

IN THE DISTRICT COURT )  
OKLAHOMA COUNTY )  
STATE OF OKLAHOMA )

**AFFIDAVIT FOR SEARCH WARRANT**

***BEFORE THE UNDERSIGNED JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT***

I, Michael Belanger, a Deputy Sheriff with the Oklahoma County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) currently assigned to the OCSO Investigations Division, certified as a Peace Officer by the State of Oklahoma, being duly sworn, deposes and says that there is reason to believe that on the search location known as:

**20701 N. MacArthur, Edmond, Ok 73012, in Oklahoma County, referred to herein as the Search Location. The Search Location is the administration building of Deer Creek Schools. It is located in the southeast corner of the complex located to the north and east of the intersection, Covell Rd and MacArthur Blvd. On the East side of the building it the word "Administration" is displayed above two sets of doors. It is a brick building with an off-white trim. It is known as the administration building for the Deer Creek School District.**

**Included but not limited to: Laptop computers assigned to or maintained by Lenix DeRieux (Assistant Super Intendent), Scott Haselwood (Chief Information Officer) or other computers used by the Deer Creek Schools IT department to gather evidence pertaining to their Teacher, Sarah Hull-Degroat.**

There is now located certain property, to wit:

**Any and all evidence as it relates to 21 O.S. 1040.13 – Soliciting Sexual Conduct or Communication with a Minor by Use of Technology, that are within the search location, such as but not limited to: printed version of communication between [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], laptop computers being utilized by Lenix DeRieux, Scott Haselwood (Chief Information Officer) and/or the Deer Creek IT department. Such evidence may be in the form of a digital copy if said copy is performed in the presence of law enforcement.**

Which are subject to seizure under statutes 22-1222, 21 O.S. 1040.13 – Soliciting Sexual Conduct or Communication with a Minor by Use of Technology as evidence of a criminal violation and that probable cause of Affiant believing such facts exist as follows, to wit:

Your affiant, Investigator Michael Belanger, is a deputy with the Oklahoma County Sheriff's Office and has been since September of 2013. My current assignment is as an investigator in the Criminal Investigations Division of the Oklahoma County Sheriff's Office. I have been assigned as an investigator since June of 2015. Your affiant's case load consists of burglaries, white collar crimes and violent crimes. Your Affiant has

received training from the Council on Law Enforcement Education and Training (CLEET) basic police academy. Your affiant has been the lead investigator on over 200 criminal investigations and assisted on dozens of other investigations.

### **Probable Cause**

The facts in this affidavit come from my personal observations, my training and experience, and information obtained from other agents and witnesses. This affidavit is intended to merely show that there is sufficient probable cause for the requested warrant and does not set forth all of my knowledge about this matter.

On December 2, 2022, I was notified about an incident between a teacher at Deer Creek High School and a minor student (minor). I spoke with Lenis DeRieux, Assistant Superintendent, from Deer Creek Schools Administration. Lenis provided a briefing of what they learned regarding their teacher, Sarah Hull-Degroat and the minor student. Lenis stated Hull-Degroat sent a nude image to the minor student and there was a lot of text communication that was sexual in nature.

Investigator Lira and I went to the Deer Creek Administration building and met with Lenis, Bethany Lorenz (Assistant Principal) as well as staff from the IT department. It was explained to us that Hull-Degroat created a Google Docs online document she then shared with the minor student. Google Docs is an online word processor that can be shared with others. Changes made by participants occur in real time and are visible to those that have access to the document. Google Docs is accessible by smart phones as well as computers, with internet access.

Hull-Degroat invited to share this document with the school generated student email account of the minor student. Because the communication was shared this way, software utilized by the school was able to flag certain words relating to sex and thus alerted school officials.

Within this document there was conversation between Hull-Degroat and the minor student which was sexual in nature. Lenis DeRieux previously stated it appeared there may have been sexual contact between the minor student and Hull-Degroat. School officials also stated it appeared as though the two were planning on meeting on this day, December 2, 2022, before officials intervened. Additionally, Hull-Degroat added a picture of her in the online document so the minor student could see it. This is a picture of her with her breasts exposed. Investigators were given an opportunity to examine the evidence collected by Deer Creek IT department.

Lenis stated Deer Creek was not able to release the evidence to law enforcement without consent from the parents of the minor student. At the time of this writing your affiant has not been able to get consent.

Multiple times in the past Deer Creek Schools have stated they could not release evidence to us and have threatened to cancel the contract between OCSO and Deer Creek for

School Resource Officers if we obtained a search warrant. This evidence is paramount in protecting the known involved minor student as well as possibly other students.

After leaving Deer Creek we transported Hull-Degroat to the Oklahoma County Sheriff's Office (OCSO). At OCSO an interview was conducted with Hull-Degroat. It was recorded on an Axon Body Worn Camera (BWC) which was placed in a stationary position on a desk in the office. After being advised of her Miranda Rights she stated she wished to have an attorney present. The interview was concluded and she was advised she was under arrest and would be transported to the Oklahoma County Detention Center. Deputy Fleming arrived to transport Hull-Degroat to the jail. When they arrived at the jail Fleming was talking to her about the charge for which she was under arrest. Hull-Degroat mentioned to him that she was advised by a principal (at the school) and HR (Human Resources) to plead the fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) and ask for an attorney.

Your affiant did request Google Inc preserve all data associated with Hull-Degroat's email address and will serve a search warrant upon Google to see what was able to be preserved. Deer Creek IT stated as they went through the process of retaining evidence as they saved new versions of the document it would delete previous versions.

Evidence the school possesses and/or has access to is vital for successful prosecution and is known to be at the search location. It was verified by investigators when they were shown the evidence, prior to the arrest of Hull-Degroat. It is believed the most complete body of evidence is held within the laptop computers mentioned above. It is believed that the evidence is at least stored on Chief of Information Officer, Scott Haselwood, laptop computer used for day-to-day duties at the school. Your affiant asks the court order this search to collect needed evidence which protects the student body and society.

Delivery of evidence on a portable storage device may be acceptable. Due to the school withholding evidence in the past and making threats concerning contracts between OCSO and Deer Creek, if a copy of the evidence is the more appropriate means of delivery then said copy should be made in the presence of law enforcement.



**Deputy Michael Belanger**

**AFFIANT**

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 16<sup>th</sup> day of December 2022 at 2:55 a.m./p.m.



**JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT**