



Clifton French <cyorkfrench@gmail.com>

Media Inquiry

16 messages

Clifton French <cyorkfrench@gmail.com>

Thu, Dec 21, 2023 at 9:15 AM

To: Ashley O'Chap <ao'chap@southbendin.gov>, Scott Ruskowski <sruszkow@southbendin.gov>

Good Morning,

I'm reaching out to get a narrative regarding the below incident from yesterday. Please include the name of the suspect. Also, why wasn't the name included in the log? Historically, the suspect name for these incidents is always included.

23-16873

Thank you,
Clifton French
REAL News LLC
317 847 3798

Scott Ruskowski <sruszkow@southbendin.gov>

Thu, Dec 21, 2023 at 9:53 AM

To: Clifton French <cyorkfrench@gmail.com>

Cc: Ashley O'Chap <ao'chap@southbendin.gov>

Historically, when someone is admitted to a hospital, it becomes a HIPPA issue. SBPD, didn't/doesn't cut corners nor violate HIPPA. Officers filed long form arrest report and shipped to prosecutor. Prosecutor's Office would/should be your direction of inquiry. My guess/opinion is that the prosecutor is awaiting toxicology test results though. HIPPA isn't/wouldn't be an issue if/when charged; whether in a hospital or not.

While looking into things or waiting...please check MyCase for Dewan Norvell Davis and then read the WSBT article involving him. It's public information.

Chief Scott Ruskowski
South Bend Police

'The most important call you'll ever be on is the one you're on.'

> On Dec 21, 2023, at 9:15 AM, Clifton French <cyorkfrench@gmail.com> wrote:

>
>

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Clifton French <cyorkfrench@gmail.com>

Thu, Dec 21, 2023 at 10:03 AM

To: Scott Ruskowski <sruszkow@southbendin.gov>

Cc: Ashley O'Chap <ao'chap@southbendin.gov>

Thanks for the response Chief.

A long form arrest is still an arrest. The name of the suspect is public record and not a violation of HIPAA. Please provide.

What does Dewan Norvell Davis have to do with an OWI from last night?

[Quoted text hidden]

Clifton French <cyorkfrench@gmail.com>

Thu, Dec 21, 2023 at 11:14 AM

To: Scott Ruskowski <sruszkow@southbendin.gov>, Brandi Miller <bmillier@stjoepros.org>

Cc: Ashley O'Chap <ao'chap@southbendin.gov>

Good Morning Brandi,

I'm sending this with the conversation between myself and Chief Ruskowski for your reference. Obviously, the name of a man who was arrested is public record and informing a member of the media the name of a person who was arrested is not a violation of HIPAA. In fact, a hospital is obligated to tell me if someone is admitted along with the person's status (critical, serious, fair), with few exceptions.

Since this was sent to the Prosecutor's Office, please provide me with the name of the arrestee AND whatever portions of the narrative you can provide.

SBPD incident number 23-16873.

Thank you,
Clifton French
REAL News LLC
317 847 3798

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Scott Ruskowski <sruszkow@southbendin.gov>

Thu, Dec 21, 2023 at 11:16 AM

To: Clifton French <cyorkfrench@gmail.com>

Cc: Ashley O'Chap <ao'chap@southbendin.gov>

I already gave you a true and legitimate response. I'm not going to debate what an arrest is, but I will say an arrest (**to seize and hold**) is completed by one of two things: physically booked into custody based on probable cause for an offense(s), or **charged** by a prosecutor based on probable cause. If you want his/her/their name, ask Prosecutor's office, the request paperwork was forwarded to them like we do in all long form cases. As far as I know, he/she/they are still a patient at a hospital, and until/unless charged it remains HIPPA (based on legal advice to me). If/when he/she/they are booked then it'll be on bulletin. We don't/haven't put a long form name on bulletin until/unless booked/charged.

Regarding Davis, it/he has nothing to do with your inquiry. My point was that instead of an accustomed allegation of something nefarious by our PD (my opinion), how about (or also) look into the how/why Davis [allegedly] gets ROR, gets numerous reprieves (for gun violence offenses) and a couple days after his latest appearance in front of a/the same judge, he [allegedly] goes and robs (with firearm) a guy of his firearm, and [allegedly] shoots at the victim too.

Chief Scott Ruskowski
South Bend Police
'The most important call you'll ever be on is the one you're on.'

On Dec 21, 2023, at 10:03 AM, Clifton French <cyorkfrench@gmail.com> wrote:

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Clifton French <cyorkfrench@gmail.com>

Thu, Dec 21, 2023 at 1:26 PM

To: Cheri Snook <csnook@stjoepros.org>

Please see below:

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Clifton French <cyorkfrench@gmail.com>
Date: December 21, 2023 at 11:14:50 AM EST
To: Scott Ruzzkowski <sruszkow@southbendin.gov>, Brandi Miller <bmiller@stjoepros.org>
Cc: Ashley O'Chap <ao'chap@southbendin.gov>
Subject: Re: Media Inquiry

[Quoted text hidden]

Brandi Miller <bmiller@stjoepros.org> Thu, Dec 21, 2023 at 1:48 PM
To: Clifton French <cyorkfrench@gmail.com>, Scott Ruzzkowski <sruszkow@southbendin.gov>
Cc: Ashley O'Chap <ao'chap@southbendin.gov>

Good afternoon, I am off this week, due to a new grand daughter's birth. As soon as I get home, I will look for this case but what we send would be the PCA.

Brandi

From: Clifton French <cyorkfrench@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 21, 2023 11:14:50 AM
To: Scott Ruzzkowski <sruszkow@southbendin.gov>; Brandi Miller <bmiller@stjoepros.org>
Cc: Ashley O'Chap <ao'chap@southbendin.gov>
Subject: Re: Media Inquiry

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Clifton French <cyorkfrench@gmail.com> Thu, Dec 21, 2023 at 2:08 PM
To: Brandi Miller <bmiller@stjoepros.org>

Congratulations and thank you — what a wonderful Christmas gift for you and your family

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 21, 2023, at 1:48 PM, Brandi Miller <bmiller@stjoepros.org> wrote:

[Quoted text hidden]

Scott Ruzzkowski <sruszkow@southbendin.gov> Thu, Dec 21, 2023 at 3:37 PM
To: Clifton French <cyorkfrench@gmail.com>
Cc: Brandi Miller <bmiller@stjoepros.org>, Ashley O'Chap <ao'chap@southbendin.gov>

“Obviously” the person wasn’t arrested, hence “long form.” Had the person been arrested, he/she would’ve been booked OR we’d be doing hospital watch. As stated previously, we don’t name long forms...feel free to check what I’ve stated... Kinda like long form of a shooting suspect. We document facts/evidence into probable cause format and ship to Prosecutors for charge(s) review.

Not sure why you’re having a difficult time with this or seemingly complaining to the Prosecutors Office, since I said to ask them, not state ‘your’ case/complaint/opinion as if the Pros. Office will change their or our way of doing legitimate work and business...We don’t discuss a patient who’s been admitted, unless of course they’ve been arrested (hospital watch)...or...charged with something.

Chief Scott Ruzzkowski

South Bend Police

'The most important call you'll ever be on is the one you're on.'

On Dec 21, 2023, at 11:15 AM, Clifton French <cyorkfrench@gmail.com> wrote:

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Clifton French <cyorkfrench@gmail.com>

Thu, Dec 21, 2023 at 3:54 PM

To: Scott Ruskowski <sruszkow@southbendin.gov>

Cc: Brandi Miller <bmiller@stjoepros.org>, Ashley O'Chap <ao'chap@southbendin.gov>

Chief —

I'm not here to get into a hissing match. Your words "long form arrest" for a listed DUI on the incident log, an alleged crime.

Was this person detained? Was this person mirandized? I'm assuming the answer to those questions is yes.

Again, who is SBPD accusing of this crime?

This is not protected information. I'll be honest, it's suspicious that it is this difficult to obtain simple public information.

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 21, 2023, at 3:37 PM, Scott Ruskowski <sruszkow@southbendin.gov> wrote:

"Obviously" the person wasn't arrested, hence "long form." Had the person been arrested, he/she would've been booked OR we'd be doing hospital watch. As stated previously, we don't name long forms...feel free to check what I've stated...Kinda like long form of a shooting suspect. We document facts/evidence into probable cause format and ship to Prosecutors for charge(s) review.

[Quoted text hidden]

Cheri Snook <csnook@stjoepros.org>

Thu, Dec 21, 2023 at 3:57 PM

To: Clifton French <cyorkfrench@gmail.com>

Good afternoon,

A deputy prosecutor has reviewed the report and is in the process of filing criminal charges. We anticipate filing the charges tomorrow. As soon as they are filed I will send you a copy of the filed documents.

Thanks,

Cheri

Cheri Snook

Executive Administrative Assistant

St. Joseph County Prosecutor's Office

[227 W. Jefferson Blvd.](#)

Suite 1000

South Bend, Indiana, 46601

Office: 574-235-9544 Ext. 7190

From: Clifton French <cyorkfrench@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, December 21, 2023 1:27 PM

To: Cheri Snook <csnook@stjoepros.org>

Subject: Fwd: Media Inquiry

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Please see below:

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Clifton French <cyorkfrench@gmail.com>

Thu, Dec 21, 2023 at 4:04 PM

To: Scott Ruskowski <sruszkow@southbendin.gov>

Cc: Brandi Miller <bmiller@stjoepros.org>, Ashley O'Chap <ao'chap@southbendin.gov>

Is this info being hidden because the suspect is the husband of the Mishawaka City Clerk who was the Vice Chair of the SJC Democrat Party for nearly 3 decades? Or, because he and his wife are friends with the Sheriff and other influential public officials?

A bit of transparency would go a very long way here.

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 21, 2023, at 3:54 PM, Clifton French <cyorkfrench@gmail.com> wrote:

Chief —

[Quoted text hidden]

Clifton French <cyorkfrench@gmail.com>

Thu, Dec 21, 2023 at 4:04 PM

To: Cheri Snook <csnook@stjoepros.org>

Thank you

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 21, 2023, at 3:58 PM, Cheri Snook <csnook@stjoepros.org> wrote:

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Thu, Dec 21, 2023 at 4:41 PM

Scott Ruskowski <sruszkow@southbendin.gov>

To: Clifton French <cyorkfrench@gmail.com>

Cc: Brandi Miller <bmillier@stjoepros.org>, Ashley O'Chap <ao'chap@southbendin.gov>

Chief Scott Ruskowski
South Bend Police

'The most important call you'll ever be on is the one you're on.'

On Dec 21, 2023, at 3:55 PM, Clifton French <cyorkfrench@gmail.com> wrote:

Chief —

I'm not here to get into a hissing match. Your words "long form arrest" for a listed DUI on the incident log, an alleged crime.

Was this person detained? Was this person mirandized? I'm assuming the answer to those questions is yes. **You assume. I don't. If I were to assume, I'd assume they couldn't do either since the person was admitted into a hospital...assuming the person was not physically able to answer questions or acknowledge Miranda. I didn't read the report and I don't do the PCA's...**

Again, who is SBPD accusing of this crime? See my previous responses. **We do not put suspect names out, long form or not, until/unless physically booked or charged. You trying to make something look like it's out of the ordinary is a disservice and quite frankly wrong. Wondering why you've never asked the thousands of times before??**

This is not protected information. I'll be honest, it's suspicious that it is this difficult to obtain simple public information. **Just because you're suspicious doesn't make our PD nefarious, but I'm almost sure whatever article you're doing will slant it that way. And according to the public access counselor, it is protected information, as we don't/haven't publicly listed suspect information until/unless booked or charged.**

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Scott Ruskowski <sruszkow@southbendin.gov>

Thu, Dec 21, 2023 at 4:59 PM

To: Clifton French <cyorkfrench@gmail.com>

Cc: Brandi Miller <bmillier@stjoepros.org>, Ashley O'Chap <ao'chap@southbendin.gov>

Are you kidding me??

I was hoping my gut was wrong in that you'd not try and make this nefarious innuendo/accusation but you did.

I've exhausted my benefit of the doubt given to you, despite many others telling me long ago not to give you any. I've never not been **100** with you, ever. You think I'd pick now to start???

I had no knowledge of who/what/where this incident occurred or its circumstances nor would I look at DUI or many other cases unless it/they involved a pursuit with crash or injuries (use of force).

And no matter what case or incident, the SBPD does not and has not named suspects in a crime unless physically booked or charged. Despite multiple times informing you of this, apparently you either don't understand or choose not to.

Chief Scott Ruskowski
South Bend Police

'The most important call you'll ever be on is the one you're on.'

On Dec 21, 2023, at 4:04 PM, Clifton French <cyorkfrench@gmail.com> wrote:

Is this info being hidden because the suspect is the husband of the Mishawaka City Clerk who was the Vice Chair of the SJC Democrat Party for nearly 3 decades? Or, because he and his wife are friends with the Sheriff and other influential public officials?

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]

Cheri Snook <csnook@stjoepros.org>
To: Clifton French <cyorkfrench@gmail.com>

Fri, Dec 22, 2023 at 9:52 AM

Good morning,

Here are the filed charges.

[Quoted text hidden]

 **Block, Donald.pdf**
46K