



Kirkland Police Department

Summary

Print Date/Time: 08/02/2013 16:55
 Login ID: kgranlund
 Case Number: 2013-00037689

Kirkland Police Department
 ORI Number: WA0170800

Case

Case Number: 2013-00037689
 Location: 12335 NE 92ND ST
 KIRKLAND, WA 98033
 Reporting Officer ID: 296 - Goguen

Incident Type: Domestic
 Occurred From: 07/27/2013 06:00
 Occurred Thru: 07/28/2013 17:45
 Disposition: Referred to Investigations
 Disposition Date: 08/02/2013
 Reported Date: 07/31/2013 17:45 Wednesday

Offenses

No.	Group/ORI	Crime Code	Statute	Description	Counts
1	State	90F	9A.40.060	CUSTODIAL INTERFERENCE 1ST DEGREE	1

Subjects

Type	No.	Name	Address	Phone	Race	Sex	DOB/Age
Other involved	1	Morness Kawabata, Maximus	12335 NE 92ND ST KIRKLAND, WA 98033		American Indian-Alaskan Native	Male	02/04/2008 5
Reporting party	1	Morness, Kristoffer Grant	2819 W 33RD AVE Vancouver, BC V6N2G3	(604)551-8264	White	Male	02/01/1973 40
Suspect	1	KAWABATA, CHIE	12335 NE 92ND ST KIRKLAND, WA 98033	(310)945-7126	Asian-Pacific Islander	Female	05/21/1967 46

Arrests

Arrest No.	Name	Address	Date/Time	Type	Age
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Property

Date	Code	Type	Make	Model	Description	Tag No.	Item No.
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Vehicles

No.	Role	Vehicle Type	Year	Make	Model	Color	License Plate	State
1	Suspect Vehicle	Passenger car	2008	Lexus	ES350	Black	421ZHL	WA

OfficerID: pgoguen, Sgt Goguen

**Sgt Goguen
Case #13-37689**

On August 1st, 2013, I was dispatched to an assist call. David Drake with Windermere Properties had called to inquire about police activity at one of his properties the previous night. The property was listed as 12235 NE 92nd St and there was an associated incident number (13-37689) placed in the body of the call.

I researched the incident and learned a welfare check had been called in on July 31st around 1945 hrs, requesting officers check on the status of Chie Kawabata and her 5 year old son, Maximus K. Morness-Kawabata. The request was made by Kawabata's ex-husband, Kristoffer Morness who stated he had not heard from Kawabata or his son for several days. Additionally, the notes in the call indicate Morness had contacted the daycare provider and learned Maximus had not been in attendance all week.

Officer Christenson responded to the address and found a realtors lock box affixed to the front door. Repeated attempts to contact occupants were unsuccessful. Officer Christenson noted when he looked into the windows it appeared the occupants were preparing to move. Neighbors were contacted and stated they had not seen mother or child in several days. Attempts to contact Kawabata on her cell phone were unsuccessful as they went straight to voice mail. For further details please see Officer Christenson's supplement.

I called Drake and inquired how I could help. Drake explained to me that he was the property manager for the residence and was told by neighbors KPD was at the residence last night. Drake wanted to know if something was wrong or if he could be of any assistance. I explained to Drake the reason for the police response (welfare check) and asked if he was familiar with Kawabata.

According to Drake, he had never met Kawabata in person, but dealt with her many times via e-mail, text and phone conversations. Drake explained the residence was a bank owned property and Kawabata was leasing the condominium. Drake told me that Kawabata's lease expires at the end of August and up to 3 weeks ago he had been in active negotiations with Kawabata for a new release. Drake told me that without notice or follow up, Kawabata "went MIA" about 3 weeks ago.

Since then, Drake has been checking up on the property. Drake said he went inside the property, which is still furnished and found many boxes in partial stages of packing. Drake said some had food in them and the condo itself "smelled ripe." He located a litter box that needed to be cleaned, but no cat. Drake explained he put a realtor lock box on the door as a precaution. Kawabata's rent is due on the first and is paid via automatic withdrawal. Drake said he would know within 48 hours if something had changed if the rent payment was not made. Either way, Drake told me if he does not hear from Kawabata by the end of August he will be forced to remove her property and prepare the place for sale or lease.

It should be mentioned that during our conversation, Drake mentioned to me that Kawabata had family in Japan and was told her mother was ill.

After talking with Drake, I became concerned about the whereabouts of Maximus and subsequently his mother Kawabata. I decided to call and speak with Morness to gather additional background on the relationship and any subsequent court orders.

I called Morness who resides in Vancouver, British Columbia to discuss the matter in more detail. Morness explained to me that he and Kawabata had been married in 2004. In January of 2011 they filed for divorce, which Morness described as "contentious." During the divorce proceedings and custody battle, Morness stated Kawabata made numerous abuse allegations through CPS regarding Maximus, which were ultimately determined to be unfounded.

As part of the settlement, Kawabata got primary parental rights. Visitation was granted allowing for weekends, specific weeks of vacation and Skype time. Morness told me that Kawabata has missed the last three scheduled Skype sessions with Maximus, which was the reason for the welfare check. Morness told me the last contact he had with Maximus was via Skype on July 25th, 2013.

Morness informed me that Kawabata flew to Los Angeles about 2 weeks ago and then to San Jose last week to visit friends. Morness said Kawabata was suppose to be back in Seattle on Saturday, July 27th and he has scheduled visitation this coming weekend. Morness told me that Kawabata has not returned any of his e-mails, texts or phone calls. In fact, Morness stated all of his phone calls to her go straight to voice mail, meaning her cell phone is off.

I asked Morness about Kawabata's family in Japan, the status of her mother and if he thought it were possible she may have traveled there. Morness confirmed he was aware Kawabata's mother had been diagnosed with cancer and was ill. Morness told me that Kawabata attempted to exploit this last year in an attempt to relocate to Japan. Morness told me that an injunction was filed and the court ruled in his favor. However, Morness believed it was plausible that Kawabata had in fact fled to Japan with Maximus to see her mother, which would be a violation of the parenting plan because no advanced notice was given.

Morness then stated, that all of this is starting to make sense. Morness told me that he has access to Kawabata's work calendar at Microsoft. According to Morness, Kawabata took a leave of absence for the month of August. Morness said he is unsure of what Kawabata's intentions are as she has done this before for financial gain. Morness told me that Kawabata has taken extended vacations/ leave of absences from previous work places all the while starting up new employment elsewhere and therefore earning two salaries simultaneously. All of this along with her cell phone being turned off leads Morness to believe she has left the country.

I confirmed with Morness both Kawabata and Maximus have passports. He provided me with full names and DOB's of both subjects. Morness also told me that Maximus had been placed on the Children's Passport Issuance Alert Program (CPIAP) out of concerns Kawabata would attempt to flee the country with Maximus. It should be noted, the CPIAP does not prevent children with valid passports from leaving the country instead it only places limitations on parents ability to apply for a US

passport.

I informed Morness that I would do some research to see if either Kawabata or Maximus' passports show up on any recent out of country travel. It was my guess since her last known location was San Jose, California that had she left the country she would have flown out of San Francisco.

I contacted Detective Haas for assistance. Detective Haas was able to talk with a contact with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and confirm Kawabata and Maximus had flown to Japan on Japan Airlines on July 26th out of San Francisco.

I recontacted Morness and passed this information on. I requested that he send me a copy of the parenting plan for my records. Morness said he would send it via e-mail in a PDF format.

On August 2nd, upon my return to work I received numerous e-mails from Morness. The following documents were sent and included in the case report:

1. Copy of parenting plan.
2. Copy of notice for CPIAP.
3. Copy of (5) arbitrated decisions.
4. Copy of relocation decision.
5. Photocopy of Kawabata's passport.

Additional concerns were voiced regarding Kawabata's intention to return to the United States. A couple of factors that were in play: Where is Kawabata's vehicle? What did Kawabata do with the cat? Morness mentioned during a recent Skype session with Maximus, Maximus showed him a rabies certificate. This is something one is required to show proof of when traveling with an animal abroad. Morness said initially he did not think much of it, but in hindsight, perhaps this was indicative of Kawabata's intent to relocate to Japan.

At 1022 hrs, Morness forward me an e-mail he received from Kawabata dated August 2nd. The e-mail stated the following:

After much thought, I have taken a leave of absence from work until the end of August and have traveled with Maximus to Japan to visit my cancer-stricken mother. The torment I have endured in recent years have left me (and therefore Max) emotionally ruined and have forced my hands to take this step that I wish I did not have to take. We are in Osaka with our family where you visited before, and I just need little time to have my and Max's wound to be healed through the love of my family. Skype calls with Max can be resumed this weekend, if you'd wish, as I have never wanted to deprive you of time with Max. It is ironic for you to suggest that I should put myself in your shoes as you have never put yourselves in my shoes.

The e-mail does not make mention of any intention to return to the United States. Further, the statement: "...have forced my hands to take this step that I wish I did not have to take" leaves a lot open for interpretation.

I called Drake back to gather some additional information. Drake confirmed there is no car currently in the garage or driveway. Drake also confirmed the boxes he observed were moving boxes and he described the scene as about 10% packed. Drake was also unable to positively confirm Kawabata had paid her rent for August. Drake would send me an e-mail with confirmation either way next week.

At 1300 hrs, I called Port of Seattle PD to find out if they would be able to determine if Kawabata purchased a round trip ticket when she flew out to Japan. I provided the call taker with the names and DOB of both parties and was told they would look into the matter and see what they can find out.

I received a call back from the Port of Seattle PD and was told because Japan Airlines does not fly out of Seattle they do not have access to their passenger manifesto. It was suggested I contact San Francisco airport police to see if they could help.

I called and spoke to San Francisco airport police about the matter. They informed me they do not have access to specific airlines passenger manifesto's and stated I would need to contact the airlines directly. It was suggested to call their customer service line and request to speak to a supervisor and ID yourself as law enforcement. He said it was a "flip of the coin" whether they would assist.

I attempted to look up a phone number online, but could not a direct line. After waiting on hold for 10+ minutes I terminated my phone call. Additional follow up can be completed by investigators.

Notes of interest:

1. The parenting plan states under section 3.14 "regarding relocation of child" states the residing parent must give notice to every person entitled to court ordered time with the child at least 60 days notice before intended move unless the relocating parent did not know about the move to give 60 days notice.
2. Under section VIII "order by the court" the parenting plan states: "WARNING: violation of residential provisions of this order with actual knowledge of its terms is punishable by contempt of court and may be a criminal offense under RCW 9A.40.060(2) or 9A.40.070(2). Violation of this order may subject a violator to arrest.
3. Morness provided information regarding Kawabata's traveling habits. When taking extended trips she will use Shuttle Express to pick her up at take her to the airport.
4. When parking at the airport she parks her car at Seatacpark.com. Unknown if her vehicle is located at that sight.

I am unable to determine at this time if Kawabata is scheduled to return to the United States at the end of August. Until further investigation can be completed, this looks to be a violation of the parenting plan and therefore civil at this time.

This completes my involvement in the case.

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Routing: