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SC Court of Appeals

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE COURT OF APPEALS

Appeal from Bamberg County

Honorable R. Scott Sprouse, Circuit Court Judge

THE STATE,

RESPONDENT,

V.

MYRON KAREEM SINGLETON,

APPELLANT.

APPELLATE CASE NO. 2024-000540

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	)	COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS
COUNTY OF BAMBERG	)	2022-GS-05-00151
	)	2022-GS-05-00154
	)	2022-GS-05-00155
	)	
	)	
THE STATE,	)	
PLAINTIFF,	)	
	)	
vs.	)	TRANSCRIPT OF RECORD
	)	
MYRON SINGLETON,	)	
DEFENDANT.	)	
_____	)	

June 20-22, 2023
Bamberg, South Carolina

B E F O R E:

THE HONORABLE R. SCOTT SPROUSE, JUDGE.

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Court Reporter III

I N D E X

(PW) - Denotes Plaintiff's Witness
(DW) - Denotes Defense Witness

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All Exhibits were retained by the Clerk of Court for Bamberg County.

P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 THE COURT: Can everybody hear me? I know we've got
3 fans blowing, let me know if you can't hear me.

4 Good morning, ladies and gentlemen, I'm Judge Sprouse.
5 I'm a visiting judge for this term in Bamberg County. They
6 send me down here from the big city of Walhalla all the way
7 on the other end of the State.

8 This is a term of General Sessions court, which means
9 that if you are called to serve as a juror, you will sit and
10 hear evidence in a case regarding criminal charges. This is
11 a one-week term of court, so you're subject to being called
12 as a juror this week.

13 The first order of business is to make sure everyone is
14 in the right place. If you've been called to magistrate's
15 court, municipal court or federal court, you're in the wrong
16 place.

17 Is there anyone who thinks they might be in the wrong
18 courthouse?

19 (There was no response.)

20 THE COURT: Very good. Ladies and gentlemen, we
21 understand the inconvenience that jury service poses on your
22 everyday lives. Please understand, jury service is vital to
23 our system of justice. We can't function without our
24 citizens as jurors in cases. We will do our best to
25 minimize your inconvenience and, hopefully, this will be an

1 educational experience.

2 Now, ladies and gentlemen, this initial gathering has
3 the minimal purpose of determining your eligibility and your
4 qualifications to serve as jurors. As part of this process,
5 a roll call is conducted and it's necessary for you to
6 answer questions under oath.

7 Madam Clerk, would you put our jury under oath?

8 (WHEREUPON, the jury was sworn.)

9 THE COURT: Thank you, Madam Clerk.

10 Ladies and gentlemen, the clerk is now going to call
11 the roll. When your name is called, please, stand in a loud
12 and clear voice answer and provide the following
13 information. One, if you are employed. If you're
14 self-employed, state the nature of your business. If you
15 are retired or disabled, state your former occupation.
16 Also, state whether or not you are married and if so, your
17 spouse's occupation. And, finally, if your spouse is
18 retired or disabled, state their former occupation.

19 Madam Clerk, proceed.

20 (WHEREUPON, the roll was called.)

21 THE COURT: All right. Thank you, Madam Clerk.

22 Now, ladies and gentlemen, I now have certain questions
23 to ask you to determine your qualifications and eligibility
24 to serve as jurors. State law requires that I ask you these
25 questions. If any juror needs to respond to a particular

1 question, you'll need to stand, give your juror number and
2 your name. It is absolutely essential that we have accurate
3 information.

4 Now, some of these questions are very personal. If you
5 do not wish to stand and give the information in the
6 presence of your fellow jurors, I will give you the
7 opportunity to come forward at the end and speak with me in
8 private. Just be sure to remember to come forward at the
9 end if you do not stand in response to a question that
10 requires an affirmative response from you. Listen very
11 carefully to these questions.

12 Is any member of the jury pool not a citizen of the
13 United States of America? If so, please, stand.

14 THE COURT: There are none.

15 Is there any member of the jury pool who is not a
16 resident of Bamberg County, South Carolina? If so, please,
17 stand.

18 Yes, sir, what's your juror number?

19 POTENTIAL JUROR: Number 70.

20 THE COURT: Where do you reside now?

21 POTENTIAL JUROR: Aiken County.

22 THE COURT: Okay. Well, you would be disqualified from
23 jury service. Have you changed your driver's license?

24 POTENTIAL JUROR: Yes, sir.

25 THE COURT: Thank you, you are excused.

1 Yes, ma'am, what's your number?

2 POTENTIAL JUROR: 77.

3 THE COURT: Ms. Grimes?

4 POTENTIAL JUROR: Yes.

5 THE COURT: Where do you live?

6 POTENTIAL JUROR: Beaufort County.

7 THE COURT: Well, you would be disqualified from jury
8 service. Have you changed your driver's license?

9 POTENTIAL JUROR: I haven't.

10 THE COURT: Well, you need to do that. Thank you,
11 ma'am.

12 Yes, ma'am, your number.

13 POTENTIAL JUROR: 212.

14 THE COURT: Ms. Temple?

15 POTENTIAL JUROR: Yes, sir.

16 THE COURT: Where do you live, Ms. Temple?

17 POTENTIAL JUROR: Seattle.

18 THE COURT: Wow, you made it all the way across the
19 country. Well, you would be excused from jury service.

20 Yes, sir, what is your number?

21 POTENTIAL JUROR: 230.

22 THE COURT: Mr. Walters, where do you live?

23 POTENTIAL JUROR: Barnwell County.

24 THE COURT: All right. You would be excused. Thank
25 you, sir.

1 POTENTIAL JUROR: Number 99.

2 THE COURT: Is it Ms. Inabinet?

3 POTENTIAL JUROR: Yes, sir. I live in Orangeburg.

4 THE COURT: Oh, you're in Orangeburg. All right,
5 you're excused from jury service. Thank you, ma'am.

6 Okay. Go on to the next one. Is there any member of
7 the jury pool unable to read, write, speak or understand the
8 English language? If so, please, stand.

9 There are none.

10 Is there any member of the jury panel that has less
11 than a sixth grade education or its equivalent? If so,
12 please, stand.

13 There are none.

14 Is there any member of the jury panel unable because of
15 mental or physical infirmities and has a statement from your
16 doctor attesting to such to render efficient jury service?
17 If so, please, stand.

18 POTENTIAL JUROR: I'm disabled.

19 THE COURT: What's your number?

20 POTENTIAL JUROR: 42.

21 THE COURT: Okay. And you don't have a statement from
22 your doctor?

23 POTENTIAL JUROR: No, sir. I can get one.

24 THE COURT: Well, I'm going to have you stay with us.

25 And that was Juror Number 42, Mr. Collins.

1 Has any member of the jury panel been convicted by
2 guilty plea or trial in a state or federal court of record
3 of a crime punishable by more than one year imprisonment and
4 your civil rights have not been restored by pardon or
5 amnesty? Punishable by more than one year means that you
6 could have received a sentence of more than one year,
7 regardless of what sentence you may have actually received.
8 If this applies to you, please, stand.

9 There are none.

10 Is there any member of the jury pool a clerk of deputy
11 clerk of court, constable, sheriff, commissioned law
12 enforcement officer, county commissioner, magistrate, county
13 officer or is employed within the walls of any courthouse?
14 If any of these categories applies, please, stand.

15 What's your number?

16 POTENTIAL JUROR: 64, Paul Eubanks.

17 THE COURT: Mr. Eubanks, what's your situation?

18 POTENTIAL JUROR: I work in the annex building. It's
19 part of the magistrate's court.

20 THE COURT: What 's your job?

21 POTENTIAL JUROR: Contractor.

22 THE COURT: Okay, that would not qualify. Thank you
23 for calling that to my attention.

24 Has any member of the jury panel served on jury duty in
25 circuit court during 2023 or served on the Bamberg County

1 Grand Jury during 2023? If so, please, stand.

2 There are none.

3 Ladies and gentlemen, we have what are called
4 exemptions. State law provides for several exemptions for
5 jury service. An exemption does not mean that you are not
6 qualified to serve, it simply means you have a right to say
7 I choose not to serve.

8 Those of you who are 65 years of age or older may be
9 excused from jury service. Those of you who are 65 years of
10 age or older represent a pool of tremendous talent for jury
11 service and we would urge you to serve this week if you are
12 so inclined, but if you wish to be excused, you may,
13 certainly, do so.

14 Is there any member of the jury pool that is 65 years
15 of age or older and wishes to be excused? If so, please,
16 stand.

17 Yes, ma'am, what's your number?

18 POTENTIAL JUROR: Gloria Johnson, 109.

19 THE COURT: Ms. Johnson, I'm not going to ask your age,
20 but are you over 65?

21 POTENTIAL JUROR: I am, Your Honor.

22 THE COURT: Thank you. You are excused. Thank you for
23 coming.

24 Yes, sir, what's your number?

25 POTENTIAL JUROR: 232.

1 THE COURT: 232. Mr. Warren?

2 POTENTIAL JUROR: Yes, sir.

3 THE COURT: And are you over 65?

4 POTENTIAL JUROR: I'm 65.

5 THE COURT: You're 65 and you wish to be excused?

6 POTENTIAL JUROR: Yes, sir.

7 THE COURT: Thank you, sir. You are excused.

8 Another exemption concerns prior jury service. No
9 juror is required to serve more often than once every three
10 calendar years. So if anyone on the jury panel has served
11 in circuit court during the last three calendar years, you
12 may be excused. Now, please, note this exemption does not
13 apply if your service was in magistrate's court, municipal
14 court or federal court. It must have been in circuit court.

15 If this applies to any of you, please, stand.

16 There are none.

17 Persons who have served as grand jurors during the last
18 five calendar years may be exempt. Is there any member of
19 the jury pool who has served on the Bamberg County Grand
20 Jury during the last five calendar years? If so, please,
21 stand.

22 POTENTIAL JUROR: Juror 235, Latosha Waymyers, and I
23 did serve on the grand jury within the last five years.

24 THE COURT: When did you serve?

25 POTENTIAL JUROR: I'm really not sure, but maybe a

1 couple years ago.

2 THE COURT: Thank you, ma'am, for your service. You
3 are excused.

4 POTENTIAL JUROR: Thank you, sir.

5 THE COURT: The next exemption deals with those of you
6 who have small children. Please listen very carefully to
7 this exemption. It has several parts, all of which must
8 apply for you to be excused on this basis.

9 You may be exempted from jury service if one, you have
10 a small child or children under the age of seven years.
11 Two, you have legal custody of your child or children.
12 Three, you have the principle care, custody and control of
13 your child or children and you are unable to make
14 arrangements for the care of your child or children while
15 performing jury service. If all of those requirements apply
16 to you and you wish to be exempt, please, stand.

17 There are none.

18 The next exemption deals with those of you who may be
19 attending school at this time or working in some capacity
20 with the school. Ladies and gentlemen, I realize we are in
21 the midst of summer vacation term. If one of these
22 categories applies to you, you would be transferred to a
23 summer vacation term, so it's sort of a senseless question,
24 but I have to, the law requires me to ask it.

25 Listen to these categories and if you have summer

1 school or something going on, we can transfer you to another
2 vacation term.

3 Is there any member of the jury panel who is a
4 full-time student, school teacher, certified personnel,
5 school cross guard, school bus driver or who serves in any
6 public or private school-related function, including
7 technical college who is unable to serve on jury duty this
8 week? If so, please, stand.

9 Yes, ma'am, your number?

10 POTENTIAL JUROR: 157.

11 THE COURT: 157. Ms. Odom?

12 POTENTIAL JUROR: Yes, sir.

13 THE COURT: What's your situation, Ms. Odom?

14 POTENTIAL JUROR: I work for the Orangeburg Prep
15 daycare.

16 THE COURT: So you work year round?

17 POTENTIAL JUROR: Yes, sir.

18 THE COURT: Well, when is the school closed?

19 POTENTIAL JUROR: We're not closed.

20 THE COURT: So it's just a full-time job?

21 POTENTIAL JUROR: Yes.

22 THE COURT: Let's do this, Madam Clerk, transfer Ms.
23 Odom to a later term in the year so she can make
24 arrangements. There's not a vacation term I can transfer
25 you, so just transfer you to later in the year and you can

1 make work arrangements.

2 Anyone else?

3 (There was no response.)

4 THE COURT: Is there anyone on the jury panel who is
5 employed with the Department of Corrections at a
6 penitentiary? If so, and you wish to be exempt, please,
7 stand.

8 There are none.

9 Is there any juror who performs services for a
10 business, a commercial or agricultural enterprise which are
11 so essential to the operation of the business that if you
12 are required to perform jury duty, the business would have
13 to close or stop functioning? If so, and you wish to be
14 exempt, please, stand.

15 What's your number?

16 POTENTIAL JUROR: 66, Robert Felger.

17 THE COURT: Mr. Felger, what kind of business are you
18 in?

19 POTENTIAL JUROR: I do automotive work.

20 THE COURT: Is your business open while you're here?

21 POTENTIAL JUROR: Yes.

22 THE COURT: It is open? The legislature created the
23 standard, that's the standard, it has to close. So you
24 would not qualify.

25 What's your number?

1 POTENTIAL JUROR: Juror 112.

2 THE COURT: Mr. Jones?

3 POTENTIAL JUROR: Yes, sir. I'm a self-employed
4 farrier. I put shoes on horses. And I've got people with a
5 quarter of million-dollar horses.

6 THE COURT: Is your business closed?

7 POTENTIAL JUROR: Yes, sir. I work alone.

8 THE COURT: There's no phone number, office?

9 POTENTIAL JUROR: No, sir.

10 THE COURT: I guess the truck is your office?

11 POTENTIAL JUROR: Yes, sir.

12 THE COURT: Okay. I'll find that you qualify. You're
13 excused, Mr. Jones.

14 Mr. Felger, do you have someone answering the phone?

15 POTENTIAL JUROR: Yes, sir.

16 THE COURT: All right. Well, the statute says you have
17 to be closed. Even if you're not in the field working, if
18 there's someone answering the phone, the business is open.
19 I will find you are qualified.

20 Finally, is there anyone who is the primary caretaker
21 of a severely disabled person or a person 65 or older who is
22 unable to care for himself and cannot be left unattended?
23 If so, please, stand.

24 POTENTIAL JUROR: I'm a home care provider --

25 THE COURT: Hold on one second. What's your number?

1 POTENTIAL JUROR: 226.

2 THE COURT: 226, okay. And Ms. Walker, you are a home
3 care provider. Are you with your clients all day?

4 POTENTIAL JUROR: (Indiscernible).

5 THE COURT: But you're not with her everyday?

6 POTENTIAL JUROR: Yes.

7 THE COURT: Monday through Friday, how --

8 POTENTIAL JUROR: Five hours.

9 THE COURT: Five hours everyday?

10 POTENTIAL JUROR: Uh-huh.

11 THE COURT: Does she have a replacement?

12 POTENTIAL JUROR: No.

13 THE COURT: Do we have someone else?

14 (There was no response.)

15 THE COURT: Well, ladies and gentlemen, that concludes
16 the list of statutory qualifications and exemptions. Now,
17 it may be you are qualified for jury service and no
18 exemption applies to you, but service this particular week
19 will constitute an extreme hardship on you. I cannot
20 permanently excuse a qualified juror from jury service, but
21 I can under extreme and compelling circumstances transfer a
22 juror to another term of court, particularly, jurors who
23 have not been previously transferred. To justify transfer
24 to another term of court, service this week must constitute
25 an extreme hardship to you. Please understand that general

1 inconvenience is not reason to transfer you.

2 So anyone seeking a transfer can come forward at this
3 time. Also, anyone who did not wish to give a public
4 response to one of my previous questions.

5 (WHEREUPON, Court had discussion with jurors coming
6 forward.)

7 THE COURT: Anybody else? Speak now or forever hold
8 your peace.

9 (There was no response.)

10 THE COURT: Okay. I find that this panel is qualified
11 for service in General Sessions Court this 20th day of June,
12 2023 here in Bamberg County.

13 So ladies and gentlemen, before we pick our first jury,
14 we're going to take a short break to give you an opportunity
15 to stretch your legs. We'll be back in 15 minutes. Don't
16 leave. I mean, you can go outside, but don't leave. Be
17 back in 15 minutes.

18 (WHEREUPON, a short break was taken.)

19 THE COURT: Are we ready to call the first case?

20 MR. MILLER: We are, Your Honor.

21 THE COURT: The State will call their first case.

22 MR. MILLER: Thank you, Your Honor. May it please the
23 Court. The State calls the State of South Carolina vs.
24 Myron Kareem Singleton, docket number 2022-GS-05-00151, a
25 true billed indictment for kidnapping, indictment

1 2022-GS-05-00154, a true billed indictment for criminal
2 sexual conduct in the first degree and indictment
3 2022-GS-05-00155, a true billed indictment for assault and
4 battery of a high and aggravated nature.

5 THE COURT: Ladies and gentlemen, as you heard, this is
6 the case of The State vs. Myron Singleton charged with
7 kidnapping, criminal sexual conduct in the first degree and
8 assault and battery of a high and aggravated nature.

9 Ladies and gentlemen, to those charges, Mr. Singleton
10 has entered a plea of not guilty. Let me remind you that
11 the indictments are simply the charges, the formal documents
12 by which the case is brought to court. They are not
13 evidence of the charges, nor do give any presumption in the
14 case.

15 Ladies and gentlemen, the State has to prove the
16 Defendant guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. It would be
17 your duty as jurors if you are selected for this case to
18 determine whether or not the State has met its burden.

19 Now, I realize that I asked you a number of questions
20 awhile ago. Those questions were to determine your
21 qualification to serve as jurors. I'm going to ask you some
22 more questions. These questions are not to pry into your
23 private lives, but to ensure that both the State and the
24 Defendant receive a fair and impartial jury to hear the
25 facts of this case.

1 Now, the clerk has already placed you under oath
2 earlier. You're still under oath. Let me remind you that
3 it is absolutely essential that we have accurate
4 information.

5 So the first order of business, let me get each
6 attorney to introduce themselves and any person that would
7 be assisting them or sitting at the table for either the
8 prosecution or the defense during the course of the trial.

9 MR. MILLER: Thank you, Your Honor. My name is David
10 Miller. I'm the deputy solicitor for the second judicial
11 circuit, that covers Aiken, Barnwell and Bamberg Counties.
12 To my left is Calvin Coach, he is our investigator and will
13 be assisting us in the trial of the case. And to my wife is
14 Assistant Solicitor Leigh Staggs, who will, also, be
15 assisting during the trial of the case. Behind me is our
16 victim, TW [REDACTED] and she will be at the table as
17 well.

18 MS. ALVES: My name is Wallis Alves, I'm an attorney
19 licensed in the State of South Carolina. I practice in
20 Aiken, Bamberg and Barnwell Counties. I will be assisted by
21 my investigator, Wayne Martin, who is not present here
22 today.

23 (Defendant stands.)

24 MS. ALVES: This is Myron Singleton.

25 THE COURT: Ladies and gentlemen, is any member of the

1 jury related by blood or marriage or a close personal friend
2 of one of these attorneys or a person that would be seated
3 at either the prosecution or defense table or the Defendant?
4 If so, please, stand.

5 POTENTIAL JUROR: I'm friends with Wayne Martin --

6 THE COURT: Hold on, what's your number?

7 POTENTIAL JUROR: 209.

8 THE COURT: Still?

9 POTENTIAL JUROR: Yes, sir.

10 THE COURT: Mr. Still, you're friends with Mr. Miller;
11 is that correct?

12 POTENTIAL JUROR: Didn't she say Wayne Martin?

13 THE COURT: Martin. Mr. Still, with that knowledge, do
14 you feel you can be fair and impartial if called to serve?

15 POTENTIAL JUROR: Probably.

16 THE COURT: It can't be probably. Yes or no?

17 POTENTIAL JUROR: Yes, sir.

18 THE COURT: Can you be fair?

19 POTENTIAL JUROR: Yes, sir.

20 THE COURT: Thank you, sir.

21 Yes, ma'am, what's your number?

22 POTENTIAL JUROR: 160.

23 THE COURT: 160. Ms. Owens?

24 POTENTIAL JUROR: Correct.

25 THE COURT: Which one do you know, Ms. Owens?

1 POTENTIAL JUROR: The Defendant.

2 THE COURT: What's the nature of that?

3 POTENTIAL JUROR: We're second cousins.

4 THE COURT: You're related?

5 POTENTIAL JUROR: Yes, sir.

6 THE COURT: Thank you, Ms. Owens. I'm going to excuse
7 you from this case. Thank you, ma'am.

8 Your number?

9 POTENTIAL JUROR: Juror 249.

10 THE COURT: Ms. Wright.

11 POTENTIAL JUROR: Uh-huh.

12 THE COURT: What's your situation?

13 POTENTIAL JUROR: I'm related to the Defendant.

14 THE COURT: So you're related to the Defendant. Okay.
15 You're excused from this case.

16 Yes, ma'am, your number?

17 POTENTIAL JUROR: 125.

18 THE COURT: Ms. Mack?

19 POTENTIAL JUROR: Yes, sir.

20 THE COURT: What's your situation?

21 POTENTIAL JUROR: He's my uncle.

22 THE COURT: Okay, well, I'm going to excuse you from
23 this trial.

24 POTENTIAL JUROR: 234.

25 THE COURT: Ms. Washington?

1 POTENTIAL JUROR: Yes, sir. The victim is my son's
2 girlfriend.

3 THE COURT: Okay, I'm going to excuse you.

4 Now, has any member of the jury pool ever been
5 represented by one of these attorneys, a law firm that they
6 may have been a part of, have one of the attorneys in the
7 law firm they may have been a part of represented someone?
8 If so, please, stand.

9 There are none.

10 Now, ladies and gentlemen, I'm going to read to you a
11 list of potential witnesses that can potentially be called
12 in the case. Listen very carefully to these names.

13 Sergeant McGinnis of the Denmark Police Department, TW
14 [REDACTED] Treva Williams, Dorothy Singleton, Conita Hill,
15 Angela Zeigler, Nikita White, Travon Islar, James Jenkins,
16 Investigator Wayne Martin, Officer Robert McGinnis, Donald
17 McMillan, Sam Patel, Dorothy "Dot" Singleton, Matthew Wilson
18 and Roslyn Williams.

19 Is anyone on the jury panel related by blood or
20 marriage or close personal or social friends to any of those
21 potential witnesses? If so, please, stand.

22 There are none.

23 Has any member of the jury pool or member of your
24 immediate family or close personal friend been the victim of
25 a violent crime? If so, please, stand and come forward.

1 (WHEREUPON, jurors came forward and spoke with the
2 Court.)

3 THE COURT: Juror Number 100 is excused.

4 Has any member of the jury pool, member of their
5 immediate family or close personal friend been prosecuted by
6 the 2nd Circuit Solicitor's Office? If so, please, stand.

7 There are none.

8 Is there any member of the jury pool who believes that
9 the fact that a person is accused of a crime means that
10 they're automatically guilty?

11 There are none.

12 Is there any member of the jury pool, member of
13 immediate family or close personal friend employed at the
14 hospital emergency room or trauma center? If so, please,
15 stand.

16 Yes, ma'am.

17 POTENTIAL JUROR: 52.

18 THE COURT: Ms. Diem?

19 POTENTIAL JUROR: Right.

20 THE COURT: Come forward.

21 (WHEREUPON, Juror Number 52 has discussion with the
22 Court.)

23 THE COURT: Juror Number 52 was excused.

24 Is any member of the jury pool, member of your
25 immediate family, a close personal friend a volunteer at

1 Cumbee Center of Sister Care or any other center?

2 There are none.

3 Is there any member of the jury pool, member of your
4 immediate family or close personal friend that is affiliated
5 with any law enforcement support group, contributes
6 financially or in any way, such as MADD, SADD or any other
7 such law enforcement support group? If so, please, stand.

8 There are none.

9 Now, ladies and gentlemen, these offenses are alleged
10 to have occurred between February the 2nd, 2022 and February
11 the 10th of 2022 in Bamberg County. Does any member of the
12 jury pool have any prior knowledge about the facts of this
13 case from any source? If so, please, stand and come
14 forward.

15 There are none.

16 Does any member of the jury pool know of any other
17 reason why he or she could not be fair and impartial to
18 serve as a juror in this case? If so, please, stand.

19 There are none.

20 Any further submissions from the State?

21 MR. MILLER: Nothing further from the State, Your
22 Honor.

23 THE COURT: Any further submissions from the Defense?

24 MS. ALVES: No, sir.

25 THE COURT: All right. Madam Clerk, let's get a jury.

1 We'll take just a short break.

2 (WHEREUPON, a short break was taken.)

3 THE COURT: Ladies and gentlemen, what happens now is
4 we're on a computer system. It generates a random list of
5 jurors. I'll age myself, when I was a young lawyer, the
6 clerk had to draw the numbers out of a hopper. Now, we do
7 it on a computer. We'll be ready in just a second.

8 (Pause.)

9 JURY SELECTION

10 THE CLERK: When I call your name, please, come forward
11 and stand here.

12 Michelle Moore, Juror Number 144.

13 (Juror Number 144, a white female, came forward.)

14 THE CLERK: What says the State?

15 MS. STAGGS: Please present the juror.

16 THE CLERK: What says the Defense?

17 MS. ALVES: Please seat the juror.

18 THE CLERK: Julius Milhouse, Juror Number 138.

19 (Juror Number 138, a black male, came forward.)

20 THE CLERK: What says the State?

21 MS. STAGGS: Please excuse the juror.

22 THE CLERK: You may return to your seat.

23 Mary B. Wallen, Juror Number 227.

24 (Juror Number 227, a white female, came forward.)

25 THE CLERK: What says the State?

1 MS. STAGGS: Please present the juror.
2 THE CLERK: What says the Defense?
3 MS. ALVES: Please seat the juror.
4 THE CLERK: Jeffrey S. Stenbridge, Juror 208.
5 (Juror Number 208, a white male, came forward.)
6 THE CLERK: What says the State?
7 MS. STAGGS: Please present the juror.
8 THE CLERK: What says the Defense?
9 MS. ALVES: Please excuse the juror.
10 THE CLERK: You may return to your seat.
11 Cody S. Spell, Juror 203.
12 (Juror Number 203, a white male, came forward.)
13 THE CLERK: What says the State?
14 MS. STAGGS: Please present the juror.
15 THE CLERK: What says the Defense?
16 MS. ALVES: Please seat the juror.
17 THE CLERK: Kateria Brabham, Juror Number 20.
18 (Juror Number 20, a black female, came forward.)
19 THE CLERK: What says the State?
20 MS. STAGGS: Please present the juror.
21 THE CLERK: What says the Defense?
22 MS. ALVES: Please excuse the juror.
23 THE CLERK: You may return to your seat.
24 Larry Thompson, Juror Number 219.
25 (Juror Number 219, a black male, came forward.)

1 THE CLERK: What says the State?
2 MS. STAGGS: Please present the juror.
3 THE CLERK: What says the Defense?
4 MS. ALVES: Please seat the juror.
5 THE CLERK: Thank you.
6 (Felicia Samuel, a black female, came forward.)
7 THE CLERK: What says the State?
8 MS. STAGGS: Please present the juror.
9 THE CLERK: What says the Defense?
10 MS. ALVES: Please seat the juror.
11 THE CLERK: Anthony Kinsey, Juror Number 117.
12 (Juror Number 117, a white male, came forward.)
13 THE CLERK: What says the State?
14 MS. STAGGS: Please present the juror.
15 THE CLERK: What says the Defense?
16 MS. ALVES: Please seat the juror.
17 THE CLERK: Pamela Thomas, Juror Number 216.
18 (Juror Number 216, a white female, came forward.)
19 THE CLERK: What says the State?
20 MS. STAGGS: Please present the juror.
21 THE CLERK: What says the Defense?
22 MS. ALVES: Please excuse the juror.
23 THE CLERK: You may return to your seat.
24 Marquez Smalls, Juror Number 198.
25 (Juror Number 198, a black male, came forward.)

1 THE CLERK: What says the State?

2 MS. STAGGS: Please excuse the juror.

3 THE CLERK: You may return to your seat.

4 Caleb Bearden, Juror Number 11.

5 (Juror Number 11, a white male, came forward.)

6 THE CLERK: What says the State?

7 MS. STAGGS: Please present the juror.

8 THE CLERK: What says the Defense?

9 MS. ALVES: Please seat the juror.

10 THE CLERK: Thank you.

11 Barbara Grant, Juror Number 75.

12 (Juror Number 75, a black female, came forward.)

13 THE CLERK: What says the State?

14 MS. STAGGS: Please present the juror.

15 THE CLERK: What says the Defense?

16 MS. ALVES: Please seat the juror.

17 THE CLERK: Richard Smith, Juror Number 201.

18 (Juror Number 201, a white male, came forward.)

19 THE CLERK: What says the State?

20 MS. STAGGS: Please present the juror.

21 THE CLERK: What says the Defense?

22 MS. ALVES: Please excuse the juror.

23 THE CLERK: You may return to your seat.

24 Riley Johnson, Juror Number 111.

25 (Juror Number 111, a white female, came forward.)

1 THE CLERK: What says the State?
2 MS. STAGGS: Please present the juror.
3 THE CLERK: What says the Defense?
4 MS. ALVES: Please seat the juror.
5 THE CLERK: Patience Badger, Juror Number 8.
6 (Juror Number 8, a black female, came forward.)
7 THE CLERK: What says the State?
8 MS. STAGGS: Please present the juror.
9 THE CLERK: What says the Defense?
10 MS. ALVES: Please seat the juror.
11 THE CLERK: Marquis Benjamin, Juror Number 13.
12 (Juror Number 13, a black male, came forward.)
13 THE CLERK: What says the State?
14 MS. STAGGS: Please present the juror.
15 THE CLERK: What says the Defense?
16 MS. ALVES: Please seat the juror.
17 THE CLERK: Sherry Myers, Juror Number 152.
18 (Juror Number 152, a white female, came forward.)
19 THE CLERK: What says the State?
20 MS. STAGGS: Please present the juror.
21 THE CLERK: What says the Defense?
22 MS. ALVES: Please seat the juror.
23 THE CLERK: That's 12.
24 THE COURT: Do three alternates.
25 THE CLERK: Geraldine McCaskill, Juror Number 132.

1 (Juror Number 132, a black female, came forward.)

2 THE CLERK: What says the State?

3 MS. STAGGS: Please excuse the juror.

4 THE CLERK: You may return to your seat.

5 Gregory Still, Juror Number 209.

6 (Juror Number 209, a white male, came forward.)

7 THE CLERK: What says the State?

8 MS. STAGGS: Please present the juror.

9 THE CLERK: What says the Defense?

10 MS. ALVES: Please excuse the juror.

11 THE CLERK: You may return to your seat.

12 Melissa Mack, Juror Number 126.

13 (Juror Number 126, a white female, came forward.)

14 THE CLERK: What says the State?

15 MS. STAGGS: Please present the juror.

16 THE CLERK: What says the Defense?

17 MS. ALVES: Please excuse the juror.

18 THE CLERK: You can return to your seat.

19 Henry McCormack, Jr., Juror Number 133.

20 (Juror Number 133, a white male, came forward.)

21 THE CLERK: What says the State?

22 MS. STAGGS: Please present the juror.

23 THE CLERK: What says the Defense?

24 MS. ALVES: Please excuse the juror.

25 THE CLERK: Please return to your seat.

1 Katie Seavey, Juror Number 190.

2 (Juror Number 190, a white female, came forward.)

3 THE CLERK: What says the State?

4 MS. STAGGS: Please present the juror.

5 THE CLERK: What says the Defense?

6 MS. ALVES: Please seat the juror.

7 THE CLERK: Jonathan Peterson, Juror Number 165.

8 (Juror Number 165, a white male, comes forward.)

9 THE CLERK: What says the State?

10 MS. STAGGS: Please present the juror.

11 THE CLERK: What says the Defense?

12 MS. ALVES: Please seat the juror.

13 THE CLERK: Christie Brooker, Juror Number 27.

14 (Juror Number 27, a black female, came forward.)

15 THE CLERK: What says the State?

16 MS. STAGGS: Please present the juror.

17 THE CLERK: What says the Defense?

18 MS. ALVES: Please seat the juror.

19 THE COURT: Any motions or exceptions to the selection
20 of the jury from the State?

21 MR. MILLER: None from the State, Your Honor.

22 THE COURT: Any motions or exceptions to the selection
23 of the jury from the Defense?

24 MS. ALVES: No, Your Honor.

25 THE COURT: Ladies and gentlemen in the remainder of

1 the pool, the jury has been selected, so that will conclude
2 your jury service. That will conclude your jury service for
3 the week. If you need a work excuse or school, you can see
4 the clerk's office for that.

5 Thank you for service. You are dismissed.

6 (WHEREUPON, the remainder of the jury pool was
7 excused.)

8 THE COURT: Madam Clerk, would you swear the jury for
9 this case.

10 THE CLERK: Please stand and raise your right hand.

11 (WHEREUPON, the jury was sworn.)

12 THE COURT: Ladies and gentlemen, you may be seated.
13 I'm going to give you some preliminary instructions
14 regarding what's going to happen in the case. I'll explain
15 our roles in this trial.

16 INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY THE COURT

17 THE COURT: I am the judge of the law. You are the
18 judges of the facts. You will apply the law as I give it to
19 you to the facts of the case. You will have the duty as
20 jurors to evaluate evidence that is presented in the case.
21 Evidence is the sworn testimony from witnesses and any
22 exhibits that are entered into evidence.

23 When we begin the trial, each attorney will have the
24 opportunity to make an opening statement to you to outline
25 their respective positions, any evidence that he or she

1 wishes to call your attention to. The attorneys will, also,
2 have the opportunity to make closing arguments to you at the
3 conclusion of the case. Now, keep in mind, the statements
4 of the attorneys are not evidence, but, merely, tools that
5 they use to help you understand their position.

6 As I said before, the State has the burden of proof in
7 this trial. The State must prove beyond a reasonable doubt
8 that the Defendant was guilty of the offenses charged. If
9 the State fails to meet that burden, you must find the
10 Defendant not guilty. On the other hand, if the State does
11 meet its burden, you must find the Defendant guilty.

12 The Defendant is presumed innocent and has no burden of
13 proof in this trial. I'm going to talk to you in greater
14 length at the conclusion of the case about reasonable doubt,
15 but a preliminary definition is a doubt that would cause a
16 reasonable person to hesitate to act.

17 Now, a few more things. This is not an endurance
18 contest. As you heard the witness list, there are a number
19 of witnesses that will be called, but we are going to take
20 breaks as we go along. I am very aware -- I often have
21 jurors that need to stretch their legs, have back problems,
22 diabetes, other issues that require breaks. The Court is
23 aware of that and I try to time the breaks where you're not
24 sitting for extremely long periods of time. But in the
25 event that you get in distress and you need a break, let the

1 bailiffs know and the bailiffs will let me know and we'll do
2 our best to accommodate you.

3 Now, there are three things that you are strictly
4 prohibited from doing while serving as jurors. The first is
5 independent investigation. In this era of smart phones and
6 internet access, it's very easy for someone to try to
7 research either the law or the facts. You are strictly
8 prohibited from doing that.

9 The second thing you're prohibited from doing is
10 talking to third parties about the case. When you walk out
11 of here to go to lunch and someone comes up to you and tries
12 to talk about this case, you let the bailiffs know, they'll
13 let me know and I'll handle that. You are strictly
14 prohibited from talking to third parties about the case.

15 And the last thing, you are prohibited from
16 deliberating amongst yourselves about the case until I
17 instruct you that deliberations begin. Deliberation means
18 that you talk about the case. During your breaks, when
19 you're back in the jury room, you can talk about anything
20 you want to talk about except this case. I will tell you
21 when you can begin your deliberations at the end.

22 Now, ladies and gentlemen, the reason for these rules
23 is that you are to base your decision solely on the evidence
24 presented in the courtroom and not outside influences. And
25 you're, also, not to decide the case prematurely. You

1 shouldn't decide the case until all the evidence is in.

2 Keep your juror button on. That signifies to the world
3 that you're serving as a juror. You run into these
4 attorneys outside, they're going to walk the other
5 direction. They're not trying to be rude to you, they just
6 know they can't have any contact with you.

7 There may come times in the trial where one party
8 objects to a question or a piece of evidence. I have to
9 make a ruling on that. That should not be interpreted to
10 mean that the Court favors one side or the other.

11 Also, along that same line, there may be times where
12 you are asked to go to the jury room so that we can take up
13 a matter of law outside of your presence. That's not to
14 hide things from you, it's just to ensure that each side
15 receives a fair trial in accordance with the rules of
16 evidence.

17 So, ladies and gentlemen, I'm going to send you to
18 lunch. We're going to start the case at two o'clock. I'd
19 like you to come back at 1:45. You have one order of
20 business before we start the case and that is to elect a
21 foreperson. This will be the presiding juror over your
22 deliberations at the end. It will, also, be the juror that
23 communicates with the Court if there are any problems. Any
24 communication between the jury and the Court should be in
25 the form of a written note signed by the foreperson.

1 So, ladies and gentlemen, I'm going to dismiss you now.
2 I hope you have a good lunch. We will see you at 1:45.

3 Madam Clerk, if you could show the jury where they will
4 come back to.

5 They're going to give you a tour and show you where to
6 return.

7 (WHEREUPON, the jury exits the courtroom at 12:36 p.m.)

8 THE COURT: We'll be in recess until two o'clock.

9 Anything from the State?

10 MS. STAGGS: Your Honor, we would ask that you
11 sequester the witnesses.

12 MS. ALVES: The State has their witnesses. It's very
13 unusual for them to ask for sequestration. I have -- the
14 witnesses on my list are my client, I have some of his
15 family members, some of whom are here and wanted to be in
16 the courtroom to support him, primarily his mother, who is
17 on both of our witness lists, and another witness is his
18 minor child, who I don't believe is in the courtroom. I
19 don't think it would be appropriate since it is Mr.
20 Singleton's minor child. He's 16, but he's a potential
21 witness in the case.

22 I don't see any real reason to sequester the witnesses.
23 I think that -- the only thing that sequestration does is
24 keep my client's family outside of the courtroom. **TW**
25 ██████████ will have some of her family in here to support

1 her. My client would then have nobody in the courtroom
2 supporting him. The sequestration stands to sequester all
3 of his family members.

4 The witnesses that I have on my list, I, actually, have
5 the investigating officer on my list, who is not present
6 here today. I have my client's brother, who's not present
7 here. His sister, who's not present. His mother, who is
8 present. As I said, his 16-year-old son, who's present, but
9 I'm not asking for him to come in. And another person, who
10 is, actually, an inmate at the jail.

11 THE COURT: Mr. Miller.

12 MR. MILLER: Your Honor, this is going to be a
13 factually-driven case. It is going to be almost entirely
14 based upon testimony from the witness stand. The
15 Defendant's mother, specifically, has been -- it has been
16 alleged by members of the victim's family that she is
17 soliciting people to come in and give false testimony. They
18 are very afraid of this family, specifically, the
19 Defendant's mother because she has a large number of people
20 that do whatever she tells them to do.

21 We know she was a part of the timeline of this case.
22 The testimony would show -- if it goes down this particular
23 road, the testimony would show that whenever the victim's
24 mother reported the victim missing that the investigating
25 officer first went to the Defendant's house because that was

1 the last person she had been seen with and then went to the
2 Defendant's mother's house. And somehow within a span of
3 about 45 minutes from the time mom went to the police
4 station and told the police that TW [REDACTED] was
5 missing, TW [REDACTED] is calling her mom.

6 And Ms. Singleton said in a written statement that when
7 the police came to her house looking for her son and looking
8 for TW [REDACTED] that she sent one of the Defendant's
9 children over to his house to tell him that she needed to be
10 contacting her mom because the police were looking for her.
11 So she is a legitimate witness in the case.

12 And as far as the victim's family, we don't have a real
13 problem with that. We had planned on sequestering all of
14 the victim's family that was going to be testifying. None
15 of these other people are potential witnesses, so there
16 wouldn't be any need to sequester them other than to just
17 keep them out of the courtroom, which I don't feel is
18 correct. Ms. Alves put these people on the witness list
19 because they're potential witnesses and we would request
20 that the witnesses be sequestered.

21 THE COURT: Well, it's my standard practice if either
22 side request it and I'm going to award sequestration. I
23 will -- of course, the Defendant gets to be present. The
24 victim gets to be present. They have rights to be present.
25 The Defendant has the right of confrontation and the victim

1 has rights under the South Carolina Constitution under
2 victim's protection. And I am allowing each side to have
3 their chief investigators present. All other witnesses
4 would be sequestered. They can certainly stay in the
5 courtroom after they testify.

6 Anything further before we start?

7 MS. ALVES: Yes, sir. Judge, after we selected the
8 jury and after we took a lunch break, I was advised by one
9 of my witnesses, who is, actually, Mr. Singleton's mother,
10 who is on both of our witness lists, that she knows one of
11 the jurors. That juror is #183, Felicia Samuel. She tells
12 me that she used to work with Ms. Samuel and during the time
13 they were working together, there was some conflict between
14 them, which turned out to be somewhat significant conflict.

15 In particular, Ms. Singleton, the Defendant's mother
16 was friendly with Ms. Samuel's father and, apparently, Ms.
17 Samuel accused her of flirting with the father and,
18 potentially, having some type of inappropriate relationship
19 with him. As a result, the two of them had some significant
20 conflict.

21 Ms. Samuels did not stand up and acknowledge that she
22 knew Ms. Singleton. I don't know if she saw Ms. Singleton.
23 Ms. Singleton was sitting behind the jurors at the very back
24 of the room. And Ms. Singleton tells me she didn't
25 recognize Ms. Samuels until after the jury was selected and

1 they were, actually, sitting in the box and she had a clear
2 view of them.

3 My concern is that Ms. Samuels did not stand up and say
4 that she knew Ms. Singleton. And my concern is if there
5 were some insignificant acrimony between the two ladies, I
6 don't want that to spill over to my client.

7 THE COURT: Anything from the State on that issue?

8 MR. MILLER: Your Honor, I don't know how to address it
9 other than to have the Court inquire of the juror.

10 THE COURT: Sheriff, get Juror #183, Ms. Samuels.

11 (WHEREUPON, Juror #183 enters the courtroom.)

12 THE COURT: You are Ms. Samuels; is that correct?

13 JUROR #183: Yes, sir.

14 THE COURT: Ms. Samuels, the question has arisen about
15 whether or not you know Dorothy "Dot" Singleton?

16 JUROR #183: Uh-huh, I used to work with her years ago.

17 THE COURT: Why didn't you tell me that at first when I
18 called out the names?

19 JUROR #183: I didn't really thought that mattered.

20 THE COURT: You worked --

21 JUROR #183: It was a long time ago.

22 THE COURT: Did you and Ms. Singleton have any problems
23 between the two of you?

24 JUROR #183: No, sir.

25 THE COURT: How long has it been since you've seen Ms.

1 Singleton?

2 JUROR #183: I know a good 25 years. It's been a
3 while.

4 THE COURT: Ms. Samuels, I understand it's easy when I
5 call out a bunch of names to gloss over the names, but since
6 you didn't stand up and this is a very, very serious case,
7 I'm going to excuse you from this case.

8 JUROR #183: Okay.

9 THE COURT: And we have an alternate. Just to avoid
10 putting you in an uncomfortable position, I'm going to
11 excuse you from this case.

12 JUROR #183: Okay. Thank you.

13 THE COURT: We'll just make the first alternate go to
14 the jury.

15 MR. MILLER: For the record, it will be #190 will be
16 elevated to --

17 THE COURT: The alternate will be seated and become a
18 primary juror.

19 MR. MILLER: Correct.

20 THE COURT: Anything further before we bring in our
21 jury?

22 MR. MILLER: Nothing from the State, Your Honor.

23 MS. ALVES: Nothing from the Defense, Your Honor.

24 THE COURT: All right. Let's bring in our jury.

25 (WHEREUPON, the jury enters the courtroom at 2:28 p.m.)

1 THE COURT: Juror #190 has become a primary juror. So
2 the alternates always sit on the back. The rest of you are
3 free to sit however you want to.

4 Is the State ready for opening statement?

5 MS. STAGGS: Yes, Your Honor.

6 OPENING STATEMENT BY THE STATE

7 MS. STAGGS: The Defendant in this case, Myron
8 Singleton, is charged with kidnapping, assault and battery
9 of a high and aggravated nature and criminal sexual conduct
10 in the first degree. He's sitting right there. That's why
11 we're here, that's why we're all here.

12 He's charged with those crimes because over the course
13 of two days in February of 2022, he picked up his girlfriend
14 at the time, the victim in this case, her name is TW
15 [REDACTED] and he drove her to his house. And he held her
16 there and he didn't let her leave. That's kidnapping. And
17 over the course of those days, he beat her, he held her face
18 down in the shower, he held a gun to her head, he whipped
19 her with an extension cord. That's assault of a high and
20 aggravated nature. And he broke the leg off of a wooden
21 table or dresser, some piece of furniture, and he raped her
22 with it. And that's criminal sexual conduct in the first
23 degree. And that's what we're here to prove.

24 The State has the burden of proof in every case. And
25 that burden is beyond a reasonable doubt. It's a heavy

1 burden. Beyond a reasonable doubt means firmly convinced,
2 not beyond any and all doubt, beyond a reasonable doubt.

3 So what's a reasonable doubt? A reasonable doubt is
4 the kind of doubt that would cause a person to hesitate to
5 act. You must be firmly convinced of the Defendant's guilt.
6 And today, right now, he sits there an innocent man. The
7 State has not proven him guilty yet. He is cloaked in his
8 innocence. Sometimes you hear it described as a robe of
9 righteousness that he wears throughout the trial. And he
10 does, he sits there an innocent man. And he wears that
11 robe, that cloak of innocence until the State proves to you
12 that he no longer deserves to wear it. And that's exactly
13 what we're going to do.

14 And how? Most of the evidence in this case will be
15 presented through witness testimony. The witnesses will sit
16 here in a chair and they'll testify. There will be some
17 exhibits and photographs, but, primarily, this case will be
18 presented through witness testimony. And I'm not going to
19 go through all of the details. The witnesses are going to
20 do that. They're going to tell you exactly what happened,
21 what happened to TW [REDACTED] between February the 3rd
22 and February the 5th of 2022. I'm not going to tell you
23 that.

24 What I'm here to tell you is what this case is about.
25 And this case is about credibility. Credibility, just

1 believability, right? Ultimately, it will come down to who
2 do you believe and what do you believe.

3 So that's what we ask of you as you sit here and listen
4 to the evidence, the testimony in this case. Please pay
5 close attention to every single word that these witnesses
6 tell you because you get to judge their credibility, their
7 believability. You get to think about who has a motive to
8 lie and who is telling the truth. And, ultimately, that is
9 what this case is about.

10 And at the end, after the witnesses have testified and
11 you've seen the photographs, the exhibits, I submit to you
12 that the State will have met that burden, that heavy burden
13 and we will come back before you and ask you to render the
14 appropriate verdict in this case and to find Myron Singleton
15 guilty of kidnapping, assault and battery of a high and
16 aggravated nature and criminal sexual conduct in the first
17 degree.

18 Thank you.

19 THE COURT: Ms. Alves.

20 OPENING STATEMENT BY THE DEFENSE

21 MS. ALVES: May it please the Court? Counsel.

22 You know, a lie is like a snowball. We've all heard
23 that. It's common. It's common knowledge. It's a common
24 thing. How it is and why I'm saying that is that once you
25 tell it, it just keeps rolling. It's like a snowball

1 rolling down a hill. It's gets bigger and bigger and bigger
2 and you can't stop it. You can't go back and change it.
3 You know, you tell a lie, you have to keep it going because,
4 unfortunately, it takes on a life of its own. And that's
5 what we're here about today.

6 Now, the solicitor just mentioned to you that this case
7 is about credibility and I'm going to tell you, it a hundred
8 percent is. Because there's no question that somebody
9 assaulted this young lady. I mean, you're going to hear the
10 evidence, you're going to see the pictures. Somebody
11 assaulted her. But the question is who? And I can tell you
12 who is adamant that he didn't do it. This man right here,
13 my client.

14 This is Myron Singleton. And as the solicitor and as
15 the Judge told you, he wears a robe of righteousness around
16 him. That's another way of saying he is innocent. The
17 State has the burden of proving to you beyond a reasonable
18 doubt that this man is the one who caused the injuries to
19 TW [REDACTED] And they're not going to be able to do
20 that.

21 Now, you heard that this happened back in February of
22 2022. And Mr. Singleton has been waiting 16 long months to
23 have you here to listen to the evidence in this case.
24 Because for 16 months, he's been saying he didn't do this,
25 but now he's asking you to listen. Now, he's not standing

1 up here and asking you, but he's asking you based on the
2 fact that he's sitting here going to trial.

3 And you're going to hear a lot of evidence in this
4 case. And as the solicitor told you, it's going to be
5 mostly testimony. And there's a lot to this case and the
6 facts are going to come out, but I want to tell you one
7 thing.

8 One thing you're going to hear about what TW told
9 the police back in February of 2022, yeah, she told them
10 that she was assaulted. She told them my client assaulted
11 her. But you know what she didn't tell the police when her
12 momma first took her to the police, she didn't tell them
13 that she was sexually assaulted. She didn't mention
14 anything about a stick. Then she's telling the story. And
15 the story, as I said, snowballing, snowballing.

16 She gets to the hospital and then she tells them that
17 he stuck this stick in her. Then all of a sudden, everybody
18 is -- everyone is sympathetic, but they're like oh, my God,
19 poor TW poor you. What happened to you? Poor girl.
20 The snowball is getting bigger. And like I said, she only
21 mentioned that after she went to the Urgent Care. She was
22 taken there by her mother, not by the police.

23 And you're going to hear about what the police did, or
24 rather, what they didn't do. Because you know what? They
25 didn't do anything. You're going to hear that they could

1 have gotten a search warrant to search Mr. Singleton's home.
2 Because now she's telling this story -- remember I told you,
3 snowballing, the story is getting bigger.

4 You're going to hear that okay, she told them that he
5 took this furniture, broke a piece of furniture and took the
6 leg off of it and assaulted her with it. But you know what
7 we don't have? We didn't have any police going back to the
8 house to look for the stick. She told them that she was
9 assaulted with a drop cord. We don't have any police going
10 back to the house to look for a drop cord and we don't have
11 the piece of furniture that was broken off. We have none of
12 that. And that's something we could have had, but we'll
13 never know that because the police never went to look for
14 it.

15 Now, you have to wonder, well, why didn't they go look
16 for it? Why didn't they do this? Maybe they didn't believe
17 her, I don't know. You'll have to ask. You'll have to find
18 out from them. So now we have no physical evidence of
19 anything that was done or accused of being done in Mr.
20 Singleton's home.

21 And there's a lot more. You'll hear all the evidence.
22 You'll have -- at the end of the case, you'll have a pretty
23 good idea of what was going on between those dates. And as
24 the Judge told you, the State is the one who has the burden
25 of proof. They have to prove to you beyond a reasonable

1 doubt that Myron Singleton committed the acts of criminal
2 sexual conduct, assault and battery of a high and aggravated
3 nature and kidnapping against TW They have to
4 prove this to you. And the Judge told you, he gave you a
5 little discussion of what beyond a reasonable doubt is. And
6 that's, basically, what the solicitor said, firmly
7 convinced. They have to firmly convince you that he did
8 this.

9 Now, you're going to hear everything about the case.
10 You're going to hear from the witnesses. You're going to
11 see the evidence. At the end of the case, the solicitor and
12 I will both come back and talk to you and then the Judge
13 will give you the law that you need to consider along with
14 this case.

15 Ladies and gentlemen, I'm confident that once you have
16 had all the evidence presented to you, once you've heard the
17 law, you will understand what Mr. Singleton has been waiting
18 for these 16 months. He's been waiting for you to tell him
19 he's not guilty, because he's not.

20 Thank you.

21 THE COURT: Thank you.

22 State can call their first case.

23 MR. MILLER: Thank you, Your Honor. May it please the
24 Court. The State calls Treva Williams.

25 THE CLERK: Please raise your right hand.

~~Treva Williams - Direct by Mr. Miller~~

1 TREVA WILLIAMS,
2 after being duly sworn, testified as follows:

3 DIRECT EXAMINATION

4 BY MR. MILLER:

5 Q TW [REDACTED] I'm going to ask you to state your name
6 for the record.

7 A I'm Treva Williams.

8 Q Can you spell your last name?

9 A W-I-L-L-I-A-M-S.

10 Q TW [REDACTED] where do you live?

11 A I live in Denmark, South Carolina.

12 Q And how long have you lived there?

13 A Since 2019.

14 Q Who lives with you?

15 A Me, my husband, my mother-in-law, my daughter, TW [REDACTED]

16 Q And your daughter, TW [REDACTED] do you know if she was ever
17 in a relationship with the Defendant, Myron Singleton?

18 A Yes, she was.

19 Q Do you know what she called him at the time, what his
20 nickname was?

21 A Black.

22 Q I want to talk to you about February the 3rd of 2022.
23 When was the last time that you saw your daughter that day?

24 A I saw her -- she walked up the street and that's when
25 she got into the car. They picked her up. Myron was in the

Treva Williams - Direct by Mr. Miller

1 car.

2 Q Okay. Do you recall what day of the week it was?

3 A That was -- I think that was on a Thursday.

4 Q After you saw your daughter get into the car with the
5 Defendant, were you able to contact her anymore? Or were
6 you able to contact her anymore?

7 A I wasn't able to contact her. I tried.

8 Q Did you see her anymore that Thursday?

9 A No, I didn't.

10 Q Did you see her any on Friday?

11 A No, I didn't.

12 Q How did that make you feel?

13 A It made me feel worried.

14 Q What did you do?

15 A I kept calling her phone. And after I didn't get a
16 response from her phone -- because she normally pick up her
17 phone when I call her.

18 Q Right.

19 A She didn't pick up her phone, so I got worried and I
20 went looking for her. I didn't go look for her Thursday. I
21 waited till Friday and I started going looking for her. I
22 went by Myron's house and I knocked on the door.

23 Q Okay.

24 A And I didn't get an answer.

25 Q What did you do after that?

Treva Williams - Direct by Mr. Miller

1 A Then after I went to his house, I went to his mom's
2 house. I knocked on the door and didn't get an answer
3 there. And after going to his mom's house, I went to his
4 brother's house, didn't get an answer there -- no, I'm
5 sorry. He did say he saw TW and Myron earlier.

6 Q Okay.

7 A The day before.

8 Q Okay. So is this on Saturday now or is it still on
9 Friday?

10 A That's Friday.

11 Q So did you see TW did you find TW any time on
12 Friday?

13 A At no time on Friday.

14 Q What about Saturday, what did you do?

15 A So on Saturday, this is when I got worried and I did go
16 to the police station to file a police report.

17 Q All right. What police station did you go to?

18 A Denmark, Denmark Police Department.

19 Q And when you went to the Denmark Police Department to
20 report her missing, who did you talk to? Do you remember
21 his name?

22 A I spoke with -- I can't remember his name, huh-uh.
23 Dennis or something like that. I'm not sure.

24 Q Okay. Well, how many police officers were there when
25 you went to the police department to talk to them?

Treva Williams - Direct by Mr. Miller

1 A It was one that I saw there.

2 Q Was anybody else in the police department that you knew
3 about?

4 A Not that I can recall.

5 Q Did you, ultimately, find TW on that Saturday?

6 A I did.

7 Q Explain to the jury how that happened.

8 A Well, that Saturday after looking for her multiple
9 times, didn't get a response, she did call me on the phone.

10 Q Was that before or after you went to the police
11 department?

12 A This was after.

13 Q Was it a long time after?

14 A It was maybe an hour or so after.

15 Q Okay. And so what did she say whenever she called you?

16 A When she called --

17 MS. ALVES: Objection, hearsay.

18 THE COURT: Rephrase the question.

19 BY MR. MILLER:

20 Q When TW called you that day, did she let you know
21 where she was?

22 A Not really --

23 MS. ALVES: Objection, Your Honor, hearsay.

24 THE COURT: Sustained.

25 BY MR. MILLER:

1 Q What did you do after you got the phone call from
2 TW that day?

3 A After I got the phone call from TW I, actually,
4 came back to my house. I was on the way back. And I did
5 see her walking.

6 Q Okay. Did you pick her up?

7 A Yes, I did.

8 Q What did you observe about her at that time?

9 A She was beat from head to toe. And I took her to the
10 police station.

11 Q And when you got to the police station, what happened
12 then?

13 A When I got to the police station, they took pictures of
14 TW and she did let us know --

15 MS. ALVES: Objection, hearsay.

16 THE COURT: Do we need to proffer this testimony?

17 MR. MILLER: No, sir, Your Honor, we don't need to
18 proffer it.

19 BY MR. MILLER:

20 Q When you got to the police station with TW did you
21 report she had been assaulted?

22 A Yes, I did.

23 Q And was this the same police officer you were talking
24 to before?

25 A Yes, it was.

Treva Williams - Direct by Mr. Miller

1 Q And after talking to that police officer, what did you
2 do?

3 A After speaking with the police officer, he took
4 pictures and he said we should go to the ER --

5 MS. ALVES: Objection. Judge, I'm going to continue
6 objecting to hearsay.

7 THE COURT: Don't say what somebody else said.

8 BY MR. MILLER:

9 Q Do you understand that? You can't say what somebody
10 else said.

11 A Okay.

12 Q What I'm asking you is after you talked to the police
13 officer, what did you do?

14 A We went to the ER.

15 Q Okay. When you say the ER, where are you talking
16 about?

17 A Barnwell/Bamberg County Emergency Room.

18 Q That's the place between here and --

19 A Barnwell.

20 Q Okay. Sorry, I'm turned around. Yeah, place between
21 here and Barnwell.

22 A Uh-huh.

23 Q When you took TW [REDACTED] can you describe her demeanor?
24 What was she acting like whenever she was with you in the
25 car?

Treva Williams - Direct by Mr. Miller

1 A She was acting really tired, like, she had not gotten
2 any sleep. She was acting really strange to me.

3 Q Okay. Can you describe some of the injuries that you
4 saw on TW

5 A When I saw TW she had some bruises to her head.

6 Q Right.

7 A She, also, had -- my daughter was beat from head to
8 toe, from here all over her body, whole body, down to her
9 feet, she was bruised. I've never seen my daughter like
10 that.

11 Q So you went to the emergency room, took her to the
12 emergency room. What happened next?

13 A They sent her back. I wasn't allowed to go back there
14 with her.

15 Q Right. You took TW to the emergency room?

16 A Yes.

17 Q Did she leave that emergency room with you?

18 A No.

19 Q Where did she go?

20 A They took her back to examine her.

21 Q Right.

22 A And after that, they had to transport her to
23 Orangeburg.

24 Q And why did they transport her to Orangeburg?

25 A To do a rape kit.

Treva Williams - Cross by Ms. Alves

1 Q Who brought TW home Saturday night?

2 A The police officer.

3 Q We've talked about Myron Singleton. Do you see him in
4 the courtroom today?

5 A He's over there in the black and brown.

6 MR. MILLER: Thank you, TW Please answer
7 any questions Ms. Alves has for you.

8 THE COURT: Ms. Alves, your witness.

9 CROSS-EXAMINATION

10 BY MS. ALVES:

11 Q How old is your daughter, TW

12 A She's 23 years old.

13 Q And how old was she last February?

14 A Last February, she would have been 22.

15 Q And Myron was her boyfriend?

16 A Yes, he was.

17 Q Do you know how long they had been dating?

18 A I'm not sure how long.

19 Q Was it a year?

20 A I'm not sure. I don't know if it was a year or two
21 years, I don't know.

22 Q Okay. Did you know the people that she dated or that
23 she was involved with?

24 A I did know some of the people.

25 Q Okay. Was she dating a person named Rachet, do you

1 remember?

2 A No, she was not dating him.

3 Q You know Rachet?

4 A I know of him.

5 Q Okay. And TW would often sneak behind your back
6 and go out, wouldn't she?

7 A She would.

8 Q She would?

9 A Uh-huh.

10 Q And a lot of times, you and her father wouldn't agree
11 with her going out, but she would go out anyway?

12 A Yes.

13 Q And when she would sneak out without your approval, did
14 you know where she was going?

15 A Sometimes.

16 Q Sometimes, but sometimes not?

17 A Uh-huh.

18 Q Is that a yes, sometimes not?

19 A Yes.

20 Q Thank you. Now, on this day, February 3rd of last
21 year, when you saw her leave the house, was that with your
22 approval?

23 A No, it was not.

24 Q It was against your approval?

25 A Yes.

Treva Williams - Cross by Ms. Alves

1 Q You didn't want her to leave that day?

2 A No, I didn't.

3 Q Because she was going to do what she wanted to do and
4 be with her boyfriend?

5 A She did.

6 Q And how long after she left did you start calling her?

7 A Maybe an hour.

8 Q An hour or so?

9 A I'm not sure of the timeframe.

10 Q Okay. Had she been going out all night before?

11 A Yes.

12 Q So that was something she had done in the past, stayed
13 out all night?

14 A Yes.

15 Q And on Saturday -- you said she called you on Saturday.
16 Where were you?

17 A I was on my way to Orangeburg when they called me.

18 Q So you were going to Orangeburg?

19 A On my way.

20 Q And then you turned around and came back?

21 A Yes, I did.

22 Q And you said that when you got to the police station,
23 you took the pictures of her?

24 A The police officers took some of the pictures and the
25 pictures that he could not take, I took her in the restroom

Treva Williams - Cross by Ms. Alves

1 and took them.

2 Q So you took them more privately?

3 A Yes, ma'am.

4 Q And you commented that she was beat head to toe?

5 A She was.

6 Q And didn't some of those injuries that you took
7 pictures of look a little older than those?

8 A They did not.

9 Q They didn't?

10 A No. They looked fresh.

11 Q All of them?

12 A Uh-huh.

13 Q Now, let me ask you this, going back to what you were
14 saying about TW leaving the house without your consent,
15 how often would she leave the house without your consent?

16 A Not often, but she did on several occasions.

17 Q Several occasions?

18 A Yes.

19 Q Okay. And you would try to tell her not to leave the
20 house?

21 A Yes, I would.

22 Q Even though she's over 21 years old?

23 A Yes.

24 Q And TW would often -- are you aware that TW --

25 MS. ALVES: Beg the Court's indulgence.

~~Treva Williams - Redirect by Mr. Miller~~

1 (Pause.)

2 MS. ALVES: I don't have any further questions.

3 THE COURT: Any redirect?

4 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

5 BY MR. MILLER:

6 Q You said that you took some of the photographs at the
7 police station whenever you first reported -- or you and
8 TW first reported the assault. Why were you taking some
9 of the pictures?

10 A Because they were located on her breasts.

11 Q And there was nobody else at the police station to take
12 a photograph?

13 A No, there wasn't.

14 Q TW was 22 years old at the time, correct?

15 A Yes.

16 Q And even though she was an adult, you were still
17 worried about her safety, weren't you?

18 A I was.

19 Q And even though she was an adult, you still cared about
20 what she was doing and who she was doing it with, didn't
21 you?

22 A Yes.

23 MR. MILLER: No further questions.

24 THE COURT: Anything further from this witness?

25 MS. ALVES: No, Your Honor.

~~Conita Hill - Direct by Mr. Miller~~

1 THE COURT: You may step down.

2 MR. MILLER: The State is going to call Conita Hill.

3 Ms. Hill, if you can go forward there to the clerk and
4 she will administer the oath.

5 THE CLERK: Raise your right hand, please.

6 CONITA HILL,

7 after being duly sworn, testified as follows:

8 THE CLERK: Thank you.

9 DIRECT EXAMINATION

10 BY MR. MILLER:

11 Q Ms. Hill, would you state your full name for the Court
12 and spell your last?

13 A Okay. It's Conita Latrell Hill, H-I-L-L.

14 Q And Ms. Hill, what do you do?

15 A I'm a physician assistant.

16 Q And what does a physician assistant do in general?

17 A In general, it's, basically, we're licensed medical
18 clinicians. We diagnose, treat patients, diagnose illness,
19 diseases in direct collaboration with the physician.

20 Q What kind of education did you have to have to become a
21 physician assistant?

22 A I got my undergrad in biology, minored in chemistry and
23 then went to Medical University of South Carolina for my
24 physician assistant training. It's about three years. We
25 do about 90 percent of med school. We're just not required

Conita Hill - Direct by Mr. Miller

1 to do a residency program.

2 Q Okay. Where do you work now?

3 A I work at South Physicians. We're a contract
4 physicians group, PA group out of Orangeburg. We work at
5 the -- we have two sites here. One in Denmark called
6 Bamberg/Barnwell Emergency Medical Center and one in
7 Orangeburg.

8 Q Okay. How long have you worked with the hospital or
9 this contract group?

10 A This group, I've been here about four years, but I
11 worked at a hospital for almost nine and a half.

12 Q Were you working at the -- you referenced two different
13 emergency rooms. You said Orangeburg and the one over in
14 Denmark?

15 A Uh-huh, they're sister facilities.

16 Q Okay. Were you working at the -- just for clarity, I'm
17 going to call that the Denmark ER?

18 A The Denmark ER, that's fine.

19 Q Were you working at the Denmark ER on February the 5th
20 of 2022?

21 A Yes.

22 Q Did you have occasion to evaluate and treat TW

23

24 A Yes.

25 Q How would you describe her when you first met her?

Conita Hill - Direct by Mr. Miller

1 What was her attitude like?

2 A She was pretty -- she was scared, little scared, scared
3 and nervous. She was in a lot of pain.

4 Q Can you describe what kind of injuries she had?

5 A I'm going to refer to my office notes. Basically, she
6 had, like, multiple --

7 MS. ALVES: I'd like to see those, please.

8 MR. MILLER: And just to confirm, Your Honor, that was
9 provided in discovery.

10 THE COURT: Okay.

11 MS. ALVES: Thank you.

12 THE WITNESS: She had, like, multiple and bruises and
13 cuts all over her body. And pretty much, that was -- a lot
14 of bruising and a good bit of, like, superficial lacerations
15 on her lower extremities, some human bite marks, a lot of
16 welting on her, like, upper extremities and bruising and on
17 her breast area, too.

18 BY MR. MILLER:

19 Q Did she tell you how she got that welting and bruising?

20 A She said --

21 MR. ALVES: Objection, hearsay.

22 THE COURT: Overruled.

23 THE WITNESS: She said her ex-boyfriend.

24 BY MR. MILLER:

25 Q What was the way that they were inflicted, that's what

Conita Hill - Direct by Mr. Miller

1 I'm asking?

2 A She said -- again, I'm going to refer to my notes
3 again. Patient states that she -- during the course of the
4 last two days, she was hit in the head with a gun, beaten
5 with a drop cord on her arms, back, lower extremities,
6 breasts and abdomen, beaten by him and cut with a knife.
7 And then she said he was giving her something to make her
8 feel sleepy. Patient states he was, also, using a wooden
9 stick to assault her vaginally.

10 Q Now, when you first met her, where exactly in the
11 facility was she?

12 A Okay. When I first met her, my nurse -- well, the
13 nurse triaged her and they brought her back into one of the
14 exam rooms. And that's when they called -- well, I seen the
15 patient name on the board. I assigned myself to her and I
16 went into the room with her.

17 Q Who else was in the room with her at the time?

18 A It was just me and her at the time.

19 Q And as a result of her injuries that you observed and
20 what she reported to you happened, what did you do?

21 A After I saw the bruising and she told me she was
22 assaulted vaginally, I immediately stopped and I told my
23 nurse to contact authorities to perform a SANE exam on her.

24 Q And what is a SANE exam?

25 A A SANE exam is a sexual abuse exam. It's performed by

Conita Hill - Direct by Mr. Miller

1 a specialized nurse.

2 Q And did you, in fact, contact the Denmark Police
3 Department?

4 A I contacted Denmark Police Department. I didn't get
5 really a good response from them. They were just -- because
6 they -- I think they were just -- they don't have that many
7 deputies in the area, so they weren't that much help. So I
8 did contact the Bamberg County Sheriff's Department and they
9 sent an officer to the hospital. And then those Bamberg
10 officers, they made the Denmark come here to take a report
11 -- come to the office to take a report.

12 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibit Nos. 1 through 10 were
13 marked for identification.)

14 BY MR. MILLER:

15 Q I'm going to show you what have been marked as State's
16 Exhibit 1 through 10. Can you just generally tell me what
17 those are, what those are pictures of?

18 A This is some bruising on her --

19 Q I'm sorry, I don't mean to interrupt you. Even more
20 general than that. Do you know who those are pictures of?

21 A Yes, these appear to be my patient I took care of that
22 day.

23 Q TW [REDACTED]

24 A [REDACTED]

25 Q Do those photos fairly and accurately depict the way

Conita Hill - Direct by Mr. Miller

1 that she appeared that day when she was in front of you?

2 A Yes.

3 Q Are those photos of her injuries?

4 A Yes.

5 MR. MILLER: Your Honor, at this time, the State would
6 move to introduce State's 1 through 10.

7 THE COURT: Any objection?

8 MS. ALVES: No, Your Honor.

9 THE COURT: State's Exhibit Nos. 1 through 10 would be
10 admitted without objection.

11 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibit Nos. 1 through 10 were
12 admitted into evidence.)

13 BY MR. MILLER:

14 Q Now, if you don't mind, what does State's Exhibit 1
15 depict?

16 A Some bruising on her legs, thighs and both her legs.

17 Q State's Exhibit No. 2?

18 A That's a human bite mark on her lower leg.

19 Q State's Exhibit No. 3, just another angle?

20 A Yeah, just another angle of the human bite mark and
21 bruising.

22 Q State's Exhibit 4?

23 A Some welting and looks like some superficial
24 lacerations.

25 Q State's Exhibit 5?

Conita Hill - Cross by Ms. Alves

1 A Good bit of bruising and swelling and some superficial
2 lacerations, again, like, on her upper arm and a little bit
3 on the breast area.

4 Q And that's State's Exhibit 6, too? .

5 A Yes.

6 Q State's Exhibit 7?

7 A That's more bruises on her breasts area and upper arm.

8 Q And what side of her body is that?

9 A That's on her left side.

10 Q State's Exhibit No. 8?

11 A Just more like the superficial -- it's bruising and
12 then she has the small superficial cus on that picture.

13 Q State's Exhibit No. 9?

14 A That appeared to be a human bite.

15 Q And State's Exhibit No. 10?

16 A Bruising, welts.

17 Q Now, these injuries that you just saw the photos of and
18 you saw that day, do those appear to be fresh injuries to
19 you?

20 A Yes, they appear to be fairly new.

21 MR. MILLER: Ms. Hill, please answer any questions Ms.
22 Alves has for you.

23 CROSS-EXAMINATION

24 BY MS. ALVES:

25 Q You just said fairly new, what do you mean?

Conita Hill - Redirect by Mr. Miller

1 A There was still actively bleeding.

2 Q Now, some of those injuries had scabbed over?

3 A Some of them had scabbed over, but it was -- but the
4 majority of them were still fresh, still had some bleeding.

5 Q But some of them were a little older?

6 A Some were older -- some, it could have been older, I
7 can't judge, but she definitely had bleeding in a lot of the
8 areas.

9 Q But there are some that are scabbed over?

10 A Yeah, like, the upper arms, but the ones on her lower
11 extremities were fresh and still bleeding. My nurse
12 probably wiped a lot of the blood away.

13 MS. ALVES: Thank you. I don't have anything further.

14 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

15 BY MR. MILLER:

16 Q If someone has an abrasion that's bleeding, would it
17 scab over within two days?

18 A If it was superficial, scabbing can start as soon as
19 later on that day. That's like small, small cuts.

20 MR. MILLER: No further questions, Your Honor.

21 THE COURT: Anything further of Ms. Hill?

22 MS. ALVES: No, Your Honor.

23 THE COURT: You may step down.

24 MR. MILLER: Your Honor, if we could take a short break
25 before we call the next witness. It's probably going to be

- Direct by Ms. Staggs

1 one of our lengthier witnesses.

2 THE COURT: Okay.

3 Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, we'll take a break.

4 Madam Bailiff, will you take our jury to the jury room?

5 (WHEREUPON, the jury exits the courtroom at 3:10 p.m.)

6 THE COURT: We'll be in recess.

7 (WHEREUPON, a short break was taken.)

8 THE COURT: Are we ready for our jury?

9 MS. STAGGS: Yes, Your Honor.

10 THE COURT: Madam Bailiff, would you get our jury,
11 please?

12 (WHEREUPON, the jury enters the courtroom at 3:26 p.m.)

13 THE COURT: The State can call your next witness.

14 MS. STAGGS: The State calls TW

15 THE CLERK: Raise your right hand.

16 TW

17 after being duly sworn, testified as follows:

18 THE CLERK: Thank you.

19 DIRECT EXAMINATION

20 BY MS. STAGGS:

21 Q TW state your full name for the record, please.

22 A TW

23 Q And spell your last name?

24 A T -- oh, Williams?

25 Q Yes, ma'am.

- 1 A W-I-L-L-I-A-M-S.
- 2 Q [REDACTED] TW [REDACTED] where are you from?
- 3 A I'm from Virginia.
- 4 Q Where do you live now?
- 5 A I stay with my grandmother.
- 6 Q Where?
- 7 A In Denmark.
- 8 Q In Denmark?
- 9 A Yeah.
- 10 Q How long you been living in Denmark?
- 11 A Ever since 2019.
- 12 Q Did you grow up somewhere else?
- 13 A Yeah.
- 14 Q You said now you live with your grandmother?
- 15 A Yes.
- 16 Q Anybody else?
- 17 A My momma and daddy.
- 18 Q And your mom and dad?
- 19 A Yes.
- 20 Q And where were you living in February of last year?
- 21 A I was staying with my grandmother.
- 22 Q So in the same house?
- 23 A Yes.
- 24 Q In Denmark?
- 25 A Yes.

TW

- Direct by Ms. Staggs

1 Q And do you know Myron Singleton?

2 A Yes, ma'am.

3 Q How do you know him?

4 A We had a sexual relationship at first and then it
5 became consensual [sic].

6 Q So you mean he was your boyfriend for a little bit?

7 A Yeah.

8 Q Did you call him by something different? Did he have a
9 nickname?

10 A Black.

11 Q Black?

12 A Yeah.

13 Q And at some point in this relationship, you said it was
14 sort of a sexual relationship at first and then it turned
15 into like an exclusive boyfriend/girlfriend kind of thing.
16 At some point, did it ever turn into anything else?

17 A Abusive.

18 Q And did he have you do anything -- do things for him as
19 part of that relationship?

20 A Sometimes like sleep with people for molly and stuff.

21 Q I'm sorry, can you speak a little bit louder?

22 A Like, sleep with people for molly and stuff, but other
23 than that, nothing.

24 Q So he had you have sex with other people for drugs?

25 A Yeah.

TW

- Direct by Ms. Staggs

1 Q So let's go back to last year, like, early in last
2 year. Did you have a job?

3 A Yes, I did.

4 Q Where were you working?

5 A I used to work at the old folks home in Denmark.

6 Q Okay. Were you still working there in February of
7 2022?

8 A I was, but then I got fired.

9 Q Okay. And did you have a new job?

10 A Yes. I was working at Pegasus Home Fashion in Denmark.

11 Q On, like, February 3rd of 2022, you were working at
12 Pegasus?

13 A Yes.

14 Q How did Myron feel about you working?

15 MS. ALVES: Objection, calls for speculation.

16 MS. STAGGS: Judge, I think they were in a relationship
17 and he would --

18 THE COURT: Overruled.

19 BY MS. STAGGS:

20 Q TW you can answer. So how did he feel about you
21 working?

22 A He didn't like it. It was really jealous about me
23 working.

24 Q Would he get upset?

25 A Yeah.

TW

- Direct by Ms. Staggs

1 Q And so let's get to February the 3rd. It was a
2 Thursday. What happened that day? What were you doing?
3 Where were you?

4 A February 3rd?

5 Q Uh-huh.

6 A I was home and then I walked to the stop sign and he
7 picked me up.

8 Q And where did he take you?

9 A He took me to Pecan Street.

10 Q In Denmark?

11 A Yeah.

12 Q And that's in Bamberg County?

13 A Yes.

14 Q Who house was that on Pecan Street?

15 A I believe it's his house.

16 Q All right. That's the house you knew to be his house?

17 A Uh-huh.

18 Q What happened when you got there?

19 A We was arguing about something.

20 Q And what did he do during that argument?

21 A He started beating on me, accusing me of cheating, hit
22 me with an extension cord.

23 Q Did you call for help?

24 A No, he took my phone.

25 Q Were you free to leave? Could you leave?

TW

- Direct by Ms. Staggs

1 A No, I couldn't.

2 Q So you were there with him that Thursday, so he beat
3 you. What happened that night, that first night?

4 A The first night, we had gotten into a big fight. He
5 had tried to drown me inside of a shower.

6 Q What kind of shower, like the bathtub?

7 A No, it was like a stand-up shower.

8 Q So it didn't hold a lot of water?

9 A No.

10 Q And did you eventually go to sleep or did you stay up,
11 what happened?

12 A He gave me some medicine for my pain.

13 Q So then it's Friday and you're still at his house.
14 Were you free to leave?

15 A No.

16 Q What happened on Friday?

17 A Friday, I woke up and we continued fighting that
18 Friday.

19 Q And was this a verbal argument or was this a physical
20 argument?

21 A It was physical.

22 Q And what did he do? What do you mean physical?

23 A He beat with the extension cord again. He had me at
24 gunpoint.

25 Q Where was he holding the gun?

[REDACTED] - Direct by Ms. Staggs

1 A To my head.

2 Q Did he say anything to you?

3 A He told me he was going to kill me.

4 Q When he had a gun to your head?

5 A (Witness nods head.)

6 Q And what else happened that day? At any point, did you
7 ever try to fight back?

8 A Yes.

9 Q What happened when you tried to fight back?

10 A He would get mad and beat me.

11 Q And so this assault, did it go on all day or sort of
12 off and on all day?

13 A It went all day.

14 Q So you discussed with us that he hit you with an
15 extension cord and held a gun to your head. Did he assault
16 you with anything else?

17 A A table leg or either a chair leg.

18 Q What did he do with that -- it was like a piece of
19 wood, I assume, if it was a table leg or chair leg?

20 A Yeah.

21 Q So what did he do with that -- we'll call it a table
22 leg. What did he do with the table leg?

23 A He assaulted me with it. He put it in my vagina.

24 Q He raped you with it?

25 A Yeah.

[REDACTED] - Direct by Ms. Staggs

1 Q By the end of the day, you were probably tired. At
2 some point, did you give up fighting?

3 A Yeah.

4 Q And while this was going on over this weekend, did
5 anybody come to the house?

6 A My mother and my father did.

7 Q What happened when they came to the door?

8 A He told me that I couldn't come to the door. If I did,
9 he was going to shoot me and my mother.

10 Q But you didn't make any noise when they came by?

11 A No.

12 Q And after your mom left, did anybody else come by?

13 A I believe his mother did and his son.

14 Q Okay. At any point, did the police come?

15 A Yes.

16 Q And what happened when the police knocked on the door?

17 A He told me not to answer it.

18 Q What happened when one of the kids came over?

19 A He let him know that the police officer was on his way
20 because there was a missing report.

21 Q And after that and after the police left, what did he
22 do? Did he let you go? Did he let you call anybody?

23 A He let me call my mom and he told me to tell my mom I
24 was in Allendale.

25 Q Is that what you did?

[REDACTED] - Direct by Ms. Staggs

1 A Yes.

2 Q And so by the time Saturday rolls around, what happened
3 on Saturday? Did he ever leave the house?

4 A Yeah, one of his friends picked him up.

5 Q And did you go with him?

6 A No.

7 Q You stayed behind?

8 A Yes.

9 Q And after he left, were you there by yourself?

10 A Yeah, I went home.

11 Q You left?

12 A Yes.

13 Q And on your way home, you ended up with your momma?

14 A Yes.

15 Q And how did that happen?

16 A I called my mom and told her to come pick me up.

17 Q And you left with her?

18 A Yes.

19 Q Where did y'all go?

20 A We went straight to the hospital because I was bruised.

21 Q You went to the hospital first?

22 A No, we went to the police station, then we went to the
23 hospital.

24 Q When you got to the police station, you told them most
25 of what happened. Did you tell them that you had been

TW - Direct by Ms. Staggs

1 sexually assaulted?

2 A No, because I felt uncomfortable with the police
3 officer.

4 Q After the police station, where did you go?

5 A To the hospital.

6 Q To the ER?

7 A Yes.

8 Q And at that point, did you tell the people there that
9 you had been sexually assaulted?

10 A Yes.

11 Q And then after the ER, where did you go? Did you go to
12 another hospital?

13 A Yes, I went to Orangeburg Hospital.

14 Q For a rape kit?

15 A Uh-huh.

16 Q And then who took you home?

17 A Officer -- I forgot his name.

18 Q From the Denmark Police Department, though?

19 A Yeah.

20 Q That same one you had met with earlier in the day?

21 A Yeah.

22 Q So after this incident, after you got out of the
23 hospital and everything like that, did you see Myron again?
24 Did y'all have any communication on the computer?

25 A Yeah.

[REDACTED] - Direct by Ms. Staggs

1 Q And what happened?

2 A We met at a hotel and we talked.

3 Q So how did you end up meeting at the hotel? Did he
4 call you? Did you call him?

5 A I think I called him --

6 MS. ALVES: Judge, I would just ask if TW [REDACTED]
7 could speak up a little bit louder.

8 BY MS. STAGGS:

9 Q TW [REDACTED] if you could speak up just a little bit
10 so everyone can hear you. I'm sorry, I heard you say two
11 different things. Did you message or call him or did he
12 call you?

13 A I believe I messaged him.

14 Q And you said something about the hotel, you met up?

15 A Uh-huh.

16 Q What hotel?

17 A Denmark -- across the street from my house.

18 Q So right there in Denmark?

19 A Yeah.

20 Q Could you walk there?

21 A Uh-huh.

22 Q So you just walked over there?

23 A Uh-huh.

24 Q Did you take anybody with you?

25 A Yes.

TW

- Direct by Ms. Staggs

- 1 Q Who?
- 2 A I took one of my friends with me.
- 3 Q What's her name?
- 4 A Nikita White.
- 5 Q Where was Myron when you got there?
- 6 A He was on the side of the hotel.
- 7 Q And what did he do?
- 8 A He gave me the money for the hotel and I paid for it.
- 9 Q So he gave you the money to get a room?
- 10 A Yes.
- 11 Q And did you go up to the room with him?
- 12 A Yes.
- 13 Q And did Nikita go, too?
- 14 A Yes.
- 15 Q Why did you take Nikita with you?
- 16 A Because I was scared.
- 17 Q And what happened inside that room?
- 18 A I was talking.
- 19 Q Was Nikita in there the whole time?
- 20 A She was stepping in and out.
- 21 Q And what did y'all talk about?
- 22 A He asked me what was going on and had I talked to the
- 23 police and things like that.
- 24 Q And what did you tell him?
- 25 A No.

- Direct by Ms. Staggs

1 Q You told you didn't talk to the police?

2 A Uh-huh.

3 Q And why did you say that?

4 A I just panicked. Ain't no telling what he would have
5 done if I would have said yes.

6 Q And did you -- since the hotel, other than today in
7 court, have you seen him? Have you seen any of the members
8 of his family?

9 A Yeah.

10 Q And who --

11 A You talking about like now?

12 Q No, like, sort of right after that, did you see
13 anybody?

14 A Yeah.

15 Q Who did you see?

16 A His brother.

17 Q And when did you see his brother?

18 A Probably, like, a couple months.

19 MS. ALVES: I would ask TW to talk louder.

20 THE COURT: Ma'am, make sure you speak up.

21 THE WITNESS: Okay. Probably, like, a couple months
22 after.

23 BY MS. STAGGS:

24 Q And what happened when you saw his brother?

25 A Me and his brother were just talking in his car.

TW

- Direct by Ms. Staggs

1 Q Did he take you anywhere in that car?

2 A Yeah, we rode to Bamberg and then we went to his mom
3 house in the morning.

4 Q To Myron's mom house?

5 A Yeah, in the morning.

6 Q In the morning, okay. What happened when you got to
7 his mom's house?

8 A She asked me to write a letter saying that I didn't
9 want to press charges.

10 Q And did you do that?

11 A Basically, she talked to me -- like, she talked me
12 through it, but yeah.

13 Q So she told you what to do?

14 A Yeah, and I wrote it.

15 Q And after you wrote this letter saying you didn't want
16 to press charges, what did you do with it?

17 A I gave it to his lawyer.

18 Q Who took you there?

19 A His mother.

20 Q She drove you to the lawyer?

21 A Yes.

22 Q Where was she when you took it inside?

23 A She was in the car -- well, she tried to go inside the
24 lawyer's office, but they wouldn't let her, so she went back
25 to the car.

Tanyia Williams - Direct by Ms. Staggs

1 Q So she waited in the car?

2 A Yeah.

3 Q So I want to show you what's already been admitted as
4 State's Exhibit 2, 3 and 9. If you would just look at those
5 photos for me.

6 A (Witness complies.)

7 Q Do you recognize what that is?

8 A Yeah.

9 Q What is it?

10 A Those are bite marks.

11 Q And can you show me on your body where that bite mark
12 was?

13 A (Witness complies.)

14 Q And do you still have a mark there today?

15 A Yeah.

16 Q Can you show that to the jury?

17 A (Witness complies.)

18 MS. STAGGS: Your Honor, I'd like permission to publish
19 these photos to the jury.

20 THE COURT: Yes, ma'am.

21 BY MS. STAGGS:

22 Q That's State's Exhibit 2. Is that what you're
23 describing as the bite mark?

24 A Yes.

25 Q How did you get that bite mark?

Direct by Ms. Staggs

1 A He bit me.

2 Q Who bit you?

3 A Myron.

4 Q And is that another photo, No. 9 is another photo of
5 it?

6 A Yes.

7 Q Now, I'm going to show you what's already been admitted
8 into evidence as State's Exhibit 5. What's that?

9 A That's when he hit me with an orange extension cord.

10 Q And where is that mark on your body?

11 A (Witness indicates.)

12 Q That scar that you're pointing to?

13 A Yes, ma'am.

14 Q And this is State's Exhibit 5. That's the same mark?

15 A Yes.

16 MS. STAGGS: Beg the Court's indulgence for just one
17 moment.

18 (Pause.)

19 BY MS. STAGGS:

20 Q TW I have one more question. We've been talking
21 about this assault and Myron. Do you see him here in the
22 courtroom today?

23 A (Witness nods.)

24 Q Can you point him out for me?

25 A (Witness indicates.)

1 Q Sitting right here?

2 A (Witness nods.)

3 MS. STAGGS: I don't have any further questions.

4 Please answer any questions that Ms. Alves may have.

5 THE COURT: Cross-examination.

6 CROSS-EXAMINATION

7 BY MS. ALVES:

8 Q How did you meet Myron?

9 A I met him through a friend.

10 Q What friend?

11 A His name is Rachet Taylor.

12 Q Rachet?

13 A Yeah.

14 Q How did you come to meet Myron through Rachet?

15 A We met at a store and then went to Myron's house.

16 Q And what was your relationship with Rachet?

17 A We was friends.

18 Q Friends?

19 A Yes.

20 Q Was he your boyfriend?

21 A At one point, yes.

22 Q Wasn't he, also, somebody who was encouraging you --
23 wasn't he your pimp?

24 A No.

25 Q What was Rachet to you?

TW - Cross by Ms. Alves

1 A He was just a friend.

2 Q And Rachet wasn't having you have sex with other people
3 for money?

4 A No.

5 Q When did you meet Myron?

6 A I met Myron at his house.

7 Q At Myron's house?

8 A Yes.

9 Q And Rachet took you there?

10 A Yeah.

11 Q How long ago was that?

12 A That was like -- I can't even remember.

13 Q Was it a year before February of 2022?

14 A I can't remember. I can't say.

15 Q And do you remember when -- now, you said Myron was
16 your boyfriend. When did he become your boyfriend?

17 A Myron became my boyfriend right after me and Rachet
18 fell out.

19 Q But you don't remember exactly when that was?

20 A No, I don't.

21 Q Did your parents know that you were seeing Rachet?

22 A Yes, they did. He came to my house.

23 Q Rachet went to your house?

24 A Yes.

25 Q So your mother would have met him?

TW

- Cross by Ms. Alves

1 A Yes.

2 Q And she would have known that you and him, at least,
3 were talking?

4 A Yes.

5 Q And when you were with Myron, where would y'all meet
6 up?

7 A At his house or a hotel.

8 Q His house or a hotel?

9 A Yeah.

10 Q And who would pay for the hotel?

11 A Either him or me.

12 Q One of y'all would pay for it?

13 A Yes, one of us.

14 Q At that time, you were working?

15 A Yes.

16 Q Now, did you, also, know Myron's family members, like,
17 his brothers?

18 A Yeah, I knew his brothers.

19 Q And sister?

20 A Sister.

21 Q His mom?

22 A Mom.

23 Q And at that time when you were dating Myron, you said
24 you were living with your grandmother, your mother and your
25 dad?

TW - Cross by Ms. Alves

1 A Yes.

2 Q And wouldn't you, in fact, be telling them, Myron and
3 his family members, stories about your parents?

4 A I did.

5 Q What did you tell them?

6 A I told them that they take advantage of me.

7 Q You told Myron and his mom and his family members that
8 your family members were taking advantage of you?

9 A Yes, I did.

10 Q And, in fact, you told Ms. Dot and Myron and his family
11 members that your mom and dad were stealing from you?

12 A I don't recall. I can't remember.

13 Q Well, how were they taking advantage of you? How did
14 you tell them?

15 A I don't remember.

16 Q You just remember --

17 A Can you ask me another question because I don't
18 remember?

19 Q I'm going to ask the questions and you answer them.

20 A Ask me another one because I don't remember.

21 Q You said that you told them that your family members
22 were taking advantage of you --

23 A And I told you that I don't remember.

24 Q -- what did you tell them?

25 THE COURT: Hold on. Hold on. Let her finish the

TW

- Cross by Ms. Alves

1 question and you --

2 THE WITNESS: She's asking me something I don't
3 remember and she keeping going on and on and on.

4 THE COURT: Go ahead.

5 BY MS. ALVES:

6 Q What did you tell them about how they were taking
7 advantage of you?

8 A Huh?

9 Q What did you tell them about how they were taking
10 advantage of you?

11 A I was saying they were trying to treat me like I was
12 slow.

13 Q And didn't you, also, tell them that your mother and
14 father were stealing from your grandparents?

15 A Yes, I did.

16 Q Were your parents stealing from your grandparents?

17 A Yes.

18 Q Did you ever call the police and tell the police that
19 your parents were stealing from --

20 A Why would I call the police?

21 Q Did you ever call the police and tell them that your
22 parents were stealing from your grandparents?

23 A That don't make no sense to call the police.

24 Q It's a yes or no question. Did you --

25 A No.

TW - Cross by Ms. Alves

1 Q Now, you said that Myron had you sleeping with people
2 for molly?

3 A He did.

4 Q When did that start?

5 A I can't remember.

6 Q How many times did that happen?

7 A I really can't remember.

8 Q Now, when you went to the hospital, you told them about
9 all these other -- you told them about what you say happened
10 on the 3rd to the 5th. Did you ever tell anybody at the
11 hospital that Myron was pimping you out for drugs?

12 A No, I did not.

13 Q Did you tell anybody?

14 A The prosecutors.

15 Q So the first person that you told that Myron supposedly
16 was pimping you out for drugs would have been these
17 prosecutors?

18 A Right.

19 Q And that was when they were preparing for trial?

20 A Yes.

21 Q When you left -- now, let's go back to the 3rd of
22 February. Did you have an argument with your mother that
23 day?

24 A Me and mom, I think we was arguing that day.

25 Q Just arguing?

1 A Yes.

2 Q And she didn't want you to leave the house?

3 A Yes.

4 Q But you're an adult, you can do what you want to do?

5 A Correct.

6 Q Did you and your mom and dad often have a lot of
7 conflict about them wanting you to do stuff you don't want
8 to do or you doing stuff they don't approve of?

9 A Right.

10 Q But you're an adult, you can do what you want to do?

11 A Right.

12 Q And that day, did you have an arrangement to meet
13 Myron?

14 A Yes.

15 Q So y'all had plans to meet at the stop sign?

16 A Yes.

17 Q And then go to his house?

18 A Yes.

19 Q And how long had you planned to stay there?

20 A Probably be like that whole weekend.

21 Q So you had planned to stay the whole weekend?

22 A Yeah.

23 Q Did your mom know that?

24 A No.

25 Q Do you often stay out and not tell her?

Tanyia Williams - Cross by Ms. Alves

1 A Sometimes I'll call to let her know.

2 Q And when you got to Myron's house, you said nobody else
3 was there?

4 A No.

5 Q Was anybody else going to be there?

6 A Sometimes his brother is there.

7 Q Was his brother, also, living there?

8 A I think he moved.

9 Q He might have moved out?

10 A Yeah.

11 Q Which brother?

12 A I think it was Donald.

13 Q Donald?

14 A Yeah.

15 Q You testified earlier that nobody else was there?

16 A Yeah.

17 Q Going back to your parents, when you would talk about
18 your parents to Myron and his family members, you would
19 often make fun of them, wouldn't you?

20 A I don't recall.

21 Q Do you recall sometimes your father would stand in your
22 doorway to keep you from going out?

23 A I don't recall.

24 Q Do you recall sending pictures?

25 A No, I don't recall.

1 (WHEREUPON, Defendant's Exhibit Nos. 1 through 4 were
2 marked for identification.)

3 BY MS. ALVES:

4 Q I'm showing you what's been marked as Defendant's
5 Exhibits 1 through 4. Take a look at those.

6 A Oh, that's not telling you that's my dad.

7 Q Do you recognize those pictures?

8 A I don't know who that is.

9 Q You don't recognize those pictures?

10 A No, I don't know who that is. He might be a strange
11 person.

12 Q Let me ask you this, you don't remember sending these
13 pictures?

14 A I don't know who that is.

15 Q Just yes or no?

16 A No.

17 Q And wouldn't you when you were texting Myron sometimes
18 tell him you couldn't talk because your parents were looking
19 at your phone or they were with you?

20 A I don't remember.

21 Q Now, on this day when you -- on the 5th that -- you
22 said you were at the house from the 3rd to the 5th. Did
23 anybody else come to the house?

24 A Yes.

25 Q I mean, in the house?

Tanyia Williams - Cross by Ms. Alves

1 A No.

2 Q So the only people that came to the house is people who
3 came and knocked on the door?

4 A Yes.

5 Q Now, you said that his mother and his son came to the
6 house?

7 A Yes, they like knocked on the door and let him know a
8 police officer was coming in, something about a missing
9 person's report.

10 Q I'm sorry?

11 A Something about a missing person's report.

12 Q Okay.

13 A And then my mom came, my mom and dad.

14 Q They came after the police?

15 A Yeah. Either after or before.

16 Q And then what happened the mom and the son came?

17 A After the mom and son came, it was that Saturday. He
18 left and I left and went home.

19 Q So he left you there at his house?

20 A Huh?

21 Q He left you there at his house?

22 A No, when he left, I left.

23 Q You left at the same time?

24 A Not really.

25 Q Who left first?

TW

- Cross by Ms. Alves

- 1 A. He left first.
- 2 Q And when he left, he asked if you wanted to go with
3 him, didn't he?
- 4 A Yes.
- 5 Q And you said no?
- 6 A Right.
- 7 Q And then he left with his friend?
- 8 A Yeah.
- 9 Q And then you started walking home?
- 10 A Yeah, then I called my mother.
- 11 Q Did you ever call the police?
- 12 A No, I went to the police station.
- 13 Q Did you call the police?
- 14 A No, I didn't.
- 15 Q So you went to the police after your mother took you?
- 16 A Yeah.
- 17 Q And then it was -- after you went to the police and you
18 went to the hospital, you didn't see Myron anymore until the
19 24th; is that right?
- 20 A Right.
- 21 Q That's the day you went to the hotel?
- 22 A Right.
- 23 Q And you, actually, made contact with him first?
- 24 A Yeah.
- 25 Q Why were you calling Myron?

TW

- Cross by Ms. Alves

- 1 A Because I was checking on him.
- 2 Q You were checking on him?
- 3 A Yeah.
- 4 Q And, actually, you and Myron talked back and forth
5 several times?
- 6 A Right.
- 7 Q And y'all texted back and forth numerous times?
- 8 A Right.
- 9 Q Where you were saying you loved him?
- 10 A Yeah.
- 11 Q In fact, you said you wished you had gotten pregnant by
12 him?
- 13 A Yeah.
- 14 Q You even texted him and said all that to him after the
15 beating?
- 16 A Huh?
- 17 Q You said that on the 24th after y'all met up?
- 18 A Yeah.
- 19 Q And then you said that you met up with his brother at
20 some point after that?
- 21 A Donald.
- 22 Q Why did you meet up with Donald?
- 23 A His brother?
- 24 Q Yes.
- 25 A Because I wanted to.

1 Q What did you and Donald do?

2 A Talked.

3 Q You and Donald were talking?

4 A Yeah.

5 Q So you said the next morning, he took you to his
6 mother's house?

7 A Yes.

8 Q So you and Donald talked all night?

9 A Yeah.

10 Q So you spent the night with Donald?

11 A Yeah.

12 Q And then you went to his mother's house?

13 A Yeah.

14 Q Why did you go to his mother's house?

15 A Because his mother wanted me to write a letter.

16 Q Why didn't you just say no?

17 A Because at one point, I wanted to do it and then I
18 realized everything that's going on.

19 Q So you wrote this letter?

20 A Right.

21 Q And you wrote it on the 29th of March?

22 A Yes.

23 Q And then you brought the letter to me, actually, right?
24 You said his lawyer, you brought the letter to me?

25 A Uh-huh.

TW - Cross by Ms. Alves

1 Q And Dot drove you over there?

2 A Yeah.

3 Q And you said my office staff would not allow Dot to
4 come in the office; is that right?

5 A Yes.

6 Q You came to my office to talk to me?

7 A Yes, ma'am.

8 Q In fact, you didn't have an appointment or anything?

9 A No.

10 Q You just came in?

11 A Right.

12 Q And when we talked, my investigator was present. Do
13 you remember Mr. Martin?

14 A Uh-huh.

15 Q He was present in the room with us?

16 A Right.

17 Q And do you recall that we asked you about whether or
18 not anybody had forced you to come and forced you to write a
19 statement?

20 A I don't remember everything. I remember some of it.

21 Q You didn't tell us that you were forced, did you?

22 A I don't think so.

23 Q No?

24 A No.

25 Q And you said that -- you told us that Myron never had a

TW

- Cross by Ms. Alves

1 gun, didn't you?

2 A Yes.

3 Q And you said Myron never raped you, didn't you?

4 A Yeah.

5 Q And you said Myron never held you hostage?

6 A Yeah.

7 Q You, actually, wrote that down, didn't you?

8 A Yeah, I did.

9 MS. ALVES: Beg the Court's indulgence.

10 (Pause.)

11 BY MS. ALVES:

12 Q Now, you talked about Myron pimping you out. When was
13 the last time?

14 A I don't remember.

15 Q You don't know?

16 A No.

17 Q So you're saying that Myron was having you have sex
18 with other people in exchange for drugs?

19 A Right.

20 Q But then you're telling us that on February -- between
21 February 3rd and February 5th, he was upset at you for
22 cheating on him?

23 A Yes.

24 Q And he stuck a stick up you in retaliation for cheating
25 on him?

1 A And he beat me.

2 Q For cheating on him?

3 A Right.

4 Q Even though he had you having sex with other people for
5 money according to you?

6 A That's before the fact.

7 Q When's the last time?

8 A The last time? I can't remember.

9 Q And I want to be clear, you never told the police that
10 you were being forced to being a prostitute?

11 A No, I didn't tell the police.

12 Q And you didn't write it in your statement?

13 A No.

14 Q You didn't tell the doctors?

15 A No.

16 Q And you didn't tell the rape examination nurse either,
17 did you?

18 A I had other things on my mind.

19 Q You didn't tell the nurse, did you?

20 A No.

21 Q And you didn't tell your parents, did you?

22 A No.

23 MS. ALVES: I don't have anything further.

24 THE COURT: Any redirect?

25 MS. STAGGS: Yes, Your Honor. Thank you.

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Q Let's talk a little bit about that, about Myron pimping you out. Ms. Alves asked you why -- or that you didn't disclose that until we met in preparation for trial?

Q And did you tell me that before I asked you?

Q You responded when I asked you a specific question?

Q And did you disclose your sexual assault until somebody asked you a specific question about that?

Q You didn't tell them until they asked you?

Q And when Myron had you have sex with other men for drugs, drugs for him, was that okay with him?

Q So was it okay, though, for you to have relationships with anyone else that he didn't know about?

Q Did you love him? Cared about him? You were in a relationship with him?

Q Were you scared of him?

Nikita White - Direct by Mr. Miller

1 A Yes.

2 Q And Ms. Alves asked you about that letter that you
3 wrote with his mom, Dot, that you took up to her office and
4 the statement that you gave to her and her investigator.
5 What's the truth, what you testified to here today or what
6 you told her in that meeting?

7 A What I testified to here.

8 MS. STAGGS: No further questions, Your Honor.

9 THE COURT: Anything further from this witness?

10 MS. ALVES: No, Your Honor.

11 THE COURT: Thank you, ma'am. You can step down.

12 MR. MILLER: Your Honor, the State calls Nikita White.

13 THE CLERK: Raise your right hand, please.

14 NIKITA WHITE,

15 after being duly sworn, testified as follows:

16 THE CLERK: Thank you. Have a seat.

17 DIRECT EXAMINATION

18 BY MR. MILLER:

19 Q Nikita, can you state your full name for the court?

20 A Nikita Tenell (ph) White.

21 Q And how do you spell White?

22 A W-H-I-T-E.

23 Q Okay. Where are you from, Nikita?

24 A Aiken, South Carolina.

25 Q Where do you live now?

Nikita White - Direct by Mr. Miller

1 A In Denmark, South Carolina.

2 Q And Denmark is in Bamberg County?

3 A Yes, sir.

4 Q How do you know TW -- or do you know

5 TW

6 A Yes, she's a girlfriend of mine.

7 Q And do you know who Myron Singleton is?

8 A Yes, I do.

9 Q And how do you know him?

10 A By TW

11 Q Okay. Were you aware of the time in early February of
12 last year that TW got beaten up?

13 A Yeah, she told me.

14 Q Some time later that month, did you and TW go to a
15 motel in Denmark together?

16 A Yes.

17 Q Did you and TW meet anyone at the motel?

18 A Well, I saw Myron coming to the hotel.

19 Q You saw Myron what now?

20 A I saw Myron coming to the hotel. He gave her the
21 money.

22 Q So you said Myron gave her money. What was he giving
23 her money for?

24 A For the hotel.

25 Q Okay. To pay for the room?

Nikita White - Direct by Mr. Miller

1 A Yes.

2 Q After -- did TW get a hotel room?

3 A Yes.

4 Q After she got the hotel room, what happened next?

5 A I went in there for a couple of minutes and then I
6 left. They started talking and I left.

7 Q Okay. Do you know why it was TW wanted you to go
8 with her to the hotel that day?

9 A Because I think she was scared.

10 Q Okay. Did you see Myron doing anything to TW in
11 the hotel room that day?

12 A No.

13 Q They were just talking?

14 A They were just talking.

15 Q After you left the hotel room, were TW and Myron
16 still there?

17 A Yes.

18 Q Did you ever get a call from TW father after you
19 saw them at the hotel room?

20 A Yes.

21 Q And in response to that call, what did you tell him?

22 A That she was still at the hotel.

23 MR. MILLER: Please answer any questions Ms. Alves has
24 for you.

25 THE COURT: Ms. Alves, your witness.

CROSS-EXAMINATION

BY MS. ALVES:

Q TW asked you to go to the hotel?

A Yes.

Q And then once they got there, how long were you there before you left?

A Probably like five minutes.

Q And you left them there?

A Yes.

Q Why did you leave them?

A I just wanted to go because I felt like a bad vibe.

Q So you left her there with Myron?

A Yes.

Q And then did her dad already know she was at the hotel?

A No, he did not.

Q So you told him that she was there?

A Yes.

Q You went home?

A Yes.

Q Did you ever call her parents to tell her parents that she was there or the dad called you?

A The dad called me.

Q How did her dad know that she was with you?

A Because I met her at Po Boy's and she had called me to meet her at Po Boy's.

Nikita White - Cross by Ms. Alves

1 Q At where, I'm sorry?

2 A At a store called Po Boy's in Denmark. And I went to
3 Po Boy's and asked me to go to the motel and she said she
4 was scared.

5 Q So she met you at -- is Po Boy's the store that's kind
6 of across the street from the motel?

7 A Yes.

8 Q And we're talking about the Carolina Motel that's on
9 the same side of the street that McDonald's is, a block or
10 two up?

11 A Yes.

12 Q And then Po Boy's is right across the street?

13 A Right across the street.

14 Q So she met you at the Po Boy's?

15 A Yes.

16 Q And asked you to go to the motel with her?

17 A Yes, because she was scared.

18 Q How did her dad know that she was with you?

19 A Because she had told him she was going with me.

20 Q She told her dad that she was going to be meeting you?

21 A That's what she told me. She said she told him --

22 Q She told you that she told her dad that lie so that she
23 could cover up where she was really going?

24 A Yeah.

25 Q Okay. And how long have you known TW

- 1 A Three years.
- 2 Q Three years?
- 3 A Maybe two years.
- 4 Q Two years. And how long have you known Myron?
- 5 A I didn't know him that long.
- 6 Q Before February of 2022, how long had you known him?
- 7 A I had known him before that.
- 8 Q February 2022, that's when y'all went to the motel?
- 9 A Yeah, I knew him then, but I didn't know him back then.
- 10 Q You didn't know him long?
- 11 A I didn't know him long.
- 12 Q Had you been to his house before?
- 13 A Yes, I had, to go check on my friend.
- 14 Q To go check on TW
- 15 A Yes.
- 16 Q Did you know her and her other boyfriends?
- 17 A Not recently, no. I just know one.
- 18 Q Who is the one you know?
- 19 A The boyfriend she has, that's the only one I know.
- 20 Q The new boyfriend?
- 21 A Yes.
- 22 Q Did you know Rachet?
- 23 A I barely knew him.
- 24 Q Did you know him when they were dating?
- 25 A Yeah.

Nikita White - Redirect by Mr. Miller

1 Q Did you ever have any dealings with Rachet?

2 A No, I did not.

3 Q And how many times have you been to Myron's house?

4 A Like, once or twice.

5 Q Once or twice?

6 A Just to check on my friend.

7 Q Who would invite you over there?

8 A I just went over there because I knew she was with him.

9 Q So you would just go over there to visit with her?

10 A Yes.

11 MS. ALVES: No further questions.

12 THE COURT: Anything further from this witness?

13 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

14 BY MR. MILLER:

15 Q Back when TW was with Rachet, did you see her with
16 bruises all over her body?

17 A Yes.

18 Q Did you see her with welts all over her body?

19 A Yes, because showed me the welts.

20 Q I'm talking about when she was with Rachet?

21 A Oh, no, I never seen any.

22 Q Let's be clear, I'm asking about Rachet. When she was
23 with Rachet, did you ever see her with bruises all over her
24 body?

25 A No.

1 Q Did you ever see her with welts on her body?

2 A No.

3 Q Did you see her with bite marks?

4 A No.

5 Q Since then, since that time in February, have you seen
6 her with welts all over her body in the last 16 months?

7 A No.

8 Q Bite marks?

9 A No.

10 Q Bruises?

11 A The ones that she told me about, but other than that,
12 no.

13 MR. MILLER: No further questions.

14 RECROSS EXAMINATION

15 BY MS. ALVES:

16 Q Now, you said there was a period of time when you
17 haven't seen her for months?

18 A Weeks.

19 Q So you didn't really know what was going on in the
20 period of time you didn't see her?

21 A No. I was worried about her. I kept calling and she
22 never answered her phone.

23 Q She didn't answer her phone?

24 A No.

25 MS. ALVES: Thank you. No further questions.

1 THE COURT: Thank you, ma'am. You may step down.

2 MR. MILLER: Your Honor, it might be a little bit
3 easier if we could approach instead of sending the jury to
4 their room.

5 (WHEREUPON, a bench conference was held.)

6 THE COURT: Ladies and gentlemen, we're going to end
7 for the day. Please do not discuss the case with anyone.
8 Please be back in your jury room tomorrow morning at 9:30.
9 Thank you. Have a good evening.

10 (WHEREUPON, the jury exits the courtroom at 4:18 p.m.)

11 THE COURT: Anything before we recess for the day?

12 MR. MILLER: No, Your Honor.

13 MS. ALVES: No, Your Honor.

14 THE COURT: All right. We'll see you in the morning.

15 (WHEREUPON, court was adjourned for the day to be
16 reconvened on Wednesday, June 21, 2023)

17 WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21, 2023

18 THE COURT: Before we bring our jury in, I understand
19 we have located our final juror and have all the jury
20 present.

21 Anything from the State?

22 MR. MILLER: Nothing from the State, Your Honor.

23 THE COURT: Anything from the Defense before we bring
24 our jury?

25 MS. ALVES: No, Your Honor.

Angela Zeigler - Direct by Ms. Staggs

1 THE COURT: Madam Bailiff, would you bring our jury in,
2 please?

3 (WHEREUPON, the jury enters the courtroom at 10:07
4 a.m.)

5 THE COURT: Let the record reflect all our jurors are
6 here.

7 Mr. Foreman and ladies and gentlemen of the jury, I
8 hope everyone had a good evening. I appreciate your
9 patience this morning. We had one juror that was not on
10 time.

11 Ladies and gentlemen, it's very important we be on
12 time. We had to delay the proceedings this morning by half
13 an hour. It's not fair to the staff. It's not fair to your
14 fellow jurors if someone is not on time.

15 So is the State ready to call their next witness?

16 MS. STAGGS: Yes, Your Honor. The State calls Angela
17 Zeigler.

18 THE CLERK: Please raise your right hand.

19 ANGELA ZEIGLER,

20 after being duly sworn, testified as follows:

21 THE CLERK: Thank you.

22 DIRECT EXAMINATION

23 BY MS. STAGGS:

24 Q Would you state your full name for the record, please,
25 ma'am.

Angela Zeigler - Direct by Ms. Staggs

1 A Angela Zeigler.

2 Q Would you spell your last name for the court reporter?

3 A Z-E-I-G-L-E-R.

4 Q Thank you. What do you do for a living?

5 A I'm a registered nurse.

6 Q And do you hold any special designations as a nurse?

7 A I do. I'm a sexual assault nurse.

8 Q Is that referred to sometimes as a SANE nurse?

9 A Yes.

10 Q And what does that stand for?

11 A Sexual assault nurse examiner.

12 Q So what kind of additional training other than,
13 obviously, nursing school and things like that, what kind of
14 additional training do you receive to be a SANE nurse?

15 A You have to go through 40 hours of didactic classroom
16 training and, also, other clinical law enforcement. You
17 have to do 60 pelvic exams.

18 Q Is it a specialization?

19 A Yes.

20 Q Where do you work?

21 A Currently, I work for Mettis Home Health.

22 Q And how long have you been there?

23 A A year.

24 Q And where did you work before that?

25 A Regional Medical Center in Orangeburg.

1 Q And were you working there on February 5th of 2022?

2 A I was.

3 Q Did you take care of TW [REDACTED] on that day?

4 A Yes.

5 Q When she came to Orangeburg, what was her demeanor when
6 you saw her?

7 A She was very quiet, almost as if she had been
8 traumatized. She was cooperative with the exam.

9 Q When you examined her, what injuries did you note that
10 you observed?

11 A She had numerous injuries on the top of her head down
12 to her feet. She had been beaten with a drop cord, hit in
13 the neck with a gun and, also, had lacerations.

14 Q Did she have any bleeding?

15 A She had vaginal bleeding.

16 Q And you mentioned a little bit about her injuries, but
17 did she tell you how she got her injuries?

18 A I had to keep asking her, you know, what happened as
19 part of the exam.

20 Q So sort of you had to ask her specific questions rather
21 than her just coming out with the whole thing?

22 A Yes.

23 Q And when you asked her those questions, what did she
24 tell you? Specifically, what did she tell you was the way
25 she sustained those injuries?

Angela Zeigler - Direct by Ms. Staggs

1 A Can I refer to my notes?

2 Q Absolutely.

3 MS. STAGGS: And Ms. Alves, you've seen that.

4 THE WITNESS: She was pushed on the bed, hit with a
5 pistol in the head. He got the wooden stick and put it
6 inside of me and said I don't care if you live or die. She
7 told me he kept hitting her with a drop cord. Then she told
8 me I think it was a dresser leg that he put into my vagina.

9 BY MS. STAGGS:

10 Q And before you reviewed your notes, did you remember

11 **TW** [REDACTED] Did you remember having treated her?

12 A I do. It was the last case before I left.

13 Q What stood out to you about her?

14 A The beating. She literally got the crap beaten out of
15 her.

16 MS. STAGGS: Beg the Court's indulgence.

17 (Pause.)

18 BY MS. STAGGS:

19 Q And when she told you about her injuries, did she tell
20 you who inflicted them?

21 A She did.

22 Q What did she say?

23 A She indicated it was Myron Kareem Singleton.

24 MS. STAGGS: Thank you. I have no further questions.
25 Please answer any questions Ms. Alves may have.

1 THE COURT: Ms. Alves, your witness.

2 MS. ALVES: Yes, sir.

3 CROSS-EXAMINATION

4 BY MS. ALVES:

5 Q In your examination of TW [REDACTED] you asked her
6 about some of her medical history?

7 A Yes.

8 Q And one of the things you asked about was her -- on
9 this page of the report, it says LMP date. Would that be
10 her last menstrual period?

11 A Yes.

12 Q And the date of that?

13 A January 29th, 2022.

14 Q And can you tell us -- how long does a menstrual period
15 usually last?

16 A It depends on the person.

17 Q Sometimes it can be as short as three days?

18 A It can.

19 Q Sometimes it can be as long as seven days?

20 A Yes.

21 Q In your questioning of TW [REDACTED] you, actually,
22 filled out a sexual assault examination protocol?

23 A Right.

24 Q And that's just paperwork that's provided by State Law
25 Enforcement to assist in doing these sexual assault

1 examinations?

2 A Yes.

3 Q I need you to speak up just a little bit louder. And
4 one of the things that you asked about is you said you asked
5 her who the assailant was?

6 A Yes.

7 Q And she told you that it was Myron Singleton?

8 A Correct.

9 Q And you don't have any knowledge of who did it other
10 than what she told you; is that correct?

11 A Correct.

12 Q All right. And you asked her about whether she
13 ingested any alcohol or drugs; is that correct?

14 A Correct.

15 Q And she said no?

16 A Correct.

17 Q I just want to be clear that you checked off no, that
18 she told you no because that was the answer she told you
19 when you asked her, she said she had not had any alcohol or
20 drugs?

21 A Correct.

22 Q And you asked her whether or not -- and you asked her
23 questions about Myron since that's who she said did this; is
24 that right?

25 A Yes.

1 Q I'll refer you to Page 4 of your report. You asked if
2 Myron had any STDs and she said no?

3 A Correct.

4 Q You asked if he had a vasectomy, she said no?

5 A Correct.

6 Q And you asked if Myron has ever used any alcohol or
7 drugs and she said no?

8 A Correct.

9 MS. ALVES: Thank you. No further questions.

10 THE COURT: Any redirect?

11 MS. STAGGS: Yes, Your Honor. Thank you.

12 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

13 BY MS. STAGGS:

14 Q In regards to what Ms. Alves asked you about a
15 menstrual period, is there a way for you to differentiate
16 between, sort of, active bleeding from an injury versus
17 menstrual bleeding?

18 A There is not.

19 MS. STAGGS: There is not.

20 RECROSS-EXAMINATION

21 BY MS. ALVES:

22 Q I want to clarify, did you just say there is not?

23 A There is no way to determine whether it's menstrual
24 bleeding or -- that was the question?

25 Q Yes. There's no way to determine whether it's

1 menstrual bleeding or from an injury?

2 A Correct.

3 MS. ALVES: Thank you. I don't have anything further.

4 THE COURT: Thank you, ma'am.

5 MS. STAGGS: Your Honor, at this time, the State rest.

6 THE COURT: The State has rested.

7 Madam Bailiff, would you take our jury to the jury
8 room, please?

9 (WHEREUPON, the jury exits the courtroom at 10:19 a.m.)

10 THE COURT: The State has rested. Are there any
11 motions?

12 MS. ALVES: Yes, sir.

13 Your Honor, taking the evidence in the light most
14 favorable to the State, I move for a directed verdict on
15 behalf of my client, Myron Singleton, for the charges of
16 kidnapping, assault and battery of a high and aggravated
17 nature and for criminal sexual conduct in the first degree.

18 Judge, I'm well familiar with what the standard is for
19 the charges, but I would argue that the State has not
20 provided any credible evidence whatsoever that TW [REDACTED]
21 was a victim of a kidnapping, criminal sexual conduct in the
22 first degree or assault and battery high and aggravated
23 nature.

24 Judge, as to the charges -- I have a specific argument
25 as to the charges of assault and battery of a high and

1 aggravated nature. Judge, under 16-3-600, a person commits
2 the offense of assault and battery of a high and aggravated
3 nature if the person unlawfully injures another person and
4 great bodily injury to another person results or the act is
5 accomplished by means likely to produce death or great
6 bodily injury.

7 Great bodily injury, of course, is defined in that same
8 statute as bodily injury which causes a substantial risk of
9 death or which causes serious, permanent disfigurement or
10 protracted loss or impairment of the function of a bodily
11 member or organ.

12 Judge, the testimony in this case is that -- TW
13 [REDACTED] alleges that Mr. Singleton beat her with a drop
14 cord. She said that he hit her in the head with a gun. She
15 said that he -- and that he, also, broke off a leg of
16 furniture and sexually assaulted her with that. There was,
17 also, testimony about bite marks. And I know that the
18 testimony -- the solicitor did have her show scars.

19 But, Judge, there was no testimony from any medical
20 person that any of her injuries caused a substantial risk of
21 death and there was no testimony tat any of her injuries
22 would result in a serious permanent disfigurement or
23 protracted loss or impairment of the function of a bodily
24 member or organ.

25 I know that she did show some scars -- she pointed out

1 some areas where she said there was still a scar from the
2 injuries that she said occurred -- the injuries that
3 occurred last February of 2022, but Judge, there's no
4 indication that those scars won't fade in time. There's no
5 indication that those scars are permanent.

6 So I don't think the State has established that she has
7 had an injury that caused a substantial risk of death. I
8 mean, there's the mere fact that you've been hit in the head
9 with a gun. She never said that he shot the gun at her.
10 She said that he hit her in the head with it. I don't think
11 that being hit in the head or being assaulted with a drop
12 cord is anything that would cause a substantial risk of
13 death. As I said, there's nothing showing that any serious
14 permanent disfigurement was caused. There was no testimony
15 from either TW [REDACTED] or either of the medical personnel
16 that she had a protracted loss or impairment of the function
17 of a bodily member or organ.

18 Judge, I point out, also, there was testimony -- I know
19 the solicitor in opening talked about that he tried to drown
20 her. And there was questions about whether he tried to
21 drown her. I think TW [REDACTED] backed off of that a great
22 bit because she said that they were in a stand-up shower
23 where they were not able to -- where water was not able to
24 accumulate. And there was no -- and that was really the
25 only testimony. There wasn't any testimony about any

1 attempt to drown her in that stand-up shower.

2 So there's nothing here indicating that would have
3 caused a substantial risk of death. I don't believe that
4 the State has established the elements of assault and
5 battery of a high and aggravated nature. And I would make a
6 separate motion for a directed verdict on that particular
7 charge.

8 THE COURT: Response from the State?

9 MS. STAGGS: Yes, Your Honor. Thank you.

10 Judge, I think that there is plenty of evidence to send
11 all three of these charges to the jury. In regards to the
12 kidnapping, TW [REDACTED] testified that she was not free to
13 leave. And in regards to the criminal sexual conduct, she
14 testified that she was sexually assaulted in a violent
15 manner with a chair or table leg. That is enough evidence
16 for this case to be submitted to a jury for those two
17 charges.

18 In regards to the ABHAN and Ms. Alves's specific
19 argument, I think there are a number of things that were
20 presented in the testimony. She testified that he held a
21 gun to her head. He hit her with a gun and he threatened to
22 kill her. It does not take a medical doctor for a person to
23 know that you can die when someone puts a bullet in your
24 head.

25 There was testimony that he held her face down in the

1 shower. And I'll tell you, Judge, as the parent of two
2 young children, what I know very, very clearly is that you
3 can die in two inches of water. You can drown of two inches
4 of water. If you can't breathe, you can drown. That's
5 ABHAN.

6 And she does have substantial scarring. She has scars
7 all up and down her arm that she showed to the jury. Maybe
8 they will fade in time, but the very definition of a scar is
9 the permanent mark, a disfigurement.

10 I think there is more than enough evidence on all three
11 charges, Judge. And it's just the existence and it's not
12 the weight. What Ms. Alves is arguing is really a jury
13 question. I think there's more than enough evidence to
14 withstand a motion for a directed verdict.

15 THE COURT: Well, ruling on a motion for directed
16 verdict, the Court is concerned with the existence or
17 nonexistence of evidence, not the weight. To grant a
18 directed verdict, I must find that after viewing the
19 evidence in a light most favorable to the State that the
20 State has not produced any direct or circumstantial evidence
21 reasonably tending to prove the guilt of the accused.

22 I've heard the testimony in this case and I find that
23 the State has produced evidence to support the elements of
24 the charges. I, therefore, find that this is a jury
25 question and the Defendant's motion should be denied.

1 MS. STAGGS: Thank you, Your Honor.

2 THE COURT: Ms. Alves, would you and your client,
3 please stand?

4 Madam Clerk, would you put Mr. Singleton under oath?

5 MYRON SINGLETON,

6 after being duly sworn, testified as follows:

7 THE COURT: Mr. Singleton, at this time, I'm going to
8 explain to you some of your right. If you do not understand
9 anything that I say, please, let me know and I will explain
10 it in more detail. If you answer the question, I will
11 assume that you understand the question.

12 Do you understand?

13 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

14 THE COURT: We have reached the stage in the trial
15 where you may present your defense. You have the right to
16 claim the protections given to you by the Fifth Amendment to
17 the Constitution of the United States. This amendment
18 states in part, No person shall be compelled in any criminal
19 case to be a witness against himself. This means that you
20 cannot be required to testify in this case.

21 On the other hand, you have the right to testify on
22 your own behalf should you choose to do so. However, no one
23 can make you testify. This is a personal right and no one
24 can waive this right, except you.

25 If you decide to testify, you will be subject to the

1 same rules that govern other witnesses and you may be
2 examined and cross-examined on any relevant issue in this
3 case. In addition, if you have any convictions involving
4 dishonesty or false statement or for crimes punishable by
5 imprisonment for more than one year and this Court
6 determines that the probative value of admitting this
7 evidence outweighs its prejudicial effect to you, the
8 solicitor will be able to introduce your record to attack
9 your credibility.

10 If you decide to testify, this decision on your part
11 must be freely, voluntarily and intelligently made with the
12 knowledge of the protections given to you by the Fifth
13 Amendment and the consequences of your decision to testify.

14 If you decide not to testify, I will instruct the
15 jurors that they cannot give the fact that you did not
16 testify any consideration whatsoever and that there is to be
17 absolutely no prejudice to you because you did not testify.

18 It is left entirely up to you whether or not to
19 testify. You may talk with your family, your attorney,
20 friends, anyone else, but the final decision will be left
21 entirely up to you.

22 Do you understand what I've explained to you?

23 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

24 THE COURT: What I'm going to do is let you go off the
25 record. We're going to take a break so you can discuss this

Matthew Wilson - Direct by Ms. Alves

1 with your attorney, then we'll come back on the record and
2 Ms. Alves can inform us of your decision.

3 MS. ALVES: Judge, before we go off the record, I would
4 like to know if the State intends to elicit any convictions?

5 MS. STAGGS: We do not, Your Honor.

6 THE COURT: Okay. So noted.

7 We'll take a break.

8 (WHEREUPON, a short break was taken.)

9 THE COURT: Ms. Alves, have you had enough time to
10 discuss with your client whether or not he's going to
11 testify?

12 MS. ALVES: Yes.

13 THE COURT: Well, what is his decision?

14 MS. ALVES: He's going to testify.

15 THE COURT: All right. Let's get our jury back.

16 (WHEREUPON, jury enters the courtroom at 10:54 a.m.)

17 THE COURT: Let's go back on the record. The State has
18 rested.

19 Ms. Alves, call your first witness.

20 MS. ALVES: Judge, I'd call Matthew Wilson.

21 THE CLERK: Please raise your right hand.

22 MATTHEW WILSON,

23 after being duly sworn, testified as follows:

24 THE CLERK: Thank you.

25 DIRECT EXAMINATION

Matthew Wilson - Direct by Ms. Alves

1 BY MS. ALVES:

2 Q Can you tell us your name?

3 A Matthew Wilson.

4 Q I just need you to talk loud enough so that everybody
5 can hear you, okay?

6 A Yes, ma'am.

7 Q Mr. Wilson, how old are you?

8 A 23.

9 Q And where do you live, what city?

10 A Bamberg.

11 Q Bamberg?

12 A Yes, ma'am.

13 Q And do you know Myron Singleton?

14 A He's a family friend.

15 Q How long have you known Myron?

16 A Almost ten years.

17 Q Do you know TW

18 A Yes, ma'am.

19 Q How long have you known TW

20 A Probably about three years.

21 Q How did you meet TW

22 A Through Rachet.

23 Q Who's Rachet?

24 A A guy from Denmark.

25 Q Do you know his real name?

1 A Katlyn Taylor.

2 Q Do you know how to spell that first name?

3 A Not quite.

4 Q Something K?

5 A K-A-T-L, spelled something like that.

6 Q You don't know how to spell his first name, but his

7 last name is Taylor?

8 A Yes, ma'am.

9 Q But you know him by the name Rachet?

10 A Yes, ma'am.

11 Q How did you come to meet TW through Rachet?

12 A At a hotel room having a party.

13 Q At a hotel having a party?

14 A Yes, ma'am.

15 Q How long have you known Rachet?

16 A Me and him been friends almost ten years.

17 Q About ten years?

18 A Yes, ma'am.

19 Q Are y'all still friends?

20 A No, ma'am.

21 Q Why not?

22 A Incident.

23 Q What do you know about Rachet?

24 A He's a known gang member, violent. He has a real bad

25 drug habit.

1 Q Well, did you know anything about TW relationship
2 with Rachet?

3 A Yes, ma'am. I mean, he was her pimp for a while,
4 that's how we met.

5 Q How did you know Rachet was her pimp?

6 A Because, you know, we would chill at the hotel. He
7 would have people come and pick her up or come there.
8 Sometimes they sit around, have sex.

9 Q Was any money collected?

10 A Yes, ma'am.

11 Q Who collected the money?

12 A Rachet.

13 Q Was TW willing?

14 A Sometimes.

15 Q So sometimes she wasn't?

16 A Yes, ma'am, but he would force her to.

17 Q He would force her?

18 A Yes, ma'am.

19 Q How would he force her?

20 A By choking her out.

21 Q What do you mean choke her out?

22 A Put his hands around her neck.

23 Q And you witnessed this?

24 A Yes, ma'am.

25 Q And what would TW do after Rachet put his hands

1 around her neck?

2 A Listen to him.

3 Q Listen to him?

4 A Yes, ma'am.

5 MS. ALVES: Thank you. I don't have any further
6 questions.

7 THE COURT: Mr. Miller, your witness.

8 CROSS-EXAMINATION

9 BY MR. MILLER:

10 Q Mr. Wilson, changed out of your jail uniform to get in
11 civilian clothes this morning, didn't you?

12 A Yes, sir.

13 Q You're in jail right now, aren't you?

14 A Yes, sir.

15 Q You're in jail for Family Court, aren't you?

16 A Yes, sir.

17 Q So you've got to pay money to get out of jail?

18 A Yes, sir.

19 Q But if you can come up with the money, you can get out
20 of jail, right?

21 A Yes, sir.

22 Q When was the first time you told somebody this story
23 about how Rachet was out there pimping?

24 A Couple weeks ago.

25 Q Couple weeks ago. You got arrested in May, May 25th,

Matthew Wilson - Cross by Mr. Miller

1 right?

2 A I think April 20th.

3 Q You got arrested April 20th on Family Court?

4 A On May 20th.

5 Q The other charge you got arrested on in April, you've
6 done enough time to cover that charge, right?

7 A Yes, sir.

8 Q So the only thing holding you in jail right now is your
9 Family Court bench warrant?

10 A Yes, sir.

11 Q And money will get you out of jail on that?

12 A Yes, sir.

13 Q So why did you wait until a couple weeks ago to say
14 anything about the fact that there was all this information
15 about Rachet?

16 A I was incarcerated in Beaufort County.

17 Q So who are you incarcerated with now?

18 A Bamberg.

19 Q And the Defendant has been in jail with you, hasn't he?

20 A Yes, sir.

21 Q In your pod?

22 A Yes, sir.

23 Q Back in February, this case got continued, that means
24 it was delayed. But before the case was delayed --

25 MS. ALVES: Objection, Your Honor. I have a matter to

1 take up outside the presence of the jury.

2 THE COURT: Madam Bailiff, would you take our jury to
3 their jury room, please?

4 (WHEREUPON, the jury exits the courtroom at 11:00 a.m.)

5 THE COURT: Ms. Alves.

6 MS. ALVES: Your Honor, it's my understanding that the
7 solicitor is now intending to elicit testimony or attempt to
8 elicit testimony from this witness regarding a witness list
9 that I provided to the Court when this case was scheduled I
10 believe back in --

11 MR. MILLER: February.

12 MS. ALVES: -- February when this case was last
13 scheduled.

14 This witness doesn't know anything about my witness
15 list. I don't see how he would be able to testify to it and
16 I think it would be improper for this testimony to come out
17 about who I had on a witness list in February. Judge, my
18 witness list has changed from the time that I presented that
19 first witness list to now. In fact, on that witness list, I
20 had another witness who gave me similar testimony to this
21 person. In fact, I have two witnesses on there who gave me
22 similar testimony to this person. One of those persons is
23 now deceased. The other person is not on my witness list
24 here today.

25 I can tell the Court that there were a number of people

1 that I was looking for who could have given the same
2 testimony and elicited testimony regarding this same
3 information. However, they're not on the list. The
4 solicitor is not privy to my investigation. He's not privy
5 to what my investigator did, who we all talked to, who we
6 attempted to find. And I think it would be improper to ask
7 this witness anything about whether or not his name was on
8 my witness list in February.

9 THE COURT: Mr. Miller.

10 MR. MILLER: Your Honor, there was a witness that was
11 on the witness list under auspicious circumstances claiming
12 to have this testimony. That witness died. That was the
13 reason why Ms. Alves asked for the continuance in February.
14 Now, suddenly, a witness who was not on the witness list is
15 in here testifying after he got arrested a month or so ago
16 and all he has to do is pay money to get out of jail.

17 We believe that it is a fair inference for the jury to
18 make that Mr. Singleton's family intends to pay for him to
19 get out of jail after he testifies to this stuff that's made
20 up. All I'm asking him about this witness list is if his
21 name is on it, that's it. And he can testify as to whether
22 or not his name appears on a witness list.

23 MS. ALVES: Judge, if I could clarify. In February, I
24 did not ask for a continuance. The case was continued in
25 February because at that time, the solicitor intended to

1 elicit additional testimony which would have taken this
2 trial a long period of time. The February term of court, I
3 believe, started on a -- I believe that term started on a
4 holiday of some sort. I think it was President's Day. And
5 the jury wasn't coming in until, I think, that Wednesday and
6 we would not have had enough time to try the case. That's
7 why the case was continued in February.

8 The solicitor got my witness list because the Judge
9 asked us to provide the witness list prior to the trial.
10 The case was continued the last time it was called and that
11 would have been in April, I believe. And at that time, it
12 was continued because we asked for a continuance for two
13 reasons. Number one, there was an issue with the jury
14 panel. We talked to the Judge about that off of the record.

15 There was, also, a concern that at that time when the
16 case was called for trial the last time, that was right
17 after one of the witnesses had died. I did tell the Court
18 at that time that I was asking for time because I had other
19 witnesses that I could contact for the same information that
20 my investigator was trying to find and I needed time for --
21 because of my client's significant sentence, I was asking
22 for more time to try to pursue other witnesses. So I did
23 let the Court know that I had other witnesses at that time.
24 But the case was never continued just because the boy died.
25 That was one of the factors.

Matthew Wilson - Redirect by Ms. Alves

1 THE COURT: Did you have this witness under subpoena in
2 February?

3 MS. ALVES: I did not.

4 THE COURT: Is he under subpoena today?

5 MS. ALVES: Yes, sir. Judge, I can just tell you in
6 February, I was not able to locate him.

7 THE COURT: Mr. Miller, what I'll do is I'll sustain
8 the objection as to the actual list, but I will allow you to
9 ask the question if this witness was under subpoena as a
10 witness for the February trial date.

11 MR. MILLER: Thank you, Your Honor.

12 THE COURT: I'll sustain the objection to the list
13 itself.

14 Anything else before we bring the jury back in?

15 MS. ALVES: No, sir.

16 MR. MILLER: Nothing from the State, Your Honor.

17 (WHEREUPON, the jury enters the courtroom at 11:07
18 a.m.)

19 THE COURT: Mr. Miller, proceed.

20 MR. MILLER: Thank you, Your Honor.

21 BY MR. MILLER:

22 Q So Mr. Wilson, when this case was continued in
23 February, were you under subpoena at that time?

24 A I'm not sure.

25 Q What do you mean you're not sure?

1 A I wasn't in the area. I stayed in Orangeburg at the
2 time.

3 Q Do you know what a subpoena is?

4 A Yes, sir.

5 Q Did you have a subpoena telling you you had to be in
6 court in Bamberg in February?

7 A I'm not sure. I was getting mail at my mother's
8 address.

9 Q No, a subpoena is something that gets put in your hand?

10 A Oh, no, sir, I didn't have that.

11 Q And how about in April when this case was continued,
12 did you have a subpoena to testify in this case then?

13 A No, sir.

14 Q You didn't have a subpoena to testify in February or
15 April because you'd never told anybody anything about Rachet
16 then, had you?

17 A No, sir.

18 Q It wasn't until this time that you got subpoenaed by
19 the Defense, a piece of paper that says you've got to come
20 here and testify?

21 A Yes, sir.

22 MR. MILLER: No further questions.

23 THE COURT: Any redirect?

24 MS. ALVES: Yes, sir.

25 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

1 BY MS. ALVES:

2 Q Matthew, did you subpoenaed before or after you talked
3 to my investigator?

4 A Before.

5 Q Before?

6 A Yes, ma'am.

7 Q So you got a subpoena before you talked to him?

8 A Yes, ma'am.

9 Q Was it the same day?

10 A Yes, ma'am.

11 Q So you talked to my investigator and he gave you the
12 subpoena?

13 A Yeah, he gave it to me before we started talking.

14 Q Okay. Do you know if he had ever tried to contact you
15 before?

16 A Yes, ma'am. Well, he got in contact with my father.

17 Q Did you ever talk to him?

18 A Not prior to recently talking to him.

19 Q Okay. But did he get in touch with your father before
20 or after he talked to you?

21 A Before.

22 Q And you're in jail right now for a child support
23 matter?

24 A Yes, ma'am.

25 Q So what is your sentence?

1 A 90 days.

2 Q Or what?

3 A Pay a certain amount.

4 Q For your child support?

5 A Yes, ma'am.

6 Q Are you behind in your child support?

7 A Yes, ma'am.

8 Q When do you get out of jail?

9 A July 7th.

10 Q And how much money has anybody offered you to testify?

11 A None.

12 Q Nobody has offered you any money to testify?

13 A No, ma'am.

14 MS. ALVES: Thank you. No further questions.

15 MR. MILLER: Very briefly, Your Honor.

16 RECROSS-EXAMINATION

17 BY MR. MILLER:

18 Q So whenever this man, Mr. Martin, Wayne Martin came and
19 subpoenaed you, he gave you a subpoena already filled out,
20 had everything on it and handed it to you before he ever
21 talked to you? Never spoken to you at all?

22 A No, sir.

23 MR. MILLER: No further questions.

24 THE COURT: Thank you, sir. You may step down.

25 Defense, call your next witness.

Myron Singleton - Direct by Ms. Alves

1 MS. ALVES: The Defense calls Myron Singleton.

2 THE CLERK: Please raise your right hand.

3 MYRON SINGLETON,

4 after being duly sworn, testified as follows:

5 THE CLERK: Thank you. Have a seat.

6 DIRECT EXAMINATION

7 BY MS. ALVES:

8 Q Myron, why don't you just state your full name?

9 A Myron Kareem Singleton.

10 Q And how old are you?

11 A 38.

12 Q Where were you born?

13 A Bamberg, South Carolina.

14 Q Where were you raised?

15 A Bamberg, South Carolina.

16 Q Where is your family from?

17 A Bamberg, South Carolina.

18 Q Did you go to high school in Bamberg?

19 A Yes, ma'am.

20 Q Which high school?

21 A Bamberg-Erhardt High School.

22 Q Where do you live now?

23 A Denmark, South Carolina.

24 Q How long have you lived in Denmark?

25 A About 15 years now.

- 1 Q 15 years?
- 2 A Yes.
- 3 Q I need you to speak loud and clear so that everybody
- 4 can hear you, okay?
- 5 A Okay.
- 6 Q Do you have any education after high school?
- 7 A Yes, I attended Denmark Technical College.
- 8 Q What did you take?
- 9 A Welding.
- 10 Q Welding?
- 11 A Yes, ma'am.
- 12 Q Anything else?
- 13 A Cosmetology, cutting hair.
- 14 Q Cutting hair?
- 15 A Yes, ma'am.
- 16 Q Anything else?
- 17 A That's it.
- 18 Q Have you worked in your life?
- 19 A Yeah, I did a lot of horticulture, landscaping.
- 20 Q Anything else?
- 21 A Yeah, barbering.
- 22 Q Barbering?
- 23 A Yes, ma'am.
- 24 Q Anything else?
- 25 A Yeah, I worked in the watermelon fields and odd jobs.

Myron Singleton - Direct by Ms. Alves

1 Q You said watermelon fields?

2 A Yes, ma'am.

3 Q And odd jobs?

4 A Yes, ma'am.

5 Q Anything you could find?

6 A Yes.

7 Q I need you to speak loud, okay?

8 A Yes, ma'am.

9 Q We're just going to skip to what this case is about.

10 You know TW [REDACTED]

11 A Yes, ma'am.

12 Q How long have you known TW [REDACTED]

13 A Two years now.

14 Q And what was your relationship with her over the past
15 two years?

16 A When we first met, it was a sexual relationship. Then
17 later on, it turned into a relationship.

18 Q How did you meet TW [REDACTED]

19 A Through a field, through a mutual friend.

20 Q Who was the mutual friend?

21 A Katlyn Taylor, also known as Rachet.

22 Q How do you know Rachet?

23 A I been knowing Rachet for about two years.

24 Q You've been knowing Rachet how long?

25 A Two years.

1 Q And what was your relationship with Rachet?

2 A We was friends.

3 Q Friends?

4 A Yeah.

5 Q How did you come to meet TW

6 A Through Rachet.

7 Q What did you know about Rachet at the time?

8 A He was -- he was at the hotel and he was selling her.

9 Q And you witnessed this?

10 A Yes, ma'am.

11 Q What do you mean he was selling her?

12 A Like, people pulled up, people he know that wanted a
13 female and they would call him. He would come down and they
14 would pay him. She would get in the car, she would go with
15 them. She would come back. Sometimes they would have
16 intercourse at the room or in the car outside, whatever.

17 Q From what you could see, was TW a willing
18 participant?

19 A Sometimes she was willing, but if it was like older
20 men, she didn't want to participate, but she was forced.

21 Q How was she forced?

22 A He would grab her and choke her and tell her she's got
23 a gig, that he would break her neck and he was going to kill
24 her grandma and her family.

25 Q What did you ever do to intervene in this?

Myron Singleton - Direct by Ms. Alves

1 A When we had our sexual relationship, she started
2 telling me that she didn't want to do this no more. So when
3 me and her got in a full blown relationship, me and her was,
4 basically, avoiding him.

5 Q What do you mean avoiding him?

6 A Staying out the way, hiding in my house for days,
7 staying out the way, staying inside.

8 Q Were y'all able to avoid him altogether?

9 A No, not all the time. Sometimes he would catch her
10 walking down the road and he would holler and tell her to
11 get in the car, come and make this money. And she would
12 come.

13 Q Did you ever try to stop this?

14 A No, I didn't. I didn't want no violence.

15 Q What do you mean you didn't want no violence?

16 A Because he's a violent person. He's a gang member.

17 Q So you were okay with your girlfriend doing this for
18 Rachet?

19 A No, I wasn't okay with it. She was okay with it. When
20 he would call her, she would jump up and go. I couldn't
21 stop her. She's grown.

22 Q Now, in your relationship with TW did she ever
23 talk about her issues with her family?

24 A Yes.

25 Q And what would she tell you about her family members?

1 A They was taking advantage of her. They was taking her
2 whole check and she didn't have nothing. At times, she
3 couldn't get her own tampons or nothing because she didn't
4 have no money. They was taking her whole check and using it
5 for drugs.

6 Q What did you do about that?

7 A I told her that she could stay at my house for free and
8 save her money.

9 Q And what did she do?

10 A She would stay with me for a couple of days until they
11 start calling her and telling her she had to come home or
12 they would put her back in some institution that she had
13 been in before. Telling her they were going to call the
14 police and tell them that she was losing her mind and put
15 her back in the institution.

16 Q So she was being threatened?

17 A Yeah.

18 Q Did she talk to you about whether she was allowed to
19 leave the house and go with you?

20 A Yeah, she was talking about they would threaten her and
21 tell her that -- if it was with me, it was a problem.

22 Q What do you mean if it was with you?

23 A They didn't want her to be with me. They wanted her to
24 continue to be with Rachet.

25 Q When you and her communicated, did you communicate by

Myron Singleton - Direct by Ms. Alves

1 text message, by phone?

2 A Yeah, phone, messenger and -- well, she had a fake
3 messenger.

4 Q She had a fake message?

5 A Fake page that she would use because she didn't want
6 her mom and daddy to see it.

7 Q She had a page under her real name?

8 A She had a page under her name and a fake name.

9 Q So would y'all communicate under the real name or the
10 fake name?

11 A Both sometimes.

12 Q So you think that her parents didn't know about the
13 fake page?

14 A Not at the time.

15 Q And would she tell you anything that her father would
16 do to her?

17 A Yeah. She would tell me that he would get in front of
18 her door and hold her in the house and he would push her
19 down and stuff like that. He would beat her.

20 MS. ALVES: Judge, can we approach for a moment,
21 please?

22 (WHEREUPON, a bench conference was held.)

23 THE COURT: Ms. Alves, continue.

24 BY MS. ALVES:

25 Q I've just handed you Defendant's Nos. 1 through 4. Do

1 you recognize those?

2 A Yes, ma'am.

3 Q Do you recognize those?

4 A Yes, ma'am.

5 Q And I'm not asking you what's in the pictures, I'm just
6 asking you where have you seen these pictures before?

7 A This is the pictures that TW sent you.

8 Q Those are pictures that TW sent you?

9 A Yes, ma'am.

10 Q How did TW send you these pictures?

11 A In text messages and messenger on Facebook.

12 Q You've seen these pictures before?

13 A Yes, ma'am.

14 Q You know the account that came from?

15 A Yes, ma'am.

16 Q You're certain they came from TW

17 A Positive, a hundred percent positive.

18 Q And do these pictures accurately reflect the pictures
19 that you got in your text messages?

20 A Yes, ma'am.

21 MS. ALVES: Your Honor, at this time, I would move to
22 introduce Defendant's Exhibit Nos. 1 through 4.

23 THE COURT: Any objection?

24 MR. MILLER: None from the State, Your Honor.

25 THE COURT: Defendant's Exhibit Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 are

Myron Singleton - Direct by Ms. Alves

1 admitted without objection.

2 (WHEREUPON, Defendant's Exhibit Nos. 1 through 4 were
3 admitted into evidence.)

4 BY MS. ALVES:

5 Q Tell us what is shown in these pictures.

6 A These are pictures of TW father sitting in front
7 of her door right here, right beside her bed.

8 Q So these are pictures of TW father sitting in
9 front of her door?

10 A Yes, ma'am.

11 Q And these pictures look to be taken on different
12 occasions?

13 A Yeah.

14 Q How can you tell they're different occasions?

15 A He's wearing different things. He's got on a brown
16 shirt --

17 Q So we're talking about -- I'm showing you Defense
18 Exhibit No. 1, he has on a brown shirt?

19 A Yeah, and blue shorts.

20 Q And he's standing in front of the door?

21 A Standing right in front of the door.

22 Q How do you know that's TW door?

23 A We have Facetime and she would be sending me pictures
24 while me and her is on Facetime.

25 Q So she would be sending you pictures of her dad

1 standing in front of her door?

2 A We would be on Facetime and she would just snap the
3 picture.

4 Q Okay. But how do you know where this was?

5 A She would be in her room talking on Facetime.

6 Q And I'm showing you what's marked as Defendant's
7 Exhibit No. 2. That's Defendant's Exhibit No. 2?

8 A Yes, ma'am. Standing up in her door.

9 Q Standing in the door. And I'm just going to show you,
10 what's Defendant's Exhibit No. 3?

11 A It's him again sitting in front of her door.

12 Q Now, this picture has the words put on there "fat ass"?

13 A Yes, ma'am.

14 Q Who wrote that?

15 A TW

16 Q So she sent you this picture with the words "fat ass"
17 on it?

18 A Yes, ma'am.

19 Q And she told you that was her dad?

20 A Yes, ma'am.

21 Q Did you, actually, see him while you were on Facetime?

22 A Yeah. But she only took the picture when he looked
23 away because she didn't want him to know.

24 Q And Defendant's Exhibit No. 4?

25 A Yes, ma'am.

Myron Singleton - Direct by Ms. Alves

1 Q And this picture says, Look at him looking like a fool?

2 A Yes, ma'am.

3 Q Who wrote that?

4 A TW

5 Q And she sent you this picture of her dad writing, Look
6 at him looking like a fool?

7 A Yes, ma'am.

8 Q How often would she have problems with her dad standing
9 in the door?

10 A All the time.

11 Q Did she tell you about that?

12 A Yes.

13 Q Did she tell you any other problems with her parents?

14 A They would take her phone all the time. When she was
15 getting ready and lock the door, he would beat her down.
16 She literally had to fight him to get out the house and
17 fight him to get her phone back.

18 Q And you were here for her testimony yesterday?

19 A Yes, ma'am.

20 Q And she said she told you about her parents stealing
21 money from her grandparents?

22 A Yes, ma'am.

23 Q Did she tell you about that?

24 A Yes. She tell me about her grandma almost broke, that
25 they was taking money from her.

1 Q Now, what would you tell her to do?

2 A I would tell her to tell her grandma about it. She was
3 like, if I do and they found out, they will put her back in
4 the mental institution and say she was losing her mind.

5 Q Now, let's go to the date of the situation we're here
6 for now.

7 A Yes, ma'am.

8 Q February 3rd to February 5th. Do you remember meeting
9 up with TW during that time?

10 A Yes, ma'am.

11 Q What day did you meet up with TW

12 A On February 4th, I met up with TW

13 Q On the 4th?

14 A Yeah, it was the 4th.

15 Q What happened on the 3rd?

16 A I don't know what happened on the 3rd. I didn't meet
17 TW on the 3rd. I met up with TW on the 4th on my
18 mom's porch.

19 Q On your mother's porch?

20 A Yes, ma'am.

21 Q TW testified that you picked her up from a stop
22 sign on February 3rd?

23 A I never did pick TW up from a stop sign. It wasn't
24 with me. TW probably lied to her parents and told them
25 she was with me, but she wasn't with me on February 3rd.

Myron Singleton - Direct by Ms. Alves

1 Q Do you have a car?

2 A No, ma'am.

3 Q Do you have a license?

4 A A permit.

5 Q Do you remember where you were on the 3rd?

6 A I was home.

7 Q So how did you arrange to meet with TW on the 4th?

8 A When I got to my mother's house -- my phone, I can only
9 use my phone with Wi-Fi, so when I got to the Wi-Fi on my
10 mother's house on the 4th, I looked at the Wi-Fi and she had
11 texted me about meeting, that she wanted to see me. By the
12 time I texted back and asked her where she was, she told me
13 she was walking down the road. She was almost at my momma's
14 house. And by the time -- five minutes later when I looked
15 outside, she was sitting on the porch smoking a Black &
16 Mild.

17 Q How far do you live from your mother?

18 A Right down the road.

19 Q Now, I want to go back to something you just said. You
20 said that you can only use your phone with Wi-Fi?

21 A Yes, ma'am.

22 Q So it's not active, you don't have a plan?

23 A Right.

24 Q Are you able to use it to call people?

25 A No, nothing. I can only use it when I'm on Wi-Fi.

1 Q When you're on Wi-Fi?

2 A Yes, ma'am.

3 Q Then you can use what?

4 A Apps, text on an app, something like that.

5 Q Texting apps?

6 A Yeah, it's like an app you download.

7 Q So nobody can, actually, call you?

8 A No.

9 Q They have to text you?

10 A Text me only when I get around Wi-Fi.

11 Q When you get around Wi-Fi?

12 A Yeah. Like, the texting app, you can get a call or a
13 text, but only around Wi-Fi.

14 Q Do you have Wi-Fi at your house?

15 A No, ma'am.

16 Q But you have Wi-Fi access at your mom's house?

17 A Yes, ma'am.

18 Q So you said you saw TW on the porch at your mom's
19 house?

20 A Yeah. When I got there, I was in my room, been in the
21 house about five minutes in my room and I was checking my
22 messages that start coming in. The text message came
23 through that she wanted to see me. I asked her where she
24 was and she told me she was outside. So I looked outside
25 and she was on my mom's porch.

Myron Singleton - Direct by Ms. Alves

1 Q So what did you do after you went outside and saw

2 TW

3 A Me and her walked back to my house.

4 Q Was anybody else at your house?

5 A No, ma'am, not at that time.

6 Q What did you do at your house?

7 A When we got to my house -- when I first seen her, she
8 already had marks on her arm. I never seen no other marks
9 because she was fully dressed. But when we got to the
10 house, I figured it was just like something with her daddy
11 or some kind of family affair or with Rachet. When I asked
12 her about it, she said she didn't want to talk about it. So
13 I left it at that. She didn't want to talk about it. She
14 said she was going to go to my house and lay down. She said
15 she was cramping because her menstrual period was on.

16 Q She had her period?

17 A Yes, ma'am.

18 Q She told you she was feeling cramps?

19 A Yeah.

20 Q So what did y'all do?

21 A Nothing. Went back and watched movies on her phone.

22 Q Her phone?

23 A Yeah.

24 Q How long did y'all watch movies?

25 A Just like one movie before she went to sleep.

- 1 Q Did you go to sleep?
- 2 A No, ma'am.
- 3 Q What were you doing?
- 4 A Stayed up, cooked me some noodles.
- 5 Q You were doing what?
- 6 A Cooked some Raman noodles.
- 7 Q Cooking noodles?
- 8 A Yes, ma'am.
- 9 Q How long did she stay asleep?
- 10 A She slept for a while. I'd say about, at least, about
- 11 six hours.
- 12 Q What did y'all do when she got up?
- 13 A Same thing, just talked and laid around with each
- 14 other.
- 15 Q Y'all had sex?
- 16 A Yes.
- 17 Q Well, TW testified that you gave her drugs, did you
- 18 give her any drugs?
- 19 A No, ma'am.
- 20 Q Did she take any medication or drugs that you know of?
- 21 A Yeah, she be taking something they give women for pain,
- 22 I think called Midol.
- 23 Q She was taking some cramp medicine?
- 24 A Cramp medicine.
- 25 Q When did you beat her with a cord?

Myron Singleton - Direct by Ms. Alves

1 A I never beat her with a cord.

2 Q When did you try to drown her in the shower?

3 A I never tried to drown her in the shower.

4 Q Well, when did you hit her in the head with a gun?

5 A I never hit her in the head with a gun.

6 Q You have furniture at your house?

7 A Yes, ma'am.

8 Q You've got chairs at your house?

9 A Yes, I have a lawn chair and two beds.

10 Q Well, when did you try to break off one of the chair
11 legs to shove up her vagina?

12 A I don't have a chair with legs on it. I have like a
13 furniture chair and none of them broke off.

14 Q Do you have a chair with the leg broke off at your
15 house?

16 A No, ma'am.

17 Q Well, do you have a dresser with the leg broke off at
18 your house?

19 A No, ma'am.

20 Q Well, what kind of stick did you try to stick up her
21 vagina?

22 A I never tried to stick a stick up her vagina.

23 Q Did anybody come to the house that day?

24 A Well, that day, we was in the room and -- usually, when
25 we at my house, we be hiding from Rachet. She don't want

Myron Singleton - Direct by Ms. Alves

1 nobody over there. So that day when somebody knocked on the
2 door, she told me she running in the back room because
3 automatic, she think it's him. Her parents were looking for
4 her and she didn't want to be found. And that's when she
5 turned her phone off. So me and her both hiding in the back
6 room.

7 Q I want to be clear. Who were y'all hiding from?

8 A Rachet or her parents. She didn't want to be found by
9 Rachet or her parents.

10 Q Did Rachet know that you were her boyfriend?

11 A Yeah.

12 Q He knew?

13 A Yeah.

14 Q Had he ever seen y'all together?

15 A Yes, ma'am.

16 Q When did he see y'all together?

17 A Well, we was at my house one night and he came to my
18 house. He was knocking on the door. But at the time, my
19 front door didn't, actually, lock and I had a chair in front
20 of it. And he came to the house and was knocking and TW
21 was in the house and she didn't want him to know that we was
22 in there. But he pushed the door open and came in the house
23 and was like, TW here? I was like, Yeah, TW in the
24 room. He goes in the room where she at and jumped on top of
25 her and start choking her, what I told you about messing

Myron Singleton - Direct by Ms. Alves

1 around for no money. I seen you coming from the motel. And
2 he was like choking her about certain things.

3 Q What did you do?

4 A I tell him, Listen, she been here all night. Like,
5 please, don't hurt her.

6 Q You didn't fight for her?

7 A No, because he had a gun on him.

8 Q But he left?

9 A She left.

10 Q She left?

11 A Yeah, she runs out the house, she leaves. And he's
12 telling me and another friend that was with him at the time,
13 he telling us, like, next time he catch her sleeping for
14 money, he going to kill us.

15 Q Then what happened?

16 A He get on the phone and calls her and tell her get back
17 over here.

18 Q What did she do?

19 A She turned right on back.

20 Q Do you remember when that was?

21 A That was around November.

22 Q November?

23 A Yeah.

24 Q Did you continue to see her after that?

25 A Yeah, we sneaking and hiding.

1 Q Well, were you aware that her mother came to the door
2 that day?

3 A No. We wasn't aware. She come to the door that day,
4 but they didn't announce who they was. We just heard
5 knocking.

6 Q Do you know if the police came to the door that day?

7 A I don't know if it was the police at the door. We just
8 heard knocking at the door and still we can't answer it and
9 nobody announce who they was at the door. We just wait and
10 ain't said nothing.

11 Q Did anybody else come to the door when you answered the
12 door?

13 A Yes, my son came to the door.

14 Q Your son? What's his name?

15 A Travon Islar.

16 Q Why did he come over there?

17 A He came over there and told me that TW [REDACTED] parents
18 were looking for her.

19 Q Did he come in the house?

20 A No, he came right there to the door.

21 Q Well, how did you know to open the door to Travon?

22 A He screamed, Dad. I knew it was my son.

23 Q How old is Travon?

24 A He's 16 now.

25 Q Now, after Travon came to the door to tell you that her

Myron Singleton - Direct by Ms. Alves

1 parents were looking for her, what did you and TW do?

2 A I said, You need to go ahead and call your parents and
3 let them know where you at. She didn't want to. I figured
4 she just didn't want to talk to them because of the
5 incident, I guess the incident with them or she didn't want
6 them to know about the incident with Rachel. She just
7 wanted to hide. She didn't want to see nobody.

8 Q Okay. So then what happened after that?

9 A Nothing. We just -- after that, a few hours later, I
10 got on the phone and I called my friend.

11 Q You called your friend?

12 A Yeah.

13 Q You called from whose phone?

14 A TW phone.

15 Q What friend did you call?

16 A Viven.

17 Q Viven?

18 A Yes, ma'am.

19 Q And why did you call Viven?

20 A For a ride.

21 Q Where were you planning to go?

22 A Going to my mother's house and to my brother's house.

23 Q Why did you need a ride if your mother lived down the
24 street?

25 A He was already in town, so I was calling him. My mom

Myron Singleton - Direct by Ms. Alves

1 stay down the street, but my brother stay further.

2 Q So you were going to see your mother and your brother?

3 A Yeah.

4 Q Well, what was the plan with TW

5 A I asked her, I said, TW you want to go? And she
6 didn't want nobody to see her, so she didn't want to go. I
7 asked if she wanted to go and she said no.

8 Q All right. Then what did you do after she said she
9 didn't want to go?

10 A I pulled the door shut, lock it up, put the screen up
11 like nobody was there in case somebody come there and I
12 left.

13 Q Wait a minute. I didn't understand. I need you to
14 talk loud and clear, okay? What did you do when she said
15 she didn't want to go?

16 A I pulled the door shut, told her to lock it. She got
17 up, locked the door. I pushed the screen door in. Like, my
18 screen was messed up, so we just take the screen and put it
19 in like nobody home.

20 Q Okay. Was she supposed to stay there or was she going
21 to leave?

22 A She could have did what she wanted to, but at the time,
23 she didn't want to leave. She said she was going to stay
24 there. So I left.

25 Q So you didn't have any plans on how she was going to

Myron Singleton - Direct by Ms. Alves

1 lock the house back up?

2 A No, you just pull my door, it don't lock, and put the
3 screen in.

4 Q Okay. When did you come back to your house?

5 A About two hours.

6 Q Two hours?

7 A Yes, ma'am.

8 Q Was anybody there when you got back?

9 A No, ma'am.

10 Q Did the police come by and talk to you that day?

11 A No, ma'am.

12 Q Did they come by the next day?

13 A No, ma'am.

14 Q Did any police officers do a search warrant at your
15 house?

16 A No, ma'am.

17 Q Did anybody come by to get a statement from you?

18 A No, ma'am.

19 Q Any police come looking for a chair leg?

20 A No, ma'am.

21 Q Did any police come by looking for a drop cord?

22 A No, ma'am.

23 Q Did any police come by at all?

24 A No.

25 Q When did you find out about these charges?

Myron Singleton - Direct by Ms. Alves

1 A I found out about these charges February 22nd, I think,
2 22nd or 23rd.

3 Q Okay. How did you find out about these charges?

4 A From TW

5 Q How did you come to find out about these charges from
6 TW

7 A She was texting me and calling me that day, wanted me
8 to meet her at the hotel. And when we got to the hotel, she
9 was telling me about the charges.

10 Q So you found out about the charges when you met her at
11 the hotel?

12 A Yes, ma'am.

13 Q You said she was texting you. What was she texting you
14 about?

15 A Well, at first when she texted me, she wanted to meet
16 up at the hotel. So when we got to the room that day, she
17 started telling me about the charges. She was saying she
18 loves me, wanted to have a baby, stuff like that.

19 Q Now, did you see her friend at the hotel?

20 A Yes, ma'am.

21 Q How long was her friend there?

22 A She was there for, like, 20 minutes.

23 Q Then what did she do?

24 A She kept getting calls from, I think, TW parents
25 at the time. She was telling them that oh, me and TW

Myron Singleton - Direct by Ms. Alves

1 across town.

2 Q What did the friend, ultimately, do?

3 A She gets up, walk out the room and I guess when she got
4 out the room, she told them that she was at the motel.

5 Q How long did you and TW stay at the motel?

6 A Not long, 30 minutes.

7 Q Did the police come to the motel?

8 A No, ma'am.

9 MS. ALVES: Beg the Court's indulgence.

10 (Pause.)

11 BY MS. ALVES:

12 Q Myron, I'm going to ask you one last time. When did
13 you sexually assault TW

14 A I never sexually assaulted her.

15 Q What was your relationship?

16 A She was my girlfriend.

17 Q What did you feel about her?

18 A I loved her.

19 Q You loved her?

20 A Yes, ma'am.

21 Q So you didn't stick a stick up her?

22 A No, ma'am.

23 Q When did you beat her with this drop cord?

24 A Never beat TW with a drop cord.

25 Q When did you -- oh, and did you ever tie her down and

1 force her to not leave your house?

2 A Never. Never tied her down. She was always free to go
3 as she pleased.

4 Q In fact, you left the next day with your friend, Viven?

5 A Right.

6 Q And left her there by herself?

7 A Right.

8 MS. ALVES: Thank you. No further questions. Please
9 answer any the solicitor may have.

10 THE COURT: Mr. Miller.

11 MR. MILLER: Thank you, Your Honor.

12 CROSS-EXAMINATION

13 BY MR. MILLER:

14 Q Mr. Singleton, when did you call the police and tell
15 the police about this beating that had been administered by
16 Rachet?

17 A She never did talk about it.

18 Q Oh, she never talked about it. You didn't see any of
19 those marks because she was wearing clothes when you saw
20 her, correct? You didn't see the welts on her?

21 A I seen one mark.

22 Q But you testified that you had sex with her. Did she
23 keep all of her clothes on?

24 A No. She bent over the edge of the bed and we was
25 having sex and her period started bleeding and she pulled

Myron Singleton - Cross by Mr. Miller

1 them right back up.

2 Q Didn't see the bite marks on her ankles or her foot?

3 A I ain't seen none of that.

4 Q So why didn't you call the police about the fact that
5 Rachet was pimping her out?

6 A I didn't know that was --

7 Q You didn't know?

8 A I didn't know that was crime. And she was doing what
9 she wanted to do. She grown.

10 Q You didn't know that somebody making somebody else have
11 sex for money was a crime?

12 A Really didn't.

13 Q Right. Your girlfriend was being forced --

14 A She wasn't my girlfriend at the time.

15 Q Your girlfriend was being forced to have sex with other
16 men by a third party?

17 A Yeah, a known gang member, a dangerous gang member.

18 Q A dangerous gang member?

19 A Yes, sir.

20 Q When did it occur to you that you should probably tell
21 the police?

22 A Never because --

23 Q Not even after you found out you had warrants for your
24 arrest?

25 A When I found out I had warrants for my arrest, I turned

1 myself in.

2 Q After you found out you had warrants for your arrest,
3 you turned yourself in. That was the 24th?

4 A Yeah.

5 Q But before that, you knew people that had had sex with
6 TW according to your testimony?

7 A Yes, sir.

8 Q You knew lots of people that had had sex with TW

9 A Yes, sir.

10 Q You're 38 years old?

11 A Yes, sir.

12 Q She was 22 at the time?

13 A Yes, sir.

14 Q You said the only time she really seemed like she
15 wasn't into it was with older men. But you're 16 years
16 older than she was?

17 A This was like older men, like, 65.

18 Q You said your response to dating this person who was
19 being prostituted against her will was to try to avoid this
20 guy in Denmark?

21 A Yes, sir.

22 Q That was your testimony?

23 A Yes, sir.

24 Q Then you said that her parents were okay with her
25 leaving with Rachet, who you claim is some pimp that is

Myron Singleton - Cross by Mr. Miller

1 beating her up?

2 A Yes, sir.

3 Q But they just didn't like you?

4 A Yes, sir.

5 Q Talk to me about this time when you were with her in
6 the bed and Rachet comes over and walks into your house,
7 walks past you like you're just sitting there doing nothing,
8 don't matter, goes into TW and starts strangling her on
9 the bed and you didn't do a damn thing about it, did you?

10 A He had a gun.

11 Q Oh, he had a gun?

12 A Yes, sir.

13 Q Okay. So after he left --

14 A He didn't leave.

15 Q He didn't leave?

16 A Huh-uh.

17 Q Who is Limpy (ph)?

18 A Matthew Wilson.

19 Q Matthew Wilson didn't tell us any of that story, did
20 he?

21 A Nobody asked him.

22 Q So if nobody ask you about it directly, you just don't
23 tell him?

24 A I'll answer any questions you may have.

25 Q Well, answer this question. Why didn't you find

1 friends or go to her parents or call the police and say
2 look, this is what's going on?

3 A Because they know.

4 Q They know?

5 A They knew what was going on.

6 Q They don't have a problem with him, they've got a
7 problem with you?

8 A Yeah.

9 Q So when the police came over and knocked on your door,
10 you're not sure if they were the police or not because they
11 didn't announce? They didn't say anything?

12 A No, sir.

13 Q Police officer looking for somebody, comes over,
14 knocks, goes back to their car and drives away?

15 A (Witness nods head.)

16 Q You don't ever drive?

17 A (Witness shakes head.)

18 Q So do you know if your mom told the police whenever
19 they came to her house on February the 5th that TW had
20 been on her porch?

21 A That's what the officer said in his report.

22 Q This assault when Rachel goes in with the gun and jumps
23 on your girlfriend and starts choking her, presumably in
24 your bed -- how many beds are in this house of yours?

25 A Two.

Myron Singleton - Cross by Mr. Miller

- 1 Q Two?
- 2 A Yes.
- 3 Q Was it in your bedroom or was it in another bedroom?
- 4 A It was in my bedroom.
- 5 Q So he's in your bedroom on your bed choking your
- 6 girlfriend, did you think that wasn't illegal either?
- 7 A I know that was illegal.
- 8 Q You know that was illegal. You never saw any of these
- 9 injuries on her other than the welts on her arm?
- 10 A Yes, sir.
- 11 Q That's your story.
- 12 A (Witness nods head.)
- 13 Q What did y'all talk about in the hotel room?
- 14 A She was telling me that -- basically, that her momma
- 15 took her to the police station and they was looking for me.
- 16 Q Why would they be looking for you?
- 17 A That's what I asked her. She apologized that she had
- 18 to tell them it was me because she couldn't tell on Rachet
- 19 because Rachet threatened to kill her whole family,
- 20 threatened to kill all of us.
- 21 Q Threatened to kill everybody?
- 22 A Everybody. My momma stay in Denmark with my kids. I
- 23 didn't want no problems with him.
- 24 Q Where's Rachet now?
- 25 A Still in Denmark.

Myron Singleton - Cross by Mr. Miller

1 Q Still in Denmark. Anybody talk to him?

2 A Matthew Wilson just got locked up with him recently.

3 Q Got locked up with him?

4 A Yeah.

5 Q Where at?

6 A Orangeburg.

7 Q He still in Orangeburg?

8 A No, sir.

9 Q Where is he?

10 A Denmark, South Carolina.

11 Q I mean, this guy you're so scared of, you let him come
12 into your house and let him climb on top of your girlfriend
13 and choke her in your own bed, you aren't scared of the fact
14 that you're sitting in this courtroom and bringing people in
15 to say that he's the person that did this to your
16 girlfriend?

17 A It's time to step up.

18 Q Oh, now is the time to step up?

19 A Yeah.

20 Q Because it's you that's on the line?

21 A No, because it's time for the truth to be told.

22 Q So it doesn't have anything to do with the amount of
23 time you're facing? It doesn't have anything to do with
24 your criminal charges? This is just the time to be a man?

25 A Of course, it's got to do with my charges because I'm

Myron Singleton - Cross by Mr. Miller

1 the one on trial, sir. But yes, this is the time. I'm
2 standing trial for something I didn't do, so now, it's time
3 to tell the truth. It's time the truth come up because it's
4 the truth and it need to be told.

5 Q So you're afraid of Katlyn Taylor?

6 A Yes, sir.

7 Q And Matthew Wilson is afraid of Katlyn Taylor?

8 A Yes, sir.

9 Q Talk to me about Travion Waddell. Who is he to you?

10 A I used to date his momma back in 2009. He's like a
11 stepson. I raised him since he was about five.

12 Q Well, you said he's like a stepchild. How many
13 children do you have?

14 A 13.

15 Q 13 children?

16 A Yes, sir.

17 Q How many of those 13 children is your mother taking
18 care of right now?

19 A Five.

20 Q Five of them?

21 A Yes, sir.

22 Q Out of the other ones, the other eight, how many are
23 adults?

24 A Two.

25 Q And by adults, I just mean older -- you don't have any

Myron Singleton - Cross by Mr. Miller

1 of your children living with you?

2 A No, sir.

3 Q The first time you saw -- your testimony is the first
4 time you saw TW [REDACTED] that weekend was on February
5 4th and she was at your momma's house?

6 A Yes, sir.

7 Q Do you know why TW [REDACTED] was in an institution?

8 A Something like -- I think she was --

9 Q It's a yes or no question, do you know why she was in
10 an institution?

11 A No, sir.

12 Q So you are afraid of Rachet?

13 A Yes, sir.

14 Q You've established that. Rachet comes in and assaults
15 your girlfriend. Rachet assaulted her the weekend of this
16 incident is your testimony, correct?

17 A No, my testimony is when I seen her, she was already
18 assaulted.

19 Q She was already assaulted. Why didn't you take her to
20 the hospital?

21 A She --

22 Q You could drop her off and the hospital has to call the
23 police and you ain't a part of it?

24 A She had one welt on her. It didn't look like she
25 needed to be hospitalized. She had a welt across her arm.

Myron Singleton - Redirect by Ms. Alves

1 That's the only thing I seen. I didn't see the rest of her
2 body. It didn't look like it was a hospital emergency.

3 Q Had sex and hung around with her the rest of the day?

4 A Yes, sir.

5 MR. MILLER: No further questions.

6 THE COURT: Any redirect?

7 MS. ALVES: Yes, sir.

8 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

9 BY MS. ALVES:

10 Q You talked about that day that Rachet came into your
11 house. Did you let Rachet in your house?

12 A No, I didn't.

13 Q How did Rachet get in your house?

14 A He pushed the chair from underneath the door.

15 Q He did what?

16 A Forced his way in.

17 Q And you said that when you were with TW from the
18 4th to the 5th, y'all were hiding out and y'all didn't
19 answer the door because you thought it might be Rachet or
20 her parents?

21 A Yes, ma'am.

22 Q And she was hiding from both of those, her parents and
23 Rachet?

24 A Yes.

25 Q Well, why weren't you scared that Rachet would bust in

1 that day?

2 A Because on the other door that was broke, we put a
3 padlock on it. And on the other door, we could lock that
4 screen door that nobody home.

5 Q So you had better locks?

6 A Yeah.

7 Q And when people were knocking on the door, did you know
8 who was knocking on the door?

9 A No, ma'am.

10 Q So you don't know if it was police who was knocking on
11 the door?

12 A No, ma'am.

13 Q And you didn't know whether it was her parents?

14 A No, ma'am.

15 MS. ALVES: Thank you. No further questions.

16 THE COURT: Anything further from this witness?

17 MR. MILLER: No, Your Honor.

18 THE COURT: Thank you, sir. You may step down.

19 Counsel, approach.

20 (WHEREUPON, a bench conference was held.)

21 MS. ALVES: I call Dorothy Singleton.

22 THE CLERK: Please raise your right hand.

23 DOROTHY SINGLETON,

24 after being duly sworn, testified as follows:

25 THE CLERK: Thank you. Have a seat.

DIRECT EXAMINATION

Q And what relation is he to Myron?

Dorothy Singleton - Direct by Ms. Alves

1 A It's his son.

2 Q Myron's son?

3 A Yes.

4 Q Now, we're just going to go straight to this incident
5 that we're to testify about today. We're here about whether
6 something happened between TW and Myron between February
7 3rd and February 5th. Now, do you remember the police ever
8 coming to talk to you about TW

9 A Yes, ma'am.

10 Q When the police came to talk to you about TW what
11 was that conversation?

12 A He came to my door. I was cooking. I told the kids to
13 tell him to come in. He came in the house and he said, Oh,
14 something smelling good. I said, I'm cooking. You're
15 welcome to some. So he told me that TW mother was
16 looking for her and he asked me did I know where she was.
17 And I said, Well, she was with Myron. He said, I been up
18 there and knocked on the door, but nobody came to the door.
19 I said, You probably have to knock harder because they in
20 the back room probably asleep. He said, If you can, tell
21 her her mother is looking for her. I said, I'll send my
22 grandson up there and see if he can get in touch with her
23 and, you know, give her the information. So he left and my
24 grandson got on his bicycle, Travon, he went up there and he
25 knocked on the door --

Dorothy Singleton - Direct by Ms. Alves

1 Q Don't tell me what Travon did. You sent Travon up to
2 the house?

3 A Yes, ma'am.

4 Q Had you seen TW the day the police were there?

5 A No, ma'am, not the day.

6 Q When had you seen her?

7 A I seen her, I think, the day before.

8 Q The day before?

9 A I know I seen her the day before because they came up
10 in the yard and she brought Myron dinner. And they ate
11 dinner at the house in the truck.

12 Q So TW -- you saw TW in your yard with Myron?

13 A Yes, ma'am. They had brought him dinner.

14 Q Who brought who dinner?

15 A TW brought Myron dinner.

16 Q Brought Myron dinner?

17 A Yes, ma'am.

18 Q And they ate the dinner at your house?

19 A In the truck in the yard.

20 Q And then they left?

21 A They left. It was either the day before or a couple
22 days before the police came.

23 Q Do you remember the details about how many days it was?

24 A It was either one or two days.

25 Q So did you go to Myron's house that day when the police

Dorothy Singleton - Direct by Ms. Alves

1 came?

2 A I want to say -- I don't want to lie. I was cooking
3 dinner when the police came. And after I finish cooking, I
4 always take him food. And I think I took them two dinners
5 up there.

6 Q You cook and took him dinner on what day?

7 A Well, most the time, anytime I cook, but mostly, I take
8 him a big dinner on Sundays.

9 Q So this was a Saturday?

10 A If I was cooking -- my memory is I drove up in front
11 the house and one of the kids took it to the door.

12 Q Sometime later that day?

13 A Yes, ma'am.

14 Q Now, you were aware of when Myron was arrested?

15 A Yes, ma'am.

16 Q You were there?

17 A Yes, ma'am. I took him to the police.

18 Q You drove him to the police station?

19 A His brother drove him and I drove behind him, me and
20 his daddy drove behind them.

21 Q And y'all went to the police department?

22 A Yes, ma'am.

23 Q Police department or sheriff's department?

24 A Sheriff's department, right there to the jail. I took
25 him to Mr. Bamberg. I called Mr. Bamberg.

Dorothy Singleton - Direct by Ms. Alves

1 Q Sheriff Bamberg?

2 A Yes.

3 Q Sheriff Bamberg right there?

4 A Yes, ma'am. I called him and told him I was on the
5 way.

6 Q And he turned himself in?

7 A Yes, ma'am.

8 Q So after Myron was arrested, did you have any further
9 contact with TW

10 A Yes, ma'am.

11 Q What contact did you have with TW after Myron got
12 arrested?

13 A I was home and him and her, my son, came in --

14 Q Which son?

15 A Donald. And they knocked on the door. I got up and
16 she said she wanted to write a statement and she wanted me
17 to bring it to you. And she wrote a statement and I drove
18 to your office. You told me to stay outside. She went
19 inside, you and her talked. I drove back home. On the way
20 up there, we had a conversation.

21 Q Why did she come to you to write the statement?

22 A I don't know. I guess because I was his mother.

23 Q Did you ask her about writing a statement?

24 A No, ma'am. I didn't know she was going to do one.

25 Q Whose idea was it to write the statement?

1 A Hers.

2 Q And whose idea was it to come to my office?

3 A Hers.

4 MS. ALVES: Thank you. I don't have any further
5 questions. Please answer any the solicitor may have.

6 THE WITNESS: Yes, ma'am.

7 CROSS-EXAMINATION

8 BY MR. MILLER:

9 Q You said on February the 4th, TW brought Myron
10 dinner, they ate in the truck and then they left?

11 A I never said February 4th. I said one of those days.

12 Q You said on --

13 A Myron was at my house and she pull up in the yard in a
14 truck and they ate dinner in my yard. I don't know what
15 they was eating, but they was eating in the yard.

16 Q Okay. But there was Friday and Saturday. Saturday,
17 you told the police you had seen her the day before?

18 A That's when I seen her then.

19 Q Okay. So that's Friday, February 4th. You saw TW
20 drive up --

21 A She didn't drive up, somebody else was driving.

22 Q Somebody else was driving?

23 A And he got in the truck.

24 Q Myron gets in and they eat in the truck and then they
25 leave?

Travon Islar - Direct by Ms. Alves

1 A Then they leave.

2 Q And then February 5th, the police come to talk to you
3 and say, Have you seen TW And you tell them, I saw her
4 yesterday?

5 A I'm pretty sure that was it. It's been a while. I'm
6 72, I'll be 73 next month. My memory ain't too good, but I
7 know a truck came up in the yard. Myron got in the truck,
8 was out there eating in the truck. TW was on the
9 passenger side, I remember that. Somebody else was driving.
10 They ate and they left.

11 Q At any time on that Friday or that Saturday, did TW
12 come into your house with Myron and stay in your house for
13 any period of time?

14 A I don't remember that.

15 MR. MILLER: No further questions.

16 THE COURT: Anything further from this witness?

17 MS. ALVES: No, Your Honor.

18 THE COURT: Thank you, ma'am. You may step down.

19 MS. ALVES: I would call Travon Islar.

20 THE CLERK: Please raise your right hand.

21 TRAVON ISLAR,

22 after being duly sworn, testified as follows:

23 THE CLERK: Thank you. Have a seat.

24 DIRECT EXAMINATION

25 BY MS. ALVES:

Travon I [REDACTED] - Direct by Ms. Alves

1 Q Travon, how old are you?

2 A 16.

3 Q Do you go to school?

4 A Yes, ma'am.

5 Q What school do you go to?

6 A Denmark High School.

7 Q Denmark?

8 A Yes, ma'am.

9 Q And what grade are you going to be in in September or
10 August?

11 A The 12th.

12 Q You're going to go to the 12th grade?

13 A Yes, ma'am.

14 Q And Myron is your dad?

15 A Yes, ma'am.

16 Q And Ms. Dot back here is your grandma?

17 A Yes, ma'am.

18 Q You live with your grandma?

19 A Yes, ma'am.

20 Q I'm going to only ask you about something that happened
21 on one day, okay?

22 A Okay.

23 Q Do you remember last February when the police came to
24 your grandmother's house looking for TW [REDACTED]

25 A Yes, ma'am.

Travon I [REDACTED] - Direct by Ms. Alves

1 Q I need you to talk as loud as you possibly can, okay?

2 A Yes, ma'am.

3 Q I'm going to stand back over here by these people over
4 here. I need you to talk so they can be able to hear you,
5 okay?

6 A Yes, ma'am.

7 Q Did you see the police come to the house?

8 A Yes, ma'am.

9 Q Did you know what the police were there for?

10 A Looking for that girl.

11 Q They were looking for that girl?

12 A Yes, ma'am.

13 Q Did the police talk to your grandma?

14 A Yes, ma'am.

15 Q I need you to talk loud, okay?

16 A Yes, ma'am.

17 Q And what happened after the police talked to your
18 grandma?

19 A He said the food smelled good when he walked in the
20 house.

21 Q I'm talking about after the police left. Did your
22 grandma ask you to do anything after the police left?

23 A Yeah, she told me to get on my bike and ride down to my
24 dad's house to tell the girl that the police were looking
25 for her.

Travon I [REDACTED] - Direct by Ms. Alves

1 Q That the police were looking for her. So what did you
2 do?

3 A I went down there.

4 Q You rode on your bike to your dad's house?

5 A Yes.

6 Q Did you see your dad?

7 A Yes.

8 Q Did you pass a message?

9 A Yes, ma'am.

10 Q What message did you pass?

11 A I told him that they were looking for a girl named
12 TW [REDACTED] and tell her she needed to come home.

13 Q She needed to do what?

14 A She needed to come home.

15 Q Call home?

16 A No, come home.

17 Q You told him that the police were looking for TW [REDACTED]
18 and she needed to come home?

19 A Yes, ma'am.

20 MS. ALVES: Thank you. I don't have any further
21 questions. Answer any that the solicitor might have.

22 MS. STAGGS: No questions for this witness, Your Honor.

23 THE COURT: Thank you, sir. You may step down.

24 MS. ALVES: The Defense rest.

25 THE COURT: Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, the

1 Defense has rested. This is a good place to stop for lunch.
2 So we'll send you to lunch and start back at two o'clock.
3 Remember the instructions, don't talk to third parties about
4 the case, don't do anything to research and don't do any
5 deliberation amongst yourselves.

6 Hope everyone has a good lunch. We'll see you at two
7 o'clock.

8 (WHEREUPON, the jury exits the courtroom at 12:11 p.m.)

9 THE COURT: Okay. I'll be back shortly before 2:00.
10 If counsel wants to look at my general charges. I think my
11 law clerk has made a copy of case specific charges. And
12 then if you have any different charges that you would
13 propose, I'd be happy to look at it.

14 MR. MILLER: Are the general charges from the bench
15 book?

16 THE COURT: They are generally -- well, yes and no. We
17 had an old bench book when I first took the bench that has
18 now been taken down because the law has changed in a number
19 of areas. So these are charges that -- some of them are the
20 same from the old bench book, but some have adapted to the
21 changes. I'll give you an example of that.

22 After the Beattie case came down, I took out the jury
23 was supposed to find the truth. That was specifically
24 changed by the Beattie case. So that's just one example.

25 The case specific charges are directly from the

Wayne Martin (IC) - Direct by Mr. Miller

1 statute. So look at it and if you have any -- if you want
2 to read my standard ones, I've got a copy of them here that
3 both sides can look at. I'll be back shortly.

4 We'll be in recess until two o'clock.

5 (WHEREUPON, a lunch break was taken.)

6 THE COURT: You have a proffer you want to present
7 before we bring the jury in?

8 MR. MILLER: That is correct, Your Honor. The State
9 would call Investigator Wayne Martin to the stand.

10 THE CLERK: Please raise your right hand.

11 WAYNE MARTIN,

12 after being duly sworn, testified as follows:

13 THE CLERK: Thank you. Have a seat.

14 DIRECT EXAMINATION

15 BY MR. MILLER:

16 Q Investigator Martin, we know that you work for the
17 Public Defender's Office, so I'm going to dispense with the
18 preliminary questions. Who is Travion Waddell?

19 A He was a particular witness in this trial.

20 Q Did you subpoena Mr. Waddell for the February, April
21 and June terms of court in this case?

22 A Yes, sir, I did.

23 Q Do you know where Travion Waddell is today?

24 A My understanding, he is deceased.

25 Q Did Travion Waddell talk to you about Rachet? I'm not

Wayne Martin (IC) - Direct by Mr. Miller

1 asking you what he said, I'm just asking you if he talked to
2 you about Rachet?

3 A Yes.

4 Q When approximately did you first talk to Matthew
5 Wilson?

6 A Around the first of June of this year.

7 Q Was that after Travion's death?

8 A Yes, sir.

9 MR. MILLER: That's it, Your Honor.

10 MS. ALVES: And, Your Honor, I would object to all of
11 that testimony. Number one, what Mr. Martin would have done
12 in assisting to investigate this case I believe would be
13 work product and not appropriate for the State to call him
14 to question him about that.

15 Also, Your Honor, it is irrelevant about whether or not
16 Travion Waddell was subpoenaed as a witness in this case.
17 Mr. Waddell did not testify. Nobody brought in anything
18 that Mr. Waddell said. And I think it's irrelevant that Mr.
19 Waddell was subpoenaed as a witness prior to Mr. Wilson
20 being subpoenaed as a witness.

21 MR. MILLER: Your Honor, the obvious relevancy of the
22 testimony is the fact that they had this witness. Nobody
23 ever talked about Rachet. Nobody ever heard about Rachet.
24 They had the witness who's going to talk to them about
25 Rachet, who happens to be, based upon the testimony, the

1 Defendant's stepson. And when the Defendant's stepson
2 passes away, miraculously, a month before the trial or the
3 same month of the trial another witness comes forward who
4 says there's this guy named Rachet. And that's the first
5 time that it's come up in the investigation at all. There's
6 no discussion anywhere about a Rachet that is in there.

7 THE COURT: How do you answer Ms. Alves's objection
8 this is work product?

9 MR. MILLER: Your Honor, it's not -- who he subpoenaed
10 for trial is not work product. I mean, the subpoenas are
11 the subpoenas. They're out there.

12 MS. ALVES: Judge, I would disagree because we have
13 subpoenaed plenty of people who the State doesn't
14 necessarily know about. They don't know what they're going
15 to testify to. We've had other subpoenas where we've taken
16 people off of subpoenas and we've decided not to use them
17 and the witness list does reflect that. So I don't think
18 it's relevant who we did or didn't subpoena. I think that
19 -- I would still say that is work product who Mr. Martin
20 subpoenaed or who he talked to and when.

21 THE COURT: Let me review my notes very briefly.

22 (Pause.)

23 THE COURT: All right. I've reviewed my notes. There
24 is testimony in the record from Matthew Wilson. An issue of
25 his subpoena is already in question. I'm going to sustain

1 the objection as to questions one, two and three. I
2 realized the solicitor asked the question about the subpoena
3 to Matthew Wilson.

4 MR. MILLER: Your Honor, for clarity, you said you were
5 going to sustain the objection as to one, two and three?

6 THE COURT: But I will allow the question number four
7 as the date that Matthew Wilson -- Matthew Wilson has
8 already testified he was not under subpoena in February and
9 April. I'll allow you to ask that question to the
10 investigator regarding that, but the question only pertains
11 to Matthew.

12 MR. MILLER: Your Honor, in that case, we won't have
13 any rebuttal because Matthew Wilson has already testified to
14 the answer to that question.

15 THE COURT: All right.

16 Counsel, have you reviewed my proposed charges?

17 MR. MILLER: Yes, Your Honor.

18 MS. ALVES: Yes, sir.

19 THE COURT: My law clerk, also, prepared you a copy of
20 the verdict form. Does either side have any objection to
21 the verdict form?

22 MR. MILLER: None from the State, Your Honor.

23 MS. ALVES: None from the Defense.

24 THE COURT: Well, the Defense has produced evidence,
25 put evidence into the record, so the State would open, the

1 Defense would close in full and the State would respond.

2 MR. MILLER: The State would waive first closing
3 argument, Your Honor.

4 MS. ALVES: Your Honor, at this point, I need to renew
5 my directed verdict motion.

6 THE COURT: Yes, ma'am. So noted. And the Court finds
7 the State has produced evidence to support the charges, so
8 I'll deny your motion.

9 MS. ALVES: Yes, sir.

10 THE COURT: Anything further before we bring our jury
11 in?

12 MR. MILLER: Nothing from the State.

13 MS. ALVES: Judge, I would just ask you to admonish
14 people in the courtroom that if they hear something they
15 don't like that they need to sit down and just listen or
16 they can leave now. This is a very small courtroom and it
17 is very distracting for someone to be going in and out of
18 the door.

19 THE COURT: I've already instructed the sheriff, the
20 persons who created a disturbance before will not be
21 reentering. We will not have anyone creating any
22 disturbance while the attorneys are talking or I'm charging
23 the law.

24 MS. ALVES: Judge, does that, also, apply to the
25 victim, Ms. TW [REDACTED] She was one of the people --

1 THE COURT: The victim has a right to be present. I'll
2 allow her to come back in the courtroom. No one is going to
3 leave during the arguments or the charge.

4 MS. ALVES: Thank you, Judge.

5 THE COURT: Okay. Let's get our jury.

6 (WHEREUPON, the jury enters the courtroom at 2:17 p.m.)

7 THE COURT: Mr. Foreman, ladies and gentlemen of the
8 jury, I hope everyone had a good lunch. We are ready to
9 proceed.

10 Mr. Miller, does the State have any reply?

11 MR. MILLER: No, Your Honor.

12 THE COURT: Ladies and gentlemen, the evidentiary stage
13 of the trial is concluded. The next stage of the trial will
14 be the attorneys making closing arguments.

15 Ms. Alves.

16 CLOSING ARGUMENT BY THE DEFENSE

17 MS. ALVES: Your Honor, may it please the Court.

18 Ladies and gentlemen, at the beginning of the trial,
19 the Judge, the solicitor and I talked to you about the
20 Defendant's right to be presumed innocent until found
21 guilty. You heard about that robe of righteousness that
22 symbolically is enclosed around him and that shield of
23 innocence that he has. Because until the State has proven
24 him guilty beyond a reasonable doubt, Mr. Singleton sits
25 here as an innocent man. And I'm telling you, after I heard

1 the evidence in this case, that robe is pretty tight around
2 him because the State has not met their burden.

3 Now, I talked to you and told you about how a lie is
4 like a snowball rolling down a hill and how it just gets
5 bigger and bigger as it goes on. And that's what we have
6 here.

7 Now, Myron told you -- this isn't something symbolic
8 just because we're at trial, the Judge is saying well, he
9 says he's not guilty because we're at trial. No. He sat in
10 that chair and he told you that he is not guilty of criminal
11 sexual conduct, kidnapping or assault and battery of a high
12 and aggravated nature. He told you the whole truth about a
13 situation that most of us don't get involved with.

14 Now, I know it was a shocking story. It was an
15 unpleasant story. It's shocking to hear that somebody --
16 that somebody who came in this courtroom and sat before us
17 is engaged in prostitution or is being forced into
18 prostitution or is being beaten by somebody. It's shocking
19 to hear that people are stealing from elderly people. It's
20 shocking to hear just about everything that came from that
21 witness stand.

22 But the question is, is it possible that somebody else
23 assaulted TW [REDACTED] that somebody who wasn't Myron? And to
24 know that, you had to hear about that. You had to hear
25 about TW [REDACTED] relationship with Rachet. You had to hear

1 about what other people know about Rachet. You had to hear
2 about who he was and what their relationship was and why
3 TW would be afraid of him. You had to hear about why
4 TW would be scared of her parents or why she would be
5 listening to her parents. And she told you, she gets no
6 peace if she doesn't listen to them.

7 Now, we heard about her family situation. She has to
8 do what her parents say do. Her parents stay on her. She
9 said they're always bugging her. She said they take
10 advantage of her. When I asked her about that, she backed
11 off on that and said well, they treat her like a child and
12 force her to do what they want her to do. And she told you
13 the conflict is when she doesn't do what they say do.

14 Now, what did they want her to do that day? I don't
15 know. Her momma took her to the police. She didn't go to
16 the police. She didn't call the police. She could have
17 easily called the police from her phone. She could have
18 easily gone to the police department and said hey, I got
19 beat up, but she didn't.

20 Her momma took her to the police. And when she got
21 there, she told a story and she told them that it was Myron
22 who assaulted her. Why would she say Myron if it wasn't?
23 Because, apparently, from what we've heard, you don't put
24 Rachet's name in foolishness. You don't put Rachet's name
25 in anything because that will come back to bite you.

1 What did her parents think of Rachet? I don't know.
2 Because her momma lied and said she didn't know Rachet.
3 Remember? She said oh, she knew him barely. She didn't
4 know him. She didn't know her daughter was dating him.
5 Yet, TW gets up here and says yeah, Rachet has been to
6 my house several times. My parents know him. They've met
7 him multiple times. Well, what's the truth? Well, the
8 parents know Rachet and Myron is saying it was so, then
9 they're friends with Rachet. So she's not going to tell
10 them that Rachet did something.

11 I know that's all speculation because we don't have
12 Rachet here and we don't have anybody that saw Rachet. And
13 I don't know what her parents are about. I don't know if
14 they would steal from the grandma or not. I know TW
15 said they did. I know TW told other people that they
16 did. So I don't know what kind of people these are, but I
17 know if they're stealing from her grandmother, is it really
18 a leap to say that they don't like the boyfriend who brings
19 in the money and they're not willing to throw somebody else
20 under the bus in order to save that person? I don't know.

21 Now, we have three charges here, kidnapping, criminal
22 sexual conduct and assault and battery high and aggravated.
23 Let's talk about what they said happened that day.

24 Now, TW says Myron picked her up at a stop sign,
25 but Myron told you he doesn't drive. He doesn't have a

1 license. He doesn't have a car. And that, in fact, he
2 doesn't know where TW was on the 3rd because on the 4th
3 is when she was messaging him and arranged to meet him at
4 his momma's house.

5 Now, his momma told you they met outside. They didn't
6 come in her house. They were outside eating whatever they
7 were eating. Myron told you he met her outside. And then
8 after they were at his mom's house, they went over to his
9 house. She went voluntarily. She didn't tell you that she
10 was dragged there or forced there.

11 And what she says they did there is she says that once
12 they got there, he accused her of messing around with other
13 guys. Well, she, also, said that he was her pimp and was
14 forcing her to have sex with other guys for money. You
15 can't have it both ways. Either he's having you have sex
16 with other guys for -- excuse me, for drugs. Either he's
17 forcing you to have sex with other guys for drugs or he's
18 mad about you being with other guys. You can't have it both
19 ways because according to her, he wants her to be with other
20 guys so he can, hopefully, get drugs and money. Yet, she
21 tells the nurse at the hospital when she was asked, no, he
22 doesn't use drugs.

23 So she can't have it all these ways. Every way is
24 different. And you know why? Because she can't keep her
25 lies straight. You can't always keep all the lies straight,

1 so that's why there's inconsistencies. There's no evidence
2 that he uses drugs. There's no evidence that he forced her
3 to go out there and prostitute.

4 But we do have evidence that she was a prostitute for
5 somebody else. Because there was another person that came
6 in this courtroom and testified that they know about her
7 relationship with Rachet. Now, that person didn't have to
8 come in here and testify. The solicitor made issue about
9 the fact that oh, they're in jail now. But he tells him,
10 nobody is trying to pay him to come in here and testify
11 against somebody who, by all accounts, is crazy and
12 dangerous. \$2,000 is not worth taking your chances out
13 there after you put this man out on blast for being a pimp.
14 Telling the truth and doing the right thing, sometimes
15 that's worth it.

16 And that's what Myron said, the truth needs to be told.
17 And Matthew Wilson told you what the truth is, that she was
18 pimping for Rachet. She was selling herself for Rachet.

19 I'm sorry this girl was doing that. I'm sorry that
20 Rachet was forcing her to do that, but you heard what Rachet
21 typically does. He would choke her out. He would assault
22 her, make her do what he wanted her to do.

23 And you heard about what Rachet did the one time that
24 he caught my client with TW after they decided to start
25 their relationship behind his back. He bust into my

1 client's house. He had a gun. He threatened to kill her.
2 He threatened to kill her grandmother. Same thing she said
3 that Myron did to her. And TW ran off and then she came
4 back and was willing to do what Rachet said.

5 Now, Myron told you, yeah, he was scared. He didn't
6 step up. He didn't fight Rachet. He told you Rachet was
7 crazy and Rachet had a gun and he was not trying to get
8 himself in that situation. And it's unfortunate that he
9 didn't, but the mere fact that he didn't stand up for his
10 girlfriend does not make him guilty of CSC, criminal sexual
11 conduct, assault and battery of a high and aggravated nature
12 or kidnapping.

13 Now, on that day, she willing went over to his house.
14 And what were they doing? They were hiding out from Rachet.
15 Now, what did she do? Before she got there -- and I'm sorry
16 I'm jumping around. But before she got there, her momma
17 told her not to go out and she decided she was going to go
18 out anyway. Because she's grown. She's 22 years old, she
19 can do what she wants, regardless of what her mother wants.
20 Now, I know when you're a momma, you're a momma till the day
21 you go in the ground. I know you are. And her momma,
22 basically, said the same thing. She doesn't have to stop
23 being concerned about her grown child just because she's an
24 adult. But it's a bit much that her mother is calling her.

25 You're going to see your boyfriend. You've told your

1 mother, I'm going to see my man. Your mother says no. She
2 went out of the house anyway and her mother starts calling
3 her immediately. Why you calling? She's going to see her
4 boyfriend. Why are you running to the police, oh, she's
5 missing? She's with her boyfriend. She wasn't missing.
6 Nobody was missing. She just wasn't answering her phone
7 calls.

8 And Myron told you, she didn't want to answer her
9 parents' phone calls because she didn't want to hear from
10 them. And he told you why, because they were taking
11 advantage of her. The same thing TW said. They were
12 taking her money. They were taking grandma's money. And he
13 was telling her to stand up for yourself, at least, on the
14 money part with the parent part.

15 She said she didn't go to the police about the
16 grandmother thing and she didn't -- I'm sure she didn't say
17 anything to anybody except for Myron and his family about
18 her own money. So that's another reason not to like Myron.
19 He's trying to get her to not share her money with them.

20 But in this situation, she left without her parents'
21 consent. And then her momma's going -- what are you doing
22 going over there banging on the door of the boyfriend's
23 house for? Why? She's a grown woman with her boyfriend.
24 And then TW and Myron are in the house because she
25 didn't want to hear from her momma. She had just walked

1 away from her momma, told her mother she's going to do what
2 she wants to do because she's grown. And yet, here the
3 mother comes following her to the boyfriend's house. That's
4 why she didn't answer the door. Because she didn't have to.

5 And they told you they were in there. They was trying
6 to not get the attention of Rachet. They were trying to not
7 get the attention of her mom and dad because they didn't
8 want to hear from them. And Myron told you, yes, she had
9 some injuries on her, but it wasn't as bad as the pictures
10 we saw.

11 That's not kidnapping. She wasn't there against her
12 will. And it's going to be up to you, the jurors, to decide
13 what happened in this situation. If you're firmly convinced
14 that she was kidnapped, then you find him guilty. But if
15 you think there's a real possibility that she wasn't being
16 held in the house against her will, that she really was
17 dumping her parents, dumping Rachet, then it's going to be
18 your duty to find him not guilty.

19 Now, let's talk about that criminal sexual conduct.
20 And I talked about it a little bit. Does it make any sense
21 that if you want her out there having sex with other guys
22 that you're going to get mad enough at her to stick a stick
23 up her? And where is this stick? It comes down to the
24 police work in this case. I get it. I get it. I
25 understand why they didn't immediately jump because when she

1 went to the police with her mom, she only told them about
2 this beating that she says Myron did. She didn't say a word
3 about a sexual assault. She says well, she didn't feel
4 comfortable. I get it. I understand. But you didn't even
5 tell your mom about the sexual assault.

6 So she gets to the hospital and then she tells these
7 doctors about her sexual assault. And you know what they
8 do. I understand they were in the emergency room. They see
9 a lot of people getting assaulted, whatever they see on a
10 daily basis. They're immediately like oh, poor TW poor
11 you. And what did they do? They follow procedure. They
12 called the police officer back and say hey, y'all need to
13 come back here because she needs to go to the actual
14 hospital to get a rape trauma test.

15 You heard what the police did. Nothing. They did
16 nothing. She said they were less than helpful. That's what
17 that physician's assistant sat here and told you. She said
18 that they were so unhelpful and they didn't seem interested
19 in this case that she had to call the sheriff's department.
20 And the sheriff's department, actually, showed up for a case
21 that wasn't even theirs. And then the sheriff's department
22 had to contact Denmark to have them come back and do their
23 job and take that girl to go get an examination.

24 And you know what, that's not the only place where they
25 were lacking. Because the minute she says she got raped and

1 somebody broke off a piece of furniture in their house and
2 put a stick up her, what's the first thing they should have
3 done? Go get a warrant to search the house. And you heard
4 from Myron, there was no search done at his house. Matter
5 of fact, Myron wasn't there for a period of time. He wasn't
6 there when she went to the hospital. Remember, he had gone
7 out. He had left with his friend and left TW in the
8 house by herself. So he wasn't even home. They could have
9 easily gone and gotten the search warrant. They could have
10 come to Myron and asked him could they search.

11 And you know what, you see it. You see it on cases on
12 TV. You see it in real life. You know what they could have
13 done if they couldn't get a search warrant? They could have
14 put that yellow tape around the house or, at least, around
15 the front door letting them know this is a crime scene.
16 Nobody goes in there until we get a search warrant.

17 Did they look for a piece of furniture that was broken
18 off, with a leg broken off? No. And what piece of
19 furniture are we even looking for? Because she said Myron
20 broke it off that furniture and stuck it up her. Was it a
21 dresser? Was it a chair? We don't know. You know why we
22 don't know? Because she couldn't give us a straight answer.
23 It was one or the other. Wouldn't you know if somebody
24 broke something off of a dresser, a leg off of a dresser and
25 stuck it up you or a leg off of a chair? And when did he

1 get to be superman that he can just break a chair leg? But
2 that's what she said happened to the part of her body that
3 he wanted her to use to get him drugs.

4 You say okay, well, she told the doctors that this
5 happened. Yes, she told them it happened, but where is the
6 evidence that it happened? Where is the evidence that
7 anybody stuck a wooden stick up this young lady? There was
8 no testimony about any kind of trauma to her vaginal area.
9 There was no testimony about injury to her vaginal area.
10 There was testimony about bleed, but there was, also,
11 testimony that her period had started within the week prior.
12 And there was testimony from Myron that she was on her
13 period and had complained about cramps and had taken some
14 cramp medicine.

15 Now, I don't know her period situation, but the nurse
16 had to take down when she said it was her last period. And
17 the nurse, also, told you there's no way to tell whether
18 it's period blood or injury blood. So she couldn't say it
19 was either one. She, also, didn't find any evidence of any
20 kind of wood. And there was no testimony about abrasions.
21 The way that nurse testified and the details that she
22 questioned about would have been no question -- and
23 remember, she talked about she asked her what happened and
24 she quoted what the lady said happen. She gave you
25 specifics about what TW told her that day. If there had

1 been any abrasions or injury to her vaginal area indicating
2 that somebody had stuck a stick in her, that nurse would
3 have told you about it. And the fact that you didn't hear
4 anything from that nurse about this tells you there wasn't
5 any.

6 Now, let's talk about the assault and battery of a high
7 and aggravated nature. For this, I want to be specific and
8 tell you exactly what the law says. The law says that a
9 person commits the offense of assault and battery of a high
10 and aggravated nature if the person unlawfully injures
11 another person and great bodily injury to another person
12 results. Or the acts is accomplished by means likely to
13 produce death or great bodily injury. So you have to have
14 great bodily injury resulting or the act has to be
15 accomplished by means that could produce great bodily
16 injury.

17 Now, what is great bodily injury? Great bodily injury
18 is bodily injury which causes a substantial risk of death or
19 which causes serious permanent disfigurement or protracted
20 loss or impairment of the function of a body member or
21 organ. Body member is your arms, your legs. Organ, you
22 know, all the stuff on the inside.

23 So in order for great bodily injury, which must have
24 been caused here -- this is not serious bodily injury or
25 moderate bodily injury, which is something different and

1 lesser. It's, for example, moderate bodily injury would
2 require a temporary scar or a temporary disfigurement.
3 Great bodily injury would cause permanent.

4 Now, it is not enough for assault and battery of a high
5 and aggravated nature for there to be just some injury or
6 just because there's a scar. The State has to prove to you
7 beyond a reasonable doubt that she had the elements that I
8 told you of great bodily injury. And that will have to
9 permanent disfigurement.

10 Now, she sat here and she testified and she showed you
11 a scar from a bite mark on her leg, but is that scar a
12 permanent scar or is that just temporary? I mean, I
13 remember once when I was young and dumb, my cousin and I .
14 thought we could tandem by tying two bikes together and then
15 we rode it down a hill. Stupidest thing I've ever done in
16 my life, I think. I've probably done some other stupid
17 things, too. And I got -- obviously, I was in the back and
18 I got hurt. And I had a massive scar on my arm for years.
19 I told everybody me and her did this and this is what
20 happened to me. Look here. If I show you my arm now, that
21 scar is gone. It was there for about a year or two or
22 three. After that, it was gone. Everybody was like, what
23 are you talking about? I don't see anything. I was like,
24 well, it was there. Scars fade.

25 It has to be proven to you beyond a reasonable doubt by

1 the State, by the medical experts that that scar is
2 permanent. Without that, that's one of the things for great
3 bodily injury. And, also, you have to look, she didn't have
4 a permanent disfigurement. It wasn't great bodily injury
5 because she wasn't -- I mean, obviously, she's not dead.
6 And there was no great bodily injury because she was never
7 at risk of dying.

8 She testified that he tried to drown her in the bathtub
9 that, actually, turned out to be an upright shower that
10 didn't accumulate water, so how do you get -- and she didn't
11 give any explanation about that to us. He said something
12 about he just held her in the shower. Didn't say anything
13 about she couldn't breathe or anything else.

14 She said he hit her in the head with a gun, but he
15 never shot the gun or pointed it at her and tried to fire it
16 or anything of that nature. She said he hit her with a drop
17 cord. None of that rises to the level of great bodily
18 injury. And if the State hasn't proven to you beyond a
19 reasonable doubt that she suffered great bodily injury, then
20 you have to find him not guilty of that charge. The Judge
21 will tell you, all the elements of all of the charges must
22 be proven to you beyond a reasonable doubt. They can't just
23 prove some of the elements. They have to prove them all.

24 And I'm here to tell you while it is important to talk
25 about the charges and about the penalties, it's really

1 important to tell you that at the end of the day, I don't
2 think that matters because I believe that Mr. -- I think the
3 evidence has shown that Mr. Singleton is not guilty of all
4 of this regardless of the definitions. Because it's
5 possible that while she was walking home by herself that
6 night -- or that afternoon, rather, that Rachet could have
7 caught up to her?

8 Now, Rachet, you heard what he did. Myron told you
9 what he was saying about how he didn't like her being with
10 Myron when she was just with Myron. He said she wasn't out
11 there making any money. Now, what's he going to do if she
12 hasn't been making any money for two days and laying up with
13 Myron? If he caught up with her, isn't it possible that
14 he's the one who assaulted her and that the injuries did not
15 get caused by Myron?

16 She, also, told you about -- Myron, also, told you
17 about the problems with her parents, that sometimes she
18 would get into it with her father. And you saw the pictures
19 where sometimes her parents would sit in the doorway and
20 wouldn't allow her to leave. Now, she wanted to say that
21 this wasn't her dad, but Myron told you where these pictures
22 came from.

23 And look what else she would do. She would make fun of
24 her dad. I don't know why her parents were sitting there.
25 Were they trying to hold her in the house? Were they trying

1 to control her? Were they being protective of her? Either
2 way, this is how she responded, by sending the pictures to
3 her boyfriend and calling her dad a fat ass and putting down
4 look at him looking like a fool. He's standing in the
5 doorway supposedly trying to block her from going out.
6 You'll have these back there. You can take a look at them.

7 And take a look at the other pictures, the ones that
8 the State put in. They put in ten pictures of these
9 injuries that she suffered. And if you look at them, some
10 of them appear to be a little older than others,
11 particularly, some of the scabs where it shows that -- and
12 the doctor told you yeah, sometimes injuries can scab over
13 pretty quickly. But some of these scabs, actually, have --
14 are, actually, substantially older and they're already
15 scabbing to the point where some of the skin is falling off.
16 So these are some injuries that she could have had before
17 that day. And, obviously, the rest of them are fresh.

18 Now, he told you that she had some injuries when she
19 got there. And the others, he said he didn't see them. He
20 never saw the bite mark on her foot. And he said he didn't
21 do anything.

22 Now, her mom, she says -- let's talk about when Myron
23 knew about the charges. Myron told you he found out about
24 the charges shortly before they met up at the hotel. And
25 she testified about them going to the hotel. And whose idea

1 was it to go to the hotel? It was hers. She told you that
2 she texted Myron because she was concerned about him. And
3 he told you that was the first time he heard about charges.
4 The police didn't go to him and start questioning him about
5 what happened or his side of the story or anything. They,
6 clearly, didn't go to his family after that first day
7 because nobody knew that Myron had charges. Then he finds
8 out he has charges and then he, ultimately -- his mom told
9 you what happened. They contacted the sheriff and the whole
10 family went down there and he turned himself in.

11 But before he turned himself in when he found out about
12 the charges, what did he do? He met with TW at the
13 hotel. And she said she was scared and she took her friend
14 with her. Well, she and the friend had already cooked up a
15 story for the dad and the mom, so lies and tells them that
16 they were somewhere else with the friend. They were blowing
17 up the friend's phone. She was with her friend who,
18 obviously, I guess they trusted. And here they are still
19 blowing her phone up calling her friend. The friend said
20 she didn't feel comfortable, she didn't want to be in the
21 middle of this, so she left.

22 TW couldn't have been that afraid of Myron that
23 day. And that's after she said all this happened. Because
24 what is she doing calling him and arranging to meet him at a
25 hotel. Even before and after the hotel, she told you she's

1 sending him texts talking about how much she loves him, even
2 telling him that she wants to have a baby with him. You do
3 that with someone you're scared of?

4 Now, I know there's a lot of talk about okay, maybe she
5 was of that mindset where she was just going to go back to
6 an abusive relationship. But she was safe with her family.
7 She was being overprotected by her family. And yet, she's
8 still texting and calling him. And then after he goes to
9 jail, for some reason, she gets involved with his brother.
10 That seemed to be a -- I don't know what was going on. They
11 were just talking.

12 And then she goes to the mother's house. And the mom
13 told you she didn't try to force her to write a statement.
14 That girl came to her and wanted to write a statement. If
15 somebody comes to you and wants to write a statement
16 explaining that your son is charged with something that he
17 didn't do, what are you going to do, tell her to go away?
18 No, you're going to be like come talk to his lawyer. And
19 what did they do? She told you, they came and talked to me,
20 Myron's lawyer, talked to me and my investigator. And what
21 did she do? She wrote a statement saying Myron didn't have
22 a gun, Myron didn't sexually assault her.

23 Now, I know I talked a lot about the police and what
24 they didn't do. I don't know what the solicitor is going to
25 get up here and say about that. You can't say they did

1 their job because they didn't. And you know, a lot of
2 times, people think oh, the defense attorneys must be really
3 happy when the police don't do their job. No, I want the
4 police to do their jobs. Had the police done their job that
5 day, I'd be able to -- we might not even be here honestly.
6 Because there wouldn't be a stick. There wouldn't be a
7 broken dresser or a broken chair. There wouldn't be a drop
8 cord with her DNA and blood on it. And I'd be able to come
9 in here and show a jury that they don't have any of this.
10 But I can't do that because they didn't go in that house
11 timely and prove that there wasn't anything there.

12 But more importantly, I don't have to prove that it
13 didn't happen. I don't ever have to prove it didn't happen.
14 The State always has the burden of proof and they have to
15 prove it did. So where's the drop cord? Where's the chair?
16 Where's the dresser? Where's the gun? Where's any of this?
17 Show me proof that any of this was there in Myron's house.

18 All I can tell you here is what my client has said and
19 we've talked about that. And that's what this case is going
20 to boil down to, credibility. All we have is the
21 credibility of Myron and TW Mom lied about Rachel.
22 Her dad and mom stealing from grandma. And I don't -- if
23 you want to believe TW about that because she even said
24 it and she's been telling people about it. If you don't
25 believe that they've been stealing from grandma, then you

1 believe TW a liar. If you believe they're stealing
2 from grandma, then that tells you that's how she was raised
3 and lies come easy. Myron is the one that told you about
4 how she's been saying that all along, about the family
5 stealing from grandma.

6 Now, the State has to prove this case beyond a
7 reasonable doubt. And the Judge is going to tell you what a
8 reasonable doubt is. You have to be firmly convinced that
9 Myron did do the acts that he's being accused of in order to
10 find him guilty. If this evidence has firmly convinced you
11 of Myron's guilt, well, then that's what your verdict is.
12 But if there is a possibility that he did not commit these
13 offenses, then you must find him not guilty. This is not
14 just me wishing and hoping for it. The Judge is going to
15 tell you, if you think there's a possibility that he's not
16 guilty, then you must find him not guilty.

17 Now, you're going to make your decision based on the
18 testimony and the credibility of the witnesses. And the
19 Judge is going to tell you that it's your job as the jury to
20 determine the credibility of each witness. You decide who
21 was believable and who was not believable. You decide if
22 the evidence or lack thereof is sufficient. And I'm
23 confident once you have gone back and y'all have had a
24 chance to talk about it and review what happened here in
25 court, you will be firmly convinced that Myron Singleton is

1 not guilty of criminal sexual conduct, assault and battery
2 of a high and aggravated nature or kidnapping.

3 Thank you.

4 THE COURT: Mr. Miller.

5 MR. MILLER: Thank you, Your Honor. May it please the
6 Court. Ms. Alves.

7 CLOSING ARGUMENT BY THE STATE

8 MR. MILLER: Let's start off with what we agree on. We
9 agree there was no meaningful investigation done by the
10 Denmark Police Department in this case. There wasn't. You
11 finding Myron Singleton not guilty because you don't like
12 the investigation that wasn't done by the Denmark Police
13 Department doesn't do anything but punish the Denmark Police
14 Department. It doesn't do anything to vindicate anybody.
15 All it is is saying well, they didn't do something so it
16 doesn't really matter who beat TW like that. Finding
17 Myron guilty doesn't do anything to reward TW It was a
18 terrible investigation. As a matter of fact, it wasn't an
19 investigation. What it was is it was a documentation.
20 Because they didn't investigate. They documented. Oh, this
21 happened, so I wrote it down. This happened, so I wrote it
22 down. That was all.

23 It was so bad, in fact, that I didn't call the
24 investigator to testify, neither did Ms. Alves. There
25 wasn't any dispute about that. It was ridiculous. And we

1 knew when we started off with this case that this case was
2 going to come down to credibility. You heard Ms. Staggs say
3 it. It was going to come down to credibility.

4 But let's talk about credibility and what that is.
5 Credibility is believability. And when the Judge charges
6 you on the law, which he's going to do as soon as I'm done,
7 when he charges you on the law, he's going to say about each
8 witness's testimony, you as the jury can do one of three
9 things, you can believe all of what somebody said, you can
10 believe none of what somebody said or you can believe some
11 of the things and not believe others. That's your job as
12 jurors, to determine what is true and what is not true.

13 Verdicto is a Latin term. It means to speak the truth.
14 That's what a verdict is. A verdict is the truth.

15 MS. ALVES: Objection, Your Honor.

16 THE COURT: Counsel, come up.

17 (WHEREUPON, a bench conference was held.)

18 MR. MILLER: So look at these witnesses. Ms. Alves
19 says that mom is a liar because mom didn't say something
20 that agreed with TW I don't know this Rachet guy. I
21 mean, I know of him. I know of him, know who he is. Okay.
22 TW said something different under cross-examination.
23 TW said a lot of things under cross-examination that
24 don't seem believable. This whole thing of crossing her
25 arms, I don't know. I don't know. I told you I don't know.

1 You need to ask another question.

2 You know what, ladies and gentlemen, she's acting like
3 a child. She's acting like a teenager. She is,
4 essentially, a child. She can't keep details straight. The
5 hotel that is across the street from the house that she has
6 lived in for multiple years, she couldn't remember the name
7 of it. She's unsophisticated and she's easily
8 impressionable. She can be manipulated.

9 And that's why Myron Singleton went after her. He went
10 after her because he knew that she could be manipulated. He
11 went after her because he knew that she was weak. He went
12 after her because he knew if she ever went to the police, in
13 this courtroom, Ms. Alves would be able to stand up and on
14 cross-examination tear her up. That's why he went after
15 her.

16 Ladies and gentlemen, there is one problem with that.
17 And as the Judge is going to tell you, part of what you can
18 consider when you're considering the believability of
19 somebody is you can consider their demeanor in this chair.
20 You can consider the way that they reacted to questions.
21 You can even think about the answer that they gave.

22 You know, we ask you all these questions at the
23 beginning of the jury selection process and we ask you if
24 you knew anything about the case and if you knew anything
25 about the witnesses. And the one thing, the one thing that

1 nobody asked you about was whether or not you had common
2 sense. Because we want jurors that have common sense.

3 And so the flaw in Myron's plan is this, y'all saw
4 TW testify. Y'all saw that she couldn't keep things
5 straight. She got defensive with Ms. Alves. She responded
6 as a child. She has been institutionalized before. You
7 heard that testimony from the stand. How can TW keep it
8 straight? How from February the 5th, 2022, did TW never
9 waiver from the fact that it was Myron? How did she always
10 say it was Myron? Not it was Rachet, never once. Because
11 you see Ms. Alves at work, if there was some place where
12 TW had said that Rachet was the one that had did this,
13 she would have known it. She would have brought it to your
14 attention. It didn't happen.

15 So this whole thing, this whole thing is TW
16 continuing lie that she never varies from. She can't even
17 tell the truth all the time the same way.

18 Myron sits up here and tells you that he's so scared of
19 this guy named Rachet that he's going to let him come into
20 his house, go into his bedroom, jump on TW and start
21 choking her. He's that scared of this guy. Isn't it
22 convenient, isn't it super convenient that a couple of weeks
23 -- I started to say two, but I think he said a couple of
24 weeks before Myron goes to trial, somebody shows up in the
25 jail that magically goes oh, yeah, I know about Rachet.

1 Rachet is the one that did that. That's pretty handy.
2 He's, also, somebody that can absolutely get out of jail
3 with a check.

4 Again, Myron knows who he's looking for. Not somebody
5 that's going to be stuck in jail no matter what Myron does
6 or what he does to Myron. It's somebody who's in jail on
7 child support. And child support means you stay in jail for
8 a certain amount of time or you get caught up on your child
9 support and they let you out. That's who came in. And they
10 had never talked to him until a couple weeks before the
11 trial. Pretty fortunate. He wasn't on the list to testify
12 before --

13 MS. ALVES: Objection, Your Honor.

14 MR. MILLER: He said it.

15 THE COURT: Overruled.

16 MR. MILLER: He said that he got served with a subpoena
17 by Investigator Martin a couple of weeks before this trial
18 and he had never spoken to him before that. And in fact, he
19 said that when Investigator Martin came to speak to him the
20 first time, the very first time, he had a subpoena for him.
21 He handed him the subpoena before he talked to him.

22 Why would somebody have a subpoena in their hand when
23 you're in jail and they're going to serve you with a
24 subpoena, why would they have the subpoena in your hand
25 already ready to hand it to you if they don't know what

1 you're going to say? They did know what he was going to
2 say. They knew he was going to back up this story with
3 Myron. So that's why he had the subpoena in his hand when
4 he walked in. I mean, what if he had gotten out of jail
5 that day? Then they would have had to go track him down.
6 You cannot trust the self-serving testimony of that witness.

7 Dot, she says well, I saw them on the 4th -- she
8 doesn't know the date, but it was a Friday. She sees them
9 on the 4th together. And then they take off in the truck.
10 That's not what Myron says happened, but, okay.

11 Myron says oh, on the 4th, we got together. She came
12 over to my momma's house. We were standing on the front
13 porch. I saw these welts on her arm. We had sex, but I
14 didn't see any other injuries. Look at the photos of the
15 injuries and ask yourself is that credible. Is that
16 credible? It's not. It is something that defies logic and
17 it defies common sense.

18 Now, I do have some dispute with Ms. Alves's contention
19 if there's any possibility that it was somebody else, then
20 you have to find Myron not guilty because -- and listen to
21 what the Judge says about this. The standard is are you
22 firmly convinced that Myron did it? And if you're firmly
23 convinced that Myron did the things that he is accused of,
24 or even one of the charges that he is accused of, then
25 you're supposed to find him guilty. It's only if you find

1 that the State has failed to meet its burden on an element,
2 any element of all three of the crimes.

3 So you can go back in that jury room and you can talk
4 about the criminal sexual conduct and you can say well, we
5 think the State didn't meet their burden on that charge
6 because the investigator didn't go find evidence. Or you
7 can go back and you can say as to the assault and battery of
8 a high and aggravated nature, well, we don't know if Myron
9 did that or not. Maybe it was Rachet that did it. That
10 doesn't make logical sense, but, okay. If you find that he
11 wasn't holding her against her will, that's okay, too.
12 Because if you do that, if you find that the State failed to
13 meet its burden on all of those, then find him not guilty.

14 But you can absolutely find him guilty of one thing and
15 not guilty of something else. And you will have your own
16 reasons for doing that. You will have your own reasons for
17 addressing the charges the way that you choose to address
18 them because y'all get to sit in that room together, except
19 for the alternate, y'all get to sit in that room together
20 and you get to weigh the testimony that you have heard.

21 Nikita White, she didn't have any reason to lie. Ms.
22 Alves doesn't attack her testimony at all. Nikita White
23 didn't have anything to gain by being here. She didn't want
24 to be here. She was scared. Ms. White said -- and I'm sure
25 that you caught it because she misstated it the first time.

1 Any time that Rachet was around, she never saw any kind of
2 bruises or marks or anything else on TW Never. But
3 when she was with Myron, she did.

4 Ms. Zeigler, you heard her testimony this morning. She
5 doesn't have any reason to lie. Some of what she said was
6 helpful to the State. Some of what she said, frankly,
7 wasn't. But she had no reason to lie. And you saw what her
8 demeanor was. You saw what Nikita's demeanor was when they
9 were testifying on the stand.

10 TW was upset about her daughter. She was the
11 first witness in the case. She was upset about her
12 daughter. Her daughter is not capable of making good
13 decisions for herself. They know that. They have to keep
14 an eye on her. That's why -- what 22-year-old needs
15 permission from their parents to leave the house? The
16 reason she needs permission from her parents to leave the
17 house is because when she does stuff -- when she leaves the
18 house without her parents' permission, she ends up looking
19 like she looks in those pictures over there. That's what
20 they were trying to protect her from. That's what they're
21 still trying to protect her from. That's why they keep such
22 a tight rein on her. Because they need to. And yes, a
23 mother is a mother until the day she dies if she has a
24 child, but this ain't that. They're still taking care of
25 her --

1 MS. ALVES: Judge, I'm going to object. I do have a
2 matter that I need to take up about this.

3 THE COURT: Madam Bailiff, would you take our jury out,
4 please?

5 (WHEREUPON, the jury exits the courtroom at 3:06 p.m.)

6 THE COURT: Judge, at this point, I am going to move
7 for a mistrial due the State's repeated referencing TW
8 [REDACTED] as being potentially some type of mental health
9 patient and that she is mentally deficient. This has been
10 something that has been discussed with us since the first
11 bond hearing early last year when her father made reference
12 to some type of mental deficiency.

13 At that time, I asked the State and I asked the Judge
14 to require the State to provide me with mental health
15 records of TW [REDACTED] The State did, ultimately, provide
16 mental health records. I got some records from
17 Aiken/Barnwell Mental Health. Those records only indicate
18 that TW [REDACTED] was ADHD and that she was on some
19 medication. None of those records indicate any type of
20 mental deficiency or that she was incapable of making any
21 type of decision.

22 Judge, also, there was some testimony and it was only
23 from Mr. Singleton regarding the fact that TW [REDACTED] was
24 in some type of commitment, but he said he didn't know
25 anything about that. There was no other testimony from

1 anyone else that TW [REDACTED] was in some type of
2 commitment. The solicitor did reference that during his
3 closing.

4 Now, there were some records that I did not object to,
5 but to keep continuously talking about her being in a state
6 where she was mentally incapable of making decisions I think
7 is highly prejudicial. And I think that the prejudice here
8 substantially outweighs any probative value and any value to
9 the State. I think that's a prejudice that cannot be
10 overcome, continuously referring to her as being somebody
11 that needs to be taken care of. That was never testified
12 from her mother, from her or anyone else. And I don't think
13 that prejudice can be overcome at this point.

14 I would, also, note that I did ask again about those
15 records when we were planning to try this case in the last
16 trial scheduled for April. And that's when we were provided
17 those records. The records were sent to Judge Maddox, who
18 did review the records. Some of it was redacted, but most
19 of it, I received. I was told that there was no involuntary
20 commitment or any commitment whatsoever of TW [REDACTED]
21 that she had never been committed anywhere. And I was told
22 there were no records anywhere else concerning TW [REDACTED]
23 and her mental health status. And the records I have do not
24 support anything that the solicitor has said to the jury
25 here today.

1 THE COURT: Mr. Miller.

2 MR. MILLER: Your Honor, I'm talking about her demeanor
3 from the stand. I'm talking about what the jury can see.
4 And I'm talking about the impressions that they could
5 logically draw from that demeanor on the stand. It's not
6 medical records. It's not because of the fact that she's
7 got some sub 70 IQ. It's that they can see who TW
8 is.

9 THE COURT: Well, I've heard the testimony in the case.
10 The actual statement about her being institutionalized came
11 from the Defense testimony. And the demeanor and
12 decisionmaking of the witness is a relevant fact of the
13 case. There's been a large amount of testimony of her
14 parents' involvement in her life. This goes directly to the
15 issue of credibility. So I would deny the motion and
16 overrule the objection.

17 MS. ALVES: Judge, while we're here, I would just like
18 to put on the record our sidebar, that I had an objection
19 early on in the solicitor's closing. And that was the
20 solicitor's reference to the jury having their verdict -- I
21 believe it was something about finding the truth.

22 THE COURT: I will note that I discussed that, that Mr.
23 Miller made use of the term verdicto, the Latin word for
24 verdict. It used to be commonly used in closing arguments,
25 but the Beattie case has changed that. I will instruct the

1 jury that their sole duty in this case is to determine
2 whether the State has proven beyond a reasonable doubt.

3 MS. ALVES: Yes, Your Honor. And just so I can put it
4 on the record. I did have another objection. That
5 objection was in reference to -- I didn't want to be
6 detailed in that objection because that would then draw more
7 attention to it. But that objection was to the solicitor's
8 reference to the witness list that was not a part of the
9 testimony that Your Honor overruled during the testimony.

10 THE COURT: I instructed the solicitor to move on.

11 MS. ALVES: Yes, sir.

12 THE COURT: The issue of the subpoena was the pertinent
13 issue.

14 MR. MILLER: And Your Honor, just very briefly to
15 respond, my position as far as to speak the truth and the
16 veredicto is like evidence of flight -- flight being
17 evidence of consciousness of guilt. It's still something we
18 can argue, it's just something that the Judges are not
19 supposed to charge.

20 THE COURT: So noted.

21 Let's get our jury.

22 (WHEREUPON, the jury enters the courtroom at 3:13 p.m.)

23 THE COURT: Mr. Miller, proceed.

24 MR. MILLER: Ladies and gentlemen, the fact that TW
25 was assaulted for two or three days by Myron, ultimately,

1 Myron did, he left the house. He left the house and left
2 her there so she could go. He thought he had that control
3 over her. He knew the police were after him. He knew the
4 police were after him because of the meeting at the hotel.

5 Well, why on earth would somebody who has been beaten
6 like that go meet the person that did it at a hotel? The
7 same thing that happens in domestic violence cases every
8 single day. The abused is reliant on the abuser. The
9 abused is terrified of the abuser. So the abused reaches
10 back out to the abuser. You find the right victim. You
11 isolate them from their family. You convince them that
12 you're the good guy and everybody else is against them and
13 you're the only one that they can count on.

14 Ms. Alves said Myron said she needed to stand up for
15 herself. Really? She needs to stand up for herself when it
16 comes to her family allegedly stealing money from her and
17 her grandmother. You need to stand up for yourself. But
18 it's okay that this guy is pimping you out over here.
19 Nobody is going to stand up for you there. That's what he
20 said.

21 That's what he's saying whenever he says yeah, I didn't
22 know that prostitution was illegal. I didn't know that it
23 was illegal to pimp somebody out at a hotel room. Is that
24 credible? Is it believable that he sat there watching
25 somebody send his girlfriend out to turn tricks and he just

1 couldn't think of anything to do about it because he was so
2 scared of Rachet.

3 But when I asked him here today, he's not talking about
4 Rachet today because it's his own skin on the line. He's
5 talking about Rachet because now is the time, it's the right
6 thing to do.

7 Ladies and gentlemen, that's not the truth. That's not
8 credible. He's up here talking about a mystery figure, this
9 Rachet guy that only he knows where he is. He's in Denmark,
10 supposedly. This guy is the godfather of Denmark. He's
11 running prostitution rings and busting into people's houses
12 and beating people up and nobody has ever caught him. Never
13 been arrested. Where is this guy? He's gone. And he knows
14 he's gone. So he knows that's the person that I have to
15 claim it on because he's gone. Nobody will find him. He's
16 gone.

17 This entire case comes down to really the issue of do
18 you believe it was Myron Singleton that inflicted those
19 injuries on TW Are you firmly convinced that
20 Myron did that? If you are, there is only one verdict. And
21 that is you find him guilty. If the State has met all of
22 the elements of just one of the charges, he's guilty of that
23 charge. And if you believe her testimony, if you believe
24 her, if after considering the way she appeared up here, if
25 you believe her, then you find him guilty. And if not, then

1 you don't. It's a heavy burden and we're asking you to
2 execute it faithfully. Thank you for your attention.

3 Thank you, Your Honor.

4 CHARGE ON THE LAW

5 THE COURT: Mr. Foreman, ladies and gentlemen of the
6 jury, we've come to the point in the trial where I instruct
7 you on the law. My instructions will be in three parts.
8 First, the instructions on general rules that define and
9 control the jury's duties. Secondly, instructions that
10 state the rules of law that you must apply, what the State
11 must prove to make its case. And lastly, some rules for
12 your deliberations.

13 The general rules with your duties as jurors. It is
14 your duty to find the facts on all of the evidence in the
15 case. To those facts, you must apply the law as I give it
16 to you. You shall not be concerned with what the law should
17 be, but what it is. And you must not be influenced by any
18 personal likes or dislikes, opinions, prejudices or undue
19 sympathy. That means you must decide the case solely on the
20 evidence before you in accordance with the law. The very
21 thing that you took an oath promising to do at the beginning
22 of the trial. It is your responsibility and yours alone to
23 determine the facts in this case.

24 I would, therefore, charge you that if during the
25 course of this trial or during this charge you have been

1 given or left with a feeling or impression that I have a
2 personal feeling about the facts of this case or that I
3 favor one side or the other, I would specifically instruct
4 you to disregard that impression. Under our Constitution, I
5 am not allowed to have an opinion as to the facts of the
6 case. You should not be influenced by any objections or the
7 Court's ruling on them. You and you alone are the judges of
8 the facts.

9 You determine the facts by evaluating and weighing
10 evidence that you have heard during the trial. What is
11 evidence? Evidence is the sworn testimony from witnesses
12 and any exhibits that are entered into evidence. The
13 statements by the attorneys are not evidence. What they
14 have said in opening statements, closing arguments and other
15 times is intended to help you interpret the evidence, but it
16 is not evidence.

17 There are two types of evidence which are generally
18 presented during a trial, direct evidence and circumstantial
19 evidence. Direct evidence directly proves the existence of
20 a fact. It does not require deduction. Circumstantial
21 evidence is proof of a chain of facts and circumstances
22 indicating the existence of a fact. Crimes may be proven by
23 circumstantial evidence.

24 The law makes no distinction between the weight or
25 value to be given to either direct or circumstantial

1 evidence. However, to the extent that the State relies on
2 circumstantial evidence, all the circumstances must be
3 consistent with one another and when taken together point
4 conclusively to the guilt of the accused beyond a reasonable
5 doubt. If the circumstances merely portray the Defendant's
6 behavior as suspicious, the proof has failed.

7 The State has the burden of proving the Defendant
8 guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. The burden rest with the
9 State regardless of whether the State relies on direct
10 evidence, circumstantial evidence or some combination of the
11 two.

12 The Defendant has entered a plea of not guilty to these
13 indictments. And that plea puts the burden on the State to
14 prove the Defendant guilty. A person charged with
15 committing a criminal offense is never required to prove
16 himself innocent.

17 I charge you that it is an important rule of the law
18 that a defendant in a criminal trial, no matter what the
19 seriousness of the charge may be will always be presumed to
20 be innocent of the crime for which the indictment was issued
21 unless guilt has been proven by evidence satisfying you of
22 that guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

23 The presumption of innocence does not end when you
24 begin your deliberations, but it accompanies the Defendant
25 throughout the trial until you reach a verdict of guilt

1 based on the evidence satisfying you of that guilt beyond a
2 reasonable doubt.

3 The presumption of innocence is like a robe of
4 righteousness placed about the shoulders of the Defendant
5 which remains with the Defendant until it has been stripped
6 from the Defendant by evidence satisfying you of the
7 Defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

8 Presumption of innocence is not a mere legal theory.
9 It is not just a legal phrase. It is a substantial right to
10 which every defendant is entitled unless you, the jury, are
11 satisfied from the evidence of the Defendant's guilt beyond
12 a reasonable doubt.

13 What is a reasonable doubt in the law? A reasonable
14 doubt is the kind of doubt that would cause a reasonable
15 person to hesitate to act. Some of you may have served as
16 jurors in civil cases where you were told that it is only
17 necessary to prove that a fact is more likely true than not
18 true, such as by the greater weight or preponderance of the
19 evidence. In criminal cases, the State's proof must be more
20 powerful than that. It must be beyond a reasonable doubt.
21 Proof beyond a reasonable doubt is proof that leaves you
22 firmly convinced of the Defendant's guilt.

23 There are very few things in this world that we know
24 with absolute certainty. And in criminal cases, the law
25 does not require proof that overcomes every possible doubt.

1 If, based on your consideration of the evidence you are
2 firmly convinced that the Defendant is guilty of the crime
3 charged, then you must find the Defendant guilty. If on the
4 other hand, you think that there is a real possibility that
5 the Defendant is not guilty, you must give the Defendant the
6 benefit of the doubt and find him not guilty.

7 A reasonable doubt may arise from the evidence or from
8 the lack of evidence. The Defendant is entitled to every
9 reasonable doubt that may arise in the case. If upon any
10 issue of fact essential to a conviction and a verdict of
11 guilt to an offense, if you have any reasonable doubt as to
12 how that issue should be resolved, it is your duty to
13 resolve that doubt in favor of the Defendant. Suspicion,
14 however strong, is not enough to sustain a conviction. The
15 evidence presented by the State must be substantial evidence
16 that tends to prove the guilt of the Defendant beyond a
17 reasonable doubt.

18 As the judges of the facts, you are the sole judges of
19 the credibility, that is the believability of the witnesses
20 who have testified in this case. In determining their
21 credibility, you may take into consideration many things,
22 such as the appearance and manner of the witness on the
23 stand, sometimes referred to as the demeanor of a witness.
24 Was the witness able to see, hear and know the things about
25 which the testified? How well was the witness able to

1 recall and describe those things? Did the witness have a
2 cause or reason to be biased and prejudiced in favor of the
3 testimony he or she gave? How reasonable was the witness's
4 testimony considered in light of all the evidence in the
5 case? Was the witness's testimony contradicted by what the
6 witness had said or done at another time or by the testimony
7 of other witnesses or by other evidence? These are some of
8 the factors you may consider in deciding whether to believe
9 testimony.

10 As jurors, you have the right to believe all of the
11 testimony of a witness or none of the testimony of a
12 witness. You have the right to believe a portion of the
13 testimony of a witness and discard the rest. You may
14 believe the testimony of one witness over many or many over
15 the one. Most certainly, you do not determine the matter of
16 credibility by simply counting up the number of witnesses
17 who may have testified on behalf of the parties in the case.

18 In order to establish credible liability, criminal
19 intent is required. For example, the mental state required
20 to be proven by the State for a particular crime might be
21 purpose, intent, knowledge, reckless or criminal negligence.
22 Criminal intent must be proven by the State beyond a
23 reasonable doubt. Criminal intent is always a matter that
24 must be determined by the jury from the circumstances
25 surrounding the situation.

1 There's no way to prove intent to a mathematical
2 certainty. There's no way medical science can dissect a
3 person's brain and determine what that person had in mind.
4 So the law says that criminal intent may be inferred from
5 circumstances shown to have existed. This is how you make
6 your determination of whether or not the element requiring
7 intent is present.

8 It is not necessary to establish intent by direct and
9 positive evidence, but intent may be established by
10 inference in the same way as any other fact, by taking into
11 consideration the action of the parties and all the facts
12 and circumstances in the case.

13 Criminal intent is a mental state, a conscious
14 wrongdoing. It is up to you to determine what the Defendant
15 intended to do based on the circumstances shown to have
16 existed. Criminal intent can arise from action or a failure
17 to act. It may arise from negligence, recklessness or
18 indifference to duty or the consequences that is considered
19 by the law to be the equivalent of criminal intent.

20 Indictments in this case charge the Defendant with
21 kidnapping, assault and battery of a high and aggravated
22 nature and criminal sexual conduct first degree. I remind
23 you that the fact that the Defendant was arrested, charged
24 and indicted in this case is not evidence in this case and
25 cannot be considered by you as evidence of guilt in this

1 case nor does it create any presumption or inference of
2 guilt. These documents are simply the formal written
3 instruments which contain the charges made against the
4 Defendant. They are the formal documents by which the case
5 is brought to court.

6 The Defendant is charged with kidnapping. The State
7 must prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the Defendant
8 knowingly and unlawfully seized, confined, inveigled,
9 decoyed, kidnapped, abducted or carried away another person
10 without authority of the law.

11 To do a thing unlawfully is to do it willfully against
12 the law. Knowingly means with knowledge, consciously, not
13 accidentally. Seized means to take hold of suddenly or
14 forcibly. Confined means to limit, restrict or enclose
15 within bounds, imprison or shut or keep in. Inveigle means
16 to lure, entice or lead astray by false representations,
17 promises or other deceitful means. Decoy means to lure by
18 or as if by decoy. A decoy is something to entice a person
19 into a trap. Kidnap is to remove a person against his will
20 by unlawful force or by fraud. Abduct means to carry off
21 secretly or by force for an illegal purpose. Carry away
22 means to remove.

23 The State does not have to prove that the Defendant did
24 all of these things. Instead, if you find beyond a
25 reasonable doubt the Defendant did any of these things, you

1 may find the Defendant guilty of kidnapping. Something done
2 without authority of law is something which the law does not
3 sanction, permit, allow, condone or provide justification
4 for. Kidnapping does not have to be for any personal or
5 monetary gain for any illegal purpose, but may be for any
6 reason whatsoever.

7 The Defendant is, also, charged with assault and
8 battery of a high and aggravated nature. Assault and
9 battery of a high and aggravated nature is an unlaw act of
10 violent injury to the person of another accompanied by
11 circumstances and aggravation.

12 An assault occurs when a person unlawfully attempts or
13 offers to commit a violent injury upon another person and
14 had the present ability to complete the attempted injury.
15 An assault is the intentional creation of a reasonable fear
16 of immediate bodily harm. It is not necessary that the
17 attempted injury or harm actually take place. For example,
18 I walk up to you and when we are within arm's reach, I draw
19 back to hit you, that is an assault.

20 A battery is the unlawful touching of another person by
21 a person who has committed an assault. An unlawful touching
22 can be caused by a part of the accused body or by any object
23 that the accused puts in motion. A battery is the
24 completion of the assault by using or applying force to
25 another person, however slight, in a rude, angry or

1 resentful manner without legal justification for doing so.
2 Using my earlier example, if I carry through the assault by
3 hitting you, that is a battery.

4 The State must, also, prove a circumstance of
5 aggravation. Circumstances of aggravation include conduct
6 resulting in great bodily injury to another person or the
7 use of means likely to produce death or great bodily injury.

8 Great bodily injury means bodily injury which creates a
9 substantial risk of death or which causes serious or
10 permanent disfigurement or protracted loss or impairment of
11 the function of any bodily organ or member.

12 The Defendant is, also, charged with criminal sexual
13 conduct first degree. The Defendant is charged with
14 criminal sexual first degree. The elements are as follows:
15 The first element which the State must prove beyond a
16 reasonable doubt is that the Defendant engaged in sexual
17 battery with the victim. A sexual battery is sexual
18 intercourse, cunnilingus, fellatio, anal intercourse, or any
19 intrusion, however slight, of any part of a person's body or
20 of any object into the genital or anal openings of another
21 person's body, except when the intrusion is accomplished for
22 medically recognized treatment for diagnostic purposes.

23 If you find that the State has not shown beyond a
24 reasonable doubt that a sexual battery occurred, you would
25 stop deliberating and your verdict would have to be not

1 guilty.

2 If you find that a sexual battery did occur, you must
3 then decide whether the State has proven beyond a reasonable
4 doubt that the Defendant used aggravated force to accomplish
5 the sexual battery. Aggravated force means to use a
6 physical force or physical violence of a high and aggravated
7 nature to overcome the victim. This includes threat of
8 using a deadly weapon.

9 The victim submitted to sexual battery while the victim
10 was, also, the victim of forcible confinement, kidnapping,
11 robbery, extortion, burglary, housebreaking or any other
12 similar act or event. Or the Defendant caused the victim
13 without the victim's consent to be mentally incapacitated or
14 physically helpless by administering, distributing,
15 dispensing, delivering or causing to be administered,
16 dispensed, distributed or delivered a controlled substance,
17 a controlled substance analog or any intoxicating substance.

18 Mentally incapacitated means that the victim was
19 rendered temporarily unable to evaluate or control his or
20 her conduct. This condition may be caused by illness,
21 defect, influence of a substance or some other cause.
22 Physically helpless means that the victim was unconscious,
23 asleep or for any other reason physically unable to
24 communicate and consent to the sexual act.

25 Ladies and gentlemen, we're almost to the point where I

1 sent you to the jury room to begin your deliberations. This
2 has been a long instruction on the law, but I want to leave
3 you with some final thoughts. You were chosen as jurors
4 because both sides believed that you could be fair and
5 impartial in deciding this case. I instruct you to make use
6 of your life experiences, your good common sense and your
7 sense of logic and reason in evaluating the evidence in this
8 case. You are not partisans or advocates for either side.
9 You have no friends to reward nor any enemies to punish.
10 You are the judges of the facts.

11 Your sole interest is to determine whether the State
12 has proven beyond a reasonable doubt that the Defendant is
13 guilty of the offenses charged. Be courteous with one
14 another, listen to the views of your fellow jurors. Take
15 the amount of time necessary for you to thoroughly evaluate
16 the evidence in this case. This case is important to both
17 sides as this is their day in court.

18 Mr. Foreman, I'm going to go over the verdict form with
19 you. It is a one-page verdict form and it has three parts.
20 It list the charges separately.

21 As to the charge of kidnapping, we, the jury,
22 unanimously find the Defendant, it gives you two options,
23 not guilty and guilty. Once you have decided which verdict
24 on kidnapping, you would proceed to assault and battery of a
25 high and aggravated nature. That's number two, it gives you

1 the same options, not guilty and guilty. And then, finally,
2 after you've considered that charge, you would go to number
3 three, which is criminal sexual conduct in the first degree.
4 And it gives you the same options.

5 Your verdict must be unanimous. You consider each
6 charge independently. Once you have reached a decision on
7 each charge, you will check the appropriate box. You will
8 sign above the line for the foreperson and date it and knock
9 on the door and let the bailiff know you have reached a
10 verdict.

11 So I'm going to send you to the jury room now. Do not
12 begin your deliberations until I send the verdict form and
13 the exhibits back.

14 Madam Bailiff, would you take our jury to the jury
15 room.

16 (WHEREUPON, the jury exits the courtroom at 3:37 p.m.)

17 THE COURT: Any exceptions from the State?

18 MR. MILLER: None from the State, Your Honor.

19 THE COURT: From the Defense?

20 MS. ALVES: No, Your Honor.

21 THE COURT: Let me get each attorney to come forward,
22 count the exhibits, make sure they're all there, then we
23 will send the exhibits and verdict form back.

24 (Pause.)

25 THE COURT: All right. Here's the verdict form and

1 send back the exhibits.

2 MR. MILLER: Your Honor, can we have the alternates
3 pulled?

4 THE COURT: Madam Bailiff, bring the two alternates
5 back here. Take the verdict form and exhibits to the jury
6 and tell the foreman they may begin their deliberations.

7 While we're waiting, the Court thanks the attorneys on
8 both sides for the professional manner in which you handled
9 the case.

10 MR. MILLER: Thank you, Your Honor.

11 THE COURT: We'll wait on the alternates to come back
12 in.

13 (Pause.)

14 (WHEREUPON, the alternates enter the courtroom.)

15 THE COURT: The case has been submitted to the jury, so
16 this will conclude your duties. Your fellow jurors made it
17 through the trial. Thank you for your service.

18 You are welcome to stay if you want to see how it turns
19 out or if you need to leave, you may certainly do so. If
20 you need a work excuse or anything, just let the clerks
21 know.

22 We'll be in recess. Thank you.

23 (WHEREUPON, court was in recess awaiting a verdict.)

24 THE COURT: Counsel, I have received a question form
25 the jury, which says, After he left the house, how long

1 before mom picked up and where?

2 Now, my standard response in these situations is to
3 bring the jury back in and inform them the Court cannot
4 comment on the facts and they are to base their decision on
5 the evidence they have before them.

6 Is there anything from either side?

7 MS. STAGGS: Not from the State.

8 MS. ALVES: Nothing, Your Honor.

9 THE COURT: Madam Bailiff, would you get our jury,
10 please?

11 (WHEREUPON, the jury enters the courtroom at 4:53 p.m.)

12 THE COURT: Mr. Foreman, I am in receipt of your
13 question, And after he left the house, how long did mom pick
14 up and where?

15 This is a factual question. The Court cannot comment
16 on the facts of the case. I'm going to send you back to the
17 jury room to resume your deliberations. You'll have to base
18 your decision on the evidence you have before you.

19 So please return to your jury room and resume your
20 deliberations.

21 (WHEREUPON, the jury exits the courtroom at 4:54 p.m.)

22 (WHEREUPON, Court's Exhibit No. 1 was marked for
23 identification.)

24 THE COURT: Anything from either side before we go back
25 into recess?

1 MS. ALVES: No, Your Honor.

2 MS. STAGGS: No, Your Honor.

3 THE COURT: We'll be in recess.

4 (WHEREUPON, the court was in recess awaiting a
5 verdict.)

6 THE BAILIFF: Your Honor, they have a verdict.

7 THE COURT: Are we ready to receive the jury for the
8 verdict?

9 MR. MILLER: Yes, Your Honor.

10 MS. ALVES: Yes, Your Honor.

11 THE COURT: Madam Bailiff, bring us our jury.

12 (WHEREUPON, the jury enters the courtroom at 5:10 p.m.)

13 THE COURT: Mr. Foreman, I've been informed the jury
14 has reached a verdict.

15 THE FOREMAN: Yes, sir.

16 THE COURT: Would you hand that to the bailiff?

17 Madam Clerk, would you publish the verdict?

18 VERDICT

19 THE CLERK: The State of South Carolina vs. Myron

20 Kareem Singleton, indictments 2022-GS-05-00151,

21 2022-GS-05-00155 and 2022-GS-05-00154. As to the charge of

22 kidnapping, indictment number 2022-GS-05-00151, we, the

23 jury, unanimously find the Defendant not guilty. As to the

24 charge of assault and battery of a high and aggravated

25 nature, indictment number 2022-GS-05-00155, we, the jury,

1 unanimously find the Defendant guilt of assault and battery
2 of a high and aggravated nature. As to the charge of
3 criminal sexual conduct in the first degree, indictment
4 number 2022-GS-05-00154, we, the jury, unanimously find the
5 Defendant not guilty.

6 Does that reflect everyone's verdict?

7 (Jurors responded in the affirmative.)

8 THE COURT: If that accurately reflects your verdict,
9 please, raise your right hand.

10 Let the record reflect all jurors were responsive.
11 Anything from the State before we dismiss our jury?

12 MR. MILLER: No, Your Honor.

13 THE COURT: Anything from the Defense?

14 MS. ALVES: I'd ask that the jury be polled.

15 THE COURT: Madam Clerk, poll the jury.

16 THE CLERK: Juror #144, Michelle Moore. Is that your
17 actual verdict?

18 JUROR #144: Yes, ma'am.

19 THE CLERK: Juror #227, Mary Wallen --

20 MS. ALVES: Judge, I would ask that the jurors be
21 questioned whether that's their verdict and is it still
22 their verdict.

23 THE CLERK: Do you still agree?

24 JUROR #227: Yes.

25 THE CLERK: Juror #203, is that your verdict and do you

1 still agree?

2 JUROR #203: Yes, ma'am.

3 THE CLERK: 219, Larry Thompson, was that your verdict?

4 JUROR #219: Yes, ma'am.

5 THE CLERK: And do you still agree?

6 JUROR #219: Yes, ma'am.

7 THE CLERK: Juror #117, Anthony Kinsey, is that your
8 verdict?

9 JUROR #117: Yes, ma'am.

10 THE CLERK: And do you still agree?

11 JUROR #117: Yes.

12 THE CLERK: Juror #11, Caleb Bearden, was that your
13 verdict?

14 JUROR #11: Yes, ma'am.

15 THE CLERK: Do you still agree?

16 JUROR #11: Yes, ma'am.

17 THE CLERK: Barbara Grant, #75?

18 JUROR #75: Yes.

19 THE CLERK: Was that your verdict and do you still
20 agree?

21 JUROR #75: Yes.

22 THE CLERK: Juror #111, Riley Johnson, was that your
23 verdict?

24 JUROR #111: Yes, ma'am.

25 THE CLERK: And do you still agree with that verdict?

1 JUROR #111: Yes, ma'am.

2 THE CLERK: Juror #8, Patience Badger, was that your
3 verdict and do you still agree with it?

4 JUROR #8: Yes.

5 THE CLERK: Juror #13, Marquis Benjamin, was that your
6 verdict?

7 JUROR #13: Yes.

8 THE CLERK: And do you still agree with that verdict?

9 JUROR #13: Yes, ma'am.

10 THE CLERK: Sherry Myers, Juror #152, was that your
11 verdict?

12 JUROR #152: Yes, ma'am.

13 THE CLERK: And do you still agree with that verdict?

14 JUROR #152: Yes, ma'am.

15 THE COURT: Mr. Foreman, ladies and gentlemen of the
16 jury, that will conclude your jury service. Thank you for
17 your jury service this week --

18 THE CLERK: I did miss one.

19 THE COURT: Oh, you missed one?

20 THE CLERK: Yes, sorry.

21 I don't think I called Katie Seavey, #190. Was that
22 your verdict?

23 JUROR #190: Yes, ma'am.

24 THE CLERK: And do you still agree with that?

25 JUROR #190: Yes, ma'am.

1 THE COURT: Again, that will complete your service.
2 Thank you for your service this week. If you have any
3 questions about a work excuse or compensation, you can see
4 the clerk's office. You are dismissed.

5 (WHEREUPON, the jury was excused.)

6 THE COURT: All right. We'll give everyone a chance to
7 prepare the sentencing sheet and give Ms. Alves a chance to
8 prepare anything the Defense would like to present for
9 sentencing.

10 (WHEREUPON, a short break was taken.)

11 THE COURT: We are back on the record after having to
12 recess our hearing due to a power outage last night. This
13 is back on the case of Myron Kareem Singleton on the issue
14 on sentencing.

15 Mr. Miller, be happy to hear from you.

16 MR. MILLER: Thank you, Your Honor.

17 MS. ALVES: Your Honor, I'm sorry, before we get to
18 sentencing, may I put my motion on record for a new trial?

19 THE COURT: Yes, ma'am.

20 MS. ALVES: Thank you.

21 Judge, at this time, I'd make a motion for a new trial
22 on behalf of Mr. Singleton for the charge of assault and
23 battery of a high and aggravated nature. Judge, taking the
24 evidence in the light most favorable to the State, I don't
25 believe that the State has established any evidence upon

1 which the jury could have convicted Mr. Singleton of assault
2 and battery of a high and aggravated nature.

3 Particularly, Judge, the jury found Mr. Singleton not
4 guilty of criminal sexual conduct and they found him not
5 guilty of kidnapping. In the kidnapping allegation, it was
6 alleged that he held her into the house and that he
7 assaulted her by holding a gun on her and hitting her in the
8 head with a gun, which is why she said she was in fear of
9 leaving.

10 Judge, the fact that the jury found Mr. Singleton not
11 guilty of those two charges is inconsistent with their
12 belief that he -- in their verdict that he's guilty of
13 assault and battery of a high and aggravated nature because
14 of the fact that they did not find him guilty of the
15 kidnapping, which would have been -- which was alleged to
16 have been done with the gun. They found him not guilty of
17 that, so I think the jury would have had some question about
18 whether he, actually, had a gun.

19 Judge, also, under the definition of assault and
20 battery of a high and aggravated nature, the person has to
21 unlawfully injure another person and great bodily injury had
22 to have resulted or the act had to be accomplished by means
23 likely to produce death or great bodily injury.

24 Starting with the Section B because I don't believe it
25 - it's clearly no great bodily injury. The only great --

1 under A, the only thing that they could have alleged under
2 great bodily injury would have been serious permanent
3 disfigurement, which great bodily injury requires bodily
4 which causes a substantial risk of death.

5 There was no testimony there was any substantial risk
6 of death here. There was no testimony that TW [REDACTED] has
7 a serious permanent disfigurement or a protracted loss or
8 impairment of the function of a bodily member or organ.
9 Now, there was testimony that she does have a scar still
10 remaining from the injuries that she alleges were caused by
11 my client. However, there was no testimony from any doctor
12 that those scars were serious or that the scars were
13 permanent. Without having testimony that the scars were
14 serious or permanent, the only thing that we have is
15 temporary or not a disfigurement and that would take us out
16 of the elements of great bodily injury.

17 So I don't believe that the State has established that
18 there was any great bodily injury due to the lack of any
19 testimony from any medical personnel or anybody else that
20 the scars -- that there was a substantial risk of death from
21 the injuries or there was a serious permanent disfigurement.

22 Also, Judge, without -- under section -- that would be
23 under Section A. Under Section B, that the State has to
24 show that the act was accomplished by means likely to
25 produce death or great bodily injury. The only allegation

1 that the State could rely on to show that there was -- the
2 act was accomplished by means likely to produce death or
3 great bodily injury would be the fact that the allegation
4 that Mr. Singleton held a gun on her. That would have been
5 part of the kidnapping and the jury found him not guilty of
6 kidnapping.

7 So I think their verdict is inconsistent with a guilty
8 verdict on the assault and battery high and aggravated. It
9 does not appear that the jury properly followed Your Honor's
10 instructions because they would have had to find that the
11 act was accomplished by means likely to produce death or
12 great bodily injury. The only acts alleged were a beating
13 with a drop cord, something about holding her and forcing
14 her into the shower, but it was in a stand-up shower that
15 was not able to accumulate water. She alleged that he hit
16 her in the head with a gun. Of course, she alleged that he
17 assaulted her vaginally with a stick, which the jury, also,
18 found him not guilty.

19 So I don't believe that the jury's verdicts support a
20 finding that the acts that were alleged and that he was
21 convicted of were accomplished by means likely to produce
22 death or great bodily injury. So for the reasons I've
23 stated, I would move for a new trial on behalf of Mr.
24 Singleton.

25 THE COURT: Thank you, Ms. Alves.

1 Mr. Miller, any response?

2 MR. MILLER: Your Honor, the verdicts are actually
3 completely consistent. We spoke to the jury after the case
4 was over with yesterday and the jury said they didn't find
5 him guilty of the kidnapping because they felt like she went
6 there voluntarily with him. So they said that was why they
7 didn't find him guilty of the kidnapping.

8 They said they didn't find him guilty of the sexual
9 assault because there was not a picture or the stick or
10 picture of the stick that he allegedly used to sexually
11 assault her. There wasn't any picture of the drop cord that
12 he used to beat her. And that is why -- they felt like he
13 was the one that did it. They believed he was the one that
14 did it. He was the one that caused the harm to her. He was
15 the one that assaulted her, but they didn't find the
16 kidnapping because she went there voluntarily and they
17 didn't find the CSC because of the fact that, as we pointed
18 out multiple times from both sides, the investigation was
19 lacking in the case.

20 Inasmuch as the arguments about great bodily injury,
21 the jury got to see the injuries. Ms. Alves can tell you
22 you need medical testimony to establish a scar is permanent,
23 it was over 16 months ago. She's still got visible scarring
24 all over her body. The jury was able to see her arms. She
25 showed them the scarring on her foot. We think that that

1 certainly meets that standard and the jury's verdict should
2 stand as rendered.

3 THE COURT: I heard the testimony throughout the case.
4 The jury deliberated for a significant amount of time. Ms.
5 Alves is correct, they did find him not guilty of two
6 charges. However, the ABHAN conviction, I would point out
7 that in the record, there was testimony that a gun was held
8 to her head and he threatened to kill her, that she had
9 serious indications of a beating. The testimony reflected
10 that there were bruises and evidence of trauma all over the
11 body, some of which was still bleeding. There were multiple
12 bite marks. The evidence showed the open wounds, also,
13 scarring was clearly visible as was shown to the jury.

14 So Ms. Alves, I am going to deny your motion. There
15 was evidence in the record to support the elements of the
16 offense.

17 Anything else before we proceed with sentencing?

18 MR. MILLER: Nothing from the State, Your Honor.

19 MS. ALVES: Judge, nothing before we proceed to
20 sentencing, but I would have an argument against the
21 position of a mandatory life without parole sentence. You
22 want me to do that now?

23 THE COURT: Let the State present what they intend to
24 present and then I'm going to give you the opportunity to
25 respond and present anything that you feel is relevant

1 argument.

2 Mr. Miller.

3 MR. MILLER: Your Honor, I believe the sentence sheet
4 has already been handed up for this case. And this is, by
5 the way, 2022-GS-05-00155, that is ABHAN that the Defendant
6 was convicted of. I am handing up to the Court copies of --
7 certified copies of sentencing sheets for two strike --
8 previous strike offenses that Mr. Singleton was convicted
9 of. One being a burglary second degree, violent. The other
10 being a criminal sexual conduct with a minor in the second
11 degree.

12 I've, also, handed up to the Court the statute
13 17-25-45, life sentence for persons convicted of certain
14 crimes, commonly referred to as the strike statute, as well
15 as a copy of 16-3-655, which is the criminal sexual conduct
16 with minor statute.

17 Your Honor, as to Mr. Singleton, he has a prior record
18 of the 2006 burglary second, violent conviction. That same
19 day, it was a guilty verdict at trial. He, also, was
20 charged with and convicted of possession of a pistol by a
21 person under 21 years of age. 2010, receiving stolen goods,
22 \$1,000 to \$5,000, that same day, possession of a weapon by
23 certain persons unlawful. August 16th of 2012, loitering.
24 June the 1st of 2015, conspiracy to commit armed robbery and
25 August 6th of 2018, the CSC with a minor in the second

1 degree.

2 Additionally, Your Honor, Mr. Singleton has a number of
3 charges that were pending that the State is dismissing at
4 this point in time. A November 2018, armed robbery incident
5 being dismissed. A March 25th, 2020 incident, which was
6 best described as a home invasion, is being dismissed. A
7 June 26th, 2020 incident that is remarkably similar to this
8 one involving a different victim named **A.C.**. Those
9 charges are not being dismissed. He still has felon in
10 possession of a firearm, kidnapping, pointing and presenting
11 a firearm and ABHAN from that incident. Those are not being
12 dismissed. And we are going to talk to that victim about
13 going to trial on those charges. And then, obviously, the
14 jury verdict yesterday resolved the February 4th, 2022
15 incident.

16 Your Honor, present in the courtroom is the victim and
17 members of her family. It is my understanding that she
18 would like to address the Court at the appropriate time.
19 And we will be prepared to argue Ms. Alves's motion.

20 THE COURT: Let me hear from Ms. Alves on the legal
21 issue regarding life without parole.

22 MR. MILLER: Yes, sir.

23 THE COURT: Ms. Alves.

24 MS. ALVES: Your Honor, may it please the Court?

25 THE COURT: Yes, ma'am.

1 MS. ALVES: My first argument is that under 17-25-45,
2 which was -- I think the solicitor handed it up to you --
3 the statute for the life sentence of persons convicted of
4 certain crimes. I acknowledge that the burglary second is
5 listed as a serious offense. However, under the most
6 serious offenses, it says that criminal sexual conduct with
7 minors, except where evidence is presented at the criminal
8 proceedings and this Court after conviction makes the
9 specific finding on the record that the conviction obtained
10 for this offense resulted from consensual sexual conduct
11 where the victim is younger than the actor as contained in
12 Section 16-3-655(3).

13 I would just point out there is no such 16-3-655(3).
14 What it appears is that -- I can't speculate what the
15 legislature was intending, but it appears that they are
16 referring to Section C, which does talk about criminal
17 sexual conduct in the third degree.

18 But, Judge, in this case -- and I did represent Mr.
19 Singleton on that charge back in 2019. In that situation,
20 it was an allegation of consensual sexual conduct with
21 somebody who was under the age of 16. There was never a
22 question of coercion or force or threat. This was somebody
23 who was solely -- the conviction was because that person was
24 under the age of 16.

25 Under Section C, which I acknowledge is the statute

1 that refers to criminal sexual conduct with a minor in the
2 third degree, it talks about that somebody cannot be
3 convicted if they're over 18 and the person is less than 14.
4 But it, also, talks about -- that same clause is in Section
5 B, which is the section that Mr. Singleton was convicted
6 under, that a person may not be convicted of a violation of
7 the provisions of that section if he is 18 or less when he
8 engages in consensual sexual conduct with another person who
9 is, at least, 14 years of age.

10 Judge, the legislature did not put Section 2 in there
11 or B, but we had to argue that it seems like the intent of
12 the legislature in this situation for a most serious offense
13 was that a criminal sexual conduct with a minor where the
14 conviction is based on consensual sexual conduct should not
15 subject somebody to a strike where they would then be facing
16 a life sentence. I argue that should, also, be applied to
17 this situation where Mr. Singleton was convicted of criminal
18 sexual conduct where the allegations were that he had
19 consensual sexual intercourse with somebody who was under
20 the age of 16.

21 Now, it is not written specifically on the sentence
22 sheet about any findings made by the Judge in that regard.
23 However, it would have been -- and I really cannot remember
24 whether there were any findings made on the record, but I am
25 familiar with the facts of that case and there was never any

1 -- the facts of that case were that this was a consensual
2 relationship with an underaged person.

3 So, Judge, I don't believe based on what the
4 legislature has put here would subject Mr. Singleton -- I
5 don't believe that should subject Mr. Singleton to a life
6 without parole sentence for having consensual conduct. I
7 know they've mentioned the statute, but I just point out
8 that this particular statute, 17-25-45, was clearly not
9 updated when the 16-3-655 was, otherwise, it would have --
10 there is no such statute as 16-3-655(3). So since there is
11 no such statute at 16-3-655(3), I think that should apply to
12 all of the statutes and I think there should be
13 consideration given to the fact that the behavior in that
14 case, in the criminal sexual conduct case was consensual.

15 So, Judge, the indictment itself specifies that
16 everything that's in the statute, but the facts of this case
17 were clear, that this was consensual sex with somebody who's
18 under the age of 16. So for that reason, I would argue that
19 criminal sexual conduct with a minor second degree charge
20 should not be considered as a most serious strike under this
21 statute.

22 THE COURT: Mr. Miller, any response?

23 MR. MILLER: Your Honor, we -- actually, I remember the
24 circumstances of the case as well. In the CSC case from way
25 back then, 2018, Mr. Singleton impregnated a 14-year-old

1 girl when he was 33 years old. The legislature, it is clear
2 to me, intended to talk about this consensual act in the
3 context of what we used to call a lewd act. It used to be
4 CSC first with a minor first, CSC second with a minor and
5 then there was a lewd act on a minor. Whenever they went in
6 and re-codified everything and renumbered, instead of going
7 one, two, three, they went A, B, C. But they did make it
8 clear that they intended, I believe they intended to make it
9 only applicable to one, one situation. And that was the
10 situation where there was a CSC third with a minor under the
11 -- or excuse me, it was a lewd act on a minor under the old
12 statutory scheme and now, it is a CSC third with a minor.
13 It doesn't apply to a situation where it's a CSC second
14 degree at all. So that's where we are as far as that goes,
15 Your Honor. The reference to the actual code section in
16 there, we agree it's incorrect. We think that the three is
17 now the C, which was the third subsection of that statute.

18 Additionally, Your Honor, Mr. Singleton was over 18 at
19 the time. He was 33. There's not any way he could have
20 gotten any kind of relief under that section under any of
21 these circumstances. It was a 14-year-old girl and a
22 33-year-old man. I don't believe that was the legislature's
23 intent. I don't know that we need to get into legislative
24 intent because the only exemptions provided for in the
25 actual criminal sexual conduct with a minor statute are

1 exemptions based upon consensual sexual conduct with another
2 person who's, at least, 14 years of age if the Defendant is
3 18 years of age or less. It's commonly what we called the
4 Romeo clause.

5 MS. ALVES: Your Honor, may I respond?

6 THE COURT: Yes, ma'am.

7 MS. ALVES: Thank you.

8 Judge, the exemptions in the 16-3-655 section, which
9 the solicitor has referred to as a Romeo clause say that a
10 person cannot be convicted if they are 18 years of age or
11 less and the person is younger than that.

12 So a person wouldn't even come under this statute
13 because they would never be convicted under that section if
14 they were under 18. This section is to apply to people who
15 are over 18, which would be people like Mr. Singleton, who
16 have consensual sexual conduct with a victim younger than
17 them. And I think because the statute -- they have the
18 wrong statute her and because they referenced that statute,
19 the other two sections have the same language as that
20 somebody can't be convicted if they're under 18. I think
21 this should apply to criminal sexual conduct with a minor
22 second degree as well as to criminal sexual conduct with a
23 minor third degree. I would argue that this is not a
24 strike.

25 Also, Judge, to clarify, I was not -- the victim in

1 that case was not pregnant. How it all came about was that
2 somebody made an anonymous report to DSS that they knew
3 about the situation going on. DSS, actually, removed her
4 from her home and she was, actually -- the victim was,
5 actually, in DSS custody during all of the time that the
6 case was pending. I don't know for what reason, if she was
7 removed for other reasons or not, but I know that DSS got
8 involved and they're the ones who made the initial report
9 because somebody told them and the police talked to the girl
10 and she acknowledged that she had been having a relationship
11 with Mr. Singleton.

12 Judge, I would have other arguments as to this, but
13 that was my first primary argument. I don't think the
14 statute applies. I don't think this charge is a strike
15 under this section. My other arguments are different from
16 that.

17 THE COURT: Go ahead with your other arguments.

18 MS. ALVES: Yes, sir.

19 Judge, under 17-25-45, the legislature has deemed it
20 that certain charges are requiring mandatory life sentence
21 under circumstances. Judge, I would argue this is a
22 violation of the separation of powers. The legislature
23 should set a range for sentences, not the actual sentences.
24 In this case, this is a case that does not require -- it's
25 not a murder. This is not a murder. This is not a capital

1 offense. I think that it would be a violation of the
2 separation of powers to allow the legislature set down a
3 mandatory life sentence.

4 Judge, if we allow this under 17-25-45 for Mr.
5 Singleton to receive a life sentence, you're allowing the
6 legislature to go against the Constitution. Not only have
7 they disregarded the separation of powers and taken away all
8 judicial discretion to determine a sentence, they're
9 violating the 8th Amendment by issuing a cruel and unusual
10 punishment for a charge that is not a murder.

11 In this situation, there are substantial facts in this
12 case that the Court is not even allowed to take into
13 consideration. You're not allowed to take mitigation into
14 consideration. You're not allowed to consider the facts of
15 the case in determining the sentence. Instead, Judge, your
16 hands are tied. You're not allowed to use any discretion
17 that you would normally be allowed to use in any other
18 sentencing for an assault and battery of a high and
19 aggravated nature where the Defendant would only be exposed
20 to 20 years. Instead, you're having to sentence Mr.
21 Singleton under this without any consideration of the matter
22 that should normally be considered in a sentence.

23 Judge, for those reasons and my argument that this
24 charge should not be considered a strike, I would argue that
25 Mr. Singleton not be subject to a life without parole

1 sentence. I would ask you to sentence him under the range
2 that the legislature had set out for assault and battery of
3 a high and aggravated nature.

4 THE COURT: Mr. Miller, do you want to respond to the
5 separation of powers argument?

6 MR. MILLER: No, Your Honor.

7 Your Honor, I do want to make clear that as to the CSC
8 with a minor in the second degree, that was my recollection
9 of the case. I don't know that it makes any difference.
10 The fact of the matter is he pled to a CSC with a minor in
11 the second degree. My recollection was that the victim was
12 pregnant at one point in time. If that's not correct, then
13 --

14 THE COURT: Does either side have a transcript? Were
15 there any specific findings on the record that a consensual
16 that's covered by the statute? Because there's nothing on
17 the sentencing sheet noting that. Was there -- is there
18 anything on the record to trigger --

19 MS. ALVES: Judge, I don't have a transcript, but I was
20 -- as I said, I was the attorney on the case. Mr. Miller
21 was not the attorney on the case. That would be an attorney
22 who's no longer in the office. It would have been said in
23 court that this was consensual. Consent does not make it
24 less of a crime, the criminal sexual conduct second, which
25 is why Mr. Singleton pled to that, but it was consensual

1 sex. And that would have been tolled.

2 THE COURT: As to the issue of separation of powers,
3 that issue has been dealt with by our Supreme Court in the
4 case of the State vs. Jones, which can be found at 543
5 S.E.2d 541, which it clearly ruled that it did not
6 separation of powers. And going to, Ms. Alves, your
7 argument about this not being a murder case, that was an
8 armed robbery case. That issue has been ruled on by the
9 Supreme Court.

10 Now, as to the other argument, I will note that --
11 several things. First, as evidenced by the Court file, the
12 solicitor notified the Defendant on February the 10th, 2023
13 of the intent to seek life without parole. The statute
14 requires ten days prior to trial. So I find there was
15 proper notice.

16 The Defendant had a burglary second violent conviction
17 on October 11th, 2006, which is classified as a serious
18 offense under the statute. The Defendant was an adult at
19 that time, so that would trigger the first conviction as an
20 adult.

21 Now, the one that's in dispute is August 6th, 2018, and
22 it looks from the sentencing sheet that the incident that
23 gave rise to the indictment took place between the months of
24 July 2017 and October 31st, 2017. So there was no
25 connection between the first conviction and the second

1 conviction, which, also, is a bar to life without parole if
2 the incidents are closely connected. And there's no
3 connection to the incidents.

4 Now, as to, Ms. Alves, your argument regarding the
5 statute, as both of you know, my job is to ascertain and
6 effectuate the intent of the legislature when we're looking
7 at statutes. It is accurate that a subsection was
8 misnumbered in this statute. It is 16-3-655, Subsection 3.
9 Ms. Alves, you correctly, and I believe Mr. Miller agrees
10 with this, that they're actually talking about Subsection C
11 under the statute.

12 So we have to look at, first of all, the Defendant was
13 not convicted under Subsection C, that's criminal sexual
14 conduct with a minor third degree. He was convicted under
15 Subsection B, which is criminal sexual conduct with a minor
16 second degree.

17 Now, the life without parole statute gives a specific
18 procedure to avoid this where it says the court after the
19 conviction makes a specific finding on the record that the
20 conviction obtained from this offense resulted from
21 consensual sexual conduct with a victim younger than the
22 actor.

23 So I'm looking at the sentence sheet and there's no
24 evidence that the Court made that finding. That looks like
25 it was a hearing -- that was Judge Early. And the only

1 notation Judge Early makes on the sentencing sheet is that
2 the Defendant may be released from the Bamberg County
3 Detention Center and that he must register on the sex
4 offender registry. So those are the only findings that
5 Judge Early made on the sentence sheet.

6 In a literal reading, in plain ordinary language of the
7 statute, which I'm bound to do, I find that the statute
8 applies in this case. So Ms. Alves, I would deny your
9 motion on that ground.

10 Mr. Miller, if the State wishes to present the victim,
11 the victim has a right to be heard.

12 MR. MILLER: Your Honor, TW [REDACTED] is coming up.
13 She's going to -- she's asked that her mother speak for her.
14 As far as sentencing goes -- and this is Ms. Treva Williams,
15 who testified earlier this week.

16 THE COURT: Yes, ma'am.

17 MS. TREVA WILLIAMS: I just wanted to let TW [REDACTED] know
18 that you no longer a victim. And you saved your life and
19 you, also, saved another person's life as well by standing
20 up. So you're not -- you broke those chains and you can
21 hold your head up and we can get by with prayers.

22 MR. MILLER: Your Honor, that concludes the State's
23 presentation.

24 THE COURT: Ms. Alves.

25 MS. ALVES: Your Honor, Ms. Dot Singleton would like to

1 speak on her son's behalf.

2 THE COURT: Yes, ma'am.

3 MS. DOROTHY SINGLETON: Good morning, Your Honor. My
4 name is Dorothy Singleton. I'm the mother of seven. Myron
5 is my baby. Myron has 13 kids. I'm raising five of them in
6 the home with his niece. So I got six in all. I'm 72, I'll
7 be 73 next month. Myron is the only one I have to help me
8 with the kids. He's the only one if I go to the doctor, if
9 I go in the hospital, whatever, he's always did for me. I
10 haven't even told the kids what's been going on. The oldest
11 one back there is the only one knowing. He's got two sets
12 of twins.

13 He's my baby, Your Honor. They done took all the rest
14 of my kids from me. I had five boys. All of them locked up
15 except one more. I lost my daughter in a car accident. He
16 was in the car with her, rolled over. He could have been
17 dead, too. I'm sick. I've had surgery all over my body. I
18 can't stand straight because I got rods in my back, screws
19 working out. Stay in pain 24/7. My son, he always there
20 for me. He's my baby. He's all I got left. Please don't
21 take him from me. Please don't.

22 I don't know what's wrong, but they always try to give
23 my kids life. They stand up and they talk about me when I'm
24 not here like I'm a bad person. I went to school for early
25 childhood. The Lord got me here to take care of kids and

1 that's what I've been doing all my life. I raised mine and
2 I helped raise other people's. The kids call me mom in
3 college. I worked at both of the colleges. I ain't did
4 nothing wrong, Your Honor, nothing but try to do what the
5 Lord asked me to do.

6 I love my kids just they love theirs. Why they don't
7 want my kids to have a life? My kids don't want to serve
8 life in no cage. They're not no dogs. They lock people up
9 for killing a dog, but they want to take my children away
10 from me.

11 Mr. Jeffrey (ph) right here know me. He know all my
12 kids. Mr. Bo (ph), he know me. If he was here right now,
13 he would stand up and tell you. Them kids learned to work
14 in the fields. I raised them on a farm. When me and
15 husband broke, we came to town and they got involved with
16 bad people, but they good kids.

17 Mr. Roy Laney, the lawyer, he working on one of my
18 son's case now trying to bring him home because he know what
19 happened. He know he wasn't involved. He just knew what
20 happened and he wouldn't testify against them. Mr. Roy
21 Laney brought my oldest son home and he working to bring my
22 third son home. Now, he'll have to work to bring Myron
23 home.

24 He's all I got, Your Honor. Please don't take him from
25 me. Please don't. They say the Lord ain't putting no more

1 on me than I can bear. Please don't take him from me.

2 That's my baby. His kids need him and I need him.

3 He told me to be strong and don't get weak, but I'm

4 weak right now because I'm listening at people saying I'm a

5 bad person and I'm this and that. I ain't never been bad.

6 I know Mr. Bamberg just about 30, 40 years. He know I ain't

7 no bad person. All I try to do is help people. I run back

8 and forth. I help my sister, who is disabled. I helped my

9 mom. I took care of her. My brother had cancer. I just

10 drove him up and down the road, Your Honor, making sure he's

11 all right, taking him to all his appointments. He tried to

12 hold on as long as he could for me. I had to go sit on my

13 brother's bed and tell him it's all right for him to leave.

14 I'm not no bad person, Your Honor.

15 My son not no bad person. My son was living in the

16 house with this girl and her momma. Her mother give him

17 consent to live there. And he pleaded guilty because they

18 told him to plead guilty. There's a letter to my house

19 where the girl wrote the letter saying it was consensual

20 sex. The letter wasn't presented to the Judge, Your Honor.

21 If it had, he probably would have thrown the whole thing

22 out. Her mother had given her consent for him to live in

23 the house. They had a room in the mother's house. Why they

24 wouldn't call the mother up here, I don't know. My son is

25 not no bad person.

1 My son went to prison two times for his nephew. They
2 brought the gun that they said he got, my grandson got it.
3 And my grandson sold it to my son, who took it to the
4 police. But my son went to jail because he was in the car
5 with my grandson. He always be in the wrong place at the
6 wrong time. And I tell him, you got to stop taking up for
7 people, just tell the truth. He didn't go to jail for
8 stealing no gun. He ain't got to steal no gun.

9 When he broke in the schoolhouse, he went out there --
10 he had a check. I went and cashed a check in Denmark. He
11 had 400 something dollars in his pocket. They called him
12 and told him who it was, broke in the schoolhouse two little
13 boys. He went out there and tried to get them out the
14 schoolhouse. When the police came up, they jumped and run.
15 He didn't run because he wasn't doing nothing wrong. He
16 wasn't there to steal. That's what they bring on my child,
17 stuff like that. He didn't run. Them little boys tried to
18 tell them he ain't had nothing to do with it, but they
19 wouldn't listen and they want him in jail for life. They
20 don't like me. I wish I could ask him what did I do to him,
21 what did I do to anybody? If I did anything to any of them,
22 please, tell me. I never did nothing to nobody. Never.

23 Mr. Petey Hiers, bring him up and talk to him. Ask him
24 about Dot Singleton, working in the fields. All the kids on
25 the farm had to work. I trained them. Worked at Denmark

1 Tech, Voorhees College, even the president's house. I teach
2 the kids. All the kids call me momma. That's what I am,
3 I'm a momma to everybody and I try to help everybody. I
4 ain't ever tried to hurt nobody. They can say what they
5 want about me, Your Honor, but God knows. God knows I work
6 for anybody who need it. Mr. Jack Early --

7 MS. ALVES: Okay.

8 MS. DOROTHY SINGLETON: I know. I know. I just want
9 -- I got to clear my name as well as his. It reflects on me
10 on the way I am, my son's life reflect on me, right, Your
11 Honor. And what I'm trying to tell you, I'm a good person
12 whether they believe it or not. Yes, I stand for my kids
13 because they my kids, just like anybody else would.

14 Don't take my son from me, Your Honor. Please don't.
15 Don't think he the animal they trying to put him to be. All
16 this right here, all these people got to be lying. This
17 right here is proof that they lied. They lied.

18 This girl a prostitute. She know it. She told me that
19 Rachet got her from Po Boys, that's where he got her from.
20 He made like he love her. He got her out there
21 prostituting. I went to the police officer three times to
22 get her out of my house for prostituting in the house I
23 rented for my kids. But she wouldn't go, she kept coming
24 back. She kept coming back. Her mother brought her back.
25 I was there, Your Honor. Her mother brought her there to

1 prostitute because all of them on drugs.

2 That's all I want to say, Your Honor. I'm not no bad
3 person. My child not no bad person. I don't know why he
4 hate me, but it's all right. All of them got kids, Your
5 Honor.

6 THE COURT: Thank you, ma'am.

7 MS. DOROTHY SINGLETON: Thank you, Your Honor.

8 MS. ALVES: Judge, Mr. Singleton would, also, like to
9 address the Court.

10 THE DEFENDANT: Your Honor, when we was younger and I
11 started going to church, what I learned in Sunday School was
12 to always love thy neighbor. All my life, I could meet a
13 person day, I was always there trying to help them. So when
14 the girl came to me about the incident that she had been
15 prostituted and she didn't want to be prostituted no more, I
16 took it upon myself to help her.

17 In 2006, when I got convicted when my nephew was in
18 that schoolhouse, he had just lost his father. That's my
19 older brother. So when they did that crime, I didn't run
20 because I wasn't committing no crime. But they convicted me
21 in 2006 even though I was innocent. My nephew did it, but I
22 felt he was too young to do time and go to jail and I love
23 him. When you love a person, you do crazy things.

24 In 2018, I met the girl, she lied about her age. I
25 slept with her two times. After that, her mother and them

1 started trying to blackmail me. They never told me she was
2 under age. I found out and I never slept with her no more.
3 I talked to my baby's mother about it. We decided to go to
4 the law. I did that myself. I plead guilty to it because
5 I'm a man.

6 But yesterday, this week, I took a jury trial because I
7 stand up for what's right. If I'm a man and I did
8 something, I stand up in court and I plead guilty to it. I
9 feel like if I didn't, I'm going to stand up here and fight
10 for my life, which anybody would do.

11 And I'm sitting here today asking for leniency. I got
12 13 kids out there. One of them about to graduate next year.
13 My mother and daddy are elderly. My kids, a life sentence,
14 you can't come back from that. My momma and daddy, they
15 separated. I always felt like a failure. I deserve the
16 sentence as a man. But I'm asking you, don't take my life.
17 Give me the chance so I can come back and raise my kids and
18 have a better life. I think everybody deserve a second
19 chance. I'm asking you for a second chance.

20 MS. ALVES: Your Honor, I don't think I could say much
21 more than what Ms. Singleton and Mr. Singleton said on his
22 own behalf. I would just point out that you heard about his
23 life from when he was on the stand about his work history
24 and about his family history. And you heard from him
25 himself about him.

1 Judge, I know there's no discretion allowed under the
2 statute. I would just point out that if Your Honor's hands
3 were not tied by Section 17-25-45, I know this information
4 that was put in would be information that you would consider
5 in mitigation for Mr. Singleton.

6 THE COURT: Thank you, Ms. Alves.

7 MS. ALVES: Judge, before your sentence, can I have a
8 moment? I'm looking at a case that came out yesterday to
9 see if there's something I need to address?

10 THE COURT: Yes, ma'am.

11 MS. ALVES: Thank you.

12 (Pause.)

13 MS. ALVES: Judge, may it please the Court?

14 THE COURT: Yes, ma'am.

15 MS. ALVES: I know that you've already ruled on the
16 issue of the Constitutionality and legality of the sentence
17 under Section 25-45, but I would just note that there's a
18 case that was filed yesterday from the Supreme Court. It's
19 called Jones vs. State. The only cite I have is opinion
20 number 28164. And that case, actually, talks about -- it,
21 actually, I guess, goes further into the active decision
22 when a juvenile is sentenced to a mandatory sentence as an
23 adult. And while that doesn't apply to Mr. Singleton, I
24 would just note that when the burglary charge was -- he was
25 over the age of 20 when he was convicted, but when he was

1 charged with the burglary, based on the date, he would have
2 been 18 to 19 years when that occurred.

3 If you look at the factors of the Jones case, I admit,
4 I just read pretty quickly, but it does dovetail along the
5 Atkins case, which talks about when a juvenile is sentenced.
6 I think it needs to be noted that he would have been -- he
7 would have been in range with the age that's considered when
8 the burglary was committed. And to sentence him -- to
9 subject him to a life sentence, we're using a conviction
10 that occurred prior to his 20th birthday for an incident
11 that occurred when he was either 18 or 19 years old. That
12 is one of the charges that's being used to subject Mr.
13 Singleton to a mandatory life sentence. I know he wasn't
14 subject to that at that age -- I know that wasn't an issue
15 that was brought up, obviously, in 2006 because this wasn't
16 the law in 2006 or even if it was, he wasn't subject to the
17 third strike at that time. I would just make note that when
18 the juveniles were subject to the mandatory sentencing, they
19 required -- the Court was required to go to the factors that
20 were set out in Atkins about their age, their family home
21 environment and the circumstances. And in this situation,
22 we're being limited to Your Honor can't even consider that.

23 THE COURT: Well, Ms. Alves, he was over 18 at that
24 time.

25 MS. ALVES: He was 19.

1 THE COURT: He was not a juvenile at that time?

2 MS. ALVES: No, sir.

3 THE COURT: I'm looking at that case, Ms. Alves. It,
4 also, had a finding that even juveniles can have mandatory
5 minimums imposed. I understand your argument.

6 MS. ALVES: Yes, sir.

7 SENTENCE OF THE COURT

8 THE COURT: Well, this is a disturbing case. It's
9 certainly a tragic case. There are two families that are
10 suffering as a result of this case. We've been in court now
11 a third day and it is really a sad, sad situation for
12 everyone concerned.

13 As Ms. Alves pointed out, my hands are tied. South
14 Carolina Code Section 17-25-45 sets forth what is to occur
15 in this situation. The legislature uses the words "must be"
16 sentenced. It gives me absolutely no leeway. It is
17 exclusive language the legislature used and my role as a
18 Judge is to apply the law as it is written.

19 Mr. Singleton, I take no pleasure in imposing this
20 sentence, but you will be sentenced to life pursuant to
21 South Carolina Code Section 17-25-45. Good luck to you.

22 And good luck to you, TW [REDACTED]

23 MS. ALVES: Thank you, Your Honor.

24 MR. MILLER: Thank you, Your Honor.

25

CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF BAMBERG)

I, PENNY M. JOHNSON, Official Court Reporter for the
Second Judicial Circuit of the State of South Carolina, do
hereby certify that the foregoing is a true, accurate, and
complete Transcript of Record of the proceedings had and the
evidence introduced in the hearing of the captioned case,
relative to appeal, in the Court of General Sessions for
Bamberg County, South Carolina, on the 20th through 22nd
days of June, 2023.

I do further certify that I am neither of kin, counsel,
nor interest to any party hereto.

October 19, 2024

Penny M. Johnson
Penny M. Johnson
Official Court Reporter

After he left the house, how long before
mom picked up, and where?

COURTS
EXHIBIT 1
Penny M Johnson CCR

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA }
COUNTY OF BAMBERG }

IN THE COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS
SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
Indictments 2022-GS-05-00155

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA,
vs.
MYRON KAREEM SINGLETON,
Defendant

MOTION TO RECONSIDER SENTENCE

The Defendant in the above-captioned matter respectfully moves the Court to reconsider and reduce the sentence it imposed on the Defendant on Thursday, June 22, 2023.

As grounds for the reconsideration, the Defendant submits the attached Memorandum in Support of his Motion and urges that the interests of justice will be served by the granting of this request.

The Defendant requests that the Court grant Defendant a hearing at which to present further grounds as necessary, in open court and/or *in camera* at such date and time as the Court deems appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,



Wallis Alves
Attorney for Defendant

Barnwell, South Carolina
June 28, 2023

FILED
BAMBERG COUNTY
2023 JUN 30 AM 9:14
JANINE C. JOHNSON
CLERK OF COURT
BAMBERG, SC

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA	)	
	)	COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS
COUNTY OF BAMBERG	)	2022-GS-05-00155
	)	2024-GS-05-00061
	)	
	)	
	)	
THE STATE,	)	
	)	
PLAINTIFF,	)	
	)	
vs.	)	TRANSCRIPT OF RECORD
	)	
MYRON SINGLETON,	)	
	)	
DEFENDANT.	)	
_____	)	

March 26, 2024
Barnwell, South Carolina

B E F O R E:

THE HONORABLE R. SCOTT SPROUSE, JUDGE.

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

DAVID W. MILLER, ESQ.
Attorney for the Plaintiff

WALLIS ALVES, ESQ.
Attorney for the Defendant

PENNY M. JOHNSON
Court Reporter III

I N D E X

(There were no witnesses called.)

E X H I B I T S

(There were no exhibits submitted.)

P R O C E E D I N G S

MYRON SINGLETON,

after being duly sworn, testified as follows:

THE COURT: Yes, sir.

MR. MILLER: Your Honor, before the Court is Myron Kareem Singleton. We have two matters involving Mr. Singleton today. The first is in regard to indictment 2022-GS-05-00155. That indictment was true billed by the Bamberg County Grand Jury December the 8th of 2022. Mr. Singleton proceeded to trial on that case and was found guilty on June the 22nd of 2023.

Prior to the case being tried, the State had served upon Mr. Singleton a notice of its intent to seek life without parole based upon his prior record as reflected by his rap sheet. Your Honor, we -- basically, we went to trial thinking it was going to be a life sentence if he was convicted of any of the serious offenses because we believed at the time that he had two prior serious convictions.

At trial, it was -- which Your Honor presided over, Ms. Alves brought up the question at sentencing about whether or not his prior conviction for criminal sexual conduct with a minor in the second degree would constitute a serious strike. And we had some discussions about that at the sentencing and, ultimately, the Court imposed a life sentence.

1 Subsequent to those discussions, Ms. Alves filed a
2 motion for a reconsideration, I believe it was a
3 reconsideration of the sentence and she was able to obtain a
4 transcript of Mr. Singleton's guilty plea in case
5 2018-GS-05-00127. That hearing was held on August the 7th
6 of 2018 in Bamberg County in front of Judge Early.

7 When Ms. Alves received the transcript, she forwarded
8 it to me and it is clear and unequivocal on the transcript
9 that the State and the Judge and the Defense agreed at that
10 time that the CSC with minor in the second degree that Mr.
11 Singleton was pleading to would not, in fact, constitute a
12 strike under the law existing at that time.

13 Once we got that transcript, it kind of mooted any
14 arguments about whether or not it was correct or not because
15 the transcript doesn't leave anything to question. Whether
16 or not that was a proper position for us to take at the time
17 in 2018 or not, we definitely did concede in the transcript
18 that it would not constitute a strike going forward for Mr.
19 Singleton. And as such, we have verbally and now on the
20 record consented to Ms. Alves's motion that Mr. Singleton
21 needs to be resentenced for not more than 20 years under the
22 ABHAN statute.

23 Your Honor, we then engaged in some additional
24 discussions and some additional negotiations relative to
25 another case, which I will call momentarily, and,

1 ultimately, have negotiated an agreement whereby Mr.
2 Singleton will plead to a different ABHAN charge, which
3 will, in fact, be a third serious strike on his record, but
4 in exchange for us not seeking life without parole on that
5 charge, Mr. Singleton and his attorney have agreed and we
6 have negotiated a concurrent 18-year sentence on both
7 charges, on both indictments.

8 So the indictment that he's here to be resentenced on
9 is 2022-GS-05-00155, that was a conviction following a trial
10 for the statutory offense of assault and battery of high and
11 aggravated nature. He will, also, be waiving presentment
12 and entering a guilty plea to indictment 2024-GS-05-00061,
13 which is an indictment for statutory assault and battery of
14 a high and aggravated nature. That plea to that charge he
15 is going to be entering under the auspices of North Carolina
16 vs. Alford.

17 So I believe that sets the stage.

18 THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Miller.

19 Is that correct, Ms. Alves?

20 MS. ALVES: Yes, Your Honor.

21 THE COURT: As a housekeeping matter before we begin,
22 this is, as noted, a Bamberg case that's being heard today
23 in Barnwell County. The Court had a term of Common Pleas
24 set for this week and this is the only time that I've been
25 assigned anywhere in this circuit this six months, so we

1 obtained an order granting us a General Sessions
2 jurisdiction for this week.

3 Ms. Alves, do you and your client consent to a Bamberg
4 case being heard today in Barnwell?

5 MS. ALVES: Yes, Your Honor.

6 THE COURT: Do you consent to that, Mr. Singleton?

7 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

8 THE COURT: Let's just go through these. Mr.
9 Singleton, on the new charge, you have -- this is
10 2024-GS-05-61. You have a charge of assault and battery of
11 a high and aggravated nature. It is my understanding that
12 you wish to enter a plea under North Carolina vs. Alford; is
13 that correct?

14 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

15 THE COURT: Now, Mr. Singleton, you understand that a
16 North Carolina vs. Alford plea will result in a conviction
17 the same as if you were convicted in a jury trial or
18 entering a guilty plea?

19 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

20 THE COURT: You will subject yourself to the same
21 punishment as you would had you been convicted in a jury
22 trial or a guilty plea?

23 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

24 THE COURT: And assault and battery of a high and
25 aggravated nature constitutes a violent and serious offense,

1 been referred to a strike. You understand that?

2 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

3 THE COURT: So are you entering this plea of your own
4 free will?

5 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

6 THE COURT: Are you under the influence of any alcohol,
7 drugs or anything that might affect your judgment today?

8 THE DEFENDANT: No, sir.

9 THE COURT: Mr. Singleton, when you enter this plea,
10 you give up a number of rights that you have. You have a
11 right to a trial by jury on this charge. A 12-person jury
12 would hear the evidence in the case. They would have to be
13 unanimous in finding you guilty in order for you to be
14 convicted of the charge.

15 Do you understand that right?

16 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

17 THE COURT: You, also, would have the right to call and
18 subpoena witnesses to come testify at trial on your behalf.

19 Do you understand that right?

20 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

21 THE COURT: You would have the right to confront and
22 cross-examine the witnesses that the State would call in
23 their case against you.

24 Do you understand that right?

25 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

1 THE COURT: Mr. Singleton, you have a right to remain
2 silent. And if you exercise that right, the Court would
3 instruct the jury that they could not give that any
4 consideration whatsoever in their deliberations.

5 Do you understand that right?

6 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

7 THE COURT: And furthermore, at trial, you would have
8 the opportunity to present any defenses that you might have
9 to the charge.

10 Do you understand that right?

11 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

12 THE COURT: You are presumed innocent and the State
13 would have the burden of proving you guilty beyond a
14 reasonable doubt.

15 Do you understand that right?

16 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

17 THE COURT: You, again, have a charge that is violent
18 and serious. Do you need any more time to talk to your
19 attorney about that classification?

20 THE DEFENDANT: No, sir.

21 THE COURT: You have been represented by Ms. Alves.
22 Have you had enough time to talk to her?

23 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

24 THE COURT: Has she answered your questions?

25 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

1 THE COURT: Do you have any further questions that
2 you'd like to ask her now before we proceed?

3 THE DEFENDANT: No, sir.

4 THE COURT: Are you completely satisfied with her
5 representation?

6 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

7 THE COURT: Has she done all you asked her to do?

8 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

9 THE COURT: Mr. Miller, tell me the facts.

10 MR. MILLER: Your Honor, the facts as to indictment
11 00061, 2024 indictment, on June the 26th of 2020, a Denmark
12 police officer was dispatched to the Bamberg/Barnwell
13 Emergency Medical Center in reference to an assault that had
14 happened in the city limits of Denmark at [REDACTED] Frederick
15 Street.

16 Upon arrival, the officers made contact with Ms. [REDACTED]
17 **A.C.**. Ms. **A.C.** stated that she had been with her
18 boyfriend, Myron Singleton, at his residence at [REDACTED]
19 Frederick Street. Ms. **A.C.** stated that Mr. Singleton had
20 woken her up at approximately nine o'clock that morning and
21 started accusing her of sleeping with his friends and family
22 members. She stated that he then proceeded to assault her
23 when she denied the allegations. Ms. **A.C.** stated that she
24 was repeatedly punched and kicked in the head and face area.
25 She, also, stated that Mr. Singleton grabbed what she

1 believed to be a nine millimeter handgun and put it in her
2 mouth and, also, made her turn around and pointed the
3 handgun at the back of her head.

4 Ms. **A.C.** stated Mr. Singleton had just been released
5 from the detention center on a personal recognizant bond and
6 had an ankle monitor that was issued to him from Keith
7 Glover Bail Bonds at that time. Officers began to follow up
8 and, actually, got warrants and then contacted SLED and had
9 SLED come in to try to arrest him -- or try to find him
10 because he was not located until -- Ms. Alves and I just
11 talked about this date.

12 MS. ALVES: February 28th.

13 MR. MILLER: February -- it was -- I'm sorry, Your
14 Honor, one second.

15 MS. ALVES: July 7th.

16 MR. MILLER: July 7th that he was, ultimately, served
17 with his warrants. Officers with the Denmark Police
18 Department did take several photographs of Ms. **A.C.**'s
19 injuries and she had documented internal injuries as well as
20 severe bruising to her face and to her body from the
21 protracted assault that took place over the course of,
22 basically, the entire day. It was about five o'clock that
23 she said she was finally able to get out of the house and go
24 to the hospital. And she went straight to the hospital from
25 there.

1 THE COURT: Okay. Do you have anything further?

2 MR. MILLER: Only, Your Honor, that there were some
3 other charges that were brought in relation to this
4 particular incident. There were three other warrants and
5 those warrants would be dismissed as a part of this plea
6 agreement. And he will not have any other pending charges
7 in Bamberg County.

8 THE COURT: Mr. Singleton, have you been over the
9 evidence in the case with your attorney?

10 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

11 THE COURT: And the State just gave me a factual
12 summary of what they would present if you were to go to
13 trial. Do you believe based on the evidence in the case
14 that if you went to trial that it would be likely that you
15 would be convicted?

16 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

17 THE COURT: Again, do you need any more time to talk to
18 your attorney?

19 THE DEFENDANT: No, sir.

20 THE COURT: Now, Mr. Singleton, your case has not been
21 indicted. You would have had the right to require the State
22 to present your case to the Bamberg Grand Jury. The grand
23 jury would have to determine a true bill in order for the
24 case to be before the Court.

25 Do you waive presentment to the grand jury so that we

1 can consider this case today along with the others? If you
2 need to ask your attorney, I'll let you go off the record.

3 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

4 THE COURT: Ms. Alves, are you satisfied that your
5 client understands his rights?

6 MS. ALVES: Yes, Your Honor.

7 THE COURT: Do you have any concerns about his
8 competency or ability to enter this plea?

9 MS. ALVES: No, Your Honor.

10 THE COURT: And after you have reviewed the facts of
11 the case and representing him and investigating the matter,
12 do you concur with his decision to enter an Alford plea to
13 this charge?

14 MS. ALVES: I do.

15 THE COURT: I find that there is a factual basis. I
16 find the Defendant enters an Alford plea freely,
17 voluntarily, intelligently. He pleads with the advice of
18 competent counsel with whom he is satisfied.

19 Mr. Miller, is there anything else from the State?
20 Does the victim wish to address the Court or anything else
21 from the State?

22 MR. MILLER: Your Honor, I have explained the
23 negotiated sentence to the victim and she does not wish to
24 address the Court. She just wanted to be present.

25 The victim for the 2024 indictment, the new charge, I

1 spoke to her last week and explained to her what was going
2 to be offered and the fact there could be a potential plea
3 and she did not wish to be present. She did want us to
4 contact her and let her know what happened, so we're good
5 there.

6 Your Honor, Ms. Alves and I got together just before
7 the Court came out and we agreed that on indictment
8 2022-GS-05-155, that's the trial case that's being
9 resentenced, the Defendant should be credited with time
10 served from the date of his arrest until today in the amount
11 of 757 days. And on the 2024 indictment, he would get
12 credit for time served of 968 days.

13 THE COURT: Do you agree with that, Ms. Alves?

14 MS. ALVES: Yes, Your Honor.

15 THE COURT: Ms. Alves.

16 MS. ALVES: Your Honor, may it please the Court.
17 Judge, I would ask you to hear from some other people first.

18 Mr. Roy Laney is a family friend of the family and he
19 would like to address the Court.

20 MR. ROY LANEY: May it please the Court. Your Honor,
21 my name is Roy Laney. I practice law in Columbia at Riley,
22 Pope and Laney. I'm a long-time family friend of the
23 Singleton family. We've worked together in the farm over in
24 Bamberg. I've known them all my life. I know they're a
25 hard-working good Christian family. I wanted to be here

1 today to speak in support of Mr. Singleton and ask for your
2 consideration of what's been presented here today.

3 THE COURT: Thank you, sir.

4 MR. ROY LANEY: Thank you.

5 MR. DAYTON WRIGHT: My name is Dayton.

6 MS. ALVES: Tell him your last name.

7 MR. DAYTON WRIGHT: Wright.

8 MS. ALVES: Dayton Wright.

9 MR. DAYTON WRIGHT: There's 13 of us and seven of us
10 playing sports and one of our sisters is going to college.
11 Another thing I want is my dad to come out and see us play
12 sports.

13 THE COURT: Thank you.

14 MS. DOROTHY SINGLETON: Good afternoon, Your Honor,
15 Dorothy Singleton. Myron, my baby, he's the father of 13
16 kids, ten boys and three girls. And like he said, most all
17 of them playing sports. He's got his baby out there, but he
18 can't come in because he's 11. He wanted to speak to you.
19 His oldest son is out there. He's sitting with his baby
20 brother.

21 Baby brother lost his mother two years ago and he lost
22 his brother about eight months ago. He just want you to
23 know that he lost his momma and his brother and all he's got
24 is me and his daddy. And he said will you just take that
25 into consideration and please let daddy come home as early

1 as he can so we can be with him and the rest of us.

2 I got four of them I'm raising by myself. I do the
3 best I can. The four I got is boys and they really need
4 their daddy home.

5 THE COURT: Thank you, ma'am.

6 MS. DOROTHY SINGLETON: I take them to their football
7 games. I'm 73 now, going on 74, it's kind of hard for me.

8 THE COURT: Thank you, ma'am.

9 MS. DOROTHY SINGLETON: If you can take it into
10 consideration and let him come home as early as you can.

11 Thank you.

12 THE COURT: Thank you.

13 MS. ALVES: Judge, Mr. Singleton is 38 years old.

14 Prior to his incarceration, he was most recent -- he has
15 done labor work most of his life, but prior to his
16 incarceration, he was working in the watermelon fields. As
17 you heard, he's got 13 children, some of them are being
18 raised by his mother. Just recently -- and he maintained
19 his innocence during the trial along with this case, but the
20 reason he's taking this plea is he understands the second
21 chance he's gotten with the reconsideration. He had to hear
22 at one point that life sentence.

23 And the reason he's taking the plea is he didn't want
24 to take that chance again and do that to his family. He
25 recognizes that he had a real possibility of getting

1 convicted on that second one, as he told you. And he does
2 want to hopefully get home to his children some day. As I
3 told his child, it won't be now. He understands how much
4 time he's going to have to do under the 85 percent no parole
5 sentence, but some day, he would be able to get out, at
6 least, hopefully, in his mother's lifetime and be with his
7 family again.

8 This is a pretty strong close knit family. They are
9 from the Denmark area. This is where he was born and raised
10 and that's where his family still remains. So he does have
11 the strong support and love of his family. I would just ask
12 you to take into consideration everything that you heard
13 both at the trial and regarding this case and allow the
14 negotiated sentence of the 18 years for both charges.

15 THE COURT: Thank you, Ms. Alves.

16 Mr. Singleton, is there anything that you'd like to
17 tell me?

18 THE DEFENDANT: No, sir.

19 THE COURT: All right. I have reviewed the case. I
20 remember the trial from last year. I appreciate counsel
21 from both sides continuing to investigate this to make sure
22 it was done correctly. I would note the State has consented
23 to the Defendant's motion for resentencing. I've marked the
24 sentence sheet the previous sentence is vacated and a formal
25 order will be submitted on that issue. But I will approve

1 the negotiated sentence on 2022-GS-05-055 and 2024-GS-05-61.
2 The parties have negotiated an 18-year sentence and the
3 Court will approve that and they are concurrent.

4 Mr. Singleton, you've got sometime to finish, but good
5 thing about this is the lawyers kept digging and they found
6 what they needed to find to make sure that justice was done.
7 You have a light at the end of the tunnel. I just urge you
8 that whatever resources the Department of Corrections has
9 for you to help prepare you for a job that has you doing
10 something with your life when you get out, take advantage of
11 that. You've got a lot of family that are pulling for you
12 and here to support you.

13 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

14 THE COURT: Good luck to you.

15 THE DEFENDANT: Thank you, sir.

16 MR. MILLER: Thank you, Your Honor.
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)

COUNTY OF AIKEN)

I, PENNY M. JOHNSON, Official Court Reporter for the Second Judicial Circuit of the State of South Carolina, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true, accurate, and complete Transcript of Record of the proceedings had and the evidence introduced in the hearing of the captioned case, relative to appeal, in the Court of General Sessions for Barnwell County, South Carolina, on the 26th day of March, 2024.

I do further certify that I am neither of kin, counsel, nor interest to any party hereto.

October 19, 2024

Penny M. Johnson
Penny M. Johnson
Official Court Reporter

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF BAMBERG

FILED
BAMBERG COUNTY

2024 MAR 27 PM 1:20

IN THE GENERAL SESSIONS COURT
SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA,

v.

MYRON KAREEM SINGLETON,
Defendant.

**ORDER GRANTING MOTION TO
RECONSIDER SENTENCE**

2022-GS-05-00155

This matter came before the Court for a hearing on the Defendant's motion to reconsider the sentence imposed June 22, 2023 following the Defendant's conviction for Assault and Battery High and Aggravated Nature. A hearing was held March 26, 2024 at the Barnwell County Courthouse. The Defendant was present for the hearing and was represented by Wallis Alves of the Second Circuit Public Defender's Office. The State was represented at the hearing by Deputy Solicitor David Miller. After consideration of the information presented to the Court, I find the Defendant's motion should be granted for the reasons outlined below.

The Defendant was arrested February 28, 2022 and charged with various offenses following an incident that occurred in Bamberg County on or about February 5, 2022. On February 10, 2023, the State filed its notice of intent to seek a life without parole sentence pursuant to S.C. Code §17-25-45 based on the Defendant's prior convictions for Burglary 2nd Degree (Violent) and Criminal Sexual Conduct with a Minor 2nd Degree.

The Defendant was indicted by the Bamberg County grand jury for multiple offenses and proceeded to trial on the charges in June of 2023. On June 21, 2023, the Defendant was convicted of ABHAN as indicted¹.

On June 22, 2023, a hearing was conducted to sentence the Defendant following his conviction for ABHAN. At the hearing, Ms. Alves disputed the classification of the Defendant's prior conviction for CSC with a Minor 2nd Degree as a serious strike, and therefore argued Defendant's 2023 conviction only constituted a second serious strike. This argument was based on notes she had taken while representing the Defendant at his plea to the CSC charge in 2018. Based on the limited information before the Court, and after considering the arguments of

¹ The Defendant was found not guilty on the other charges he was being tried for.

1 of 2
RSS

counsel, the Defendant was sentenced to imprisonment for life without the possibility of parole pursuant to S.C. Code §17-25-45. A timely motion to reconsider the sentence was filed by Ms. Alves to allow her additional time to seek further clarification regarding the Defendant's 2018 conviction.

The transcript of the Defendant's August 6, 2018 plea was received by Ms. Alves on or about September 1, 2023. She promptly provided it to the Court as well as the State. After reviewing the transcript of the plea, the State now concedes, and this Court agrees, the Defendant's conviction for CSC with a minor should NOT be considered a serious strike for the purposes of §17-25-45.

Based on the foregoing, it is hereby ORDERED:

1. The sentence imposed in Indictment 2022-GS-05-00155 on June 22, 2023 is hereby VACATED; and,
2. The Defendant is hereby committed to the State Department of Corrections for a determinate term of EIGHTEEN (18) YEARS on Indictment 2022-GS-05-0015, with credit for time served to be applied as noted on the amended sentencing sheet; and,
3. The sentence imposed on this indictment shall be CONCURRENT to the sentence imposed March 26, 2024 on Indictment 2024-GS-05-00061.

IT IS SO ORDERED.



R. Scott Sprouse,
Presiding Judge,
Second Judicial Circuit

March 17, 2024
Barnwell, South Carolina

20F-2
265

WITNESSES

Denmark Police Department

Leroy R Grimes
CDM

Law Enforcement Case #: DPD 22-0051

DVM

ARREST WARRANT NUMBER

2022A0520200006

ACTION OF GRAND JURY

True Bill

mai B. B. B.

Foreperson of Grand Jury

Date: December 8, 2022

VERDICT

Foreperson of Petit Jury

Date:

DOCKET NO. 2022GS0500151

The State of South Carolina

County of Bamberg

COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS

DECEMBER TERM 2022

THE STATE
vs.

MYRON KAREEM SINGLETON

6/21/23 - TRIAL

Not Guilty

CDR #: 0095

Indictment for

KIDNAPPING

§ 16-03-0910

BILL WEEKS, SOLICITOR

FILED
BAMBERG COUNTY

2023 JUN 22 MON 12:06

14-00000
14-00000

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
)
COUNTY OF BAMBERG)
)

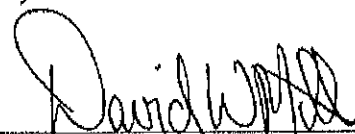
INDICTMENT FOR
KIDNAPPING

§ 16-03-0910

At a Court of General Sessions, convened on December 12, 2022, the Grand Jurors of Bamberg County present upon their oath:

That **MYRON KAREEM SINGLETON** did in Bamberg County on or between February 2, 2022 and February 5, 2022, unlawfully seize, confine, inveigle, decoy, kidnap, abduct or carry **TW** without authority of law, all in violation of §16-3-910 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina (1976), as amended.

Against the peace and dignity of the State, and contrary to the statute in such case made and provided.


BILL WEEKS, SOLICITOR

WITNESSES

Denmark Police Department

Leroy R Grimes *LDm*

Law Enforcement Case #: DPD 22-0051

DWM

ARREST WARRANT NUMBER

2022A0520200009

DOCKET NO. 2022GS0500154**The State of South Carolina**

County of Bamberg

FILED
BAMBERG COUNTY

2023 JUN 22 PM 12:06

JASON
PETERSON
CLERKCOURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS

DECEMBER TERM 2022

THE STATE
vs.

MYRON KAREEM SINGLETON

6/21/23 Not Pross
*State**NOT GUILTY*
TRIAL 6/21/23

CDR #: 0160

Indictment for

CRIMINAL SEXUAL CONDUCT IN THE
FIRST DEGREE

§ 16-03-0652

BILL WEEKS, SOLICITORACTION OF GRAND JURY*True Bill**Agnes B. Bae*
Foreperson of Grand Jury
Date: December 8, 2022VERDICTForeperson of Petit Jury
Date:

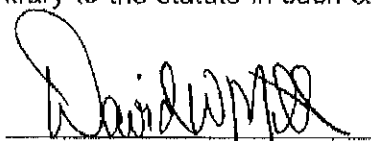
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA	)	INDICTMENT FOR
	)	CRIMINAL SEXUAL CONDUCT IN THE FIRST
COUNTY OF BAMBERG	)	DEGREE
	)	

§ 16-03-0652

At a Court of General Sessions, convened on December 12, 2022, the Grand Jurors of Bamberg County present upon their oath:

That **MYRON KAREEM SINGLETON**, did in Bamberg County on or between February 2, 2022 and February 5, 2022, commit the crime of Criminal Sexual Conduct In The First Degree, in that the Defendant did commit a sexual battery, upon **TW** **██████████** and such sexual battery was accomplished by the use of force of aggravated force and/or the victim submitted to the sexual battery under circumstances where she was also the victim of forcible confinement, kidnapping, robbery, extortion, or burglary. All in violation of §16-3-652 Code of Laws of South Carolina (1976), as amended.

Against the peace and dignity of the State, and contrary to the statute in such case made and provided.


 BILL WEEKS, SOLICITOR

WITNESSES

Denmark Police Department

Leroy R Grimes *CDM**Law Enforcement Case #:* DPD 22-0051

DWM

ARREST WARRANT NUMBER

2022A0520200010

ACTION OF GRAND JURY*True Bill**Foreperson of Grand Jury*
Date: December 8, 2022VERDICT*Foreperson of Petit Jury*
Date:DOCKET NO. 2022GS0500155**The State of South Carolina**

County of Bamberg

COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS**DECEMBER TERM 2022****THE STATE
vs.****MYRON KAREEM SINGLETON**CDR #: 3411Indictment for**ASSAULT AND BATTERY OF A HIGH
AND AGGRAVATED NATURE****§ 16-03-600(B)(1)****BILL WEEKS, SOLICITOR**FILED
BAMBERG COUNTY

2023 JUN 22 PM 12:05

JASON
CLERK

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
)
 COUNTY OF BAMBERG)
)

INDICTMENT FOR
 ASSAULT AND BATTERY OF A HIGH AND
 AGGRAVATED NATURE

§ 16-03-600(B)(1)

At a Court of General Sessions, convened on December 12, 2022, the Grand Jurors of Bamberg County present upon their oath:

That **MYRON KAREEM SINGLETON** did in Bamberg County on or between February 2, 2022 and February 5, 2022, commit an assault and battery upon **TW** resulting in great bodily injury, and/or the act was accomplished by a means likely to produce death or great bodily injury,. All in violation of §16-3-600(B)(1) Code of Laws of South Carolina (1976), as amended.

Against the peace and dignity of the State, and contrary to the statute in such case made and provided.



BILL WEEKS, SOLICITOR

FILED
BAMBERG COUNTY
2024 MAR 27 PM 1:26
JANVIL G. JOHNSON
CLERK OF COURT
BAMBERG, SC

DOCKET NO. 2024GS0500061

The State of South Carolina
County of Bamberg

COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS

APRIL TERM 2024

THE STATE
vs.

MYRON KAREEM SINGLETON

CDR #: 3411

Indictment for

ASSAULT AND BATTERY OF A HIGH
AND AGGRAVATED NATURE

§ 16-03-600(B)(1)

BILL WEEKS, SOLICITOR

WITNESSES

Denmark Police Department
Laquana D Linder

Law Enforcement Case #: DPD 20-0217

DWM

ARREST WARRANT NUMBER

2020A0520200072

ACTION OF GRAND JURY

Foreperson of Grand Jury
Date: April 4, 2024

VERDICT

Foreperson of Petit Jury
Date:

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
)
 COUNTY OF BAMBERG)
)

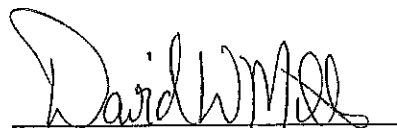
INDICTMENT FOR
 ASSAULT AND BATTERY OF A HIGH
 AND AGGRAVATED NATURE

§ 16-03-600(B)(1)

At a Court of General Sessions, convened on April 8, 2024, the Grand Jurors of Bamberg County present upon their oath:

That **MYRON KAREEM SINGLETON** did in Bamberg County on or about June 26, 2020, commit an assault and battery upon **A.C.** resulting in great bodily injury, and/or the act was accomplished by a means likely to produce death or great bodily injury, to wit: kicking and punching the victim in the head and body until she was unconscious, manually strangling the victim and threatening her with a firearm. All in violation of §16-3-600(B)(1) Code of Laws of South Carolina (1976), as amended.

Against the peace and dignity of the State, and contrary to the statute in such case made and provided.


 BILL WEEKS, SOLICITOR

Not more than 20 years

FILED
BAMBERG COUNTYNegotiated Sentence: 18 years concurrent to
2024-GS-05-00061

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS

COUNTY OF Bamberg

2024 MAR 27 PM 1:20

STATE

VS.

INDICTMENT/CASE# 2022 - GS - 05 - 00155

Myron Kareem Singleton

A/W#: 2022A0520200010AKA: _____
Race: Black Sex: M Age: 38Date of Offense: 2/4/2022 - 2/5/2022

DOB: _____ SS#: _____

S.C. Code §: 16-03-600(B)(1)Address: Fredrick StCDR Code #: 3411City, State, Zip: Denmark, SC 29042-1897

DL# _____ SID# _____

SENTENCE SHEET

(Previous sentence vacated -
Arrival order to follow
RSS*CDL Yes ☐ No ☒ CMV Yes ☐ No ☒ Hazmat Yes ☐ No ☒In disposition of the above indictment comes now the Defendant who was ☒ CONVICTED OF or ☐ PLEADSTO: Assault / Assault & Battery of a High & Aggravated NatureIn violation of § 16-03-600(B)(1) of the S.C. Code of Laws, bearing CDR Code # 3411☐ NON-VIOLENT ☒ VIOLENT ☒ SERIOUS ☐ MOST SERIOUS ☐ Mandatory GPS ☐ § 17-25-45(CSC w/minor 1st or CSC w/minor 3rd)The charge is: ☐ As indicted, ☐ Lesser included Offense, ☐ Defendant Waives Presentment to Grand Jury. _____ (def.'s initials)The plea is: ☐ Without Negotiations or Recommendation, ☒ Negotiated Sentence, ☐ Recommendation by the State.

ATTEST:

Handwritten Signature 69553 Myron Singleton Handwritten Signature 65401
Solicitor SC Bar # Defendant Attorney for Defendant SC Bar #WHEREFORE, the Defendant is committed to the ☒ State Department of Correction ☐ County Detention Center,for a determinate term of 18 days/months/years/Time Served ☐ Youthful Offender Act not to exceed _____ years

and/or to pay a fine of \$____; provided that upon the service of _____ days/months/years/Time Served and or payment

of \$____; plus costs and assessments as applicable*, the balance is suspended with probation for _____

months/years and subject to South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services standard conditions of probation, which are incorporated by reference.

The sentence shall run

☒ CONCURRENT or ☐ CONSECUTIVE to sentence on: _____☒ The Defendant is to be given credit for time served pursuant to S.C. Code § 24-13-40 to be calculated and applied by SCDOC.
757 days/months☐ To include time spent on monitored house arrest prior to trial and sentencing.☐ The Defendant Shall be Released from County Detention Center.

Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 922 and § 16-25-30 it is unlawful for a person convicted of a violation of § 16-25-20 or § 16-25-55 (Domestic Violence) to ship, transport, possess, or receive a firearm or ammunition.

FILED
BAMBERG COUNTY
2024 MAR 27 PM 1:18

STATE VS. Myron Kareem Singleton INDICTMENT/CASE# 2022 - GS - 05 - 00155

SPECIAL CONDITIONS:

☐ PTUP after _____ months/years

And Other Terms Listed Below:

- ☐ Substance Abuse Counseling ☐ Completion of GED ☐ Random Drug/Alcohol Testing
- ☐ Attend Voc. Rehab. Or Job Corp ☐ No Contact with Victim ☐ Domestic Violence Intervention Program
- ☐ Mental Health Counseling ☐ May serve W/E beginning: _____
- ☐ Sex Offender Registry pursuant to S.C. Code § 23-3-430 ☐ Public Service Employment _____ days/hours
- ☐ Central Registry of Child Abuse and Neglect pursuant to S.C. Code § 17-25-135.
- ☐ Other: _____

☐ RESTITUTION: ☐ Deferred ☐ Def. Waives Hearing ☐ Ordered

Total \$ _____ plus 20% fee: _____ \$ _____

Payment Terms: _____ ☐ Set by SCDPPPS

Recipient: _____

*Fine:

Fine may be pd. in equal consecutive weekly/monthly prmts. of \$ _____ Beginning _____ \$ _____

\$14-1-208 (Assessments 107.5%)		\$
\$14-1-211 (A)(1)(Conv. Surcharge)	\$100	\$
\$14-1-211 (A)(2)(DUI Surcharge)	\$100	\$
\$56-5-2995 (DUI Assessment)	\$12	\$
\$56-1-286 (DUI Breath Test)	\$25	\$
\$14-1-212 (Law Enforce. Funding)	\$25	\$
\$14-1-213 (Drug Court Surcharge)	\$150	\$
\$34-11-70(b)and(c), and 34-11-90(c)and(d) (Admin Fraud Check Court Costs)	\$41	\$
\$50-21-114 (BUI Breath Test Fee)	\$50	\$
\$56-5-2942(J) (Vehicle Assessment)	\$40/ea	\$
3% to County (if paid in installments)	TBD	\$
☐ Appointed PD or appointed other counsel, Proviso requires \$500 be paid to Clerk during probation and shall be collected before any other fees	\$500	\$
☐ § 17-3-30(B) Unpaid Application Fee to be paid to the Public Defender Fund	TBD	\$
TOTAL		\$

Clerk of Court/Deputy Clerk: Rhonda McQueen
Court Reporter: Peny JohnsonPresiding Judge: [Signature]
Judge Code: # 2752
Sentence Date: 3-26-24

Not more than 20 Years

FILED
BAMBERG COUNTYNegotiated Sentence: 18 Years, concurrent with
2022-GS-05-00155

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS

COUNTY OF Bamberg

2024 MAR 27 PM 1:26

STATE

VS.

JAMNIE S. JOHNSON
CLERK OF COURT
BAMBERG, SCINDICTMENT/CASE# 2024 - GS - 05 - 00061

Myron Kareem Singleton

AKA:

Race: Black Sex: M Age: 38DOB: [REDACTED] SS#: [REDACTED]Address: Fredrick StCity, State, Zip: Denmark, SC 29042-1897DL# [REDACTED] SID# [REDACTED]A/W#: 2020A0520200072Date of Offense: 6/26/2020S.C. Code §: 16-03-600(B)(1)CDR Code #: 3411

SENTENCE SHEET

*CDL Yes ☐ No ☒ CMV Yes ☐ No ☒ Hazmat Yes ☐ No ☒In disposition of the above indictment comes now the Defendant who was ☐ CONVICTED OF or ☒ PLEADSTO: Assault and Battery of a High and Aggravated Nature

NC v. Alford

In violation of § 16-03-600(B)(1) of the S.C. Code of Laws, bearing CDR Code # 3411☐ NON-VIOLENT ☒ VIOLENT ☒ SERIOUS ☐ MOST SERIOUS ☐ Mandatory GPS ☐ § 17-25-45
(CSC w/minor 1st or CSC w/minor 3rd)The charge is: ☐ As indicted, ☐ Lesser Included Offense, ☒ Defendant Waives
Presentment to Grand Jury. (def.'s initials)The plea is: ☐ Without Negotiations or Recommendation, ☒ Negotiated Sentence, ☐ Recommendation by the State.

ATTEST:

David W. McCall

69553

SC Bar #

Defendant

Attorney for Defendant

SC Bar #

WHEREFORE, the Defendant is committed to the ☒ State Department of Correction ☐ County Detention Center,for a determinate term of 18 days/months/years/Time Served ☐ Youthful Offender Act not to exceed yearsand/or to pay a fine of \$; provided that upon the service of days/months/years/Time Served and or payment
of \$; plus costs and assessments as applicable*; the balance is suspended with probation for months/years and subject to South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services standard conditions of
probation, which are incorporated by reference.

The sentence shall run

☒ CONCURRENT or ☐ CONSECUTIVE to sentence on: 2022-GS-05-00155☒ The Defendant is to be given credit for time served pursuant to S.C. Code § 24-13-40 to be calculated and applied by SCDOC.968 days/months☐ To include time spent on monitored house arrest prior to trial and sentencing.☐ The Defendant Shall be Released from County Detention Center.Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 922 and § 16-25-30 it is unlawful for a person convicted of a violation of § 16-25-20 or § 16-25-65
(Domestic Violence) to ship, transport, possess, or receive a firearm or ammunition.

STATE VS. Myron Kareem Singleton INDICTMENT/CASE# 2024 - GS - 05 - 00061

SPECIAL CONDITIONS:

☐ PTUP after _____ months/years

And Other Terms Listed Below:

- ☐ Substance Abuse Counseling ☐ Completion of GED ☐ Random Drug/Alcohol Testing
- ☐ Attend Voc. Rehab. Or Job Corp ☐ No Contact with Victim ☐ Domestic Violence Intervention Program
- ☐ Mental Health Counseling ☐ May serve W/E beginning: _____
- ☐ Sex Offender Registry pursuant to S.C. Code § 23-3-430 ☐ Public Service Employment _____ days/hours
- ☐ Central Registry of Child Abuse and Neglect pursuant to S.C. Code § 17-25-135.
- ☐ Other: _____

☐ RESTITUTION: ☐ Deferred ☐ Def. Waives Hearing ☐ Ordered

Total \$ _____ plus 20% fee: _____ \$ _____

Payment Terms: _____ ☐ Set by SCDPPPS

Recipient: _____

*Fine:

Fine may be pd. in equal consecutive weekly/monthly prmts. of \$ _____ Beginning _____

§14-1-206 (Assessments 107.5%)		\$
§14-1-211 (A)(1)(Conv. Surcharge)	\$100	\$ / 00
§14-1-211 (A)(2)(DUI Surcharge)	\$100	\$
§56-5-2995 (DUI Assessment)	\$12	\$
§56-1-286 (DUI Breath Test)	\$25	\$
§14-1-212 (Law Enforce. Funding)	\$25	\$ 25
§14-1-213 (Drug Court Surcharge)	\$150	\$
§34-11-70(b)and(c), and 34-11-90(c)and(d) (Admin Fraud Check Court Costs)	\$41	\$
§50-21-114 (BUI Breath Test Fee)	\$50	\$
§56-5-2942(J) (Vehicle Assessment)	\$40/ea	\$
3% to County (if paid in installments)	TBD	\$ 3.75

- ☐ Appointed PD or appointed other counsel, Proviso requires \$500 be paid to Clerk during probation and shall be collected before any other fees
- ☐ § 17-3-30(B) Unpaid Application Fee to be paid to the Public Defender Fund

\$500	\$
TBD	\$
TOTAL	\$ 128.75

Clerk of Court/Deputy Clerk: Rhonda McElveen

Court Reporter: Penny Johnson

Presiding Judge: [Signature]

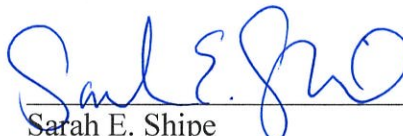
Judge Code: #2752

Sentence Date: 3-26-24

CERTIFICATE OF COUNSEL FOR APPELLANT

Counsel for appellant certifies that this Record on Appeal contains all material proposed to be included by any of the parties and not any other material and that this Record on Appeal complies to the best of my ability with the April 15, 2014 order from the South Carolina Supreme Court entitled "Revised Order Concerning Personal Identifying Information and Other Sensitive Information in Appellate Court Filings."

Respectfully Submitted,



Sarah E. Shipe
Appellate Defender

RECEIVED

Apr 23 2025

SC Court of Appeals

South Carolina Commission on Indigent Defense
Division of Appellate Defense
PO Box 11589
Columbia, SC 29211-1589

ATTORNEY FOR APPELLANT

This 23RD day of April, 2025.

RECEIVED

Apr 23 2025

SC Court of Appeals

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE COURT OF APPEALS

Appeal from Bamberg County

Honorable R. Scott Sprouse, Circuit Court Judge

THE STATE,

RESPONDENT,

V.

MYRON KAREEM SINGLETON,

APPELLANT.

APPELLATE CASE NO. 2024-000540

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Pursuant to Rule 262(a)(3) and Rule 262(c)(3), SCACR, the undersigned hereby certifies a true copy of the Record on Appeal in the above-referenced case has been served upon Mark Farthing, Esquire, at the primary e-mail address listed in the Attorney Information System (AIS); and on Myron Kareem Singleton, #318076, at Lieber Correctional Institution, PO Box 205, Ridgeville, SC 29472, this 23RD day of April, 2025.



Sarah E. Shipe
Appellate Defender

South Carolina Commission on Indigent Defense
Division of Appellate Defense
PO Box 11589
Columbia, SC 29211-1589

ATTORNEY FOR APPELLANT