



CITY OF
FORT LAUDERDALE
POLICE DEPARTMENT
PRESS RELEASE

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February 8, 2012

CHILD NEGLECT

The Fort Lauderdale Police Department is investigating the abuse of a child that occurred sometime between October 27th, 2010, and February 4th, 2012.

On February 4th, 2012, Fort Lauderdale Police Officers responded with Child Protective Services to a residence on West Commercial Boulevard in the City of Fort Lauderdale. The Department of Children and Families had received reports that children in a residence were being tortured. After officers arrived on scene, they were able to locate a young child whose right hand was wrapped in cloth. As the cloth was removed, it was discovered that the child's hand was severely burned, to the point that the child's hand was grotesquely deformed. Due to the burns, the child was missing one finger and two partial fingers.

Detectives from the Fort Lauderdale Special Victims Unit further investigated the injuries sustained by the child. Detectives were told by Irma Mustamu, W/F, 8/5/89, that the child was burned by hot soup approximately a year ago in the state of Maryland. Mustamu said that herself and her husband, Kenny Chevelier, B/M, 4/12/82, fled from Maryland without seeking proper medical services for the child, but looked up how to treat the injuries on the internet instead. Mustamu said that the incident occurred on August 6th, 2010, in Maryland.

Fort Lauderdale detectives retrieved medial records from Maryland that contradicted Mustamu's statements, detailing the child as having no physical injury as of October 27th, 2010.

On February 7th, 2012, the child was taken to a doctor in Florida by Fort Lauderdale detectives. The doctor confirmed that the injuries were consistent with that of abuse.

Based upon the findings of the doctor, Fort Lauderdale Detectives arrested Mustamu and Chevelier, charging them each with Child Neglect due to the fact that they did not seek proper medical treatment for the child. The location where the actual abuse occurred is still under investigation.

At this time, both Mustamu and Chevelier are being held at the Broward County Main Jail pending additional charges.

P.R.# 2012-017
OR# 12-013121

www.FLPD.org

The child is currently in the care of the Department of Children and Families.

Detectives are seeking any information regarding the jurisdiction where the actual abuse occurred. Investigators are urging anyone with further information to contact Fort Lauderdale Police Detective Lorette Innocent-Doles at 954-828-5137.



Irma Mustamu
8/5/89

Kenneth Chevelier
4/12/82

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