

Woman: Girl never made abuse allegations to her

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The wife of a Menifee man charged with sexually assaulting one of their foster daughters testified Tuesday that the 9-year-old girl never came to her with abuse allegations.

Defense attorney Douglas Gilliland asked Wendy Billock if the girl ever approached her to talk and seemed upset.

"No," she answered. "If that happened, I'd stop and ask ... what was going on."

The girl told police she tried to talk to Wendy Billock about the sexual abuse but the woman was too busy, Gilliland said.

Wendy Billock's testimony came near the close of Joseph P. Billock's trial at the Southwest Justice Center. Joseph Billock, 50, is charged with two counts of sexually assaulting the 9-year-old girl in her bedroom while she lived with the Billocks for less than two months in 2005. He faces 30 years to life in prison if convicted.

The Press-Enterprise does not publish the names of minors who are alleged victims of sexual assault.

The child and Wendy Billock gave similar descriptions when describing specific aspects of Joseph Billock's anatomy.

Wendy Billock said she met her husband of 18 years while they attended Point Loma Nazarene University. They became foster parents in 2000, after she had two miscarriages.

Wendy Billock said in fall of 2005 their foster children were alone with Joseph Billock on Thursday nights when she had classes at Loma Linda University.

Earlier in the trial, the girl testified the sexual assaults never occurred on Thursday, Gilliland said. During cross-examination, prosecutor Burke Strunsky asked Wendy Billock if Thursday evenings were the only time that the girl was alone with Joseph Billock.

In the 46 days that she lived with you, were there times when your husband and the girl were out of your sight? Strunsky asked Wendy Billock.

Of course, she replied. Joseph Billock took the girl to her doctor's appointments and to visit her aunt, she said.

The girl lived with the Billocks and other foster children from about Oct. 11, 2005, to Nov. 16, 2005, when she went to live with her maternal aunt, Wendy Billock testified.

This girl was taken from her biological mother, who had a substance-abuse problem, the child's aunt testified earlier in the trial.

Social worker Kari Crittenden, who works for a private foster care agency, testified that the girl never complained about living with the Billocks.

Crittenden, who works for Rancho Jireh Foster Care, giggled frequently during her testimony.

She said she met with the girl once a week while the child was placed with the Billocks.

"What's the purpose of meeting with a child?" Gilliland asked.

"Purpose," Crittenden said. "Our contract says we will meet with them once a week."

Strunsky asked Crittenden if the allegations against Joseph Billock made the company she worked for look bad.

"These are just allegations," Crittenden said. "At this point it doesn't reflect badly."

Crittenden said that the Billocks are no longer certified foster parents with her agency.

The trial is scheduled to resume today at the Southwest Justice Center in French Valley.