



PAYETTE COUNTY PROSECUTOR

MICHAEL DUKE

Michael Vaughan case update:

My office is moving forward with charges against the individuals involved in the disappearance and murder of 5 year old, Michael Vaughan, which occurred in the summer of 2021.

After a robust investigation by the Fruitland Police department and countless assisting agencies, we have unfortunately been unable to locate Michael to recover his remains. Our foremost hope has always been to recover Michael but delays now risk further harm to his loved ones. We believe we know the individuals involved and are committed to pursuing justice with or without Michael's recovery.

The charges are only possible as a result of Fruitland's unyielding tenacity and perseverance. They have not ceased to work the case since the crime occurred, and they are continuing to search and investigate so they can bring Michael's body home. As Chief Huff has previously stated, it would be foolish to believe Fruitland PD will ever stop in their pursuit of recovering one of the most cherished members of our community, a child.

I would remind the public that anyone accused of a crime by my office is entitled to the presumption of innocence, and it is this office's duty to prove that they are guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

I would also ask the public and media to be sensitive to how difficult a case like this is to the surviving family members and neighbors, and ask that any efforts to speak with those involved be tempered appropriately. Cases such as these tend to thrust family members into the public eye against their will and it is my hope that the public will respect their privacy as they weather this difficult process.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael Duke".

Michael Duke
Payette County Prosecutor