

Disappearance of Kyron Horman

Kyron Richard Horman (born September 9, 2002) is an American boy who <u>disappeared</u> from Skyline Elementary School in <u>Portland</u>, <u>Oregon</u>, on June 4, 2010, after attending a <u>science fair</u>. Local and state police, along with the <u>Federal Bureau of Investigation</u> (FBI), conducted an exhaustive search and launched a criminal investigation, but have not uncovered any significant information regarding the child's whereabouts. Horman's disappearance sparked the largest criminal investigation in Oregon history. To this day, his whereabouts remain unknown.

Background

Kyron Richard Horman was born September 9, 2002, in <u>Portland, Oregon</u>, to Desiree Young and Kaine Horman, an engineer for <u>Intel</u>.[3] The couple divorced eight months into Young's pregnancy with Kyron, with Young citing <u>irreconcilable differences</u>.[4] The two had been granted shared <u>custody</u> of Kyron until 2004, but when Young was diagnosed with <u>kidney failure</u> that required extensive medical intervention, Kaine took over full custody; notwithstanding this fact, Young still remained an active part of the child's upbringing.[4]

In 2007, Kaine married Terri Moulton (born March 14, 1970), [4] a substitute teacher originally from Roseburg. [3][4] Kaine became romantically involved with Moulton around 2001 when he and Young were in the midst of divorcing. [4] They married in 2007 while visiting Kauai, Hawaii. In December 2008, Moulton

Kyron Richard Horman



The last known photograph taken of Kyron Horman, during his school's science fair on June 4, 2010. He disappeared within an hour of this photo being taken.

Born September 9, 2002

Portland, Oregon, U.S.

Disappeared June 4, 2010 (aged 7)

Portland, Oregon, U.S.

Status Missing for 14 years,

5 months and 29 days

Education Skyline Elementary School

Occupation Student

Parents Kaine Horman (father)

Desiree Young (mother)

gave birth to a daughter, Kiara. [4] Meanwhile, Kyron was a student at Skyline Elementary School near Forest Park. [3]

Disappearance

On June 4, 2010, Kyron was taken to Skyline Elementary School by his stepmother Terri Horman (Moulton), who then stayed with him while he attended a science fair. Ferri Horman stated that she left the school at around 8:45 a.m. and that she last remembered seeing Kyron walking down the hall to his class. However, Kyron was never seen in his first class and was instead marked as absent that day.

Terri's statements to the police indicate that, after leaving the school at 8:45 a.m., she ran errands at two different Fred Meyer grocery stores until about 10:10 a.m. [8] Between then and 11:39 a.m., she stated that she was driving her daughter around town in an attempt to use the motion of the vehicle to soothe the toddler's earache. Terri said that she then went to a local gym and exercised until about 12:40 p.m. By 1:21 p.m., she had arrived home and posted photos of Kyron at the science fair on Facebook. [9]

At 3:30 p.m., Terri and her husband, Kaine, walked with their daughter, Kiara, to the bus stop to meet Kyron. The bus driver told them that the boy had not boarded the bus, and to call the school to ask his whereabouts. Terri did so, only to be informed by the school secretary that, as far as anyone there knew, Kyron had not been at school since early that day and that he had accordingly been marked absent. Realizing then that the boy was missing, the secretary called 9-1-1.

Initial search efforts

Search efforts for Kyron were extensive and primarily focused on a 2-mile (3.2 km) radius around Skyline Elementary and on <u>Sauvie Island</u>, approximately 6 miles (9.7 km) away. <u>[10]</u> Law enforcement did not disclose their reasons for searching the area where they did, which included a search of the <u>Sauvie Island Bridge</u>. <u>[10]</u>

On June 9, 2010, the Horman family, who had initially refused to speak with the media, released a statement:

Kyron's family would like to thank people for support and interest in finding their son. The outpouring of support and continued effort strengthens their hope. We need for folks to continue to assist us in our goal. Please search your properties — cars, out buildings, sheds, etc. Also check with neighbors and friends who may be on vacation or may need in assistance in searching. There are a lot of resources here to help you search, so please don't stop. It is obviously a difficult time and they want to speak to the public so you can hear it from Kyron's family as they come together to share their message. Their objective is to keep the focus on Kyron and not about anything else. [10]



Search and rescue vehicles along Skyline Boulevard during search in March 2011

On June 12, around 300 trained rescuers were on the ground searching wooded areas near the school. The search for Kyron, which spanned ten days, was the largest in Oregon history and included over 1,300 searchers from Oregon, Washington and California. A reward posted for information leading to the discovery of Kyron, which was initially \$25,000, expanded to \$50,000 in late July 2010.

Legal proceedings

In late June 2010, in the midst of the search, Kaine was reportedly told by investigators that Terri had offered their landscaper, Rodolfo Sanchez, "a lot of money" to kill her husband. [13] Sanchez testified in a deposition that Terri approached him to help kill her husband in January 2010, five months before Kyron's disappearance; in her own deposition, Terri denied the charge. [13] Investigators convinced Sanchez to confront Terri while wearing an audio surveillance device, but they were unable to obtain any evidence and could not make an arrest. On June 28, Kaine filed for divorce [12] and obtained a restraining order against Terri. [14][15] The divorce was granted and Terri was eventually granted supervised visitation with her daughter.

During this time, Terri failed two separate <u>polygraph examinations</u> regarding Kyron's disappearance. In August 2010, it was announced that law enforcement were searching for an individual allegedly seen by two witnesses sitting inside Terri's truck outside Skyline Elementary the day of the disappearance. Bruce McCain, a former sheriff for the <u>Multnomah County Sheriff's Office</u>, told <u>CBS News</u>: "The identity of that second person, if he or she existed, could be critical in determining what happened to Kyron after 9 a.m. on June 4." [19]

Meanwhile, in July 2010, a Multnomah County grand jury subpoenaed several friends of Terri, including DeDe Spicher, whom Young and Kaine described as having "been in close communication with Terri" and "providing Terri with support and advice that is not in the best interests of our son." According to law enforcement, Spicher was "extremely cooperative" and allowed a search of her property and car, as well as enduring three hours of questioning from detectives. On the day of Kyron's disappearance, Spicher was gardening for a homeowner on Germantown Road in Northwest Portland and was allegedly unaccounted for during a three hour period, though Spicher claimed she had never left the property. She also helped Terri purchase an untraceable cell phone after Kaine had moved out of the house. During this time, Spicher told journalists: "There's this horror that my friend is going through. If I thought for a second that she was capable of [foul play], I would not have been there. She would not have been my friend in the first place."

In early August 2010, Young, Kaine and the Skyline Elementary School principal were subpoenaed and testified during the grand jury hearing. In December 2010, it was reported by $\underline{The\ Oregonian}$ that the grand jury had yet to provide compelling evidence yielding a potential $\underline{indictment}$. By November 29, 2010, search efforts in Kyron's case had cost an estimated \$1.4 million, according to county commissioners, and yielded 4,257 tips. [26]

In May 2017, it was reported by Portland station \underline{KGW} that a secret grand jury panel continued to hear evidence in Kyron's disappearance, and had convened on multiple occasions. During the report, Kyron's case was described as still "active and ongoing." Two months later, in July 2017, law enforcement conducted further searches along Skyline Boulevard, but the searches yielded no results. [28]

Lawsuit against Terri Horman

On June 1, 2012, Young filed a <u>civil lawsuit</u> against Terri, claiming that she was "responsible for the disappearance of Kyron." The lawsuit attempted to prove that Terri had <u>kidnapped</u> Kyron on the day he disappeared. Young sought \$10 million in <u>damages</u>. On August 15, 2012, a federal court judge denied a motion by Terri to delay the lawsuit.

On July 30, 2013, it was announced that Young had dropped the lawsuit against Terri so as not to interfere with the ongoing police investigation. [32][33]

Depiction in media



Memorial for Horman, 2015

Terri appeared as a guest on <u>Dr. Phil</u> in 2016, during which she told <u>Phil McGraw</u>: "I was advised from the beginning by law enforcement, by my husband at the time, by attorneys in the beginning, not to say anything. I've always wanted to. I've asked multiple times to speak out and have not been allowed." She denied having any involvement in Kyron's disappearance, and also stated her belief that he was kidnapped, adding: "There was a man in a white pickup truck, Ford, parked on Highway 30 at the <u>7-Eleven</u>, which is not near the school. He was acting very strangely and he was addressed by one of the employees because he had been pacing back and forth in front of the 7-Eleven for about an

hour."[34]

Boy Missing: The Search for Kyron Horman, written by Rebecca Morris, was released in May 2020. [35]

"Vanished from School," season 2, episode 2, of the television show *Real Life Nightmare* on Discovery ID explores the case. The episode aired November 15, 2020.

See also

- List of people who disappeared
- List of kidnappings

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External links

Kyron Horman (http://www.missingkids.org/poster/NCMC/1149070) at the National Center

for Missing & Exploited Children

- Kyron Horman (https://www.fbi.gov/wanted/kidnap/kyron-richard-horman) flyer at the Federal Bureau of Investigation
- Kyron Horman (http://charleyproject.org/case/kyron-richard-horman) at The Charley Project
- Kyron Horman news articles (http://topics.oregonlive.com/tag/kyron%20horman/) at <u>The</u> Oregonian
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