

Bronner v. Olympus ISSUE 2 BRIEF

Varun Iyer · August 3, 2019

Interview 1

February 9, 2016

Chaney and Geesaman interviewed Andrea and Andy Sommerville. Both denied of allegations.

Rael's Observations

February 10, 2016

Officer Rael had “grown worried” about Andy (but **not** about the safety of other students)¹. On that day, Andy was sullen and withdrawn and appeared to have been crying. Rael, **wearing his police uniform**, asked if Andy was okay and if he needed help, and Andy replied that he was fine.

Rael's Observations

February 11, 2016

The next day, Andy appeared at Rael's office. It was a casual, office-like setting with posters on the walls and no identification of authority. Andy asked if they could talk because something was bothering him. According to Rael, Andy described how he found child pornography in Bronner's possession depicting his sister being raped. Andy asked what would happen after Bronner's arrest, particularly whether he will go to jail. Officer Rael wrote down his recollections after the boy left. He called a counselor and the principal, but did not contact law enforcement officers. Chaney and Geesaman arrived two hours after this meeting. Officer Rael did not himself ask any questions.

Olympus Law

Children must be at least ten years old in order to testify in Court. This legislation was intended to protect the physical and psychological well-being of victims under ten-years of age.

¹If Rael was concerned about ongoing safety, his observations would be less likely to be testimonial

Andy Sommerville on Truth

By the time of trial

Sommerville has assisted his sister, Samantha, in practice for high school mock trial. Andy stated that he knows that lying is bad and that he believes that if he tells a lie, God will punish him for his sins.

Bronner's Objection

Trial

Introduction of Rael's testimony regarding his conversation were inadmissible hearsay without the opportunity for cross-examination.

Sasaki's Testimony

Trial

Sasaki testified that he heard that Bronner possess child pornography.