

Form IV:

Between the fall of 2016 and January 2017, multiple physical and sexual assaults were committed against three separate juvenile victims under the age of 15, while attending Hamilton High School located at 4700 S Arizona Ave, City of Chandler, Maricopa County. These assaults took place in the football locker room and were perpetrated by multiple members of the football team upon freshmen players who were new to the varsity team. The assaults were a tradition to some members of the team, occurring over at least two seasons as an “initiation or hazing” of the new members. These assaults occurred at varying levels of criminal offense to include penetration of the anus by fingers and/or objects. Some assaults were captured on recording and posted to social media.

Administration and coaching staff were interviewed and expressed conflicting levels of knowledge regarding “initiation or hazing” within the locker room. All parties below denied having any direct knowledge as to what had taken place among the football team in the locker room at Hamilton High School.

Between January 2017 and February 10, 2017, Athletic Director, Shawn Rustad, was in violation of one count of ARS 13-3620A- Duty to report; after he became aware of a voice message left by an anonymous caller in January 2017 who relayed that juvenile football players were being “picked on or harassed” in the locker room. Upon the direction of Ken James, Shawn Rustad, conducted interviews with four juveniles from the football program. During their investigation he spoke with at least four students and did not notify their parents. One of the students, a victim in this investigation, disclosed being held down and their clothes removed. Another student disclosed a juvenile’s pants were pulled down, and a third student disclosed that one of the victims in this investigation was being harassed. At the direction of Ken James, Shawn Rustad relayed this information to Coach Steve Belles and instructed him to address this behavior with the team.

A victim in this investigation later provided a written statement about his meeting with Rustad in January 2017 and that he specifically told Rustad the following, “they had held me down, pulled my pants down”. The victim also disclosed during an interview that Rustad asked him if "fingers went in his butt".

Shawn Rustad then recounted details he obtained from that interview, about players pulling each-others shorts down, to the victims parent.

Shawn Rustad received mandatory training provided by the CUSD regarding mandatory reporting laws as well as the school’s protocol when dealing with these types of incidents to include hazing, sexual abuse, and bullying; however at no time did Shawn Rustad report these incidents to the Chandler Police Department or the on-campus School Resource Officer between January 2017 and February 10, 2017.