

SARA REEDY – WRITTEN TESTIMONY

On July 14, 2004, I was working at 3-11 p.m. shift at the Cranberry Gulf Station on Rt. 19, by myself. At about 10:40 p.m., a man came into the store. He proceeded to walk through the store and then approached the counter, where he pulled a gun out and pointed it at me. He demanded that I sit on the floor in the corner and he came behind the counter where the register was located. He questioned me about how to open the register drawer. After removing the cash, he came and stood directly in front of me where he held his gun to my left temple and demanded that I give him oral sex and saying "if you don't swallow then I will shoot you." After the assault, he told me to go into the back office and rip out the phone lines, and then said to wait in the back office for 5 minutes after he left.

Following the assault, I went next door to Jordan's, an automotive shop. I had one of the employees call 911 and report the crime. I stayed at the shop where several officers showed up, and I gave them descriptions of the attacker and my account of the assault. Shortly afterward, I was taken to Cranberry Passavant, where I first met Detective Evanson.

When I arrived in the emergency room, I was put in a small office, where I begin to retell the night's events to Detective Evanson. At one point he asked me how many times a day I used dope/heroin. I was then soon moved to an examination room. Detective Evanson came inside the room several different times asking me to retell the attack and soon his attitude became very aggressive towards me. He asked me countless times where I had put the money/ where was the money. He told me if I confessed things would go a lot easier for me. At one point I got very upset and was crying and he told me that my "tears would not save me."

I stayed at the hospital for three hours before I was allowed to leave to go home.

The next day, I went to the Cranberry police station with my mother and step-father to give a written statement as asked by Detective Evanson. When I arrived at the police station, I was put in a small conference room by myself to write my statement and Detective Evanson took my parents into another room where he questioned them about me. After finishing my written statement, Detective Evanson came into the room and began to question and accuse me about the theft. At one point I responded that I just wanted it all to go away.

After only meeting Detective Evanson two times, I had lost hope of my attacker being caught because of Detective Evanson's unwillingness to believe my story.

Two months after I was assaulted, another woman was sexually assaulted within two miles of my attack. Detective Evanson was assigned to the case. This woman gave almost the same exact description of her attack and his M.O. as I had. Unfortunately, Detective Evanson was unable or just refused to make the connection between the two assaults, because he still accused me of fabricating my story.

Detective Evanson even showed up at my residence where he called a marked police car for backup. He stood outside my house asking me to change my written statement and to confess to the crime and they would go easy on me. After almost 45 minutes at my house, the only thing Detective Evanson managed to do was embarrass me in front of my neighbors and re-victimize me.

On Sunday, January 14, 2005, a warrant for my arrest was issued for theft, receiving stolen property and filing a false police report. On Thursday, January 18, I went to the Cranberry magistrate and turned

myself in. I was given a \$5,000 straight cash bond because according to Detective Evanson I was a flight risk. I spent the next five days in jail waiting for a bond reduction hearing and bondsman so I could be released. This all happened while I was four months pregnant with my first child.

While awaiting trial, I had contacted a state wide tip line for a serial rapist. I talked to an officer and made him aware of the fact that I was assaulted and that I believed it was the same man they were looking for. I also explained that I reported the crime and my complaint was not taken seriously and I was arrested for the crime.

Over 13 months after I was assaulted, a state wide search for a serial rapist ended. A man by the name of Wilbur Brown was caught in the act of sexually assaulting a gas station attendant in Brookville. After being placed under arrest, Wilbur Brown confessed to twelve different sexual assaults. One of those assaults happened to me.

Thanks to a local news reporter, I was notified of that fact. I was able to call my lawyer who in return called Detective Evanson who confirmed that there was a confession and my charges would be dropped.

After this experience, it left me concerned if I would ever be able to rely on an officer to do his job. Because of Detective Evanson's uncooperative attitude and unwillingness to believe me, the victim, a serial rapist was allowed to continue attacking and assaulting other women.

I filed a lawsuit against Detective Evanson and other as the result of their treatment of me. Attached is an opinion issued by the 3rd Circuit Court of Appeals in my case on August 2, 2010. This opinion further details the facts and legal issues in my case.