

STATE OF INDIANA	)	IN THE ST. JOSEPH SUPERIOR COUR
	)SS:	
COUNTY OF ST. JOSEPH	)	CAUSE NUMBER. 71
	)	
STATE OF INDIANA	)	
	)	
VS	)	SUPPLEMENTAL AFFIDAVIT IN
	)	SUPPORT OF PROBABLE CAUSE
RICO BUTLER	)	
DOB: [REDACTED]	)	

Lieutenant Jon Yoder affirms under the penalty for perjury and states:

I am a Detective with the Mishawaka Police Department, assigned to the Special Victims Unit of St. Joseph County. I have been an Officer for the Mishawka Police Department since October of 2013. I have been an investigator with the Special Victims Unit since June of 2019, in which I investigate crimes against children and sexual assaults. I make this affidavit based upon my personal knowledge, conversations with other Law Enforcement Officers, my review of verified police reports and conversations with persons having knowledge of relevant facts.

On or about February 29, 2024, the Department of Child Services received an anonymous report alleging sexual abuse. The report indicated that South Bend Police Officer RICO BUTLER (BUTLER) had engaged in an ongoing sexual relationship with seventeen (17) year old VICTIM 1. The report indicated that it was unknown how long-ago BUTLER and VICTIM 1 started having sex, but that the last known time that the two had sex was a couple of weeks prior. The report source indicated that BUTLER was regularly at VICTIM 1's school. The report source also indicated that a friend of VICTIM 1 had screen shots of Snapchat messages between VICTIM 1 and BUTLER.

On March 1, 2024, Detective Emily Eades with the St. Joseph County Police Department, also assigned to the Special Victims Unit of St. Joseph County, interviewed VICTIM 1. VICTIM 1 stated that she is seventeen (17) years old and attends a school in Mishawaka, Indiana.

VICTIM 1 stated that she knows BUTLER as he is a police officer who works at her school and also coaches the boys basketball team, referring to him as a resource officer. She indicated that BUTLER was like a mentor to her, and BUTLER would regularly check in on her while at school. BUTLER and VICTIM 1 would communicate via Snapchat. VICTIM 1 stated that the boys on the basketball team had BUTLER on Snapchat and that she added BUTLER on the “app”. According to VICTIM 1, the two had a “somewhat regular” communication on Snapchat.

When asked if the two had any sexual relationship, VICTIM 1 was reluctant to say. However, she ultimately stated that BUTLER “touched” her once in December of 2023. She stated that BUTLER had given VICTIM 1 a ride home after basketball practice. Once at VICTIM 1’s home in Mishawaka, BUTLER inserted two fingers into VICTIM 1’s vagina. VICTIM 1 stated that she told BUTLER that she thought he was cute and had asked BUTLER to do so.

VICTIM 1 stated that she later disclosed this information to her friend, WITNESS 1.

Officers then located WITNESS 1. WITNESS 1 was then interviewed by Detective Eades. WITNESS 1 stated that VICTIM 1 had instructed her to lie to officers and tell them “nothing”. WITNESS 1 said she is friends with VICTIM 1 and that they attend school together. She identified BUTLER as an officer that works at their school as well as the boys’ basketball coach. The first time WITNESS 1 became aware of a “relationship” between BUTLER and VICTIM 1 was in September of 2023. At the time, VICTIM 1 was seventeen (17) year old. WITNESS 1 stated that VICTIM 1 had disclosed that BUTLER had been telling VICTIM 1 that she had a “glow up” and that VICTIM 1 was pretty. VICTIM 1 told WITNESS 1 in September that VICTIM 1 wanted to do “stuff” (sexual) with BUTLER.

VICTIM 1 disclosed to WITNESS 1 that she and BUTLER had had sexual intercourse for the first time in September of 2023. VICTIM 1 disclosed that the first sexual encounter occurred at the school in one of the classrooms. WITNESS 1 recalled that VICTIM 1 had disclosed that BUTLER had ejaculated in her vagina and that BUTLER then purchased “Plan B” (birth control) for VICTIM 1. WITNESS 1 stated that she felt that VICTIM 1 and BUTLER were “catching feelings” for each other. WITNESS 1 stated that VICTIM 1 told her about eight (8) different occasions that VICTIM 1 and BUTLER had sex conduct between them.

WITNESS 1 provided screenshots of Snapchat messages that were exchanged between BUTLER and VICTIM 1. WITNESS 1 stated that she received these screenshots from VICTIM 1. One exchange read in part:

VICTIM 1: “I can’t wait to see u tho fr.”

BUTLER: “I love seeing you honestly. That’s the main reason I be at the school.”

VICTIM 1: “aww, I love seeing you too fr. You be looking so good yk”

Another exchange read in part:

BUTLER: “Not yet! Yo pussy got sooo wet”

VICTIM 1: “you right not yet cs yo dick is good, that’s the wettest I’ve proly ever got.”

There were other messages of this nature between BUTLER and VICTIM 1.

In addition to these messages, WITNESS 1 provided a video that was taken by VICTIM 1 where it can be seen that VICTIM 1 and BUTLER are in a vehicle. In the video two voices can be heard. WITNESS 1 identified VICTIM 1 and BUTLER as the voices in the video. In the video, BUTLER can be heard saying “I should have gone home to get my truck.” VICTIM 1 then responds saying, “no one will ever know I am in here.” BUTLER then says, “everyone knows my number.”

On March 1, 2024, I Detective Yoder, interviewed BUTLER. BUTLER stated that he is a South Bend Police Officer, and he works part time at the school that VICTIM 1 and WITNESS 1 attend. BUTLER stated at the beginning of each school year, at the request of the school principal, he went to the school in a full police uniform to introduce himself to all of the students. BUTLER stated he is employed at the school part time as more of a security officer. BUTLER advised that he does not have certification as a school resource officer but provided a presence for the school and all of the students know he is a police officer. BUTLER also stated that he is the coach for the school's basketball team.

When asked if he communicated with VICTIM 1, BUTLER stated that they communicate via Snapchat "app". BUTLER believed that VICTIM 1 saw that he was tagged by one of the basketball players at the school on Snapchat and then VICTIM 1 added BUTLER on Snapchat.

BUTLER was shown the video that was provided by WITNESS 1. When asked, BUTLER acknowledged that it was him and VICTIM 1 that could be heard on the video and that the two of them were in his police squad car. BUTLER then stated that he and VICTIM 1 never had sex in his squad car.

When asked if he had had sex with VICTIM 1, BUTLER responded that he had sex with VICTIM 1 on two to three separate occasions. Specifically, BUTLER stated that the sexual intercourse with VICTIM 1 first occurred three or four months ago and that at least one of the occasions occurred in November/December 2023 timeframe. BUTLER advised that he and VICTIM 1 would have sexual intercourse at VICTIM 1's home while VICTIM 1's mother was at work. In addition to sexual intercourse, BUTLER stated that he and VICTIM 1 performed oral sex two or three times; these occasions were separate from the times BUTLER and VICTIM 1

had sexual intercourse. BUTLER stated that he and VICTIM 1 had sex inside of VICTIM 1's home as well as inside of his personal truck while parked outside of VICTIM 1's home.

When asked how the relationship started, BUTLER advised that he did not know how it all started, but the last time BUTLER and VICTIM 1 had oral sex was approximately three weeks ago at VICTIM 1's home.

BUTLER is twenty-seven (27) years old.

All of the above events occurred in St. Joseph County, Indiana.

I affirm under the penalty for perjury that the foregoing representations are true.



Lieutenant Jon Yoder  
Special Victims Unit

**DETENTION CONSIDERATIONS**

The Defendant is a substantial flight risk or a danger to self, others or the community for the following reasons:

1. The Defendant is a law enforcement officer who held a position of trust with VICTIM 1 as both an officer and as a school employee.

WHEREFORE, the State requests that the Court detain the Defendant until the Court conducts a bail hearing in open court.

In light of the events, the State requests that as a condition of bond:

The defendant be ordered to have NO CONTACT with VICTIM 1.

I affirm under the penalty for perjury that the foregoing representations are true.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Anna Samland". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "A".

Anna Samland  
Deputy Prosecuting Attorney