

The Dunn family would like to address recent online posts referencing a legal matter from approximately 18 years ago in California. The information currently being circulated is selective, incomplete, and creates a false and damaging impression of our family.

At the time, these allegations were investigated by California law enforcement authorities. No criminal charges were ever filed, and the District Attorney ultimately declined to pursue the matter due to concerns regarding the credibility of the claims.

The allegations originated from a former family acquaintance who was an adult at the time. The situation stemmed from personal conflict and wanted to get revenge. Due to considerable speculation within the community, we also believe it is important to clarify that this individual was not a minor when these claims were made to law enforcement and the Department of Human Services.

Our family daycare business was investigated in response to these allegations. Recently, documents related to that investigation have been circulated publicly by the group "Justice for Waldport." However, the materials being shared do not reflect the full context or outcome of the matter.

When these allegations were first presented, we believed the appropriate course of action was to retain legal counsel and fully cooperate with law enforcement throughout the investigation process.

After the District Attorney declined to pursue charges, and CPS returned with unfounded findings, we believed the matter had been resolved. However, the California Department of Social Services later pursued a separate administrative action regarding our daycare license.

Unlike a criminal proceeding, this administrative process did not involve a jury trial and followed different procedural rules. We were informed the hearing process could last several days, require significant travel and legal expenses, and was later delayed by an additional six months at the request of the Department of Social Services.

At the time, our family was already preparing for a planned move to Oregon. I had already resigned from my previous job, and we had limited financial resources remaining after defending ourselves against false allegations that never resulted in criminal charges.

During this process, the Department of Social Services offered a stipulation agreement stating that the state would waive making any formal findings on the accusations and that signing the agreement would not constitute an admission of guilt. Given our financial circumstances and inability to continue prolonged administrative proceeding, we accepted the agreement as a practical resolution under difficult circumstances.

We also requested modifications that would have preserved our right to seek reconsideration if additional evidence became available, but those requests were denied.

We have also seen claims that our family “fled” to Oregon, these are entirely false. Our move had been planned well before these allegations arose. We had planned on moving to Oregon a year before all of this happened, as my mom and stepdad were having health problems and no one was up here to take care of them. As a side note, I am glad we did move to Oregon as it allowed me to spend a few years with my dad before he passed. Before leaving California, we made sure our attorneys, the DA, and the police department had our Oregon address. So, no we did not flee to Oregon, and the police never came to our California home looking for us, like some community members have claimed. These are accusations made by community members to cause reputational damage to our family.

We also want to directly address the harmful labels that have recently been used against my family and I, including terms such as “predator,” “rapist,” “child molester,” and “pedophile.” These accusations are categorically false, and we completely deny them. Because of online speculation, I asked the city to have me undergo a full background check, which they did, and it revealed no criminal charges, civil judgments, or concerning findings in any jurisdiction. My wife and I also completed and passed many other background checks from many organizations in recent years, and as expected, have come back with no findings and revealed no criminal charges in this state or any other state.

Unfortunately, false accusations and public attacks against people are not uncommon. As the city manager has pointed out in previous online posts, several community members, including city officials, and faculty members, have also faced serious allegations in recent years that were investigated and did not result in charges.

These allegations and the recent online campaign surrounding them have caused significant harm to our family and our business. Calls to boycott our company and continued public speculation have had a devastating emotional, financial, and personal impact on all of us.

I am currently facing serious health complications, including a diagnosed disease and related complications. Additionally, I have experienced a huge emotional toll due to these events. Sheila has also experienced substantial emotional distress while supporting our family through ongoing public attacks, as well as facing emotional damage from online attacks as well. Our children have likewise been deeply affected by the sudden hostility and fear directed toward the family within the community they have long called home.

Most disturbing of all, these events have resulted in numerous threats against our family, which are being investigated via law enforcement. We firmly believe all allegations should be taken seriously and investigated appropriately by authorities, not litigated through online harassment, rumors, or mob behavior.

I believe these attacks and posts are politically motivated. In today's culture, one of the quickest ways to silence an opponent is to dig up something from their past and use it against them. Whether it's a parent supporting a child struggling with identity, a high school graduate who feels they were failed by the school system, or, in my own experience, a former family acquaintance seeking revenge over past personal differences, what has our world come to? Is this really what we've become?

We are aware of individuals who have engaged in defamation, harassment, stalking, and doxing directed at our family. We are taking these matters seriously and pursuing appropriate legal remedies to protect our reputation.

At this time, we intend to allow the legal process to move forward through the courts, where all evidence and records can be properly reviewed in full context.

False accusations can have devastating consequences in today's world. While there is much more, we could say regarding the motivations and circumstances behind these allegations, we will follow the advice of counsel and refrain from further public comment as legal proceedings move forward.

We respectfully ask the community for peace, fairness, and patience as we work through this difficult situation. In the meantime, I will continue serving my community to the best of my ability, without pay or personal benefit, despite the actions of a small number of individuals attempting to use these allegations for their own purposes.