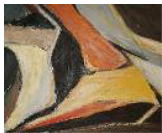




We—Kirsten Mahr and Leif Olsen were a DIS host family for american students.

Read the story - and tell us what we are telling former students about it!

family@dishostfamily1.com



Danish Law

According to the "Act on Processing of Personal Data" you have the right to access personal data about yourself, provided it has been dealt with in an electronic way. (PC, etc.)

All the charges against us were dealt with in an "electronic" way, so obviously we should have access to them. But the problem is - **in practice** it depends upon the ethics of the holder of the charges - DIS. If their standards are "low" when it comes to host families, the authorities have no real means of enforcing the law. You have to bring your request to the court - and it is up to you to prove, the information still exists. And guess what happens - **it some times regretfully disappears.** As in our case - the two sets of the information disappeared simultaneously!

We were fired after having hosted 35 students during 14 years

Why? - internal problems in an US family need a scapegoat

Formally, we were fired because of a remark in an evaluation questionnaire several years back! We were told it was about verbal expressions not suitable for female DIS students! **But it was not the real reason.** As far as we have discovered the reason - it was a claim raised by an US family outlined below. -

We were very frustrated by the accusations. Due to harassments three female architect students took refuge in our house when they did their huge projects.

If a family does not meet their standards, DIS can of course dismiss it

but not set up a "criminal" record in a database. In doing so the family have the right to know the details. We asked for the details, but DIS would not let us have them. Obviously, the law is not their concern. We are still fighting to get the details.

None of our 35 students wanted to be transferred to another family. 3 of our 35 were in fact transferred to us from other families.

The real reason for the dismissal was an accusation for rape!

A father accuses Leif for having raped his daughter Danielle while she stayed with us 7 yrs previously! It was very important to DIS that the case was cleared up in a few days! Why - check page 2 - 3.

Leif should have broken into her room one night and started assaulting her. What it was all about and when it was supposed to have happened was confidential information! We have no access to it!!!

The accusation was first presented to Leif by a psychologist hired by DIS. Leif denied that he had done it. We sleep together and Leif has never been alone with Danielle during a night.

But it was a false accusation!

The accusation

The story according to the psychologist: Danielle slept in her bed one night. She woke up as Leif put his hand under her duvet and touched her thigh - then she fainted. That is all the information we got. Danielle obviously had forgotten all about it when she wrote her good-bye letter to us. Check it at page 4.

DIS is in a hurry

For some reason there was no need nor time to hear what Kirsten meant about it. She must have been at home when it happened!. The case had to be solved in a few days as somebody was waiting desperately for the outcome. Check page 2-3.

Is it credible?

We are pretty sure that Danielle did not write anything to DIS about a rape. It is somebody else's story. Leif has spent much time alone with her, but never a night. Leif has picked her up twice at DIS as she was half unconscious. So if - - again check her letter at p.4

The accusation for rape was not the formal reason for our dismissal!

Although DIS found the accusation for rape "unpleasant credible", they would not take sides and - for some reason - report it to the police! Check page 2. We were formally dismissed because of a remark in an evaluation questionnaire from another student. (*Top of the page.*) During her investigation the psychologist checked all the questionnaires, but found nothing worth mentioning. Previously, DIS did not react to the questionnaire either. Was the questionnaire just an excuse to dismiss us and set up an "criminal record"?

What was the idea of setting up the "criminal record" on us? Check page 3.

The Danielle story just now - December 2007

Timeline



Fall 1996

1998 - 1999

1999



1999 - 2003

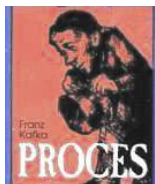
1991 - 2000



Fall 2003

October 2003

October 27, 2003



October 29, 2003

October 31, 2003

The sequence of events in the rape case. A few of the points below are not confirmed facts, but are either - hypotheses ★ - or are most likely ★★

We would like to learn more facts from the email chat between Danielle and DIS.

★★ We assume Danielle has been exposed to some kind of incest years before she came to Denmark. (*Observation: She appeared to be very lonesome and introverted. No friends. After telephone conversations with her dad or boyfriend she was dissolved in tears. She was absolutely not homesick. Check her good-bye letter p. 4.*)

Danielle stays with us from August until just before Christmas. (Letter page 4.)

★★ Her serious condition is diagnosed by a psychologist. To avoid a family scandal Danielle does not disclose anything. Her family hear about the assumed incest. An explanation is required, the offender has to be found. Leif is a perfect scapegoat. Far away and in another country. Danielle's father start to chase him.

Danielle's father gets in contact with the American Embassy in Copenhagen to get the embassy to press charges against Leif.

★ The American Embassy notifies DIS of the charges Danielle's father want to press against Leif. The DIS housing coordinator still remembers Danielle, her attacks and her loneliness, and decides not to take notice of the charges.

★★ Danielle's father try to exert influence on universities for them to put pressure on DIS to do something about the charges. How DIS gets new students see p.3

? Sometime between 1991 and 2000 a student had made a remark about Leif in a evaluation questionnaire. DIS pays no attention to it at that time. Check page 1 and the point October 29, 2003 below. Our last student stayed by us the Summer 2003.

★★ Managing director Anders Uhrskov (AU) is short of an invitation from an university for his forthcoming trip to USA. The university do not like what is happening to students at DIS. AU promises to check it and he puts pressure on the housing coordinator to follow-up on the case - if possible - extract a confession from Leif.

The housing coordinator starts an email chat med Danielle to get more information. First about what sort of person Leif is and continues with questions about a possible assault. (*At this point we think Danielle backs out - it explains why we cannot get a date for the supposed rape assault.*) To support the charge all evaluation questionnaires about us are gathered. DIS engage with a psychologist to investigate the case and extract a confession from Leif to enable DIS to improve their image.

At the psychologist. The psychologist first describes the procedure. Leif's evidence - obviously expected to be a sort of a confession - would be written down in a report. Afterwards we both would have to sign it. Then she interviewed Leif about his relation to women in general with references to all the evaluation questionnaires. She did not find anything alarming in the questionnaires. Next she mentioned the accusation from Danielle. It was the first time we heard about it. Leif denies the charge and it ends up as being "Danielle's" words against his. Check page 1 center. Afterwards no report was written, and we were not asked to sign anything about the accusation.

In the letter from DIS two days later, DIS abstains from reporting the accusation to the police, but does **not** withdraw from it. Check DIS's opinion on page 3. But to support their ideas about Leif, DIS has found something in the questionnaires the psychologist has overseen. DIS, therefore, listed us in their register. Top of page 1.

In our response to DIS we ask for a meeting with the managing director to clear up the accusations and to get access to the email correspondence with Danielle.

Timeline continued

November 13, 2003



December 9, 2003

January 15, 2004

June 28, 2005

August 17, 2005

June 29, 2007

How to get new students?

(Translated from an article in "Cirius" May, 2007:)

We do not recruit directly on open exhibitions, but rather on "study abroad fairs" at the individual collaborating universities. You have to be on the individual university's "approved list" to be invited.

Document history:

About the documentation in this case:

Elektronically stored:

General information about us on DIS's database was deleted at our request on December 23, 2003.

The chat correspondence between Danielle and DIS about the accusation existed on PC harddisks until August 2005. It may still exist on CDs.

On paper: The two sets of copies of the chat correspondence existed until August 2005. Then both copies disappeared simultaneously. The evaluation questionnaires still exist as far as we know.

What was the idea of the record in the register

Is DIS psychic? In his letter to us managing director Anders Uhrskov made it clear that he **did not want to meet us**. Without having met us ever, without having any sort of evidence, without knowing when the supposed assault had happened, AU made it clear that the charge against Leif was **unpleasantly credible!** A credibility the psychologist doubted. 9 visiting mothers to student daughters did not suspect anything to be wrong with Leif's character either. 3 students wrote letters to DIS about Leif. (Check page 4.) Now, years later we still wonder how AU established his credibility. Being so sure about it he should have reported the case to the police.

Our lawyer requests deletion of all information about us in DIS's databases. In expectation of DIS acting upon the law he also requests access to all information about us in email correspondence with Danielle.

DIS has deleted all information about us - was the answer from DIS.

DIS admits they still have all the evaluation questionnaires from our students.

The Data Protection Agency: DIS still have two copies of "deleted" information.

The Agency decides, that DIS should have given us access to the information in the Danielle case when we requested it in 2003. But it all disappeared August 2005.

The Record in the Register

What was the purpose of the record?

From page 1. It is obvious that DIS do not spend a lot of money for a psychologist and dozens of hours to find evidence - just to get rid of us as a host family. DIS can of course "dismiss" a host family any time without giving any reason.

Obviously, the action is done only to satisfy a claim. An organization in USA requires that DIS do something about the charge against Leif. Especially, if DIS expect to get invitations to any "study aboard fairs".

Every new student pays more than US\$ 15000 to study at DIS, and the competition is fierce among study abroad organizations!

DIS's managing director Anders Uhrskov could not visit one of the study aboard fairs "empty handed" in November 2003.

Therefore, DIS had to set up a criminal record on us. Unknown to "outsiders" the record was based on a forgotten old claim from another student!



Anna 1 year on visit in 2005 with her mum Elizabeth - a DIS student from USA year 1996.

The American students at DIS have all been living in colleges etc. away from home before they came here. They are between 18 and 36, a few of them are married.

After all the efforts do we know more?

No. DIS succeeded in keeping us away from all the information. The students need protection they say. Check the bottom of col. 2. Host families do not get any protection.

We asked our lawyer (2003) to request access to the charges according to Danish law.

DIS answered that they had deleted all of it. Very unlikely was the lawyer's comment. It existed in fact until it disappeared from two separate files simultaneously two years later. But reading the answer from DIS provoked the following comment from our lawyer: Your chances to get access to the charges are **nil**. First, in cases about sexual assault the objectivity does not work very well, and secondly, you are a couple of pensioners up against a powerful organization which is subsidized by the government and connected to the University of Copenhagen. It is uphill all the way, and if you get there - what you are looking for has disappeared!

The lawyer was absolutely right!

Ethics DIS style

leaves no room for fairness towards host families. Any ethic consideration has to give way for cynical calculations as the organization operates according to ruthless capitalistic principles.

Managing director Anders Uhrskov must relieve his conscience by believing that Leif is guilty in an assault on Danielle. Lately, AU has expressed it this way: *"if the Agency should arrive at the conclusion that it is me and not Leif who has committed a crime"* - (March 7, 2007)

Letters from Students

From Dawn to DIS

11 January 2004

"It has recently come to my attention that DIS has removed Leif Olsen and Kirsten Mahr from their list of families eligible to host students for DIS. My heart sinks at the thought, and I am sure that a very serious mistake has been made to the detriment of many students to come. xxxx I was xxxx excited at the opportunity to stay with a Danish family. xxxx

My hope was for a good match. What I found was so far beyond my expectations I am to this day quite struck by good fortune. Leif and Kirsten were like the parents I had always imagined I could have—they were warm, generous, supportive of me in my studies and very encouraging of my successes. They gave me absolute freedom to be myself, while at the same time reminding me how to clean the shower so the hard Danish water wouldn't stain the tiles, and quietly cleaning my room when I neglected to do so. xxxx

This letter is made public with Dawn's permission. xxxx = means text omitted



I understand that Leif has been accused of sexually assaulting a female student—indeed, of raping her. I consider myself to be a responsible and conscientious feminist, so I would never treat such a thing lightly. However, it is beyond my power to imagine that Leif could have done such an appalling thing. The very idea is absolutely preposterous. I spent a great deal of time alone with Leif in the house, and had other female students over to spend the night, and not once did I feel uncomfortable or unsure about his integrity. In fact, I later hosted Leif and Kirsten in my own home in California, where the opportunity for such a thing would have been much greater, and of course no such thing took place. xxxx

Now that I'm a bit more mature, I wish I had the trip to do over again, so I could more fully take advantage of their friendship and companionship. And I had hoped their stunning record (now at thirty-five students) as host parents would only continue to grow. While I was with them, they frequently received mail from former students, updating them on their lives, and they even received an invitation to a wedding in Pakistan! The entries in their guest book were usually very enthusiastic and warm, which I expected.

It is my hope that this letter will help to give you a fuller picture of what Leif and Kirsten are like as host parents. In speaking with other students in the program at the time, I learned that my experience was somewhat unique in the appropriateness of my family for me and also in their wonderful presence as people. I felt very much a part of their family, and extremely grateful for everything they did to make me feel safe and welcome. From my discussions about philosophy with Leif at the kitchen table to my visit to her sister's Danish farm with Kirsten, I was continually surprised and impressed by Leif and Kirsten. I could go on for several more pages to describe specific events and memories which illustrate the happiness and encouragement they shared with me during my stay.

My hope is that DIS will reconsider this decision and more carefully investigate this matter; I am sure there must be a mistake. I know that in this country it has happened too frequently that perfect honorable and intelligent men have been falsely accused of assault and rape. I have full confidence that there must be some kind of misunderstanding in this case as well. While it is necessary to take women's concern seriously, we must not go so far as to assume that an accusation is the same as evidence.

Please feel free to contact me at any future time if you have questions or need more information from me. I am more than willing to help if I can, and particularly if I can help to resolve this conflict between DIS and Leif and Kirsten. I will gladly provide more information to you, in further correspondence or in a more formal interview, if necessary. Dawn xxxx

Danielle's good-bye letter - in full - Dear Kirsten and Leif Have a wonderful Christmas 12/19/1996

It seems like only a few days ago that I arrived in Denmark, and now in just a few hours I will be returning to the United States, coming from a larger family, I have often felt lost in the shuffle, but I have enjoyed being "the only child here." I can't tell you how much I loved having my own bathroom. I anticipate it will be quite a difficult switch to eating the Floridianian subtropical fish for I have grown to like the cold-water fish much more, and I will always remember all the blackberries, apricots, grapes, plums, tomatoes, and potatoes that grow in your backyard. I hope you will let me share my oranges and grapefruit from my backyard with you. I really enjoyed cooking meals for you for I do not think anyone else has ever made remarks about it. You have made me feel so comfortable and welcome in your home, and I have really been thankful for this because sometimes I am not sure where my home is – Florida, Ohio, or other places I have studied or lived in the past few years. It has been so good to know that I have a home in Denmark. All the conversations with Leif have been very helpful for I am now thinking about myself and my future in a different way, and Kirsten, your enthusiasm for your work and the tenderness you show to your patients has been an inspiration to me. I hope when I become a doctor I can treat my patients the way you do. Thanks for a wonderful four months and a lot of pleasant memories. With much love, Danielle xxxx

