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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)	
)	IN THE COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS
COUNTY OF RICHLAND)	2003-GS-40-06366
)	
)	
THE STATE,)	
)	
PLAINTIFF,)	
)	
-VS-)	TRANSCRIPT OF RECORD
)	
TIFFANY JAWANNA JEFFCOAT))	
)	DECEMBER 13, 2004
DEFENDANT.)	COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA

B E F O R E :

THE HONORABLE L. CASEY MANNING, JUDGE.

A P P E A R A N C E S :

JOHN P. MEADORS, ESQUIRE,
DEPUTY SOLICITOR FOR THE FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,

K. LUCK CAMPBELL, ESQUIRE,
FIRST ASSISTANT SOLICITOR FOR THE FIFTH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT,
ATTORNEYS FOR THE STATE,

E. FIELDING PRINGLE, ESQUIRE,
DEPUTY PUBLIC DEFENDER FOR RICHLAND COUNTY,

DEBORAH AHRENS, ESQUIRE,
ASSISTANT PUBLIC DEFENDER FOR RICHLAND COUNTY,
ATTORNEYS FOR THE DEFENDANT.

ROBBIE KOON DEFREESE
CIRCUIT COURT REPORTER

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WITNESSES/DESCRIPTION PAGE NO.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2004.

GUILTY PLEA 4

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E X H I B I T S

<u>NO.</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>EVD.</u>
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NOTE: NO EXHIBITS INTRODUCED DURING THE PRESENTATION OF THIS GUILTY PLEA.

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1 MONDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2004.

2 THE BAILIFF: COURT COME TO ORDER.

3 ALL RISE, PLEASE.

4 THE COURT: THANK YOU VERY MUCH, LADIES AND
5 GENTLEMEN. PLEASE TAKE YOUR SEATS.

6 MR. MEADORS: MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT.

7 THE COURT: YES, SIR.

8 MR. MEADORS: YOUR HONOR, AT THIS TIME, WE WOULD
9 CALL THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA VERSUS TIFFANY J.

10 JEFFCOAT.

11 MS. JEFFCOAT -- MR. JOHN MEADORS AND MS. LUCK
12 CAMPBELL ON BEHALF OF THE STATE. MS. JEFFCOAT IS
13 REPRESENTED BY MS. DEBORAH AHRENS AND MS. FIELDING PRINGLE.

14 RICHLAND COUNTY TRUE BILL INDICTMENT
15 2003-GS-40-6366, HOMICIDE BY CHILD ABUSE.

16 THE CLERK: MA'AM, YOU NEED TO RAISE YOUR RIGHT
17 HAND.

18 TIFFANY J. JEFFCOAT,
19 FIRST BEING DULY SWORN, TESTIFIED AS FOLLOWS:

20 THE COURT: THIS IS TWENTY (20) YEARS TO LIFE,
21 ISN'T IT?

22 MR. MEADORS: YES, SIR.

23 THE COURT: MS. AHRENS, YOU REPRESENT TIFFANY
24 JEFFCOAT?

25 MS. AHRENS: YES, I DO, YOUR HONOR.

1 THE COURT: HAVE YOU EXPLAINED TO MS. JEFFCOAT
2 THE CHARGE CONTAINED IN THIS INDICTMENT, THE POSSIBLE
3 PUNISHMENT, AND HER RIGHTS, INCLUDING HER CONSTITUTIONAL
4 RIGHT TO A JURY TRIAL?

5 MS. AHRENS: YES, I HAVE.

6 THE COURT: IN YOUR OPINION, DOES MS. JEFFCOAT
7 UNDERSTAND THE CHARGE, THE PUNISHMENT, AND HER RIGHTS?

8 MS. AHRENS: YES, YOUR HONOR.

9 THE COURT: HOW DOES SHE INDICATE TO YOU SHE
10 WISHES TO PLEAD, GUILTY OR NOT GUILTY?

11 MS. AHRENS: GUILTY.

12 THE COURT: DO YOU AGREE WITH HER DECISION TO
13 PLEAD GUILTY?

14 MS. AHRENS: YES, I DO.

15 THE COURT: FROM YOUR INVESTIGATION OF THE FACTS
16 AND CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THIS CASE, DO YOU FEEL THAT
17 THE STATE COULD PRODUCE SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO CONVINCE A
18 JURY HERE IN RICHLAND COUNTY OF MS. JEFFCOAT'S GUILT BEYOND
19 A REASONABLE DOUBT AND IF SHE WERE TO STAND TRIAL ON THIS
20 CHARGE, HER CONVICTION WILL BE PROBABLE?

21 MS. AHRENS: YES, YOUR HONOR.

22 THE COURT: NOW, HAS MS. JEFFCOAT BEEN ORDERED TO
23 SUBMIT TO A MENTAL EXAMINATION TO DETERMINE HER COMPETENCY
24 TO STAND TRIAL.

25 MS. AHRENS: I DO NOT SEE ANY MENTAL HEALTH

1 ISSUES; SO NO, YOUR HONOR.

2 THE COURT: ALL RIGHT.

3 YOU ARE TIFFANY JEFFCOAT, IS THAT CORRECT?

4 THE DEFENDANT: YES.

5 THE COURT: MS. JEFFCOAT, BEFORE I CAN ACCEPT
6 YOUR PLEA OF GUILTY, IT'S NECESSARY FOR ME TO MAKE SURE
7 THAT YOU ARE MAKING THIS PLEA FREELY AND VOLUNTARILY.

8 TO DO THAT, MS. JEFFCOAT, I NEED TO ASK YOU A
9 SERIES OF QUESTIONS. AT ANY POINT DURING MY QUESTIONING OF
10 YOU, IF YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND ANYTHING I SAY OR ANY WORDS
11 THAT I USE, PLEASE STOP ME. I'LL BE MORE THAN HAPPY TO
12 REPEAT OR EXPLAIN ANYTHING I SAY, MS. JEFFCOAT.

13 ADDITIONALLY, I'LL BE MORE THAN HAPPY TO STOP
14 THIS PLEA AND ALLOW YOU AS MUCH TIME AS YOU FEEL YOU MAY
15 NEED TO CONSULT WITH YOUR LAWYER, MS. AHRENS.

16 DO YOU UNDERSTAND THAT?

17 THE DEFENDANT: YES.

18 THE COURT: HOW OLD ARE YOU, MS. JEFFCOAT?

19 THE DEFENDANT: TWENTY-FIVE.

20 THE COURT: HOW FAR DID YOU GO IN SCHOOL?

21 THE DEFENDANT: A YEAR IN COLLEGE.

22 THE COURT: BEG YOUR PARDON?

23 THE DEFENDANT: ONE YEAR IN COLLEGE.

24 THE COURT: AND WHERE DID YOU GO TO COLLEGE FOR A
25 YEAR, MS. JEFFCOAT?

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THE DEFENDANT: MIDLANDS TECH.

THE COURT: ALL RIGHT.

WHAT KIND OF WORK DO YOU DO, MA'AM?

THE DEFENDANT: I WAS A CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANT, BUT RIGHT -- AS OF NOW, I WAS UNEMPLOYED.

THE COURT: ALL RIGHT.

NOW, MS. JEFFCOAT, HAVE YOU EVER BEEN TREATED FOR THE ABUSE OF ALCOHOL OR DRUGS OR FOR MENTAL ILLNESS?

THE DEFENDANT: NO.

THE COURT: HAVE YOU TAKEN ANY MEDICATION, DRUGS, OR ALCOHOL IN THE PAST 24 HOURS?

THE DEFENDANT: HEADACHE MEDICINE, ALEVE.

THE COURT: WHAT TYPE OF MEDICATION WAS IT?

THE DEFENDANT: ALEVE.

THE COURT: ALL RIGHT.

DOES THAT AFFECT YOUR ABILITY TO KNOW AND UNDERSTAND AND APPRECIATE WHAT YOU'RE DOING HERE TODAY?

THE DEFENDANT: NO.

THE COURT: SO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING, IS THAT CORRECT, MS. JEFFCOAT?

THE DEFENDANT: YES.

THE COURT: YOU AGREE, MS. AHRENS, THAT MS. JEFFCOAT KNOWS, UNDERSTANDS, AND APPRECIATES WHAT SHE'S DOING HERE THIS MORNING?

MS. AHRENS: YES, YOUR HONOR.

1 THE COURT: NOW, MS. JEFFCOAT, YOU HEARD YOUR
2 LAWYER, MS. AHRENS, TELL ME THAT SHE HAS EXPLAINED TO YOU
3 THE CHARGE CONTAINED IN THIS INDICTMENT, THE POSSIBLE
4 PUNISHMENT, AND YOUR RIGHTS, INCLUDING YOUR CONSTITUTIONAL
5 RIGHT TO A JURY TRIAL AND THAT YOU UNDERSTAND THESE THINGS,
6 IS THAT CORRECT?

7 THE DEFENDANT: YES.

8 THE COURT: MS. JEFFCOAT, YOU'RE BEFORE ME ON
9 INDICTMENT NUMBER 2003-6366, THE STATE VERSUS TIFFANY
10 JEFFCOAT. THIS IS AN INDICTMENT FOR HOMICIDE BY CHILD
11 ABUSE.

12 DO YOU UNDERSTAND THIS CHARGE, MA'AM?

13 THE DEFENDANT: YES.

14 THE COURT: THIS INDICTMENT, MS. JEFFCOAT,
15 ALLEGES THAT YOU DID HERE IN RICHLAND COUNTY ON OR ABOUT
16 AUGUST THE 10TH OF 2003, CAUSE THE DEATH OF A CHILD UNDER
17 THE AGE OF ELEVEN. IT LOOKS LIKE AKIDRAH JEFFCOAT?

18 MS. AHRENS: YES, YOUR HONOR.

19 THE COURT: AKIDRAH JEFFCOAT, WHILE COMMITTING
20 CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT, AND THE DEATH OCCURS OR DID OCCUR
21 UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES MANIFESTING AN EXTREME INDIFFERENCE TO
22 HUMAN LIFE -- AN EXTREME INDIFFERENCE TO HUMAN LIFE IN
23 VIOLATION OF CODE SECTION 16-3-85(B)(1).

24 MR. MEADORS: YOUR HONOR, RESPECTFULLY, THAT
25 SHOULD BE (A)(1) AND WE'VE AGREED TO THAT AMENDMENT. THAT

1 WAS JUST FORM OVER SUBSTANCE.

2 THE COURT: IS THAT CORRECT, MS. AHRENS?

3 MS. AHRENS: YES, SIR. WE CONSENTED TO THE
4 AMENDMENT.

5 THE COURT: ALL RIGHT.

6 SO IT'S AMENDED TO 16-3-85 (A)(1), IS THAT
7 CORRECT?

8 MR. MEADORS: YES, SIR.

9 THANK YOU, JUDGE. EXCUSE ME.

10 THE COURT: THAT'S ALL RIGHT.

11 YOU UNDERSTAND THIS CHARGE, MS. JEFFCOAT?

12 THE DEFENDANT: YES.

13 THE COURT: AND THIS IS WHAT YOU WANT TO PLEAD
14 GUILTY TO?

15 THE DEFENDANT: YES.

16 THE COURT: YOU REALIZE THAT BY PLEADING GUILTY
17 TO HOMICIDE BY CHILD ABUSE, MS. JEFFCOAT, THAT YOU CAN GO
18 TO JAIL FOR NO LESS THAN TWENTY (20) YEARS AND UP TO LIFE
19 IMPRISONMENT.

20 DO YOU UNDERSTAND THAT?

21 THE DEFENDANT: YES.

22 THE COURT: KNOWING THEN, MS. JEFFCOAT, THAT YOU
23 COULD GO TO PRISON FOR LIFE BY PLEADING GUILTY TO THIS
24 OFFENSE, DO YOU STILL WANT TO PLEAD GUILTY TO IT?

25 THE DEFENDANT: YES.

1 THE COURT: MS. JEFFCOAT, WHEN YOU PLEAD GUILTY,
2 YOU HAVE TO GIVE UP CERTAIN BASIC RIGHTS.

3 FIRST, YOU HAVE TO GIVE UP YOUR RIGHT TO REMAIN
4 SILENT.

5 NOW, THIS IS YOUR RIGHT AGAINST
6 SELF-INCRIMINATION, MS. JEFFCOAT. THAT IS YOUR RIGHT TO
7 SAY NOTHING AT ALL. NO ONE CAN COMPEL YOU TO COME INTO
8 COURT TO PROVIDE EVIDENCE OR TO TESTIFY AGAINST YOURSELF.

9 DO YOU UNDERSTAND THAT, MA'AM?

10 THE DEFENDANT: YES.

11 THE COURT: SECONDLY, MS. JEFFCOAT, WHEN YOU
12 PLEAD GUILTY, YOU HAVE TO GIVE UP YOUR RIGHT TO A JURY
13 TRIAL; THAT IS, YOUR RIGHT FOR A JURY HERE IN RICHLAND
14 COUNTY TO DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT YOU'RE GUILTY OF THIS
15 OFFENSE BEYOND A REASONABLE DOUBT. A JURY WOULD BASE ITS
16 DECISION ON WHATEVER EVIDENCE THE STATE WOULD INTRODUCE AT
17 TRIAL AGAINST YOU AND ALSO ON WHATEVER EVIDENCE YOU AND
18 YOUR LAWYER, MS. AHRENS, MAY WISH TO INTRODUCE.

19 NOW, I EMPHASIZE MAY WISH TO INTRODUCE, MS.
20 JEFFCOAT, BECAUSE IN A TRIAL, YOU WILL BE PRESUMED
21 INNOCENT, WOULD NOT HAVE TO PROVE ANYTHING; AND YOU COULD
22 NOT BE CONVICTED UNLESS THE STATE CONVINCED ALL TWELVE
23 JURORS OF YOUR GUILT BEYOND A REASONABLE DOUBT. THE JURY'S
24 DECISION WOULD HAVE TO BE UNANIMOUS; ALL TWELVE WOULD HAVE
25 TO AGREE THAT YOU WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATH OF THIS

1 CHILD.

2 DO YOU UNDERSTAND THAT?

3 THE DEFENDANT: YES.

4 THE COURT: THIRDLY, MS. JEFFCOAT, WHEN YOU PLEAD
5 GUILTY, YOU GIVE UP YOUR RIGHT TO CONFRONT AND TO BE
6 CONFRONTED BY THE WITNESSES AGAINST YOU; THAT IS, YOUR
7 RIGHT TO SEE, HEAR, AND CROSS-EXAMINE ANY WITNESSES THE
8 STATE MAY CALL TO TESTIFY AGAINST YOU DURING A TRIAL. AND
9 ADDITIONALLY, MS. JEFFCOAT, BY PLEADING GUILTY, YOU GIVE UP
10 YOUR RIGHT TO SUBPOENA AND CALL WITNESSES ON YOUR OWN
11 BEHALF; THAT IS, SOMEONE WHO MAY TESTIFY FOR YOU.

12 DO YOU UNDERSTAND THAT, MA'AM?

13 THE DEFENDANT: YES.

14 THE COURT: NOW, MS. JEFFCOAT, DO YOU UNDERSTAND
15 THESE RIGHTS I JUST MENTIONED TO YOU?

16 THE DEFENDANT: YES.

17 THE COURT: DO YOU UNDERSTAND, MA'AM, THAT WHEN
18 YOU PLEAD GUILTY, YOU HAVE TO GIVE UP THESE CONSTITUTIONAL
19 RIGHTS?

20 THE DEFENDANT: YES.

21 THE COURT: NOW, IS THAT WHAT YOU WANT TO DO?

22 THE DEFENDANT: YES.

23 THE COURT: YOU WANT TO GIVE UP YOUR
24 CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS?

25 THE DEFENDANT: YES.

1 THE COURT: NOW, YOU REALIZE YOU WILL NOT RECEIVE
2 A JURY TRIAL ON THIS CHARGE BY PLEADING GUILTY TO IT?

3 THE DEFENDANT: YES.

4 THE COURT: ALL RIGHT.

5 ONCE AGAIN, MS. JEFFCOAT, YOU'RE PLEADING GUILTY
6 TO HOMICIDE BY CHILD ABUSE; THAT CARRIES UP TO A LIFE
7 SENTENCE. IT'S A MINIMUM SENTENCE OF TWENTY (20) YEARS.
8 WHATEVER SENTENCE THAT'S IMPOSED UPON YOU, YOU'VE GOT TO DO
9 AT LEAST 85 PERCENT OF IT.

10 DO YOU UNDERSTAND THAT?

11 THE DEFENDANT: YES.

12 THE COURT: NOW, YOU'RE GIVING UP ALL YOUR
13 CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS, MS. JEFFCOAT. CONSIDERING WHAT I
14 JUST SAID TO YOU ABOUT THE PENALTY INVOLVED UP TO A LIFE
15 SENTENCE, A MINIMUM OF TWENTY (20) YEARS, YOU'VE GOT TO DO
16 85 PERCENT OF THAT, AND THE FACT THAT YOU'RE GIVING UP ALL
17 YOUR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS, I'LL ASK YOU, ONCE AGAIN, HOW
18 DO YOU WISH TO PLEAD TO THIS CHARGE, MS. JEFFCOAT, GUILTY
19 OR NOT GUILTY?

20 THE DEFENDANT: GUILTY.

21 THE COURT: DO YOU REALIZE, MS. JEFFCOAT, THAT
22 WHEN YOU PLEAD GUILTY, YOU ADMIT THE TRUTH OF THE
23 ALLEGATION CONTAINED IN THIS INDICTMENT AGAINST YOU, YOU
24 UNDERSTAND THAT?

25 THE DEFENDANT: YES.

1 THE COURT: I TELL YOU THAT, MA'AM, BECAUSE YOU
2 MAY HAVE SOME DEFENSES TO THIS CHARGE, MS. JEFFCOAT. OF
3 COURSE, I HAVE NO WAY OF KNOWING THAT. BUT YOU NEED TO
4 REALIZE THAT BY PLEADING GUILTY HERE TODAY, YOU GIVE UP ANY
5 DEFENSES YOU MAY HAVE.

6 DO YOU UNDERSTAND THAT?

7 THE DEFENDANT: YES, SIR.

8 THE COURT: ADDITIONALLY, MS. JEFFCOAT, I TELL
9 YOU THAT BECAUSE WHEN YOU WERE ARRESTED BY THE COLUMBIA
10 POLICE DEPARTMENT, YOU MAY HAVE GIVEN SOME TYPE OF
11 INCRIMINATING STATEMENT; THAT IS, MADE SOME ADMISSION OR
12 CONFESSION ABOUT YOUR GUILT. YOU NEED TO REALIZE THAT BY
13 PLEADING GUILTY HERE TODAY, YOU WAIVE YOUR RIGHT TO LATER
14 ON CHALLENGE OR CONTEST, IF YOU GAVE ANY STATEMENTS,
15 WHETHER OR NOT THOSE STATEMENTS WERE TAKEN OR OBTAINED FROM
16 YOU FREELY AND VOLUNTARILY AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH YOUR
17 CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS.

18 DO YOU UNDERSTAND THAT?

19 THE DEFENDANT: YES.

20 THE COURT: NOW, MS. JEFFCOAT, I'LL ASK YOU, ONCE
21 AGAIN, DID YOU COMMIT THIS OFFENSE?

22 THE DEFENDANT: YES.

23 THE COURT: SO, ONCE AGAIN, MS. JEFFCOAT, YOU'RE
24 TELLING ME YOU'RE PLEADING GUILTY TO INDICTMENT NUMBER
25 2003-6366, HOMICIDE BY CHILD ABUSE, MA'AM, BECAUSE YOU DID,

1 IN FACT, HERE IN RICHLAND COUNTY ON OR ABOUT AUGUST THE
2 10TH OF 2003, CAUSE THE DEATH OF A CHILD UNDER THE AGE OF
3 ELEVEN YEARS, AKIDRAH JEFFCOAT, WHILE COMMITTING CHILD
4 ABUSE OR NEGLECT, AND THE DEATH OCCURRED UNDER
5 CIRCUMSTANCES MANIFESTING AN EXTREME INDIFFERENCE TO HUMAN
6 LIFE.

7 DO YOU UNDERSTAND ALL THIS ONCE AGAIN?

8 THE DEFENDANT: YES.

9 THE COURT: AND, ONCE AGAIN, YOU WANT TO PLEAD
10 GUILTY TO THIS, IS THAT CORRECT?

11 THE DEFENDANT: YES.

12 THE COURT: ALL RIGHT.

13 SOLICITOR, HAVE THERE BEEN ANY PLEA NEGOTIATIONS?

14 MR. MEADORS: THERE HAVE NOT, SIR.

15 THE COURT: IS THAT CORRECT, MS. AHRENS?

16 MS. AHRENS: THAT'S CORRECT, YOUR HONOR.

17 THE COURT: ANYTHING ADDITIONAL NEEDS TO BE ADDED
18 TO THE RECORD IN CONNECTION WITH ANY PLEA NEGOTIATIONS OR
19 ANY RECOMMENDATIONS?

20 MR. MEADORS: NOTHING FROM THE STATE.

21 THE COURT: IS THAT CORRECT?

22 MS. AHRENS: NOTHING FROM THE DEFENSE.

23 THE COURT: YOU STILL WISH TO PLEAD GUILTY, MS.
24 JEFFCOAT?

25 THE DEFENDANT: YES.

1 THE COURT: NOW, HAS ANYONE PROMISED YOU ANYTHING
2 OR HELD OUT ANY HOPE OF REWARD IN ORDER TO GET YOU TO PLEAD
3 GUILTY?

4 THE DEFENDANT: NO, SIR.

5 THE COURT: HAS ANYONE THREATENED YOU OR USED
6 FORCE TO GET YOU TO PLEAD GUILTY?

7 THE DEFENDANT: NO.

8 THE COURT: HAS ANYONE USED ANY PRESSURE OR
9 INTIMIDATION TO CAUSE YOU TO PLEAD GUILTY?

10 THE DEFENDANT: NO, SIR.

11 THE COURT: HAVE YOU HAD ENOUGH TIME TO MAKE UP
12 YOUR MIND AS TO WHETHER OR NOT YOU WANT TO PLEAD GUILTY?

13 THE DEFENDANT: YES.

14 THE COURT: ARE YOU PLEADING GUILTY OF YOUR OWN
15 FREEWILL AND ACCORD?

16 THE DEFENDANT: YES.

17 THE COURT: NOW, MS. JEFFCOAT, ARE YOU SATISFIED
18 WITH THE MANNER IN WHICH YOUR LAWYER HERE, MS. AHRENS, HAS
19 ADVISED AND REPRESENTED YOU ON THIS CHARGE?

20 THE DEFENDANT: YES.

21 THE COURT: HAVE YOU TALKED WITH HER FOR AS LONG
22 AND FOR AS OFTEN AS YOU FEEL IT NECESSARY FOR HER TO
23 PROPERLY REPRESENT YOU?

24 THE DEFENDANT: YES.

25 THE COURT: DO YOU NEED ANY MORE TIME TO TALK TO

1 HER?

2 THE DEFENDANT: NO.

3 THE COURT: HAVE YOU UNDERSTOOD YOUR TALKS WITH
4 HER?

5 THE DEFENDANT: CAN YOU REPEAT THAT?

6 THE COURT: HAVE YOU UNDERSTOOD YOUR TALKS WITH
7 YOUR LAWYER, MS. AHRENS?

8 THE DEFENDANT: YES.

9 THE COURT: NOW, MS. JEFFCOAT, HAS MS. AHRENS
10 DONE EVERYTHING FOR YOU, YOU FEEL SHE SHOULD DO OR COULD DO
11 ON YOUR BEHALF IN ADVISING AND REPRESENTING YOU ON THIS
12 CHARGE?

13 THE DEFENDANT: YES.

14 THE COURT: HAS SHE DONE ANYTHING YOU FEEL SHE
15 SHOULD NOT HAVE DONE?

16 THE DEFENDANT: NO.

17 THE COURT: ARE YOU COMPLETELY SATISFIED WITH HER
18 SERVICES?

19 THE DEFENDANT: YES.

20 THE COURT: NOW, MS. JEFFCOAT, DO YOU HAVE ANY
21 COMPLAINTS AGAINST ANYONE AT THE COLUMBIA POLICE
22 DEPARTMENT?

23 THE DEFENDANT: NO.

24 THE COURT: DO YOU HAVE ANY COMPLAINTS AGAINST
25 ANYONE WORKING HERE IN THE SOLICITOR'S OFFICE?

1 THE DEFENDANT: NO.

2 THE COURT: HAVE YOU UNDERSTOOD MY QUESTIONS, MS.
3 JEFFCOAT?

4 THE DEFENDANT: YES.

5 THE COURT: IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WANT TO ASK ME
6 ABOUT WHAT I JUST WENT OVER WITH YOU, ANYTHING AT ALL?

7 THE DEFENDANT: NO.

8 THE COURT: MS. JEFFCOAT, YOU REALIZE THAT YOU
9 HAVE A RIGHT TO APPEAL THIS GUILTY PLEA AND WHATEVER
10 SENTENCE I MAY IMPOSE UPON YOU, BUT IF YOU ARE GOING TO
11 APPEAL, YOU NEED TO FILE A NOTICE OF INTENT TO APPEAL
12 WITHIN TEN DAYS OF TODAY'S DATE.

13 DO YOU UNDERSTAND THAT?

14 THE DEFENDANT: YES.

15 THE COURT: ADDITIONALLY, MS. JEFFCOAT, I WILL
16 TELL YOU IT MAY NOT MEAN MUCH TO YOU NOW, BUT IT COULD
17 LATER ON THAT ONCE YOU ARE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF
18 CORRECTIONS, IF YOU LATER ON DISCOVER OR FIND OUT THAT YOU
19 DO, IN FACT, HAVE SOME COMPLAINTS AGAINST YOUR LAWYER, MS.
20 AHRENS, AGAINST THE COLUMBIA POLICE DEPARTMENT, AGAINST THE
21 SOLICITOR'S OFFICE, OR ANYBODY ELSE INVOLVED IN YOUR CASE,
22 YOU NEED TO MAKE THOSE COMPLAINTS KNOWN BY FILING A
23 POST-CONVICTION-RELIEF APPLICATION WITHIN ONE YEAR OF
24 TODAY'S DATE.

25 DO YOU UNDERSTAND THAT?

1 THE DEFENDANT: YES.

2 THE COURT: VERY WELL, SOLICITOR, I'LL BE HAPPY
3 TO HEAR ABOUT IT.

4 MR. MEADORS: MAY IT PLEASE, YOUR HONOR.

5 JUDGE, JUST TO INITIALLY, SET THE SCENE---

6 THE COURT: YES, SIR.

7 MR. MEADORS: ---HOPEFULLY FOR YOUR BENEFIT.

8 AS TO THE PLAYERS AND HOW THEY FIT INTO THIS.

9 JUDGE, THE DEFENDANT, TIFFANY JEFFCOAT, IS

10 ~~STANDING BY ANTHONY JEFFCOAT. THEY ARE NOW HUSBAND AND~~
11 WIFE AND, I BELIEVE, THEY WERE MARRIED ROUGHLY IN MAY OF
12 2003. THERE'S A NINE-MONTH-OLD CHILD GABRIEL WHO WAS IN
13 THE HOME AT THAT TIME. ANTHONY JEFFCOAT WAS THE FORMER
14 HUSBAND OF THE DECEASED'S MOTHER, IF YOU WILL, YOUR HONOR,
15 AKISHA RUTH TRAPP. SHE IS BEHIND ME RIGHT HERE IN THIS
16 SHIRT RIGHT HERE, YOUR HONOR(INDICATES).

17 THEY HAD THE VICTIM TOGETHER -- AT THE TIME --
18 THE VICTIM WAS BORN ON JANUARY 29TH OF 2002 -- AT THE TIME
19 OF THIS INCIDENT, I BELIEVE, THE VICTIM, AKIDRAH JEFFCOAT,
20 WOULD HAVE BEEN 18-MONTHS-OLD.

21 JUDGE, AFTER THEY SEPARATED -- ABOUT FOUR MONTHS
22 PRIOR TO THIS INCIDENT, THERE WAS AN ARRANGEMENT WHERE
23 BETWEEN FRIDAYS AND MONDAYS OF EVERY WEEK -- FRIDAY AND
24 MONDAY EVERY OTHER WEEK, AKIDRAH JEFFCOAT, WOULD COME VISIT
25 WITH HER FATHER, ANTHONY JEFFCOAT, AND THE DEFENDANT WHO

1 WERE LIVING THERE TOGETHER. THAT WENT ON SEVERAL MONTHS
2 LEADING UP TO THIS INCIDENT, JUDGE.

3 THIS INCIDENT HAPPENED ON AUGUST 10TH OF 2003, AT
4 918 HANCOCK STREET -- OF COURSE, THAT IS IN THE CITY LIMITS
5 OF COLUMBIA IN RICHLAND COUNTY. JUDGE, AS HAD BEEN THE
6 PRIOR FEW MONTHS, AKIDRAH GOT WITH THIS HOUSEHOLD, I
7 BELIEVE, ON FRIDAY. ROUGHLY, I THINK IT WOULD BE DECEMBER
8 8TH. WAS DROPPED OFF THERE AS PART OF THE VISITATION.

9 JUDGE, IF I COULD MOVE ON TO DECEMBER 10TH
10 SPECIFICALLY, THE DATE OF THIS INCIDENT.

11 ANTHONY JEFFCOAT WAS WORKING TWO JOBS I BELIEVE.
12 THIS WAS A SUNDAY; AND, I BELIEVE, HE WORKED FIRST THAT
13 MORNING AT BI-LO. HE WAS DROPPED OFF THERE. WHEN HE GOT
14 THROUGH WITH BI-LO, HE HAD A JOB AT CAPTAIN D'S UP ON
15 GARNERS FERRY ROAD. YOUR HONOR MAY KNOW WHERE IT IS.

16 AT THAT POINT, HE WAS TAKEN UP TO CAPTAIN D'S BY
17 THE DEFENDANT, TIFFANY JEFFCOAT; AND, PERHAPS, MAYBE SOME
18 OTHER FOLKS. DROPPED OFF AT CAPTAIN D'S. WE MOVE DOWN TO
19 THE HEART OF THIS MATTER, YOUR HONOR, IF YOU WILL, IT'S
20 ROUGHLY 8:00 TO 8:30 ON AUGUST 10TH, 2003 AT 918 HANCOCK
21 HERE IN COLUMBIA.

22 JUDGE, ACCORDING TO MS. JEFFCOAT'S STATEMENT, SHE
23 HAD TOLD AKIDRAH JEFFCOAT TO GO TAKE A BATH. AKIDRAH
24 DIDN'T WANT TO AND IN A PART OF HER STATEMENT, SHE SAID
25 AKIDRAH WAS SPOILED AND SHE DIDN'T LIKE SPOILING CHILDREN.

1 GABRIEL, HER CHILD, I BELIEVE, WAS ASLEEP OR
2 TRYING TO SLEEP. SHE HIT -- IN HER FINAL STATEMENT -- I'LL
3 GET TO SOME OF HER PREVIOUS STATEMENTS, BUT IN THE FINAL
4 STATEMENT SHE GAVE, SHE HIT AKIDRAH, THE 17-MONTH-OLD,
5 SEVEN TIMES WITH A PADDLE. SHE THEN SAYS IN HER STATEMENT
6 THAT SHE WENT AHEAD AND HIM -- PUT AKIDRAH IN THE BATHTUB
7 AND HER CAR ALARM WENT OFF, SHE CAME BACK, GOT AKIDRAH OUT
8 OF THE BATHTUB, TRIED TO LAY HER DOWN ON A PALLET WHERE SHE
9 IN A ROOM THERE AT 918 HANCOCK.

10 AT THIS TIME, SHE SAID AKIDRAH WAS WHINING --
11 CRYING, WHINING. GABRIEL, HER CHILD, WHO WAS
12 NINE-MONTHS-OLD, AS I STATED, WAS TRYING TO SLEEP. SHE
13 PICKED AKIDRAH UP IN AN ATTEMPT TO STOP HER FROM WHINING,
14 PUT HER HAND OVER HER MOUTH, PUT HER BACK DOWN. SHE STILL
15 WAS CRYING. PICKED HER BACK UP, PUT HER HAND OVER HER
16 MOUTH AGAIN.

17 AND, YOUR HONOR, AS SHE ADMITTED, SHE ADMITTED TO
18 KILLING AKIDRAH AND HITTING HER SEVERAL TIMES WITH A PADDLE
19 AND PLACING HER HAND OVER AKIDRAH'S MOUTH AND UP AGAINST
20 HER NOSE UNTIL SHE BECAME SILENT.

21 AND, JUDGE, AT THIS POINT, RESPECTFULLY, I JUST
22 WANT TO REFER SPECIFICALLY, AFTER SHE SAID SHE HAD HIT THE
23 CHILD, SHE TOLD HER TO BE QUIET, PUT HER HAND OVER
24 AKIDRAH'S MOUTH. THE FIRST TIME I PUT MY HANDS OVER
25 AKIDRAH'S MOUTH, I LAID HER ON A PALLET THAT WAS ON THE

1 FLOOR. I PICKED AKIDRAH UP BECAUSE SHE KEPT ON WHINING AND
2 I DIDN'T WANT AKIDRAH TO WAKE GABRIEL UP. SO I SAT ON THE
3 BED AND PUT MY HANDS OVER AKIDRAH'S MOUTH AGAIN. SHE WAS
4 STILL WHINING. SO, I LAID HER BACK ON THE FLOOR AND PUT MY
5 HANDS BACK OVER HER MOUTH. AKIDRAH STOPPED CRYING. I
6 COVERED HER UP WITH A BLUE AND WHITE BLANKET. I LAID
7 ACROSS THE BED UNTIL IT WAS TIME TO GO AND GET ANTHONY FROM
8 WORK.

9 JUDGE, THE REASON I GO INTO THAT DETAIL, THAT'S
10 ROUGHLY, WE THINK, 8:30. ANTHONY IS AT WORK AT CAPTAIN
11 D'S, AS I STATED. AT ABOUT 9:45, SHE CALLS AND ANTHONY
12 SAYS, WHY DON'T YOU HEAD ON OVER HERE TO PICK ME UP? SHE
13 TAKES AKIDRAH AND GABRIEL AND PUTS THEM IN THEIR VEHICLE
14 AND GOES AND PICKS UP ANTHONY FROM CAPTAIN D'S ON GARNERS
15 FERRY ROAD. AKIDRAH IS DEAD AT THIS POINT. AS I'LL
16 EXPLAIN LATER, THIS COMES THROUGH SOME OF THE TESTIMONY --
17 SOME OF THE EVIDENCE MS. CAMPBELL IS GOING TO PRESENT. WE
18 BELIEVE SHE TOOK AKIDRAH, KNEW THAT SHE WAS DEAD, PUT HER
19 IN THE CAR AND WENT TO PICK UP ANTHONY. CAME BACK TO 918
20 HANCOCK ROAD, PUT AKIDRAH DOWN ON THE PALLET; PUT GABRIEL
21 TO BED. THEY THEN SAID THEY PLAYED SOME CARDS, THEY TOOK
22 SHOWERS, AND WENT ON TO BED.

23 SHORTLY AFTER 12 O'CLOCK, NOW MOVING INTO AUGUST
24 THE 11TH OF 2003, GABRIEL STARTS CRYING. I BELIEVE MS.
25 JEFFCOAT GETS UP, GOES AND CHECKS ON GABRIEL, GIVES HIM A

1 BOTTLE -- THE BOTTLE MAY HAVE FELL OUT OF HIS MOUTH -- GOES
2 BACK AND GIVES IT TO HIM AGAIN.

3 AT THAT POINT, SHE NOTIFIES ANTHONY THAT SHE
4 THINGS SOMETHING IS WRONG WITH AKIDRAH. RESPECTFULLY, I
5 THINK SHE KNEW SOMETHING WAS WRONG WITH AKIDRAH FOR SEVERAL
6 HOURS AT THAT POINT. 911 IS CALLED. I THINK THE CALL WAS
7 DISCONNECTED. 911 CALLS BACK. HE THEN GETS ON THE PHONE.
8 THERE'S A PHONE CALL WITH ANTHONY JEFFCOAT AND THE
9 AUTHORITIES AT 911.

10 IN THE BACKGROUND, IF YOU LISTEN TO THAT -- MS.
11 CAMPBELL HAD BROUGHT THIS TO MY ATTENTION -- I THINK YOU
12 CAN HEAR HER SAYING SHE DIDN'T MEAN TO DO IT.

13 JUDGE, E.M.S. RESPONDS -- RESPONDS TO THE SCENE.
14 WHEN THEY GET THERE -- WE'VE MET WITH ALL THE E.M.T.
15 OFFICERS -- THEY SAID THE CHILD WAS IN FULL RIGOR MORTIS,
16 WHICH BASED ON THEIR EXPERIENCE, WOULD BE SEVERAL HOURS
17 THIS CHILD WAS DEAD. THEY CONTINUED TO WORK ON AKIDRAH AS
18 THEY'RE TAUGHT TO DO. THEY MEET, I BELIEVE, JOANNA
19 INNIS(PHONETICALLY) ON THE WAY AND SHE GETS IN THE
20 AMBULANCE AND SHE LOOKS AT THE BABY AND SAYS THE ARMS WERE
21 UP LIKE THIS, LIKE RIGID, AND SHE ASKED THEM WHY ARE Y'ALL
22 DOING THIS; AND AT THAT POINT, TIFFANY JEFFCOAT IS IN THE
23 FRONT OF THE AMBULANCE AND THEY SAID WE'RE DOING THIS FOR
24 THE MOTHER. THEY WORKED ON IT UNTIL THEY CAME DOWN TO THE
25 HOSPITAL. IT WAS DR. MOBLEY, I BELIEVE, WHO'S A FIRST

1 EMERGENCY ROOM PHYSICIAN. MR. ACE WESLEY AND I WENT AND
2 MET WITH HER. AND SHE -- AS SOON AS SHE CAME IN, SHE SAID,
3 THE CHILD WAS IN FULL RIGOR MORTIS AND HER OPINION WOULD
4 HAVE BEEN DEAD SEVERAL HOURS.

5 JUDGE, MS. JEFFCOAT'S FIRST STATEMENT SHE GAVE
6 WAS THAT AKIDRAH FELL IN THE BATHTUB, SHE HAD A KNOT ON HER
7 HEAD. SHE THOUGHT SHE WAS GOING TO BE OKAY, PUT HER TO BED
8 AND THEY DIDN'T DISCOVER THIS UNTIL LATER. IT WAS AFTER
9 INVESTIGATOR JOBY GRAY, INVESTIGATOR BULLOCK, AND
10 INVESTIGATOR R.F. SMITH, WHO ARE IN THIS COURTROOM -- AND I
11 WANT THE RECORD TO REFLECT THE COLUMBIA POLICE DEPARTMENT
12 DID AN OUTSTANDING JOB ON THIS CASE -- AFTER THEY HAD
13 TALKED WITH HER, CONFRONTED HER WITH SOME OF THE SITUATION,
14 INVESTIGATOR SMITH THEN TOOK A FULL WRITTEN AND COMPLETE
15 STATEMENT FROM HER WHERE SHE ADMITTED TO HITTING THIS CHILD
16 AND SUFFOCATING IT.

17 JUDGE, MS. CAMPBELL, I THINK, AT THIS TIME, IF
18 IT'S ALL RIGHT WITH YOUR HONOR, WOULD BRIEFLY LIKE TO
19 EXPLAIN THE CAUSE OF DEATH, YOUR HONOR, FROM THE INJURIES.

20 THE COURT: ALL RIGHT.

21 MS. CAMPBELL: YOUR HONOR, AN AUTOPSY WAS
22 PERFORMED AT RICHLAND MEMORIAL HOSPITAL ON AUGUST THE 11TH
23 OF 2003, AROUND 10:30 THAT MORNING.

24 AT THAT POINT, DR. CLAY NICHOLS WAS ABLE TO
25 DETERMINE THAT THE ACTUAL CAUSE OF DEATH WAS ASPHYXIATION

1 DUE TO MANUAL SUFFOCATION. HE NOTED THAT IN THE OUTER
2 EXAMINATION, THERE WERE MULTIPLE ABRASIONS AND CONTUSIONS
3 OR BRUISING ALL OVER THE CHILD. SIGNIFICANT AS TO HIS
4 FINDING OF ASPHYXIATION DUE TO MANUAL SUFFOCATION -- AND
5 I'LL GET TO THE INTERNAL IN A MINUTE -- THERE WERE
6 SYMMETRICAL CONTUSIONS AND ABRASIONS ON THE NOSTRILS, WHICH
7 WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH SOMEONE HOLDING THEIR HAND OVER
8 THE MOUTH, AS WELL AS THE NOSE. HOLDING IT HARD.

9 THERE WAS ALSO -- IF YOU LOOK AT HER LIP --
10 THERE'S BLEEDING IN THE NOSE THAT WAS APPARENT COMING FROM
11 THE INTERNAL OF THE NOSE; AND THE LOWER LIP, THERE WERE
12 MULTIPLE TEETH MARKS THAT WERE CONSISTENT WITH HER ACTUALLY
13 HAVING HER TEETH -- HER LIP PUSHED INTO HER TEETH SO HARD
14 THAT IT CAUSED BRUISING AROUND WHERE THE TEETH MARKS WERE
15 ACTUALLY ON HER LIP.

16 I WOULD HAND UP AT THIS TIME, YOUR HONOR -- AND
17 I'M GOING TO BE TALKING ABOUT SOME ADDITIONAL INJURIES
18 EXTERNALLY -- A NUMBER OF PHOTOGRAPHS THAT WERE TAKEN OF
19 THE CHILD.

20 THE COURT: HAVE YOU SEEN THESE, MS. AHRENS?

21 MS. AHRENS: YES, YOUR HONOR.

22 (WHEREUPON, THE PHOTOGRAPHS ARE
23 HANDED TO THE COURT AT THIS TIME.)

24 MS. CAMPBELL: AN ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTOR TO DEATH
25 WAS BLUNT TRAUMA DUE TO BEATING, WHICH WOULD BE CONSISTENT

1 WITH AN ADULT PERSON EITHER HITTING WITH A FIST OR SOME
2 TYPE OF OBJECT. THERE WERE MULTIPLE SUBCUTANEOUS
3 CONTUSIONS OR BRUISES TO THE MID-BACK AND THE BUTTOCKS.
4 THERE WERE MULTIPLE CONTUSIONS TO THE FACE. TWO CONTUSIONS
5 OR BRUISING TO THE BASE OF THE CHIN WHICH WOULD BE
6 CONSISTENT WITH SOMEONE HAVING GRABBED THE CHILD WITH
7 FINGERPRINTS. A LARGE CONTUSION TO THE RIGHT ABDOMEN.
8 MULTIPLE CONTUSIONS TO THE LEFT ABDOMEN AND A SMALL
9 CONTUSION TO THE MID-UPPER LIP.

10 THERE WAS ALSO ON THE SIDE OF THE NECK, YOUR
11 HONOR, IN ONE OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS I PUT UP, A LINEAR
12 ABRASION, WHICH WAS ABOUT THREE INCHES IN LENGTH, WHICH
13 WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH LIGATURE MARKS. PERHAPS, AN
14 ATTEMPT TO TRY TO STRANGLE THE CHILD WITH SOME KIND OF ROPE
15 OR SMALL WIRE, SOMETHING OF THAT NATURE, ON THE RIGHT SIDE
16 OF THE NECK.

17 INTERNALLY, THERE WAS ADDITIONAL TRAUMA, WHICH
18 WOULD BE SECONDARY TO THE BEATING. THE FIRST NOTING IS
19 THERE WAS ACTUALLY BRUISES TO THIS CHILD'S BRAIN FROM THE
20 TRAUMA INFLICTED ON THE HEAD.

21 IN ADDITION TO THAT, SECONDARY, IN THE ABDOMINAL
22 TRAUMA, THERE WAS ACTUALLY FREE BLOOD -- OVER A 100 CC'S OF
23 FREE BLOOD -- IN THE ABDOMINAL JUST COATING THE DIFFERENT
24 ORGANS WHERE DIFFERENT ORGANS WERE BLEEDING OUT.

25 THERE WAS A MESENTERIC HEMORRHAGE OR BLEEDING.

1 THERE WAS A HEMORRHAGE OR BLEEDING IN THE CAPSULE OF THE
2 RIGHT KIDNEY. THERE WAS ANOTHER HEMORRHAGE OR BLEEDING IN
3 THE CAPSULE OF THE RIGHT ADRENAL, WHICH IS RIGHT ABOVE THE
4 KIDNEY. THERE WAS ALSO HEMORRHAGE INTO THE CAPSULE OF THE
5 RIGHT LIVER. ALSO, MULTIPLE COLONIC -- CONTUSIONS TO THE
6 COLON; AND ALSO A CONTUSION OR BRUISING TO THE RIGHT LOWER
7 LUNG BASE.

8 THERE WAS AN ADDITIONAL MINOR ABRASION TO THE
9 BACK THAT WAS IN A HEALING STAGE THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN
10 PROBABLY MORE THAN A DAY OLD.

11 THE ACTUAL CAUSE OF DEATH WAS ASPHYXIATION DUE TO
12 MANUAL SMOTHERING.

13 MR. MEADORS: YOUR HONOR, THE DOCTOR'S OPINION TO
14 A REASONABLE DEGREE OF MEDICAL CERTAINTY, IN ADDITION TO
15 THAT, WOULD BE THAT THE INJURIES WOULD HAVE BEEN SUSTAINED
16 ROUGHLY FOUR HOURS OR SO PRIOR TO WHEN THE E.M.S. WOULD
17 HAVE ARRIVED WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN AROUND 8:30.

18 JUDGE, A COUPLE OF THINGS. ON THE TRIP, WHEN
19 AKIDRAH WAS IN THE CAR TO CAPTAIN D'S, MS. JEFFCOAT HAD
20 CONTACT WITH AKIDRAH AS FAR AS PUTTING HER IN THE CAR AND
21 GETTING HER OUT OF THE CAR; AND IT WASN'T UNTIL LATER ON
22 THAT EVENING THAT ANTHONY JEFFCOAT HAD CONTACT WITH
23 AKIDRAH.

24 IN ADDITION -- JUDGE, AND THE REASON -- THE
25 REASON WE'RE GOING OVER ALL THESE FACTS LIKE THIS IS NOT --

1 NOT TO BE CRUEL TO THE FAMILY HERE, BUT WE JUST
2 RESPECTFULLY THINK THIS IS MORE THAN A MINIMUM CASE AND WE
3 WANTED TO PUT THE FACTS IN FULL ON DETAIL AND RESPECTFULLY
4 ASK YOUR HONOR TO CONSIDER MORE THAN THE MINIMUM. AND
5 THAT'S WHY WE'RE GONE IN SOME DETAIL ON THESE FACTS.

6 JUDGE, I HAVE SOME FOLKS HERE. AT THE
7 APPROPRIATE TIME, ONLY, I BELIEVE, TWO WOULD LIKE TO
8 ADDRESS THE COURT IN THAT YOUR HONOR'S -- WHATEVER YOUR
9 HONOR TELLS ME -- I KNOW WE HAVE TWO THAT WOULD LIKE TO
10 MAKE BRIEF COMMENTS.

11 THE COURT: ALL RIGHT.

12 THANK YOU, SIR.

13 MS. JEFFCOAT, MS. AHRENS, DO YOU AGREE
14 SUBSTANTIALLY THAT IF THIS CASE HAD PROCEEDED, THAT'S
15 EXACTLY WHAT THE STATE WOULD HAVE PRESENTED, YOU'VE SEEN
16 THE AUTOPSY REPORT, YOU DON'T HAVE ANY DISAGREEMENTS WITH
17 THESE -- PRESENTATION -- NO DISAGREEMENT WITH THE
18 PRESENTATION, IS THAT FAIR ENOUGH?

19 MS. AHRENS: NO, YOUR HONOR.

20 THE COURT: DO YOU AGREE, MS. JEFFCOAT?

21 THE DEFENDANT: YES.

22 THE COURT: ALL RIGHT.

23 VERY WELL.

24 I FIND THAT THERE IS A SUBSTANTIAL FACTUAL BASIS
25 FOR YOUR PLEA, MS. JEFFCOAT. I FURTHER FIND YOUR DECISION

1 TO PLEAD GUILTY TO BE FREELY, VOLUNTARILY, KNOWINGLY, AND
2 INTELLIGENTLY MADE; THAT YOU'VE HAD THE ADVICE OF COMPETENT
3 COUNSEL WHOM YOU INDICATE TO ME YOU ARE COMPLETELY
4 SATISFIED WITH. THEREFORE, I WILL ACCEPT THIS PLEA.

5 AND AT THIS TIME, MR. MEADORS, I'LL BE HAPPY TO
6 HEAR FROM ANY ADDITIONAL PRESENTERS ON BEHALF OF THE STATE.

7 MR. MEADORS: THANK YOU.

8 YOUR HONOR, I'VE INTRODUCED AKISHA -- I DON'T
9 BELIEVE SHE WANTS TO TALK, BUT, OBVIOUSLY, SHE'S HERE

10 AND

11 THE COURT: SHE IS THE MOTHER, IS THAT CORRECT?

12 MR. MEADORS: ---THE MOTHER OF AKIDRAH. BRENDA
13 HICKMAN IS HERE, THE VICTIM'S MATERNAL GRANDMOTHER --
14 BRENDA IS BACK HERE. OBVIOUSLY, YOUR HONOR SEES HER GRIEF.
15 MICHAEL TRAPP IS HERE, MATERNAL GRANDFATHER; BRENDA
16 JEFFCOAT, PATERNAL GRANDMOTHER -- THERE'S BRENDA RIGHT
17 THERE. MICHELLE TRAPP, MATERNAL AUNT; AND PHILLIP PITTMAN
18 IS THE UNCLE.

19 ARE THERE OTHERS HERE IN THE COURTROOM? I
20 THINK THEY ARE HERE ON BEHALF -- IF YOU'LL JUST STAND?
21 THEY ARE HERE ALSO ON BEHALF OF AKIDRAH, I THINK, YOUR
22 HONOR.

23 (WHEREUPON, SEVERAL PEOPLE STAND
24 AT THIS TIME.)

25 MR. MEADORS: JUDGE, MICHAEL TRAPP, MATERNAL

1 GRANDFATHER WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK AND AFTER THAT, MS. BRENDA
2 JEFFCOAT.

3 THE COURT: ALL RIGHT.

4 MR. TRAPP.

5 MR. TRAPP: THANK YOU, SIR.

6 MY NAME IS MICHAEL TRAPP AND I AM THE GRANDFATHER
7 OF AKIDRAH TRAPP JEFFCOAT AND MY DAUGHTER AKISHA.

8 YOUR HONOR, I WOULD JUST LIKE TO SAY THAT DURING
9 THIS TIME OF THIS BAD EVENT THAT MY DAUGHTER HAS -- MY
10 FAMILY AND MY DAUGHTER HAS GONE THROUGH SO MUCH. WE HAVE
11 -- IT JUST TORE US APART, YOUR HONOR, AND TO HEAR THAT I
12 OUR -- MY GRANDDAUGHTER, HAD HER DAUGHTER DIE THE WAY SHE
13 DIED.

14 AT ONE POINT, MY DAUGHTER WAS CONTEMPLATING ON
15 COMMITTING SUICIDE BECAUSE SHE COULDN'T HANDLE IT, BUT DUE
16 TO FAMILY LOVE AND THE TOUGHNESS OF HER THAT SHE GOT
17 HERSELF TOGETHER, GOT HER THOUGHTS TOGETHER, GOT HERSELF
18 TOGETHER AND DECIDED TO -- NOT TO COMMIT THAT CRIME.

19 BUT DURING THIS TIME, THOUGH, THE FAMILY WAS TORE
20 APART. WAS TORE -- ALMOST DEVASTATED, WE WAS TORN APART,
21 BUT WE REMAINED STRONG FOR AKIDRAH SO WE CAN HAVE JUSTICE
22 DONE FOR HER AND IT WAS HARD ON US AND IT WAS HARD -- AND
23 TO THIS DAY, IT'S STILL HARD ON US. BUT WITH THE HELP OF
24 FAMILY AND THE FRIENDS THAT WE GOT -- FINALLY GOT OURSELVES
25 TOGETHER AND I'M HERE TO REPRESENT THE FAMILY THAT TO LET

1 YOU KNOW THAT WE'RE -- WE'RE -- THAT IT WAS ROUGH DURING
2 THOSE MONTHS THAT -- UNTIL THIS DAY. THAT WE'RE HERE TO
3 MAKE SURE JUSTICE IS SERVED SO WE CAN PUT AKIDRAH TO -- SO
4 SHE CAN REST IN PEACE AND WE CAN MOVE ON WITH OUR LIVES AND
5 THAT'S---

6 THE COURT: THANK YOU, SIR.

7 MR. MEADORS: YOUR HONOR, BRENDA JEFFCOAT, THE
8 PATERNAL GRANDMOTHER WOULD LIKE TO ADDRESS YOUR HONOR.

9 MS. BRENDA JEFFCOAT: YOUR HONOR, MY NAME IS
10 BRENDA JEFFCOAT---

11 THE COURT: YES, MA'AM.

12 MS. BRENDA JEFFCOAT: I'M ANTHONY JEFFCOAT'S
13 MOTHER AND AKIDRAH JEFFCOAT IS MY GRANDBABY. AND WHEN I
14 FIRST LEARNED THAT TIFFANY WAS ABUSING MY GRANDBABY, I
15 CONFRONTED HER AND MY SON. BUT MY SON, GOD KNOWS, I KNOW
16 HE HAD TO WORK AND EVERYTHING, BUT TIFFANY SHE WAS -- SHE'S
17 JUST SO RUDE AND DISRESPECTFUL AND WHEN I CONFRONTED HER,
18 SHE TOLD ME THAT SHE WOULD, YOU KNOW, BEAT UP ON ME IF I
19 WOULD LET HER. BUT ANYWAY -- BUT ANYWAY, SHE CONTINUED TO
20 ABUSE MY GRANDBABY UNTIL SHE KILLED HER AND SHE'S TORN --
21 JUST TORN MY FAMILY APART. ME AND MY SON WAS VERY CLOSE
22 BEFORE SHE CAME IN OUR FAMILY AND AFTER THEY GOT TOGETHER,
23 WE WAS STILL CLOSE, BUT WHEN I LEARNED THAT SHE WAS ABUSING
24 MY GRANDBABY, THAT'S WHEN HE SEPARATED HIMSELF FROM ME AND
25 HIS OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS ALSO. HE'S GOT THREE BROTHERS.

1 AND IT'S JUST TORN US APART AND I'M ON MEDICATION BECAUSE
2 OF THIS. I LOVE MY GRANDBABY. I LOVE HER AND I KNOW HER
3 SPIRIT IS IN HEAVEN. AND TIFFANY, SHE MURDERED MY
4 GRANDBABY. SHE KILLED ABUSIVELY AND SHE NEEDS TO GET WHAT
5 SHE DESERVES. AND JUST BECAUSE SHE SAID SHE'S GUILTY,
6 THAT'S NOT ENOUGH. TWENTY YEARS IS NOT ENOUGH. SHE NEEDS
7 THE ELECTRIC CHAIR. THAT'S WHAT SHE NEEDS. THAT'S WHAT
8 SHE NEEDS.

9 THE COURT: ALL RIGHT.

10 THANK YOU.

11 MS. BRENDA JEFFCOAT: THANK YOU.

12 MR. MEADORS: YOUR HONOR -- IF YOU WOULD ALLOW
13 US, AKISHA TRAPP, THE MOTHER, HAS DECIDED SHE WANTS TO SAY
14 A BRIEF WORD---

15 THE COURT: BE HAPPY TO HEAR FROM HER.

16 MR. MEADORS: ---LIKE TO SOMETHING ALSO.

17 MS. TRAPP: THIS IS A HARD TIME. I'VE BEEN
18 THROUGH SOME TOUGH TIMES, BUT AT THE SAME TIME I STAY
19 STRONG.

20 NOW, I'VE GOT A TWO-WEEK-OLD BABY THAT WILL NEVER
21 SEE HER SISTER. ONLY THING SHE DOESN'T KNOW IS HER
22 MEMORIES.

23 MR. MEADORS: YOUR HONOR, THANK YOU. I BELIEVE
24 THAT'S IT.

25 I WAS GOING TO CLOSE WITH THAT. SHE JUST HAD A

1 CHILD THAT'S TWO-WEEKS-OLD. SO THERE'S A NEW LIFE THAT'S
2 COME OUT OF THIS. THIS WHOLE FAMILY, OBVIOUSLY ALL LOVED
3 AKIDRAH.

4 THAT'S ALL WE HAVE.

5 THANK YOU.

6 THE COURT: ALL RIGHT, SIR.

7 THANK YOU, MR. MEADORS, MS. CAMPBELL.

8 MS. AHRENS, I'LL BE HAPPY TO HEAR FROM YOU,
9 MA'AM.

10 MS. AHRENS: CERTAINLY, YOUR HONOR.

11 I'M HERE ON BEHALF, OF COURSE, TIFFANY JEFFCOAT.
12 ALSO STANDING WITH ME, AS THE STATE HAS INDICATED, IS
13 ANTHONY JEFFCOAT, MS. JEFFCOAT'S HUSBAND. THEY MARRIED IN
14 MAY OF 2003. THEY'VE BEEN TOGETHER SINCE THEN. MR.
15 JEFFCOAT IS A VICTIM IN THIS. I KNOW AT SOME POINT, HE
16 WOULD LIKE TO ADDRESS THE COURT.

17 YOUR HONOR, I THINK AT THIS TIME OF YEAR ALL OUR
18 THOUGHTS ARE TURNING SORT OF TO THE HOLIDAYS AND IN MY
19 FAITH, IN THE JEWISH FAITH, ONE OF THE THINGS THAT WE DO
20 WITH THE HOLIDAYS IS WE SORT OF LOOK AT DIFFERENT PASSAGES
21 FROM THE BIBLE AND WE SIT AROUND AND WE DEBATE WHAT THEY
22 MEAN. AND THERE'S A PARTICULAR LINE. WHEN WE TALK ABOUT
23 ALL THE DAYS OF ONE'S LIFE, DO WE MEAN ALL THE DAYS OF
24 ONE'S LIFE OR DO WE MEAN ALL THE DAYS AND THE NIGHTS OF
25 ONE'S LIFE AS WELL.

1 AND I FEEL LIKE IN THIS CASE, WE'RE REALLY
2 HEARING ABOUT THE NIGHT OF TIFFANY JEFFCOAT'S LIFE. THE
3 WORST, WORST POSSIBLE MOMENT OF HER LIFE, THE WORST
4 POSSIBLE MOMENT OF ALL THESE PEOPLES' LIVES AS WELL. AND I
5 HAVE TO TELL YOU, YOUR HONOR, ABOUT THE DAYS OF HER LIFE.

6 SHE'S A WHOLE PERSON. THERE ARE A LOT OF THINGS
7 TO KNOW ABOUT MS. JEFFCOAT AND THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE
8 HERE IN HER SUPPORT TODAY.

9 IF I COULD JUST HAVE THE PEOPLE WHO ARE HERE FOR
10 MS. JEFFCOAT TODAY JUST STAND WHERE YOU ARE.

11 (WHEREUPON, A GROUP OF PEOPLE
12 STOOD AT THIS TIME.)

13 MS. AHRENS: THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

14 MEMBERS OF HER FAMILY, MEMBERS OF HER COMMUNITY.
15 SHE'S A JEHOVAH'S WITNESS WHO IS A MEMBER OF THE KINGDOM
16 HALL AND HAS BEEN VERY STRONG IN HER FAITH. IT'S COME UP A
17 LOT IN OUR DISCUSSIONS AND PART OF HER REASON FOR WANTING
18 TO ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY HERE TODAY, YOUR HONOR.

19 AS SHE'S TOLD YOU, SHE'S 25-YEARS-OLD. AT THE
20 TIME THIS OCCURRED, SHE WAS 23-YEARS-OLD. SHE DOES HAVE AN
21 EDUCATION. SHE IS A CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANT. PENDING
22 THE RESULTS OF ALL THIS, OF COURSE, SHE HASN'T BEEN
23 WORKING, BUT SHE DOES HAVE SKILLS. SHE DOES HAVE THINGS
24 THAT SHE CAN -- SHE CAN HAVE A LIFE WITH. SHE DOES, AS
25 YOU'VE HEARD, HAVE A SON, GABRIEL, HER BIOLOGICAL SON, WHO

1 WAS NINE-MONTHS-OLD WHEN THIS HAPPENED. HE'S ABOUT
2 TWO-YEARS-OLD RIGHT NOW. SO SHE WILL NEVER HAVE A
3 MOTHER-SON RELATIONSHIP. HE WAS REMOVED FROM HER CUSTODY
4 AFTER THIS HAPPENED. SHE HAS NOT HAD HIS PHYSICAL CUSTODY
5 SINCE THAT TIME.

6 YOUR HONOR, I REALLY DON'T THINK THAT ANYTHING
7 SPEAKS MORE OF MS. JEFFCOAT THAN THE FACT THAT SHE CAME IN
8 HERE TODAY KNOWING THAT SHE IS GOING TO SPEND THE REST OF
9 HER PRODUCTIVE YEARS IN PRISON, THAT SHE IS GOING TO BE
10 AWAY FROM HER FAMILY, THAT SHE IS GOING TO BE AWAY FROM HER
11 HUSBAND; THAT SHE'S NEVER GOING TO HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH
12 HER CHILD THAT WOULD BE ANYTHING A MOTHER WOULD WANT TO
13 HAVE WITH HER CHILD. SHE WALKED IN HERE TODAY ON HER OWN
14 TWO FEET TO DO THAT. AND WHEN I TOLD MEMBERS OF MY OFFICE,
15 EVEN MEMBERS OF THE SOLICITOR'S OFFICE THAT SHE WAS GOING
16 TO DO THAT TODAY, NOBODY BELIEVED ME. BUT I BELIEVED IT
17 BECAUSE I HAVE SPOKEN TO HER ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS AND I
18 KNEW THAT THAT WAS WHAT SHE WAS GOING TO DO. I WAS
19 ABSOLUTELY SURE THAT THAT WAS WHAT SHE WAS GOING TO DO.

20 YOUR HONOR, MS. JEFFCOAT HAS NO PRIOR CRIMINAL
21 HISTORY. SHE HAS NO PRIOR D.S.S. HISTORY. IN SOME OF
22 THESE CASES WHERE WE LOOK AT THE EXAMINATION OF THE CHILD,
23 A LOT OF TIMES, THE CHILD HAS BEEN ABUSED FOR YEARS.
24 THAT'S NOT THE CASE HERE. THIS IS SOMEONE WHO HAS NO
25 EXPLANATION FOR HOW THIS HAPPENED, YOUR HONOR. I'M NOT

1 SURE THERE WILL EVER BE AN EXPLANATION, BUT WHO DOES HAVE A
2 STRONG FAMILY, A STRONG FAITH, A STRONG COMMUNITY, A
3 HUSBAND, WHO IS A VICTIM IN THIS, WHO HAS STOOD BY HER.

4 AND RESPECTFULLY, YOUR HONOR, WE WOULD ASK YOU TO
5 CONSIDER GIVING HER A TWENTY-YEAR SENTENCE.

6 YOUR HONOR, I KNOW THAT MS. JEFFCOAT AND MR.
7 JEFFCOAT WOULD LIKE TO ADDRESS THE COURT BRIEFLY.

8 THE COURT: ALL RIGHT.

9 BE HAPPY TO HEAR FROM YOU.

10 MR. JEFFCOAT, WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO FIRST, SIR?

11 MR. JEFFCOAT: YES.

12 AND---

13 THE COURT: GIVE US YOUR FULL NAME, PLEASE?

14 MR. JEFFCOAT: ANTHONY JEFFCOAT.

15 THE COURT: YES, SIR.

16 MR. JEFFCOAT: IN ALL THIS, I KNOW FAMILY MEMBERS
17 HAVE BEEN HURT AND THE FAMILY HAS BEEN TORN APART LIKE MY
18 MOTHER SAID. I LOVED AKIDRAH DEARLY. I CAN'T FATHOM
19 LIVING WITHOUT HER, BUT UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES I HAVE TO.
20 BUT I ALSO LOVE MY WIFE DEARLY AND I WILL BE BY HER SIDE.
21 AND I KNOW THAT HATRED CAN'T BE FOUGHT WITH HATRED, BUT CAN
22 ONLY BE CONQUERED WITH LOVE AND THAT'S WHAT I'M GOING TO
23 SHOW FROM HERE ON OUT TO THE FAMILY. AND I DO APOLOGIZE TO
24 EVERYBODY WHO HAS BEEN HURT, ALL FAMILY MEMBERS AND EVEN
25 THE STATE FOR GOING THROUGH THIS.

1 THE COURT: ALL RIGHT.

2 THANK YOU, SIR.

3 ALL RIGHT, MS. JEFFCOAT, IS THERE ANYTHING YOU
4 WOULD LIKE TO TELL ME?

5 THE DEFENDANT: YES.

6 I JUST WANT TO SAY I'M SORRY.

7 MS. AHRENS: YOUR HONOR, JUST IN CONCLUSION, I
8 WOULD WANT TO SAY THAT MS. JEFFCOAT -- ANOTHER REASON THAT
9 SHE AGREED TO DO THIS WAS CERTAINLY YOU SEE HOW VERY UPSET
10 THE FAMILY IS -- AND, YOUR HONOR KNOWS I HAVE A
11 TWO-YEAR-OLD CHILD -- I CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT THEY'RE GOING
12 THROUGH. SHE REALLY WANTED TO PREVENT THEM FROM HAVING TO
13 GO THROUGH A TRIAL AND HEARING ALL THE DETAILS THAT WOULD
14 HAVE COME OUT.

15 SHE SPENT ABOUT A WEEK IN JAIL ORIGINALLY BEFORE
16 HER FAMILY AND COMMUNITY BONDED HER OUT OF JAIL. I SPOKE
17 TO SAMUEL MOKEBA THIS MORNING WHO USED TO REPRESENT MS.
18 JEFFCOAT BEFORE HE LEFT OUR OFFICE; AND BOTH OF US IN
19 SPEAKING OF MS. JEFFCOAT, ONE OF THE THINGS THAT WE BOTH
20 REMARKED ON THE DEMEANOR YOU SEE HERE TODAY IS THE ONLY
21 DEMEANOR I'VE EVER SEEN MS. JEFFCOAT HAVE. SHE HAS NEVER
22 RAISED HER VOICE TO ME, HAD ANY SORT OF TEMPER. SHE HAS
23 ALWAYS PRESENTED EXACTLY LIKE THIS TO BOTH OF US. I'M JUST
24 SORT OF AT A LOSS AS TO HOW SOMETHING LIKE THIS COULD HAVE
25 HAPPENED. SHE HAS ALWAYS BEEN EXTREMELY RESPECTFUL; SHE

1 WAS COOPERATIVE WITH THE POLICE IN TERMS OF WITHIN 24 HOURS
2 OF THIS HAPPENING LETTING THEM KNOW WHAT HAD HAPPENED.

3 JUST IN CONCLUSION, I WOULD ASK YOU TO ACCEPT HER
4 ACCEPTANCE OF RESPONSIBILITY TO THAT.

5 THE COURT: ALL RIGHT.

6 THANK YOU, MS. AHRENS.

7 ANYTHING FURTHER FROM ANYONE?

8 MR. MEADORS: NO, SIR.

9 THE COURT: YOU KNOW FOR THOSE OF YOU HAVE KNOWN
10 ~~ME FOR AWHILE, I DON'T LIKE TO SAY ANYTHING HARDLY AT~~
11 SENTENCING. I GUESS, IT'S APPROPRIATE TO SAY A FEW THINGS
12 HERE.

13 I THANK MR. MEADORS AND MS. CAMPBELL ON BEHALF OF
14 THE STATE FOR YOUR PRESENTATION. I KNOW IT HAD TO BE A
15 DIFFICULT JOB.

16 AND MS. AHRENS, PERHAPS, YOURS WAS EVEN MORE
17 DIFFICULT UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

18 I WISH THERE WAS SOMETHING I COULD SAY THAT COULD
19 EASE THE PAIN FELT BY EVERYBODY HERE. I WISH THERE WAS
20 SOME SENTENCE I COULD IMPOSE THAT WOULD MAKE EVERYTHING
21 RIGHT. THERE ISN'T. I GUESS THE ONLY THING I'M REMINDED
22 OF IS VENGEANCE IS NOT THE STATE'S, IT'S NOT THE JUDGE'S,
23 IT BELONGS TO SOMEONE ELSE IN ANOTHER JURISDICTION AND WE
24 ALL DO THE BEST WE CAN.

25 I GUESS A GUILTY PLEA IN RESOLVING THIS MATTER

1 STARTS THE ROAD TO REDEMPTION I DO BELIEVE TO SOME EXTENT
2 AND DEGREE. I THINK THE PENALTIES PROVIDED BY THE
3 LEGISLATURE IN THIS STATE ARE PROBABLY APPROPRIATE AND
4 FAIR, BUT THERE'S NO NUMBER, NO MATTER HOW LOW OR HOW HIGH
5 THAT I CAN COME UP WITH THAT COULD SEDUCE ANYBODY AWAY OR
6 EASE THE PAIN THAT I'M SURE THAT WILL BE FELT FROM NOW
7 UNTIL THE END OF TIME.

8 SO, IT LEAVES ME WITH A DIFFICULT JOB, BUT ONE
9 I'M PREPARED TO DO.

10 ON INDICTMENT NUMBER 2003-6366 THE STATE VERSUS
11 TIFFANY JEFFCOAT, IT'S AN INDICTMENT FOR HOMICIDE BY
12 CHILD ABUSE, SENTENCE OF THE COURT THAT YOU, TIFFANY
13 JEFFCOAT, BE COMMITTED TO THE SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF
14 CORRECTIONS FOR A PERIOD OF TWENTY-THREE (23) YEARS.

15 DO YOU UNDERSTAND YOUR SENTENCE, MS. JEFFCOAT?

16 THE DEFENDANT: YES.

17 THE COURT: GOOD LOOK TO YOU, MA'AM, AND TO THE
18 FAMILY -- TO BOTH FAMILIES, YOU HAVE MY DEEPEST SYMPATHIES
19 AND UNDERSTANDING. THERE'S JUST NO EASY WAY TO CONCLUDE
20 THIS MATTER. I WISH Y'ALL THE VERY BEST.

21 MR. MEADORS: THANK YOU VERY MUCH, YOUR HONOR.

22 THE COURT: WE'LL TAKE A LITTLE SHORT BREAK.

23 ** ** ** ** ** ** ** ** ** ** ** ** ** ** ** ** ** ** ** ** **

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)

C E R T I F I C A T E

COUNTY OF RICHLAND)

I, THE UNDERSIGNED ROBBIE KOON DEFREESE, OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER FOR THE FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING IS A TRUE, ACCURATE, AND COMPLETE TRANSCRIPT OF RECORD OF ALL THE PROCEEDINGS HAD AND EVIDENCE INTRODUCED IN THE TRIAL OF THE CAPTIONED CASE, RELATIVE TO APPEAL, IN THE GENERAL SESSIONS COURT FOR RICHLAND COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, ON THE 13TH DAY OF DECEMBER, 2004.

I DO FURTHER CERTIFY THAT I AM NEITHER OF KIN, COUNSEL NOR INTEREST TO ANY PARTY HERETO.

JANUARY 20, 2005



ROBBIE KOON DEFREESE
CIRCUIT COURT REPORTER