

11/17/2021

Volusia Sheriff's Office
Professional Standards Section
Internal Affairs Unit
123 W. Indiana Avenue
Deland, Florida 32720

In reference to: IA 21-013
Employee: Kristina Kent DID# 8493

First and foremost I, Kristina Kent, am the victim in this case with my father (Edward Kent) that occurred on October 2nd, 2021.

I started my career at the Sheriff's Office approximately seven years ago, working in the civil department as an Office Assistant. I was able to work my way to the latent print unit and became a Latent Print Examiner, which was my assignment immediately before becoming a deputy recruit. While in the academy I continued to get good grades, completed all practicals and did so with only receiving 2 deficiency forms.

On Saturday, 10/02/2021, I was about to enter my 19th week in the academy, when my father and I got into an argument. It all started at approximately noon, because I wanted to have a conversation with him to explain why I seemed down that day. I sat down at the kitchen table with him and started to explain about a friend of mine who committed suicide the day before. While talking, my father interrupted me and asked what I did to my pinky finger (which was black and blue). I responded by explaining I was trying to talk to him and explain what I was going through. I then told my father nevermind, got up from the table and walked to my bedroom where my son Ronan was. A little while later (approx. three hours) my son and I went out by the pool because he wanted to go swimming. While we were out there I was taking millipedes out of the water and asked my son to bring me the bucket I was putting them in and he replied it was gross. My dad came out of the porch area and called my son a "baby" in which I responded "Dad!" He then told me "fuck you" and flicked me off in front of Ronan who is an 8 year old child. Ronan and I stayed outside a little bit longer and then eventually went back inside. We went to my room and started watching TV. My father kept pacing back and forth in front of my bedroom door and eventually opened the door to my room. He entered my room, stood over me while I was laying down and began yelling at me. He was yelling about how I do not sit down and eat breakfast, lunch or dinner with him and how he sits alone at the table everyday. I tried to explain to him that I leave the house for the academy before he wakes up, that I am in school during lunch, and I am with my kids when I get out of school usually until at least 9pm. He continued yelling and screaming about things I can't recall and eventually I told him he was being an asshole and to leave me alone. As my father was walking out of my bedroom he kicked my dog and told me "Well maybe if you weren't an asshole, your boyfriend wouldn't have killed himself." My father was already out of my room, and in the kitchen when I threw a face setting spray out my bedroom door. My father was nowhere in sight when I threw it. I then got up from my bed and walked

into the kitchen, yelling at my father “how dare you say that to me?” As he turned around, he backhanded/ smacked me with his right hand across the right side of my face. I then grabbed my father by his forearms and tried to hold them so he would not hit me again. He is so much stronger than I am so he was able to push me backwards into the sink area, while I was still holding his forearms trying to get him off of me. When I finally got away, I ran to my bedroom and closed the door. I told my son that we were leaving and to help me pack whatever we could. I got a few things gathered up in a laundry basket. I had many items stacked in the basket, which made it difficult to see and navigate through the house. While walking out my room I hit the little TV stands with the laundry basket full of stuff and they fell on the floor. One got caught under my feet and I kicked it out from under me and then proceeded to bring the items outside. I came back in and got more stuff and took that out to my car. The last time in, I grabbed my dog and while walking out my father was standing by the kitchen table. He told me that “if I wanted to keep my job I would sit down and talk to him”. At that time, I was upset, crying and fearful of him. I told him that I was not sitting down and talking to him and that I was leaving. As I walked out I told him he needed to remember he hit me first and that he was dead to me. I then walked out of the house, loaded the dog and my son into the car and left.

I do not think I did anything wrong in that situation. I physically restrained my father the best I could, given his much larger stature and strength. I was able to get away from my aggressor and wanted to get myself and my son out of that situation. I feel like I did exactly what I was supposed to do. I never in a million years would think I would be the one who would be called the aggressor. I took pictures of my face after leaving my father’s house and I showed Sgt. McDonald when I was being interviewed at District 4. He told me he couldn’t see a hand print. I didn’t realize there would be a handprint if he backhanded me. I also didn't realize a handprint was required to prove someone was struck in the face. I would think red marks/ redness, slight swelling and discoloration would be enough evidence to prove I was struck. My father had bruises on his forearms from where I grabbed him. What was not taken into consideration is my father is 84 years old and is on blood thinners. He bumps into a wall or hits something slightly he bruises, so of course where I grabbed him to stop him from hitting me again would bruise. What I did was self defense. I tried to stop a grown man who is stronger, more than 5 inches taller and a retired Marine and Corrections Lieutenant from hitting me again. When I was told I was being arrested, Sgt. McDonald explained that I was the aggressor due to following my father into the kitchen. So I made my father backhand me? Yet my father opened my closed bedroom door to start yelling at me as I lay in bed with my 8 year old child. I did nothing wrong. Unfortunately, the Volusia Sheriff’s Office had already made up their minds on arresting me before I even arrived at the District to talk to them. As the actual victim of the situation I was going to jail no matter what I said, no matter what I showed them and no matter what the facts were.

How do you arrest the victim? How do you not interview everyone that was there? Even if the person or child possibly did not see anything why wouldn’t you conduct an interview? But when Lt. King went to my ex husband Patrick’s house to collect my uniform, duty belt, and ID card; Patrick approached him and told him that Ronan said he saw what happened. So why was that not looked into? Why didn’t someone come out and interview him then? And why wasn’t that in the report?

I was arrested on 10/02/2021 as the victim in that domestic dispute. I was terminated 10/04/2021 with obvious cause. Yet no IA was done before my termination. And again, I was the victim. On 10/21/2021,

Amy Walker from the State Attorney's Office interviewed my son, Ronan and on 10/26/2021, ASA Amy Walker filed a No Information on my case. Meanwhile, within those 22 days in between I tried to get in touch with Sheriff Chitwood to express my side. Instead, I received a voice message from Karen Glaesel on 10/07/2021, stating "...the Sheriff declined a meeting with you at this point, possibly when this is all over he could meet with you if you're still interested, but at this point he cannot meet with you." After my case was closed on 10/26/2021, I called to make that appointment since I was still interested; Karen Glaesel informed me she would get back to me. I did not hear back so after a few days I called back. On 10/28/2021, Karen told me she spoke with the Sheriff about my request and he said that he would get back to her. I then received a phone call from Karen on 11/01/2021, I was told the Sheriff declined to meet with me because of an open IA. I informed her that I had no idea there was an IA open on me and that I was already terminated. Karen then called Shelley Hattaway while I was on hold. I was told that Lt. Shivers was trying to reach me and was not successful. Karen gave Shelley my phone number in which Shelley called me a few minutes after I got off the phone with Karen. I gave her my email so Lt. Shivers could get a hold of me. I was basically given the run around from the Sheriff's Office since I called before this IA was open. The Sheriff continued to refuse to meet with me when I just wanted to talk about getting my Deputy Recruit position back since again, I was the victim in this domestic disturbance. Instead, I received absolutely nothing. The Volusia Sheriff's Office instead turned their back on a victim, who even as a single mother of three boys had devoted 7 years of service with them and another 9 years with the County of Volusia as a Correctional Officer.

In conclusion, I appreciate the opportunity the Volusia Sheriff's Office gave to me to try and reach one of my life long goals of being a Deputy. Fortunately, I was able to use my training that I received in the Volusia Sheriff's Academy to not only restrain my father from continuing to physically hurt me but to also have the knowledge to document my injuries and to keep a level head to remove myself and my 8 year old son from the situation. I truly hope that the Volusia Sheriff's Office starts listening to the victims of domestic violence situations. No victim should be thrown in jail and have their whole life ripped from them and to wonder what they did wrong and how the aggressor was able to get away with it. I am sure there are victims out there with similar situations, which means something needs to be done about it.

Kristina Kent