

No. 63749-5-I

**COURT OF APPEALS  
OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DIVISION ONE**

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**STATE OF WASHINGTON, Respondent,**

**v.**

**LARRY GRUBB, Appellant.**

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**BRIEF OF RESPONDENT**

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3

TABLE OF CONTENTS

A. ASSIGNMENTS OF ERROR ..... 1

B. ISSUES PERTAINING TO APPELLANT’S ASSIGNMENTS OF ERROR..... 1

C. FACTS ..... 1

    1. Substantive facts..... 1

    2. Procedural facts ..... 7

D. ARGUMENT ..... 9

    1. The trial court acted within its discretion when it denied Grubb’s request for a bill of particulars requesting the State commit to specific dates for each rape because Grubb is not entitled to such specificity in a multi count rape case where time is not an element of rape and Grubb, regardless of the exact dates, had repeated access and opportunity to E.R. during the charging period..... 9

    2. The trial court acted within its discretion to admit evidence Grubb had sexually molested E.R. during trip to the Grubb home in Mukilteo pursuant to ER 404(b) and RCW 10.58.090..... 16

    3. The trial court acted within its discretion to deny Grubb’s belated request to exclude the State’s expert witness, Joan Gaasland-Smith. .... 24

    4. Grubb received a fair trial..... 27

E. CONCLUSION ..... 28

**TABLE OF AUTHORITIES**

**Washington State Court of Appeals**

State v. Brown, 55 Wn.App. 738, 780 P.2d 880 (1989) ..... 13

State v. Cozza, 71 Wn.App. 252, 858 P.2d 270 (1993)..... 10, 11, 12, 16

State v. Guerin, 63 Wn.App. 117, 816 P.2d 1249 (1991)..... 12

State v. Hayes, 81 Wn.App. 425, 914 P.2d 788 (1996) ..... 13, 15, 16

State v. Scherner, 153 Wn.App. 621, 225 P.3d 248 (2009)..... 19, 24

State v. Sexsmith, 138 Wn.App. 497, 157 P.3d 901 (2007)..... 23

State v. Venegas, 155 Wn.App. 507, 228 P.3d 813 (2010) ..... 25

**Washington State Supreme Court**

City of Auburn v. Brooke, 119 Wn.2d 623, 836 P.2d 212 (1992)..... 12

State v. Bergeron, 105 Wn.2d 1, 711 P.2d 1000 (1985) ..... 11

State v. Greiff, 141 Wn.2d 910, 10 P.3d 390 (2000) ..... 28

State v. Halstien, 122 Wn.2d 109, 857 P.2d 270 (1993)..... 22

State v. Hutchinson, 135 Wn.2d. 863, 959 P.2d 1061 (1998) ..... 25, 26

State v. Noltie, 116 Wn.2d 831, 809 P.2d 190 (1991)..... 10, 11, 14

State v. Powell, 166 Wn.2d 73, 206 P.3d 321 (2009)..... 21

**Other Authorities**

State v. Jones, 270 Cal.Rptr. 611, 792 P.2d 643 (1990) ..... 16

## Rules and Statutes

CrR 4.7 .....	24, 25, 26
ER 403 .....	passim
ER 404(b).....	passim
Fed.R.Evid. 404(b).....	21
RCW 10.58.090 .....	passim

**A. ASSIGNMENTS OF ERROR**

None.

**B. ISSUES PERTAINING TO APPELLANT'S ASSIGNMENTS OF ERROR**

1. Whether the trial court acted within its discretion when it denied Grubb's request for a bill of particulars specifying the dates Grubb raped E.R. to facilitate an alibi defense when Grubb is not entitled to such specificity in a multicounty rape case where time is not an element of the offense and, regardless of time, Grubb had had repeated access and opportunity to E.R. during the charged time frame.
2. Whether trial court acted within its discretion to find that evidence of Grubb's previous sexual misconduct with E.R. in Mukilteo was admissible under ER 404 (b) and RCW 10.58.090.
3. Whether the trial court acted within its discretion to deny Grubb's belated request to exclude the State's expert witness, Joan Gaasland-Smith, from testifying when Grubb was aware she was a witness months prior to trial and where Grubb was given an opportunity to interview Gaasland-Smith regarding the substance of her testimony and determine if a continuance was needed, before trial.
4. Whether Grubb is entitled to a new trial when the record reflects Grubb received a fair trial.

**C. FACTS**

**1. Substantive facts**

Between December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2004 and January 31<sup>st</sup> 2008, E.R., born on 7/29/97, lived with her younger brother and parents Ralph and Tammy

Riddle at her family home in Lynden, Washington. RP 106. Larry Grubb, 55 years old, E.R.'s step grandfather, lived with his wife and maternal grandmother of E.R., Lynn Grubb, 70 minutes away in Mukilteo, Washington. RP 244.

As E.R. was growing up, she and her family saw their grandparents, Larry and Lynn Grubb a few times a year, usually in Lynden and occasionally in Mukilteo. These family gatherings typically occurred around holidays, birthdays, summer vacation and special occasions. RP 111, 219, 300. Additionally, the Grubbs would occasionally babysit the Riddle children in Lynden at the Riddle home. RP 219. The Riddles considered themselves to have a good relationship with the Grubbs prior to allegations of abuse. RP 112.

During a visit in 2006 however, Tammy became alarmed with Grubb's behavior. RP 121. She observed E.R. sitting on top of Grubb on a loveseat under a blanket in the family room. RP 227. When Grubb briefly lifted the blanket, Tammy could see E.R.'s skirt was up and Grubb's hands were under her thighs. RP 230. Tammy became so concerned something sexually inappropriate was happening, she alerted her husband to check the situation out. RP 129. After being alerted to a potential problem, Ralph watched Grubb and E.R. for a few minutes but didn't see anything

alarming going on. RP 129. Nonetheless, Ralph removed E.R. from the situation by telling her to get ready for dinner. E.R. 133. Ralph later spoke with E.R. about the incident and E.R. told Riddle “nothing happened.” RP 133. Ralph then told E.R. not to lie under the blankets with Grubb anymore. RP 130. Thereafter, the Riddles distanced themselves from the Grubbs and were careful not to place E.R. alone with Grubb in what they considered to be potentially vulnerable situations. RP 230.

With the passage of time, the Riddles eventually let their guard down and decided it would be ok to send E.R. and her brother to Mukilteo for a weekend with the Grubbs to attend a family wedding in July 2008. RP 173. When E.R. returned from this weekend trip, she disclosed to her mom that Grubb had touched her inappropriately on numerous occasions during the past few years. RP 239. E.R. appeared sad and a bit scared when she disclosed to her parents. RP 114. E.R.’s parents thereafter called the Lynden Police Department and CPS to report the abuse. RP 241.

E.R. disclosed specifically that Grubb had done something “very bad to me” and “touched in a very awkward place” when they were on the couch in their living room in Lynden in the Riddle’s house. RP 306, 307. At trial, E.R. wasn’t sure what occasion brought the Grubbs to her home when this incident occurred. RP 308. E.R. explained Grubb touched her

with his finger, put it in her privates and rubbed up and down, underneath her clothing, on multiple occasions. RP 310, 312. She stated the first time Grubb raped her, he moved his hand in an up and down motion on her private and then told her “don’t tell anyone, this is our little secret.” RP 314. Grubb did this again to her several months later during another family gathering but didn’t say anything to her. RP 314. E.R. promised Grubb she wouldn’t tell. RP 431. E.R. explained she felt “really weird” and “all tingly” after her grandfather, Grubb did this to her. RP 317.

E.R. recalled Grubb next digitally raped her in 2005 around the holidays-around Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas or New Years, when E.R. was eight years old. RP 319. E.R. recalled she and Grubb were again sitting on the couch alone in the living room of her Lynden home. RP 320. Soon after this incident, when the Grubbs were up in Lynden babysitting for a holiday party, E.R testified Grubb again raped her while they were sitting together in her living room. RP 326. She recalled her grandmother had fallen asleep and that she was wearing pink pajamas and hoping to stay up until midnight. Id.

The next incident E.R. recalled occurred around the Thanksgiving holiday in 2006. RP 331. E.R. recalled Grubb raped her as they sat together in the living room lying under one blanket, while her parents and

grandmother were busy making dinner. RP 332. E.R. remembered she was wearing underwear and a brown skirt when Grubb assaulted her. RP 334. E.R. testified the next incident occurred around the Christmas holidays; Grubb raped her while her parents and grandmother were preparing Christmas Eve dinner. RP 335. Afterward, E.R. felt like she had to go to the bathroom. RP 338. Next, E.R. recalled Grubb again raping her around Thanksgiving 2007 when they were alone, under a blanket in the living room of the Riddle's Lynden home. RP 338. E.R. explained she didn't tell Grubb to stop because she didn't understand it was wrong. RP 340. The last incident E.R. recalled occurred during the 2007 Christmas holidays. Again, Grubb raped her while they sat together in the living room of the Riddle home. RP 342. E.R. testified to eight separate instances where Grubb digitally raped her between December 2004 through January 2008. RP 316-342.

In addition to the multiple occasions when Grubb abused E.R. during visits to E.R.'s home in Lynden, E.R. also recounted that on one occasion when she was in Mukilteo visiting the Grubbs she woke up to find Grubb holding her foot and rubbing it on his penis in the middle of the night. RP 353. Lynn Grubb confirmed that E.R. did sleep in their Mukilteo bed on this occasion and that she remembered waking up, feeling

like someone was moving around and then saw Grubb holding E.R.'s foot. RP 713. According to Lynn, Grubb explained to her he was touching E.R.'s foot to move it away from his privates because it had touched his privates while Grubb was sleeping. RP 715, 672.

E.R. did not disclose abuse to her parents until July 2008. RP 114. However, E.R. had disclosed to her friend Tara while they were hanging out at a dance recital months prior to her disclosure to her parents and her friend advised to tell her parents. RP 546, 549, 551.

At trial E.R. couldn't recount the exact dates Grubb abused her, only that Grubb touched her this way on multiple occasions when he would be up with his wife to visit during various holidays and special occasions. RP 306-342. Testimony from both the Riddles and Lynn Grubb confirmed that the Grubbs came up to see the Riddle's Lynden home at least four times a year usually around holidays and special occasions but they could not specify the exact dates. RP 740, 768, 219, 251, 300.

At trial, E.R. recounted that Grubb's fingernails were very long, that Grubb would often cover E.R. and himself with a blanket and she felt like she needed to go to the bathroom or felt "tingly" in her privates after Grubb would touch her. RP 322, 328, 332. E.R. explained she didn't tell her parents because she didn't understand it was wrong. RP 329. She

discovered it was wrong after completing a puberty class at school. RP 372.

At trial, E.R. explained that it was hard to remember the specific dates when Grubb had sexually touched her, only that it occurred during visits with the Grubbs around holidays, special occasions and summer visits. RP 405-406. This information was consistent with the disclosures made to Detective Beld during his investigation and included in the affidavit of probable cause filed against Grubb. RP 482, CP 148-149.

When Detective Beld of the Lynden Police Department spoke to Grubb and advised him of the allegations, Grubb asserted E.R. may have misconstrued his touches because he often tickled E.R. and her brother on the inside of their thighs. RP 488. When Grubb was reminded of the specific allegations he told Detective Beld that he was no pervert and he didn't remember anything like that happening. RP 489.

## **2. Procedural facts**

On August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2008 Grubb was charged with nine counts of rape of a child in the first degree alleged to have occurred between July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2005 and December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2007. CP 150-152. One of the alleged charges pertained to allegations that Grubb had rubbed his penis with E.R.'s foot while E.R. was visiting the Grubb's in Mukilteo. Grubb was arraigned on

these charges on September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Supp CP \_\_\_, sub nom 13 (9/5/08 arraignment).

On December 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008 Grubb filed a motion for a bill of particulars alleging the information charging Grubb was vague and didn't place him on sufficient notice of the allegations against him because the charging period was too broad. CP 144-146. Grubb requested the trial court direct the State to allege the specific dates the alleged offenses occurred in order to enable Grubb to prepare an alibi defense. CP 144-146. After considering argument and reviewing pertinent case law, the trial court denied Grubb's request. RP 20-25, Supp CP \_\_ (sub nom \_\_).

On April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009 the trial court considered motions in limine from both Grubb and the State. RP 29, 31. During this hearing, Grubb moved to exclude evidence of prior sexual misconduct between Grubb and E.R. in Mukilteo after the State indicated it would be dismissing the charged offense related to this incident and moving for its admission under ER 404(b) and RCW 10.58.090. RP 36, 41-4. The trial court granted the State's request to amend the information and, after hearing argument, agreed evidence pertaining to the Mukilteo incident would be admissible pursuant to ER 404(b) and RCW 10.58.090. RP 54-56.

Following a jury trial, Grubb was convicted as charged and sentence to a minimum term of 280 months. CP 22-35. Grubb timely appeals. CP 6-21.

**D. ARGUMENT**

- 1. The trial court acted within its discretion when it denied Grubb's request for a bill of particulars requesting the State commit to specific dates for each rape because Grubb is not entitled to such specificity in a multi count rape case where time is not an element of rape and Grubb, regardless of the exact dates, had repeated access and opportunity to E.R. during the charging period.**

Grubb argues the trial court abused its discretion by denying his motion for a bill of particulars. Br. of App. at 20. Grubb asserted below that the information charging him with eight counts of rape in the first degree was too vague and did not sufficiently place him on notice of the charges against him or reasonably enable him to prepare an alibi defense. CP 144-156, Br. of App. at 20.

On appeal Grubb also complains the trial court's alleged error denying his request for a bill of particulars violated his right to due process of law and ultimately, of a fair trial in light of evidence allegedly obtained in a defense interview, completed after the motion for particulars was considered, where according to defense notes, eleven year old E.R. was able to specify exact dates Grubb raped her during the two plus year

charging period.<sup>1</sup> Grubb's argument is without merit because Grubb was on reasonable notice of the charges against him and had no constitutional right to require the State commit to specific dates given the nature of the allegations in this case. Grubb's argument should therefore be rejected.

Due process requires that an accused must be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation against him in order to place the defendant on notice of the charges against him and to give him a meaningful opportunity to respond. State v. Cozza, 71 Wn.App. 252, 254-55, 858 P.2d 270 (1993). To that end, the Washington court rules require that the charging information include a 'plain, concise and definite written statement of the essential facts constituting the offense charged.' CrR 2.1(a)(1), Cozza at 254.

Washington courts distinguish charging documents which are constitutionally deficient from those charging documents which are merely vague. State v. Noltie, 116 Wn.2d 831, 843, 809 P.2d 190 (1991). If a charging document/information states each statutory element of the crime

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<sup>1</sup> Grubb states he made an offer of proof in his trial brief that demonstrating that during a defense interview E.R. was able to specify the exact dates Grubb raped her. See, Br. of App at 23. Grubb's alleged offer of proof as stated in his trial brief however, was not filed until April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009 after Grubb interviewed E.R. and well after the trial court considered Grubb's motion particulars, filed December 29, 2008. CP 144 -146. Grubb's offer of proof should not therefore be considered in determining whether the trial court abused its discretion in denying Grubb's motion for particulars.

but is otherwise vague as to some other matter significant to the defense, a bill of particulars to correct the defect may be appropriate. State v. Bergeron, 105 Wn.2d 1, 18, 711 P.2d 1000 (1985).

The function of a bill of particulars is to clarify particular matters considered essential to the defense. State v. Noltie, 116 Wn.2d at 843. Granting a motion for a bill of particular rests within the discretion of the trial court and its ruling will not be disturbed on appeal absent a showing of abuse of discretion. State v. Noltie, 116 Wn.2d at 840.

The information charging Grubb with eight counts of rape in the first degree sufficiently placed him on notice as to the nature of the charges against him and the time frame within which this conduct took place. CP 122-124. The very nature of multiple count child rape cases do not lend themselves to specifying exact dates as children typically can recall events, not dates. Consistent with this observation, the crime of rape of a child in the first degree does not make time an element of the crime. *See*, RCW 9A.44.073, State v. Cozza, 71 Wn.App. 252, 258-59, 858 p.2d 270 (1993).

A person is guilty of rape of a child in the first degree when the person has sexual intercourse with another who is less than twelve years old and not married to the perpetrator and the perpetrator is at least twenty-four months older than the victim.

RCW 9A.44071(1).

Grubb's insistence that the trial court should have ordered the State to specify the exact dates the charged acts of rape allegedly occurred because he wished to present an alibi defense, is unreasonable. Due process entitles a defendant to a meaningful opportunity to present a complete defense. City of Auburn v. Brooke, 119 Wn.2d 623, 629-30, 836 P.2d 212 (1992). Due process is a flexible concept however, requiring balancing of competing interests involved. Our state has resolved those competing interests in single and multiple act sexual assault cases holding defendants do not have a due process right to raise an alibi defense in these cases. State v. Cozza, 71 Wn.App. at 259. Time does not become an element of this type of offense merely because the defendant pleads an alibi defense. *Id.* Furthermore, any discrepancy between E.R.'s statements to Detective Beld, trial and the defense interview regarding the specificity of E.R.'s recollection of the specific dates or occasions E.R. reported Grubb raped her should go to the weight of E.R.'s testimony and should not be permitted to be used as a preemptive measure to foreclose the State from prosecuting an offender who rapes a child multiple times over a prolonged period of time. *See, State v. Guerin*, 63 Wn.App. 117, 123, 816 P.2d 1249 (1991).

In sexual abuse cases where multiple counts are alleged to have occurred during the charging period, the State need not elect particular acts associated with each count so long as the evidence clearly delineates specific and distinct incidents of sexual abuse during the charging period. State v. Hayes, 81 Wn.App. 425, 431, 914 P.2d 788 (1996). A defendant is not deprived of his right to due process of law when a child victim's testimony fails to provide specific dates the offense occurred on. Hayes at 441. As long as the jury is correctly instructed on the unanimity requirement, as it was in this case, the evidence need only be sufficiently specific to describe the conduct, the number of acts which occurred and the general time period these acts occurred in to provide due process of law. CP 41-65, State v. Brown, 55 Wn.App. 738, 748, 780 P.2d 880 (1989), Hayes, at 435.

A bill of particulars detailing specific dates within the charging period when multiple count sexual abuse is alleged is similarly not appropriate in child rape case. Particularly, where the uncontroverted evidence demonstrates the Grubb had repeated access and opportunity to rape E.R. during the charged time frame. While the Grubbs refuted whether Grubb was even around for particular family gatherings, his wife

Lynn conceded Grubb nonetheless had access to E.R. on multiple occasions during the charged time frame.

Moreover, a bill of particulars is not necessary when the information sought is provided in some other satisfactory form. State v. Noltie, 116 Wn.2d at 844. In this case, Grubb had the affidavit of probable cause outlining generally when the abuse allegedly occurred and prior to trial, Grubb had additional details from a defense interview of E.R. wherein E.R. allegedly specified the exact dates or occasions Grubb raped her within the charging period. Grubb therefore had sufficient evidence to present an alibi defense and to the extent E.R. testified inconsistently, sufficient information to impeach E.R.'s credibility and recollection of abuse.

Grubb contends however, based his defense interview of E.R. conducted *after* the motion for a bill of particulars was held, that the trial court violated Grubb's right to due process when it denied his motion for a bill of particulars because E.R.'s interview allegedly demonstrates E.R. could specify the exact dates she was raped. Br. of App. at 26. Grubb's argument is flawed for two reasons. First, evidence of E.R.'s alleged defense interview was not before the trial court when it denied Grubb's request for more particulars and is therefore not relevant in determining

whether the trial court abused its discretion. Grubb cannot demonstrate based on the record considered by the trial court below on January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009, that the trial court erred by denying his motion given the nature of the charges against Grubb and the record provided to the court.

Second, even if Grubb had made an offer of proof claiming E.R. could provide specific dates based on a defense interview, the State is not required to commit to specific dates, particularly in a case like this where the uncontroverted evidence demonstrates Grubb has repeated access to E.R. on multiple occasions each year and a true alibi defense is not feasible. Under these circumstances Grubb's desire to have the State commit to specific dates in order to present an alibi defense is impractical and inappropriate. Grubb may not have been a resident molester but the allegations were that Grubb repeatedly raped E.R. when he had access to her over the course of several years. Thus, the issue before the jury was not whether Grubb *could have* had access to E.R. but whether he raped E.R. when he did have access and opportunity, as she alleged. The specifics "regarding date, time, place and circumstance are factors regarding credibility and are not necessary elements that need to be proved to sustain a conviction." State v. Hayes, 81 Wn.App. 425, 914 P.2d 788 (1996) *quoting*, State v. Jones, 270 Cal.Rptr. 611, 623, 792 P.2d 643

(1990). The fact that E.R. was specific during a defense interview but not sure of dates at trial demonstrates Grubb was on sufficient notice to prepare a defense and was prepared to, as he did, challenge E.R.'s credibility based on her generalized testimony and inability to give specific dates at trial which ultimately was a factor for the jury to consider in determining E.R.'s credibility and Grubb's guilt.

The trial court recognized in this case that Grubb, like the defendant's in the Hayes and Cozza cases wherein multiple sex counts were alleged over a period of time, had sufficient access to E.R. over a protracted period of time as to render Grubb's request for the State to commit to specific dates in the information unreasonable. Therefore, the trial court reasonably rejected Grubb's assertion that the information was vague and acted within its considerable discretion to deny Grubb's request for a bill of particulars.

**2. The trial court acted within its discretion to admit evidence Grubb had sexually molested E.R. during trip to the Grubb home in Mukilteo pursuant to ER 404(b) and RCW 10.58.090.**

Next, Grubb asserts the trial court abused its discretion by admitting evidence Grubb molested E.R. on another occasion while she was visiting the Grubbs in Mukilteo. Br. of App. At 30. Grubb contends the trial court misinterpreted and applied RCW 10.58.090, failed to

consider the appropriate factors under the 10.58.090 and ER 404(b) and should have excluded this evidence because he alleges, the State failed to place him on notice of its intent under RCW 10.58.090 and ER 404(b) to rely on this evidence. The record belies Grubb's assertion.

During the 2008 legislative session, Washington law makers enacted RCW 10.58.090. They based this statute on federal evidence rules 413,414 and 415. The statute provides evidence of a defendants commission of another sex offense is admissible in sex offense cases subject to the court's balancing of factors pursuant to ER 403. The statute provides in part:

In a criminal action in which the defendant is accused of a sex offense, evidence of the defendant's commission of another sex offense or sex offenses is admissible, notwithstanding Evidence Rule 404(b), if the evidence is not admissible pursuant to Evidence Rule 403.

Initially, the State charged Grubb with nine counts of rape in the first degree. CP 150-152. Count nine pertained to an incident in Mukilteo wherein E.R. alleged she woke up to find Grubb holding her foot and rubbing it on his penis while she was in Grubb's bed during a weekend visit in July 2008. Grubb filed a motion to dismiss this charge and the State ultimately agreed, amending the information on April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009 against Grubb to the remaining eight counts of rape that allegedly occurred

in Lynden at E.R.'s home. CP 122-124, RP 36-37. The State formally notified Grubb when it amended the information prior to trial, that instead of prosecuting Grubb for the Mukilteo conduct, it intended to seek introduction of this evidence pursuant to ER 404(b) and RCW 10.58.090.

Grubb objected asserting he wasn't given adequate notice of the State's intent to use this evidence and asserted this evidence is not admissible pursuant to these rules. During the hearing however, Grubb conceded that he had been anticipating the Mukilteo incident was going to trial and wasn't claiming there was a notice violation. RP 51. After hearing argument from the State and Grubb, the trial court rejected Grubb's argument and admitted the testimony under RCW 10.58.090 and ER 404(b).

RCW 10.58.090 requires the court to consider the following non-exclusive factors when deciding whether to exclude evidence of the defendant's other sex offenses under ER 403:

When evaluating whether evidence of the defendant's commission of another sexual offense or offenses should be excluded pursuant to Evidence Rule 403, the trial judge shall consider the following factors:

- (a) The similarity of the prior acts to the acts charged;
- (b) The closeness in time of the other prior acts to the acts charged;

- (c) The frequency of the prior acts;
- (d) The presence or lack of intervening circumstances;
- (e) The necessity of the evidence beyond the testimonies already offered at trial;
- (f) The necessity of the evidence beyond the testimonies already offered at trial;
- (g) Whether the prior act was a criminal conviction;
- (h) Whether the probative value is substantially outweighed by the danger of unfair prejudice, confusion of the issues, or misleading the jury, or by considerations of undue delay, wasted of time, or needless presentation of cumulative evidence; and
- (i) Other facts and circumstances.

RCW 10.58.090.

Under ER 403, the trial court may exclude relevant evidence if the probative value is outweighed by the dangers of confusion of the issues or misleading the jury or by considerations of under delay, waste of time, or needless presentation of cumulative evidence. The trial court's ruling is afforded great deference and is reviewed under an abuse of discretion standard. State v. Scherner, 153 Wn.App. 621, 225 P.3d 248 (2009).

Grubb asserts the trial court abused its discretion because he alleges the trial court found that RCW 10.58.090 mandated admission of the Mukilteo incident. Br. of App. at 33. The record belies Grubb's

contention. The trial court, after reviewing RCW 10.58.090 on the record ultimately concluded RCW 10.58.090 favors admissibility of other sexual misconduct subject to the restrictions of ER 403. RP 54-55, 56. The trial court then explained that evidence of prior sexual activity with the alleged victim, as was alleged in the Mukilteo incident, is routinely admissible under ER 404(b) as evidence of lustful disposition and consequently would not be excluded by ER 403. RP 54-55. The trial court therefore did not impermissibly misapprehend or apply RCW 10.58.090.

Next, Grubb contends he was not given adequate notice of the State's intent to admit the Mukilteo incident pursuant to RCW 10.58.090 and ER 404(b). RCW 10.58.090 states in pertinent part:

In a case in which the state intends to offer evidence under this rule, the attorney for the state shall disclose the evidence to the defendant, including statements of witnesses or a summary of the substance of any testimony that is expected to be offered, at least fifteen days before the scheduled date of trial or at such later time as the court may allow for good cause.

As a preliminary matter, Grubb was on notice of the State's intent to use the Mukilteo incident when the information charging Grubb with nine counts of rape, one count of which pertained to this Mukilteo incident. Consequently, Grubb was provided discovery related to the Mukilteo incident months before trial and was preparing for this information to be introduced at trial at the time the State formally notified

him of its intent to dismiss this count and admit this evidence as evidence of other sexual misconduct. RP 46. Grubb acknowledged this below and clarified then that he was not claiming “there was a violation with respect to the lack of notice.” RP 51. Grubb therefore waived his claim that the State’s notice was insufficient under RCW 10.58.090 and should not under the circumstances of this case be permitted to claim he did not know or was not prepared to meet this evidence.

Additionally, contrary to Grubb’s argument, ER 404(b), unlike its federal counterpart, does not require the State to provide notice to submit ER 404(b) evidence pretrial or in an offer of proof. State v. Powell, 166 Wn.2d 73, 206 P.3d 321 (2009), *contrast* Fed.R.Evid. 404(b) with ER 404(b). Therefore the State complied with RCW 10.58.090, ER 404(b) and Grubb’s assertion should be rejected.

Finally, Grubb contends the trial court erred admitting evidence of the Mukilteo incident because it failed to weigh the factors outlined in RCW 10.58.090 and failed to weigh the probative value and prejudicial concerns pursuant to ER 403. Where a trial court fails to conduct a ER 404(b) analysis on the record, the error is harmless unless the failure to do the balancing, within reasonable probability, materially affected the

outcome of the trial. State v. Halstien, 122 Wn.2d 109, 127, 857 P.2d 270 (1993).

In this case any error of the trial court in not conducting a balancing on the record is harmless because evidence of the Mukilteo evidence was admissible under either RCW 10.58.090 or ER 404(b). As the prosecutor outlined below, the factors to be considered pursuant to RCW 10.58.090 favored admission of the Mukilteo incident. RP 40-51. The Mukilteo evidence demonstrates marked similarities with the charged allegations. Grubb was obtaining sexual gratification from his step granddaughter when and as he had access and opportunity with her during a weekend visit, just as he did in Lynden during family gatherings. Therefore, this factor supports admission.

With respect to closeness and time, this incident occurred during the charged time frame and demonstrates Grubb's escalating predatory behavior toward E.R. anytime he had access to her. Additionally, there are no intervening circumstances between the rapes that occurred in Lynden and the Mukilteo incident that undermines the probative value of this evidence.

While this incident had not resulted in a criminal conviction, the reason was not because of veracity concerns but practical considerations

stemming from venue/multiple jurisdiction issues. As for necessity of this evidence, courts generally find “that probative value is substantial in cases where there is very little proof that sexual abuse has occurred, particularly where the only other evidence is the testimony of the child victim. State v. Sexsmith, 138 Wn.App. 497, 506, 157 P.3d 901 (2007). In this case, the victim’s testimony was corroborated only by circumstantial evidence confirming Grubb had access to E.R., was observed sitting under blankets with E.R. but no one and no medical evidence was offered to corroborate the sexual acts themselves. The defendant’s wife Lynn however, did corroborate important details of the Mukilteo incident that corroborated unintentionally E.R.’s recollection of events. This evidence was therefore highly probative to the central issues of credibility of both E.R. and Grubb. Furthermore, Grubb has not demonstrated that the danger of unfair prejudice outweighed the probative value of this evidence pursuant to ER 403. Therefore, this evidence was admissible pursuant to RCW 10.58.090.

Additionally, as noted by the trial court, the Mukilteo incident is admissible as under the lustful disposition exception to ER 404(b). Washington has consistently recognized that evidence of collateral sexual misconduct may be admitted under ER 404(b) when it shows the

defendant's lustful disposition directed toward the offended female. State v. Scherner, 153 Wn.App. 621, 225 P.3d 248 (2009).

Furthermore, in order to limit any potential undue prejudice, the trial court gave the following limiting instruction:

Evidence suggesting that the defendant may have had sexual contact with [E.R.] in Mukilteo, Washington is not evidence of the defendant's guilt of the offenses charged. You must not consider that evidence as a basis for finding the defendant guilty on any of the charged counts.

CP 41-65, instruction 11.

Under these circumstances, the trial court did not err in admitting evidence of Grubb's sexual misconduct with E.R. while she was visiting her grandparents in Mukilteo in July 2008. And any error made by the trial court failing to balance the pertinent factors on the record beyond what was discussed in detail by counsel during argument, was harmless.

Grubb's arguments should be rejected.

**3. The trial court acted within its discretion to deny Grubb's belated request to exclude the State's expert witness, Joan Gaasland-Smith.**

Next, Grubb contends the State violated CrR 4.7 by allegedly failing to "disclose its expert witness" Joan Gaasland-Smith. Br. of App. at 41. Grubb argues the trial court erred by not excluding Gaasland-Smith to remedy the alleged violation. The record reflects however, that Grubb

was on notice months before trial Gaasland-Smith would be testifying and though the State failed to inform Grubb of the substance of her expected testimony, exclusion was not the appropriate remedy under the circumstances of this case. The trial court therefore did not abuse its considerable discretion in denying Grubb's request because Grubb was informed prior to trial of the substance of Gaasland-Smith's expected testimony, was provided with a copy of Gaasland-Smith's curriculum vitae,<sup>2</sup> had an opportunity to interview her and an opportunity to request a continuance if necessary. RP 62.

Discovery decisions based on CrR 4.7 are within the trial court's sound discretion. State v. Hutchinson, 135 Wn.2d. 863, 882, 959 P.2d 1061 (1998). A trial court abuses its discretion when it makes decisions based on untenable grounds or for untenable reasons. State v. Venegas, 155 Wn.App. 507, 228 P.3d 813 (2010). CrR 4.7 requires the State to inform Grubb of their intent to call an expert witness, including the subject of their testimony and any reports they have submitted to the prosecuting attorney. CrR 4.7(a) (1) (ii).

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<sup>2</sup> The State asserted below that it had previously given Grubb Gaasland-Smiths cv months before trial. After Grubb's objection the week before trial, the State promptly provided another copy. RP 63.

CrR 4.7 (h)(7) provides in pertinent part for discovery violations:

[I]f ...a party has failed to comply with an applicable discovery rule, the court may order such party to permit the discovery of material and information not previously disclosed, grant a continuance, dismiss the action or enter such other order as it deems just under the circumstances.

CrR 4.7 (h)(7)(i). Excluding evidence is an “extraordinary remedy” under CrR 4.7(h) that “should be applied narrowly” Hutchinson, 135 Wn.2d at 882. The Hutchinson court identified four factors the trial court should consider when determining whether to exclude evidence as a sanction for a discovery violation. The court should weigh the effectiveness of less severe sanctions, the impact of witness preclusion on the evidence at trial and outcome of the case, the extent of which the testimony will surprise or prejudice the other party and whether the violation was willful. *Id.*

While Grubb was on notice Gaasland-Smith was going to be an expert witness months before trial, the State did not provide formal notice of the substance of her expected testimony. Supp. CP \_\_ (Sub nom 35A), RP 64. To that extent, the State did not fully comply with discovery obligations under Cr R 4.7. Nonetheless, after Grubb raised this concern, the State disclosed all pertinent information regarding this witness, set up an opportunity for Grubb to interview this witness and the court advised Grubb it would entertain a continuance prior to trial if Grubb determined

he would need to get his own expert to counter her testimony. RP 61-62. But, after interviewing Gaasland-Smith, Grubb did not seek a continuance but instead waited until the venire panel was empanelled and sworn in to object and request Gaasland-Smith be excluded as a witness. RP 101, 103. Grubb's demand that Gaasland-Smith be excluded was unreasonable and untimely. The trial court had indicated previously that it would consider granting a continuance, a less severe sanction, if Grubb after interviewing Gaasland-Smith, thought additional time to prepare his defense was necessary. Grubb also conceded the State had not willfully violated its discovery obligations and that he had been given the opportunity to meet and interview Gaasland-Smith prior to the venire panel being chosen and sworn in. Under these circumstances Grubb could no longer assert he was surprised or prejudiced by her proposed limited testimony and the trial court reasonably rejected his request to exclude Gaasland-Smith from testifying.

**4. Grubb received a fair trial.**

Finally, Grubb asserts cumulative error collectively deprived him of a fair trial. Br. of App. at . A close examination of the transcript and the errors asserted reveals however, that no material error occurred below that resulted in sufficient prejudice to warrant granting Grubb a new trial.

Where there are trial errors that standing alone may not warrant reversal, the combined affect or cumulative nature of such errors may deprive a defendant of a fair trial. State v. Greiff, 141 Wn.2d 910, 929, 10 P.3d 390 (2000).

Grubb has not demonstrated the trial court materially erred by denying his motion for particulars, his request to exclude a state witness or his request to exclude relevant evidence. As such, Grubb cannot demonstrate from the record below that these alleged errors cumulatively have resulted in an enduring prejudice that warrants reversal. The evidence against Grubb was strong and compelling. Grubb, his wife Lynn, E.R. and the Riddles independently corroborated critical components of E.R.'s testimony pertaining to Grubb's observable interactions with E.R. and his repeated access to E.R. throughout the charging period. Grubb's argument that cumulative errors deprived him of a fair trial is without basis and should be rejected.

**E. CONCLUSION**

For the reasons set forth above, the State respectfully requests that this court affirm Grubb's conviction and sentence for eight counts of rape of a child in the first degree.

Respectfully submitted this 21 of June, 2010.

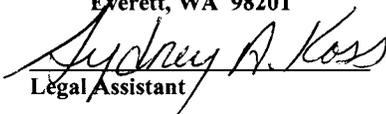


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**CERTIFICATE**

I certify that on this date I placed in the mail with proper postage thereon, or otherwise caused to be delivered, a true and correct copy of the document to which this certificate is attached to this Court, and appellant's counsel of record, Peter Mazzone and Michael Harold Torgeson, addressed as follows:

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 Sydney A. Koss  
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06/21/2010  
Date