/12/2027

My Commission No. 23016080

MAGISTRATES FINDINGS

I have read the above and forgoing affidavit and find the probable cause exists for the arrest and further detention of the above named arrested person on the alleged crimes 1 2 3 4 5 6 (circle one or more as applicable) and / or _____ and set bail in the amount of \$ _____, for the Alleged Crime(s) as reflected above.

Done at Shawnee, Oklahoma at _____, M on this _____ day of _____ 2024.

JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT