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Investigations in Ritual Abuse
August 26, 2024

Ecclesiastical Summary on Brian and Susanne Kershisnik (Christensen)

Introduction

Brian and Susanne Kershnik were a married couple, since divorced, and were allegedly members of David Lee Hamblin's group the Church of Satan, a.k.a. The Group. This group is comprised of Latter Day Saints who actively worship Lucifer as part of their belief that he is the rightful heir to the throne of Heavenly Father. Much of what we know about the alleged members of this group comes from eight victims statements filled out by sisters Rachel, Eliza, and Katherine Hamblin in 2013 as part of a Provo Police Department criminal investigation.

David Lee Hamblin's guilt with respect to abuse allegations is not in doubt. During a recorded pretext call with Sgt. Dan Dove of the Provo Police, Hamblin explicitly apologized to his daughter for raping her. His exact words were "I am sorry for raping you."¹

According to Rachel, Eliza, and Katherine Hamblin, the Kershniks hired their father David, a clinical psychologist, to train their son Noah Kershnik to comply with ritual abuse. This occurred in Kanosh at the Kershnik's home and at the Hamblin residence in Provo. The Hamblin sisters accused Brian Kershnik of paying for their services as child prostitutes with his art, and Katherine Hamblin accused Kershnik of raping her upwards of 15 times. Rachel Hamblin claimed she was forced to perform oral sex on Susanne Kershnik.

The criminal allegations against the Kershniks are outlined in the Index of Alleged Crimes at the end of this report. Those crimes include Murder, Rape of a Child, Sodomy on a Child, Aggravated Sexual Abuse of a Child, and Aggravated Sexual Assault.

The Kershniks are alleged to have violated any number of requirements for members of the Church, including the Law of Chastity. Some of this occurred in the context of criminal sexual abuse against children; other instances were consensual ritualized acts involving male on male sodomy and ritualized fertility blessings for Susanne Kershnik in which male semen was consumed from a ceremonial bowl. Regardless of whether or not the conduct was consensual or nonconsensual, the

¹ Provo Police Report

allegations made by the Hamblin sisters describe conduct that is clearly in conflict with the oaths and covenants Latter Day Saints make as members.

These allegations necessitate a membership council in order to ascertain the extent of the Brian Kershisnik's culpability, and the extent of his current association with the Church of Satan, as well as the Church's exposure in terms of liability for abuse he may have committed while on Church property or while exercising Church callings. The safety of our members is paramount, and if these allegations are true, the continued membership of Brian Kershisnik and his ex-wife would constitute a threat to the safety and well-being of Saints within any ward they attend.

This report is provided for the consideration of the bishopric and stake presidency, as well as any other authorities within the Church.

Index of Alleged Crimes Committed by Brian and Susanne Kershisnik (Christensen)

Murder, Utah Criminal Code 76-5-203

VS 4, pg. 61-62, Experience 148, Eliza Hamblin names Brian and Susanne Kershisnik as participants in the murder of a hitchhiker on the Utah and Arizona border during a CS camping trip. According to Eliza and her sisters, it was common for their parents to pick up hitchhikers for sacrifices at the campsites.

Human Trafficking of a Child, Utah Criminal Code 76-5-308.5

VS 2, pg. 103, Rachel Lee Hamblin alleges that her parent were paid for prostitution services provided by her and her sisters with art from Brian Kershisnik and others.

VS 3, pg. 49, Experience 51, Katherine Hamblin alleged that Brian Kershisnik frequented her parents' child prostitution business 15 plus times in Provo and Spring City, paying with artwork. This corroborative of Rachel Lee Hamblin's claims.

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Rape of a Child, Utah Criminal Code 76-5-402.1

VS 3, pg. 12, Experience 8, Katherine Hamblin alleged that Brian Kershisnik raped her 15 times over her life, but explicitly cites the years 1990-1992 and the home Bible studies held in the Provo home of the Hamblins. Katherine would have been between 3 and 6 years of age during the abuse over that time period. Her "part" was named Melissa, and she was expected to perform sexually without question whenever her parents called her by that name.

Sodomy on a Child, Utah Criminal Code 76-5-403.1

VS 3, pg. 12, Experience 8, Katherine Hamblin alleged that Brian Kershisnik violently anally sodomized her during a Bible study at her family's home in Provo.

Aggravated Sexual Abuse of a Child, Utah Criminal Code 76-5-404.3

VS 2, pp. 81-82, Rachel Lee Hamblin alleged that her she and her sisters were forced to perform oral sex on Brian Kershisnik during a party at the Hamblin residence in Spring City. This occurred during the summer of 1994-1995, and Eliza, Katherine, and Miriam Hamblin would have been under 14 years of age, thereby qualifying the abuse under 76-5-404.3. This story is corroborated in Katherine Hamblin's victim statement on page 128, Experience 104.

VS 2, pp. 91, Rachel Lee Hamblin alleged that Brian and Susanne Kershnik hired David Lee Hamblin to train them how to induce compliance with abuse in their son Noah Kershnik. David Hamblin introduced the “opposite game,” whereby he and Brian took turns alternating between being threatening and smiling in order to confuse Noah, and Brian Kershnik pinned Noah down and orally sodomized him². Rachel Lee Hamblin was then ordered by her father to perform oral sex on all of the adults and Noah Kershnik, and Brian Kershnik later raped her.³ They forced Noah Kershnik to kill a dog.

The Kershniks attended other “training sessions” in Spring City and Provo with David Lee Hamblin, where Hamblin demonstrated the punishments he used on his own daughters with Noah Kershnik. They forced Noah to drink urine from his father’s penis, and eventually gave Noah a new name for the part David Lee Hamblin claimed to have created in Noah’s psyche, a part that would automatically comply with ritual sexual and physical abuse, as well as commands to engage in animal sacrifice.⁴ David Lee Hamblin explained to Brian and Susanne that they needed to constantly confuse Noah on a psychological level in order to train him how to act with his named part.

Rachel alleged that during one of these training sessions, Brian Kershnik sodomized her while David Lee Hamblin sodomized him, and she was forced to perform oral sex on Susanne Kershnik.⁵

In total, there are at least ten separate alleged violations of 76-5-404.3 outlined in this part of Victim Statement 2. They are footnoted.

VS 3, pp. 61-63, Katherine Hamblin alleged that there were six plus training sessions with Brian Kershnik’s son Noah. She corroborated her sister Rachel’s claim that Noah’s parents forced him to kill a dog by cutting its throat and its belly, and Brian Kershnik ordered his son to perform oral sex on David Lee Hamblin afterwards. She corroborated Rachel’s claim that Brian and David had anal sex, as well as the claim that Brian Kershnik orally sodomized his son, and Rachel’s claim that she was forced to perform oral sex on everyone who was present. She claimed that she was ordered to suck on Susanne Kershnik’s vagina, and Brian Kershnik and David Lee Hamblin masturbated each other into a bowl that Susanne then drank their semen from in order to become fertile again. On page 88, Katherine Hamblin also corroborated Rachel’s claim that the Hamblins were paid with Kershnik’s artwork. She describes the fertility ceremony for Susanne Kershnik again on page 116.

² Violation 1

³ Violations 2-7

⁴ Violation 8

⁵ Violations 9 and 10.

VS 4, pg. 43, Experience 107, Eliza Hamblin alleged that Brian Kershisnik attended the filming of a child pornography film, and Brian later orally sodomized her and her sisters and ejaculated in her mouth. This occurred between 1993 and 1995, and Eliza and Katherine Hamblin would have been under 14 years of age, while Rachel would have been between 12 and 15 years of age.

Aggravated Sexual Assault, Utah Criminal Code 76-5-405

VS 2, pp. 81-82, Rachel Lee Hamblin alleged that her parents David and Roselle held a celebratory party for Brian Kershisnik, and she and her sisters were forced to perform oral sex on Kershisnik. Their father threatened them beforehand, and there were multiple adults (Joe and Lee Bennion, Brian and Susanne Kershisnik, Tom and Paula Schulte, Ann and Paul Larsen, and others) present during the sexual assault. Since Rachel was likely over 14 years of age at the time (Summer 1994-1995), this would constitute Aggravated Sexual Assault.

This story is corroborated in Katherine Hamblin's victim statement on page 128, Experience 104.

VS 2, pp. 82, Rachel Lee Hamblin alleged that she was forced to perform oral sex on Susanne Kershisnik after she and her sisters were forced to perform oral sex on Brian Kershisnik.

This story is corroborated in Katherine Hamblin's victim statement on page 128, Experience 104.