

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
CLARK COUNTY, ILLINOIS

PEOPLE OF THE)
STATE OF ILLINOIS,)
)
Plaintiff,)
) No. 2018-CF-24
vs.)
)
RONALD WELLS,)
)
Defendant.)

PRELIMINARY HEARING & ARRAIGNMENT

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS of the hearing before CIRCUIT
JUDGE TRACY W. RESCH, on March 5, 2018.

APPEARANCES:

Mr. Kyle Hutson,
State's Attorney of Clark County,
for the People of the State of Illinois.

Mr. William D. McGrath,
Public Defender,
for the Defendant.

Sarah K. Wilhoit, CSR
CSR #084-004081
Official Court Reporter
Clark County Courthouse
Marshall, Illinois 62441

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EXHIBITS

Number		Mark	Receive
	NONE		

1 THE COURT: People versus Ronald Wells, 18-CF-24.
2 Mr. Wells, please come forward and have a seat beside
3 your attorney.

4 MR. MCGRATH: We're ready, Your Honor.

5 THE COURT: State may call its first witness.

6 MR. HUTSON: State would call Jeremiah Hanley,
7 Your Honor.

8 THE COURT: Please raise your right hand.

9 (Witness sworn.)

10 THE COURT: Please have a seat in the witness
11 chair. You may proceed when ready.

12 DEPUTY JEREMIAH HANLEY,

13 called as a witness on behalf of the State, being
14 first duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

15 DIRECT EXAMINATION

16 BY MR. HUTSON:

17 Q. Please state your name.

18 A. Jeremiah Hanley.

19 Q. How are you employed?

20 A. Deputy Sheriff, Clark County, Illinois.

21 Q. On October 18, 2017, was the Clark County
22 Sheriff's Office contacted by the Illinois Department of
23 Children and Family Services?

24 A. We were.

1 Q. Was that in regards to a minor that I'll refer to
2 as Jane Doe?

3 A. It was.

4 Q. And what was reported by the Department of
5 Children and Family Services?

6 A. It was reported to Department of Children and
7 Family Services by a school employee that they had
8 received information from a male student, the brother of
9 Jane Doe, that he had overheard Jane Doe and mother
10 speaking about an incident occurring between Jane Doe
11 and her grandfather.

12 Q. Was an interview of Jane Doe conducted at the
13 Children's Advocacy Center in Charleston?

14 A. It was.

15 Q. Was that on October 23, 2017?

16 A. It was.

17 Q. Were you present for that interview?

18 A. I was.

19 Q. Was the interview audio and video recorded?

20 A. It was.

21 Q. Did Jane Doe state how old she was?

22 A. She was 13.

23 Q. Did Jane Doe indicate if she was related to the
24 defendant, Ronald Wells?

1 A. She advised that he was her biological
2 grandfather.

3 Q. What did Jane Doe report had been occurring
4 between her and Ronald Wells?

5 A. She indicated to the interviewer that over the
6 last year, not on every weekend, on just different
7 weekends, that while she was at the residence of her
8 grandfather, Ronald Wells, that he would inappropriately
9 touch her and have sexual intercourse with her.

10 Q. Did she indicate that was by placing his penis in
11 her vagina?

12 A. Correct.

13 Q. And where did she say that this occurred?

14 A. She indicated this occurred in a bedroom at the
15 residence that is his room.

16 Q. And are you familiar with Ronald Wells' address?

17 A. I am.

18 Q. Is it in Dennison, Clark County, Illinois?

19 A. It is, on Fern Lake Road.

20 Q. Is that where Jane Doe indicated these incidents
21 occurred?

22 A. Yes, it is, correct.

23 Q. Did Jane Doe indicate when the last time Ronald
24 Wells put his penis in Jane Doe's vagina?

1 A. She advised that the weekend prior he had
2 attempted, but she had stopped it. The last time it
3 actually occurred was the weekend prior to that.

4 Q. So the weekend prior being, she did the interview
5 in October of, October 23 of 2017?

6 A. Correct.

7 Q. So --

8 A. It would have been the Sunday prior to that he
9 had attempted. She told him she didn't want to do it.
10 She went to the living room and laid on the couch. The
11 weekend prior to that one would have been the last time
12 that it actually occurred.

13 Q. I think you answered this, but did she indicate
14 how long this sexual contact had been going on?

15 A. She said since she was 12.

16 Q. Was Jane Doe physically examined by medical
17 professionals?

18 A. She was. She was physically examined by Sarah
19 Bush Hospital. They have a nurse that that's what she
20 does.

21 Q. Do you know approximately when she did the
22 physical examination?

23 A. Within that following week of the interview.

24 Q. Was there a report regarding the physical

1 examination?

2 A. There was.

3 Q. And have you read that report?

4 A. I have. The medical examiner indicated that
5 there was trauma to her vagina area consistent with a
6 sexual assault.

7 Q. And have you spoken with Ronald Wells?

8 A. I did.

9 Q. Did he give his date of birth?

10 A. He was born in March of 1956, I believe, I don't
11 remember the exact date.

12 Q. Did he indicate that he is the grandfather of
13 Jane Doe?

14 A. He did.

15 Q. Did he indicate that Jane Doe would stay at his
16 house as she had reported at Fern Lake Road in Clark
17 County, Illinois?

18 A. He did.

19 Q. Did he indicate that he and Jane Doe would be
20 alone in her bedroom together?

21 A. He also indicated that.

22 MR. HUTSON: Thank you. No further questions.

23 THE COURT: Cross examination?

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CROSS EXAMINATION

BY MR. McGRATH:

Q. Deputy, did Mr. Wells tell you that he committed any crimes?

A. He did not admit to any crimes, no.

Q. And did you give him specific statements as to what you believed had occurred?

A. I did. I discussed what was told to me that had occurred.

Q. And you were doing that in an attempt to get him to admit that he had done those things, correct?

A. My goal was to find out the truth. So if indeed that occurred, then, yes, I wanted him to tell me the truth.

Q. When he said -- Did he say it didn't happen or did he not respond?

A. He said it didn't happen.

Q. Other than the interview of Jane Doe, was there any other witness to Jane Doe saying that this happened?

A. Correct, there is.

Q. Who would that be?

A. There was another female juvenile that is a friend of hers that she had confided in.

Q. Is that in your report?

1 A. It is.

2 Q. So other than the other juvenile, you said that
3 the brother had reported a conversation that Jane Doe
4 had with his mother?

5 A. Correct, she had told her mother also.

6 Q. Did you talk to the mother?

7 A. I did.

8 Q. Did she confirm that Jane Doe had said those
9 things?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Had she herself witnessed anything, the mother?

12 A. The mother had not witnessed anything, no.

13 Q. Had she confirmed the time frame that Jane Doe
14 might have been alone with Mr. Wells?

15 A. She confirmed that she was at the residence with
16 him.

17 Q. Did she confirm they were together in the
18 bedroom?

19 A. She wasn't there, so she couldn't confirm that.

20 MR. McGRATH: Thank you, Judge, that's all I
21 have.

22 THE COURT: Redirect?

23 MR. HUTSON: Nothing further, Your Honor.

24 THE COURT: You may step down, Deputy. Thank

1 you.

2 (Witness excused.)

3 THE COURT: Does the State have any further
4 evidence?

5 MR. HUTSON: No, Your Honor.

6 THE COURT: Argument or evidence?

7 MR. MCGRATH: No, Your Honor.

8 THE COURT: Okay. The Court finds that the State
9 has established probable cause. Is the Defendant ready
10 to proceed to arraignment?

11 MR. MCGRATH: Yes, Your Honor, plead not guilty
12 and ask for a jury trial.

13 THE COURT: The record will so reflect. I will
14 enter a Scheduling Order setting this matter for jury
15 trial on May 8 at 8:00 and for pretrial conference on
16 April 23 at 9:00.

17 Does the State have anything more?

18 MR. HUTSON: No, thank you, Your Honor.

19 THE COURT: Does the Defendant?

20 MR. MCGRATH: No, Your Honor.

21 THE COURT: Okay. That will conclude matters
22 this morning. Mr. Wells, the clerk will give you a
23 written notice of those next hearing dates.

24 (End of proceedings.)

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
CLARK COUNTY, ILLINOIS

CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I, Sarah K. Wilhoit, CSR #084-004081, Certified Shorthand Reporter and Official Court Reporter for the Circuit Court of Clark County, Fifth Judicial Circuit of Illinois, reported in machine shorthand the proceedings had on the trial in the above-entitled cause and transcribed the same by Computer Aided Transcription, which I hereby certify to be a true and accurate transcript of the proceedings had before CIRCUIT JUDGE TRACY W. RESCH.

Official Court Reporter
Sarah K. Wilhoit