

and an adult male resident of the ranch had been married in a spiritual union through the church, but there was no formal marriage, and that the man had three other "wives" living on the YFZ Ranch. She reported that the man had previously gone away for a while to the "outsider's world", but she said she did not know why he left the ranch.

The Department, as part of its investigation, subsequently determined that the man identified by the teenager had been indicted in Mohave County, Arizona, on criminal charges of sexual conduct with a minor and conspiracy to commit sexual conduct with a minor in connection with a purported marriage to a minor in Arizona, with whom he had conceived a child. Information obtained by the Department indicated that the man pled no contest in August of 2007 to conspiracy to commit sexual conduct with a minor, and he was convicted of that offense. Information obtained by the Department also indicated that, as part of the plea agreement, the sexual conduct with a minor charge was dismissed. The man was sentenced to 45 days in jail and required to serve three years probation. As part of his sentence, he is required to register as a sex offender until he successfully completes his probation.

During the March 30, 2008 conversation, the teenager indicated that she was being held against her will at the YFZ Ranch and church members had told her that if she tried to leave, she will be found and locked up. She also expressed during this conversation concerns about what would happen to her if she were to leave the YFZ Ranch. She reported that church members have told her if she leaves the ranch, outsiders will hurt her, force her to cut her hair, to wear make up and clothes and to have sex with lots of men. She also indicated that her parents, who had returned to their hometown outside the State, were preparing to send her 15 year old sister to live at the YFZ Ranch. At the conclusion of this conversation, she began crying and then stated that she is happy and fine and does not want to get into trouble and that everything she had previously said should be forgotten. ✓

Based on the above information, the Department obtained orders for investigation of child abuse from the 51st Judicial District Judge authorizing the Department to gain access to the YFZ Ranch for purposes of conducting an investigation of these allegations, including transporting and interviewing children located at the YFZ Ranch for purposes of the investigation. In cooperation with a criminal investigation being conducted by law enforcement, the Department began investigating these allegations. Further investigation conducted by the Department has unearthed additional information concerning other minor residents of the YFZ Ranch.