The stepmother of a 14-year-old accused of bullying a Florida girl prior to her suicide was arrested and charged with child abuse after a video depicting the woman beating a boy was posted on Facebook, a sheriff said Friday.

During a news conference, Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd said the arrest of 30-year-old Vivian Vosburg on two counts of child abuse with bodily harm and four counts of child neglect is a shocking chapter in a months-long tragic story in Central Florida.

Judd said Vosburg is the stepmother of one of two girls charged with felony aggravated stalking earlier in the week. Officials say the girls, 14 and 12, bullied and harassed 12-year-old Rebecca Sedwick before she climbed a tower at an abandoned concrete plant and hurled herself to her death Sept. 9.

It was a Facebook comment over the weekend that Judd said led him to arrest the girls. He repeated the online post from the older girl almost word for word at a news conference last week.

"Yes, I bullied Rebecca and she killed herself but I don't give a ...' and you can add the last word yourself," Judd said.

He identified the girls and showed their mug shots during the news conference, but AP generally does not name juveniles charged with crimes.

Vosburg identified herself as the teen's mother when she appeared on CNN and ABC to say the girl didn't bully Rebecca and that she checked her stepdaughter's Facebook every night.

Vosburg was booked into the Polk County Jail Friday evening and it's unclear whether she had retained an attorney. A voicemail message left on her home phone wasn't returned.

Judd said that after detectives arrested Vosburg's stepdaughter, people from the community saw her on TV — then sent tips to the law enforcement agency, urging them to look at the Facebook page of another of Vosburg's children.

Detectives discovered a video posted in July 2013. According to the arrest affidavit, the video shows two boys fighting on a bed, then Vosberg steps in and begins punching and hitting the boys. One of the boys falls off the bed and appears to not move. Judd said none of the children were injured.

Judd, who showed the chaotic, minute-long video during the news conference, said there were four other children in the home at the time.

"This clearly indicates to us that this appears to be a normal way of life," he said. "They're laughing and cussing and throwing the F bomb around. Then they're posting that conduct for all to see."

Judd did not release the names of the victims or their relationship to Vosburg, stating only that "these are children she has access to. Vivian in this context was in charge of their well-being."

The video was up on the family member's Facebook site as recently as this morning Judd said. He questioned why no one took it down during the bullying investigation.

Child welfare authorities have been called to investigate.

Follow Tamara Lush on Twitter at http://twitter.com/tamaralush

Filed by Janie Campbell
Vivian Vosburg, Stepmom Of Girl Accused In Rebecca Sedwick Bullying Suicide, Arrested For Child Abuse

10/23/13

Leahe 74 Fans


Kudos to this Sheriff who did a terrific job in arresting these bullies.

Reply Fave Share More 23 Oct 3:37 PM

Leahe 74 Fans

A bullying parent who raises a bully shouldn’t even be a parent. That stepmom is nothing but a deadbeat.

Reply Fave Share More 23 Oct 3:13 PM

Leahe 74 Fans

Well I hope she and her bully stepdaughter spend a nice long time in prison!

Reply Fave Share More 21 Oct 11:02 PM

Teknodum 159 Fans

Send the family to reeducation camp in South Korea

Reply Fave Share More 21 Oct 6:33 PM

Foronce 87 Fans

Do you mean North Korea?

Reply Fave Share More 22 Oct 8:39 AM

Rwgunn SUPER USER · 484 Fans · Questioning a truth will not make it false.

The learning cycle for how to be a good parent and a compassionate person has been broken and we now have parents who lack the ability for empathy being the examples for the children growing up now.

Doesn’t there seem to be a need for this kind of training in schools since so many parents are falling short? These subjects should go along with classes on what all the responsibilities are when you have a child (talk about pregnancy prevention, just let them see what is really involved!). Advanced Home Ec. for both genders.

www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/10/18/vivian-vosburg-arrested_n_4125429.html
Vivian Vosburg, Stepmom Of Girl Accused In Rebecca Sedwick Bullying Suicide, Arrested For Child Abuse

10/23/13

Rockwell
1,512 Fans · Recovering Reagan republican. 26 years sober.

Behind every bully is another bully.

REPLY FAVE SHARE MORE 21 OCT 11:46 AM

McHell
324 Fans · Atheism: a non-prophet organization

You’ve got to be taught
To hate and fear,
You’ve got to be taught
From year to year,
It’s got to be drummed
In your dear little ear
You’ve got to be carefully taught.

You’ve got to be taught to be afraid
Of people whose eyes are oddly made,
And people whose skin is a different shade,
You’ve got to be carefully taught.

You’ve got to be taught before it’s too late,
Before you are six or seven or eight,
To hate all the people your relatives hate,
You’ve got to be carefully taught!

~ "You’ve Got To Be Carefully Taught" (from the 1949 Rodgers and Hammerstein musical South Pacific)

REPLY FAVE SHARE MORE 21 OCT 10:58 AM

MNKlien212
163 Fans

So it’s NOT ok to hit a child but it IS ok to target them for assassination or bomb them into chunks of meat? Oh, right, sorry, it’s not ok to hit a WHITE child. I get it now.

REPLY FAVE SHARE MORE 21 OCT 10:23 AM

Godweiser
SUPER USER · 2,839 Fans · The eyes have it.

Trash.

REPLY FAVE SHARE MORE 21 OCT 9:16 AM

FaceReality2
1,085 Fans · Democracy in the U.S. is an illusion

Bring back involuntary sterilization.

REPLY FAVE SHARE MORE 21 OCT 9:00 AM

Leahe
74 Fans
For that failure of a stepmom who raised a bully, by all means, yes!