



## *Florida Department of Law Enforcement*

### **OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE INVESTIGATIONS**

# ***Allegations of Sexual Abuse at the former Arthur G. Dozier School for Boys***

## **INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY**

### **INVESTIGATIVE PREDICATE**

In January 2015, Dr. Erin Kimmerle from the University of South Florida (USF) Department of Anthropology co-authored an updated summary of USF's research into the deaths and burials at the former Florida Industrial School for Boys (Dozier) in Marianna, Florida. Contained in the summary, which was addressed to members of the Florida Cabinet, were allegations regarding acts of sexual abuse which occurred at Dozier. Additionally, the summary contained information regarding the existence of a "rape room" or "rape dungeon" on Dozier property.

On March 30, 2015, Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE), Office of Executive Investigations (OEI) Inspectors met with Dr. Erin Kimmerle and attorneys Tom Masterson and Greg Hoag, who represented former Dozier students in a class action lawsuit against the state of Florida. Several of Tom Masterson's and Greg Hoag's clients alleged they were sexually abused by Dozier staff members while residing at Dozier. Tom Masterson and Greg Hoag agreed to have their clients provide statements to the FDLE regarding their allegations of sexual abuse.

### **INTERVIEWS OF ALLEGED VICTIMS**

OEI Inspectors obtained recorded statements from fifty alleged victims of sexual abuse. The fifty alleged victims provided statements regarding acts of sexual abuse by former Dozier staff members which included, but were not limited to, inappropriate touching, fondling, oral sex, and sodomy.

A combined total of twenty-three names and/or partial names of former Dozier staff members were identified by the alleged victims as the perpetrators of the sexual abuse. Some of the alleged victims were unable to recall the names of their abuser(s). Former Dozier staff members Maurice Crockett, Troy Tidwell, Dr. Wexler, and Robert Currie were named by several of the alleged victims as having sexually abused them. Multiple sources showed that Maurice Crockett and Troy Tidwell were both school supervisors. Dr. Wexler was the school physician, and Robert Currie was a school counselor. It should be noted that the OEI determined Robert Currie was dismissed from his position at Dozier as a result of inappropriate conduct.

Due to the lack of Dozier staff records and/or employment records, several of the alleged perpetrators of sexual abuse were unable to be identified. From the identified alleged perpetrators of sexual abuse, Troy Tidwell was the only Dozier staff member known to be alive.

Based on the statements provided by the alleged victims, the earliest incident of sexual abuse by a staff member occurred in 1949. However, the majority of the alleged victims reported incidents as having occurred in the early to mid-1960s. The most recent incident of sexual abuse was alleged to have occurred in 1971.

The statements collected by OEI indicated that the alleged incidents of sexual abuse occurred at various locations on Dozier property. Several of the alleged victims advised they were sexually abused in the "cottages" where they resided. Additionally, several alleged victims advised they were sexually abused in the "white house", a building where students were reportedly taken to be disciplined. From the statements provided to OEI, two alleged victims advised they were sexually abused in a "rape room." The OEI investigation was unable to locate any additional evidence to substantiate the existence of a "rape room" on Dozier property.

## INVESTIGATIVE FINDINGS

The allegations of sexual abuse were reviewed by FDLE Office of General Counsel (OGC), who determined that based on the time period (1949-1971) of the alleged offenses, and the fact that the alleged victims were males, the violations of Florida Statutes (F.S.) would fall under either:

**F.S. 794.05** -- Carnal intercourse with unmarried person under eighteen years, or

**F.S. 800.04** -- Lewd, lascivious or indecent assault or act upon or in the presence of a child

However, the OGC advised that because neither of the offenses was punishable by death, the statute of limitations to prosecute the aforementioned violations expired.

Former Dozier Staff member, Troy Tidwell, is the only alleged perpetrator known to be alive.

## STATE ATTORNEY REVIEW

On April 22, 2016, Second Judicial Circuit, State Attorney Glenn Hess was provided with this Executive Summary for review and any action deemed appropriate.