



Vic A Pearson  
Prosecuting Attorney

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*Re: Franklin County Prosecuting Attorney Press Release*

On March 8, the Franklin County Sheriff's Office and Preston Police Department responded to Preston Junior High School regarding a complaint of animal cruelty involving a teacher at the school.

On March 12, law enforcement turned over the incident reports regarding their investigation into my office for review of potential animal cruelty charges against the teacher involved. Due to a conflict of interest, my office has enlisted the help of a prosecuting attorney in the 6<sup>th</sup> Judicial District. The reports have been turned over to him for his review and determination on today's date.

There has been a considerable amount of public reaction regarding the allegations being made. I understand the reaction of the public regarding this incident but would ask for some patience at this point in time. Such delays are not uncommon to ensure we have met the legal and ethical standards required by the criminal justice system. However, the volume of calls being received by both law enforcement and my office is hindering our ability to complete what needs to be done to reach the end goal of justice in this case.

Law enforcement has been diligent in their investigation and will continue to investigate information as it becomes available. We appreciate in advance the public's patience while a determination is made regarding the allegations made in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vic A Pearson", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Vic A Pearson  
Franklin County Prosecuting Attorney