

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: [REDACTED]

On May 14, 2017 at approximately 11:30am Lieutenant Sam Kirby was dispatched to the Magnolia Regional Medical Center in regards to a child that had been bitten by rats. Lt. Kirby spoke with ER nurse [REDACTED], who explained that the child was 15 days old and weighed approximately 5lbs. [REDACTED] also said that the child had been bitten at least 100 times and that the bites were severe. Sergeant Colton Burks and Captain Todd Dew were requested to further investigate this incident.

Sergeant Burks and Captain Dew arrived at the hospital and photographed the child's injuries. The child was identified as [REDACTED], and her parents were Erica Shryock and Charles Elliott. [REDACTED] arms, hands and face were covered in rodent bites, her fingers were bitten as well. There was a wound that was approximately one inch in diameter on [REDACTED] forehead, the skull was visible. [REDACTED] was transported to Arkansas Children's Hospital in Little Rock by Columbia County Ambulance Service, Detective Dustin Cloud followed the ambulance there.

At the hospital, Sergeant Burks spoke with Charles Elliott's mother, Regina Barton. She explained that Charles had told her that [REDACTED] had been bitten by a mouse. When she saw [REDACTED], she told Charles and Erica that they had to take [REDACTED] to the hospital. Regina further explained that Charles and Erica were afraid that [REDACTED] was going to be taken away, and told them that either way [REDACTED] had to go to the hospital. Charles and Erica were transported to the Magnolia Police Department for questioning.

Sergeant Burks and Captain Dew questioned Erica first. Prior to questioning, she was advised of her rights. She stated that she understood them and signed a statement of rights form indicating so. Erica said that she put [REDACTED] to sleep around 05:30am on this morning, and she woke up to [REDACTED] screaming at around 07:30am. Erica got [REDACTED] to feed her and noticed that she was covered in blood. Erica stated that [REDACTED] was sleeping in the same room, in a bassinet, next to the bed. Detectives told Erica that [REDACTED] would have had to been screaming for a while, due to the amount of bites. Erica stated that she knew there were rats in the house, but admitted that neither she or Charles did anything to address the rodent issue.

After questioning Erica, detectives questioned Charles Elliott. Prior to questioning, Charles was advised of his rights. He stated that he understood them and signed a statement of rights form indicating so. Charles said that they woke up to [REDACTED] screaming and crying at around 05:00am, and then he saw blood everywhere. He said he went and got a rag to clean [REDACTED] up, and that you could see bloody rat footprints in the crib. Charles said they waited until his mother got to the house, before they took [REDACTED] to the hospital, this was at approximately 09:00am. Charles did admit that they hesitated to go to the hospital, because he did not want [REDACTED] taken away. Charles said that he knew rats were in the house, and that they did not do anything to take care of the issue.

After questioning Charles and Erica, they were arrested for endangering the welfare of a minor 1st degree. Sergeant Burks and Captain Dew then went to [REDACTED], where this incident occurred at. Charles and Erica were living with Margie Williams at this residence. Williams gave detectives verbal and written consent to search the home. In the living room, a bassinet was found. ^{There} was blood and bloody rodent footprints in the bassinet. Inside the room that Charles and Erica were staying in, an infant toboggan was laying on the floor, it was soaked in blood. Next to the bed, where the bassinet would have been, there was a wooden cabinet. On the wooden cabinet, there were rodent droppings. A baby blanket was also found, it also had blood on it.

Prior to detectives arrival at [REDACTED], Lt. Sam Kirby was there to make sure the house was secure and that no one cleaned up in the house. Williams told Lt. Kirby that she woke up this morning at around 05:30am to the baby crying. Williams also said that she noticed the hole in [REDACTED] head, she said that the blood was dry. Williams stated that she does not know how the parents did not wake up because the baby was sleeping right beside them.

On May 16, 2017 investigators received doctor notes from [REDACTED], MD at Arkansas Children's Hospital. Dr. [REDACTED] noted that there was severe skin destruction from rat feeding, and stated that it would have taken hours to occur and patient would have been in distress during the process. Dr. [REDACTED] expressed her opinion and said that the caregivers were either absent or incapacitated to not have responded. The notes also estimated that there were 75-100 rat bites, scattered throughout the body. On May 15, 2017 [REDACTED] had facial reconstruction surgery to address the large open wound on her head.

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