

SiRT

SERIOUS INCIDENT
RESPONSE TEAM

Summary of Investigation

SiRT File # 2022-026

Referral from

RCMP – New Minas

June 1, 2022

John Scott
Interim Director
September 6, 2022

On June 1, 2022, SiRT received a referral from the RCMP concerning injuries suffered by a female youth, the Affected Party (AP) at a residence in the Annapolis Valley. The initial RCMP involvement came as a result of a 911 call made by the AP. An investigation commenced the following day and was concluded on July 13, 2020.

The following information was obtained, reviewed, and considered in the preparation of this report: the handwritten notes of the Subject Officer (SO), as well as the general report and notes from the Witness Officer (WO), scene photographs taken on the night in question, statements taken from the three staff persons involved at the residence the AP was living in, and a statement taken from the AP by the SiRT investigator.

Background

AP is a 16-year-old youth in the long-term care of the Department of Community Services having spent most of her entire life in foster care. She requires close supervision and has significant behavioral issues that cause her to have frequent intervention with police and medical responders.

Based on the AP's behavioral concerns, community services had located her in a "place of safety" residence where there are 2 social workers 24/7. The residence and staff are provided by a private agency and are used for very high needs individuals who can't adapt or fit into traditional foster homes.

Facts:

On June 1, 2022, the RCMP received a 911 call to attend a residence in the Annapolis Valley. Although the officers attending the call had little information to go on, the address and the AP who resided there were well known to the RCMP due to previous calls to that address. Upon arrival, the officer, hereinafter referred to as the Subject Officer (SO), located the AP who was standing outside on a small, shingled roof which covered a basement doorway at the rear of the residence. Two resident workers employed by a private agency were hired by Department of Community Services, were present in AP's bedroom on the second floor. The AP had been upset with her case workers and went out on the rooftop just below her bedroom window, and called police for assistance.

The SO, based on previous dealings with the AP knew the AP is easily agitated and does not usually listen to anyone when in an escalated state. The AP indicated to the SO that she would not get off the ledge until the two staff members left her room. The SO was indicating that the two staff were there to help her and would not be leaving the room. The SO was trying to persuade the AP to climb back in through the bedroom window, but the AP indicated that she would not comply. The SO offered to assist her in getting back into the house, but the AP indicated if anyone attempted to come outside onto the roof she would jump off.

When another officer, (Witness Officer (WO) arrived on the scene, the SO indicated if she did not come in off the ledge, the two officers, SO and WO, would assist in bringing her in. The AP then went off the roof and fell to the ground below, a distance of approximately 8-10 feet. The SO and AP had this conversation through the bedroom window and at no time did anyone attempt to go outside and make contact with the AP. In her statement to the SiRT investigator, the AP acknowledged the SO had no involvement in causing her injury.

The two agency staff members, the SO and the WO all immediately went outside to the backyard area of the residence. Calls were made to EHS and the local fire department to give assistance to AP's injuries. The AP suffered a fractured ankle as a result of her going voluntarily off the ledge.

Legal Issue:

Did the involvement of the SO with the AP on the night in question amount to a criminal charge?

Conclusion

There is nothing in the actions of the SO that night giving rise to any form of criminality. The SO answered a 911 call, tried to de-escalate the situation that was presented and observed a highly agitated AP go off a roof she was standing on. The injuries sustained were entirely self-inflicted. Therefore, no charges are warranted against the SO.