

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA)
)
:SS
COUNTY OF CHARLES MIX)

IN CIRCUIT COURT

FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA,
Plaintiff,

vs.

LEOARD SHARPFISH
a/k/a LEONARD WALKING EAGLE,
D/O/B: [REDACTED]
Defendant.

COMPLAINT FOR: CR22-45

ABUSE OF OR CRUELTY TO
MINOR
SDCL 26-10-1

C-3-F

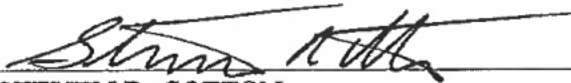
The undersigned being duly sworn upon oath charges:

That on or between January, 2022 and February, 2022, in the County of Charles Mix, State of South Dakota, the above named Defendant did commit the public offense of Abuse of or Cruelty to Minor, in violation of SDCL 26-10-1, (C-3-F), in that the Defendant did abuse, expose, torture, torment, or cruelly punish a minor, in a manner which does not constitute aggravated assault, and the victim is less than seven years of age, to wit: [REDACTED]

Contrary to statute in such case made and provided against the peace and dignity of the State of South Dakota.

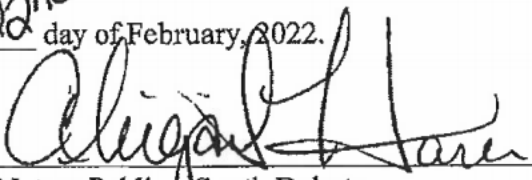
This Complaint is based upon information and belief and affidavit of Special Agent Brian Larson.

Dated this 22nd day of February, 2022, at Lake Andes, South Dakota.


STEVEN R. COTTON

Charles Mix County State's Attorney

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this 22nd day of February, 2022.


Notary Public South Dakota
My Commission Expires: 11-8-22



STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA) IN CIRCUIT COURT
) SS
COUNTY OF CHARLES MIX) FIRST JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
Plaintiff,)

-vs-)

Leonard W Sharp Fish)
DOB: [REDACTED])
Defendant,)

**PROBABLE CAUSE
AFFIDAVIT**

I, Brian Larson, Special Agent (SA) with the South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation, being duly sworn upon oath. I have worked in Law Enforcement for the past 9 years.

On February 16th, 2022, I was contacted by SSA Brian Schnabel regarding a child death in Wagner, SD. Wagner Interim Police Chief Damon Griffith contacted SSA Schnabel and stated that they were called to the Wagner Community Hospital for report of a 2-year-old child that was brought into the hospital by his mother [REDACTED] with lots of bruising all over the body and green stuff coming out of his mouth. The child was later pronounced deceased at the hospital at 3:01 AM.

I later arrived at the hospital where I was able to view the deceased body of the 2-year-old juvenile male. The juvenile male had several bruises across his body, to include his face, chest, arms, legs, and buttocks. There was a larger area of bruising to the left side of his face and eye area. There were two larger bruises on either side of his buttocks area, near his hips. From my training and experience these two large bruises were similar in shape and size of hand markings.

The victim had multiple small circle shaped bruises on his chest that went from his neck to his waist. From my training and experience these appeared to be from some type of blunt trauma. He had an abrasion on either side of his face, near his ears. These abrasions were circular in shape. There was bruising near the areas of these abrasions as well.

He had several scars on his arms and legs from what appeared old injuries. The victim had a small cut on the inside of his right foot, that appeared to be fresh.

As part of the autopsy, an x-ray examination was taken of the victim that revealed one healing rib fracture and what appears to be one recent rib fracture. Through my observations and with the injuries found in the x-ray examination, there were both fresh and older injuries.

The injuries that were observed on the victim's body covered the majority of his body. Many of these injuries would have been observable outside of his clothing. The mother of the child stated that there were many times that the child would run around in only a diaper.

All injuries that I observed and that were seen during the x-ray examinations are consistent with being injuries related to child abuse. I spoke with the child's mother who advised that she lives at the residence with Leonard Sharp Fish and her 4 children, which included the deceased victim. She advised me that Sharp Fish has been residing with her and the 4 children since October 2021, at which time they began their intimate relationship.

Sharp Fish was spoken to about this incident and advised that he has been living at the residence with his girlfriend and her 4 children for several months. Sharp Fish stated that he did assist with clothing [REDACTED] and changing his diaper when needed, but not often. Sharp Fish claimed that was there to cook for them, take them to school and he was the one with a job providing for the family.

He advised that he was aware of the three older children fighting with the victim, claiming that they fight all the time. He was aware that the three other children would fight or wrestle with the victim and he would do nothing to stop any harm to the victim. Sharp Fish advised that he took no action to prevent or stop the other children from fighting with the victim.

Agents went to the residence as part of a search warrant and found the residence to have poor living conditions. There was no heater running at the time and the

temperature in the residence was 47 degrees.

There was an infestation of insects throughout the residence. There was an enclosed front porch that had items in it that lead agents to believe this was a child's bedroom. Sharp Fish also confirmed that this was where one of the children slept.

There was drug paraphernalia seen throughout areas of the residence as well. Agents located a rolled-up dollar bill with powdery substance inside of it. From my training and experience I know a rolled-up dollar bill to be a way to snort/ingest illegal narcotics.

A small baggie of a green leafy substance was also located in the residence. There were two glass pipes which appeared to be used to consume concentrated marijuana wax was seen in the residence. There was also a piece of paper containing a residue amount of suspected marijuana wax.

The mother of the child advised that Sharp Fish smokes marijuana in the house and he takes some medications that are not prescribed to him, although she did not elaborate how these medications were ingested.

The mother of the child admitted that they had issues with mice in the residence as well. Cat feces was located in the bedroom where the victim and two other children stayed in.


A forensic interview was later conducted with the other three children from the residence. One of the children stated that the bruises came from dad punching the victim. Another child stated that Sharp Fish hurts the victim by hitting him and grabbing him by the leg and pulling him. This child stated that Sharp Fish would do this if the victim would not stop crying.

The comments made by the children of Sharp Fish assaulting the victim and grabbing him by the leg and pulling are consistent with the injuries I observed on the victim at the hospital.

Based on the information detailed above, I believe that there is probable cause to believe that Leonard Sharp Fish committed the following offense:

-SDCL 26-10-1 Abuse of or Cruelty to a Minor (F3) in that he either committed the abuse and/or exposed the minor to the abuse from other persons residing at the residence.

Dated this 16th day of February 2022 at Mitchell, South Dakota.


Special Agent Brian Larson
South Dakota DCI

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 16th day of February 2022 at Mitchell, South Dakota.


Notary Public

My Commission expires: 5-5-27
(SEAL)

