

Witness Statement

TT – Sgt. Tom Tatum

JG – Inv. Jim Gabriel

KC – [REDACTED]

TT Ok the recorder is on. This will be a taped interview reference to IA case number IA-11-17. Today's date is April 18, 2012 and the time is 10:12 am. The location of this interview is the Sheriff's Office administrative offices in Deland. Presently being interviewed is [REDACTED]. Also present is Inv. Gabriel with the Volusia County Sheriff's Office Internal Affairs unit. I'm Sgt. Tatum with the Volusia County Sheriff's Office Internal Affairs unit. [REDACTED], are you aware that this interview is being recorded?

KC Yes.

TT Ok, as a law enforcement officer and a Notary Public of the state of Florida I am empowered to take sworn statements. At this time I would ask you to raise your right hand to be sworn. Do you solemnly swear or affirm that the statement you're about to give is the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth so help you God?

KC Yes.

TT Ok. Alright [REDACTED] I know you've been in here twice before so you've kind of been through this a little bit but as with any investigation there's, there are things that come up that we need to get clarification on ok? Can you just clarify your relationship with Dep. Deane?

KC Um, like what I would consider it?

TT Yeah.

KC Friends.

TT Just friends?

KC Uh huh.

TT No romantic involvement, anything like that?

KC Huh uh.

TT Ok. Now I know you said in the past that you met him at the Pierson Family Restaurant...

KC Uh huh.

47
48 TT ...and that's how you became friends.
49
50 KC Uh huh.
51
52 TT And do you have phone contact with him sometimes or?
53
54 KC Um, yeah every now and then.
55
56 TT I mean probably not now.
57
58 KC Oh no.
59
60 TT But before.
61
62 KC Yeah, yeah.
63
64 TT So it's just occasionally?
65
66 KC Uh huh.
67
68 TT Ok. Alright, I know you have given a sworn statement you know two times in the
69 past like we said during this investigation. While you were under oath you said
70 Stephen never put his hands on you and that he never hit you.
71
72 KC No.
73
74 TT Right? Is that a true statement?
75
76 KC Yes.
77
78 TT Ok.
79
80 KC I told you everything that happened that night. Like numerous times.
81
82 TT Yeah, yeah we've been over it quite a few times.
83
84 KC Uh huh.
85
86 TT But like I said certain things have come to light which we want to offer you the
87 opportunity to try and explain you know what this new information is that's been
88 brought up to us ok?
89
90 KC Ok.
91
92 TT So do you remember exchanging text messages with Dep. Deane...

93
94 KC That night?
95
96 TT (inaudible) the incident?
97
98 KC Not, honestly no because like I told you I was drinking that night...
99
100 TT Uh huh.
101
102 KC ...and I don't, I don't recall what I said to him and the next day well that night
103 knowing the next day I was probably going to see Stephen I remember I deleted
104 all of the messages that I had. So the next morning I had no idea what I did say to
105 him.
106
107 TT And you deleted the messages on your phone?
108
109 KC Uh huh.
110
111 TT And you did that for what purpose?
112
113 KC So Stephen wouldn't see them.
114
115 TT Ok.
116
117 KC Because Stephen was like the super jealous type and any guy that I would talk to
118 he would really freak out about so.
119
120 TT Ok so you immediately the next morning deleted all...
121
122 KC That night.
123
124 TT ...those messages that you had a conversation with Dep. Deane?
125
126 KC Uh huh.
127
128 TT Ok. I want to show you a couple text messages ok?
129
130 KC Uh huh.
131
132 TT Because through out our investigation when we were speaking with Dep. Deane
133 he was able to provide us with text messages that were exchanged between you
134 and he that night.
135
136 KC Ok.
137

138 TT Ok? So take a look at these and tell me to the best of your knowledge,
139 recollection if these look familiar.
140
141 KC Like I said I don't remember any of those.
142
143 TT Does that look like it would be consistent with what you sent to him that night,
144 that morning?
145
146 KC Well, sorry, like I said I don't, I didn't read them the next morning so that night I
147 don't know what I sent to him and I deleted them that night but if they're there
148 obviously that's what I said.
149
150 TT Right. Ok just to let you know this is Travis's phone.
151
152 KC Uh huh.
153
154 TT And he's got you listed under [REDACTED], by your name ok?
155
156 KC Uh huh.
157
158 TT So lets go over these text messages and try and find out a little bit more about
159 these ok? Because I think there needs to be some clarification as to what you put
160 I the texts. Because clearly in one of the texts I mean you're looking for a ride
161 out of there, you're asking him for help.
162
163 KC Yeah.
164
165 TT He said he's on his way to the jail. At one point you sent a text "he's been
166 drinking, he's acting psycho, he hit me". What exactly did that mean?
167
168 KC Well like I told you before I like cuz I don't, I, cuz I told you about him grabbing
169 a hold of me and everything and then I don't like I really I don't know what
170 happened because it was probably a lot of the alcohol had a role in it.
171
172 TT Uh huh.
173
174 KC And along did the adrenaline I guess of the fighting and how I was hysterical and
175 I don't really remember any of it. I remember I got home and then the next
176 morning I woke up and then I had talked to Stephen the next morning and I had
177 no idea what I said to Travis because I deleted all the messages.
178
179 TT So you don't recall what you meant in your text by saying "he hit me"?
180
181 KC Huh uh.
182
183 TT It's pretty clear that you know that's a specific statement...

184
185 KC Yeah, yeah.
186
187 TT ...that "he hit me" and you don't have any recollection of...
188
189 KC Huh uh.
190
191 TT ...what you meant by that? And you're not talking about when he grabbed you
192 by the shoulders.
193
194 KC I don't, I don't know what I was talking about at that time, I don't have a clue.
195
196 TT Keep in mind too [REDACTED] that this, the criminal case is closed on this.
197
198 KC I know.
199
200 TT So I mean I don't know if you really don't remember because of the alcohol or if
201 you're worried about anything that's going to happen to your boyfriend Stephen.
202
203 KC Huh uh.
204
205 TT But the case has been you know closed...
206
207 KC I know.
208
209 TT ...by the state attorney's office so we don't want to see you get into a situation
210 where you're knowingly not telling us the truth.
211
212 KC I know.
213
214 TT You know.
215
216 KC Uh huh.
217
218 TT So if there's any truth to this you need to let me know.
219
220 KC I know.
221
222 TT If you actually don't recall then you don't recall.
223
224 KC Like I said I don't, I don't recall. I don't remember.
225
226 TT Did you and Stephen talk about the disturbance the next morning after that
227 happened?
228

229 KC I'm sure we did but it's, I don't recall exactly what was said it's been five months
230 now.
231
232 TT Right, ok. So by your own statement what you just told us now during the heated
233 argument it was, you were pretty hysterical.
234
235 KC Uh huh.
236
237 TT So by sending these text messages which I mean anybody that reads these look
238 like you want to leave the house.
239
240 KC Yeah.
241
242 TT You want to get out of there right?
243
244 KC Uh huh.
245
246 TT So I know we talked before how you said you weren't scared, you weren't in fear
247 I mean you're hysterical there was just a fight so.
248
249 KC I, I just didn't want to be there. I didn't want to be around him at the time I didn't
250 want to be any, I just wanted to go home and then so I got a way home.
251
252 TT So when you started sending these text messages was Stephen still at the house?
253
254 KC No.
255
256 TT He had already left?
257
258 KC Uh huh.
259
260 TT Ok. Alright and did you say there was somebody else at the house?
261
262 KC There was a couple people at the house.
263
264 TT Who were those people?
265
266 KC One of them I think was Drew, Drew Cohen I think and then there was also
267 Dustin Blackwelder and I'm pretty sure those were the only two that were there.
268 And Dustin actually him and another girl who came after the fact he's the one that
269 drove me home.
270
271 TT Ok but he was there the whole time?
272
273 KC Uh huh.
274

275 TT What did you say Drew's last name was?
276
277 KC Cohen.
278
279 TT Ok and Dustin is or was Stephen's roommate?
280
281 KC Uh huh, was.
282
283 TT Was? They're not roommates anymore?
284
285 KC Huh uh.
286
287 TT Are they not getting along or are they just...
288
289 KC They don't, they don't...
290
291 TT ...don't live together?
292
293 KC ...live in the house anymore. Stephen doesn't live in that house anymore.
294
295 TT Oh did he move?
296
297 KC Uh huh.
298
299 TT Where's he at now?
300
301 KC I don't know we broke up.
302
303 TT You broke up with him?
304
305 KC Uh huh.
306
307 TT Ok how long have you guys been separated?
308
309 KC Um, it's probably getting close to a month.
310
311 TT Ok just personal reasons why you split up?
312
313 KC Uh huh.
314
315 TT Ok. Alright do you have any questions Gabe?
316
317 JG Yeah I'm just a little confused when you, if you were to write "he hit me" on the
318 text...
319
320 KC Uh huh.

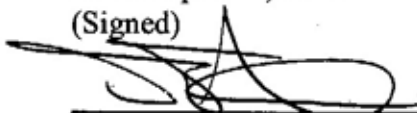
321
322 JG ...that seems a little serious.
323
324 KC Uh huh.
325
326 JG I can't believe that you wouldn't even recall why you would put that on a text.
327
328 KC I...
329
330 JG I mean either he, he either hit you or he didn't hit you is my question.
331
332 KC Like I said, I...
333
334 JG I just, I'm just puzzled as to why you would put that on the text if it wasn't true.
335
336 KC I don't know why I did a lot of the stuff I did that night honestly. I faintly
337 remember, I like neither of us the next day I remember neither of us could even
338 figure out why we even started arguing. We have no idea why we started arguing.
339 We couldn't, we had no idea. I remember I was cooking something, the next
340 thing I remember is we had walked outside and I just remember yelling a little bit
341 and then I remember I called my sister and I was asking my sister where she was
342 because I didn't want to be there. And my sister's like "well I can't come get you
343 I'm all the way in Orlando" and I was like "well" she's like "if you need me I
344 can" and I was like "well hopefully I can find another way but I don't want to be
345 here".
346
347 JG Ok and my other question was you said Travis was a friend. Would you classify
348 him as a boyfriend at the time?
349
350 KC No.
351
352 JG Just a friend.
353
354 KC The, the whole wifey hubby thing was more of a joke between me and him.
355
356 JG Ok.
357
358 KC Because it was at the restaurant, we, I don't even remember like how but he was
359 like we used to joke around like he'd be like "yeah I'm gonna marry her one day"
360 and stuff like that so that's how the whole wifey hubby thing, it was never, me
361 and him were never actually boyfriend girlfriend.
362
363 TT Who was he saying that to?
364
365 KC What, who?
366

367 TT Was, you were talking about Dep. Deane was saying “yeah you’re gonna be my
368 wife one day”
369
370 KC Oh he would, he would just say it like I don’t know whoever he was pretty much
371 sitting with in the restaurant that day.
372
373 TT Was he joking?
374
375 KC Yeah. Well it was, it was like it was a joke between us kinda. That’s why it was
376 like, like I would say wifey or hubby and stuff like that it was like a joke between
377 us but it was never, I never, the most I did I think I might have hugged him once
378 or something but never kiss, held hands, nothing.
379
380 TT Going out on dates?
381
382 KC No.
383
384 TT Anything like that?
385
386 JG No dates.
387
388 KC No.
389
390 TT Ok yeah that was one of the things that I wanted to clarify because I saw those
391 texts...
392
393 KC Yeah.
394
395 TT ...where it says hubby and wifey.
396
397 KC Yeah.
398
399 TT You know it just seemed a little odd because your explanation of your
400 relationship with him was just friends.
401
402 KC Yeah.
403
404 TT Casual you know talk on the phone occasionally.
405
406 KC Uh huh.
407
408 TT So that would more or less seem to me like terms of endearment.
409
410 KC Yeah.
411
412 TT Like somebody that’s closer than that.

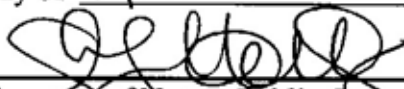
413
414 KC Yeah it, it would look like that I could see where you're coming from but it was,
415 it was just kind of a joke between us.
416
417 TT Uh huh.
418
419 KC Because he would joke around when he saw me and I'd joke around and stuff like
420 that but it wasn't any more than that. Nothing other than that happened.
421
422 TT Ok. Do you have anything else?
423
424 JC Nothing else for me no.
425
426 TT [REDACTED] do you have anything that you'd like to add or delete from your statement
427 today?
428
429 KC No.
430
431 TT Ok I appreciate you coming down and meeting with us today. The time is now
432 10:25 am, this concludes the interview with [REDACTED].
433

I, Sgt. Tom Tatum, swear that the forgoing is an accurate transcription of the sworn recorded statement of [REDACTED] taken by me on April 18, 2012.

(Signed)



Sworn to and subscribed before me this 20
Day of April, 2012.



Signature of Notary Public - State of Florida



(Print, type or Stamp Commissioned Name of Notary Public)

My Commission Expires:

My Commission Number is:

Personally Known

Produced identification

Type of Identification Produced