

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press Release: Charges Filed Against Teacher Johnnican in Case of O.D.

Indianapolis, Indiana – May 29, 2024 – Attorneys Catherine Michael of Connell Michael, LLP, and Tammy Meyer of Metzger Rosta, LLP, represent Corrie Horan, the mother of O.D., a 7-year-old child who was abused at IPS School 87 by his teacher. This abuse included allowing other students to attack and beat O.D., as well as instigating and videotaping these attacks in September and October of 2023. A DCS report substantiated the abuse in the fall of 2023. However, neither DCS nor the IPS School system reported the abuse to the police department or the Indiana Department of Education.

The criminal investigation of this matter only began in April of 2024, after attorneys Catherine Michael and Tammy Meyer filed an educational action against IPS Schools and released the video they had obtained to the media. On May 25, 2024, the family was grateful to see that criminal charges were finally filed against teacher Johnnican. However, the family was surprised and disappointed that the probable cause affidavit contained inaccurate information from a non-witness paralegal for IPS. Typically, probable cause affidavits include witness statements and evidentiary information, not statements from legal staff.

Catherine Michael of Connell Michael, LLP, expressed, "We are relieved that charges have been brought against Johnnican, this is a critical step in ensuring safety and accountability in our school systems. However, the misinformation provided by an IPS paralegal and placed into the probable cause affidavit is deeply troubling. It is unacceptable for IPS to distort facts, especially in a case involving child abuse. We will continue to seek justice and accountability from IPS."

Catherine Michael and Tammy Meyer report that, contrary to the incorrect and knowingly inaccurate statements made by the IPS non-witness paralegal, all documentation in this case illustrates that the parents of O.D. were very involved, had countless meetings with the teacher expressing their concerns regarding his classroom and the environment of IPS School 87, and reported concerns about abuse to IPS administrators a month before IPS reported anything to DCS. We can assume such information to the contrary, which flies directly in the face of all evidence and documentation in this case, is only being provided in an attempt by the school system to disparage the parents by a non-witness paralegal who provided the information to the Detective investigating the case.

Catherine Michael and Tammy Meyer further explain that IPS's statements which are contained in the probable cause affidavit contain inaccuracies, including the claim that Johnnican willingly provided the video to the family. The video was inadvertently shown to the parent, who immediately went to the school office demanding that the police be called and that Johnnican's phone be obtained. Neither Johnnican nor IPS willingly provided this video to the parents; it was only obtained by Attorneys Catherine Michael and Tammy Meyer from DCS after an action was filed against IPS.

Corrie Horan, the mother of O.D., stated, "I am thankful that charges have finally been filed, but deeply disappointed by the false information from IPS." She continued, "Our family has endured

enough without having to face lies and deceit from the very institution that should protect our children." Horan concluded, "We will continue to fight for justice for our child and ensure that no other family has to go through this."

Tammy Meyer of Metzger Rosta, LLP, commented, "Justice must prevail in cases of child abuse, and we are grateful that criminal charges were filed against Johnican." Meyer further noted, "The incorrect information provided by IPS is a disservice to the Horan family and to the pursuit of truth." She emphasized their stance, saying, "We will not allow IPS to evade responsibility through misinformation and lack of accountability."

For further information, or to arrange an interview, please contact:

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