

00:02.52

astudyincrime24

Mark, welcome to the show.

00:05.21

Mark Anderson

Well, thank you very much, Scott. I am really happy to be here. I've enjoyed numerous episodes of the show up to this point, and it's ah just a real pleasure for me to be here and talk to you today.

00:16.03

astudyincrime24

Well, you were too kind, I appreciate that. i As you know, we discussed before we got online, I've been sick for the last couple of weeks. So hopefully my voice will will will not give out during our interview, but I think we'll be okay.

00:31.00

Mark Anderson

I have a way of just running my mouth so we might not even notice that your voice gave out.

00:36.77

astudyincrime24

That's fine. That's fine. That's good, too. Well, this is a really, ah really strange investigation. I mean, it's like something out of a Hollywood movie or or like a law and order episode. so But before we talk about what happened, you know what you did, the investigation, I think you ah you worked for the Inspector General's Office for the Department of Justice. And I think a lot of people, if you're not familiar with federal government, they don't know who what what the IG is.

01:05.00

astudyincrime24

ah If you're in the federal government, you of course you don't you do know who the IG is. Can you describe what the IG is and the kind of work that you did?

01:14.66

Mark Anderson

Yeah, certainly. And and the IG system is really one that's growing a lot. It basically started in the mid-1970s on the the federal side. But there's also state and local IG's as well. ah They work in ah numerous agencies. So we'll take the Department of Justice as an example. The IG for the Department of Justice has responsibilities for all employees within the Department of Justice.

01:42.33

Mark Anderson

And the the main caveat with the IGs is they investigate fraud, abuse, corruption, and waste within the entity that they're responsible for. So that means any investigation that comes in ah that has anything to do with fraud, abuse, corruption, and waste, which can, you know, that whole white collar crime arena would be under the purview of the IGs. So within the Department of ah Justice, ah it would be any entity that's under the Department of Justice we would have jurisdiction for, which would include the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

02:18.81

astudyincrime24

Right, which is exactly what we're going to talk about today, a case that occurred at one of the BOP facilities. ah Did you also investigate for other federal agencies or was it primarily, you know, just the Bureau of Prisons in the area you were in?

02:34.10

Mark Anderson

ah The area I was in, I was covering all of central and western Pennsylvania, and I was the only agent assigned there. so You know, that's a good size geographical area. ah the but The majority of the work I had was in the prison Bureau of Prisons facilities because I think I had nine of them under the jurisdiction in that area. But I also had responsibility for any investigation within ah the ah Federal Bureau of Investigation, Drug Enforcement Administration,

03:05.21

Mark Anderson

ah There's an organization in Johnstown, ah Pennsylvania, which is a national drug interdiction center, which is kind of a think tank based type organization. So they have a location there. So I had a couple cases that came out of there. It would be any of those entities, Marshall service, anything that's under DOJ in that central and Western PA, which would include Pittsburgh. So, you know, a larger metropolitan area.

03:32.44

Mark Anderson

ah would be assigned to me to handle.

03:37.14

astudyincrime24

So what you're saying is you were bored. There really wasn't much going on, right?

03:43.57

Mark Anderson

No, the best thing about was I was working as a one man office out of Williamsport and I'm working and my bosses are in New York City, which is you know four hours away.

03:44.14  
astudyincrime24  
um but

03:53.51  
Mark Anderson  
That's always a good situation for me.

03:55.91  
astudyincrime24  
That is ideal, that is perfect. As they say about Washington DC, a day spent outside of Washington is a day well spent. well

04:04.44  
Mark Anderson  
That's right. That's right.

04:07.02  
astudyincrime24  
We're going to talk about an incident that happened at FCI, Allenwood, which is a, yeah it's a BOP prison. It's a federal prison for folks who are not familiar with the system. And it occurred in a a ah very specialized unit within the prison. Can you kind of describe what this unit was and why why was it problematic initially?

04:28.50  
Mark Anderson  
Sure. The FCI Allenwood, it's called a federal correctional institution. That's a mid-level security prison. So a lot of times people get put in based on the crime that they've committed. So at Allenwood itself, which is out in the middle of nowhere in Pennsylvania, there is a penitentiary, which is the highest level of security. There's the FCI Allenwood, and then there's also a ah low security institution in Allenwood. Well, there's also a camp there, which is even lower than that. So you actually have the four there associated with FCI Allenwood is what's called a WITSEC unit, witness security unit, ah which I but that that had never dealt with before I was dealing with ah prison situations. And ah essentially what that is, is an institution where people who have been placed into the

05:21.76  
Mark Anderson  
ah witness security program, which is operated by the U.S. Marshal service and has to do with people that have cooperated and provided testimony and the like, ah but ah have also violated the law. It's where those individuals go before they're assigned to, you know, somewhere out in ah ah the the great Northwest or somewhere to but to work in a hardware store or whatever, before they get to get into that program.

05:47.84

Mark Anderson

Sometimes they have to do so ah spend some time in an institution, possibly the case is out ongoing, ah you know ah possibly their crimes have been significant enough that they have to be there. So you have this unit that has all individuals that ah have cooperated in other ah investigations and prosecutions. So as you can imagine, you essentially have a whole prison of informants.

06:13.75

Mark Anderson

ah And there's a lot of interest in those people as far as protecting their safety and their security. So any time that I needed to go into one of those institutions to do an investigation, we had to get approval from Maine Justice, the Department of Justice in D.C., to allow me to go in there. Other institutions in and out on a daily basis, depending on what was going on, no issue at all, that WITSEC unit, I'd have to get that permission to go in there.

06:41.92

astudyincrime24

Yeah, the other other ah units, I'm sure, you but you just need just show up and show your federal credentials and you're good, right?

06:49.03

Mark Anderson

Yes, absolutely. and and And in you go, you know, depending whether it's an announced visitor, you want to talk to somebody or you want to pull somebody out, ah not a problem, you know, ah so in and out of all of them, including the penitentiaries and the highest level security units they have.

07:07.50

astudyincrime24

Let's talk about the complaint and I want to kind of understand the process. ah On one end, you got a ah complaint that has that occurs in the prison or an incident. And the other end is you. How does that get to you? And what were the allegations in this case?

07:24.62

Mark Anderson

Yeah, it can get to me in all different ways. ah My ideal way of getting a a complaint that would come to me ah would be that it's delivered directly to me. I'm interacting with somebody and they provide that complaint and I can get all the details and all the rest. Very seldom does that happen. It happens more if you're proactively focused and you're trying to ah look to establish individuals that will provide you that information.

07:49.53

Mark Anderson

ah But in this particular case, and it's it's interesting because there's several layers of bureaucracy here as to how these investigations are done. ah Within the institution, there are internal investigators in the institution itself that do investigations. And then the Bureau of Prisons has investigators that can investigate things in the prison.

08:11.73

Mark Anderson

And then above that you have DOJ OIG. So there's kind of a right of first refusal on these things. So when a complaint, and there's certain ones that, you know, the institution knows that DOJ OIG is not going to want, so they don't have to be passed up, passed up. So there's kind of a memorandum of understanding between these these organizations. But if a complaint comes in that needs to be looked at further, it's passed up from the institution.

08:39.54

Mark Anderson

to the Bureau of Prisons to take a look at. And then it's passed up to DOJ to take a look at and say, you know, do you want to look at this? Is this something you want to take a look at or should it be passed back down and be investigated at a different level? And and frankly, the reason for this is just the number of complaints, ah the the high number of complaints and the low number of people that investigate this stuff. And in this case, this is one that came out of the Internal Investigation Unit in the institution and worked its way up to DOJ OIG and ah the the people that I worked for made a decision to open it because of some of the uniqueness in the case. And then it would be assigned to me in order to ah go up and start interacting with the people at FCI i Allenwood in order to find out what the complaint is and who I need to talk to and who's already been talked to. And that's what happened in this particular case.

09:36.29

astudyincrime24

I'm curious, how many cases at a time did you juggle, in like in a typical day? How many were you had on your plate, basically?

09:44.77

Mark Anderson

i Well, ah out there, and and again, based on the complexity of the case, I mean, I know some people that were working cases that they were on full-time ah for years.

09:55.92

Mark Anderson

ah Based on these type of cases, which resulted in pretty quick

prosecutions and turnover, I was probably running 20 to 25 cases at a time that would be open, that I'd be you know waiting on materials, on you know ah pursuing

09:56.25  
astudyincrime24  
well

10:13.09  
Mark Anderson  
some sort of criminal prosecution or administrative remedies. on

10:16.86  
astudyincrime24  
Oh wow. You know, when I, when and you first provided this information to me, I, uh, I've been thinking of TV too much. I thought that, uh, the guy we're going to talk about his name was Paul John. I thought he would be a correctional officer, a federal correctional officer, which he is not. So tell me who he was. Uh, you know, what did you do in the prison? You did a huge extensive background on this guy. What were the allegations involving him? And, you know, tell me a little bit about him.

10:43.99  
Mark Anderson  
Yeah, and let me say this to that from the standpoint of him being a correctional officer. Actually, every employee within the prison is a correctional officer, but they're assigned to different units and have different responsibility. And I think the concept there is that something if something goes awry ah within the ah prison, if there's a riot or some sort of thing like that, these individuals have to be prepared to step into the gap and take responsibility ah because they have the same responsibility for command and control of the individuals that they are responsible for within the institution. So his job was as a food service supervisor, so essentially a guy that's overseeing the cafeteria, but he has responsibility for those inmates that are working for him ah within the kitchen facility. He has responsibility for the safety of that

11:37.81  
Mark Anderson  
cafeteria situation when people are coming to eat meals and all the rest. So he is the food service supervisor within the witness security unit there. ah And what what came out in this complaint, and in we we'll probably talk more about this, but within that WITSEC unit, they were talking to another inmate about something else, and he brought forth allegations that Mr. John was bringing in contraband anything that comes in from the outside and brought into the Institution without the approval of the institution is considered contraband. What could it be? electronic devices telephones cigarettes drugs Books all

sorts of stuff that if it hasn't been approved and came through the right channels It's considered contraband. So he was bringing in contraband for an inmate that's in this unit

12:33.46

Mark Anderson

and was also supposed to be having some sort of sexual relations with that individual. And that's how the complaint came out. As you can imagine, in a unit like this, if you have compromised integrity and ethical behavior by individuals in that organization, have you now opened it up where those inmates within that system could be in danger? Or are other employees in danger because of that? And that's where this becomes a significant safety issue for the institution and the individuals that they're responsible for taking care of.

13:07.83

astudyincrime24

You know, it's interesting if you've ever worked in a federal prison or any prison, or you've ever visited one, I mean, they make it very clear, you can't bring anything inside prison. So when we say contraband, we're not talking about, well, it could be drugs, it could be a cell phone, but it could also be ah cigarettes, it could be a paper clips, it could be anything. You can't bring anything into the prison.

13:32.71

Mark Anderson

hey

13:33.63

astudyincrime24

So this investigation involved an inmate. We're going to give him a pseudonym. We're going to call him Fred. And as you just mentioned, Fred alleged that John was doing a couple of things that he was bringing contraband in and he was, um I don't know, was he forcing him into sex? How, how did it, what did you find out about that?

13:54.13

Mark Anderson

Well, they he wasn't the the indication was that he was trying to curry favor with this guy to get him into ah sexual sexually compromising position. And there was no specific detail at that point in time as to what that involved. There was speculation on the part of the inmate. The inmate was this inmate that was the complainant was not ah personally there during that, although he was aware of a lot of the issues the stuff with regard to what he was bringing into the institution. But he put the reason that this was going on

14:28.51

Mark Anderson

was for John to curry favor with this inmate in order to engage in sexual activity with him.

14:36.84

astudyincrime24

And what kind of contraband are we talking about?

14:40.57

Mark Anderson

The contraband that I was aware of from up front was that there were several types of electronic devices, iPods. ah There was foodstuffs. He went drove from central Pennsylvania to New York city to get a cheesecake, uh, from juniors to bring back to give to the inmate, which that one I asked lots of coin.

15:02.35

astudyincrime24

That must have been one heck of a cheesecake.

15:05.16

Mark Anderson

Yeah. Well, there's supposed to be really good cheesecakes. I guess I'm not a connoisseur of fine cheesecakes, but I'm not driving four and a half hours to get a cheesecake for just about, I don't know if I'd do it for anybody now that I think about it.

15:18.26

Mark Anderson

Uh, so I, I,

15:18.65

astudyincrime24

it's It's got to be, it's certainly got to be better than prison cheesecake.

15:23.94

Mark Anderson

Well, there's a good that's a that's a good point. So there was a lot of food stuff. There was pizza. There was books. there were There were a lot of things over time that he was bringing in in order to curry this favor.

15:38.55

astudyincrime24

All right. Well, we're going to get into the details, get into the nitty gritty, but first let's take a quick break and I will be right back.

15:50.78

astudyincrime24



Okay, I am back with Mark Anderson, a former special agent with the Department of Justice's Office of Inspector General. We're talking about Paul John, a prison inmate, excuse me, a prison, let me start over. We're talking about Paul John, and an employee of the Federal Bureau of Prisons that worked in Allenwood.

16:11.24

astudyincrime24

This investigation has some really strange elements as you as you get into it. i My understanding is that the John was throwing prison pizza parties, because that's not how I picture life in a federal prison.

16:27.06

Mark Anderson

Yeah, that's not how I did it either. and It was interesting when that came information came out. and i you know You'd start wondering, did anybody else that work here know what was going on here? and Essentially, he would leave and then go get this pizza and then come back into the institution. and He had like this group of ah six, seven, eight ah inmates that he was friendly with, and they would go into this like yeah ah lounge room where there was a TV and they would put on a movie and they would have this pizza party together and he would I mean they were being fed like they should be fed in an institution like that but these were like extra opportunities where he would go in and and have these pizza parties and bring the pizza in for him which I again it's just like

17:15.40

Mark Anderson

I mean, I've been in and out of those institutions a not a lot, and I really don't want to spend any more time there than I have to. ah you know I'm not coming back there to spend my Friday night watching movies, ah but that's what he chose chose to do in this case.

17:31.75

astudyincrime24

Pizza and a movie. I mean, if you're in prison, it's a pretty nice deal. So the allegations have been made about bringing contraband in, about pressuring ah Fred for sex.

17:36.47

Mark Anderson

yeah

17:46.25

astudyincrime24

You begin your investigation. I assume that you talk to witnesses and other people before you interview John. Is that that how it goes for you?

17:56.77

Mark Anderson

Yeah, it it absolutely absolutely is how ah it went. In this particular case, we wanted to start figuring out what was the the gig with this guy, John. you know what was What was he all about? you know And I always ask at the institution, you know I go through his personnel file, I look you know at what ah previous assignments. He'd been in another institution earlier in his career.

18:21.56

Mark Anderson

I call out there, try to find somebody that might've known him from there, and I kept getting the same answer about about him, which is, yeah, he's kind of a strange guy. Well, was he doing anything wrong? well No, I don't know if he was doing anything wrong. Nothing negative in his personnel file, nothing negative at all with regard to previous disciplinary actions or anything else. I mean, you gotta figure out a lot of these things. I was just talking to somebody earlier today about this. it Once we get to take a look at this person,

18:51.74

Mark Anderson

This is probably not the first time he's done something. I mean, let's be serious. The investigation business is not that efficient that we're necessarily catching the the guy the first time he's done something.

19:02.54

Mark Anderson

This just happens to be the one beat we became ah aware of. So I want to ask those previous questions and find out about them. But with regard to him, I could not get good information as to what this guy was all about.

19:16.50

Mark Anderson

So I'm going to be doing, you know, making, yeah it was, he was strange.

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astudyincrime24

Other than he was strange.

19:21.38

astudyincrime24

Different.

19:21.48

Mark Anderson

Very strange. And I kept hearing that ah ah from everybody I talked

to. and And when you hear that from this group of people that are in his circle, then I start expanding that outside that circle to try to find somebody that knows him, somebody that can't comment on him, somebody that can give me some insight into who this person is. Because let's face it, I don't want to sit down with this guy. I know what the elements are of the case. ah And that's fine. We need to know that when we go into this and interview ah with him.

19:50.53

Mark Anderson

ah But I want to know who he is because I have to make that connection with him before I can expect him to tell me what he's involved in. And if I can't make that connection, I'm probably not going to get that information. So I want to have a good feel for that when I do that research in order to sit down with him.

20:07.65

astudyincrime24

By the way, Mark, how long did this investigation take from from start to finish? I'm curious.

20:12.67

Mark Anderson

ah yeah This one was not as long as it could have been, and and part of that is kudos to Paul John for taking responsibility for his action ah once it got to that point. I would say it was probably open for maybe nine months before the ah before the the prosecution, you know the the judicial action took place in it.

20:36.28

astudyincrime24

Okay. So I used to conduct national security background investigations for the federal government under the auspices of OPM, Office of Personnel Management. And so I know that building a rapport with someone is absolutely critical to getting them to talk to you and and to be honest. How did you build rapport with John? And what did he tell you? Did he confirm the allegations?

21:03.27

Mark Anderson

Yeah, and rapport became really, really important in this particular case, because as the more people I talked to, you know, we found some additional stuff up out about ah Paul John that he was high school football status. This guy's in his fifties and he's a high school football statistician for the local high school where he's on the sidelines and hanging out with the players and stuff. ah He was doing that at one school. He'd been doing it for another like 15 years at another school. And then some stuff came out about his association with some of the high school players.

21:41.28

Mark Anderson

and ah hanging out with them after hours and possibly having parties at his house for these high school players. So some stuff came out that caused some cons.

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astudyincrime24

Pizza parties?

21:53.22

Mark Anderson

What's that?

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astudyincrime24

Pizza parties?

21:55.92

Mark Anderson

Well, so, you know, what there probably was pizza present now that you mentioned it.

21:57.50

astudyincrime24

Probably, right?

22:02.27

Mark Anderson

I know there's some beer presence.

22:02.56

astudyincrime24

And cheesecake.

22:04.46

Mark Anderson

Yeah, there's probably cheesecake and it was a buffet cheesecake and pizza. So he'd he'd have these parties and said and this information came to us. you know I made some inquiries with local law enforcement and asked and I got that, I don't know about him. They had had some complaints come in about him and all the rest. So as I'm gearing up to go see him, i I'm not finding out a lot about him, but I'm hearing enough stuff that caused me pause. And out in that area, I was the only guy out there. so

22:35.75

Mark Anderson

I was responsible for doing this interview, but because of the involvement of ah ah this possibility of some interaction with

underage individuals, ah some possible indication that there were underage ah photos and materials on his computers, I reached out to the local FBI office, which was there in Williamsport.

22:59.13

Mark Anderson

And I asked for the assistance of one of the agents that I worked with quite a bit to be to go as my secondary on this interview with with him. And I chose to do this interview at his house. And you you hear all sorts of things as well. You should have it at our office because we control the environment. We really have to strategize where we want to have this interview. And I strategized that I wanted at his house because I knew some of the evidence was there that I wanted because we had a controlled delivery made to the house of some of the contraband that he was gonna bring into the institution. So I know that's there. I have indication that he has some inappropriate images on his computers, and I know the computers are there. If I call him down to my office, he isn't gonna bring those with him, just in case I ask about him. Plus, if I go to somebody's house, you can learn an awful lot about people when you're in their house. So we just did, we knew he was off for the day because I knew what his schedule was.

23:57.43

Mark Anderson

I knew he was home because we did some surveillance beforehand to make sure he was there. And so we just knock showed up and knocked on the door and said, hey, but we need to talk to you. Got a about situation going on up at Allenwood. I need to sit down and talk to you. Are you willing to talk to us? And he invited us in and we sat down and rapport became a very extensive project project in this process, in this ah interview.

24:22.31

Mark Anderson

i would like conservatively estimate we spent about two and a half hours doing rapport before I asked any questions on the case because I wanted to understand, I needed ah needed to understand who is this guy and what's important to him before I put the stuff on the table.

24:32.28

astudyincrime24

Oh wow, long time.

24:42.88

Mark Anderson

these These sex cases are not really particularly difficult cases but to get somebody to admit to that stuff to a stranger in that situation can be a very challenging ah sort of line of questioning.

24:57.87

Mark Anderson

So I spent a ton of time getting to know him and making it clear to him that no matter what the answer was, I was not judging him, which would give him the freedom to tell me the truth.

25:08.75

astudyincrime24

You know, when you're... Absolutely. You know, when you're trying to build rapport with someone, you go into their home or their office and you see that they have, you know, like football mementos or you see them vacationing in Egypt, you you look around and try to find something that you can have common ground with and build that rapport so that they'll they will trust you. Well, is there anything in particular with him or was it just Just a long timeframe of you talking to him that that relaxed him.

25:41.67

Mark Anderson

but I think on the negative side, which you're aware of from our conversation before, there was some ah pornography and this is back a while where we still had VHS players. So over to my right, sitting on the couch where I was talking to him and the VHS player, there was ah pornography tape in there, which became the fodder for some discussion as the and interview went on. But I wouldn't say that's where we started. I do think there was a picture, as I recall, of his mom on the wall. And I knew there was a long history of him taking care of his mother. And so I used that to get into the discussion about his family and his upbringing, which all became very relevant because some of the, which I would call behavioral issues with regard to him ah started a long time previous. And so I needed to find out what was the situation with his family and his upbringing.

26:40.57

Mark Anderson

ah where he went to school, things like that. And and you know using pictures like that is a good way to get into that situation. Drawing that commonality with him as you talk about it was a good way of getting into it. Oh yeah, I have a brother too. you know Those sorts of things that make make him say, oh, he's not judging me for what I'm saying to him here.

27:01.12

astudyincrime24

So yeah you build rapport with John and then after you said, I think or two and a half hours, then you begin talking to him about the allegations.

27:08.05

Mark Anderson

Yeah.

27:10.57

astudyincrime24

How do you, how do you, you know, what do you say to him? Hey, there's an allegation that's been made. There's a complaint that's been made or, or are you bringing cell phones into the prison? What exactly did occur or what went down with him?

27:24.03

Mark Anderson

Well, I went from the rapport and what I do is fashion in my rapport as I'm getting toward the end of where I want to be and I want to move into the question. I started asking him more questions about his employment at the prison and how long he's been there and where has he been and where is he assigned now. So I start moving it in that direction where we're moving into the work environment because what I don't want to do is and I've seen this in the training environment so many times.

27:49.64

Mark Anderson

They're doing rapport like champs and developing relationship. And then they say, Hey, so anyhow, what I'm really here about today, which absolutely just blows your water rapport out of the water. You know, I want this to just continue being a conversation. So I moved it into the work environment and I said, Hey, I want you to understand that I wouldn't be here today if I hadn't done a thorough and exhaustive investigation. And as part of that, I've found out that you've had been, and I'm going to hit on the contraband issue first, because that's an easier one to deal with.

28:19.20

Mark Anderson

from the standpoint of not the the connotations associated with the sexual misconduct. So I said, I understand that you've been bringing stuff into the prison and providing it to so and so.

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astudyincrime24

Right.

28:32.00

Mark Anderson

And we have to get to the bottom of it. It's a problem. and ah you you And you and I both know it's a problem. you know The decision makers are not going to be happy with this. And we need to understand what's taking place here so that they can have the best information to make a decision.

28:46.09

Mark Anderson

So it's very conversational. ah he didn't he He tried to, but I don't know what you're talking about. I don't know what you're talking about. I said, well, not for nothing, but I know you got an iPod here at the house, which I'm hoping you're going to give me permission to take with me when I leave here today, ah because I had it delivered here.

29:01.71

Mark Anderson

and And so, you know, when he starts realizing that there's really no out to this, that I've done my homework, that I know certain things, what's he going to do?

29:01.89

astudyincrime24

yeah

29:11.50

Mark Anderson

And and frankly, ah You know it could be a sign of who he is it could be a sign of a week of personnel i don't i don't know which i it could be that i did a really good job which i wouldn't i didn't put that one first you notice he he just he said okay and he pretty much handed it up i you know handed it up with regard to that issue of the contraband.

29:36.19

astudyincrime24

Okay, then you moved on to the second allegation, and that one will be a little bit more sensitive to bring up. How did that go?

29:43.99

Mark Anderson

It was more sensitive, but it was much later and in the conversation at this point. and it um as I had an and and entree to that at this point because the items he was taken in was to this individual. And I said, look, I think there's something amiss with this. It was interesting. In the course of that, where he was trying to explain that to me, he actually said to me, and I remember this to this day, and it was a while ago, he said, well, he said, you know what?

30:12.16

Mark Anderson

I really think I'm asexual and I'd never heard an individual say that to me but before. And of course, you know, I like to laugh. So I made it a little humorous out of it.

30:21.98

Mark Anderson



I but said, is that kind of like in high school biology, you know, like parameciums were asexual or you like somehow related to a paramecium?

30:28.22  
astudyincrime24  
mitosis.

30:30.36  
Mark Anderson  
I, I don't understand what that means. I mean, I know about parameciums, but tell me what asexual means to you. So, you know, it's, It just, to me, thinking over my career, some of the things that came out in the interviews were just hysterical and and shocking. And at the same time, just showed where somebody was at, that they were in ah you know a difficult place. So he kind of explained to me what that meant. And we had a long discussion about that. And I made it very clear I wasn't going to judge it ah judge him for it. And he eventually told me exactly what had happened with this particular inmate.

31:07.35  
Mark Anderson  
and were as far as I could, I think he was downgrading the number of times that happens, which he continued to do through the court proceeding, ah but he did admit to what had happened in that case.

31:20.51  
astudyincrime24  
It's interesting that you say that you told him, it sounds like more than once that you made no judgment over what happened or what he's, what, you know, the whole incident. And for people who are not familiar with conducting investigations like this, they may think I couldn't sit there and do that. I would be mad or I would, you know, be angry. I would be disgusted. You can't have that look. You can't do that because you're not going to get any of the information. You have to be,

31:50.39  
astudyincrime24  
just totally non-judgmental so the individual will kind of open up and talk to you. Is that pretty much how it went for you?

31:57.05  
Mark Anderson  
ah That's absolutely the way it has to be. and and and Frankly, it was probably harder ah earlier on in my career than it is now. I often say that the more tire tracks that have ran over me in life, the easier it becomes to do that. Remember what our mission is. Our mission is to uncover the truth, to get as much truth as possible. My job is not

that of the judge and the and the executioner. My job is to get the truth. That's up to the decision makers and the people that are in the courts and in those positions that have the responsibility for that. My job is to get the truth and if I start judging at this point in ah the situation, as you just said, I will not get the truth. I will not get all the truth. I might get some very inaccurate things said to me and that actually to that destroys my credibility and it doesn't allow me to do what my mission is to do. So I have no reason to judge in those situations and

32:54.15

Mark Anderson

Frankly, sometimes I only have to look in the mirror and realize that I've made some bad choices in my life too, that we get in bad places at times because of our own bad choices. Maybe we give somebody a little bit more of leeway to tell the truth. ah That doesn't mean they're not responsible for their actions or they don't ah deserve consequences for those actions, but it's um ah not my job to administer those.

33:16.80

astudyincrime24

Well, that's a good policy. I mean, I i try not to judge other people. and i I have a hard enough time being me. So that's just difficult.

33:23.61

Mark Anderson

Yeah. Amen.

33:25.47

astudyincrime24

did So was he arrested then?

33:25.85

Mark Anderson

Amen.

33:26.91

astudyincrime24

Or what was how did it go? How did it end?

33:29.01

Mark Anderson

He was not. Yeah, he was not. That's an interesting one. The, the prosecuting authorities don't really want you to arrest at that point in time because that starts that clock on there, uh, you know, doing a speedy trial and, and, and it starts a clock for them that they don't want me to start. So I really had to, but you know, lobby hard.

33:51.43

Mark Anderson

If I wanted to make an arrest, where I wanted to make an arrest in the prison of an employee and walk them out ah to get the effect of that in order to serve as a deterrence to further bad behavior, ah even in those situations, I had to make a really strong argument for that.

34:08.51

Mark Anderson

So ah all of these cases, that's how I start the interview. You're going to be here tonight. I'm going to go home tonight. We just need to resolve this because I knew I wasn't going to take them in. So he was not arrested at that point in time. In that first interview, before the interview was over, I actually ah helped him to resign his position, ah which is not something I'm responsible for, but is beneficial to the Bureau of Prisons so they don't have to hold this guy on the books.

34:37.32

Mark Anderson

throughout a year and a half of a judicial process or whatever. They want him off the books, and there's no reason for him not to get off the books at that point. ah So I facilitated that happening where he he could resign his ah position, and ah and and we left him there at home. you know we actually He gave us ah permission to search the house. We searched the house and ah took the item that I had delivered there, took a couple computers with us.

35:03.87

Mark Anderson

ah and you know left ah I said, you know if you need anything, give me a call. and and We left and made our presentation to the prosecutor who I had brought on early in order to get their buy-in on this. ah you know Communication is very important in this line of work.

35:21.60

Mark Anderson

And he gave me a signed statement indicating what he had done. And so the prosecutor's office reached out to him and his attorney, and they proceeded to work out a plea agreement with regard to him taking ah you know responsibility for his actions.

35:39.94

astudyincrime24

Now that was only on the contraband aspect of it, because I understand there was like a wrinkle in the case. The ah a us ah the assistant US s attorney wouldn't prosecute the sexual abuse charge without a complaint from the victim.

35:53.66

astudyincrime24

How did how did you approach that?

35:54.94

Mark Anderson  
ye Yeah.

35:55.06

astudyincrime24  
or What did you do about that?

35:57.25

Mark Anderson  
Man, I don't know Scott, but there's that's what it is when you go down and you give them all the information after, you know, we had done this interview. I went back and went right to the prosecutor the next day and said, Hey, this is what we got.

36:08.78

Mark Anderson  
And I said, so you're going to hit him with both those charges. He said, well, I'm not going to be able to do the sexual abuse at award charges. I said, why not? and And he said, well, we don't have a victim. I said, well, this is who the victim is.

36:20.56

Mark Anderson  
He gave me the guy's name. And here's his signed statement that said he did these things with that guy. what do you What do you need? He said, yeah, but we don't have a victim in the case. I was shocked, but I'm not an attorney. you know i I'm an investigator who has some common sense and I thought that was bizarre. And he said, no, if you want to go with that ah particular ah you know charge, you're going to have to go get a victim in this case.

36:46.16

Mark Anderson  
So I had to ah find ah you know our our victim in this case who had been moved to another WITSEC unit because of his compromise in this entire investigation. And I had to go convince him to be a victim. And he was not somebody who wanted to be associated with same sex activities. ah So that became a whole other situation of coddling and rapport building and saying, you know, we're not going to be telling people that know you. And I believe that he's going to take a guilty plea, so you're not going to have to testify in court. ah But that was another probably its three hour ah interview with him to get him to say, yes, this is what happened. And he also tried to downplay the significance of it because it he didn't want to be saying he was doing what he was doing.

37:38.94

astudyincrime24

Sure. Understandable. So in the end, what was John's sentence? What what happened to him? How did it all end?

37:48.13

Mark Anderson

Well, yeah, in in the end, he he took a guilty plea, although ah you know the attorney tried to fight ah several aspects of it. The only thing he was charged with was he was charged with the sexual abuse of the ward, not the contraband. So the one charge was dropped in contemplation and conviction on that. And the concept there was to ah make sure he was placed on, it because of some of the stuff that was found out during the investigation, to make sure he was put on the sexual registries so he wouldn't be working in a environment with ah young people and not have to be supervised. So he was he was charged with that and received, you know, five months of confinement, three years supervised release, ah assessment of \$100 and a fine of \$1,000. He said, well, geez, that's not that much. No, it it isn't a whole lot.

38:42.39

Mark Anderson

Part of that was because he took responsibility for his actions. Part of that was because of his age and and and the rest. But there's a great disparity in sentences that are handed out for these type of ah cases.

38:58.94

Mark Anderson

I've seen individuals get seven, eight years for him on the one hand.

39:03.40

astudyincrime24

Oh wow.

39:03.71

Mark Anderson

On the other hand, there's a huge disparity with ah male or female correctional officers, because I had three cases in a row of female correctional officers doing this, and I was unable to prosecute two of the three. And the third one I was able to, because of another concern with regard to them having access to people in the future and they wanted to get them on the on the sex registry. ah But in general, if a female does this, there's this concept that they don't have the control over that ward the same way a male does.

39:37.39

Mark Anderson

which is weird because that's not really how the statute is written. So we kind of have a reverse sex discrimination sort of thing with

regard to these cases and handled very differently depending on where you are geographically. ah you know in In some of the major cities, probably not a prosecution at all, ah but in some of the more remote areas where there's more conservative values, you see these prosecutions taking place. So not a huge a sentence for him. He obviously lost his job.

40:07.09

Mark Anderson

Obviously this put him in a conundrum with regard to his you know livelihood and all the rest, ah but not a huge sentence.

40:16.63

astudyincrime24

Yeah. I was thinking about that when I read it, but, uh, after talking to you now, I mean, he did use his position to, uh, to apply pressure on, on an inmate, uh, as well as a contraband, but I mean, he lost a job.

40:30.75

astudyincrime24

He had to register her as a sex offender. So those two, uh, uh, that's, uh, that's not good.

40:34.49

Mark Anderson

Yep.

40:37.79

astudyincrime24

I mean, you do what and so in other words, the sentence, uh, I thought well that was pretty good.

40:43.31

Mark Anderson

Right.

40:44.05

astudyincrime24

That makes any sense.

40:44.26

Mark Anderson

And he, he had 18, he had 18 years in on a 20 year retirement.

40:48.51

astudyincrime24

Oh.

40:49.33

Mark Anderson

So yeah, I mean, that's pretty, pretty bad. And as I said, he was very responsible for his action. I'll never forget this.

41:00.60

Mark Anderson

I was there for the sentencing the day of the sentencing. And as, as it got over and they were taking him out of the court as they were taking him away, he turned around, it turned around and waved at me.

41:12.95

Mark Anderson

and said, thank you, Mark, for helping me get my life straightened out. And I thought, what a bizarre thing to say as you're being led away.

41:23.30

astudyincrime24

Well, you may get a birthday card from him.

41:24.19

Mark Anderson

But I haven't seen one.

41:27.51

astudyincrime24

Or a cheesecake delivered.

41:30.40

Mark Anderson

I haven't gotten either of them. I like pizza. Where's my damn pizza?

41:35.26

astudyincrime24

Oh, man. Well, so is it rare?

41:37.13

Mark Anderson

oh

41:38.34

astudyincrime24

Is it rare for ah for a case to go like this where the the the suspect, we'll just call him a suspect, ah cops to everything? Or do you even usually have to fight people or is it usually go to court?

41:51.57

Mark Anderson

ah No, it's it's not it's pretty rare for it to be as as this one went. I mean, he balked up along the way, ah but I had done enough

homework when I got in there that it became foolish to do that. For me, I want a signed statement out of every case. I want the person admitting it to admitting to me because I don't have a lot of confidence in the system, ah whether it's the criminal justice system or the administrative system, the disciplinary system, ah sometimes I don't understand how people make decisions. And it becomes, I have much more, how do I say it? ah The ability to motivate those people when I have a signed statement that said, I did it. ah So in most of these cases, I want to get that signed statement. I'm going to spend as long as I need to in that room.

42:43.33

Mark Anderson

to get that signed statement in order to say, hey, they took responsibility for their actions. It's now up to you as to how you want to pursue this. I don't want to leave that stuff all willy nilly out there. And I think in a lot of these cases, you have enough detail, although it can be very difficult to get to it, that you can get that admission at some point. ah But it doesn't go like this way all the time, for sure.

43:07.19

astudyincrime24

Well, you did a great job on this case, Mark. I know that a successful interview, it really starts before you even sit down with the person. It's all about the preparation. And obviously you were well prepared and we were able to build rapport with him and he was able to admit everything. Well, Mark, I'll give you the last word. What did you learn from this case? or Was there anything you took away from it or that you remember besides the cheesecake and pizza?

43:34.56

Mark Anderson

like Well, I'll never forget those. Some of the more salient points that I should probably hold on to. You just hit on one in the last thing the last sentence you said there with regard to ah What you took away from this and it's really true that if we expect somebody to tell us the truth in those situations We need to be planned out and prepared for that We need to do the work we need to do up front in order not only to understand what we're there about But who are we there to see?

44:04.84

Mark Anderson

ah And I think that became very important in this, and I don't think I have many better examples of that concept of be careful in judging people. There's a lot of judges out there that probably should be looking in the mirror and judging themselves first. you know Listen to what they have to say. I don't have to agree with what how this went down or what you did, but I want to try to understand how you got into



this situation.

44:31.57

Mark Anderson

People get into situations for for uniquely interesting reasons. And so for me to understand that uniquely interesting reason gives me the ability to say to him, hey, you can tell me what's going on here. I'm not going to judge you for that reason. but Because again, that's that's not what we get paid to do. That's not what our responsibility is. So, you know, from from the standpoint of of this case, it gave me lots of opportunities. It's it's not a huge case.

45:00.30

Mark Anderson

ah But there were a lot of unique aspects of this that says, you know, you got to invest upfront if you want to see that product on the backside.