



## TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO POLICE SERVICE CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS UNIT

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June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

#### **Stepfather Charged for Cruelty of Child, 16**

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A 37-year-old man is expected to appear before a Sangre Grande Magistrate today to answer to the charge of child cruelty.

This after he surrendered to Eastern Division Child Protection Unit (CPU) officers yesterday, Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June, 2020 with his attorney.

The self-employed mechanic was charged by WPC Valere of the Eastern CPU with one count of child cruelty, having had an arrest warrant issued in relation to a report of alleged child abuse to a 16-year-old boy on May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

The man's common-law wife, who was arrested and charged on June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020 by WPC Valere, appeared before a Sangre Grande Magistrate where she answered to the charge of wilful neglect and assault of a child. The mother was granted bail by a Justice of Peace and the matter was postponed to July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

The investigation first unearthed that the victim had been subjected to abuse for some time, allegedly at the hands of his mother and stepfather. Further enquiries suggested that the man went to the family home, took a piece of PVC pipe and dealt the victim several blows about his body, causing several swellings, cuts, and bruises to the left hand and left rib cage area. The male accused reportedly left the home thereafter. The victim was then seen lying on a mat outside of the apartment which was reported to police.

CPU Officers, with the assistance of the Children's Authority, immediately intervened, removing the child from the home and placed him in the care of another relative.

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WPC Valere was supported by W/Supt. (Ag) George, ASP (Ag) Sookdeo, and supervised by W/Insp Bain-Keller to ensure the closure of the case and that the victim received the necessary help during this period.

**Corporate Communications Unit**

June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**END**

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