

Former MercyOne Nurse Sentenced for Conspiracy to Acquire Controlled Substances and Possession of Child Pornography

Douglas Kelley, 67, from Sioux City, and former MercyOne nurse was sentenced on Jan. 18, to over 10 years in prison for possession of child pornography and conspiracy to acquire controlled substances by fraud. Kenneth Hurd, 32, from Harrisburg, S. D., was sentenced on Jan. 3, to two years' probation for conspiracy to acquire controlled substances by fraud. Brian Gene Raff, 44, from Orchard, Neb. pled guilty in federal court on Nov. 29, 2023, to conspiracy to distribute a controlled substance. Raff remains free on bond pending sentencing. Evidence at Hurd's and Kelley's sentencing hearing's established that Kelley knowingly conspired with co-defendants to obtain and acquire fentanyl by means of misrepresentation, fraud, deception, and subterfuge. The trio used Kelley's position as a nurse at MercyOne Hospital in Sioux City, to obtain fentanyl and other controlled substances for personal use and to illegally distribute to others. Raff further admitted that he conspired with his co-defendants to distribute his minor child's prescription ADHD medication, Vyvanse (amphetamine), a Schedule II Controlled Substance. During the investigation, law enforcement executed a search warrant on Kelley's cell phone and recovered six videos and 20 images of child pornography. These videos and images included material that depicted prepubescent minors or minors who had not attained 12 years of age. The materials also portrayed sadistic and masochistic conduct, as well as toddlers and bestiality. Kelley had previously been convicted of offenses relating to the possession of child pornography in Buena Vista County, Iowa in 1993.

"By using his position as a nurse, Kelley violated the public's trust while stealing controlled substances for himself and others. He also possessed child pornography, allowing for the heartbreaking victimization of children and their sexual exploitation. The sentencing of Kelley in this matter sends a strong and powerful message that those who violate the law will be held accountable," said Curt L. Muller, Acting Special Agent in Charge for the Office of Inspector General of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. "We will continue working with our State, Federal, and Tribal law enforcement partners as we investigate and seek justice against those who would victimize our programs and their beneficiaries."

Kelley was sentenced in Sioux City by United States District Court Chief Judge Leonard T. Strand to 126 months' imprisonment. He must pay \$1,200 in fines and assessments and serve a 5-year term of supervised release upon release from custody. There is no parole in the federal system.

Hurd was sentenced in Sioux City by United States District Court Chief Judge Leonard T. Strand to two years' probation. He was also ordered to obtain mental health and substance abuse evaluations and comply with any recommended treatment.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state, and local resources to locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who sexually exploit children, and to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.usdoj.gov/psc

. For more information about internet safety education, please visit www.usdoj.gov/psc

Court&Police Reports

Atlantic Police

- Arrests
- Dec. 19 — Erica Vandervort, 22, of Atlantic, was arrested for child endangerment, bodily injury.
- Dec. 27 — Christian Dziuba, 18, of Adair, was arrested for simple assault.
- Dec. 29 — Wade Anderson, 60, of Atlantic, was arrested for public intoxication.
- Dec. 31 — Colin Juelsgaard, 25, of Atlantic, was arrested for operating while under the influence first.
- Jan. 1 — ID Kitto, 22, of Atlantic, was arrested for disorderly conduct.
- Jan. 1 — Bailey Riesfaard, 21, of Atlantic, was arrested for disorderly conduct.
- Jan. 1 — Jackson Sally, 23, of Atlantic, was arrested for theft second (motor vehicle), theft fifth, burglary third, and attempted burglary.
- Jan 2 — Tarek Bunan, 24, of Atlantic, was arrested for public intoxication and disorderly conduct.
- Jan. 2 — Benser Mark, 30, of At-

- lantic, was arrested for public intoxication.
- Jan. 4 — Efrain San Diego, 19, of Atlantic, was arrested for domestic abuse assault (impeding air way) and criminal mischief fourth degree.
- Jan. 5 — Michael Adkins, 42, of Atlantic, was arrested for was arrested for domestic abuse assault (impeding air way) and criminal mischief third degree.
- Jan. 6 — Michael Adkins, 42, of Atlantic, was arrested for violation of a no contact order.
- Jan. 7 — Jacob Ave, 29, of Coralville, was arrested for operating while under the influence second.
- Jan. 9 — Daniel Duranceau, of Atlantic, was arrested for domestic abuse assault second.
- Jan. 10 — Winsor Ekiek, 38, of Atlantic, was arrested for possession of controlled substance, marijuana, and public intoxication.
- Jan. 10 — Christopher Martin, 29, of Atlantic, was arrested for aggravated assault.
- Jan. 12 — ID Kutto, 22, of Atlantic, was arrested for criminal mischief fourth.
- Jan. 13 — Melvin Helson, 25, of Atlantic was arrested for disorderly conduct.
- Jan. 13 — Gervin Winnie, 34, of Atlantic, was arrested for disorderly conduct.
- Jan. 15 — Mym Attan, 22, of Atlantic, was arrested for public intoxication.
- Jan. 15 — Fitkio Ranu, 24, of Atlantic, was arrested for disorderly conduct.
- Jan. 17 — Kimberly Register, 60, of Atlantic, was arrested for possession of a controlled substance, and gathering where controlled substances are used.
- Jan. 20 — Anthony Germann, 62, of Shelby, on a Montgomery Warrant for violation of probation.
- Jan. 22 — Erin Mack, 22, of Atlantic, on a Shelby County Warrant for violation of probation.
- Jan. 22 — Tami Schulz, 52, of Atlantic, for counterfeiting/forgery and on-going criminal conduct (unlawful activity).
- Jan. 22 — Nathan Frazier, 31, of Atlantic for forgery and on-going criminal activity.

Liberal blogger granted press credentials in Iowa House days after filing lawsuit

DES MOINES (AP) — A liberal journalist who blogs about Iowa politics was granted press credentials for the Iowa House of Representatives Wednesday, days after she filed a lawsuit alleging the Republican-controlled House was denying her her First Amendment rights. The result brings an end to a yearslong fight by Laura Belin, who operates the Bleeding Heartland blog, to gain access to the House floor as a member of the press. Belin called it a "victory for press freedom" and said she hoped it would make public officials "reluctant" to deny access to reporters. The lawsuit was brought Friday in federal court by the Institute for Free Speech on her behalf against House Chief Clerk Meghan Nelson, though the rejection dates back to 2019 and Nelson's predecessor, Carmine Boal.

Splash Pad

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Pool has closed for the season. She said there were some hot days last September, and it's possible it could still be used during that month. Pieken said there have also been discussions about individuals willing to do in-kind work on the project, and committee members hope to get all those requests to help figure it out as soon as possible. She also said the original goal for funding was between \$600,000 and \$650,000, and those numbers came from recreational companies last fall. Pieken said they hope to stay around those numbers for the project, and have raised approximately \$415,000 so far.

Physicians

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GI issues. While in Atlantic, they will also perform colonoscopy and EGD (upper endoscopy) procedures. Dr. Hall is originally from Topeka, Kan. and graduated from the University of Kansas. He completed his residency in Internal Medicine, and then completed a fellowship program in Gastroenterology and Hepatology from the University of Wisconsin. During this training, he completed a six-month sub-fellowship training in the treatment of Inflammatory Bowel Diseases. Dr. Hall is a member of the American Gastroenterological Association, American College of Gastroenterology, and a professional member of the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation. Dr. Fasanya-Uptagraft received her medical degree from Creighton University School of Medicine. She completed her residency in Internal Medicine at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and her fellowship in Gastroenterology and Hepatology at Duke University. Dr. Fasanya-Uptagraft is a member of the American Gastroenterological Association, American College of Gastroenterology, American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy, and a professional member of the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation. Patients are encouraged to talk with their primary care providers about making appointments for procedures or clinic visits with Dr. Hall and Dr. Fasanya-Uptagraft.

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February 5: Mike Amos - Renaissance Fair
February 12: Stephanie Steffens - Your Forte
February 19: Dianna Blake - Sharing in the digital world
February 26: Emily Hanson - Ioponics
March 4: Becky Kia Mills - Mannheim Steamroller
March 11: No Class (Jazz and Wine March 9, 4-6p.m.)
March 18: Ben Daugherbaugh - Anita Mayor
March 25: Christina Baxter - Faiths Friends
April 1: Darrin Kimball - Relic

Join us at IWCC in Atlantic each Mondays for 8 weeks for a cup of coffee & conversation. Every week is a new learning experience featuring local, regional, or global topics.

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