Ms. Freed,
The purpose of an interview is to be able to have a conversation - different responses elicit different questions. You know this. An interview is not a list of questions. An interview is a free exchange of questions and answers. I'm certain you understand the difference. I am fully willing to put the entire raw interview online, as part of the story, if you are concerned about "editing". Of course there will be editing, because there is only so much time in a newscast. I will be happy to put the raw interview on the website. Additionally, viewers are not public institutions, such as the DCF. Viewers are not media outlets, as KSN is. Comparisons between a viewer and a media outlet seeking information to disseminate to the public are two very different things. Brittany Glas and Raoul Cortez are on there way to Topeka. They will be at your office at 8am, and there all day for any opportunity to conduct an interview.
Again, I would hate to present only one side of this story- and the DCF's side only be: "DCF refused to sit down for an interview."
Again, if you have any questions, please call me- my personal cell is 214-456-7890
Denise

On Fri, Apr 17, 2015 at 4:30 AM -0700, "Theresa Freed" <Theresa.Freed@dcf.ks.gov> wrote:

I understand. We'll be happy to record an interview and send it, if you'll provide the questions. We are required by law not to discuss specific cases. If there is litigation pending, we further will not discuss that.

I assure you, we are not trying to be difficult. Our interest is in disseminating accurate information to your viewers. It is far more likely even the most knowledgeable staff member could misspeak during an on-camera interview under the pressure of being put on the spot.

As a news director. I am sure you are regularly challenged by viewers about the decisions you make to cover certain stories or edit them in a certain way. Your responses to viewers, I assume, are not recorded and broadcasted with editing at someone else's discretion. We are absolutely willing to thoroughly explain our policies and practices, but believe in writing is the best way to ensure accuracy, especially given that a specific tragedy will be referenced in the report.

Sent from my Windows Phone
CC: Rachel Sommerfeld; Michael Myers; Chuck Knapp; Todd Fertig; Brittany Glas; Raoul Cortez

Subject: Re: follow up questions regarding CINC response

Ms. Freed,

Please allow me to introduce myself: I’m the News Director at KSN.
As a former television reporter, certainly you can understand that television is a visual medium. Having a person respond instead of a graphic is far more powerful.

Secondly, emails are excellent for background information. The multiple emails you have exchanged with my Executive Producer are just that: background. Now that we have background, we are ready to do an in-person interview. That is the protocol for both print and television journalism.

Third, the context of this story, as Rachel laid out in the previous email, involves the death of a child in a home that had been the target of many investigations and welfare calls. I believe responding to these questions, and the concerns and allegations the child's father has brought to us, deserves an on-camera interview.

Fourth, the complexity of this story is too great to conduct entirely by email. As you know, you’ve been emailing with Rachel about background for over a month. Those emails are merely over protocols and procedures. We are now past protocols and procedures.

Fifth, you recently told Rachel someone from the Wichita office could speak about procedures. We felt that since the story involves more than just a policy explanation, it would be unfair to interview someone from a local office. We need to speak to someone in Topeka.

Sixth, our responsibility and our ethics at KSN is to get both sides of a story. We've heard the Blansett's side. We believe DCF has a story to tell - staff shortages, etc. I would really hate for this story to be one-sided. I would hate for our story to have only Mr. Blansett on-camera, and a statement that "DCF refused to sit down for an interview for this story" would not be in anyone's best interest.

I ask you to reconsider you position.

Brittany Glas and Raoul Cortez will be at your office in Topeka Friday morning at 8AM. They will be available all day for an interview.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to give me a call - my personal cell phone is: 214 -

Best,
Denise

Denise Killian
News Director
KSN News

Sent by magic