



Investigators: Last Friday afternoon Farmington Hills police interviewed the residents of the Arden Park home.

Abuse from page A1

Our responsibility is criminal charges, which we will present to the prosecutor," Nebus said. "They could range from child abuse to assault. These are all charges that could result based on the totality of the circumstances."

No charges have been filed yet against either adult. The man was in California when investigators took the 17-year-old into protective custody Friday; he is expected to return soon.

Hills Chief Bill Dwyer said the girl comes from Cameroon, West Africa, where slavery is not uncommon. According to "Anti-Slavery," a human rights organization established in the

19th century, reports of trafficking children throughout West Africa have increased over the past two years.

Nabus said the Federal Bureau of Investigation, working through a special task force, has also gotten involved in the case.

"The seventeen year old is not a citizen, and it has not been verified as to the parents' citizenship," he said. "Unfortunately ... it's not unusual for some of these children to be brought from Africa and not treated in the typical standards of other children in this country."

Dwyer noted stark differences between the way the couple's children and the teen-

ager were treated. The younger children had television sets and computers in their well-kept bedrooms upstairs, while the girls' basement living quarters were unkempt and devoid of these kinds of amenities.

He said the girl had been very forthcoming with police, had a 7th grade education before being brought to the U.S. and spoke English fluently.

"She's a pretty intelligent young lady," Dwyer commented.

Hills Police hope to wrap up their investigation into criminal charges by the end of next week.

Choice from page A1

decision could be reversed, now or in the future, would be if enrollment dropped dramatically enough to jeopardize educational programming.

The policy committee also reviewed changes to state law about schools of choice. The board, for the first time, could have opted to permit students from adjacent out-of-county districts (such as Livonia) to enroll.

FARMINGTON SCHOOLS

Another change is that students can enroll at mid-year.

Each year school boards are required to state their intentions regarding the acceptance of non-resident students. Michigan law allows local school boards to

decide whether they will accept students who reside outside the local school district boundaries but within the Oakland Intermediate School District boundaries or who reside in corresponding school districts but not in the Oakland Intermediate District.

In this point, the board decided not to participate with interdistrict schools of choice program after hearing comments from interested citizens.

Candidates must file by April 10

A candidate who wishes to seek a position on the Farmington Public Schools Board of Education must file a nominating petition and an affidavit of identity no later than 4 p.m. on Monday, April 10, 2000. The number of signatures required is 20.

The regular school board election will be held on Monday, June 12, 2000. Two positions on the Farmington Public School Board, now held by Priscilla Brouillette and Gary Sharp, will be filled at the election.

Both positions are four-year terms ending June 30, 2004. Both school board members have announced their intention to seek re-election.

Petition and affidavit forms can be obtained at the Lewis Schulman Administrative Cen-

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For more information, please call 313.982.6100, x. 2912.
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