

OFFICE OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY ATTORNEY

ERIC CLARKE | WASHINGTON COUNTY ATTORNEY

TELEPHONE: 435-634-5723

33 NORTH 100 WEST | SUITE 200 | ST. GEORGE, UTAH 84770

WWW.WASHCO.UTAH.GOV/DEPARTMENTS/ATTORNEY



Press Release Regarding

Filing of Charges Against Ruby Franks and Jodi Hildebrandt

September 1, 2023

This afternoon our office filed charges for aggravated child abuse against Ruby Franks and Jodi Hildebrandt. Ms. Franks and Ms. Hildebrandt are each charged with six counts of aggravated child abuse, which are second-degree felonies in Utah. Each count carries a potential prison sentence of one to fifteen years and a fine up to \$10,000. There are two juvenile victims in these cases, and each defendant is accused of causing or permitting serious physical injury to the victims in three different ways: (1) a combination of multiple physical injuries or torture, (2) starvation or malnutrition that jeopardizes life, and (3) causing severe emotional harm.

The investigation into these charges is ongoing, and consequently we will not be releasing documents or information that has not been filed with the court or released by the police department handling the investigation. We understand there is significant public interest in these cases and refer people to the Santa Clara – Ivins Police Department Press Release from yesterday and the charging documents from today.