☒ Marsy's Law CVI FL. Const. Art.1 § 16(b)

☐ Check if Supplement is Attached

ARREST / NOTICE TO APPEAR
Juvenile Referral Report

1. Arrest 2. N.T.A. 3. Request for Warrant 4. Request for Capias

Juvenile: 2 — N

ADMINISTRATIVE

OBTS Number

Agency ORI Number: FL0 5 0 0 0 0 0

Agency Name: PALM BEACH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Agency Report Number: 0 6 -[23-081855)

Charge Type: Check as many as apply. ☒ 1. Felony ☐ 2. Traffic Felony ☐ 3. Misdemeanor ☐ 4. Traffic Misdemeanor ☐ 5. Ordinance ☐ 6. Other

If Weapon Seized — Enter Type

Multiple Clearance Indicator: 1

Location of Arrest (including Name of Business)

Location of Offense (Business Name, Address): Palm Beach Central High School: 8499 W. Forest Hill Boulevard — Wellington, FL 33411

Date of Arrest	Time of Arrest	Booking Date	Booking Time	Jail Date	Jail Time	Location of Vehicle

DEFENDANT

Name (Last, First, Middle): Houchins, Scott, Alexander

Alias (Name, DOB, Soc. Sec. #, Etc.)

Race (W - White, B - Black, I - American Indian, O - Oriental/Asian)	Sex	Date of Birth	Height	Weight	Eye Color	Hair Color	Complexion	Build
W	M	3/7/1970	5'10"	250	Brown	Brown	FAIR	LARGE

Scars, Marks, Tattoos, Unique Physical Features (Location, Type, Description)

Marital Status: Married

Religion

Indication of: Alcohol Influence ☐ Y ☐ N ☐ Unk; Drug Influence ☐ Y ☐ N ☐ Unk

Local Address (Street, Apt. Number): 5976 Snowdrop Way — (City): West Palm Beach — (State): FL — (Zip): 33415

Mobile Phone

Residence Type: 1. City 2. County 3. Florida 4. Out of State: 2

Permanent Address (Street, Apt. Number) — (City) — (State) — (Zip)

Phone

Address Source: FL DL

Business Address (Name, Street): Palm Beach Central High School, 8499 W. Forest Hill Boulevard, Wellington, FL 33411

Phone: 561-304-1000

Occupation: High School Teacher

D/L Number, State: H252-781-70-087-0

Soc. Sec. Number: [redacted]

INS Number

Place of Birth (City, State): Florida

Citizenship: USA

CO-DEF

Co-Defendant (Last, First, Middle)	Race	Sex	Date of Birth		
				☐ 1. Arrested ☐ 2. At Large	☐ 3. Felony ☐ 4. Misdemeanor ☐ 5. Juvenile
Co-Defendant (Last, First, Middle)	Race	Sex	Date of Birth		
				☐ 1. Arrested ☐ 2. At Large	☐ 3. Felony ☐ 4. Misdemeanor ☐ 5. Juvenile

JUVENILE

☐ Parent ☐ Legal Custodian ☐ Other:

Name (Last) (First) (Middle)

Residence Phone ( )

Address (Street, Apt. Number) (City) (State) (Zip)

Business Phone ( )

Notified by: (Name) — Date — Time

Juvenile Disposition: 1. Handled/Processed within Dept. and Released. 2. TOT HRS/DYS 3. Incarcerated

Released To: (Name) — Relationship — Date — Time

The above address was provided by ☐ defendant and / or ☐ defendant's parents. The child and / or parent was told to keep the Juvenile Court Clerk's Office (Phone (561) 355-6511) informed of any change of address.
☐ Yes, by: (Name) ☐ No (Reason)

School Attended — Grade

Property Crime? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Description of Property

Value of Property

CODE

Drug Activity: N. N/A, P. Possess, S. Sell, B. Buy, T. Traffic, R. Smuggle, D. Deliver, E. Use, K. Dispense/Distribute, M. Manufacture/Produce/Cultivate, Z. Other

Drug Type: N. N/A, A. Amphetamine, B. Barbiturate, C. Cocaine, E. Heroin, H. Hallucinogen, M. Marijuana, O. Opium/Deriv., P. Paraphernalia/Equipment, S. Synthetic, U. Unknown, Z. Other

CHARGE

Charge Description	Counts	Domestic Violence	Statute Violation Number	Violation of ORD #
Failure to Report	1	☐ Y ☒ N	39.205(1)	

Drug Activity	Drug Type	Amount / Unit	Offense #	Warrant / Capias Number	Bond
N	N		23-081855		

CHARGE

Charge Description	Counts	Domestic Violence	Statute Violation Number	Violation of ORD #
		☐ Y ☐ N		

Drug Activity	Drug Type	Amount / Unit	Offense #	Warrant / Capias Number	Bond

CHARGE

Charge Description	Counts	Domestic Violence	Statute Violation Number	Violation of ORD #
		☐ Y ☐ N		

Drug Activity	Drug Type	Amount / Unit	Offense #	Warrant / Capias Number	Bond

CHARGE

Charge Description	Counts	Domestic Violence	Statute Violation Number	Violation of ORD #
		☐ Y ☐ N		

Drug Activity	Drug Type	Amount / Unit	Offense #	Warrant / Capias Number	Bond

NOTICE TO APPEAR

Location (Court, Room Number, Address)

Court Date and Time

Month — Day — Year — Time — A.M. ☐ — P.M. ☐

I AGREE TO APPEAR AT THE TIME AND PLACE DESIGNATED TO ANSWER THE OFFENSE CHARGED OR TO PAY THE FINE SUBSCRIBED. I UNDERSTAND THAT SHOULD I WILLFULLY FAIL TO APPEAR BEFORE THE COURT AS REQUIRED BY THIS NOTICE TO APPEAR, THAT I MAY BE HELD IN CONTEMPT OF COURT AND A WARRANT FOR MY ARREST SHALL BE ISSUED

Signature of Defendant (or Juvenile and Parent/Custodian) — Date Signed

I consent to receive text reminders of court date(s) and times for this case by automated technology to the mobile number identified above. I understand that standard text message rates may apply, and that I may revoke this consent via the text message system if I choose. Signature

ADMIN

HOLD for other agency

☐ Dangerous ☐ Resisted Arrest ☐ Suicidal ☐ Other:

Intake Deputy — I.D. # — Pouch #

Signature of Arresting Officer: X [signature] 25506

Name of Arresting Officer (Print): Detective Lisa Alvarez — I.D. #: 25506

Transporting Officer — I.D. # — Agency

Name Verification (Printed by Arrestee) (PRINT)

Witness here if subject signed with an "X"

PAGE 1 OF 1

PBSO #0148 REV. 11/22 DISTRIBUTION: COURT COPY STATE ATTORNEY AGENCY AGENCY DEFENDANT (N.T.A.'s ONLY)

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OBTS Number	PROBABLE CAUSE AFFIDAVIT 1. Arrest 2. N.T.A. 3. Request for Warrant 4. Request for Capias	3	
	Agency Name PALM BEACH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE	Agency Report Number 06 – 23-081855	

Charge Type: ☒ 1. Felony ☒ 3. Misdemeanor ☐ 5. Ordinance
Check as many as apply: ☐ 2. Traffic Felony ☐ 4. Traffic Misdemeanor ☐ 6. Other

Special Notes:

Defendant's Name (Last, First, Middle)	Race	Sex	Date of Birth
Houchins, Scott Alexander	White	Male	3/7/1970

Charge Description	Charge Description
FAILURE TO REPORT CHILD ABUSE, FSS 39.205(1)	
Charge Description	Charge Description

Victim's Name (Last, First, Middle)	Race	Sex	Date of Birth
[redacted]	White	Female	4/4/2005

Victim's Local Address (Street, Apt. Number) (City) (State) (Zip)	Address Source
[redacted]	Self
	Occupation Verbal

The undersigned certifies and swears that he/she has just and reasonable grounds to believe, and does believe that the above named Defendant committed the following violation of law. The Person taken into custody:

☐ committed the below acts in my presence

☐ was observed by _____ who told _____ that he/she saw the arrested person commit the below acts

☒ confessed to admitting to the below facts.

☒ was found to have committed the below acts, resulting from my (described) investigation.

On the 20th day of July, 2023 at 0900 ☒ A.M. ☐ P.M. (Specifically include facts constituting cause for arrest).

NARRATIVE:

[X] **Marsy's Law CVI**
FL. Const. Art.1 § 16(b)

On August 20, 2021, a criminal case (PBSO Case #21-097959) for the lewd and lascivious molestation of fifteen-year-old, [redacted], was generated by her parents. At the conclusion of my investigation, despite evidence which corroborated the allegations against the suspect, fifteen-year-old, [redacted] Mr. and [redacted] elected to not pursue the prosecution of [redacted]. At that time, Mr. and [redacted] told me they made that decision because they did not want the matter prolonged in the legal system, which could have potentially inhibited the therapeutic progress [redacted] was making with her emotional health and well-being. As a result of their election to not prosecute, the lewd and lascivious molestation case was closed, and exceptionally cleared, on October 18, 2021.

[redacted] later contacted me and advised that he wanted to generate a new criminal case due to the belief that staff members of the Palm Beach Central High School were criminally negligent in their Mandatory Reporting of the incident in [redacted]'s case with [redacted]. He told me they now wanted to pursue criminal charges against each of those PBCHS (Palm Beach Central High School) staff members who were aware of the lewd and lascivious molestation, as well as [redacted]'s suicidal ideations, and intentionally failed to report the incident to the Department of Children and Families, as mandated by Florida State Statute, 39.205(1).

My investigation revealed there are actually two separate, "Failure-to-Report" sequences involving a number of school employees who did not report the lewd and lascivious molestation of [redacted], by, [redacted]. [redacted] reported that this failure has resulted in [redacted] having significant trauma and a lack of confidence in her educators.

Based on the chronology of events that transpired following [redacted]'s lewd and lascivious molestation on April 2, 2021, the following is an account outlining those staff members who were made aware of the assault:

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NARRATIVE CONTINUATION

The first incident occurred on June 16, 2021, when student, [redacted] a friend of [redacted], wrote a letter addressed, "To whom this may concern" that expressed [redacted] concern for [redacted]'s well-being. In the letter, [redacted] wrote: "I am reporting about someone and something that really needs to have a radar." [redacted] then explained that she is concerned about [redacted]'s mental health and well-being and stated, "Her parents are mostly aware of the situation; however, I'm not sure how much they actually know." In the next paragraph of the letter, [redacted] wrote, "[redacted] has had many problems with guys and has been sexually assaulted by two of them. I have witnessed both of them not taking no for an answer." She later added "Although [redacted] may have said yes at first, she changed her mind and the boys did not respect them. Many anxiety and panic attacks were caused by this leading to self-harm." [redacted] gave her letter to Mr. Houchins, the Chorus Teacher, with confidence he would see it was routed properly.

- [redacted] letter clearly outlined that [redacted] was sexually assaulted.
- [redacted] letter clearly outlined that she was concerned [redacted] was suicidal.
- [redacted] gave the letter to he teacher, Scott Houchins, and asked him to ensure it was given to the appropriate person.
- Scott Houchins read the letter to ensure [redacted] wasn't referring to herself.
- Scott Houchins did not report the sexual assault to DCF.
- Scott Houchins said he gave the letter to someone in the guidance office, but couldn't remember who.

- The letter was given to [redacted]
- [redacted] called [redacted] down to her office [redacted] evaluated [redacted] and determined that she was not a risk to herself and did not need to be Baker Acted.
- [redacted] did not ask [redacted] about the sexual assault in the letter; she only asked about the suicidal thoughts and if she was safe in her relationship. [redacted] said she felt safe because she was not dating the boy who assaulted her.
- [redacted] did not report the sexual assault to DCF.
- [redacted] called [redacted] (on June 16, 2021 at 12:59). In that phone call, [redacted] told [redacted] that there was a letter left in a counselor's mailbox that outlined [redacted]'s thoughts of suicide and cutting. She did not say anything about the sexual assault mentioned in the letter.

- The [redacted] did not learn that the letter addressed sexual assault until the second event occurred in August, 2021.
- The [redacted] first requested (via email) a copy of the letter on Sept. 20, 2021.
- The school ([redacted]) initially denied knowing of the letter, then said that the letter was HIPPA-protected, and then [redacted] said she didn't possess the letter. [redacted] reached out to [redacted] to request that he provide the letter. He responded that he didn't possess the letter. [redacted] replied that his school does have the letter and that [redacted] he could provide the letter to him. He did not respond. [redacted] requested the letter again on October 1, 2021 and again on October 6, 2021, with no reply from [redacted] nor [redacted]. [redacted] has physical proof of this via an email thread.
- After nine separate requests for the letter, [redacted] emailed [redacted] on October 7, 2021, to say that a typed transcript of the letter is available at the front office.

The events surrounding the second event, which he refers to student, [redacted], reporting the sexual assault to [redacted], as follows:

- On August 16, 2021, [redacted] reported [redacted]'s sexual assault to [redacted]. She was asked to provide a written statement by [redacted] In that statement, she stated that [redacted] was assaulted by [redacted], [redacted]
- [redacted] did not report the sexual assault to DCF.
- The statement was then given to [redacted].
- [redacted] did not report the sexual assault to DCF.
- On August 17, 2021, [redacted] was called down to the main office to provide a statement of the assault. In her statement, she explains her assault. She identifies [redacted] as a witness to her assault. The statement was taken by [redacted] and given to [redacted].
- Afterwards, [redacted] met with [redacted].

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- [redacted] did not report the sexual assault.
- [redacted] did not report the sexual assault.
- [redacted] did not report the sexual assault.
- [redacted] called [redacted] to inform her that he had taken [redacted]'s statement.
- On August 18, 2021, during 7th period, the school took [redacted]'s statement.
- August 18th passed without any of the above school officials reporting the sexual assault.
- On August 19, 2021, the [redacted] met with [redacted] and [redacted]
- In that meeting, [redacted] stated that the incident was brought to him by [redacted] who wanted to be involved. He informed [redacted] that he could not be involved.
- In that meeting, [redacted] stated that he conducted his own investigation into the assault. He said he would not share his findings.
- Also in that meeting, [redacted] stated that he did not talk with [redacted] because he felt that the timelines (between [redacted]'s and [redacted]'s statements) lined up and he didn't feel any further interviews were necessary.
- Also in that meeting, [redacted] stated that he did not contact law enforcement, nor DCF, regarding the assault because he felt that a sexual assault did not occur, based on his investigation--even though [redacted]'s statement said he continued to assault her while she continuously said "No."
- Also in that meeting, [redacted] stated that he felt that [redacted] should have told her parents and that the parents should have reported it to law enforcement.
- Also in that meeting, [redacted] asked why [redacted] wasn't interviewed. [redacted] said she didn't feel [redacted] was involved (even though in [redacted]'s statement, she listed [redacted] as a witness and wrote that [redacted] intervened).
- When the [redacted] asked why the sexual assault wasn't reported, [redacted] said that they wanted to have the [redacted], as the parents, to report the sexual assault, and that since there was no indication that [redacted] wasn't safe, then there was no need for them to report it. [redacted] stated that [redacted]'s interpretation of the events was different (and, therefore, [redacted] didn't feel the need to report it). He added "We weren't going by hearsay."
- Also in that meeting, [redacted] stated that he received an email from SafeSchools. When he called, it was about [redacted]'s incident. He indicated that his, "Superior" also received the same email. He also shared that in that email, he received a request to meet with SafeSchools. The [redacted] have not received word what transpired at that meeting.
- Also in that meeting, [redacted] asked [redacted] if sexual assault falls under mandatory reporting laws. He responded, "I think if sexual assault happened off campus, it should be reported to law enforcement." [redacted] said he asked if Florida law requires him to report a sexual assault, and he responded with the same answer: "I think if sexual assault happened off campus, it should be reported to law enforcement." [redacted] asked [redacted] if he was a mandatory reporter, and he responded with the same answer, then added, "Legal questions should be answered by those who know the law."
- Also in that meeting, [redacted] stated that [redacted] would receive disciplinary action from the school, such as removing him from some of his school activities. [redacted] asked why [redacted] would discipline [redacted] if [redacted] did indeed find that [redacted] did nothing wrong. [redacted] responded that, "He is aware of how it looks." He added that he reserves the right to do so and likely will remove [redacted] from some of his responsibilities. He compared this to if a student is caught vaping, then he has the right to remove him from activities. He stated that he had taken no action yet (as of Aug. 19th).
- Then, [redacted] said he asked what the next steps would be. [redacted] asked [redacted] what he would like the next steps to be. [redacted] said, "I want the sexual assault to be reported. [redacted] said that he would report the sexual assault, "Immediately." The meeting ended a little after 9 A.M.
- [redacted] said that he learned that the sexual assault was not reported until after 5 P.M., nearly eight hours after their meeting--and more than three days after the sexual assault was first reported.

My initial investigation revealed that [redacted] gave her handwritten letter regarding her concern for [redacted] to her Chorus teacher, Mr. Scott Houchins and asked him to make sure it was given to the appropriate personnel. [redacted] told me that Mr. Houchins read the letter, in front of her, to ensure that [redacted] wasn't referring to herself. [redacted] said she didn't see who Mr. Houchins gave the letter to, but felt confident, and trusted that he had possession of the letter and would

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handle it accordingly. During the course of my interview with Mr. Houchins, he admitted [redacted] gave him the letter, acknowledged that it was written in pink ink, and disclosed that he did not report the content of [redacted] letter to the Department of Children and Families. Mr. Houchins also indicated that he could not recollect to whom he gave the letter to or what happened with it.

As a result of Mr. Houchins failure to report that he was in possession of a student's disclosure that another student had not only been sexually assaulted, but was also possibly suicidal, I have determined that probable cause exists to charge Scott Houchins with violation of Florida State Statute 39.205(1).

On Tuesday, May 5, 2022, I responded to [redacted] which is the residence of [redacted], for the purpose of meeting with her. I digitally-recorded our meeting in which [redacted] told me that she was was familiar with [redacted] and the incident involving her sexual assault. I began by asking [redacted] about the letter written by [redacted] at the end of the previous school year. [redacted] first told me she doesn't think she ever saw the letter from [redacted], because some things were given directly to the principal. She said she was aware of the incident only because [redacted] had disclosed it to her, but when [redacted] told her who the assailant was, and she recognized the name as being that of the [redacted] she then told [redacted] she needed to go talk to [redacted] because the [redacted] was her supervisor. [redacted] said that she went to [redacted] and told him of the allegations that were brought to her by [redacted]. She said she was aware that it occurred over the summer, and that it had been addressed. At that point, she said that since [redacted] involved the District and his leadership, she, "Stayed away from it". She said since it involved two kids at the school that she knew, and it involved the Assistant Principal, she said she could not offer services. She said that she encouraged the family to get services in the community. Other than [redacted] coming to see her twice when she was upset about matters unrelated to the sexual assault, she said she did not do, "A lot with her" because of the allegations. [redacted] said that even though the family asked for information, there was limited, "Stuff" she could give them because she didn't work with her. She said every direction she received came directly from [redacted] on how to deal with [redacted]. She also said it was her understanding that, "Whatever happened with the alleged incident over the summer," and that [redacted]'s mother was also present nearby at the beach.

I then detailed the entirety of the incident for [redacted] to ensure she was fully briefed on the incident. When I reminded [redacted] that [redacted] wrote an anonymous letter regarding her concern for [redacted] and gave it to Mr. Houchins, [redacted] said, "That's when I found out about it, because of the letter". This contradicted her initial statement of telling me she had not seen the letter. She further stated that whenever a student is suicidal or there is concern for a student, she would be asked to check on that student. [redacted] said that is when she found out about it, and when she learned of the names involved, she told [redacted] she needed to report it to [redacted]

I told [redacted] that the [redacted] obtained a copy of [redacted] letter, but the version they received was typewritten, and not handwritten. [redacted] said that she was told by [redacted], whom she said was told by his supervisor, [redacted] to type out the content of the letter because they felt it wasn't safe for the person who wrote the letter, and everyone who was involved. [redacted] said she typed everything that was written on the letter, except for who wrote it. I asked [redacted] if she knows where the original letter is, and she said, "I don't have it. Everything I had related to the students at Palm Beach Central, I left it." [redacted] said that she is not aware if [redacted] has the letter because she said that she knows it moved to the District level to investigate.

I asked [redacted], directly, if she knew how she received the letter. She said, "It was probably the teacher who brought it over to me." I asked, "Houchins"? [redacted] replied, "Yeah". [redacted] again said she was instructed by the Principal to not respond to anyone about this matter because it had gone to the District level to investigate. I advised [redacted] that I spoke to Mr. Houchins who told me he could not recollect who he gave the letter to. [redacted] said she remembered the letter being given to her by Mr. Houchins.

[redacted] then said that one of her concerns was [redacted]'s safety. She said that she asked [redacted] if she felt safe on the campus, and [redacted] replied, "Yeah, but he did this to me". [redacted] said that [redacted] and [redacted] had a class together, and they

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changed [redacted]' schedule. [redacted] said she was instructed by leadership to stay out of the matter because it was being investigated at a higher level.

I asked [redacted] if they follow the "Mandated Reporter Protocol" at Palm Beach Central High School. She said from her understanding, it had already been called in. I advised her that it had not been called in until a much later date, and she then said she was told it was not called in, "Because it didn't happen on campus". I asked her who told her that, and she said, "[redacted]". She said she told him that they needed to do a report on this, but she said that she was told by School Police that it didn't happen on campus and had already been addressed. I advised [redacted] that it was not addressed, and that the [redacted] are very upset because the issue first came to light before the end of the school year, and it was not addressed then. During the summer, [redacted] attempted suicide, which was not her first attempt, while on a school function in Washington, DC. [redacted] said that she knew [redacted] tried to harm herself before. I advised [redacted] that if this had been properly addressed before the summer, [redacted]'s suicide attempt could have potentially not taken place.

I further advised [redacted] that this matter was never addressed until school started again in the Fall, and the [redacted] went to the school to meet with [redacted], which was months later. I told [redacted] that Mr. Houchins was the first person to receive the letter, and [redacted] interjected and said, "He should have been the one who reported it by District mandate, and he didn't". I reminded her that Mr. Houchins passed it off to her, and she said that she did not call DCF to report it. [redacted] said she did not call DCF because her first instinct was to make sure that [redacted] was safe on campus. I reminded [redacted] that she did call [redacted]s mother, however, and she only addressed the suicidal ideations, and not the sexual assault. [redacted] said that she did tell [redacted] that her daughter did make allegations about a sexual assault and said she told [redacted] that she took the allegations to the Principal because it involved [redacted] This statement is contrary to [redacted]'s claim that she was not made aware of the sexual assault by [redacted]. [redacted] maintained that she took the allegations to the Principal because it involved [redacted] and that she was, "Off of it".

I again asked [redacted] if she knew where the original letter written by [redacted], and she said she wasn't sure, but that it may be in [redacted]'s file at the school, where she is no longer working. Therefore, she wouldn't have access to it.

I advised [redacted] that in August, 2021, [redacted] approached [redacted] at school and told him that [redacted] sexually assaulted her friend, [redacted]. It was at that time, that the matter was then was brought back to the forefront, again. I told her that at that time, months had passed and the matter still had been never reported to DCF. [redacted] said, "It is my understanding, the way it works at the school district, any school district official, whether it is a janitor, someone who works in the kitchen, secretary up front, teacher, whatever, you are a mandated reporter". [redacted] then said, "It goes right back to Mr. Houchins, as being the Mandated Reporter, because if he read it and knows what on it, and she needs help, he should have been the one to report it". [redacted] said that he is in Assistant Principal in training and should have known. I told [redacted] that Mr. Houchins said he gave the letter to someone in Guidance and put that responsibility there. [redacted] said that once she learned of the allegations, she went right to [redacted] and was told that he was elevating it the District and that she ([redacted]) was to not be involved. [redacted] said that was why she was not able to handle the matter and speak to [redacted] because [redacted] was her boss and she knew that he would be involved.

It is clear that [redacted] was fully aware of the initial incident and the letter written by [redacted] outlining a sexual assault and suicidal ideations when Mr. Houchins gave it to her on 6/16/2021. At that time, she did not call DCF and report the matter, as a Mandated Reporter, in clear violation of FSS 39.205(1). Further, when the matter resurfaced in August, 2021, [redacted] met with [redacted] again regarding the incident following the written statement she gave to [redacted] on 8/16/2021. Once again, [redacted] at the school, did not report the incident, violating FSS 39.205(1), for a second time.

Based on the original Letter of Representation I received from [redacted] on 9/21/2021, advising me that he was representing the [redacted] family in this matter, and I was to refer all questions and correspondence to him to ensure

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that no one communicated with the [redacted] family, I did not make any attempt to interview Mr. [redacted] regarding his failure to report the incident. Regardless of representation by an attorney, the fact remains that [redacted] was aware of the incident, and as a Mandated Reporter, failed to notify DCF of the matter. [redacted] spoke to, and provided a written statement to [redacted] on 8/16/2021, advising him of the incident, and the incident was not reported to DCF by [redacted] until August 19, 2021, after 5:00 P.M.

As a mandated reporter, [redacted] failed to report the incident to DCF, violating FSS 39.205(1), Failure to Report Child Abuse.

Additionally, I was not able to make contact with [redacted], even after multiple attempts to make contact with her at her residence located at [redacted] [redacted] interviewed, and took the written statement from [redacted] on 8/17/2021. Ms. [redacted] was fully aware of the incident and failed to report the matter to DCF, in violation of FSS 39.205(1), Failure to Report Child Abuse.

On Thursday, 7/21/2022, I responded to [redacted] which is the residence of [redacted]. In a digitally-recorded interview with her, she confirmed that she has been a Guidance Counselor for the Palm Beach County School District for 24 years, and that she no longer works for Palm Beach Central High School. She said she left PBCHS at the end of the 2020-2021 school year to work at another school in the District. I explained to [redacted] that the purpose of my presence was to discuss a case with her involving the failure to report of a student who had been sexually assaulted and was possibly suicidal. I showed [redacted] a copy of the typewritten letter that [redacted] wrote and gave to Mr. Houchins. [redacted] said she had never seen or read that letter before. She further stated she did not know who [redacted] was and that she was never in attendance at any meeting involving [redacted]. She said that 6/16/2021, was one of the last days of school, and it was a testing day which meant students were only in attendance for half of the day. She said she was preparing for her departure from that school and was never approached by Mr. Houchins, nor [redacted]. She said that the inclusion of her name in the conference record was not at all accurate, and that conference records are normally handwritten and not typewritten, and contain the signed initials of those in attendance. Her signature, nor initials, were on the conference record. [redacted] advised that the conference records on file were apparently false, and that she was not present during any of those meetings, nor did she have any knowledge, whatsoever of [redacted], or the matter at hand.

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After speaking with [redacted], I determined that she had no knowledge of the letter [redacted] gave to Mr. Houchins, and that [redacted] assigned Guidance Counselor was no longer working at the school due to COVID protocols. Therefore, based on the statement of [redacted], Mr. Houchins gave the letter directly to her, and not [redacted] which contradicts the conference records on file.

During the course my initial investigation of Case #21-097959, I discovered all relevant case information regarding [redacted] failure to report the incident, on two separate instances. Both he, and [redacted], were fully aware of the incident when it was brought to Mr. Houchins attention on 6/16/2021, with the receipt of [redacted] letter. Both [redacted] and [redacted] had knowledge of a reported sexual assault of a student in their school, coupled with the possible suicidal ideations of the victim of that assault. [redacted] failed to report the incident to DCF as a Mandated Reporter, violating FSS 39.205(1), Failure to Report Child Abuse, as did [redacted], when they did not report the incident on 6/16/2021 when it was brought to their attention.

Further, when the matter resurfaced on 8/16/2021 with [redacted] speaking to [redacted], and ultimately making a written statement of her knowledge of the incident, [redacted], again, did not immediately report the incident to DCF, violating FSS 39.205(1). And, on 8/17/2021, [redacted] met with [redacted] after her written statement to [redacted] regarding the sexual assault, and she, again, failed to report it to DCF, violating FSS 39.205(1), Failure to Report Child Abuse, a second time.

Based on my findings during this investigation, I have determined that five employees of the Palm Beach Central High School violated Florida State Statute, FSS 39.205(1), Failure to Report Child Abuse, as follows:

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NARRATIVE CONTINUATION

[redacted] (on 6/6/21 and on 8/16/21)
[redacted] (on 6/6/21 and on 8/16/21)
Scott Houchins, Chorus Teacher (8/16/2021)
[redacted](8/16/2021)
[redacted] (8/17/2021)

I am requesting that these individuals be charged accordingly, with violating the Florida State Statute with regard to MANDATORY REPORTING, as all five educational professionals failed to report that they were made aware that student, [redacted], was the victim of a lewd and lascivious molestation. FSS 39.205(1), clearly states, the following: "Any Person who knows, or has reasonable cause to suspect, that a child is the victim is sexual abuse or juvenile sexual abuse shall report such knowledge or suspicion to the central abuse hotline, including if the alleged incident involved a child who is in the custody or of under the protective supervision of the department."

Additionally, their failure to report resulted in delaying/disrupting the services available to the [redacted] family under FSS 39.307. "Within 48 hours after the central abuse hotline receives a report under subparagraph 1., the department shall conduct an assessment, assist the family in receiving appropriate services under FSS 39.307, and send a written report of the allegation to the appropriate county sheriff's office.

Any person who knowingly and willfully fails to report to the central abuse hotline known or of suspected child abuse, abandonment, or neglect, or who willingly and willfully prevents another person from doing so, commits a felony of the third degree.

Additionally, their failure to report also violated the School Board's Code of Ethics Policy under Chapter 3., Personnel, Code of Ethics, Code 3.02.

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Sworn and Subscribed before me:	Det. Lisi Alvarez 25506
Signature Notary Public / Clerk of Court / Officer	Signature of Arresting / Investigating Officer
Detective Christopher Wilson, 9055	Detective Lisa Alvarez, 25506
Name of Notary Public / Clerk of Court / Officer	Name of Officer (Please Print)
7/20/2023	7/20/2023
Date	Date