

S P O K A N E C O U N T Y



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FROM: Larry Haskell, Spokane County Prosecuting Attorney  
DATE: April 4, 2019  
RE: Spokesman article regarding Talifero Williams

The Prosecutor’s Office is statutorily and ethically bound to file charges based on a determination as to the admissibility of evidence and the standards for prosecution set forth in RCW 9.94A.411.

As is often the case, the media frequently summarizes and sensationalizes alleged facts with no concern as to the process of review and admissibility of the information. This is a luxury our office does not have, especially in criminal matters that carry the highest burden of proof under the law. We are required to make our decision without passion nor prejudice.

Four separate senior deputy prosecutors reviewed the case in mid-2016 and early 2017. The children were 15 months, 3 years, and 4 years old at the time the injuries were discovered. At the time of review, each deputy prosecutor had concerns about the capacity of the children to testify in court given their ages at the time. Based on their review, all 4 prosecutors agreed that the testimony of at least one of the children would be needed at a trial. With child witnesses, capacity and their vulnerability to suggestion are always a concern.

At no time has this office ever refused to consider filing charges in this case. As a result of the civil suit that has been filed against CPS, information has been brought to our attention that warrants further review. Our office has been contacted by the civil attorney in this matter and we expect to receive additional information. We will provide an update when our review is complete.

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