

ASHLEY MOODY ATTORNEY GENERAL

June 4, 2020

The Honorable Richard L. Swearingen Commissioner Florida Department of Law Enforcement P.O. Box 1489 Tallahassee, FL 32302-1489

Re: Christopher J. Johnson, Broward County Sheriff's Office Offense Report 19-072587, Seventeenth Judicial Circuit Court Case No. 19012838CF10A

Dear Commissioner Swearingen:

Human trafficking is a scourge on society and fighting to end it in Florida has been one of my top priorities since taking office. In order to fight this atrocious crime, it is important that we not only catch the predators preying on our young and vulnerable, but that we hold accountable businesses and individuals legally required to report such misconduct who fail to do so. The reason I write you this letter is to address this latter point.

Recently, a criminal case was brought to my attention that was investigated by the Sunrise Police Department, Davie Police Department and the Broward County Sheriff's Office. Through their investigative efforts, those three agencies were able to capture a predator and secure the return of a juvenile who was being sexually exploited to her parents. The predator, Christopher Johnson, allegedly repeatedly sexually assaulted a juvenile victim and posted those horrific assaults to different pornographic websites. I have included the underlying offense report number and the ongoing criminal case number for your convenience.

Reviewing the reports in the Johnson matter, the juvenile victim was taken by Johnson to an abortion provider. According to those reports, detectives recovered documents related to an abortion provider during a search warrant conducted as part of their investigation and the victim made statements about Johnson's involvement in transporting her to the provider. Florida law

requires physicians, nurses, and health care professionals to report abuse and neglect of minors. Florida law also requires parental notice or judicial waiver of that notice for an abortion to be performed on a minor.

From the reports, it does not appear that detectives nor the Department of Children and Families received any report of abuse or neglect from the provider. From those same reports, it appears that the victim's family had no idea where the victim was or who she was with, was actively trying to find her, and otherwise acting in a manner inconsistent with a parent having notice of a pending abortion or a location where their daughter could be found. More troubling to me is the fact that it appears that a thirty-year-old unrelated male took a minor to the provider and no report of abuse or neglect was apparently triggered.

From the facts contained in the reports, it appears that further investigation would be warranted to ensure that the provider did not enable the further exploitation of the victim in this case. I would request that your agents conduct a further investigation into these facts and pursue those facts wherever they may lead.

Sincerely,

Ashley Moody
Attorney General