

Statement By Dr. Michael Moates on Tarrant County Sheriff Bill Waybourn's Attempt to Excuse His Son's Sexual Abuse of Children Using Mental Illness

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 4, 2025

Sheriff Bill Waybourn's recent press release regarding his son's arrest is nothing more than a carefully orchestrated attempt to shield him from accountability. This is a blatant display of nepotism, where a public official is using his power and influence to control the narrative and manipulate public perception. Let's be clear—this is not about adoption, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, or family struggles. This is about a sheriff who refuses to let his son face the same legal consequences as any other person would in Tarrant County.

The charges against William Waybourn—solicitation of a minor, assaulting a peace officer, and resisting arrest—are serious. If this were anyone else's child, we wouldn't be getting a press release filled with emotional appeals and attempts to garner sympathy. Instead, we would see a mugshot, a list of charges, and a promise from law enforcement to hold the offender accountable. But because William is the sheriff's son, we are subjected to an entirely different response—one that downplays his actions and shifts blame onto adoption and disability rather than personal responsibility.

This isn't the first time Sheriff Waybourn has attempted to control the public perception of his family's misconduct. In 2019, his son Sergei Waybourn was arrested for exposing himself to passing motorists in Arlington. Rather than addressing the crime head-on, Sheriff Waybourn made a calculated effort to distance himself, claiming that Sergei had "disassociated from the family" and blaming his actions on drug addiction. It's the same pattern we are seeing today—excuses, emotional manipulation, and an effort to deflect responsibility from the offender to external factors.

Let's not forget the hypocrisy at play here. Sheriff Waybourn has been a vocal advocate for harsh law enforcement. But when it's his own son facing criminal charges, suddenly, the situation calls for understanding, compassion, and a narrative of unfortunate circumstances.

This selective application of the law is an insult to every family in Tarrant County whose loved ones have been arrested, charged, and sentenced without a carefully crafted press release attempting to paint them as victims of their circumstances.

The fact that Sheriff Waybourn is even making this plea for privacy is the height of hypocrisy. He is a public official, elected to enforce the law fairly and without bias. He does not get to pick and choose when to apply justice based on personal connections. If William Waybourn committed these crimes, he should be held accountable just like any other citizen. No amount of PR spin, no amount of emotional storytelling, and no amount of power should be able to change that.

Tarrant County deserves transparency. The public should demand full disclosure of how William Waybourn's case is being handled and ensure that there is no special treatment simply because of who his father is. The law must be applied equally, without exception. If Sheriff Waybourn truly believes in the values he preaches, he must allow his son to face the legal consequences of his actions without interference.

Justice does not play favorites, and neither should those entrusted to uphold it.

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