

We announce the filing of a criminal Information charging Warren Steed Jeffs with two counts of Rape As An Accomplice, a first-degree felony. Judge Shumate of the Fifth District Court has issued a \$500,000 cash only warrant for the arrest of Mr. Jeffs.

The whereabouts of Mr. Jeffs are currently unknown. There is a reward for information leading to his arrest and we ask anyone with such information to please come forward.

The criminal charges in this case allege that the defendant encouraged, commanded, or intentionally aided another to have sexual intercourse with a victim between the ages of 14 and 18 without the victim's consent.

I want to make clear that the Information does not allege that Mr. Jeffs was present or personally committed any sexual act with the victim.

The victim in this case is a long time resident of Hildale, Utah and she wishes to remain anonymous at this point. Her identity and additional details will be revealed at the appropriate time and place during the court proceedings. I ask you to join me in protecting her anonymity and privacy.

In order to avoid the possibility of jeopardizing this prosecution and to make sure justice is served, we will be discussing the evidence only in the courtroom. We ask for your understanding of this requirement as we move forward.

It is also important to remember that in our American system of justice, these charges are just allegations and the defendant is presumed innocent unless proven guilty. I encourage Mr. Jeffs to come forward and answer these charges in a court of law.

Let me say a word about the nature of this case. It is not about religion nor is it about polygamy. This case is about a violation of the law by someone in a position of power and authority over a vulnerable young girl. My office prosecutes sex abuse cases wherever they occur and whenever there is sufficient evidence to proceed. Mr. Jeffs is not exempt from the law despite his position or beliefs.

Finally, to those who may be considering coming forward with information, but who fear repercussions to your self or your family, I want you to know that we will do all in our power to respect your concerns, preserve your privacy, and provide assistance. I encourage anyone suffering from abuse to reach out. There are people waiting to help.