



451 Diamond Drive Ephrata, WA 98823
(509) 754-2027 • FAX (509) 754-3406 • TOLL FREE 1-800-407-2027

PRE-LITIGATION PROGRAM

Jenny Gunderson, Director
Richard McBride, Consultant
Michael Dunn, Consultant
Rick Doehle, Consultant
Amanda Conger, Admin Assistant

David Helvey, Investigator
Chad Hoff, Investigator
Tony Zeman, Investigator
Scott Neustel, Investigator
Ryan Rectenwald, Investigator

CONFIDENTIAL ATTORNEY WORK PRODUCT ~ DO NOT DISSEMINATE

January 31, 2023

Ronald A. Van Wert, Attorney at Law
Etter, McMahon, Lamberson, Van Wert & Oreskovich, P.C.
618 W. Riverside Avenue, Suite 210
Spokane, WA 99201

Re: Matthew Carlson

Mr. Van Wert:

As you requested, I investigated allegations of misconduct against Ritzville Police Officer Matthew Carlson. This letter summarizes the steps taken in my investigation, the allegations of misconduct, and the facts gathered in the course of my investigation. As this is a fact investigation, I have cited potentially relevant policies, but will not make conclusions about policy violations.

A. Summary of Allegations.

- **Allegation:** Officer Matthew Carlson failed to report an alleged domestic violence assault that occurred at his brother's residence on October 2, 2022, and interfered with the investigation by allowing his brother to leave the scene.

B. Documents Reviewed.

- Ritzville Police Department reports.
- Adams County Sheriff's Office reports.
- Grant County Sheriff's Office report.
- Body camera footage provided by the Adams County Sheriff's Office
- Photographs of marks on Kelcee Carlson's neck, provided by Kelcee Carlson
- Ritzville Police Department Policy 319– Standards of Conduct

C. Witnesses Interviewed.

- Justin McKenzie Chauna Carlson's brother

Self Insured Administrators/Risk Managers

- Dave Breazeale Friend of Justin McKenzie
- Jon Erickson Friend of Matthew Carlson
- Roni Jo Bolin Neighbor of Andrew and Chauna Carlson
- Kelcee Carlson Andrew and Chauna Carlson's Daughter
- Matthew Carlson Ritzville Police Officer

For clarification purposes and to avoid confusion, individuals with the same last name will be referred to by their first name in this report.

D. Summary of Evidence Gathered.

Ritzville Police Department reports:

Narrative section of Chief McCormick's investigative report:

Supplemental Narrative:

Name: D C MCCORMICK

Date: 17:17:04 10/05/22

On 10-2-2022 at 12:59 I received a phone call from Justin McKenzie. He was very upset and demanded I get some law enforcement over to his sister and Andrew's house right now. He was on his way over there from his place and he was going to kick Andrew's ass. I asked him to calm down and tell me what was going on. Justin said Andrew grabbed his 21 year old niece Kelcee by the neck and put her up against the wall. He said no 40 something year old man has the right to grab a 21 year old women around the neck. I told Justin I would call dispatch and get a deputy over there as soon as I got off the phone with him. I told Justin to calm down and use his head if he was going over there so he was not the one going to jail today. He told me his wife was driving him to town and he would try to calm down. At the time I was on my day off out by Tokio on a tractor.

I called the Adams County Sheriff's Office dispatcher, Nikki, and asked who was the on-duty deputy for district one and where he was. The dispatcher told me Deputy Borden and he was in the back room. I asked to be transferred back to him. I spoke with Deputy Borden and told him what Justin had told me, and asked him to respond to Andrew and Chauna's house at 307 W 4th in Ritzville to do a standby for a domestic, and suggested he call his supervisor. I told him I would be calling Sheriff Wagner and advising him of my request. Borden told me he was good friends with Chauna and he would not be able to conduct an investigation at their residence. I told him I understood and for now my request was for him to respond and do a standby. Borden told he would head up there right away and he was going to request a deputy from Othello head this way because of his friendship with Chauna.

At 13:07 I called Matt Carlson, my on-duty City Police Officer. He did not answer his cell phone.

At 13:10 Matt called me back. I asked him what was going on. He said, "Nothing." I told Matt if there was nothing going on, I would not have gotten a phone call and had to call him. Matt said he got a text message from Chauna telling him to come over to her house and get his brother out of the house. I asked Matt what else Chauna said to him and he said, "Nothing." Matt said he went over to the house and gave Andrew a key to his house and told him to go up there. I asked Matt what Andrew said to him and he said, "I told him I did not want to hear it." I asked Matt what time he got the text from Chauna requesting he get over to their house. Matt told me that he had to look at his phone for the time and then told me 12:30.

Narrative section of Chief McCormick's investigative report continued:

I called Sheriff Wagner and advised him of my request to have Deputy Borden respond to stand by at Andrew and Chauna's house in reference to a domestic and Justin's statement to me that he was on his way over there and was going to kick Andrews ass. Sheriff Wagner told me that was fine and his Sgt. Juan Garcia had sent him a text message advising Deputy Saul Chavez was on his way to Ritzville from Othello. Wagner also said his department could not conduct the criminal investigation on the domestic assault and said he would call Grant County to see if they were available.

Approximately 14:20 received a phone call from the Grant County Sheriff, Joe Kriete. He told me Sheriff Wagner had called him and asked him to call me. Sheriff Kriete said he need an official request to conduct the criminal investigation, which I did. He said he would have Detective Sgt. Mansford call

me for the basic information. A short time later I received a call from Mansford who advised he had assigned Detective Fisher to handle the investigation. He also informed me Kelcee had left the residence right after the assault took place. She was back home in Wenatchee. Detective Fisher was on his way to interview Kelcee in Wenatchee, and she had already scheduled an appointment at Confluence Health in East Wenatchee. Kelcee had agreed to an interview with Detective Fisher.

At approximately 17:20 I received a phone call from Sgt. Mansford and Detective Fisher. I was informed they had interviewed all of the subjects involved on the phone. They had reached out to Andrew and requested an interview with him Monday morning, but he told Fisher he was going to have to think about it and get back to him. At this time I was informed the Grant County Detectives told Adams County Deputies they could release the residence back to Chauna and her cell phone that had been taken could be released as neither was needed for evidence in the investigation. They also said they had interviewed Kelcee and had probable cause for Fourth Degree Assault DVPA, but due to the time elapsed, they were not going to try to locate Andrew and place him under arrest at this time.

At approximately 17:30 I received a phone call from Sgt. Cameron. He told me Chauna had contacted dispatch wanting to file a stolen report because Sgt. Juan Garcia took her cell phone without a warrant. I told Cameron to let her know the Ritzville Police Department was not going to take a theft report as the Grant County Sheriff's Department was handling the criminal investigation involving the domestic violence assault and she could contact the Grant County Detectives regarding the phone. I also told him it was my understanding the Adams County Deputies had been told they could release the residence and the phone back to Chauna. I told him we were not going to get involved in the Grant County case as we may have a conflict of interest.

On 10-3-22 at 14:29 I received a call from Sgt. Mansford who advised me they got a detailed statement from Kelcee and a release for medical records. She had a red mark on her neck develop overnight and photos were taken. They took an audio and video recorded statement from Kelcee at her residence this morning as well as photos of her neck. He said they did have good strong probable cause and will be sending the report over to me when it is completed, hopefully by 10-7-22. He requested that be forwarded to the City Prosecutor through our normal channels.

Narrative section of Chief McCormick's investigative report continued:

On 10-4-22 I spoke with Dave Breazeale. He told me his other half, Kassie Kinch came home from an Eagles meeting last night (10-3-22) and asked him if he heard about Andrew and Chauna. He told her yea a bit from Justin McKenzie. Kassie told Dave she heard from Ronie Jo Renee Bolin that Justin told Roni that Andrew grabbed Kelcee by the neck and threw her up against the wall. Chauna called Matthew who was working for the city as a police officer. Matthew came over and gave his house key to Andrew, but he did not do anything about Andrew grabbing Kelcee. Kassie said Ronie told her that Justin said this is not the first time this happened, and Matthew knew about it when it happened about 2 months ago and did not do anything about it then. Dave told me that he talked with Justin, who said he did not care what happened to Matt, if he got fired or not or if he lost the election, the only thing he cared about was making sure his niece Kelcee was protected from Andrew.

I called Justin McKenzie to clarify how he was notified of the domestic violence assault. Justin told me Kelcee called him and told him. He asked me what was going on with the case and I told him Grant County Sheriff's Detectives were handling the investigation, and I thought they may be about done with it but I

was not sure.

Narrative section of Officer Cameron's investigative report:

Supplemental Narrative:

Name: M T CAMERON

Date: 22:07:38 10/06/22

On 10-02-22 at approximately 2013 hrs., I was contacted by Adams County Sheriff's Office Dispatch and advised of a theft complaint at 307 W. 4th Ave., Ritzville, Adams County, WA. The complainant, Chauna Carlson, reported Adams County Deputies, namely Sergeant Juan Garcia, had stolen her cell phone.

There had been a report of a possible domestic assault at Chauna's residence earlier in the day. The complaint had been called into Chief McCormick by Chauna's brother, Justin McKinzie. Due to the relationship of the parties involved to that of the on-duty Ritzville Police Department officer, Officer Matthew Carlson, Chief McCormick had contacted Adams County Sheriff's Office Deputy David Borden and requested he respond to make sure the situation didn't escalate any further. After Chief McCormick and the Adams County Sheriff, Dale Wagner, talked, it was determined that Grant County Sheriff's Office conduct the investigation.

Before contacting Chauna, I contacted Chief McCormick and advised him of the complaint. He said he talked to the Detective Sergeant with Grant County Sheriff's Office who was supervising this investigation. The Detective Sergeant told Chief McCormick that he had told the Adams County Sheriff's Office that the residence and Chauna's cell phone no longer had any evidentiary value and they could be released.

At approximately 2050 hrs. I contacted Chauna. The conversation I had with Chauna was in front of her front door which has a Ring type video doorbell. She told me she had video of Sergeant Garcia taking her cell phone. She showed me a video that appeared to be from the Ring type video doorbell. It showed Sergeant Garcia walk towards the front steps and grab something that appeared to be on the front steps. Chauna could be seen exiting the house and asking what he was doing with her cell phone.

Narrative section of Officer Cameron's investigative report continued:

Chauna added that she felt this situation was a political attack on her family. She said there was no warrant for them to seize her cell phone nor was there warrant for them to seize her house. She said she allowed Adams County Sheriff's Deputy Chavez to enter the house the first time to check on the children but any subsequent entrances made by Adams County Sheriff's Deputies were made without permission or a warrant. She said she would be contacting an attorney in the morning regarding the possible illegal seizure of her cell phone as well as the rest of the situation.

Chauna said she had contacted one of the Grant County Deputies who was investigating the incident from earlier, and she was advised to report the incident to the theft of the cell phone to the Ritzville Police Department and if they couldn't help her, for her to contact them again. She said if I wasn't comfortable conducting the investigation, she would contact them.

I told Chauna that I would contact the on-duty deputy for the east side of Adams County and find out if they know what was going on with her cell phone.

At approximately 2106 hrs., I contacted Adams County Dispatch. I requested to have the on-duty deputy contact me as soon as available regarding getting Chauna's cell phone back. I was advised Corporal Barns was covering calls on the east side of Adams County this evening and was en route to Washtucna for a call.

Dispatch said they would have Corporal Barns contact me when he's able to.

At approximately 2133 hrs., while waiting for a call from Corporal Barns, I received a phone call from Sergeant Garcia. I asked about Chauna getting her cell phone back. He said it was in their property room in Othello currently. Initially he said he could get it to her tomorrow. I asked about her getting it tonight. He said if she wanted to go to Othello to get it, she could. He added that he wouldn't be able to get it up here tonight. He said if she comes down tonight, one of the on-duty deputies would be able to release it tonight.

After several calls back and forth between Sergeant Garcia and myself as well as Chauna and myself, arrangements were made for Corporal Barns to meet Deputy Phillips at the County Travel Plaza and the cell phone could be brought to Ritzville and returned to Chauna.

Chauna requested I be present when the phone was returned. I agreed.

At approximately 2303 hrs., I heard Corporal Barns advised dispatch he was on the local repeater. I called Chauna and advised her of that.

At approximately 2316 hrs., Corporal Barns arrived at Chauna's residence. I arrived immediately afterwards. He rang her Ring type video doorbell but no one answered. At approximately 2318 hrs., I called Chauna and advised her Corporal Barns was outside. She answered the door. He asked if she was Chauna and she advised him she was. He asked for her ID to verify her identity. She went back into the house and retrieved something. When she came back outside, he asked her if she had any questions for him to which she said she didn't. Corporal Barns walked away and Chauna went back inside. Their exchange occurred outside Chauna's front door and in the vicinity of her Ring type video doorbell camera.

Adams County Sheriff's Office reports:

Narrative section of Deputy Chavez's investigative report:

Supplemental Narrative:

Name: S CHAVEZ

Date: 12:01:01 10/18/22

This report refers to multiple recordings to include Body Worn Camera (BWC). A description of the entirety of the recordings is not described in this report, is roughly transcribed, and not in chronological order. For further details, refer to recordings.

On 10/02/2022 at approximately 1307 hours, I received a call from Deputy Borden. Deputy Borden advised of a possible domestic that occurred at 307 W. 4th Ave, Ritzville WA (Adams County, no other details were provided by Deputy Borden.

Deputy Borden requested I respond to the call for service as he is good friends with the people that reside at the location. Deputy Borden also told me he was flagged down by Officer Carlson from the Ritzville Police Department (RPD) who told him the two parties were separated and his brother who was involved was currently at his residence. The location where Officer Carlson flagged down Deputy Borden was believed to be near the Adams County Sheriff's Office, since Officer Carlson was near Deputy Borden during our phone conversation. Deputy Borden mentioned to me he was in the parking lot of the Sheriff's Office.

I responded from the Othello Substation in full department uniform, fully marked patrol vehicle, and wearing my body worn camera.

As I was responding, Deputy Borden provided me with Chief McCormick's (RPD) cell phone number and said he could pass along what he was initially told. I did not call Chief McCormick as I received a phone call from Sergeant Garcia who requested I arrive on scene and not conduct an investigation as an outside agency would be contacted.

At approximately 1353 hours, I arrived on scene, exited my vehicle and began walking towards the front door. A female walked out the front door before I got to the front steps. The female slammed the door closed behind her and appeared to be upset.

I identified her with a Washington State driver's license as Chauna Michelle Carlson (DOB: 07/23/1983) and advised she was being recorded. I asked Chauna if she knew why I was there. Chauna said she expected someone to show up, I believed she was referring to law enforcement. Chauna said nothing happened without being prompted. I told Chauna I was not conducting the investigation and would remain there until my supervisor arrived.

I asked Chauna who else was inside the residence. Chauna said her two kids were the only ones inside and they would not be speaking with me. I asked Chauna if I could enter the home and make sure they were fine. Chauna and I entered the residence and I observed her kids were fine. I observed both kids in the residence. The son, approximately 9-10 years of age, was sitting on the couch appeared to be on a phone. The daughter approximately 11-12 years of age was standing in the kitchen area also appeared to be using a phone. Both children appeared to display normal behavior. During my interaction with Chauna, she appeared upset and frustrated that I was there.

Chauna remained outside with me until Sergeant Garcia arrived. At approximately 1418 hours, Sergeant Garcia arrived and spoke with Chauna. After Chauna and her kids left the scene, Sergeant Garcia requested I stage on the back of the

Narrative section of Deputy Chavez's investigative report continued:

residence (east end). I remained there until 1655 hours when I cleared the scene.

End of report.

Narrative section of Deputy Borden's investigative report:

On 10/2/22 at approximately 1301 hours, I was wearing full department uniform and driving a fully marked patrol vehicle. I was at the Sheriff's Office in Ritzville when dispatch contacted me on a department land line. Dispatch advised Chief Dave McCormick with the Ritzville Police Department needed to speak with me and they were going to transfer him to my department cell phone.

At approximately 1302 hours, Chief McCormick was transferred to my department cell phone. Chief McCormick stated in part the following (it should be known, this conversation was not recorded):

"Do you know Andrew and Chauna Carlson?" Justin McKenzie called me stating something happened between Andrew and his daughter Kelcee, further stating Andrew had grabbed Kelcee by the neck and pushed her against a wall. Chief McCormick was afraid things might escalate further if Justin arrived at the residence. Chief McCormick said something about Officer Carlson, but I do not exactly recall exactly what it was. It was something with having to do with Officer Carlson and being at the location.

I explained to Chief McCormick I had a friendship with Andrew and Chauna Carlson, and it may be a conflict of interest if I investigated this. I told Chief McCormick I would contact another on duty Deputy and have him start heading this way to assist.

I hung up the phone and contacted Deputy Chavez. I explained to Deputy Chavez the situation. He advised he would start heading up. I then contacted Sgt. Garcia and explained the situation. Sgt. Garcia requested I head to Andrew and Chauna's address at 307 W 4th Ave, Ritzville, WA and make sure the parties are separated. I texted Deputy Chavez's Department cell phone the address.

At approximately 1312 hours, I cleared from the Sheriff's office, I was proceeding south on S Adams St when I observed Officer Carlson coming north on S Adams St. Officer Carlson pointed towards the empty lot across from the fire station as if he wanted to meet up. I pulled over and he pulled beside my patrol car. I could overhear a conversation going through Officer Carlson's car Bluetooth and the voice sounded like Chief McCormick's. The phone call quickly ended, and Officer Carlson told me his brother called him and said something along the lines of he needed some space for a bit. He gave his brother Andrew his house key. Andrew's daughter Kelcee had left and started making her way back to where she lived in Wenatchee. He did not ask Andrew what had happened, nor did he know what happened.

With being told both parties were separated, I elected not to involve myself into the situation. I cleared from the location and proceeded back to the Sheriff's Office. I contacted Deputy Chavez and advised him of the update. I arrived back at the Sheriff's office.

Narrative section of Deputy Borden's investigative report continued:

At approximately 1432 hours, Sgt. Garcia contacted me on my department cell phone. He advised Deputy Chavez needed to use the bathroom and asked if I could relieve him on the south side Alley behind 307 W 4th Ave. I arrived on scene and activated my front facing Axon Fleet 3 dash camera. Shortly after, Deputy Chavez arrived on scene, and I cleared. I contacted Sgt. Garcia at the front of the residence, and he stated he no longer needed my assistance.

This concluded my involvement with this case.

Narrative section of Sergeant Garcia's investigative report:

Supplemental Narrative:

Name: J GARCIA

Date: 01:54:16 10/21/22

On 10/02/2022 I was employed by the Adams County Sheriff's Office as a Patrol Sergeant. I was working my scheduled patrol shift in Adams County Washington. I was wearing full department uniform, driving a marked patrol vehicle, and wearing my department issued Body Worn Camera (BWC). Deputy Borden was covering district one (1) calls and Deputy Chavez was covering district two (2) calls.

At approximately 1310 hours, I received a phone call from Deputy Borden. He advised he was contacted by Ritzville Police Chief Dave McCormick. Deputy Borden was requested to respond to 307 W 4th Ave, Ritzville for a domestic violence incident. Ritzville Police Officer Matthew Carlson was on-duty in the city of Ritzville and could not investigate as the involved people were his family.

Deputy Borden said Andrew Carlson was Ritzville Police Officer Matthew Carlson's brother. Andrew was married to Chauna Carlson, and their daughter was Kelcee Carlson. Deputy Borden reported Andrew grabbed Kelcee by the neck and pushed her against the wall. Chief McCormick had received a call from Justin McKenzie reporting the incident. Justin was upset and wanted to go to the scene to confront Andrew. It should be noted, I did not now any further information as to who Justin was and what his ties to the Carlson family is/was.

Deputy Borden disclosed having a close personal relationship with the Carlson's and did not feel comfortable investigating the matter, so he had called Deputy Chavez to assist. I directed Deputy Borden to respond to the scene, ensure the parties were safe/separated, and hold the scene. I requested Deputy Chavez travel to the location.

I spoke with Adams County Sheriff Wagner and shared information regarding the incident. It was decided I would respond to the scene and secure it while an outside agency (later determined to be Grant County Sheriff's Office) investigated the incident. Justin McKenzie may have found out about the incident by Chauna via phone call or text. Ritzville Police Officer Carlson may have also learned about the incident via phone call and/or text from Chauna and/or Andrew. Ritzville Police Officer Matthew Carlson had possibly responded to the scene, then had Andrew, his brother, go to Officer Matthew Carlson's house. Ritzville Police Officer Matthew Carlson did not report the incident. Ritzville Police Chief McCormick had to reach out to Ritzville Police Officer Carlson to learn more about the incident.

Narrative section of Sergeant Garcia's report continued:

I believed Ritzville Police Officer Matthew Carlson should have reported the incident as he is a mandated reporter per RCW 74.34.020(13) " "Mandated reporter" is an employee of the department; law enforcement officer; social worker; professional school personnel; individual provider; an employee of a facility; an operator of a facility; an employee of a social service, welfare, mental health, adult day health, adult day care, home health, home care, or hospice agency; county coroner or medical examiner; Christian Science practitioner; or health care provider subject to chapter 18.130 RCW."

Additionally, I believed Ritzville Police Officer Carlson was aiding in the delay or hindering the investigation by having his brother, Andrew, in his residence, and having failed to report the incident to our dispatch center and/or his chain of command.

At approximately 1419 hours, I arrived on scene and activated my BWC. When I arrived on scene, Deputy Chavez was speaking to a female in front of the residence. The female was standing on the steps between Deputy Chavez and the front door. I let the female know I was recording. The female said there were children inside of the residence.

I asked Deputy Chavez "que tienes?" (What do you have? (In Spanish)). Deputy Chavez replied, "no e preguntado nada de eso" (I have not asked anything about that (in Spanish)). I asked the female if it was just her two children inside, she nodded her head in an up and down motion, indicating "yes". She also confirmed Deputy Chavez had gone inside to ensure there was no one else.

I asked her to have them step out of the house. She advised the children did not want to speak with us. I told her we needed to secure the residence and let her know another agency was going to take over the investigation. The female appeared to get upset and asked something similar to "what investigation?".

I let her know there was an investigation to a possible domestic violence incident. The female claimed there was a "family argument". I again let her know we needed to have them exit the residence because we needed to secure it, as someone else was going to investigate the incident. The female walked inside and asked her children to get out. She asked if anyone else was going to go inside, I replied it would not be searched with consent, but it would be with a search warrant. I asked the female for her name. She identified herself as Chauna.

It should be noted, I decided to clear the residence for Grant County, pending a possible search warrant as Kelcee was reported to have been grabbed by the neck and pushed up against a wall. I did not know if there were signs of a struggle inside of the residence, and/or damage to drywall as it is common for drywall to break when items, persons, are thrown up against it.

Chauna walked back into the residence as I had already exited. I looked at the steps and saw a cell phone on top of a tumbler. A juvenile who had exited the residence was outside with me. I asked the juvenile if that was Chauna's phone (as I pointed at the phone), he said it was. From the initial information I received from Adams County Sheriff Wagner, I believed the phone could have evidence inside of it in regard to the Domestic Violence incident being investigated. The cell phone was in open view; I took the cell phone as evidence.

Narrative section of Sergeant Garcia's investigative report continued:

Chauna exited the residence and confronted me regarding the cell phone. I explained I was taking her phone due to it being possible evidence. Chauna asked if I had a search warrant to take her phone, I let her know I did not need one. Chauna told the juvenile to call the "Sheriffs". I believed she meant to call the Sheriff's Office. I let her know I was with the Sheriff's Office. I placed the cell phone into airplane mode. Chauna was not allowed to enter the residence by herself to ensure no tampering occurred inside of the residence.

Chauna exited the residence and asked for her cell phone back until I had a search warrant to take her phone. I again told her I did not need a search warrant, and told her she was not getting it back (meaning at that moment). I asked for keys to the residence and Chauna claimed to not have any. I asked her if the residence was going to be locked, she replied similar to, "I have to come back and get my dogs". The two juveniles had exited the residence and I remained outside. I spoke to the juveniles, about sports they played and what school they went to. I did not ask them anything related to the incident.

Chauna exited the residence and asked to know what was going on. I again explained there was an investigation happening for a possible domestic violence incident which may have occurred. We (Adams County Sheriff's Office) were called in to assist as the incident involved a family member of hers (Ritzville Police Officer Matthew Carlson) who was on duty in the city of Ritzville, who could not investigate do to the conflict of interest. I also let her know Grant County Sheriff's Office was going to handle the investigation so there would not be a conflict of interest on the Adams County Sheriff's Office either.

Chauna asked if we could call her when the other agency showed up to the scene. I asked for a key so we would not have to force entry into the residence. Chauna left the location and said she would return.

I spoke with Deputy Chavez and let him know the suspect was possibly in Ritzville Police Officer Carlson's residence.

I requested the victim's contact information via email from Adams County Deputy Borden. At approximately 1430 hours, I received an email showing Kelcee M. Carlson as the victim. The email had 509-280-4767 as her phone number.

I called Kelcee and let her know I was recording. Kelcee was in East Wenatchee. I arranged for her to be contacted by an East Wenatchee Police Officer. I contacted RIVERCOMM (Dispatch center for East Wenatchee Police Department) and was requesting assistance in contacting Kelcee. As I was on the phone with RIVERCOMM, Chauna arrived on scene and attempted to go into the residence. I had to run onto the driveway to get close to Chauna as I was telling her she could not go back into the residence.

Chauna argued I needed a search warrant and claimed to not know what was going on. I again told her she could not go back in. Chauna said she wanted to make things wonderful, but things were "not that way" at the moment. I asked her to step away. Chauna complied and said she would call her attorney. I again told Chauna she was being recorded.

I spoke with Chauna and reminded her she claimed a family argument occurred. She said something similar to "that's all it was/happened". Chauna went back to her vehicle and I re-contacted RIVERCOMM and completed the request for an Agency Assist.

Narrative section of Sergeant Garcia's investigative report continued:

I remained on scene in my patrol car as scene security to ensure no one entered the residence. During the incident, I attempted phone contact with Ritzville Police Chief McCormick multiple times without success. I spoke with Grant County Sheriff's Detective Sergeant Mansford and provided information I had learned. I also spoke with Grant County Sheriff's Detective Fisher and also shared information. I advised the house was secured incase he was going to respond to the scene for a search warrant, and advised I had Chauna's cell phone. I also had phone contact with an East Wenatchee Police Officer regarding an interview with Kelcee. Lastly, I had update phone calls with Adams County Sheriff Wagner.

I recontacted Chauna in her vehicle and got information from her at the request of Grant County Sheriff's Detective Fisher. Chauna provided the cell phone number to the phone I had as evidence. She also provided the phone number to her son's cell phone which she currently had in her vehicle. I provided that information to Grant County Sheriff's Detective Fisher so he could do an interview over the phone.

I received a phone call from Grant County Sheriff's Detective Fisher. He let me know he was going to travel to Wenatchee to get an interview with Kelcee at the hospital. At the time, he had not spoken with Justin regarding phone call/text information. Grant County Sheriff's Detective Fisher advised at the time he did not need the cell phone. I elected to retain the cell phone as evidence until he could investigate further. I cleared the scene at approximately 1651 hours. I returned to the Othello substation and logged the cell phone into evidence, inside of a faraday bag. While at the office, I received notification from dispatch that Chauna called in, reporting her cell phone as stolen. I let dispatch know the cell phone was not stolen, however, it was in evidence, pending a possible search warrant. I later received a phone call from Adams County Sheriff Wagner, requesting the cell phone be released. I made arrangements with Adams County Sheriff's Corporal Barnes to get the cell phone returned to Chauna. This concluded my involvement with this investigation.

Grant County Sheriff's Office report:

Narrative section of Detective Fisher's investigative report:

On 10/02/2022, SGT Mansford with the Grant County Sheriff's Office (GCSO) contacted me while off duty and asked for me to investigate a reported assault for the Adams County Sheriff's Office (ACSO). SGT Mansford stated the ACSO had a possible conflict of interest and did not want to proceed with the investigation. SGT Mansford provided the following information and stated I could choose how to proceed with the investigation.

- Victim was Kelcee Carlson and was no longer on scene of the incident. Kelcee had left after the assault and went to her residence in East Wenatchee.
- Possible witness was Kelcee's mother (Shawna Calson) and wife to the suspect Andrew Carlson.
- Ritzville responding Officer was Mathew Carlson (Brother to Andrew). It is not known what Mathew was told about the assault, He responded and then contacted ACSO to assist with his family's incident.
- ACSO SGT Garcia was on scene and waiting for direction from GCSO.
- ACSO asked GCSO to investigate the incident due to Mathew currently running for the position of Sheriff in Adams County and this directly involving his family.

Narrative section of Detective Fisher's investigate report continued:

After collecting the information, I called Kelcee who had already made it back to East Wenatchee and was speaking to Officer Conel with the East Wenatchee Police Department. Kelcee provided the phone to Officer Conel who provided the following information.

- Kelcee reported being grabbed by the neck by her father Andrew.
- Officer Conel did not see any marks on Kelcee however she complained of continues discomfort and pain. Kelcee was going to go to Confluence Health to be evaluated by a doctor. (NOTE: Medical release was obtained for that visit).
- Officer Conel took pictures of Kelcee's neck for documentation.
- Officer Conel was told that I would be investigating the possible assault and he provided a case number of 22E05839. Officer Conel stated the body camera footage and photos would be attached to his reference case number.
- After speaking with Officer Conel, he gave the phone back to Kelcee and she was advised to contact me after her visit to the doctor. Kelcee understood and hung up.

Following my conversation with Kelcee, I called Shawna/mom/wife. Below is a summary of my conversation with Shawna. (NOTE: The conversation was recorded with my body worn camera and is placed in evidence.com).

- Shawna stated she was folding laundry while Kelcee and her brother Hagen were rough housing.
- Hagen accidently ripped Kelcee's sweatshirt and Kelcee started yelling at Hagen.
- Shawna did not pay any attention and continued folding laundry.
- The arguing continued and Andrew stepped in and was angry.
- Shawna did not remember seeing anything that happened and only remembers telling Andrew to leave.
- Shawna does not remember any specific words or actions between Kelcee and Andrew.
- Shawna did state she called Mathew to come and get his brother.
- At some point after the incident, Justin, Shawna's brother called her and was yelling about Andrew hurting Kelcee. Shawna stated she hung up on Justin because he was yelling.
- Shawna did provide Justin's number before hanging up.

During my conversation with Shawna, it was obvious she did not want to be involved with the incident between her husband and daughter.

Justinn McKenzie (Shawna Brother) was contacted next and ask to provide the information Kelcee had shared with him. Below is a summary of the call with Justin. (NOTE: The call was recorded on my body worn camera and is logged into evidence.com).

- Justin stated he was Shawna's brother and uncle to Kelcee.
- Kelcee called him upset and stated Andrew had grabbed her by the throat.
- Justin stated Kelcee was upset and that is why she called.

Narrative section of Detective Fisher's investigative report continued:

- Kelcee sent Justin pictures of her neck.
- I asked Justin if the pictures showed anything different than how Kelcee usually looks.
- Justin said there was some slight redness on Kelcee's jaw that is not usually there. Justin did not know if that was from her being upset or from an injury.
- Justin said the conversation did not last long and then he called Shawna which was very brief.
- Justin said that after he calmed down, he did not think Andrew was trying to hurt Kelcee and more than likely just trying to separate the two.
- Justin advised he could be contacted if I had more questions, and we finished the call.

After the multiple phone conversation, I contacted SGT Garcia to fill him in. SGT Garcia asked if I was going to be responding, advised the residence had been secured, and Shawna's cell phone temporarily seized. I told SGT Garcia that there were no statements made to suggest a crime scene was needing process inside the residence and no comments were made to justify seizing Shawna's cell phone for the criminal investigation. SGT Garcia asked if there was probable cause for an arrest at this point and wanted to know if I needed assistance. I told SGT Garcia the 4-hour mandated arrest for domestic violence had passed and the investigation was still ongoing. A formal interview with Kelcee had not been conducted yet and she was currently at an appointment. SGT Garcia understood, and we hung up.

A few hours later, Kelcee contacted me, and an interview was set up for the next day at 0700 hours. On 10/03/2022, I met with Kelcee in East Wenatchee at 703 11th ST NE. Kelcee sat in the passenger seat of my patrol vehicle and the interview was audio and video recorded. Below is a summary of the interview I had with Kelcee. (NOTE: The full interview was later uploaded to evidence.com).

- On 10/02/2022, Kelcee was at her parent's residence 307 4th ST in Ritzville WA.
- Shawna is Kelcee's mother and Andrew is Kelcee's stepfather even though she refers to Andrew as dad.
- Kelcee stated she was wrestling with her brother Hagen off and on most of the day.
- Hagen accidentally ripped Kelcee's sweatshirt more than it had already been torn.
- Kelcee and Hagen continued to wrestle even though it became a little more aggressive after the shirt ripped.
- While arguing and wrestling in the laundry room, Andrew came in and grabbed Kelcee around the shoulders from behind.
- Kelcee stated this did not hurt, and when asked if she thought Andrew was separating her and Hagen she said probably.
- Kelcee tried to get away from Andrew and when she finally did, Andrew pushed her by the upper shoulders back into the wall.
- The back of Kelcee's head hit the wall and she stated it hurt.
- Andrew then grabbed Kelcee by the throat, high just under the jaw and would not let go even though Kelcee was trying to get him to stop.
- Kelcee stated she could breathe when Andrew grabbed her by the neck, but she could not speak.

Narrative section of Detective Fisher's investigative report continued:

- Kelcee stated it hurt when Andrew was grabbing her neck and she cried.
- Kelcee said the only reason Andrew stopped was because Shawna intervened.
- Kelcee advised Andrew had her by the throat for approximately 10 seconds before Shawna stopped him.
- Kelcee said she stayed in the laundry room after the assault and Andrew went into their downstairs living area.
- Kelcee collected herself and went out of the laundry room to gather her belonging before leaving.
- The arguing between Kelcee and Andrew continued to the point Shawna told Andrew to leave.
- Kelcee grabbed her things and then left the residence.
- I asked Kelcee if she would be willing to pursue charging against Andrew and she was hesitant. Kelcee wants to do the right thing, but fears Andrew would take it out on her siblings.

After the interview, I collected the medical release waiver from Kelcee and took additional photographs of her neck. Kelcee stated her neck was still sore and hurts. (NOTE: The photos were later logged into evidence .com).

After speaking with Kelcee, I contacted Andrew by phone and asked if he would be willing to provide a statement as to what happened. Andrew was hesitant and was not sure if meeting with me was a good idea. I asked Andrew to think about it and to call me back by the end of shift if he was willing to talk. Andrew never contacted me, and no formal interview was conducted. On 10/04/2022, I called Shawna and left a message asking if she would meet with me for an additional interview. Shawna never called back, and no follow up interview was conducted.

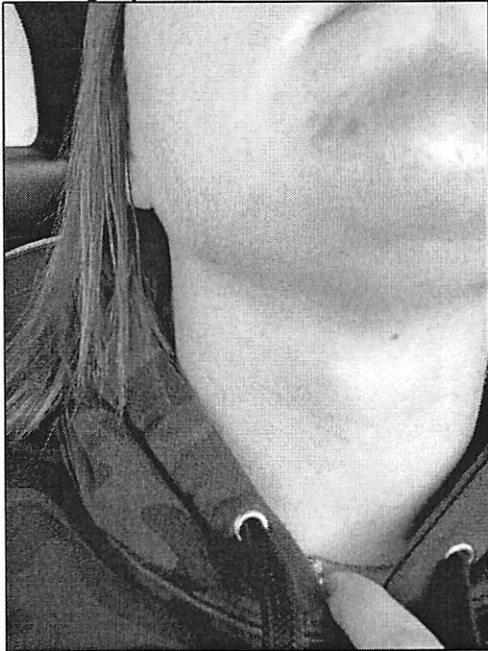
(NOTE: The decision was made not to interview 12-year-old Hagen due to his age and not putting him in a position to have to testify against his father).

END REPORT

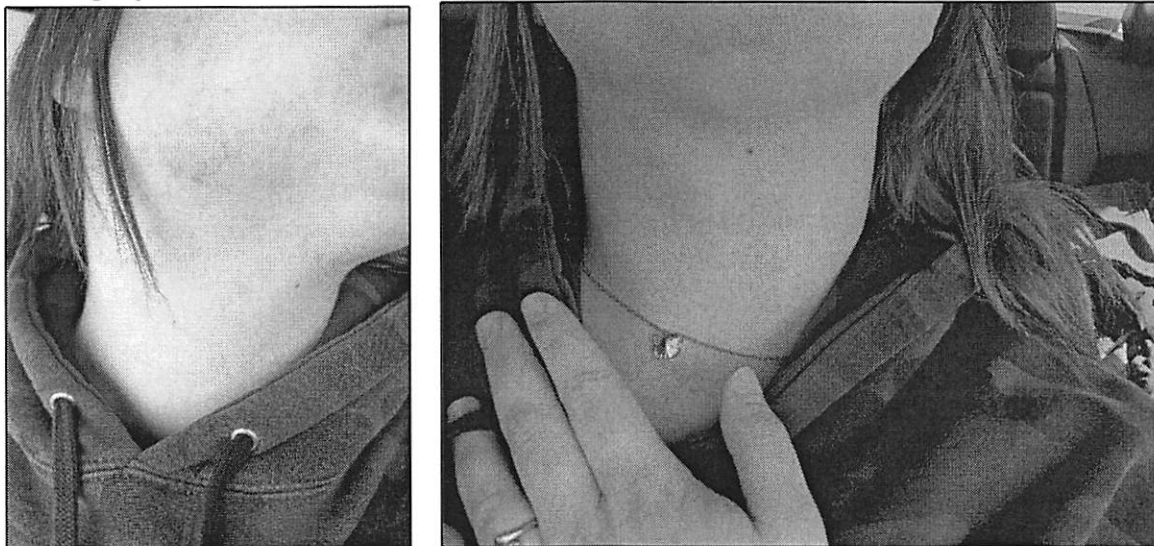
Body camera footage provided by Adams County Sheriff's Office:

The two law enforcement officers who responded to the incident were identified as Deputy Chavez and Sergeant Garcia from the Adams County Sheriff's Office. Footage from body cameras worn by Deputy Chavez and Sergeant Garcia were obtained and reviewed. Nothing was noted from the footage that revealed what information Chauna provided to Matthew when she contacted him about giving Andrew a key to his house. During a conversation between Deputy Chavez and Chauna, Chauna made a remark about receiving a call from someone's brother, but no specific information was provided about the phone call. It should be noted that personnel from the Grant County Sheriff's Office did not respond to the residence.

Photographs of marks on Kelcee Carlson's neck, provided by Kelcee Carlson:



Photographs of marks on Kelcee Carlson's neck, provided by Kelcee Carlson:



Kelcee Carlson, Andrew and Chauna Carlson's Daughter:

Kelcee was identified as the victim associated with the alleged assault. She told me that the incident was related to a disagreement with her brother about selling a dog kennel. She said she was wrestling with her brother when her father stepped in between them. She told me that at that time, she was only "playing" with her brother and "it was no big deal." She said after the altercation occurred with her father, her mother told her and her father that she was going to call the police. She told me that her mother texted Matthew, but she did not see the text message. She said her father went upstairs. She told me that Matthew was in uniform when he showed up and he went upstairs where her father was. She said Matthew did not ask her any questions or talk to her, and it did not seem like he was interested in what happened between her and her father. She told me that her roommate agreed to pick her up so they could go back to the Wenatchee area, and she (Kelcee) started to gather her belongings. She said she went upstairs and saw Matthew talking to her father. She told me that her father yelled at her and she yelled at him. She said she did not recall their exact words, but she was adamant that she made it clear there had been an altercation with her father. She told me that Matthew just stood there and did not say or do anything. She said Matthew was only there for about five minutes before she left, and no other law enforcement officers arrived while she was at the residence.

Kelcee told me that her roommate noticed the marks on her neck and took photographs of her neck. She agreed to provide me with copies of the photographs. I asked her if Matthew was close enough to see the marks on her neck. She said he did not examine her, and he was approximately five feet away from her when she went upstairs. She told me that she did not know what Matthew discussed with her parents. She said she called Justin McKenzie after she left Ritzville that day. She told me that Matthew called her after she left and said he just wanted her to know that another law enforcement agency was going to complete the investigation associated with the incident involving her father

because he was not able to do so. She said her mother also tried to Facetime her after she left, but she did not answer the call.

Justin McKenzie, Chauna Carlson's Brother:

Mr. McKenzie was identified as the individual who called Chief McCormick after Kelcee notified him about the alleged incident. Mr. McKenzie is also Chauna's brother. He confirmed that he called Chief McCormick after Kelcee called him and told him about the alleged assault, as noted in the police reports. He said he became angry and initially intended on going to the residence to confront Andrew. He told me that he called Chief McCormick so that he (Chief McCormick) could also respond to prevent Mr. McKenzie from getting into a physical altercation with Andrew. He said on his way to the Carlsons' residence, he picked up one of his friends, identified as Dave Breazeale, to have a witness with him. He said he decided not to contact Andrew at the residence, but he did call him on the phone. Mr. McKenzie did not provide specific details associated with their conversation, but he told me that based on what he "pieced together," it is his understanding that Matthew provided Andrew with a key to his house so that he (Andrew) could go there instead of remaining at the residence where the alleged assault occurred. He told me that he did not know this for a fact or if Andrew went to Matthew's house. He also said he did not call Chauna that day.

Mr. McKenzie told me that he did not have any additional information concerning Matthew's involvement in the scenario. He said Andrew and Chauna's family has always been the type of family that fights or picks at each other, but not to the extent of what allegedly happened that day. He told me that he has not had any prior concerns about Matthew interfering with any events like this and he has never questioned how Matthew performs his job as a police officer. He said Matthew is the type of police officer that has always "been in the right."

Dave Breazeale, Justin McKenzie's friend:

Mr. Breazeale told me that he received a text message from Mr. McKenzie the day of the alleged assault, asking if he was home. He said Mr. McKenzie then showed up at his house and asked him to get in his truck. He told me that Mr. McKenzie said Andrew choked Kelcee, and Matthew apparently gave Chauna a key to his house because she kicked Andrew out. He said he agreed to go with Mr. McKenzie and left with him. He told me that Mr. McKenzie called Andrew and talked to him briefly. He said the only thing he knew about the phone conversation was that Andrew denied the allegation that he assaulted Kelcee.

Mr. Breazeale told me that he explained to Mr. McKenzie how it was not a good idea to confront Andrew after Mr. McKenzie made a comment about "kicking his ass." He said Mr. McKenzie also made a remark about how this type of a scenario has occurred in the past. He told me that they did pull up to the residence, but they never got out or saw anyone. He said Mr. McKenzie gave him a ride back to his house and he did not know where Mr. McKenzie went after that. He told me that on the way to the Carlson's residence, he did see Matthew in his patrol vehicle parked alongside a deputy at one of the intersections in town.

Ronie Jo Bolin, Andrew and Chauna Carlson's Neighbor:

Ms. Bolin confirmed that she lives around the corner from Andrew and Chauna. She said she did not witness anything associated with the incident, but she noticed that a deputy's vehicle was parked at the residence for several hours. She told me that she did not speak to anyone about whatever happened and was not sure why I would think that she had any information.

Jon Erickson, Matthew Carlson's Friend:

Mr. Erickson was identified as an individual who Matthew called the day of the alleged assault. He confirmed that he supported Matthew as a candidate for sheriff. He was also identified as a city council member for the City of Othello. He said Matthew called him on the day of the incident to ask for advice from a political perspective. He told me that it was his understanding Chauna called Matthew and asked for a key to his house because there had been an argument involving Andrew. He said Matthew told him that this type of a scenario had occurred in the past and Andrew needed a place to cool down that day. He told me that he believed Matthew did drop a key off for Andrew. He said he did not know the details associated with the argument or the alleged assault, but Matthew told him that Andrew and Chauna's children were involved. He told me that he was not sure how or when Matthew found out what allegedly happened, but he assumed that Matthew knew about the details because he (Matthew) was working that day.

Mr. Erickson said he received a phone call from Sheriff Wagner about concerns associated with Matthew's involvement. He told me that the sheriff expressed concerns about Matthew attempting to allegedly cover up what he did. He said he felt like the sheriff was trying to use the scenario to "pin" Matthew down and target his family. He told me that Sheriff Wagner would do anything to win the election. He said he believed the situation was made out to be more serious than it actually was due to the election.

Matthew Carlson, Ritzville Police Officer:

City Council members Debbie Chapman and Dennis Chamberlain were present during my interview with Matthew. Matthew requested that the Garrity Warning be read to him before the interview. The Garrity Warning was read out loud in the presence of Ms. Chapman and Mr. Chamberlain.

Matthew told me that Kelcee is Andrew's stepdaughter, but he has raised her since she was three years old. He said Kelcee's biological father committed suicide three or four years ago, and since that time, she has exhibited personality disorders to include narcissistic behavior. He told me that Kelcee always wants to be the victim. He said she dropped out of college and whenever she visits her family in Ritzville, she destroys everything they have going on. He told me that she has been acting this way for about two years. He said she pushes everyone's buttons to the point where they become frustrated, and then she just leaves. He told me that she has become an alcoholic and she uses "dab" marijuana on a regular basis. He said based on everything he knows about Kelcee, he knew Chauna's text message regarding how Andrew needed a place to cool off meant that Kelcee was at the house. He told me that his intent that day was to give Andrew a key to his house so that he (Andrew) could get away from Kelcee, which is something that he would do for anyone in his family.

Matthew said he went to Andrew's house, gave him a key, and told him that he could meet him at his house if there were any issues with his dogs. He told me that Kelcee yelled at Andrew, but he (Matthew) did not pay attention to what she said. He said he "truly" ignores everything she says because of what she has done to her family. He told me that nothing was said to him about an allegation of assault or that Kelcee was even at the house when he got there. He said he could tell Andrew was upset and guessed that Kelcee was there. He told me that at that time, he believed the scenario only involved Kelcee getting everyone upset like she normally does when she comes to Ritzville. He said he only received a text message from Chauna and not Andrew.

Matthew told me that Kelcee was downstairs when he arrived at the house. He said she came upstairs when she yelled at Andrew. He told me that the only thing he recalled Kelcee saying was that Andrew was a horrible father. He said she did not acknowledge that he (Matthew) was even there. He told me that he did not see any signs of an assault and did not see any marks on Kelcee's neck. He said she walked out of the room after she yelled at Andrew and that she also acts this way all of the time. He told me that he believes Kelcee left the house before Andrew did. He said he did not give Andrew a ride to his house.

Matthew told me that Chief McCormick called him after he left the house. He pointed out that ever since he started his campaign in May to run for sheriff, he has been written up several times and has even been added to the Brady list. He said he believes that "they" have been looking for things to "get" him on since he started his campaign. He told me that the Chief was very "cheerful" when he called him, and this was unusual. He said the Chief asked him if anything was going on and he told him, "No," because like he previously mentioned, he only gave Andrew a key to his house. He told me the Chief said that was not what he heard, in a cheerful voice. He said he told Chief McCormick that he had no knowledge of what was reported to him (Chief McCormick) and that if he had known something was going on, he (Matthew) would have contacted the Chief.

Matthew told me that the deputy who was working the Ritzville area (Deputy Borden) was a family friend, so two deputies from the Othello area responded. He said he talked to Deputy Borden and told him that everyone was separated at the residence, Andrew was going to his (Matthew's) house, and he was not sure where Kelcee was at. He told me that he also called Kelcee to let her know an officer would be calling her.

Matthew said he was pretty sure he did not keep the text message from Chauna. I provided my contact information to him and explained that having a copy of the text message would be helpful to verify what she told him. I did not receive any additional information from Matthew concerning the text message. He told me that the Sheriff's Office did not contact him or ask him more about what he observed or did that day. He said since that day, it has been the longest period of time Kelcee has not been to her parents' house, and it's probably been "the best that they have ever been."

Matthew told me that he called Jon Erickson to ask him for advice. He said Mr. Erickson told him to stay away from the investigation. He told me that he also contacted an attorney. He questioned how I knew that he called Mr. Erickson and said he assumed

Mr. Erickson may have said something to the sheriff about their conversation. He told me that there were other people from Othello who also supported him, so he was curious why I did not talk to them as well.

Matthew said Andrew has been frustrated with Kelcee in the past. He told me that he (Matthew) has also been frustrated with her, to include a time when she was involved in a "DUI" collision. He said she acted like she was the victim and claimed that the "cops were wrong." He told me that when she is around, it is not good for the family, and that was why he did not think anything of the situation when Chauna texted him. He said he went to the house that day as a family member. He told me that he also let Chauna know that he was going to tell me everything about the family dynamics associated with Kelcee.

Matthew expressed concerns about how the investigation may have been initiated for political reasons or to "damage" him because he "took the stand to exercise his freedom" to run for an elected office. He said all of the questions could have been answered during the phone call with Chief McCormick.

E. Conclusion.

The preponderance of evidence did not substantiate this allegation. The investigation did not reveal any evidence to prove that Matthew Carlson was advised of or was aware of the alleged assault until after he left his brother's house. No evidence was located to suggest Matthew Carlson attempted to interfere with the criminal investigation or assist his brother with evading law enforcement personnel who responded to the residence. It should be noted that attempts were made to collect information from Andrew and Chauna Carlson through Andrew's attorney, but no information was received.

The above is a summary of the information I gathered during the course of my investigation. This document has been assembled as Attorney Work Product.

Respectfully,



Scott A. Neustel
Investigator