

Failure to Protect: The Need for Modernization and Expansion in Child Protective Laws

Senior Thesis, University of Tennessee

Tiffany Black

Table of Contents

I. Abstract.....	3
II. Introduction.....	4
III. Literature Review.....	5
<i>Jose and Kitty Menendez</i>	5
<i>Larry Nassar</i>	13
<i>Jerry Sandusky</i>	23
<i>Brian Peck</i>	32
<i>Ruby Franke</i>	34
IV. Methodology.....	41
<i>Jose and Kitty Menendez</i>	41
<i>Larry Nassar</i>	46
<i>Jerry Sandusky</i>	48
<i>Brian Peck</i>	50
<i>Ruby Franke</i>	51
V. Results.....	52
VI. Conclusion.....	67
VII. Appendix.....	72
VIII. Works Cited.....	82

I. Abstract

This thesis reviews and analyzes previous cases of long-term abuse of children using a comparison of the timelines of abuse and laws that currently exist. Through an analysis of current laws as applicable to the course of events, the paper aims to determine if there is an issue of laws or the enforcement of these laws. Currently, existing laws, both on a state and federal level, may not add enough protections that could catch early signs of abuse before they become long-term. In addition, these laws may not add to the ability to stop ongoing abuse. There are times that abuse fails to be caught due to a lack of authority from CPS departments or police to intervene until a certain escalation of abuse is met. The thesis examines an array of cases of abuse beginning in 1970 through 2023 in various states. The cases being examined for abuse are Jose and Kitty Menendez, Larry Nassar, Jerry Sandusky, Brian Peck, and Ruby Franke. Current child protective laws, or other applicable laws to the abuse, were connected to examples of abuse in the respective timelines. Determinations were made on whether the enforcement of existing laws failed to protect the child, or if there was or still is not a law that could have stopped the abuse before it escalated.

The results of this thesis found that there is a combination of needs to address the issue of long-term child abuse. There are areas of abuse that are not yet covered by the law- such as children being exploited via online media i.e. YouTube, children that have not explicitly been seen to have signs of abuse in the home but exhibit other warning signs, child actors, etc. Additionally, some laws that protect against child abuse are not enforced consistently, which allows some cases of abuse to continue unnoticed until they escalate to a dangerous level. One main area of expansion should be education for children and adults in identifying and reporting

abuse. This would in turn improve the culture of safety and encourage open discussion of abuse and bodies when necessary.

II. Introduction

Current Child Protection laws do not include enough protections for minors, allowing for long-term abuse to occur before it is caught. For one, there is a lax in laws involving children on social media or television. Child actors are now coming forward with the abuse they endured while working on set, although it was brought to the attention of the companies they worked for. Similarly, with social media, there are videos documenting child abuse by a parent, but even the involvement of CPS failed to bring legal action and protections for the children. The enforcement of laws faces certain limitations, and there are areas of protection that require further development. The law does not give protections to child actors or abuse that is documented online.

Through modernization of laws and improvements in enforcement, children would be better protected from ongoing abuse as well as preventing abuse from occurring. Measures must be established and taught to facilitate the reporting of child abuse, ensure its enforcement, and broaden the definition of what qualifies as child abuse. With these additional protections, abuse will be caught sooner and be prevented. Education needs to be expanded to teach children their bodies and what constitutes danger- not only from strangers but potentially from friends or family. Adults need to be taught the warning signs of abuse and the best routes of reporting. Once children can self-advocate for their safety, and adults can identify warning signs of abuse, the abusers become debilitated from manipulating vulnerable children and hiding from trusted adults. Education will also encourage a safe environment to report and discuss possible abuse, overcoming the obstacle of viewing abuse as taboo and something not openly discussed.

III. Literature Review

In this section, the timeline of abuse for each case is reviewed (refer to the timelines created in the Methodology section). As policies apply, laws that currently exist will be cited, and gaps in laws will be noted. The laws referenced will include both laws that existed at the time of the abuse and currently. The paper aims to learn from long-term cases of past abuse in order to determine (1) what improvements can be made to current laws, (2) additional laws that may be needed, and (3) possible errors in enforcement with the goal to further improve child protection. The cases are presented chronologically based on when the alleged abuse began.

Jose and Kitty Menendez

The information I gathered to create the timeline of abuse was established during the trial of *The State of California v. Menendez* (1993), mainly from Lyle and Eric Menendez's direct examination. At the time of the Menendez Brothers' abuse by their parents Jose and Kitty Menendez, there were child endangerment laws in place that should have protected Erik and Lyle Menendez from the abuse they endured up to the death of their parents. Kitty's reckless driving would have been against CA Veh Code § 23103 (a) (2024), this California code was first instated in 1959 and would have been around during the time of her driving carelessly with Lyle and Alan in the car. Since Lyle was only a few months old and unrestrained in the car, this could fall under child endangerment, CA Penal Code § 273a (a) (2024), since Kitty willingly put Lyle in a circumstance that could have produced bodily harm or death. Child endangerment laws in California have been in place since the early 1800s and therefore were implemented throughout Lyle and Erik's upbringing. Similar endangerment was placed on the brothers by the negligence of Kitty and Jose which allowed them, around ages four and two respectively, to cross the street

and play in the field alone. Both the reckless driving and the incidences of the boys crossing the street were well known by the Menendez parents and extended family, yet this was not reported to any child protective services that could have stepped in. Cousin Alan witnessed both events at an old enough age that he understood the danger this posed to the boys, and he oversaw their safety when he spent summers at the Menendez household.

Other instances of abuse only occurred within the Menendez household without extended family visiting who could have witnessed and reported the abuse. Erik as a young child being put on a pull-up bar before age five would be physical abuse from the straining and being set up to fall face first upon failure. Erik being left alone at age five and walking up the street to find Kitty would be child negligence. Both the boys hearing phrases such as “I wish you were never born” could fall under mental abuse beginning when Lyle was seven, Jose pushing Lyle on a swing set until it flips over the top bar in order to teach trust, could be mental and physical abuse. Jose placing Erik up on a counter and catching him before letting him fall onto the floor to teach him trust would be both mental and physical abuse. Jose throwing Erik through a glass door would be physical abuse. Jose killing Lyle’s class pet rabbit and letting him find it beaten in the trash can would be mental abuse. The boys being placed in closets or under the bed and locked in their room for hours without access to a bathroom would be considered physical and mental abuse. Other varied instances of physical abuse from both parents in the form of slapping or throwing onto the ground would also fall under the same umbrella of abuse. View the timeline ‘Menendez Brothers’ for further details of the abuses. These instances of abuse fall under CA Penal Code § 273a (a) (2024) against child abuse. Moments of abuse are important to note for the living environment of the Menendez household and what behaviors were demonstrated as typical throughout the brothers’ childhood. For the purposes of reporting child abuse, these actions were not witnessed by people outside of the household, and therefore the abuse was able to go

undetected. There are no laws that establish a type of wellness check on children unless abuse is reported. This creates an obstacle when the victims are children and have a fear of their parents. Child endangerment and child abuse laws already exist that make these forms of discipline or behavior towards a minor unacceptable, but without reporting from an outside witness or monitoring, this abuse remains within the household without being told to authorities or child protective services.

Other family members such as the Menendezes' cousins Alan, Diane, Kathleen, and others that testified, did witness other acts of abuse, or discipline and treatment that seemed extreme towards the boys and themselves. The cousins' lack of reporting allowed the abuse to continue and grow progressively worse as the boys got older. If these family members had reported the abuse to authorities or child protective services, then there is the possibility that legal action could have been taken when the boys were still young. Under the Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act (CANRA) in California, only mandated reporters can be held liable for not reporting suspected child abuse- family members or other people outside of mandated reporters are not required to report suspected abuse. The exception would be the California Code, Penal Code PEN § 273a (2024) can apply to those who aid or abet in child abuse and could then be charged as an accessory to child abuse. Alan began witnessing child endangerment when Lyle was around two years old, and Kathleen was told about the sexual abuse from Lyle when he was between six and seven years old but did not tell anyone outside of Kitty Menendez about the allegations, which Kitty dismissed as exaggerations.

The abuse was seen by members outside of the family such as coaches, strangers, and neighbors. Warning signs were present that should have raised alarm, and have been reported to child protective services before the abuse became worse. When Lyle was five, Kitty left the boys alone in the airport with their luggage for an extended amount of time, which caused Lyle to

panic and Eric to cry. Strangers or workers at the airport could have noticed the kids left behind, but nothing happened. Jose once knocked out another driver after a fit of road rage, but this was not reported. Erik wandered out of the house and up the street looking for Kitty when he was left home alone at age five, but no one reported seeing the child alone. Kitty never picked up the boys from sports or school on time, often hours late. Kitty's tardiness would make other school staff or coaches stay later with the boys, but this carelessness was never reported. Although it is not a crime to pick up a student late, it could have been significant enough to report to the school counselor. When Lyle was around age nine, pornographic videos were made available to the brothers. Neighbors would be shown the movies when they came over for dinner for the shock factor. Showing minors pornography falls under California Code PEN § 311. Kitty left the brothers in the car when she went to the mall for hours, forcing them to urinate between cars. Leaving children unattended in a car falls under Kaitlyn's Law, or California Code VEH § 15620. When Kitty did bring them into the mall, the boys would get lost because she walked too fast, so store clerks or security officers would watch them for hours until Kitty eventually retrieved the boys. One of the coaches for Lyle, Coach Robbie, was threatened by Jose Menendez after suggesting that Lyle drop out of school to pursue a tennis tour. The coach was too afraid to coach Lyle after the threats made.

While these incidences are not grounds for child abuse when viewed individually, if these various reports of negligence were reported it could have made the Menendez family viewed with more scrutiny. In response, more monitoring could have then prevented or caught the worse abuses. Those who observed the questionable behavior of Kitty and Jose Menendez toward the boys and others did not recognize it as a potential threat to the boys' safety. Due to the failure to report, the abuse continued to worsen as the abusers gained more confidence in going undetected. The boys were conditioned to believe that their situation was a normal family life since they were

not told otherwise. As previously mentioned, family members are not considered mandatory reporters under the Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act (CANRA) in California, and since the witnesses were not partaking in the crime, they cannot be charged with accessory to the abuse either.

Jose Menendez sexually abused his sons Lyle and Erik. Since the abuse occurred only in the home, there were not many opportunities for the abuse to be caught and reported to the right authorities. The abuse was disclosed to some family and friends that chose to either not take it seriously or simply not report it. The sexual abuse began when Lyle was age six in 1974. The abuse began as a history lesson on how men would have sex before battle to bond, and how there is a very close bond between a father and his first-born son. Lyle and Jose would have sex two to three times a week, either as massages or some form of intercourse along with pain endurance practices such as sticking pins and needles into Lyle during these sessions. In 1975, the Menendez brothers' cousin Alan noticed that the boys would take showers with Jose although they were old enough to do so alone. In 1976, the boys' cousin Kathleen was told by Lyle that Jose was touching him. Lyle, age seven, touched his genital area and said his father was touching him there. Kathleen brought it to Kitty's attention, and she said that Lyle often exaggerates and punished him for the story. In the same year, the sexual abuse ended with Lyle but began with Erik, age six. Erik and Jose would have either massages or intercourse two to three times a month.

In 1977, Erik sustained an injury to the back of his throat, allegedly from sexual intercourse with Jose. Medical professionals are considered mandatory reporters under the Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act (CANRA) in California. If the doctor suspected abuse he should have reported the injuries to authorities. In the same year, Lyle age nine disclosed to his cousin Diane that he had a fear of Jose touching him. Throughout the brothers' childhood, Jose

would take nude pictures of the boys in the bathtub or changing, their faces would not be included in the photos, only their exposed lower half. Kitty kissed Lyle on the lips, Lyle refused Kitty's advances which infuriated her, and this is when she began exposing herself to him. Around 1979, Kitty began exposing herself to Lyle. Kitty would ask Lyle to go to her room when she was changing, topless, and ask Lyle how she looked. Lyle from ages eleven to thirteen still slept with Kitty on occasion, and she would ask him to touch her everywhere, with or without Jose present. In 1983 when Erik was around age thirteen, he spoke with his cousin Andy about the sexual abuse with Jose after Andy had disclosed his history of experiencing sexual abuse. This is when Erik realized that these relations with his father were not normal. The sexual abuse continued up until the summer before Jose and Kitty's murders in the summer of 1989.

Outside of the household, Jose Menendez had other sexual encounters that could have raised red flags and encouraged the family to be looked at under closer inspection. According to testimony from Cheri Woods, brothel madame, in the mid-80s Jose asked for under 13-year-old petite girls. Jose would strangle, whip, and use sex toys which scared the girls. Jose began hiring sex workers in the early 80s and ended six years prior to the murders. The hiring of a sex worker in the 80s was illegal under California Penal Code PEN § 647b. Woods may not have wanted to report violent behavior from Jose Menendez, but if Woods was aware that Jose Menendez had young children, maybe she could have raised some concern about the behaviors he sexually and physically demonstrated, and his odd requests for girls he wanted. Jose Menendez was also responsible for a boy band called "Menudo". In 2023, the sexual abuse that the boy band members endured from Jose Menendez was reported from the mid-80s. The members of the band would be kicked from the group once they turned sixteen. One of the members, Rossello, alleges that he was molested, drugged, and raped by Jose Menendez during his time in the band (Kravarik and Wagmeister). This could have been reported at the time of the alleged abuse, but

unfortunately, it did not get reported until 2023. If the reporting of the abuse was done timely, there is the possibility that authorities would have checked on the children under Jose Menendez's care, since they would have been a similar age as the boys Jose Menendez was abusing.

In the article "Battered Child Defendants in California: The Admissibility of Evidence Regarding the Effects of Abuse on a Child's Honest and Reasonable Belief of Imminent Danger," Azarcon discusses the battered child defense when trying to explain the state of mind of the abused at the time of the killing. The defense expands on the idea of imperfect self-defense, also referred to as battered child defense, and evolves the claim to include the state of mind that could cause fear in the abused. While the typical person, or juror, may not see how the situation made the defendant fear for his/her life, the defendant may pick up on cues from their abuser that the typical person may not catch. A typical situation can be seen as threatening by the abused if they have gone through years of abuse. The idea of imminent danger can then be left up to interpretation. (Azarcon 834). The author outlines what constitutes self-defense. Self-defense can be proved when three criteria are met: (1) reasonable fear of imminent danger, ... (2) no means of escape with the only resort being deadly force... and (3) the amount of force must be proportional to the magnitude of harm feared by the aggressor" (Azarcon 837), although this can vary within some jurisdictions.

The next aspect to consider is the Model Penal Code (MPC). The MPC aimed at creating some uniformity amongst the fifty states' different jurisdictions. Various states revised their penal code to adapt to the MPC. Self-defense is one issue addressed by the MPC, the American Law Institute (ALI) had three aims (1) a systematic and consistent approach to the appropriateness of force (2) coordinating the culpability of an actor using self-defense with another actor and (3) to detail the situations where the use of force and deadly force would be

justified (Azarcon 841). Restrictions have also been added to self-defense such as not being able to use it during arrest, while the aggressor is protecting property, or unless one needs to protect oneself from death, rape, or other high level of violence. California has not adopted the MPC recommendation for self-defense. California differs in its law for self-defense in that the one claiming self-defense cannot be the initial aggressor, the danger must be imminent, and the use of deadly force must be required in the situation (Azarcon 846-847).

The idea of imperfect self-defense applies to the Menendez brothers since their defense alleges that the brothers felt a true sense of imminent danger posed by their parents, while a reasonable-minded person may not have felt that way in a similar situation. The brothers connect their state of mind at the time of the murders to their years of abuse and deny malice in their intentions of murdering their parents (Azarcon 848). There are instances of courts allowing the evidence supporting the defendant's state of mind at the time of the murder, such as *Commonwealth v Sheppard* and *In re Christian*. In *Commonwealth v. Sheppard*, the dissenting opinion felt the state of mind would be necessary for assessing the defendant's culpability, and in *In re Christian* where a seventeen-year-old boy "held an honest but mistaken belief of imminent danger [and] used deadly force" (848). For *Menendez*, exposure to long-term abuse can affect the way a person interprets a situation and the imminent danger present, which contributes to the state of mind the brothers potentially had when murdering their parents.

Larry Nassar

The timeline was created from court documents of *Erika Davis vs. Michigan State University, et al*, 2018 and "Timeline: A Long History of Abuse by Dr. Larry Nassar." *Michigan Public*, 31 Jan. 2018 written by Mark Brush. Nassar was first accused of abuse by USA Olympic

Gymnast in 1994. Under Michigan Penal Code § 750.520b (1)(iv), sexual abuse of a minor under the guise of medical treatment is outlawed. Following this incident Nassar was promoted within USA Gymnastics to National Medical Coordinator. Michigan's Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) can revoke a license of a medical health professional while investigating allegations per Michigan Compiled Laws, Chapter 333. Health § 333.16221a. In 1997, Nassar was hired at Michigan State University (MSU) as the team doctor and assistant professor. No law in Michigan specifically bans providers from hiring doctors who are under investigation for sexual abuse allegations. Around 1997, Larisa Boyce, a minor at the time, confided in the head of the youth gymnastics program and her coach, Kathie Klages, about her concerns about the medical treatment she received from Nassar. Klages did not file a formal complaint, stating that she felt intimidated. There are now mandated reporter laws in Michigan under Child Protection Law, 238 of 1975, MCL 722.623 (6) which considers teachers as mandated reporters of abuse. Kathie Klages was told by a fellow staff member that there would be serious consequences to her and Nassar, which discouraged her from reporting the abuse. Michigan Penal Code § 750.483a prohibits one from preventing another person from reporting a crime. Section C of the same code explicitly prohibits one from using a position of authority to prevent the reporting of a crime. Klages then asked another athlete if they had experienced vaginal and anal penetration during treatment with Nassar, and they confirmed. Klages told this athlete that there was no reason to bring up Nassar's treatment. In this instance, the Michigan penal code previously mentioned would now apply to Klages preventing the athlete from reporting the crime.

In 1998, the parent of a gymnast complained to Geddert about Nassar's behavior, but the concerns and allegations were not addressed. The allegations of abuse should have been reported to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) per Michigan's Child Protection Law and allegations of abuse must be investigated per Michigan Penal Code § 750.483a. In 1999,

MSU was made aware of Nassar's conduct by athlete Christie Achenbach. Achenbach complained to MSU trainers and head coach Kelli Bert that Nassar had touched her vaginal area after seeking treatment for a hamstring injury. This would again go against the two laws previously mentioned for failure to report the abuse to the DHHS and failure to investigate.

In 2000, MSU softball athlete Tiffany Thomas Lopez was sexually assaulted and abused by Nassar during her treatment. This is against Michigan Penal Code § 750.520b (1)(iv), sexual abuse of a minor under the guise of medical treatment. The abuse was reported to MSU employees, including to her softball trainer. Lopez's trainer brushed off the allegations and told Lopez that Nassar was a world-renowned doctor. Lopez's trainer asserted this was proper medical treatment. Due to the previously mentioned law, this behavior should have been investigated and reported to DHHS. Later Lopez's treatment, Nassar gained confidence and inserted his bare hand into Lopez's vagina. Lopez reported the abuse to higher-level trainers at MSU, one of whom supervised the department. As a mandated reporter, the staff should have escalated the reports of the abuse to the police or higher in the organization. Lopez was told by the staff member to continue treatment, in turn preventing the reporting of the abuse. The staff member claimed this was not abuse. Defendant Teachnor-Hauk dissuaded Lopez from further reporting Nassar's abuse by saying if Lopez pursued the matter, the allegations would cast a burden on her and her family and cause significant heartache and trauma. The discussion of reporting abuse goes directly against Michigan Penal Code § 750.483a (c). In 2001, Lopez stopped treatment due to the abusive procedures. MSU pressured and coerced Lopez to declare herself medically inactive. There is no explicit law against a school pressuring an athlete from dropping sports for an unethical reason, but this could be seen under Title IX, as discrimination in education programs and activities, including athletics.

Around 2001, MSU volleyball player Jennifer Rood Bedford was sexually abused during her medical treatment by Nassar. According to Bedford, Nassar was known as “crotch doc” among the whole volleyball team due to his odd methods. Bedford reported the abuse to MSU athletic trainer Lianna Hadden. Hadden dissuaded Bedford from reporting the abuse because it would result in an investigation. In 2004, Defendant Gary E. Stollak was told by 11- or 12-year-old Kyle Stephens that she had been abused by Nassar. Stollak did not report the abuse to law enforcement or CPS. Bedford’s situation should have been protected by the previously mentioned laws Michigan Penal Code § 750.520b (1)(iv), Michigan’s Child Protection Law, and Michigan Penal Code § 750.483a. These laws cover abuse under the guise of medical treatment, reporting of alleged abuse to DHHS, and investigation of alleged abuse, respectively, which were not followed or enforced.

In 2004, Nassar wrote a chapter in Principles of Manual Sports Medicine by Steven K. Karageanes. Nassar described the pelvic area as not fully examined due to it being near the genitalia and buttocks. Nassar recommended proceeding with special measures and warning the patient as the treatment continues. The chapter does not mention vaginal or intra-rectal techniques. Nassar did not follow his own techniques as described in the book. He did not explain his vaginal or intra-rectal procedures or warn the Plaintiff he was going to do so. There is not a law that could be fitting for this type of warning sign, but when fellow staff or students saw the exclusion of his most well-known vaginal technique, there should have been investigations into his medical practices. The exclusion of this technique suggests that Nassar did not want to expose himself in writing, although he is widely known for using this questionable technique and had previously openly supported his practice.

In 2004, Brianne Randall-Gay reported Nassar to her parents and the Meridian Township Police Department. Meridian TWP Police shortly dismissed the case. Michigan Penal Code §

750.483a may apply, depending on whether Meridian TWP Police fully investigated the allegations prior to dismissing the case.

There is a break in reports of incidents involving Nassar, until 2014. In 2014, Amanda Thomashow reported Nassar sexually abused and molested her during treatment for hip pain. Thomashow reported that he cupped her buttocks, massaged her breasts and vaginal area, and he became sexually aroused. In the report MSU created for this investigation, the university left out the facts stating he was sexually aroused and that he did not stop the abuse until she physically removed his hands from her body. The Clery Act was enacted in 1990 and Title IX was created in 1972- each set of laws create guidelines for the report and investigation involving crimes on campus. The 2014 MSU Investigation cleared Nassar's sexual assault allegations stating that Thomashow does not know the difference between sexual abuse and medical treatment. MSU deemed Nassar's treatment as "medically appropriate". MSU created two different versions of reports on the incident, one to give to Thomashow and one for Nassar and MSU personnel. There is not an exact law prohibiting a university from creating two versions of the report, but the university must follow state and federal guidelines for investigation, as previously mentioned. MSU has the legal ability to investigate internal allegations such as sexual abuse allegations, guidelines are provided to best allow them to use their discretion. In some situations, it is more advisable for the university to escalate the investigation to the state or federal level, but it is ultimately their discretion in the handling of the investigation. Universities are inherently given the authority to conduct internal investigations through Title IX and the Clery Act in order to ensure a safe educational space, although universities must follow these established guidelines.

Following the investigation, Nassar was given new institutional guidelines by Defendant Stampel including minimizing or eliminating skin-to-skin contact. He was told he must also have someone else in the room. New people in the practice were to be told about the new guidelines to

make sure they understood. MSU Defendants failed to supervise or ensure Nassar complied with the new guidelines. As part of Title IX, universities are required to enforce disciplinary action following an internal investigation to prevent discrimination or sexual harassment from continuing. The university has the discretion to determine the fitting disciplinary action to take against the offender.

In 2016, MSU RNA Diane Rork occasionally worked with patients who had been seen by Nassar. Rork was never told about restrictions or guidelines on Nassar's patient treatment. Although universities are not required to disclose to new staff members that another staff member committed sexual abuse, universities must take protective measures to prevent other incidents of sexual harassment, abuse, or general discrimination as outlined in Title IX. In March 2016, Rork was creating a chart for a girl under the age of thirteen who was to be examined by Nassar. Nassar ordered Rork to leave the room so he could treat the girl alone. According to the AMA, Code of Medical Ethics, there is no law against treating a patient alone, but it is encouraged in good practice to include a chaperone or other respective clothing to ensure the patient is comfortable when treating more sensitive areas. In January, Rork reports this interaction to MSU police. MSU fired Rork two weeks after her report. Title IX protects the complainant from facing disciplinary action due to reporting alleged abuse. Another registered nurse was employed between 2015 and 2016 who was not made aware of Nassar's guidelines. To comply with Title IX, enforcement of the disciplinary guidelines given to Nassar should have been better enforced.

From July 2014 to September 2016 Defendant MSU continued to allow Nassar to see and treat female athletes despite the allegations of abuse and an open criminal investigation. There is no law in place against allowing a staff member to continue working while under investigation for serious allegations. Ultimately it is up to university policy and discretion, but student safety

needs to be prioritized through the investigation as the university sees fit, per Title IX. Police say at least twelve more assaults occurred after Nassar was reinstated. In the summer of 2015, USAG terminated Nassar due to allegations of “athlete concerns”. USAG never informed MSU or its representatives about the concerns leading to Nassar’s termination. There is currently no requirement for employers to disclose to other current employers the reason for termination. In this case, disclosing the reasons for termination could have been seen as defamatory since the reasons for termination were only allegations. See 28 U.S. Code § 4101. On September 16th, 2016, Nassar's employment ended with MSU. In December of 2016, USAG settled one or more claims involving allegations of sexual abuse by Nassar. USGA entered into one or more confidential settlement agreements in California involving the claims of sexual abuse by Nassar. California law prohibits confidential settlements involving allegations of child sexual abuse or a felony act of sexual abuse. Michigan does not have a similar law.

After Nassar’s termination, MSU Athletic Department's Director of Athletic Communications, Jamie Weir Baldwin, told the MSU Women’s Gymnastics Team to not speak to the media or make any posts about Nassar. This made the team believe that they would face repercussions if they came forward to the police or media to report sexual assault from Nassar. The team should have been made aware of IX protections in reporting. In 2016, Rachael Denholander filed a criminal complaint against Nassar. Denholander alleged she was abused in 2000 when she was fifteen years old. Her allegations included that Nassar massaged her genitals, penetrated her vagina and anus with his thumb and finger, unhooked her bra, and massaged her breasts. MSU Police opened an investigation promptly. In November 2016, Nassar was arrested and charged in Ingham County, Michigan on three charges of first-degree criminal sexual abuse with a person under thirteen years old.

In March 2017, MSU Police Department Detective Sergeant Christopher Rozman stated that Defendant Stampel admitted the guidelines issued to Nassar were illusory in nature. These guidelines were only shared with Defendant Dietzel and no action was taken to implement the new guidelines and restrictions. Stampel additionally admitted that he did not orient new employees in the Sports Medicine Clinic about the guidelines and restrictions on Nassar.

The research study “The Larry Nassar Nightmare: Athletic Organizational Failures to Address Sexual Assault Allegations and a Call for Corrective Action” aims to discuss “how and why USAG, MSU, and the USOC failed to properly investigate and take corrective action as a result of Nassar’s actions” (Udowitch 93). The paper identifies similar athletic organizations and how they handle allegations of sexual assault to then recommend corrective policies and procedures to prevent sexual assaults in the future at the organization. Udowitch was able to conduct personal interviews with gymnasts, administrators, and a team physician, some of whom suffered anxiety and emotional distress from personal experiences with Nassar. The ultimate changes that occurred at USAG included a complete turnover of their entire board when each member resigned. An investigation led by Ropes and Gray law firm to see if anyone within the organization knew of the ongoing abuse but failed to report it, and in 2019, “USAG updated its Safe Sport policy by defined types of abuse and detailing abuse prevention efforts,” (Udowitch 113).

The U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights (DOE) has been federally monitoring MSU due to violations of Title IX policies since 2015. MSU has stood by the institution’s handling of the Nassar investigations, holding that no staff member was aware of the sexual abuse occurring prior to the summer of 2016 from reading the newspapers. DOE rejected MSU’s request to end federal monitoring. DOE has additionally been requiring “MSU to provide accommodations for victims (such as counseling), in addition to placing the university on a five-

year period of special compliance monitoring. In response to this report, MSU must conduct internal reviews and changes to procedures, such as providing accurate and complete crime statistics,” (Udowitch 120).

Udowitch reviews the policy changes in terms of progress toward preventing future sexual abuse, the effectiveness, and possible negative effects of the newly implemented policies. Some negatives of the new policies in place from SafeSport are that minors cannot “communicate, travel, or provide medical treatment one-on-one with a gymnast who is a minor,” (Udowitch 128). The policy has also been expanded to include more abuses than just sexual. Other negative effects of the policy have resulted in gymnasts still fearing that if they file a complaint they could be “harmed by an intense workout or loss of competition” (Udowitch 128). Coaches are afraid that if a false allegation is made against them, then their careers could be ended due to a lack of protection for them. One corrective recommendation is a culture shift within the organizations USAG, MSU, and USOC. The goal of this culture shift is to place the athletes and athletes' safety as a top priority to create an environment that allows athletes to be comfortable with filing reports of abuse and feel confident that the organization will provide protection and support (Udowitch 131). In addition, mandatory and expanded education on sexual violence for each member involved in the athletic institution should be implemented. This should be free, include education for minors, and be required.

Another recommendation from Udowitch is to “Impose significant consequences for mandatory reporters and their athletic organization if they fail to take appropriate action after receiving a complaint or report” (Udowitch 135). This would combat the various times that staff members at MSU and USAG were informed of alleged abuse occurring, but steps were still not taken to reduce the threat made by Nassar, rather the threat was dismissed rather than investigated. Mandatory reporters should have alternate ways of reporting and be required to

document in writing all the reports they receive. Alternate ways of reporting could resolve conflicts of reporting when the abuser is in a position of power over the reporter, which instills a fear of repercussions or other social issues stemming from the reporting. Another recommendation is that “Athletic organizations should maintain an internal centralized database for all reports of sexual violence” (Udowitch 137). A shared database could aid in identifying patterns of abuse, tracking the investigative process, and the conclusion of the allegations. Similarly, “The NCAA and the USOC should maintain a centralized database of completed investigations of individuals who have been found to have engaged in sexual violence” (Udowitch 137). The rest of Udowitch’s recommendations include that victims should be notified of the organization’s actions following a complaint, requirement for mandatory reporters to take action following complaints, the accused should not have contact with the individuals conducting the investigation, team physicians should be considered mandatory reporters, and a requirement of athlete representation within the governing structure of athletic organizations. (Udowitch 138-43). Each of these benefits could help prevent future abuse from occurring and ensure that abuse does not get dismissed or brushed under the rug.

There has been increased legislature inspired by the Nassar case aiming to prevent future abuses similar to his from happening. On January 6, 2023, a bill was signed that hopes to improve FBI child victim protocols. During Nassar’s hearing, the mistreatment of child witnesses was noticed by child welfare groups. The children who were asked to speak to the court were already victims and carried trauma with them from the abuses. The hearing itself should not reintroduce them to their trauma. The bill requires child victims to be interviewed by experts in trauma, “This bill would require the FBI to use multidisciplinary teams when investigating child sexual abuse cases, child sexual abuse material cases, and child trafficking cases, including in situations where the interviewed victim is no longer a child,” (Senator John Coryn).

Jerry Sandusky

The timeline was established using a timeline created by a student at Penn State and published in the university's online newspaper (Staff). Jerry Sandusky was hired as a Penn State football assistant coach in 1969 and became a linebacker coach for the team in 1970. The earliest alleged abuse was reported in 1971, according to Penn State's legal settlements with Sandusky's victims (Staff). "Victim A" said in a 2016 CNN interview that he was raped in a Penn State bathroom in 1971 by Sandusky and that two people from Penn State — "Jim" and "Joe" — spoke with him on the phone and practically threatened him not to report anything (Ganim *Sandusky victim: Joe Paterno told me to drop abuse accusation*). Pennsylvania has a law against threatening the reporting of a crime related to child abuse crimes, Pennsylvania Statutes Title 18 § 4958. Paterno was allegedly alerted to Sandusky's abuse as early as 1976. Two more Penn State assistant coaches allegedly witnessed "inappropriate" or "sexual" contact between Sandusky and children in 1987 (Staff). Additionally, Title IX requires staff members of universities to report suspected sexual abuse as university employees are designated mandated reporters.

In 1988, another sexual assault was allegedly witnessed by a Penn State assistant coach, and the case was reported to Jim Tarman, the university's athletic director. Title IX and

Pennsylvania Statutes Title 18 § 4958 would still apply to not reporting abuse that is witnessed by a mandated reporter. According to the civil suits brought against Sandusky and *Commonwealth of Pennsylvania v. Jerry A. Sandusky*, Sandusky assaulted five more boys on campus between 1998 and 2001. Laws that apply to a university staff member sexually abusing a minor on a college campus include Corruption of a Minor under Title 18 Chapter 63, 6301, as well as typical university policies in compliance with Title IX and the Clery Act on how to handle cases of sexual abuse on campus. On May 3, 1998, Sandusky assaulted an 11-year-old boy in the Lasch Building showers, according to the Freeh report (Freeh 14). According to the report, Sandusky lifted the boy in the shower for an embrace and made him feel uncomfortable. The next day, the boy's mother noticed her son's hair was wet and he was visibly upset. She then called psychologist Alycia Chambers in State College about the situation. Chambers told the mother to report the incident to University Police, and she contacted Ron Schreffler, a University Park detective. After contacting her colleagues and talking with the boy, Chambers concluded that Sandusky's behavior resembled a pedophile's. The Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare took over the case once Schreffler reached out to a caseworker at the Centre County Children and Youth Services, John Miller, and was told the service center had a conflict of interest with the Second Mile. Sandusky had helped found Second Mile. Schreffler also reached out to Karen Arnold, the Centre County prosecutor for the District Attorney's office. According to the report, Schreffler did this to avoid dealing with the university for the investigation (Freeh 43). Around 8 p.m. on May 4, Schreffler and Miller spoke with a friend of the boy who said he experienced "bear hugs" in the showers from Sandusky. On May 5, 1998, DPW investigator Jerry Lauro took on the case (Staff 43).

On May 6, 1998, according to Schreffler's investigation, Sandusky called the boy a few times and left a voicemail, inviting him to work out. Pennsylvania Statutes Title 18 Chapter 63

Section 6318 prohibits unlawful contact with a minor. On May 7, Chambers gave her written evaluation of the situation to Schreffler. Lauro interviewed the boy's mother the same day, but Lauro later told the Special Investigative Counsel that he didn't have enough evidence and knowledge of the case to proceed further in the investigation. According to the Freeh report, he never saw Chambers' evaluation (Freeh 44). On May 8, the second evaluation by counselor John Seasock occurred, and he concluded there was no concrete evidence of sexual assault. According to his evaluation, Sandusky just needed to be taught boundaries. On May 12, Schreffler covertly overheard Sandusky talk with the boy's mother and his apology for making him uncomfortable. Listening in on another confrontation, Schreffler and a few other officers heard Sandusky tell the boy's mother he showered with the boys often — but not in a sexual way (Staff 45). Showering with a minor that is not related to you could be covered by Pennsylvania Statutes Title 18 Chapter 63 Section 6318 for unlawful contact with a minor. The officers reportedly didn't question Sandusky after the interaction.

Thomas Harmon, a University Police Department Chief, kept Vice President Gary Schultz in the loop about the case. By searching through emails and notes, the Special Investigation Counsel determined Schultz knew of the situation by May 4, 1998. The Counsel reviewed emails between Schultz, athletic director Tim Curley, and President Graham Spanier from May 5. The case was never added to the crime log, and Penn State's Office of Human Resources wasn't contacted about the case either. Failing to add the investigation to the university's crime log goes against IX and the Clery Act for transparency and investigative concerns. On May 13, Curley sent an email to Schultz asking about the status of the case because "Coach" was getting anxious- "Coach" was believed to be Joe Paterno. Between May 27 and June 1, District Attorney Ray Gricar decided not to prosecute Sandusky. On June 1, Lauro and

Schreffler talked with Sandusky in the weight room about the incident. He said he wouldn't shower with any children again, and they both dropped the case.

On June 8, Schultz told Curley and Spanier that Gricar and DPW dropped the investigation and that he hoped the situation stayed in the past. There is no record of any administrator speaking with Sandusky about his actions or with Paterno about the conclusion of the case. Title IX requires that disciplinary action follows incidents of sexual abuse to ensure the continued protection of students. According to Schreffler, no university administrators interfered with the case. The Penn State Board of Trustees met on May 14 and 15, 1998, but there was no evidence of the Board's knowledge of the case. According to the Freeh report, Sandusky knew he would not be the next head coach, so he retired in 1999 and was paid a total of \$168,000 before taxes. (Staff) (Freeh 60)

On August 31, 1999, Sandusky was granted "emeritus" rank, which gave him access to university facilities after he retired. The university's decision to allow Sandusky ongoing access to its facilities following his retirement appears unjustifiable. Title IX should have encouraged the university to issue disciplinary action against Sandusky, one action being to reduce his access to facilities. In Fall 2000, Penn State janitor James Calhoun said he observed Sandusky with a child in the Lasch Building showers, but he didn't report the incident due to the fear of being fired. Title IX protects mandated reporters, which includes any university staff member, from receiving disciplinary action for reporting suspected abuse. Whistleblower laws protect reporters of abuse. A second janitor, Ronald Petrosky, said he saw the lower bodies of two figures in the showers that same night. After speaking with the senior janitor Jay Witherite, Calhoun and Petrosky decided not to report what they saw. On February 9, 2001, between 9:00 and 9:30 p.m., Michael McQueary, a graduate assistant with the football program, said he observed an incident of "sexual nature" between a prepubescent boy and Sandusky (Freeh 67). McQueary said he shut

his locker, moved toward the two males, and saw them separate from each other. On February 10, at 7:30 a.m., McQueary called Paterno and went to Paterno's house to discuss what he saw the night before. No evidence showed that either male tried to identify the boy involved. On February 11, Gary Schultz had a conference call with Penn State's outside legal counsel Courtney Wendell regarding the "reporting of suspected child abuse." These repeated moments of witnessing or being told about the sexual abuse would violate Title IX's mandated reporting (Freeh 2012).

On February 12, 2001, Schultz had a "confidential" meeting with Curley where they discussed the 1998 allegations. Schultz and Curley decided that unless Sandusky admitted to having a problem, they would need to have the Department of Public Welfare investigate it as an independent agency concerned with child welfare (Staff 122). Choosing not to investigate goes against the Clery Act's requirement for the university to report and disclose crimes occurring on and near campus. At approximately 2:30 p.m., Spanier said he met with Schultz and Curley, so they could give him a "heads up" that McQueary reported what he saw to Paterno (Freeh 62).

On February 25, 2001, according to Schultz's notes, a meeting between himself, Spanier, and Curley resulted in Schultz alerting the chair of The Second Mile, reporting the situation to the Department of Public Welfare, and telling Sandusky "To avoid bringing children alone into Lasch Building" (Freeh 73). From February 25 through 28, 2001, Spanier, Schultz, and Curley exchanged emails regarding the allegations, but the terms used were "in code," according to Spanier, because the Athletic Department was "notorious for leaks." On March 15 and 16, The Penn State Board of Trustees held a meeting, but no signs of the Sandusky allegations were discussed, according to Freeh report interviews and the Board's records (Staff 83). On March 19, the Executive Director of The Second Mile, Jack Raykovitz, had a meeting with Curley to discuss Sandusky's actions "to avoid publicity issues," according to the charity's counsel.

Raykovitz talked to Sandusky, who admitted to showering with the boys and nothing more, about the situation and emphasized he wouldn't be allowed to bring children onto campus (Freeh 64).

In August 2001, Victim 5 was assaulted in the Lasch Building, according to the Freeh report (Freeh 25). In 2009, the mother of the boy identified by court papers as Victim 1 called a high school in Clinton County to report Sandusky sexually abused her son. The school district banned Sandusky from any of its campuses, and the police were notified. In September 2010, Sandusky announced in a letter his retirement from the day-to-day events and board of The Second Mile. On November 5, 2011, Sandusky was arraigned in district court and charged with 21 felonies (Staff). The final count of Sandusky's charges is now 45 counts of sexual abuse. "Sandusky faced 48 counts of abuse committed against 10 different victims, 26 of which were felonies. He has been convicted of 25 of those felonies and faces a maximum prison sentence of 442 years," (Jerry Hinnen).

Studies have been conducted in response to the Sandusky Scandal at Penn State. "Lessons Not Yet Learned: Culture, Governance, and the Jerry Sandusky Case" suggests reform following the years Sandusky was able to abuse multiple children. (Tierney et. al. 12) Structural issues within PSU's Board, Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE), American Council of Trustees and Alumni (ACTA), and Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges (AGB) are faulted for allowing Sandusky's abuse to become long-term. These organizations oversee aspects of PSU and were made aware of incidents related to the Sandusky scandal before and as the events occurred. No action was taken to stop or prevent the abuse from occurring on PSU's campus (Tierney et. al. 13). The authors suggest more accountability and management of power within the boards. Suggested limitations include restricting the powers of the Board president and governor, capping the Board's membership at twenty-one, requiring a majority of members present for a quorum, reducing overlaps between staff and board members,

promoting greater transparency and accountability, and implementing a nine-year term limit (Tierney et. al. 14-6). Tierney and Rall believe that there is too much power within each Board member. The risk of corruption is considerable given the twelve-year term limits and the potential for individuals to transition from being Board members to staff positions at the same university, or from university staff roles to becoming Board members at the same institution (Tierney et. al. 17).

Tierney and Rall additionally recommend a change in the organizational culture of PSU. The change would include understanding “mission, environment, leadership, strategy, information and socialization” (Tierney et. al. 18). The results of the change could improve the accountability, structure, managerial structure, and solution finding of PSU. The article overall finds that PSU would benefit most from a culture change to improve the quality of governance at PSU to prevent future scandals from occurring without interference from the Board or other trusted governing bodies who work with the university (Tierney et. al. 23).

The idea of corruption being at the center of the Sandusky case is also addressed in “Wrangling Rumors of Corruption: Institutional Neutralization of the Jerry Sandusky Scandal at Penn State University” (Klein et. al.). The article cites the Freeh Report to address the management of the investigation, noting that the report indicates PSU officials were aware of the abuse as early as the late 1990s. (Freeh 20) Yet the officials hesitated to take action against Sandusky due to concerns regarding the reputation of the university, the football program, and preventing a legal battle. (Klein et. al. 485) These concerns prioritize minimizing the scandal's visibility instead of addressing the abuse and implementing solutions to safeguard children. Spanier, Curley, and Schultz were involved in lying to the Board during investigations for reputation's sake and additionally failed at stopping Sandusky from abusing more children (Klein et. al. 485). The issues at PSU that allowed abuse to occur were not related to the policies and

regulations already in place at the time of the abuse, but rather the handling by the entrusted staff and Board members who failed to act.

Clemente is a retired Supervisory Special Agent FBI, who then lists his recommendations moving forward to prevent child abuse. For the Sandusky case, Clemente believes that the investigation should have focused less on the staff at PSU, including Paterno, and instead, more focus on the victims and Sandusky's families. There was no evidence that there was an "agreement to conceal between Curley, Schultz, Spanier, and Paterno" (Clemente 55). These are only theories that conspiracy occurred. If the focus were on the victims and his family, then the report would have been able to notice the odd dynamic between the children and Sandusky. Greater attention could have been directed toward the implications of acquaintance child sexual victimization, grooming, and compliant victimization to gain a clearer understanding of the actions and inactions of all parties involved, including Joe Paterno's measured response to the limited information available to him. (Clemente 67).

Special attention is paid to the question of the children who were abused. When the University Police Department (UPD) brought in the children for questioning, the police were unable to identify sexual intent from Sandusky, although both the boys' stories matched. This could suggest that the police were unfamiliar with "grooming or compliant victimization" (Clemente 16). Even though the young boys may not have clearly indicated signs of abuse to the authorities, it does not negate the possibility of sexual intent driving Sandusky's criminal actions. After the interrogation, Sandusky was allowed to leave once he was instructed by UPD Detective Schreffler to not shower again with any child (Clemente 16). Clemente's paper examines Paterno's role in the investigation, questioning whether he directly contributed to Sandusky's maintaining access to children—a factor that ultimately resulted in the abuse of several more boys in the following years. Clemente argues that Paterno was not a trained investigator or an

expert in child sex offenders, therefore he could not have read the warning signs. Paterno was only able to go off what the police had reported back to the university. Clemente argues against the notion that Paterno should have been responsible for monitoring Sandusky to prevent further offenses, asserting that this responsibility rested with the University Police Department (UPD).

Clemente analyzed Sandusky's history with the young children his family fostered during his teenage years. The behavior that Sandusky exhibited since his teens should have been a warning sign for the type of abuse he was capable of. There should additionally be a further investigation into the children who worked with Sandusky while he was involved with the Second Mile, as well as its administration. Second Mile was not investigated the same way PSU was since no victims came forward. Clemente argues that the focus should shift from the administration's concealment of information to the reluctance to address and discuss "issues surrounding child sexual victimization, particularly when it involves male offenders targeting male victims." (Clemente 68). The subject, though difficult and uncomfortable, demands broader discussion to raise awareness and encourage meaningful action. By confronting these issues openly, we can foster understanding and create safer environments for those most vulnerable. Encouraged discussion can reduce the risk of manipulation that can occur when children are not educated about the dangers of compliant victimization through grooming. Parents need to recognize behavior changes in their children and pursue the cause of these changes. The system has failed to educate families on warning signs and dangers (Clemente 68).

Education for government child service agencies should be enhanced to improve their understanding of and response to sexual abuse, with a particular emphasis on intra-familial victimization, rather than focusing solely on cases involving acquaintances or strangers. Adults should remain alert when observing a seemingly friendly adult who spends excessive time with

children not their own, engages in overly close or playful interactions, or isolates the children. Such behaviors should be recognized as potential warning signs of abuse. Clemente's final recommendations are (1) improving education and dialogue of abuse, (2) establishing a national child sexual victimization umbrella organization, and (3) fostering an environment of support and healing for victims (Clemente 72).

Brian Peck

When looking at the Brain Peck case, important policies exist that did not at the time of the abuse in the early 2000s. The timeline that I created is derived from *Quiet on Set (2024)* ("Breaking the Silence"). The docuseries includes references to official court documents as well as interviews with both the victim, Drake Bell, and his father. When Bell's father spoke up about his uneasiness with the treatment he witnessed from Peck, the accusations were shut down and not further investigated. This would now relate to California law Gov Code Section 12940 (j)(1) This statute puts the requirement onto the workplace to investigate alleged harassment and requires the workplace to take all steps necessary to prevent discrimination and harassment from happening (k). California Penal Code 11165.1 outlines sexual abuse. Bell mentions that he felt "trapped" and unable to tell people about the abuse since he believed Peck could blacklist him and ruin his career as an actor ("Breaking the Silence"). There are Whistleblower protections from facing retaliation from your employer for speaking out against illegal acts CA Labor Code § 1102.5 (2023). Additionally, as of 2021, Assembly Bill 1963 amended CA Labor Code § 11165.7 (48) to add human resources at businesses that employ minors to the list of mandated reporters. Section (49) requires that anyone with direct contact and supervision of minors is also a mandated reporter, which would have applied to co-workers of Bell while at Nickelodeon.

According to LA Court documents, Brian Peck was charged with (1) PC288a(i)-F Oral Copulation by Anesthesia or Controlled Substance, (2) PC288(c)(1)-F Lewd Act upon a Child 14 of 15 by Person 10 Years Older, (3) PC286(b)(2)-F Sodomy of Person Under 16, (4) PC664-286(b)(2)-F Attempt to Commit Sodomy With Person Under 18 Years by Person Over 21 Years, (5) PC289(i)-F Sexual Penetration Person Over Age 21 With Person Under 16 Years, (6) PC288a(b)(2)-F Oral Copulation of a Person Under 16, (7) PC288a(b)(2)-F Oral Copulation of a Person Under 16, (8) PC288a(b)(2)-F Oral Copulation of a Person Under 16, (9) PC288a(b)(2)-F Oral Copulation of a Person Under 16, (10) PC288.2(a)-F Harmful Matter Sent: Seduction of Minor, (11) PC311.4(c)-F Using Minor for Sex Acts. He pleaded no contender to counts 002 and 006, and the rest of the charges were dismissed (*The People of the State of California vs. PECK, BRIAN RICHARD*, 2004).

After being charged with the sexual abuse of Drake Bell, Brian Peck was hired by Disney to be an acting coach for the Suite Life of Zack and Cody (“Breaking the Silence”). CA Lab Code Section 1706 requires a child performer services permit (a)(1), which requests a federal summary of criminal history information (2)(a) and the division can require arrest notification service (c). These should have informed the hiring agency of Disney that Peck was charged with child abuse and deterred Disney from hiring Peck.

California has laws that prohibit contact with a minor for the intention of sexual, lewd, or illegal acts CA Penal Code PEN § 288.3. In the case of Peck, this would have prohibited Brian Peck’s phone calls with Drake Bell, which encouraged Bell to spend the night at Peck’s residence, have solo car rides with Bell, etc., which ultimately resulted in Bell’s abuse. There are currently no laws in the workplace that extend this law to HR policies protecting adult co-workers from communicating with their child co-workers. Current Child actor laws and labor laws mainly focus on the hours of labor, intensity of labor, and compensation for labor. There are

no explicit guidelines for the interaction expectations between adults and children in the workplace. Coogan's Law, or California's Child Actor's Bill, protects the money that child actors earn from being exploited by their parents. Coogan's law forces the parents to create a trust for the child and dedicate a minimum portion of the child's compensation from their performance to this fund (SAG-AFTRA, Coogan's Law).

Ruby Franke

In January 2015, Ruby Franke created the YouTube channel "8 Passengers". The family vlogs she shared contained unsettling moments that raised concerns among viewers about potential instances of abuse being captured. Viewers alerted CPS and local authorities, citing moments from her vlogs. Springville Police visited Franke's home fifteen times from March 2019 to August 2023. According to DCFS guidelines, once CPS opens an investigation, law enforcement will conduct their investigation simultaneously, if seen fit (What Does DCFS Do?). While law enforcement did visit the home various times, contact was not made, and postings were left on the Franke's door instead. The investigation should have made further attempts at contact since the children were at risk of being harmed.

The timeline of abuse was created by referencing official court documents ("Utah vs Franke/Hildebrandt > Documents.") and various media that followed the case, some YouTube videos were recovered using the Wayback Machine to additionally help build the timeline. The daily YouTube vlogs featured troubling incidents, such as Ruby Franke threatening to decapitate her four-year-old daughter's stuffed animal. She also warned of withholding dinner as a "privilege" and revealed that she had deprived her teenage son of his bedroom for seven months, forcing him to sleep on a bean bag in the basement. These instances would fall under emotional

child abuse per Utah Admin Code R512-80-2. Section 12b defines emotional child abuse as “threatening harm, rejecting, isolating, terrorizing, ignoring, or corrupting”. Similarly, in another vlog, Franke’s preschool-aged daughter missed school because she overslept. Franke refused to wake or dress her daughter and blamed her for missing preschool, which caused her daughter distress. This could fall under the category of emotional abuse of ‘rejecting’ or ‘ignoring’. Due to her daughter oversleeping, Franke refused to speak to her y daughter and rejected her request to go to school, although it is not reasonable for one to expect a preschooler to wake themselves up for school.

In one vlog, Ruby Franke discussed a phone call she received from her daughter’s teacher informing Franke that her daughter did not bring lunch. The teacher asked if Franke could bring lunch to school, or if the teacher could provide one. Franke was upset by this call and blamed her elementary-aged daughter for not packing her own lunch, so she could go without lunch. This would fall under Utah Code 76-5-109 (1)(a)(ii)(C), which defines one type of child physical injury as “failure to thrive or malnutrition”. Franke has refused to grant her children personal space, justifying this by citing her ownership of the house. Once, Franke forced her eight-year-old son to do ten pushups for leaving a pair of socks outside. This would correspond with Utah Admin Code R512-80-2 (26) which defines physical neglect as “failure to provide for a child's basic needs of food, clothing, shelter, or other care necessary for the child's health, safety, morals, or well-being”.

In 2020, viewers of the 8 Passengers channel created a petition for CPS to investigate Franke and multiple CPS reports were created. Franke’s oldest daughter Shari said she attempted to call the police and CPS for years on her mother. Franke’s neighbors have also called CPS multiple times before. One year, Ruby Franke took away her children’s Christmas. Ruby Franke’s ten-year-old daughter would wander the neighborhood. It was common for Franke to

leave the kids home alone for prolonged periods. Both of these examples where Franke failed to supervise her children would fall under Utah Admin Code R512-80-2 (23). Section 23 defines non-supervision as “the child is subjected to accidental harm or an unreasonable risk of accidental harm due to failure to supervise the child's activities at a level consistent with the child's age and maturity.” It did not appear that daughter Eve was attending school since she would be seen wandering the neighborhood during the school year. The 1st call to CPS was around Sept 2022, and officers eventually did a wellness check. Since no one answered, papers were posted on Franke’s door.

The abuse was ultimately caught on August 31, 2023, when her son aged eleven wandered to a neighbor’s house visibly starved with open wounds on his wrists and ankles, and asked for help. Starvation of a child would fall under Utah Code 76-5-109 (1)(a)(B)(X), under “serious bodily injury”, “any conduct that results in starvation or failure to thrive or malnutrition that jeopardizes the child's life”. The open wounds were caused by ropes and then Cayenne pepper was applied to the open wounds with duct tape or Saran wrap. This would fall under the same code, section (1)(a)(iii)(II), “physical torture”. Ruby Franke’s journal further detailed the torture that the children endured, see the timeline in the methodology section.

In Franke’s guilty plea, she admitted that between May 2023 and August 2023, she knowingly included and allowed another adult to inflict harm on her children (Press Release Regarding Jodi Hildebrandt’s Guilty Plea to Aggravated Child Abuse). The investigation released one of Ruby Franke’s partially redacted journals to be released that chronologized the abuse of her children. In the journal, Franke describes the physical and mental abuse her nine-year-old daughter (EF) and eleven-year-old son (RF) endured. RF was made to complete labor-intensive work outside for hours while being denied food, water, and footwear during the summer heat. (Ruby Franke's Timeline Journal) While no law prohibits forcing one’s child to

complete labor as punishment, it could reasonably fall under the law against physical torture as a form of punishment for one's child. This instance can also fall under Utah Admin. Code R512-80-2 (26) since the children were denied food and water.

RF was punished additionally through rigorous exercises such as wall sits and carrying books or heavy boxes up and down stairs. While outside, RF would sustain blistered sunburns. This could fall under environmental neglect due to the intense heat and sun. Franke recounted how RF was restrained face-down on the ground, with two sets of handcuffs securing his hands and feet, leaving them suspended off the ground. This position resulted in injuries that cut through the skin and damaged the muscle and tissue. (Ruby Franke's Timeline Journal) These conditions could constitute physical torture as previously described. RF's injuries were treated at home. Open wounds would be covered in duct tape and bindings were placed on top of these injuries. Franke confessed to kicking RF while wearing boots, holding his head underwater, and suffocating him with her hands over his mouth and nose. This would fall under Utah Code 76-5-109 (1)(a)(B)(IX) regarding cutting off air supply as severe physical abuse. RF was also indoctrinated by Franke and Hildebrandt to believe that he was evil and possessed. This would align with Utah Admin. Code R512-80-2 (12)(b), possibly as "corrupting" as a form of emotional abuse or "rejecting". EF was given similar treatment and punishments as her brother RF (Ruby Franke's Timeline Journal).

Ultimately, Ruby Franke was charged with six counts of felony child abuse, three counts of abuse for each child. These charges were decided, "...through a combination of physical injuries or torture; through starvation or malnutrition that jeopardizes life; and by causing severe emotional harm, according to the Washington County attorney's office," (Miller).

Ruby Franke's case inspired a closer look at laws that protect children featured in family vlogs. "Family Vlogging and Child Harm: A Need for Nationwide Protection" focuses on the

balancing of parental and children's rights as it relates to current laws and family vlogging (Laude 285). The laws Laude cites are Child Labor Laws and Child Entertainment Laws. Current Child Labor Laws do not include provisions for family vlogging- the laws mainly focus on the physical labor aspects and typical work employment that minors can hold. In the proposed Family Vlogging Protections, there should be provisions that protect minor's health, well-being, and educational opportunities. (Laude 285). In existing Entertainment Laws, there are regulations for actors who are employed by the entertainment industry. The Coogan Law of California (also adopted by New York, Illinois, Louisiana, and New Mexico laws) ensures that some of the money earned from the child actor's performances is held for them in a trust (Laude 289). Laude further writes that there are gaps between these existing laws and the needs required for family vlogging. Family vlogging is differentiated in a Washington proposed bill, "Unlike in child acting, these children are not playing a part and lack legal protections," (Laude 290). Since the children are not employed through regulated means, they do not have the same protections given by Child Entertainment Laws. Safeguards are absent for income, privacy, resistance to emotional manipulation, and protection against potential exploitation.

There are already laws that exist on a global scale that protect children on social media, but the U.S. has not signed these laws. "Family Influencing in the Best Interests of the Child" focuses on the expansion of laws to better protect children being used by family influences from exploiting children on social media (Abrams 97). Abrams suggests the U.S. adapt the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). The CRC was signed in 1989 and has been ratified by every eligible country other than the U.S. (Abrams 101). Although the CRC was created prior to social media, protections included emphasize that "The best interests of children are as applicable to the problem of family influencer exploitation as it is to child sex trafficking, domestic abuse, or child labor regulation" (Abrams 102). Abrams elaborates on the five provisions of the CRC that she

believes should be included. The first one recommended is Article 3 which forces lawmakers to create stricter regulations against child exploitation and inappropriate child labor practices. The second one is Article 12 which applies to children's consent to be on social media accounts, this could in turn protect the privacy and exploitation of children who do not wish to be filmed in all situations by their family. Article 16 applies to material that could include embarrassing, sensitive, or personal information that family vloggers share about their children on social media. This could protect children from having their potty training or menstrual cycle filmed without consent. In addition, "These families publicly share their children's medical, emotional, and developmental challenges under the guise of disability awareness and advocacy," (Abrams 104). Article 31 mandates that children involved in the family influencer industry must adhere to child labor laws. Without the application of child labor laws, children in vlogs feel the need to always be ready to film all aspects of life, leading to long work hours that lead to physical and emotional strain. The article makes it a right for a child to experience rest, leisure, and play freely. The children generate profit, so they need to be given the same protections as other child performers. And finally, Article 36 requires the vloggers to protect children against all forms of exploitation that may be caused by their work. "The welfare of children is put at risk when they are featured on social media pages," (Abrams 105).

As of August 29, 2024, Senate Bill 764, the Child Content Creator Rights Act was passed to ensure content creators under the age of eighteen earn fair monetary compensation for the use of their image (California legislature approves Senator Padilla Bill updating financial protections for youth content creators). Since California is home to multiple expansive entertainment industries, the need for improved child influencer laws was apparent. The legislation is similar to the Coogan Act but goes further to include children who are recorded by their parents or family for social media who are not under contract as a typical child actor would be. California hopes to

inspire other states, or the federal government, to enact similar policy additions to protect the growing number of child influencers from being exploited financially.

Utah Codes 80-2-602 and 80-2-701 describe the investigative process and requirements necessary to constitute further investigations of child abuse, which include contacting the child's school to see if abuse has been suspected by the teachers or staff, before continuing to the residence. In the case of *Franke*, officers did visit the residence but failed to contact anyone in the Franke family. This suggests that while the reports of suspected abuse were investigated, officers and CPS/DCPS were unable to substantiate the reports. If these organizations were able to substantiate the abuse, then officers and social workers would have been granted more ability to enter the residence and confirm the wellness of the child. Without explicitly seeing signs of abuse, unsubstantiated reports are unable to be investigated further than contacting the school and staff attempting contact with the family.

III. Methodology

Jose and Kitty Menendez Timeline

Cedar Home, New Jersey (1969-1970)

1. 1970-Kitty was extremely reckless driving with the boys in her car. Would say "Let's go for a joyride". She would get spaced out, and drive straight towards anything in front of the car. Boys would have to yell her name to get her to snap out of it. On one occasion, the car did two 360s in her Jaguar. Lyle was less than 2 years old, sitting on Alan's lap without restraints.

Munsey House (1970-1977 approx.)

2. 1972-Erik, younger than 2 years old- Parents would be so occupied that Erik and Lyle would often leave the house to play in a field across the street. It was a known joke. Kitty and Jose thought it was funny. Cousin Alan would have to get the boys.

3. 1972-Erik- Around age 2-4, very little. Jose would place Erik on pull-up bars mounted on a doorframe, to strengthen his arms. When he got too tired, Jose would pull back his feet so when Erik fell, he would fall face first onto the ground.
4. 1972-Lyle began swimming at age 4. Father would yank Lyle out of the pool by his hair. Jose would hold Lyle's head underwater to see how long he would do it. Lyle would fight back to get air. Jose wanted him to expand his lungs.
5. 1973-Lyle age 5, Kitty left him and Erik alone in the airport with suitcases for a long time. Lyle panicked, Kitty would have tantrums and rages about the kids. Throwing things, screaming, cursing, calling "bastard", and threatening with father. Compared Lyle to his brother. Called stupid, I hate you.
6. 1974-Lyle age 6- Father had talks with Lyle about sex with men. Gave him passages from history books about Greek soldiers who had sex with each other as a way of bonding. Talked about the special relationship between the firstborn in the family, and the sons should do what the father says. Approx 2-3 times a week they had sex or massages after sports practice.
7. 1974-Talks In the basement began around age 6, Lyle. Sat extremely close, Lyle on the couch. Jose is on a higher chair. Sitting with knees between father's knees. Heads touching.
8. 1974-Lyle age 6-He was shown that Jose could withstand pain. He would make you pinch him with welts, pierce himself with needles, held hand over candles. Lyle would imitate; pressure was put behind the ear.
9. On way to tennis once, Erik and Lyle witnessed Jose get road rage. Ended with Jose knocking out the other driver and driving off. One punch. Left the boys crying and nervous.
10. 1974-Erik age 4 or 5- at a swimming pool, a stranger had to pull Erik out of the water because he was screaming for help. Father wanted Erik to make the lap in the pool.
11. 1974-1978-Lyle age 6-10 got terrible stomach aches that led to vomiting from the nerves, and headaches. Mother did not care, and threatened to tell father. Swimming made him nervous from the drills
12. 1975-Lyle age 7- During tennis, Jose would serve very strong and fast, like he was serving an adult. They would practice three times a day for two hours at a time. Boys were only allowed water and tea. Lyle got an injured shoulder from tennis. Lyle kept returning Jose's very strong and fast serves, which would make his shoulder swell.
13. 1975-Soccer- Lyle age 7/8. Lyle had a conversation with friends Jerry and Jose about practicing together. After the game in the basement, Jose mentioned the conversation. And said, "What did I tell you about having friends?" Then they would sit close together, and Lyle would repeat phrases from his books. "I have to constantly struggle because there are forces tearing me down and sometimes, they be disguised in the form of a smile or the hand of a friend" They would repeat it back and forth. If he made a mistake in the phrase, Jose would bump his head. Created a trance state for a long time, over an hour.
14. 1975-Erik age 5- Erik was left home alone and went out looking for Kitty at night. She had gone to the tennis club with Lyle about 5-6 miles away. On her way back, Kitty found him on the side of the road.
15. 1975-Erik age 5, Lyle age 8- Lyle got into the car, and put it in neutral while in the driveway. Erik ran into the house to get Kitty. She was on the phone and took her a while, he was running back and forth. She barely saved it from hitting the mailbox. She was bothered.
16. 1975- Around age 7, Lyle began hearing things like I wish you were never born.
17. 1975-Erik age 5, Lyle age 8- Lyle stepped on a needle in their parents' room, straight through his big toe. Erik went to Kitty; she was on the phone and said she would be there in a moment. Erik kept urging.
18. Kitty would never pick up the boys from school or sports on time. Hours after.
19. 1975-Around age 7 Lyle, became more involved. Had anal sex with his father. Had him use objects like toothbrush 'object sessions', and take off his pants. Was raped anally, cried, and bled. Asked him not to.
20. Lyle told Kitty. Told her to make Jose leave him alone- that he keeps touching me.
21. Kitty said he's exaggerating, and Jose has to punish him when he does things wrong. Never told anyone else when he was a child. Jose didn't want him to, said it was their secret and bad things would happen to him if he told anyone, said he never would.
22. 1975-Lyle age 7, Jose beats the class's pet rabbit to death and leaves it in the garbage for Lyle to find it.
23. 1975-Lyle age 7 had to give every detail about his day and act out his morning stretches. Sometimes Kitty would make noise or cough, and shake their head. Jose would yank Lyle out of the chair, and into his room, and punish him. Sometimes cut dinner short to take him downstairs, punish.
24. Jose gave history lessons to Lyle. If he got it wrong, Jose would become enraged and throw Lyle out sliding glass door any weather or season. He would be stuck outside for hours, in the winter, would hide in doghouse.

25. Jose taught the boys lessons on trust. With Lyle, Jose pushed him on the swing hard until it flipped over the top of the swing. Lyle's arm got caught and scraped. Jose said you can't trust anyone.
 26. With Erik, Jose would place Erik on the counter, and then he would jump into Jose's arms. This would repeat until Jose let him fall on the ground on purpose.
 27. 1976-Erik age 6-7- Father sent him a postcard with his name misspelled. Said he hopes that Erik is crying less, and is not being a sissy. Often used terms such as sissy and crybaby. Father would ban him to the room or slap him when he cried.
 28. 1976- According to Cousin Kathleen, Lyle asked if he could sleep in the basement with her. Then Lyle touched himself and said Jose had been touching him. Diane brought Kitty downstairs and told her what Lyle had said. Kitty did not take it seriously; Kitty took Lyle by the arm upstairs.
 29. Alan noticed the Jose would take showers with the boys, even though they were old enough to shower on their own.
 30. Alan was not allowed in the boys' room once Jose took either boy to the room. Neither Kitty nor Alan were allowed to go in or near the room. Kitty was never allowed in the room. Cousin Kathleen had the same experience.
 31. 1976-Age 6 and 8- Naked photos without faces. Erik with Erektion labeled 'Erik's 6th birthday'
 32. 1976-Abuse stopped around age 8, Lyle. Did not tell brother.
 33. 1976-Erik age 6- Massages began.
 34. 1977- Erik's massages changed, had to take off his underwear. Massaged genitals 2-3 times per month, progressed to oral. When these were occurring, Jose said he belonged in the family. Jose said massages were to release stress and tension. Massages were between them, if it was told then it would stop, and Erik would not get attention.
 35. Kitty would beat with her hands and kick them on the ground. Both Kitty and Jose dragged the boys into their room. Stuck in there all day. Went against Jose's planned schedule, and he would be mad. Went to the bathroom out the window or inside Tupperware.
- North Mill Row, Princeton, New Jersey (1977-1978)
36. When Lyle was little, he would be held down on the floor. Grabbed and thrown under the bed until Jose came home. It would be for hours, the whole afternoon, until evening. Happened regularly when she exploded. Ferret would go to the bathroom under the bed, very claustrophobic.
 37. 1977-Age 7- Jose shoved down Erik's head, and he gagged. When talked about it, Jose said it was supposed to happen. Romans did it before they battle. Erik thought Jose knew everything and trusted him.
 38. Age 7, Erik- Injury back of throat. Seemingly from oral sex. Posterior Pharynx, uvula, and soft palate. Dr. Kerry English testified
 39. 1977-Age 9, Lyle- told Cousin Diane Vandermolen about fear of his father touching him
 40. 1977-Lyle age 9- Cousin Alan frequently heard Jose and Kitty fighting. Kitty would leave the room with bruises.
 41. 1977-Pornographic videos were made available to the brothers, Jose brought them home and all viewed together, as early as Munsey and Pennington House. Mostly sexual violence, and gang rapes. Would put videos on for relatives and neighbors for shock value, to Lyle's friends. Lyle was not bothered.
 42. Father took photographs of brothers. Of their private parts. In the bathtub or changing. Would take photos of just the lower area, no face just genitals, bending over or changing. They never saw the photos.
 43. Jose drilled the boys with questions about their day or knowledge. He demanded quick answers. Lyle was expected to answer more. If they couldn't answer, they had to grab the newspaper or encyclopedia and find the answer, stop eating. If Alan didn't know the answer, he was also belittled.

Pennington House (1978-1986)

44. Kitty helped the boys, mostly Erik, with homework. Would go into rage. She would watch Erik, then grab homework, crumble it, and hit it onto the back of his head, his back. Jose was in shock when he walked in and witnessed it. Erik would cry. Occurred every day.
45. Kitty threw things and chased Lyle around with a kitchen knife.
46. Erik was sometimes asked questions, sometimes when he begun to answer Jose would tell them to shut up. Erik tried to be involved a lot, wonder into conversations, upset father.
47. One time, Lyle and Jose were having a conversation. Erik wandered into the area. Father smacked him onto the floor and bruised his face.
48. Father was often rough with Erik, smack him. Mother would never interfere.

49. Erik would cry and go to Kitty. If father was especially harsh to Erik and Kitty, she may say something like 'oh Jose', he would then turn his attention to her about interrupting, say harsh things to her. She would cry, usually end up leaving.
50. 1978-Until Lyle age 10/11- Kitty would take them to shopping malls. Often left in the car for hours. They would pee between cars in the parking lot. Sometimes she would bring boys into the shops with them trailing, they would get lost. Storekeepers often found the boys and would page Kitty. She would wait until she was done, an hour or 2. Then pick them up on her way out. One time security officers made fun of the boys, they were left for so long. Kitty abandoned them, they would have to spend the night. Very scary, strangers making fun of them. Happened a lot of the time, upwards of 10-15 times.
51. Kitty always very late from picking them up from sports or school. Kitty would lie and say she couldn't find Lyle outside on bench, she would go into tantrum. Looked or waited for an hour. It would be hours late, getting dark. She just didn't care, only cared what father thought. Kitty often said that she hated the boys, and that they ruined her life plans.
52. Cousin Alan received verbal discipline and was sent to his room, the door would be locked in for hours at a time, even overnight. He would try knocking but would end up urinating out the window.
53. Cousin Alan and other cousins witnessed Kitty's temper. Kitty would suddenly turn up their fists, and clench hard. Then clinch teeth and pop neck vein. She would open the cupboard and throw various items in the sink, break glasses. Alan would go into the kitchen and try to snap her out of it by saying her name, it sometimes worked. This frightened Alan, and he was concerned. The boys found it normal and would not respond to her tantrum.
54. Lyle came to Alan and asked him to protect him from Jose. Lyle asked why punishment was worse for him and Erik compared to Alan when it was the same crime. Lyle asked Alan to talk to Jose for him, he refused.
55. Lyle told Jose to do something about her anger. He said to avoid her, she's not rational.
56. 1979-Around age 11, Lyle. Kitty would ask Lyle how she looked topless, open robe, or naked. Kitty showed Lyle bathing suit photos of herself, or in lingerie.
57. 1979-1982-Lyle age 11-13- Kitty would help Lyle with baths. Would enter after he had been there awhile. Wash hair, everywhere including genitals with a sponge.
58. Lyle age 11-13 still slept with Kitty sometimes. Sometimes touched Kitty everywhere. With or without Jose there.
59. 1979-Lyle age 11, Lyle called out for Kitty, she cut herself in the kitchen. She ran up to him and rubbed her bloody hand over his face "See what you did". Forced to eat dinner with blood on his face. She refused to let him clean it. This only happened when Jose was not home.
60. 1980- Sexual activities continued with Erik. At age 10, Jose began objects. Showed Erik how to use it in his rectum. Taught Erik how to have anal sex with him.
61. 1980-Age 10, Erik- Anal sex was painful between him and Jose. Erik was disassociated during the session, Erik screamed and yelled at him to stop. After, Jose looked at him and said next time you ever scream or yell I'm going to beat you so bad you'll never be able to scream or yell again.
62. Jose would have Erik stand in front of the mirror and talk about how tennis went. Bad answers Erik would have to hit himself. If he didn't do it or missed, Jose would hit the back of his head. Occurred at least once a week.
63. 1981-Around Lyle, 13. Thought abuse was happening to Erik. Talked to Jose, who said he knew what was going on, he heard noises. Wanted him to leave Erik alone. Jose told Lyle that Erik would make things up sometimes, but they would stop. This should stay just between them, or he would kill him.
64. 1981-Age 11, Erik. After an argument between Jose and Kitty. Jose demanded oral sex from Erik, making him swallow his secretions. This caused Erik to throw up in the bathroom. This happened multiple times. When Erik had to throw up after these "kneel" sessions, Kitty would not check on him, but when Erik was normally throwing up, she would see if he was okay.
65. 1982-Age 12, Erik. Kitty began examining his genitals to see if there was anything wrong. She popped small blisters on his penis. Kitty continued to check for several years until they moved to California.
66. Erik- Jose was angry at Erik for not doing well at tennis. Threw Erik through the glass door multiple times until it shattered, Kitty was there but did not say anything.
67. 1982-Age 14, Lyle- Kitty would help him shower for more than 20 minutes (Diane Vandermolen testified)
68. 1982-Age 14, Lyle- I will change your verdict. Lyle found out that his father was molesting 12-year-old Erik for the first time when he was 14.
69. 1982-Age 12, Erik- told Cousin Andy that his father was massaging his penis

70. 1982-Erik ages 12-14, if his homework wasn't good enough, Kitty would put him in the closet for hours or rip up his homework. Kitty would leave the house for up to 7 hours. He wasn't supposed to leave the closet. He had to call and ask to go to the bathroom.
71. 1982-1983- Cousin Kathleen- The boys tied her up while playing and wrestling. They got Cousin Diane down to her underwear.
72. 1982-Lyle wet bed until age 14. Jose said, "sissy like your brother". Kitty would punish bedwetting. Shove face into bed, refused to switch sheets, he would slip on it. She abused his stuffed animals- and threw them out the window. Always told Jose. Sometimes kicked out of the house.
73. 1982- Lyle until age 13- Kitty would kiss Lyle and touch him. Lyle stopped it. Kitty was furious. She would harass him for a couple of years. Kitty would expose herself. Pick Lyle up from class in robes, and left her underwear around. Called him into the room while changing. Touch Lyle's face gently, mid-rage, like she was about to kiss him.
74. Kitty didn't want any girlfriends from a broken home. She was paranoid that all were gold diggers, affairs, and bimbos. She was more than critical, she was humiliating
75. Lyle's scar by left eye. Lyle and Jose were roughhousing, so Lyle grabbed his genitals, as Jose had. Jose snapped and threw him against the table and screamed. Lyle split his eye open and required a hospital visit. Kitty very harsh, did not comfort him.
76. The boys would take turns sleeping with Kitty if Jose was not home.
77. 1983-Age 13, Erik- Rough sex began at age 15.
78. 1983-Testimony from Cheri Woods, brother madame. Jose asked for under 13-year-old petite girls. Would strangle, whip, and use sex toys. Scared the girls. Began in the early 80s. The Final was 6 years before the murders.
79. 1983-Erik age 13-14- Realized sex with Jose was abnormal after speaking with Cousin Andy. Previously thought it was normal.
80. Jose was now hurting Erik with needles and tacks in his butt and thighs, tied up his penis with rope. Oral sex.
81. 1984-Age 16, Lyle was kicked out of class because he brought stuffed animals to class, their handwriting was better than his.
82. 1984-Girlfriend from age 16-18. At age 16 Lyle sent her a bouquet of roses with a letter attached that said it was from Lyle and all of his stuffed animals' names listed out.
83. 1984-Lyle's girlfriend Christy was called names by both Jose and Kitty. Kitty thought she had AIDS, and made her eat off of paper plates. One time Erik let Christy into the kitchen, Kitty found out, that she boiled all the dishes and said she was never allowed in again.
84. Mid-1980s-Jose Menedez was responsible for the boy band Menudo, they reported abuse. (reported in 2023) Would be kicked from the group once they were 16 years old. Rossello alleges molestation, drug, and rape.
85. Jose showed the movie with child pornography and found it entertaining- a neighbor testified.
86. Expert testimony confirmed psychological issues from molestation and abuse.
87. Lyle had a close connection to his stuffed animals until 17, all had names and personalities. Kitty threw a tantrum and broke Cookie Monster- broke off eyes. He would find stuffed animals in the shower soaked by Jose.
88. 1985- Lyle age 17- scar by lip. Jose wanted Lyle and the coach to practice outside in the rain. Jose pulled up in a limo. Lyle currently has an ankle problem. Jose chastised him. Lyle got very mad and told him to shut up. Embarrassed, Jose turned red, grabbed the ball, and threw it at Lyle. Jose took Lyle into the back seat and then punched the side of his face. Grabbed Lyle by the neck and told him to never embarrass him like that again. Bloodied his shirt, lip split from the punch.
89. 1987 and Beverly Hills house- Kitty threatened to poison everyone. Screaming matches and then Jose would say he didn't trust her, refuse to eat food, and they all ate out.
90. Spring 1987- Jose threatened the life of Coach Robbie for suggesting Lyle drop out of school to go on a tennis tour to go pro. Threatened life with Kitty sitting at the table. The coach was then concerned for Lyle, he was afraid. The coach was too afraid to coach Lyle after that point.
91. 1987-Age 17, Erik- Erik told his father no to sex. Father left and grabbed a huge knife from his and Kitty's room. He put the knife on Erik's neck, hand on his head, and threatened "I should kill you, and next time I will." Then demanded sex from Erik. Did not complain or resist
92. 1987-Erik, 17- Letter to Cousin Andy Cano, after his passing, about ongoing sexual abuse
93. 1987-Erik told their father 'no' at age 17. Father threw him on the bed and pointed a knife at his throat. Father threatened him with a jagged Rainbow knife. Said he would kill him and anyone he told.
94. 1989- Kitty was taking 13 pills a day "She needed them to get her through the day."

95. Spring 1989- Jose approached Lyle's girlfriend Christy and intimidated her into getting an abortion.
96. Lyle met Donovan around February 1989, and shortly after Donovan told Lyle he was molested by his uncle. Lyle confessed that Jose molested him.
97. Aug 1989- Final sex that Jose had with Erik. At Beverly Hills, the night after return from Kalamazoo.
98. August 15, 1989- Kitty got into a rage, ripped off Lyle's toupee and embarrassed him.
99. Erik told Lyle about the abuse.
100. August 16, 1989- Kitty confessed to Erik that she knows everything, more than he believes.

Larry Nassar Timeline

1. 1986 Nassar begins working for USA Gymnastics
2. 1994 First alleged abuse claim by USA Olympic Gymnast
3. In 1996 Nassar was appointed as the National Medical Coordinator for USA Gymnastics.
4. 1997 Nassar begins work at MSU. Hired as a team doctor and assistant professor
5. 1997 or 1998 Larisa Boyce, a minor at the time, told MSU gymnastics coach Kathie Klages about her concerns regarding her treatment as Nassar's patient. Defendant Klages did not file a formal complaint due to intimidation and was threatened.
6. Klages asked another athlete if they had received treatment by Nassar including vaginal and anal penetration on her, and she confirmed.
7. Klages told the athlete there was no reason to bring up Nassar's treatment.
8. 1998 parent of a gymnast complained to Defendant Geddert about Nassar's conduct, yet concerns and allegations were not addressed
9. 1999 MSU Defendants were made aware of Nassar's conduct by an MSU athlete, Christie Achenbach. She had complained to MSU trainers and head coach Kelli Bert that Nassar had touched her vaginal area after seeking treatment for a hamstring injury.
10. 2000 MSU softball athlete Tiffany Thomas Lopez was sexually assaulted and abused by Nassar during her treatment. The abuse was reported to MSU employees.
11. Lopez, 18, reported the abuse to her softball trainer. The trainer informed Lopez that Nassar was a world-renowned doctor and this was proper medical treatment. Lopez continued treatment.
12. As Lopez continued treatment, abuse from Nassar worsened. Lopez reported the abuse to higher-level trainers at MSU, one of whom supervised the department. She was told by this individual to continue treatment.
13. Defendant Teachnor-Hauk dissuaded Lopez from further reporting Nassar's abuse by saying if she pursued the matter, it would cast a burden on her and her family and cause significant heartache and trauma.
14. 2001 Lopez stopped treatment due to the abusive procedures. MSU pressured and coerced Lopez to declare herself medically inactive.
15. 2001 or 2002 MSU volleyball player Jennifer Rood Bedford was sexually abused during her medical treatment by Nassar.
16. According to Bedford, Nassar was known as a "crotch doc" among the whole volleyball team due to his odd methods.
17. Bedford reported the abuse to MSU athletic trainer Lianna Hadden. Hadden dissuaded Bedford from reporting the abuse because it would result in an investigation.
18. 2004 Defendant Gary E. Stollak was told by 11- or 12-year-old Kyle Stephens that she had been abused by Nassar. Stollak did not report the abuse to law enforcement or CPS.
19. 2004 Nassar wrote a chapter in Principles of Manual Sports Medicine by Steven K. Karageanes. There is no mention of vaginal or intra-rectal techniques.
20. 2004 Brianna Randall-Gay report Nassar to her parents and the Meridian Township Police Department.
21. 2004 Meridian TWP Police dismiss Brianna Randall's accusations involving Nassar abuse claims.

22. 2014 Amanda Thomashow reported Nassar sexually abusing and molesting her during treatment for hip pain.
23. In the report created by MSU for this investigation, they left out the facts that further suggest abuse.
24. 2014 MSU Investigation clears Nassar's sexual assault allegations. MSU deemed Nassar's treatment as "medically appropriate".
25. MSU created two different versions of reports on the incident, one to give to Thomashow and one for Nassar and MSU personnel.
26. Following the investigation, Nassar is given new institutional guidelines by Defendant Stampel including minimizing or eliminating skin to skin contact. He must also have someone else in the room. New people in the practice were to be told about the new guidelines to make sure they understood.
27. MSU Defendants failed to supervise or ensure Nassar complied with the new guidelines.
28. 2015 Nassar leaves USA Gymnastics
29. 2016 MSU RNA Diane Rork occasionally worked and met with patients who had been seen by Nassar. Rork was never told about restrictions or guidelines on Nassar's patient treatment.
30. In March 2016 Rork was creating a chart for a girl under the age of 13 who was to be examined by Nassar.
31. Nassar ordered Rork to leave the room so he could treat the girl alone.
32. January 2017 Rork reports this interaction to MSU police.
33. MSU fired Rork two weeks after her report.
34. Another registered nurse was employed between 2015 and 2016 who was not made aware of Nassar's guidelines.
35. From July 2014 to September 2016 Defendant MSU continued to allow Nassar to see and treat female athletes despite the allegations of abuse and an open criminal investigation.
36. Police say at least 12 more assaults occurred after Nassar was reinstated.
37. Summer of 2015 USAG terminated Nassar due to allegations of "athlete concerns"
38. USAG never informed MSU or its representatives about the concerns leading to Nassar's termination.
39. September 16, 2016- Nassar's employment ended with MSU.
40. In December 2016 USAG settled one or more claims against it involving allegations of sexual abuse by Nassar.
41. USGA entered into one or more confidential settlement agreements in California involving the claims of sexual abuse by Nassar. California law prohibits confidential settlements involving allegations of child sexual abuse or a felony act of sexual abuse.
42. After Nassar's termination, MSU Athletic Department's Director of Athletic Communications, Jamie Weir Baldwin, told the MSU Women's Gymnastics Team to not speak to the media or make any posts about Nassar.
43. This made the team believe that they would face repercussions if they came forward to the police or media to report sexual assault from Nassar.
44. 2016 Indy Star published an investigation of USA Gymnastics' handling of sexual abuse complaints, but Nassar is not mentioned.
45. 2016 Rachael Denholander files a criminal complaint against Nassar. Alleges she was abused in 2000 when she was 15 years old.
46. MSU Police open investigation.
47. In November 2016 Nassar was arrested and charged in Ingham County, Michigan on three charges of first-degree criminal sexual abuse with a person under 13.
48. In mid-December 2016, federal child pornography charges are filed against Nassar in Federal Court in Grand Rapids, Michigan.
49. Defendant Klages defends Nassar and told the parents of one of Nassar's victims that the photos could have been planted, and suggested the victim "misinterpreted the treatment."
50. MSU did not encourage members of the MSU Women's Gymnastics team to come forward with suspected abuse until February 2017, 5 months after Nassar's termination.
51. March 2017, MSU Police Department Detective Sergeant Christopher Rozman stated that Defendant Stampel admitted the guidelines issued to Nassar were illusory in nature.
52. These guidelines were only shared with Defendant Dietzel and no action was taken to implement the new guidelines and restrictions.
53. He additionally admitted that he did not orient new employees in the Sports Medicine Clinic about the guidelines and restrictions on Nassar.
54. March 15, 2017. In an interview with MSU PD Detectives and FBI special agent, Defendant Teachnor-Hauk states she had never had a student-athlete report sexual misconduct from Nassar.

Jerry Sandusky Timeline

1. 1969-Jerry Sandusky is hired as a Penn State football assistant coach under Joe Paterno.
2. 1970-Sandusky becomes a linebacker coach for the football team.
3. 1971-The earliest alleged abuse is reported, according to Penn State's legal settlements with Sandusky's victims.
4. "Victim A" says in a 2016 CNN interview he was raped in a Penn State bathroom in 1971 by Sandusky and that two people from Penn State — "Jim" and "Joe" — spoke with him on the phone and practically threatened him not to report anything.
5. 1976-Paterno is allegedly alerted to Sandusky's abuse as early as this year.
6. 1977-The Second Mile Foundation is founded by Sandusky to support at-risk youth and their families in Pennsylvania.
7. Sandusky was promoted to defensive coordinator, holding this position until his retirement in 1999.
8. 1987-Two more Penn State assistant coaches allegedly witness "inappropriate" or "sexual" contact between Sandusky and children.
9. 1988-Another sexual assault is allegedly witnessed by Penn State's assistant coach, and the case is reported to Jim Tarman, the university's athletic director.
10. 1998-Sandusky allegedly assaults five more boys on campus between 1998 and 2001.
11. May 3, 1998- Sandusky assaulted an 11-year-old boy in the Lasch Building showers, according to the Freeh report. Allegedly, Sandusky lifts the boy in the shower for an embrace and makes him feel uncomfortable.
12. May 4, 1998-The boy's mother notices her son's hair is wet, and he's upset. She then calls psychologist Alycia Chambers in State College about the situation.
13. Chambers tells the mother to report the incident to University Police, and she contacts Ron Schreffler, a University Park detective.
14. After contacting her colleagues and talking with the boy, Chambers concludes that Sandusky's behavior resembles a pedophile's.
15. The Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare takes over the case once Schreffler reaches out to a caseworker at the Centre County Children and Youth Services, John Miller, and is told the service center has a conflict of interest with the Second Mile.
16. Schreffler also reaches out to Karen Arnold, the Centre County prosecutor for the District Attorney's office. According to the report, Schreffler does this to avoid dealing with the university for the investigation.
17. Around 8 p.m. on May 4, Schreffler and Miller speak with a friend of the boy's who says he experienced "bear hugs" in the showers from Sandusky.
18. May 5, 1998-DPW investigator Jerry Lauro takes on the case.
19. May 6, 1998-According to Schreffler's investigation, Sandusky calls the boy a few times and leaves a voicemail, inviting him to work out.
20. May 7, 1998-Chambers gives her written evaluation of the situation to Schreffler. Lauro interviews the boy's mother that same day, but Lauro later tells the Special Investigative Counsel that he doesn't have enough evidence and knowledge of the case.
21. According to the Freeh report, he never sees Chambers' evaluation.
22. May 8, 1998-The second evaluation by counselor John Seasock occurs, and he concludes there's no concrete evidence of sexual assault. According to his evaluation, Sandusky just needs to be taught boundaries.
23. May 12, 1998-Schreffler covertly overhears Sandusky talking with the boy's mother and his apology for making him uncomfortable.
24. Listening in on another confrontation, Schreffler and a few other officers hear Sandusky tell the boy's mother he showered with the boys often — but not in a sexual way.
25. The officers reportedly don't question Sandusky after the interaction.

26. Thomas Harmon, a University Police Department Chief, kept Vice President Gary Schultz in the loop about the case. By searching through emails and notes, the Special Investigation Counsel determined Schultz knew of the situation by May 4.
27. The Counsel reviews emails between Schultz, athletic director Tim Curley and President Graham Spanier from May 5. The case is never added to the crime log, and Penn State's Office of Human Resources isn't contacted about the case, either.
28. May 13, 1998-Curley sends an email to Schultz asking about the status of the case because "Coach" is getting anxious. "Coach" is believed to be Joe Paterno.
29. Between May 27 and June 1, District Attorney Ray Gricar decides to not prosecute Sandusky.
30. June 1, 1998-Lauro and Schreffler talk with Sandusky in the weight room about the incident. He says he won't shower with any children again, and they both dropped the case.
31. June 8, 1998-Schultz tells Curley and Spanier that Gricar and DPW dropped the investigation and that he hopes the situation stays in the past.
32. No records show any administrator speaking with Sandusky about his actions or with Paterno about the conclusion of the case.
33. According to Schreffler, no university administrators interfere with the case.
34. The Penn State Board of Trustees meet May 14 and 15, but there's no evidence of its knowledge of the case.
35. According to the report, Sandusky knew he would not be the next head coach, so he retired in 1999 and was paid a total of \$168,000 before taxes on his way out.
36. August 31, 1999-Sandusky is granted "emeritus" rank, which gives him access to university facilities even after he retired.
37. Fall 2000 State janitor James Calhoun says he observed Sandusky with a child in the Lasch Building showers, but he doesn't report the incident due to the fear of being fired.
38. A second janitor, Ronald Petrosky says he saw the lower bodies of two figures in the showers that same night.
39. After speaking with the senior janitor Jay Witherite, Calhoun and Petrosky decide not to report what they saw.
40. Feb 9, 2001-Around 9-9:30 p.m., Michael McQueary, a graduate assistant with the football program, said he observed an incident of a "sexual nature" between a prepubescent boy and Sandusky.
41. McQueary says he shut his locker, moved toward the two males, and saw them separate from each other.
42. Feb 10, 2001- McQueary calls Paterno at 7:30 a.m. the next morning and goes to Paterno's house to discuss what he saw the night before. No evidence shows that either male tried to identify the boy.
43. Feb 11, 2001- Gary Schultz has a conference call with Penn State's outside legal counsel Courtney Wendell regarding the "reporting of suspected child abuse."
44. Feb 12, 2001-Schultz has a "confidential" meeting with Curley where they discuss the 1998 allegations and decide unless Sandusky admitted to having a problem, they would need to have the Department of Public Welfare look into it as an independent agency concerned with child welfare.
45. Approximately 2:30 p.m.- Spanier says he met with Schultz and Curley, so they could give him a "heads up" that McQueary reported what he saw to Paterno.
46. At approximately 9:56 p.m.- Penn State University Police Chief Tom Harmon responds to an email from Schultz asking if a file from the 1998 incident still exists. Harmon says it was documented in the archives.
47. Feb 25, 2001- According to Schultz's notes, a meeting between Spanier, Curley and Schultz resulted in him needing to alert the chair of The Second Mile, reporting the situation to the Department of Public Welfare and telling Sandusky "to avoid bringing children alone into Lasch Building."
48. Feb 25-28, 2001-Spanier, Schultz, and Curley exchange emails regarding the allegations, but the terms used are "in code," according to Spanier because the Athletic Department was "notorious for leaks."
49. March 15-16, 2001-The Penn State Board of Trustees holds a meeting, but no signs of the Sandusky allegations are discussed, according to Freeh report interviews and the Board's records.
50. March 19, 2001-The Executive Director of The Second Mile Jack Raykovitz has a meeting with Curley to discuss Sandusky's actions "to avoid publicity issues," according to the charity's counsel.
51. Raykovitz talks to Sandusky, who admits to showering with the boys and nothing more, about the situation and emphasizes he wouldn't be allowed to bring children onto campus.
52. August 2001-Victim 5 is assaulted in the Lasch Building, according to the Freeh report.
53. 2009-The mother of the boy identified by court papers as Victim 1 calls a high school in Clinton County to report Sandusky sexually abused her son. The school district bans Sandusky from any of its campuses, and the police are notified.

54. September 2010-Sandusky announces in a letter his retirement from the day-to-day events and board of The Second Mile.
55. December 2010- Mike McQueary testifies as part of the private grand jury investigation.
56. Jan 12, 2011- Penn State Athletic Director Tim Curley and retired University Vice President and Treasurer Gary Schultz give private grand jury testimonies.
57. March 31, 2011- Penn State 2008 graduate Sara Ganim breaks the first account of the Sandusky investigation after months of research as a reporter for The Patriot-News. She would go on to win a Pulitzer Prize for local reporting of the case.
58. March 5, 2011-Sandusky is arraigned in district court and charged with 21 felonies.

Brian Peck Timeline

1. Drake Bell was born on June 27, 1986.
2. Drake began acting at 5 years old, didn't know much about acting, father was his manager.
3. Age 12, Bell auditioned for and booked the Amanda Show. Paramount Studios, Nickelodeon, Dan Schneider all involved.
4. Turned bad at Nick on Sunset. Brian Peck was Drake Bell's dialogue coach on The Amanda Show. He worked in the industry for a while, everyone liked him, he knew a lot of Hollywood knowledge and won over Bell.
5. Peck said he gives lessons at his house.
6. Dad is always within eye distance of Peck. Bell found the house cool. Dad was very attentive, unlike other parents. Always had eyes on Bell, not often in the green room.
7. Bell in the dressing room, Peck would touch him and help him dress in front of people. Put arms around the waist, trail hand down arm routinely. Uncomfortable. Told production about his uneasiness. Always around Bell. Production called father homophobic, he's a "touchy feely guy". Didn't see the signs as a child, didn't understand. But dad knew right away.
8. 2000- Age 13 to 14, Bell was pitched the idea of Drake and Josh by Dan Schneider.
9. Peck begins saying that Dad should not be Bell's manager. Dad disregarded it. Peck got closer to Bell. Came to his concerts. "More extracurricular than normal".
10. Peck would drive to see Bell's concert. Peck and friends followed Bell to the Strawberry Festival.
11. Bell's 15th birthday party, Peck wanted it at his house, but Dad said no.
12. Bell lived an hour away in Orange County, so Bell agreed. Dad saw inappropriate birthday cards from Peck and friends. Adult things and descriptions. Bell didn't even see the birthday cards.
13. Dad started making it difficult for Peck to be around Bell.
14. Peck began driving a wedge between Bell and Dad. Peck told Bell that his dad was stealing his money, no one likes his dad on set, and he was a real problem.
15. Made Bell think Dad was bad for their career, he believed him due to his experience.
16. Bell spent more time with Peck than Dad.
17. Bell's parents had a bad relationship; Peck knew.
18. Peck began feeding Mom the same lies.
19. Peck found an attorney to find out about Bell's financial situation.
20. Bell's mom says Bell doesn't want Dad to be manager anymore, Dad agrees with what Bell wants. Father-son relationship ends.
21. Dad turned over all the paperwork and finances. Told Mom to never leave Bell alone with Peck, Peck manipulated Mom.
22. Production for the Amanda Show is over, Drake and Josh have not begun production yet.
23. Mom didn't want to drive, Peck would drive. Bell spent the night.
24. Bell, 15, slept on his couch and woke up to him sexually assaulting him. Bell was frozen.
25. Peck deeply apologized and said it would never happen again. Peck convinced Mom to have Bell spend the night.
26. Bell had no car, couldn't call Mom and wait outside. Couldn't say he didn't want to go to Peck's house anymore, would have questions.
27. Peck convinced Mom to spend the night working on lines or auditions.
28. Abuse progressively got worse, Bell felt "trapped"

29. Bell got girlfriend, spent all time there. Peck wanted to take him to Disney. Called Bell nonstop, then the girlfriend's house nonstop. Girlfriend's mom asked what is going on.
30. The girlfriend's mom told Bell's mom she was taking him to a therapist because she knew more was going on. Thought he was in danger. Bell was terrified to speak out. Mental manipulation.
31. Peck was integrated with Bell's whole acting career. Had the ability to blacklist Bell.
32. 2003- Bell aged 16 to 17
33. Shooting pilot episode of Drake and Josh
34. Peck trying to convince Schneider that he should be Bell's Dad on the show, and get into production.
35. Bell finally told Mom the sexual abuse that had occurred.
36. Called the police.
37. August 2004- Bell calls Peck to gain a confession.
38. Peck is arrested.
39. Bell can reconnect with Dad after arrest.
40. Dad had a feeling. Didn't know Bell was the victim at first.

Ruby Franke Timeline

1. In 2015, Franke started the YouTube channel 8 Passengers.
2. Springville Police visited Franke's home 15 times from March 2019 to August 2023. Quotes from daily YouTube vlogs include:
3. "You'll lose the privilege to eat dinner"
4. "bedroom taken away for 7 months"
5. Threatened to cut off the heads of stuffed animals (daughter was around 4 years old)
6. Teachers asked if mom could bring lunch "E is responsible for making own lunch. Natural outcome is she goes without lunch. Hopefully no one gives her food."
7. Put all the children's items in boxes and said they must pay cash or complete similar value chores for the item, rest gets thrown out.
8. Slept in, so she missed preschool. Mom refused to wake her up or dress her.
9. Denies children's personal space since she owns the house
10. Had an approximately 8-year-old son do 10 push-ups for leaving a pair of socks outside.
11. In 2020, viewers created a petition for CPS to investigate Franke.
12. Multiple CPS reports.
13. The oldest daughter Dhari said she tried to call the police and CPS for years.
14. CPS called in 2020 when the son was sleeping in a beanbag outside for 7 months.
15. Neighbors called CPS multiple times before.
16. Took away their Christmas one year.
17. 10-year-old daughter Eve would wander the neighborhood.
18. Franke would leave for prolonged periods, and leave kids home alone.
19. Did not seem that Eve was attending school.
20. 1st call to CPS around Sept 2022
21. Officers eventually did a wellness check, but no one answered and left papers on the door.
22. The abuse was not caught until August 31, 2023.
23. In her guilty plea, Franke said that between May 2023 and August 2023, she knowingly inflicted and allowed another adult to inflict harm on her children.
24. The children were ages 9 and 11-12 at the time of the abuse.
25. Franke inflicted physical torture on the 11-12 year old RF.
26. RF was forced to do physical labor for hours and days at a time including wall-sits, carrying boxes of books up and down stairs, and working outside.
27. RF would not be allowed shoes and was forced to complete the labor outside in the summer heat.
28. RF was forced to remain outside for all hours of the day and sustained serious sunburns that blistered.
29. RF was denied adequate water for several days and had to remain in the summer heat.
30. RF was punished when he secretly consumed water.
31. RF was denied food, and when given food it was extremely plain while others in the family had more enjoyable meals.
32. RF was isolated from other people and denied all forms of entertainment.

33. After RF attempted to run away in July, RF's hands and feet were regularly bound including to Franke and with weights.
34. RF would at times be bound while lying on the ground on his stomach with two sets of handcuffs on his hands and feet, forcing them off the ground. Resulting in injuries that cut through the skin and damaged the muscle and tissue.
35. RF's injuries would be treated at home and then open wounds would be covered in duct tape. Bindings were placed on top of these injuries.
36. Franke confessed to kicking RF while wearing boots, holding his head underwater, and suffocating him with her hands over his mouth and nose.
37. RF was emotionally harmed through the escalation of punishment through the summer months.
38. RF was also indoctrinated by Franke and Hildebrandt to believe that he was evil and possessed.
39. RF was told that the punishments were out of love.
40. Franke also caused emotional harm to EF.
41. EF had the same treatment as her brother RF.

V. Results

Recommendations from *Menendez-*

In reference to the Menendez's in California, I would propose a federal policy that aims at educational improvements in seeing and reporting abuse. Throughout the long-term abuse of the Menendez Brothers, there were various moments when strangers or family were made aware of neglect or abuse happening to the boys, but there were no reports made to bring attention to the abuse. To better handle the reporting of abuse, there needs to be a culture change as well. It is often the case that people who have witnessed signs of abuse, such as the people around the Menendez Brothers, view the signs are odd or alarming, but not their business to intervene. Abuse, especially sexual abuse, is seen as taboo and not something to openly discuss. To best improve the open discussion of abuse, including intra-familial abuse, there needs to be increased education surrounding abuse. This would be a long-term solution that requires time and effort in our education system, for both parents, children, and the public, to be made aware of warnings signs of abuse and how

best to report suspected abuse. This could include (1) when to be suspicious of strangers or family interactions, as the warning signs may appear differently, (2) the best routes of reporting abuse, and (3) what to expect once an abuse report has been made. This education is only being provided to mandated reporters through CANRA in California. The education needs to be provided for everyone.

When To Be Suspicious of Strangers or Family: Children should be taught beyond “stranger danger” in schools and recognize that family can also be a source of danger. Increased education for children would include material that informs the student what is not acceptable behavior from parents and who to report suspected abuse to. The material would be digestible for a young child to understand and not be alarmed, but enough so that if abuse is occurring or does occur, the child recognizes it as not normal. This could include areas that should not be touched improperly without their consent, what types of forceful touching can be harmful (a spanking versus cutting), etc. Children should be taught not only *stranger* danger but also what constitutes *danger*. The Menendez Brothers were brought up believing that the touching and forcefulness their dad displayed on them was normal between fathers and sons, which allowed to abuse to continue without reporting from the brothers.

How to Report Abuse: There are various means of reporting abuse by children or adults, and each should be informed of their options. In the case of the Menendez Brothers, there was fear of calling the police when the brothers ultimately confronted their abusers due to the threats made by their father and the authority the brothers believed the father had over the entire town. Throughout school, there needs to be emphasized education on how to report abuse to administrators or counselors (mandated reporters) so that the abuse can be investigated safely without compromising the safety of the children involved. For adults, it needs to be emphasized the various agencies and departments that handle allegations of abuse to be investigated. The idea

of reporting your abuser, or someone that you suspect is abusing someone else, can be intimidating for individuals who are unfamiliar with the processes involved in reporting abuse. This is discouraging to those who want to report abuse and ultimately choose not to. An increase in education on how to report abuse can reduce the intimidation and create a safer environment to allow reporting out of concern rather than a necessity when the abuse has already reached a very dangerous level.

What to Expect for Investigations of Abuse: Along with the intimidation of reporting abuse, there is an intimidation in what follows the reporting. For the Menendez brothers, there was fear in their father finding out they were the ones who reported the abuse and the potential consequences. An improvement in educating individuals on what comes out of reports of abuse can let them plan and feel less frightened to report their abuser. In addition, there can at times be an issue in the various agencies responsible for investigating allegations of abuse. When the public is educated on what to expect from an investigation, they can then recognize when an agency is not enforcing investigation standards properly. This may be on a shallow level due to the individual being unable to view every step of the investigative process but at least allow individuals to recognize when agencies are failing to take action. This would help in instances of possible corruption such as *Nassar* and *Sandusky* where abuse was reported to the right people, but failure from the law enforcement and higher university authority allowed the abuse to continue. An additional responsibility would be placed on the reporters to see to it that their reports are taken seriously, or else feel empowered to seek other departments for help.

Recommendations from *Nassar*-

Policy changes have already been made in response to *Nassar* but there are still areas for improvement. Policy recommendations following *Nassar* include (1) License suspension during the investigation of sexual abuse allegations, if severe enough in the degree of alleged abuse or quantity of allegations, (2) transparency in sexual abuse investigations involving medical practitioners (3) increased education around sexual abuse, (4) penalties for failure to report abuse by mandated reporters.

License Suspension During Investigation of Sexual Abuse Allegations: Requiring a license suspension during investigations should have a threshold of needing either at least three allegations within a period or a severe allegation. This limitation could decrease the risk of frivolous allegations or misunderstandings of proper medical treatment. Currently, LARA can suspend or revoke a medical practitioner's license due to sexual abuse, but there are no set guidelines in place regarding what happens to the medical provider's license while a sexual abuse allegation is ongoing. Having the ability to revoke or suspend the medical provider's license throughout the investigation has the potential to prevent further abuses from occurring, and asserts the authority that LARA has, acting as a possible deterrent for risking sexual abuse investigations. Medical providers should be very transparent in treatment and have the correct supervision in the room during delicate treatments, such as adults in the room when a minor is receiving treatment to sensitive areas such as their groin. SafeSport now prohibits a minor from being treated one-on-one by a medical provider, which is a step forward in the right direction toward protecting children.

Transparency In Sexual Abuse Investigations Involving Medical Practitioners: As Udowitch recommends, the creation of a national database for sexual abuse cases involving medical providers could hold the abusers accountable and transparent amongst several organizations that would otherwise have not been notified of the sexual abuse. As occurred in *Nassar*,

investigations and cases that occurred at MSU were not shared with Nassar's other locations where he was practicing as USAG and USAO. This lapse in communication allowed abuses to continue in all the organizations Nassar practiced for without his patients being made aware of his history. While a singular allegation may not carry much weight, having a national database that can track the multiple reports of sexual abuse by a medical practitioner could be eye-opening and establish a reason to be wary of the care provided. In addition, multiple allegations that are tracked through the database could establish a reason for a bigger investigation to take place to verify the reports of abuse, even if one or two of the allegations had previously ended with no evidence confirming the abuse. If several cases are opened after those investigations, there should be reason to reexamine the case with new supporting cases of abuse that have been proven.

Increased Education Around Sexual Abuse: As with the other cases of abuse, increased education around sexual abuse can empower victims to report suspected abuse and empower parents or other adults to report actions they identify as suspected abuse. The constant battle with sexual abuse allegations is the fear of speaking out due to a lack of education about what necessitates reporting. When a child is victimized by a doctor especially, the child can be easily manipulated to believe that the treatment they are receiving is proper due to the authority that a doctor possesses. Education around sexual abuse needs to make it easy for children to identify when something is wrong or not normal and understand that abuse can occur by not only strangers but even family doctors, and trusted adults. This lesson can be difficult for children, but teaching a child personal boundaries on their bodies empowers them with autonomy through the knowledge that something is wrong, and they can do something about it. Providing children with easy routes of reporting suspected abuse, such as with teachers, administrators, or parents can be

a huge step in ensuring abuse gets caught quickly and is additionally discouraged when a child can advocate for themselves.

Adults similarly need the education to understand when something they witness is more than odd behavior, but suspected abuse. As Clemente discusses, “When adults are aware of a friendly adult spending an inordinate amount of time with children who are not his own and displaying close and playful behaviors with him or getting the children alone, the adults should be suspicious and view it as a red flag as a potential source of abuse,” (Clemente, 72). Too often abuse can occur in plain sight, or the warning signs, but it goes unreported due to abuse’s taboo nature that was created from a discomfort in the discussion due to a lack of education around abuse. Increased education can in turn create a safe culture around reporting abuse and having open discussions about the topic. Otherwise, the abuse gets swept under the rug and continues for years longer or even has the potential to carry on through generations in intra-familial situations. Mandated reporters need to additionally receive education on the protections in place for reporting abuse and understand someone cannot use their position of authority or any other means to discourage or prevent the reporting of abuse through Michigan Penal Code § 750.483a. Title IX also protects reporters of abuse from receiving disciplinary action against them. Reporters may not be aware of the safeguards in place for their protection, and in turn, get discouraged from reporting suspected abuse.

Penalties For Failure to Report Abuse by Mandated Reporters: As Urowitch also recommended, “Impose significant consequences for mandatory reporters and their athletic organization if they fail to take appropriate action after receiving a complaint or report” (Urowitch, 135). At MSU and USAG, various mandated reporters were informed by victims about the abuse occurring, but no further actions were taken to stop the abuse or inform authorities. With increased penalties for failure to report, such as possible suspension, there is an

increased necessity to report suspected abuse rather than choosing to take inaction for any reason. The authority that Nassar had over his colleagues may have reduced the empowerment the mandated reporters felt, but there are already protections through Title IX that prevent those who report abuse from receiving disciplinary action. Michigan additionally has protections in place against discouraging or preventing abuse from being reported, especially due to a higher position of authority such as Michigan Penal Code § 750.483a. This could also be improved by educating mandated reporters about these protections, as mentioned in the education recommendations. Another recommendation could be posting the protections for reporting abuse on the wall of university or school establishments, so the information is accessible and well known.

Recommendations from *Sandusky*-

Clemente's recommendations greatly overlap with my recommendations for policy change following *Sandusky*. Policy recommendations following *Sandusky* include: (1) Increased education on protections for reporting abuse and how to identify abuse (2) Increased discussion of abuse (3) national child sexual victimization umbrella organization.

Increased Education on Protections for Reporting Abuse and How to Identify Abuse: As previously mentioned, an increase in education for both children and adults will result in an improved culture with improved safety, open discussion, and self-advocacy and empowerment for one's well-being. Clemente is an advocate of approaching the educational issue by informing adults when to be a way of adults who are too playful with children, isolate them into one-on-one situations, and are not their parents. Similarly, children need to be educated on what constitutes danger from anyone in their life, stranger, friend, or family. Empowering adults and children on warning signs of abuse can prevent the abuse from ever occurring since people are more aware

that some behaviors are not acceptable before they reach the level of illegal. Once abuse does occur, children can identify the action as wrong and can properly report and advocate for themselves. This ability takes away some of the vulnerability children have and creates empowerment and self-advocacy- which can protect the children not only from ongoing abuse but also be used as a deterrent when abusers are no longer able to manipulate children into isolated or vulnerable situations from the start.

Adults supervising would also become more wary of some adult-child interactions rather than accepting friendly behavior when it does not cross the line of abuse. Warning signs can be sufficient for action to be taken in order to best protect the child. For *Sandusky*, he was very nice to the boys he worked with, but there were too many one-on-one interactions that he was allowed, such as in the showers, that should have been an easy warning sign of further abuse. Investigators of the case initially dismissed the reports of abuse as children who do not understand abuse. Increased education on what constitutes wrong behavior can further develop children to advocate for their safety and encourage law enforcement to take allegations seriously from a child that otherwise may not come off convincingly enough, as more of a misunderstanding than abuse.

Increased Discussion of Abuse: Increased education will help encourage discussion, but increased discussion is incredibly important in creating a safe environment for victims and others to report abuse and be able to recognize abuse. When abuse, especially abuse that is sexual in nature, is seen as taboo and not something easily discussed without discomfort, then necessary discussions do not happen and allow abuse to continue. In the case of *Sandusky*, the mother of one of the victims was able to tell something was wrong due to her child's odd demeanor and his hair was unexpectedly wet after working with Sandusky. While discussion did not occur, the mother was astute enough to recognize slight changes in her child and recognize the potential

danger that occurred. In most cases, this is not easy to identify. Children need to feel comfortable enough to discuss intense topics with a trusted adult at school or their parents. This is helped with education, so children can more easily articulate what happened and what was wrong, but also psychologically empower the child to speak up and not be fearful. When something bad happens to children of a sexual nature, it can be embarrassing and confusing. But if there is already an established line of communication with children to express when danger has occurred to them, even when it can feel embarrassing, then the child is more likely to come forward with information and stop the abuse.

This can act as a deterrent once children are known for being outspoken self-advocates, adults who seek to abuse children now do not see them as such a vulnerable population to abuse. If parents can encourage children to talk about their bodies openly to them, then the embarrassment fades as they age, and discussion can flow without fear of shame. This can also be applied to intra-familial abuse where the abuse from a family member is not discussed or warned to other family members because the idea of abuse is taboo. The implications of increased education and discussion can free children from being entrapped in being another victim in a string of those being abused by a singular adult, either in their family or in other organizations.

National Child Sexual Victimization Umbrella Organization: As Clemente details, “There should be resources dedicated to creating a national umbrella organization that would coordinate the efforts of state, local, and community child sexual victimization organizations across the country. It should be a repository of information, education, model policies, model practices, prevention guidelines, best practices, education, training, and support for other organizations so that they are not reinventing the wheel each time a new offender is discovered,” (Clemente, 72). Similar to the platform recommendation listed in Nassar to communicate reported abuse between

organizations, other information should be made accessible to best handle cases of abuse so each organization can ultimately work together, efficiently communicate, and keep track of reports and cases of abuse as they develop, are investigated, and are handled. Escalating cases of child abuse to a national level of organization can greatly assist in catching abusers and deterring abusers from committing these acts when increased education, information, and practices are brought up to a national standard that the abuser cannot escape. Some abusers can slip through the cracks due to the lack of education being given to children who are vulnerable to abuse and adults who may not be able to identify or report abuse. A national organization would lessen this area of vulnerability.

Uniform practices and information amongst states can also prove to efficiently modernize and seek improvement for catching, stopping, and preventing abuses from occurring. In its current state, child protective laws are left to state jurisdictions, and abusers in respective states find different loopholes that allow the abuse to go unreported, unnoticed, or simply fail to take action. If the national subscribes to a national organization, the various organizations that do exist on a state and local level can share what has worked or what hasn't worked, and finally create a complete, or near-complete, system of handling abuse that can also lead to easier education regarding how abuse is handled in the school system and a better national culture surrounding discussions and reporting of abuse.

Recommendations from *Peck*-

Following the *Peck* case, I propose (1) creating expanded Child Actor Laws for at least the state of California, possibly a federal law, and (2) additional laws for children in the workplace with adults. This would establish what is appropriate between a child co-

worker and an adult co-worker, and when legal action can be taken. And (3) Increased education for the parents, children, and co-workers at acting agencies employing minors.

Creating Expanded Child Actor Laws: Current laws in California such as CA PEN § 288.3 and California's Child Actor's Bill and federal laws of child labor laws do not give full protections to minors in the workplace. CA PEN § 288.3 prohibits contact with a minor with the intention of sexual, lewd, or illegal acts, but does not necessarily provide guidelines for communicating with minors whom adult works with. In *Peck*, Brian Peck was Drake Bell's acting coach, so there were expectations of communication and one on one sessions between the pair. The expansion I recommend is combining aspects of CA PEN § 288.3 with the Child Actor's Bill and child labor laws. The combination would then give specific guidelines for what communication is expected from adult and minor coworkers, and what constitutes unreasonable communication.

Modernized Child Actor Laws should (1) create limitations on an adult coworker and child communicating outside of work, such as social outings and mode of communication, (2) set the guideline for professionalism of settings for work activities, such as designated places to work that do not include the adult's residence alone with the minor, and (3) limit other opportunities where adult coworkers can isolate child coworkers. Assembly Bill 1963 amended CA Labor Code § 11165.7 (48) added the requirement for places of employment that hire minors must have HR, and these guidelines should be enforced by HR and educated to all staff, including parents of child actors employed.

Additional Laws for Children in the Workplace with Adults: In the case of Peck, there should not be direct communication allowed by phone between an adult and a child who work together. Rather than being allowed to call the personal cell phone of Bell, Peck should be required to speak through the parent for permission to speak to the child. In addition, there should not be

home visits between adult coworkers and children. As Bell's acting coach, one can find it reasonable for meetings to occur between them, but these meetings should always be at the workplace or a public location with the parent present. The current laws are lax, which gave the ability for Peck to isolate Bell at his home, overnight, without a parent present, and communicated with Bell unprofessionally. Peck's phone calls with Bell where Peck insisted on going to Bell's concerts with other adult friends and inviting Bell to Disney and other outings should have been a reason for concern and brought up to HR.

Increased Education for Parents, Children, And Co-workers at Acting Agencies Employing

Minors: Children, parents, and co-workers need to be well informed on the warning signs of abuse and how to go about reporting suspected abuse. In the case of *Peck*, Bell's father was suspicious of how Brian Peck acted around Bell and did communicate his worries with staff on the set of Nickelodeon. These suspicions were dismissed as homophobic and unfounded. This dismissal might not have been from malicious intentions, but rather a lack of knowledge of what red flags for abuse can look like. In this case, Peck was assisting 15-year-old Bell in getting dressed, when he was fully capable of dressing himself. Bell's father was able to identify this behavior as odd, but the lack of education the other staff members had for suspected abuse or odd behavior allowed the warning signs to escalate into serious abuse that occurred behind the walls of Peck's residence.

California has improved their legislation to require HR at places where minors are employed, Assembly Bill 1963 amended CA Labor Code § 11165.7 (48), but the laws should be taken a step forward to place the responsibility of identifying abuse not solely on HR, but also actors, staff, and parents. The abuse in the case of Peck escalated once Bell's father was no longer attending to Bell on the production set, once Bell's mother had full custody and did not accompany him on set, and further isolated Bell, allowing Peck to manipulate and isolate Bell.

Education can easily empower children to be a less vulnerable population for abusers to prey on, and adults should equally become empowered through education to ensure that warning signs do not go unnoticed and ultimately get investigated fully.

Recommendations from *Franke*-

In response to *Franke*, I propose creating (1) uniform guidelines for social media influencers involving children, (2) Incorporating child influencers into child policies that are aimed at child actors, and (3) a policy that allows CPS/DCPS to perform a wellness check on children when child abuse is suspected, even if the children were not seen harmed. There could be a limitation of only allowing this under special circumstances, or at most every six months unless abuse is tangibly seen.

Uniform Guidelines for Social Media Influencers Involving Children: To best accomplish uniform guidelines, the US should sign on to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), as Abrams suggests (Abrams, 101). These are established guidelines to ensure the safety and wellness of children who are being shown on social media for purposes of financial gain. Family influencers can negatively impact the wellness of both the child physically and mentally. Physically, children are not given the same protections as child entertainers in the US, but the CRC amends the loophole. The CRC classifies social media as a form of entertainment, and allows children involved in family vlogging and on social media the same standards of living. The CRC guarantees a protection to a child's right to play. Child labor laws currently do not apply to child influencers, so the hours of work are not monitored or limited. When the camera is always on, children can feel the strain to put on a show for the online audience at all times of the day. Emotionally, children are easily exploited in embarrassing ways that compromise their right to privacy. The US does not currently employ protections against this form of exploitation for

child influencers, but the CRC bridges the gap to prohibit exploiting children, for example, beginning their menstrual cycle or potty training for the entertainment value and financial gain of the family influencers. (Abrams, 101-105). The US could accomplish similar law amendments as the CRC, but the most efficient implementation of these laws would be signing on to the CRC which is already established in every other eligible country.

Incorporating Child Influencers into Child Policies That Are Aimed at Child Actors: There is a current loophole that allows child influencers to not be included in the same protections given to child actors. This is due to barriers such as what constitutes employment and what constitutes entertainment. To seal this loophole, a provision needs to be made to child actor laws that explicitly classify children who are filmed online for entertainment and financial gain to be considered actors or employees. California's Senate Bill 764, the Child Content Creator Rights Act aims at closing the gap between child content creators and child actor protections, but this has not been adopted by all states. All states, including Utah where Franke resided, should pick up the same adoption to the legislature to ensure that all children being used for financial gain on social media receive the same financial protections as child actors since they serve the same purpose of entertaining for profit. In the case of *Franke*, Ruby Franke would pay her children around ten dollars for being included in YouTube videos, while the 8Passengers vlogs were generating around \$100,000 a month by some estimates (Lambert *Devil in the Family: The Fall of Ruby Franke*). This compensation is not proportional to the generated revenue of their contributions to the YouTube channel, but there are no protections that require Franke to compensate her children better.

Policy That Allows CPS/DCPS To Perform a Wellness Check on Children: While CPS/DCPS was called several times on the Franke family throughout the years, the action was unable to be taken since the abuse was not explicitly seen. This is one limitation of current child

protective laws. When neighbors or other family and friends suspect abuse or notice warning signs of abuse, the correct course of action is to report the concerns to authorities or protective agencies. Yet that was not enough to prevent or stop the abuse in the Franke family. When law enforcement had previously gone to the Franke residence, officers were unable to make contact with the Franks and resorted to posting a paper on the residence informing the Franks of the officer's visit. Law enforcement or child protective services should have been able to confirm the safety of the children before leaving the Franke property, but there are limits to their jurisdiction when abuse is not explicitly seen, only suspected.

Utah Codes 80-2-602 and 80-2-701 describe the investigative process and requirements necessary to constitute further investigations of child abuse, which include contacting the child's school to see if abuse has been suspected by the teachers or staff, before continuing to the residence. Child protective services can enter the residence if reports of abuse are substantiated, law enforcement has additional investigative procedures to follow before being allowed to enter the residence themselves. There should be additional exceptions to unsubstantiated reports of abuse. In situations where there are several reports of suspected abuse, officers or social workers should make contact with the parents or family to verify the safety of the children. At that time, if officers or social workers are unable to identify abuse during their brief contact with the children and parents, then the investigation must end. Wellness checks should be allowed even when allegations of abuse are not substantiated, just to verify the child is safe. There could be an additional limitation to the number of wellness checks that can occur during a calendar year where reports of abuse are unsubstantiated, but the ability to do these wellness checks could be integral to families that either homeschool their children or teach their children to mask signs of abuse at school out of fear.

VI. Conclusion

The cases of *Menendez*, *Nassar*, *Sandusky*, *Peck*, and *Franke*, demonstrate both issues of enforcement and scope of laws. Enforcement of child protective laws failed in the cases of *Nassar*, *Sandusky*, *Peck*, and *Franke*. One issue failing enforcement is the lack of education in some organizations. For *Nassar* and *Sandusky*, the power that the abusers had made mandated reporters in fear of reporting abuse they were made aware of by victims or from witnessing the abuse firsthand. If the mandated reporters were made aware of the protections made available to reporters, and laws against preventing abuse from being reported, then possibly the reports of abuse would have been made aware to authorities. In cases where authorities were made aware of the alleged abuse, a lack of accountability allowed the abuse to continue since law enforcement failed to further investigate the allegations. This could be fixed by a transparent national system that aims at tracking child abuse and creating a uniform system in education and best practices for handling abuse. Escalating the laws to a national level and establishing a national organization to handle abuse would hold investigators more responsible for following through with reports of abuse and allow both reporters and victims to be made aware of the current status of their investigation. The interlocking checks and balances involved would best hold authorities accountable for going through investigations and best informing all parties involved. Additionally, this would track individuals who receive multiple accusations of abuse and allow for possible further investigation rather than allowing multiple accusations to go unchecked before noticing a pattern of abuse.

In terms of expansion and modernization, child actor laws and child labor laws need to be corrected. Child actor laws need to be modernized to include child content creators to offer them

safe protections, which would have benefited *Franke*. Child labor laws need to also be modernized to include child content creators due to the long hours of filming that the children can endure, unchecked and uncompensated. California has attempted to correct this gap through California's Child Content Creator Law, but this has not been adopted by the majority of the US. An efficient way of adopting the modern changes could be amending existing child labor laws to include children who are being used on social media for the sake of entertainment and financial gain, consider them employees, and give them protections including the right to play, privacy, compensation, and labor limitations. The US could also adopt the CRC that other nations have signed onto which grants the previously stated protections to child content creators.

For child actor laws, there is a need to improve the guidelines for adult coworkers and child coworkers. While there are laws prohibiting contacting a minor for sexual or lewd acts, there are no specific guidelines for communication outside the workplace for adult-child coworkers. In the case of *Peck*, Peck was allowed to directly contact Bell and have one-on-one interactions with Bell in Peck's residence. Guidelines that could be added would include limiting coaching sessions to only designated workplace environments, with a parent present. There should not be home visits between co-workers unless a parent is present, it is unprofessional and unnecessary. In addition, phone calls should be limited to an adult's phone where the parent permits to let the co-worker speak with the child. Unusual conversations that are non-work related, such as outings to Disney or other travel alone with the child, are not allowed unless accompanied by a parent. The establishment of HR where minors are employed through Assembly Bill 1963 amended CA Labor Code § 11165.7 (48) is helpful, there needs to be additional guidelines to ensure interactions between adult-child co-workers are kept professional and in check.

The recommendation that would best suit all five listed cases of abuse is an improvement in education, and therefore culture, of child abuse. Children in schools should not only be taught

stranger danger but also what constitutes danger. Danger can be presented by strangers, friends, or family. Children are a vulnerable population due to their lack of understanding of what constitutes wrong behavior done by an adult. Children should be taught about their bodies- which areas should never be touched without their permission and how to report suspected abuse to a trusted adult. As with *Menendez*, the brothers endured years of abuse because they were never taught outside the home that touching their groin was not a typical behavior to be expected from a father, and their only source of knowledge was from their father. Children are taught norms in the family and school, but when the responsibility of teaching abuse is left to the family, children can be manipulated. Children are also taught to trust doctors, such as *Nassar*, education could have allowed the children to recognize immediately that the type of care Nassar was giving them was not okay.

Not only does education encourage the empowerment of children to identify abuse, but also to be able to articulate what happened. Being abused, especially sexually, can be embarrassing and frightening for a child, which prevents them from advocating for their safety, even to an adult. If children were taught that abuse is on the same level as kidnapping, which is not uncomfortable to discuss or advocate for, the culture for reporting abuse would be easier and encourage a safer environment for children. In turn, abusers would see children as a less vulnerable population once the education system is empowering them to speak up and immediately report suspected abuse. Currently, children are being silenced through the fear of discussing a taboo topic, not being able to identify if the abuse was wrong or right and not being able to articulate what even happened.

Children are well educated on yelling “Stranger danger!” when suspecting a stranger has bad intentions of physically hurting them or attempting to kidnap them, which deters the individual and can scare them off. A similar approach could be applied to sexual abuse where the

child feels smart enough to know something is wrong and I have to tell someone, I cannot trust this person. And this person could be a trusted adult, including a parent.

Education should also be given to adults, both mandatory reporters and the general public, in a highly accessible way. This could include poster infographics at universities, doctors, and school offices. The ability to identify abuse and know the ways of reporting abuse should be general knowledge to the public to ensure that warning signs of abuse do not happen in plain sight. This could lead to the prevention of abuse. Adults should be taught to be wary of adults who are too friendly to children and often position themselves in one-on-one interactions with them, adults who are not their parents. Warning signs should not be dismissed as odd behavior, but as something that can develop into abuse if it is left unchecked. Education on these signs can empower adults to report suspected abuse and prevent the escalation that can lead to long-term abuse.

Raising awareness and educating both children and adults can weaken the influence of abusers and prevent them from viewing children as easy targets. When the public and children are equipped to identify warning signs and take swift action against early stages of abuse, manipulation and exploitation can be effectively deterred. Instances of long-term abuse and repeat offenders of abuse could then be limited once education is widespread and abusers do not feel as confident in masking abuse. Families can foster a safe space for conversations about bodies and abuse, if needed, which can help prevent the cycle of generational abuse. Addressing abuse instead of leaving it unspoken or undisclosed within the family is vital to breaking this cycle. Abuse that is not talked about does not go away; the abuser becomes more confident in extending the abuse and finding additional victims.

Appendix

Appendix A



Source: Menendez, Kitty. *The Menendez Brothers and their father Jose Menendez*, circa 1970s.
[The Menendez brothers: A look at their childhood, the murder, the trial - ABC News](#)

Appendix B



Source: Riha, Bob Jr./Getty. *Menendez Mansion in Beverly Hills*, undated. [What Happened to the Menendez Brothers' House After Their Parents' Murder?](#)

Appendix C



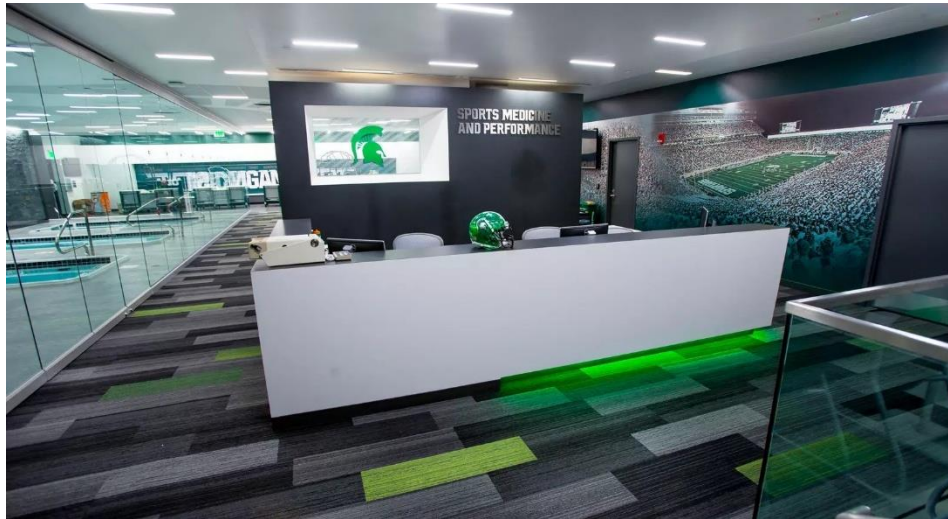
Source: MSU Sports Medicine. *Doctor Larry Nassar appears in a video for Michigan State University Sports Medicine*, approx. 2016. [Larry Nassar Case: Accuser Details Childhood Abuse by Gymnastics Doctor](#)

Appendix D



Source: Glamour. ***Portrait of Strength*** Eighty-four survivors came together at Michigan's Supreme Court Building, also known as the Hall of Justice, 2018. [The Army of Women Who Took Down Larry Nassar | Glamour](#)

Appendix E



Source: Michigan State University. *Michigan State Sports Medicine and Performance*, undated.
[Michigan State Sports Medicine and Performance - Michigan State University Athletics](#)

Appendix F



Source: AP. Jerry Sandusky is carried by players Rick Bolinsky (92) and Jason Wallace (88) after the 1999 Alamo Bowl in San Antonio, 1999. [Sandusky Proclaims Innocence In NBC Interview | WBUR News](#)

Appendix G



Source: Fisher Family. *Fisher was just 11 years old when he first met Sandusky and felt powerless to seek help*, 2008. [Sandusky victim number one Aaron Fisher reveals his continuing ordeal six months after tormenter was jailed | Daily Mail Online](#)

Appendix H



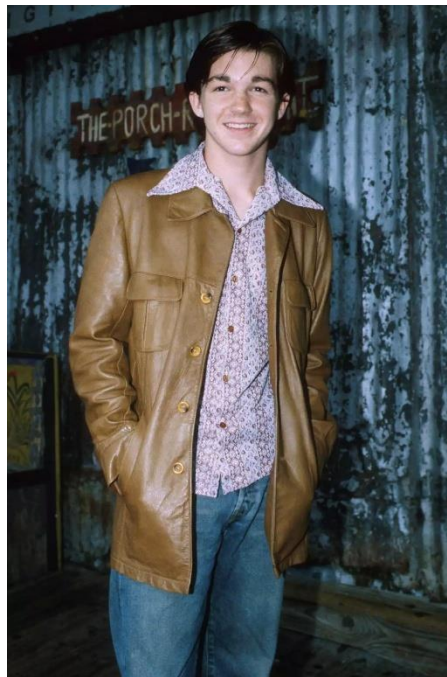
Source: AP. *In this July 12, 2012 file photo, a Penn State student leaves the Mildred and Louis Lasch Football Building on the Penn State University main campus in State College, Pa, 2012.* [Penn State to renovate showers where Jerry Sandusky abused boys - Newsday](#)

Appendix I



Source: The Conservatarian Press. *Leonardo DiCaprio and Brian Peck taking a picture on set of TV show 'Growing Pains', 1988.* [Meet Brian Peck – Actor Imprisoned for Child Molestation | Glamour Path](#)

Appendix J



Source: Gary Livingston/Getty. *Drake Bell*, May 2001. [Drake Bell Claims He Was Sexually Abused at Age 15 By Nickelodeon Coach](#)

Appendix K



Source: Jeff Rayner/Coleman-Rayner. *At home: Brian Peck's home in Los Angeles suggests that his career remains financially healthy as both the cars parked outside have personalized registrations which relate to his film career, 2015.* [Brian Peck convicted of sexually abusing Nickelodeon child star STILL working with kids | Daily Mail Online](#)

Appendix L



Source: moms_of_truth/Instagram. *Ruby Franke welcomed six children before her child abuse arrest*, approx. 2022. [Ruby Franke's six kids: Meet disgraced YouTuber's family amid child abuse case](#)

Appendix M



Source: realtor.com. *Luxury Home Tied to Ruby Franke Child Abuse Case Is Listed in Utah for \$5.3M*, 2024. [Luxury Home Tied to Ruby Franke Child Abuse Case Is Listed in Utah for \\$5.3M](#)

Appendix N-1

Dec 10 1982

I will CHANGE YOUR VERDICT

A man awaits his turn
on the electric chair.
You the average citizens
of America put that man there.
He raped and slaughter so
many children it makes you
sick. Has been up before
you before, but there was
not enough evidence. But now
you can taste his death.
You hope it hurts and is slow.
You sit next to people who
feel as you do. They want that
man killed, dead and forgotten.
You never even gave him a
chance to talk. He wanted to
you know. He only wanted to say
a few things. But no not you.
You couldn't let this thing
talk as if he had rights
or feelings. You Only looked
at the evidence, smiled
and yelled GUILTY!!
Why, my friend? Why?
Do you know what drove
him to do it? NO, You don't
even care. He has a wife. She's
shy and lovely. She told us
that he had ~~charged~~ ^{charged} ~~toately~~
from his last murder 5 years ago.
She said crying over her two
sons, one 3 the other 11, the so called

A12038

Source: Menendez. Lyle's Essay, "I will Change your Verdict", 1982. [lyle_essay.pdf](#)

child you said he murdered
was 19 years old. He had just
sexually molested and nited
his son. That child scared
his twelve year old son for
life.

You don't care or know if he's
changed or not.

You only know his past.
You don't care the reason
of the nineteen year olds
death.

You only know that man
did it.

Because he protected his son
you are going to leave his
family helpless, his sons will
have no father, only confusion
and madness.

They will cry out for
daddy and there will be no
answer.

You are publishing the
scene on tv.

His sons will see his
father die. They will walk
down the street and people
will ban them from the
social world. They will have
no father to seek help and
protection from only a memory
and confusion of their fathers.

A12039

Source: Menendez, Lyle's Essay, "I will Change your Verdict", 1982. [lyle_essay.pdf](#).

Appendix N-3

death and who will answer
when his twelve year old
son asks why people cheer
as his father is strapped
to a chair and killed. Why
his father is taken away
from him only because his
father protected him.
This mans last words he
said to his son, He said son
do not worry, I love you and
will always be with you.
His son replied "daddy bring
home something nice to eat if
you have time, Good-bye daddy."
He now sits in his cell
prayer that his sons are
safe.
But they are not, they are
confused crying out Daddy,
daddy.

Now I ask you
is he guilty? Should he receive
death?
Story from
this document
out of context
for Lyndale
Please talk
with me if
you can find

A12040

Source: Menendez, Lyle's Essay, "I will Change your Verdict", 1982. [lyle_essay.pdf](#)

Works Cited

“Breaking the Silence.” *Quiet on Set: The Dark side of Kids TV*, created by Mary Robertson and Emma Schwartz, season 1, episode 5, Maxine Productions, 2024.

“California Legislature Approves Senator Padilla Bill Updating Financial Protections for Youth Content Creators.” *California State Senator Steve Padilla*, 2024, [California Legislature Approves Senator Padilla Bill Updating Financial Protections for Youth Content Creators | California State Senator Steve Padilla](#)

“Coogan Law.” *SAG*AFTRA*, www.sagaftra.org/membership-benefits/young-performers/coogan-law. Accessed 13 Mar. 2025.

“Cornyn, Colleagues’ Bill Inspired by Nassar Survivors to Improve FBI Child Victim Protocols Signed into Law.” *Senator Cornyn*, 6 Jan. 2023, [Cornyn, Colleagues’ Bill Inspired by Nassar Survivors to Improve FBI Child Victim Protocols Signed into Law | Senator Cornyn](#)

“DCFS Policy Institute Website.” *Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act (CANRA) - 0050-501.10*, 24 Mar. 2023, [Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act \(CANRA\) - 0050-501.10 - DCFS Policy Institute Website](#)

“Devil in the Family: The Fall of Ruby Franke.” Lambert, Olly, director. Season 1, episode 1, 2025.

“Health License Disciplinary Action Reports.” *SOM - State of Michigan*, www.michigan.gov/lara/bureau-list/bpl/health/dar-reports-health/health-license-disciplinary-action-reports. Accessed 3 Mar. 2025.

“Use of Chaperones.” *AMA*, [Use of Chaperones | AMA-Code](#)

23 Pa.C.S. Chapter 63. The Child Protective Services Law. [Chapter 63. - Title 23 - DOMESTIC RELATIONS](#)

28 U.S. Code § 4101 [28 U.S. Code § 4101 - Definitions | U.S. Code | US Law | LII / Legal Information Institute](#)

Abrams, Rachel Caitlin. “Family Influencing in the Best Interests of the Child.” *CJIL Online*, vol. 2, no. 2, 2024, pp. 97–113, <https://cjil.uchicago.edu/sites/default/files/2023-06/2ChiJIntlLOnline97.pdf>.

s

CA v. MENENDEZ (1993): Erik Menendez Takes the Stand, YouTube, 2024, www.youtube.com/watch?v=JZatLcsuL4U&list=PLMD8umRLJkKzwa3pMCaNyk_5C6Y22F8xL&index=30.

California Code, Government Code- GOV § 12940 (j)(1) and (k). [California Code, GOV 12940](#).

California Code, Penal Code- PEN § 11165.1. [California Penal Code Section 11165.1 \(public.law\)](#)

California Code, Penal Code- PEN § 11165.7. [Codes Display Text \(ca.gov\)](#)

California Code, Penal Code- PEN § 273a (2024). [California Penal Code § 273a \(2024\) :: 2024 California Code :: U.S. Codes and Statutes :: U.S. Law :: Justia](#)

California Code, Penal Code- PEN § 311. [California Code, PEN 311](#)

California Code, Penal Code- PEN § 647b [California Code, PEN 647](#).

California Code, Labor Code - LAB § 1706. [California Labor Code Section 1706 \(public.law\)](#)

California Code, Labor Code- CA Labor Code § 1102.5 (2023) - [California Labor Code Section 1102.5 \(public.law\)](#)

California Code, Vehicle Code - VEH § 23103 - last updated January 01, 2023

<https://codes.findlaw.com/ca/vehicle-code/veh-sect-23103/>

California Code, Vehicle Code - VEH § 15620 [California Code, Vehicle Code - VEH § 15620 | FindLaw](#)

California Assembly Bill, AB 1963 (2021)- [Assembly Bill 1963 – Expanded List of Mandated Reporters - California JPIA \(cjpia.org\)](#)

Clemente, James T. "Analysis of the Special Investigative Counsel Report and the Crimes of Gerald A. Sandusky & Education Guide to the Identification and Prevention of Child Sexual Victimization." Feb. 2013.

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania v. Gerald A. Sandusky, 2013. [Commonwealth v. Sandusky - Pennsylvania - Case Law - VLEX 892697838](#)

Court TV. *CA v. Menendez (1993): Erik Menendez Takes the Stand in Murder Trial*, YouTube, 2024,
www.youtube.com/watch?v=xm3OAJ1hqGE&list=PLMD8umRLJkKzwa3pMCAnyk_5C6Y22F8xL&index=29

Court TV. *CA v. MENENDEZ (1993): Lyle Menendez Takes the Stand (Part 1)*, YouTube, 16 Feb. 2021,
www.youtube.com/watch?v=OCU4gkQdu0Y&list=PLMD8umRLJkKzwa3pMCAnyk_5C6Y22F8xL&index=31.

Court TV. *CA v. MENENDEZ (1993): Lyle Menendez Takes The Stand (Part 2)*, YouTube, 2024, www.youtube.com/watch?v=De5rc2iF3U8&list=PLMD8umRLJkKzwa3pMCaNyk_5C6Y22F8xL&index=10.

Court TV. “CA v. MENENDEZ (1993): Lyle Menendez Takes The Stand (Part 3).” *YouTube*, YouTube, 2024, www.youtube.com/watch?v=t7XWPR7SDZ4&list=PLMD8umRLJkKzwa3pMCaNyk_5C6Y22F8xL&index=9.

Court TV. “CA v. MENENDEZ (1993): Lyle Menendez Takes The Stand (Part 4).” *YouTube*, YouTube, 2024, www.youtube.com/watch?v=VPpGWhoG_2k&list=PLMD8umRLJkKzwa3pMCaNyk_5C6Y22F8xL&index=8.

Court TV. *Defense Case - PART 1 | CA. v. MENENDEZ*, YouTube, 2023, www.youtube.com/watch?v=oEd4Lhcho5Q&list=PLRbngWy2JEXT3NHURa2G_bSViLbPVKi2S&index=2

Court TV. *Defense Case - Part 2 | CA. v. MENENDEZ*, YouTube, 2023, www.youtube.com/watch?v=OAzBNbMwRYM&list=PLRbngWy2JEXT3NHURa2G_bSViLbPVKi2S&index=3

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION 34 CFR Part 668. The Clery Act [2014-24284.pdf](#)

Erika Davis vs. Michigan State University, et al, 2018.

Franke, Ruby. “Ruby Franke’s Timeline Journal.” Washington County, 2023. [Timeline_Journal \(Highlighted\)_Redacted.pdf](#)

Freeh, Louis J., et al. *Report of the Special Investigative Counsel Regarding the Actions of Pennsylvania State University Related to the Child Sexual Abuse Committed by Gerald A. Sandusky*. Freeh Sporkin & Sullivan, LLP, 12 July 2012.

https://media.pennlive.com/midstate_impact/other/REPORT_FINAL_071212.pdf.

Ganim, Sara. "Sandusky Victim: Joe Paterno Told Me to Drop Abuse Accusation." *CNN*, Cable News Network, 8 May 2016, www.cnn.com/2016/05/06/us/jerry-sandusky-victims-paterno-penn-state/index.html.

Hinnen, Jerry. "Jerry Sandusky Found Guilty of 45 Counts of Sexual Abuse." *CBSSports.Com*, 6 Apr. 2017, www.cbssports.com/college-football/news/jerry-sandusky-found-guilty-of-45-counts-of-sexual-abuse/.

Klein, Jennifer L., and Danielle Tolson. "Wrangling rumors of corruption: Institutional neutralization of the Jerry Sandusky scandal at Penn State University." *Journal of Human Behavior in the Social Environment* 25.5 (2015): 477-486.

Kravarik, Jason, and Elizabeth Wagmeister. "The Rape Claims That Tie the Menendez Case to Menudo: 'there Might Be Other Victims,' Doc Producer Says." *CNN*, Cable News Network, 25 Oct. 2024, www.cnn.com/2024/10/25/entertainment/menendez-brothers-menudo/index.html.

Laude, Camille. "Family Vlogging and Child Harm: A Need for Nationwide Protection."

Shibboleth Authentication Request, Apr. 2024, [Family Vlogging and Child Harm: A Need for Nationwide Protection](#)

Menendez, Lyle. "Let Me Change Your Verdict", 1982. [lyle_essay.pdf](#)

Michigan Compiled Laws, Chapter 333. Health § 333.16221a. [MCL - Section 333.16221 - Michigan Legislature](#)

Michigan Compiled Laws § 722.621-722.638 | Child Protective Law Act 238 of 1975 [mcl-Act-238-of-1975.pdf](#)

Michigan Penal Code § 750.483a. [MCL - Section 750.483a - Michigan Legislature](#)

Michigan Penal Code § 750.520b. [MCL - Section 750.520b - Michigan Legislature](#)

Michigan Public | By Mark Brush. “Timeline: A Long History of Abuse by Dr. Larry Nassar.” *Michigan Public*, 31 Jan. 2018, www.michiganpublic.org/news/2018-01-24/timeline-a-long-history-of-abuse-by-dr-larry-nassar.

Miller, Jordan. “Ruby Franke Case: A Timeline of Events.” *The Salt Lake Tribute*, 4 Oct. 2023.

OFFICE OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY ATTORNEY. “Press Release Regarding Jodi Hildebrandt’s Guilty Plea to Aggravated Child Abuse.” 27 Dec. 2023. [Washington County Attorney's Office Press Release re Hildebrandt Guilty Plea \(1\).pdf](#)

Pennsylvania Statutes Title 18 Pa.C.S.A. Crimes and Offenses § 4958. Intimidation, retaliation or obstruction in child abuse cases. [Section 4958.0 - Title 18 - CRIMES AND OFFENSES](#)

Pennsylvania Whistleblower Laws 43 P.S. 1421-1428. [Microsoft Word - 1421 thru 1428.doc](#)

Staff, C.N. (2021) *Timeline: The child sex abuse case of Jerry Sandusky, The Daily Collegian*.

Available at: https://www.psucollegian.com/sandusky/timeline-the-child-sex-abuse-case-of-jerry-sandusky/article_a0c48260-52e0-11ec-b65e-2bd1a3594e2b.html.

Tierney, William G., and Raquel M. Rall. "Lessons not yet learned: Culture, governance, and the Jerry Sandusky case." *Journal of Higher Education Management* 33.2 (2018): 12-27.

The People of the State of California vs. PECK, BRIAN RICHARD, 2004. LA Court case number LA043791.

Title IX (Education Amendments Act of 1972, 2018). 20 U.S.C. §1681-§1688 [Title IX and Sex Discrimination](#) | [U.S. Department of Education](#)

Udowitch, Heather. The Larry Nassar Nightmare: Athletic Organizational Failures to Address Sexual Assault Allegations and a Call for Corrective Action, 16 DePaul J. Sports L. & Contemp. Probs. (2020) [The Larry Nassar Nightmare: Athletic Organizational Failures to Address Sexual Assault Allegations and a Call for Corrective Action](#)

UT Code § 76-5-109 (2022) [Utah Code Section 76-5-109](#)

Utah Admin. Code R512-80-2. [Utah Admin. Code R512-80-2 - Definitions](#) | [State Regulations](#) | [US Law](#) | [LII / Legal Information Institute](#)

Utah Code 80-2-602. [Utah Code Section 80-2-602](#)

Utah Code 80-2-701. [C80-2-P7_2022050420220901.pdf](#)

Utah Department of Health and Human Services. "What Does DCFS Do?" State of Utah, 2022. [Child Protective Services process overview PORTRAIT](#)

Washington County Attorney's Office. "Utah vs Franke/Hildebrandt > Documents." 2024. [Documents > Utah vs Franke/Hildebrandt > Media Files](#)

