

Michelle Haigh

From: "David Rees" <REDACTED >
To: "Michelle Haigh" <admin@nswasf.com.au>
Sent: Friday, December 06, 2002 5:12 PM
Subject: RE: Advice Please

Hi Michelle,

It is important to get some clarification of all these details that you have mentioned...charged, not guilty when where. How did you become aware of this?

He is not innocent. From what I can gather, he was charged and a magistrate considered that there was enough to go to trial. From what you have told me it appears that he was found not guilty in court. If this person was screened, these matters would be considered in a risk assessment and the result would be a high risk to working in a child related environment.

It appears you have had some complaints made by parents of children about this persons behaviour. What have these parents said...are they happy for him to go on grooming children to abuse as long as it isn't their child?? They need to be encouraged to take action. The NSW Police would probably be interested in this...especially the Child Protection Enforcement Agency. You can investigate concerns raised informally, but I would get some legal advice to ensure you are not breaching your own disciplinary process.

The bottom line with this person is that he is a volunteer. Don't employ him. You want to have a good reason for refusing his employment, but you have these already. You have concerns about him that appear to be very sound concerns. He appears to be an inappropriate person to work with kids on the basis of the complaints from parents and the fact that you know he was charged with child sexual assault. This is a very serious consideration. This persons unsuitability for working with children needs to be addressed.

What is the worst case scenario here? Him being upset and going to a lawyer to hound you about discrimination or is it allowing him to continue on and maybe abuse more children. This is not an easy situation, but I think there is some action that needs to be taken.

David

-----Original Message-----

From: Michelle Haigh [mailto:admin@nswasf.com.au]
Sent: Friday, 6 December 2002 4:34 PM
To: David Rees - D. S&R
Subject: Advice Please

David,

I need some more advice.

The President of our largest Association (16,000 players) just phoned me to ask for help.

They have a person who is a Coach and Referee within their ranks. He was charged with a sex offence against a 6/yo girl about 12 months ago and the courts recently found him not guilty.

During the past 12 months the word has got out that he is this type of person and the parents of other children (boys mainly) from 2 years ago have told the club that their child has mentioned being touched inappropriately by this person also.

There is no official complaint as yet, however the coach/referee has indicated to the club that he will be back coaching next year now that he is innocent.

12/9/2002

The club do not want him back and they want to know what they can do to stop him from coaching or holding a position.

Can you advise what steps, if any, are available to the club?

Regards,
Michelle Haigh
NSW Amateur Soccer

12/9/2002