

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE COURT OF APPEALS

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SC Court of Appeals

Appeal from Greenville County

Honorable G.D. Morgan, Jr., Circuit Court Judge

THE STATE,

RESPONDENT,

V.

JOHN TUFTON BLAUVELT,

APPELLANT

APPELLATE CASE NO. 2025-000315

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[THE FOLLOWING EXHIBITS ARE ON FILE WITH THIS COURT:

COURT’S EXHIBIT 3 (U.S. MARSHAL RECORDING), STATE’S EXHIBIT 2 (ITEMS COLLECTED FROM OREGON), STATE’S EXHIBIT 31 (PHOTOGRAPH), STATE’S EXHIBIT 16 (PHOTOGRAPH), STATE’S EXHIBIT 17 (PHOTOGRAPH), STATE’S EXHIBIT 18 (PHOTOGRAPH), STATE’S EXHIBIT 19 (PHOTOGRAPH), STATE’S EXHIBIT 21 (PHOTOGRAPH), STATE’S EXHIBIT 22 (PHOTOGRAPH), STATE’S EXHIBIT 27 (PHOTOGRAPH), STATE’S EXHIBIT 28 (PHOTOGRAPH), STATE’S EXHIBIT 29 (PHOTOGRAPH), STATE’S EXHIBIT 32 (PHOTOGRAPH), STATE’S EXHIBIT 33 (PHOTOGRAPH), STATE’S EXHIBIT 34 (PHOTOGRAPH), STATE’S EXHIBIT 35 (PHOTOGRAPH), STATE’S EXHIBIT 36 (PHOTOGRAPH), STATE’S EXHIBIT 37 (PHOTOGRAPH), STATE’S EXHIBIT 38 (PHOTOGRAPH), STATE’S EXHIBIT 39 (PHOTOGRAPH), STATE’S EXHIBIT 40 (PHOTOGRAPH), STATE’S EXHIBIT 41 (PHOTOGRAPH), STATE’S EXHIBIT 42 (PHOTOGRAPH), STATE’S EXHIBIT 43 (PHOTOGRAPH), STATE’S EXHIBIT 46 (PHOTOGRAPH), STATE’S

**EXHIBIT 48 (PHOTOGRAPH), STATE'S EXHIBIT 49 (PHOTOGRAPH), STATE'S
EXHIBIT 50 (PHOTOGRAPH), STATE'S EXHIBIT 51 (PHOTOGRAPH), STATE'S
EXHIBIT 56 (PHOTOGRAPH)]**

1 A We're looking for the point in time when the vehicle
2 arrives, looking for other vehicles that arrive with it,
3 any individuals that are in or around the vehicles and any
4 activity that's occurring.

5 Q So you're looking through that video to establish if
6 the black Ford Fiesta can be seen at all?

7 A Yes.

8 Q Okay. Now, was the time stamp on the security device
9 accurate?

10 A No, it was not.

11 Q I believe it was even in the future, wasn't it?

12 A Yes, I believe so.

13 Q Now, were you able to look through the video and kind
14 of go backwards and find and locate where that car was?

15 A Yes.

16 Q We heard earlier from a Daniel Frankel with
17 Progressive Auto and he talked about a Snapshot device
18 that was in Cati's car. Are you familiar with that?

19 A Yes, I am.

20 Q And that Snapshot device, he was able to tell us when
21 Cati's car was last turned off, okay. He has that on
22 October the 24th at approximately, I think 6:05 was the
23 time stamp that's on there. Was that consistent with what
24 you were able to see or back of backtrack in that video?

25 A Yes, it was.

1 Q And were you able to enter that video and check it
2 into evidence?

3 A Yes, ma'am.

4 Q Okay. And I'm going to approach you with what's been
5 pre-marked as State's Exhibit No. 13. And what is State's
6 Exhibit No. 13?

7 A It's a DVD marked State of South Carolina vs. John
8 Blauvelt and it's marked Joe's Auto.

9 Q Okay. Now, I see some initials here. What is that
10 KM?

11 A That's my initials, Keith Morecraft.

12 Q Have you been able to review this video?

13 A I have.

14 Q And is this an excerpt of the surveillance video from
15 Joe's Auto that you watched and saw the black car in?

16 A It is.

17 Q And is it a fair and accurate representation of the
18 video that you saw?

19 A Yes, it is.

20 MS. ABEE: Your Honor, the State moves State's
21 Exhibit No. 13 into evidence.

22 THE COURT: Any objection?

23 MR. NEELY: None, Your Honor.

24 THE COURT: State's Exhibit No. 13 admitted into
25 evidence without objection.

1 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibit No. 13 was admitted into
2 evidence without objection.)

3 MS. ABEE: Permission to publish, Your Honor?

4 THE COURT: You may.

5 BY MS. ABEE:

6 Q Investigator Morecraft, is it fair to say that
7 there's some time kind of before and after in the video
8 that the video only doesn't just cover that one little
9 section of that car pulling in, right?

10 A That's right, yes.

11 MS. ABEE: And, Judge, with the Court's permission,
12 we're going to fast-forward to one minute and 36 seconds
13 in because the rest of the time before that, it's kind of
14 dead area.

15 BY MS. ABEE:

16 Q Investigator Morecraft, before we watch this video, I
17 want us to kind of identify some things so everybody knows
18 kind of what we're looking at, okay?

19 A Okay.

20 Q And my fancy laser pointer doesn't work on these TVs,
21 but it will work over here. So the video camera was in
22 Joe's Auto. And you showed us earlier pictures of Cati's
23 car, where it was located. Can you tell us where in this
24 frame we should be looking to see the cars come in?

25 A Basically, the 11 o'clock position directly across

1 the street, just slightly to the left.

2 Q Is it fair to say it's kind of right here under this
3 channel four?

4 A Right.

5 Q So you talked about looking for the black Ford
6 Fiesta, was there more than one car you were able to see
7 in this video?

8 A Yes, we saw another vehicle pull up.

9 Q Can you tell any kind of descriptors about the
10 vehicle from this?

11 A Just a lighter color, smaller hatchback-type vehicle.

12 Q So another small-type car. So we're about to see
13 both of them kind of come in here; is that fair to say?

14 A Yes.

15 MS. ABEE: And, Your Honor, at this time, the State
16 would play State's Exhibit No. 13 starting at 1:34.

17 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibit No. 13 was played in open
18 court.)

19 BY MS. ABEE:

20 Q And we're going to stop that at the 4:36 mark and we
21 started at 1:34, so approximately three minutes is what we
22 just watched there; is that fair to say?

23 A Yes.

24 Q And in that, we can't tell who's driving the car; is
25 that right?

1 A That's correct.

2 Q And we can't figure out who it is by this video; is
3 that fair to say?

4 A Yes.

5 Q But what we do see in that video is somebody kind of
6 get out and walk towards the front of the car and then
7 towards the back of the car before getting in this other
8 smaller hatchback to leave; is that fair?

9 A Yes.

10 Q And are you familiar with the type of car that John
11 Blauvelt?

12 A It was a Toyota Prius.

13 Q And do you know what color that car was?

14 A Gold or tannish in color.

15 Q I'm going to show you what's been entered into
16 evidence as State's Exhibit No. 6. Is that the car you
17 know to be John Blauvelt's?

18 A Yes, ma'am.

19 Q And are you familiar with the Toyota Prius, their
20 body shape and stuff like that?

21 A Yes, ma'am.

22 Q Is that a smaller hatchback-type car?

23 A It is.

24 Q Is that similar to what we kind of saw here in this
25 video?

1 A It is.

2 Q And so we see the car then pull out over here to the
3 road in the upper right-hand corner of the screen and then
4 it looks like it goes left; is that right?

5 A Yes, ma'am.

6 Q And what is this big road kind of running in between
7 Joe's Auto and where the car was located?

8 A That's White Horse Road.

9 Q Is that in Greenville County?

10 A It is.

11 Q So I want to talk a little bit about some of the
12 other information that you gathered. You talked about
13 talking with friends. You, also, said you would gather
14 some phones. Did you gather phones in this case?

15 A Yes, ma'am.

16 Q Okay. Now, did you only gather John Blauvelt's
17 phone?

18 A No, ma'am.

19 Q All right. You got phone records from multiple
20 people; is that fair?

21 A Yes, and actual physical phones from other people.

22 Q And this because you were still trying to figure out
23 what was going on?

24 A Right, we were still trying to identify a suspect in
25 the case and obtain information to lead us to the correct

1 suspect.

2 Q That means, I think, Wayne Roper's phone records, you
3 got those?

4 A Yes, ma'am.

5 Q I believe Richard Hargrove; is that right?

6 A Yes.

7 Q So the two guys that found the body, you did that?

8 A Yes.

9 Q As well as some other individuals in the case; is
10 that fair to say?

11 A Yes.

12 Q So you weren't just focused on John Blauvelt
13 throughout this investigation?

14 A No.

15 Q Once that car was located, Cati's car was located,
16 did you order that it be processed?

17 A Yes, ma'am.

18 Q Did you order that other cars, also, be processed?

19 A Yes, ma'am.

20 Q Okay. We heard earlier about a white Chrysler
21 belonging to Richard Hargrove. Did you have that car
22 processed?

23 A Yes, I did.

24 Q And I'm showing you here State's Exhibit No. 61. Is
25 that another car you had process, the white Chrysler?

1 A Yes, it is.

2 Q Okay. Why were you having Richard Hargrove's car
3 processed?

4 A To determine if there was any evidence of the
5 homicide of Cati.

6 Q So, again, investigating and looking at as much as
7 you can; is that fair?

8 A Yes, ma'am.

9 Q Now, was there a point in time -- so Cati goes
10 missing -- is reported missing on the 25th. You find her
11 body in the early morning hours of the 26th. Notify Mr.
12 Blauvelt around four o'clock that day, right?

13 A Yes.

14 Q And then, also, find Cati's car on the 26th as well;
15 is that right?

16 A Yes.

17 Q Subsequently, on November the 1st or 2nd, did you ask
18 Mr. Blauvelt to come to the police station?

19 A I did.

20 Q And did Mr. Blauvelt come to the police station?

21 A He did, on November 2nd.

22 Q And on November the 2nd, were you able to execute
23 some search warrants for some of Mr. Blauvelt's items?

24 A I did. I executed a search warrant for his vehicle,
25 the Toyota Prius. I, also, executed one for his cell

1 phone and one for a buccal swab to obtain skin cell
2 samples to establish a DNA profile.

3 Q And that was on what date?

4 A November the 2nd, 2016.

5 Q And after November the 2nd of 2016, did you see John
6 Blauvelt again before being here in this courtroom?

7 A No, I didn't.

8 Q What was your -- were you trying to locate and talk
9 to Mr. Blauvelt?

10 A Yes, ma'am.

11 Q Was he gone?

12 A He was.

13 Q Was anyone else gone with Mr. Blauvelt?

14 A Hannah Thompson.

15 Q And do you know the age of Hannah Thompson at this
16 time?

17 A I believe she was 17 at the time.

18 Q Okay. Do you know how old Mr. Blauvelt was at this
19 time?

20 A Young twenties.

21 Q And so did Hannah Thompson's family, ultimately,
22 report her as a missing person?

23 A They did, to the Fountain Inn Police Department.

24 Q And it's our -- we've talked to Hannah already in
25 this case and she told us that she came back about

1 December of 2016; does that ring a bell?

2 A Yes.

3 Q And was Hannah spoken to at that point in time?

4 A She was.

5 Q And was that, again, to gather more information on
6 the case?

7 A Yes, it was.

8 Q And did she provide information that led to you going
9 back to that abandoned house to try to locate an item?

10 A Yes, I did.

11 MS. ABEE: Beg the Court's indulgence Your Honor.

12 (Pause.)

13 MS. ABEE: Your Honor, I'm showing opposing counsel
14 what's been pre-marked as State's Exhibit Nos. 71 through
15 74.

16 BY MS. ABEE:

17 Q Investigator Morecraft, I'm showing you what's been
18 marked about State's Exhibit No. 71, 72, 73 through 74.
19 Do you recognize those?

20 A I do.

21 Q Are they a fair and accurate representation of the
22 scene that saw regarding this case?

23 A Yes, it is.

24 MS. ABEE: Your Honor, the State moves State's
25 Exhibit Nos. 71 through 74 into evidence.

1 THE COURT: Any objection?

2 MR. NEELY: None, Your Honor.

3 THE COURT: State's Exhibit Nos. 71 through 74 is
4 admitted into evidence without objection.

5 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibit Nos. 71 through 74 were
6 admitted into evidence.)

7 BY MS. ABEE:

8 Q Investigator Morecraft, tell us a little bit about
9 the information that you had received that caused you to
10 go back to the abandoned house?

11 A We received information that Cati's cell phone had
12 been dumped in a separate side of the basement. The
13 basement, basically, has two areas that are separated by a
14 concrete wall. And we were advised that the phone was
15 thrown on the other side of where the body was recovered.

16 Q And is this information you received from Hannah
17 Thompson?

18 A Yes, it is.

19 Q Okay. I'm going to show you State's Exhibit No. 72.
20 So we've seen pictures down in the basement. We've seen
21 where Cati was located. Where is this area?

22 A So that's to the rear of the house from the portion
23 where she was -- where Cati was located.

24 Q Okay. And all of this standing water that we see on
25 it, was that there when you were there?

1 A It was.

2 Q So how did y'all go about trying to locate and find
3 this phone?

4 A We contacted our public works department and pumped
5 the water out.

6 Q And once you pumped the water out -- I'm going to
7 show you State's Exhibit No. 74. Is that what it looked
8 like once the water was pumped out?

9 A Yes.

10 Q And once you pumped out that water, on State's
11 Exhibit No. 74, what did you see?

12 A An apple iPhone.

13 Q I'm going to show you State's Exhibit No. 73. Is
14 that the iPhone that you were able to find?

15 A Yes, it is.

16 Q Okay. Were you able to turn that phone on at that
17 point in time?

18 A Not at that time.

19 Q Okay. Talk to us about the steps and measures you
20 went through trying to figure out whose phone that was.

21 A Once we determined the phone wouldn't power on, we
22 took it to a business in Greenville that repairs cell
23 phones and we discussed with them what our goal was, to
24 get the phone to power on and look at the contents of the
25 phone. So they, basically, systematically replaced parts

1 on the phone until we got the phone to be in a functioning
2 condition.

3 Q So, ultimately, was that phone able to be turned on?

4 A It was.

5 Q And the iPhone 6, were you able to determine who that
6 phone belonged to?

7 A It's belonged to Cati Blauvelt.

8 Q So that was Cati Blauvelt's phone?

9 A Yes, ma'am.

10 Q And I know you told us that on November the second,
11 you executed a search warrant on John Blauvelt for his
12 phone. Do you recall what type of phone he had?

13 A I don't recall off the top of my head.

14 Q But you were able to get that phone processed as
15 well?

16 A Yes.

17 Q So even though Hannah came back down to South
18 Carolina in December of 2016, did Mr. Blauvelt?

19 A No, he didn't.

20 Q Did you see him at all anymore in 2016 after -- after
21 that November the second interview?

22 A No, I didn't.

23 Q Okay. What about the year 2017, did you see him at
24 all in 2017?

25 A No.

1 Q What about 2018?

2 A No.

3 Q What about 2019?

4 A No.

5 Q Investigator Morecraft, when did you retire?

6 A March of 2019.

7 Q March of 2019. Did you ever see John Blauvelt again
8 before you retired?

9 A No, I didn't.

10 Q Okay. To your knowledge, when was Mr. Blauvelt
11 located?

12 A I believe it was in the summer of seven -- excuse me,
13 2022.

14 Q So you had already retired and were gone before
15 Mr. Blauvelt had even been found?

16 A That's correct.

17 MS. ABEE: Your Honor, may I have a second?

18 THE COURT: Uh-huh.

19 (Pause.)

20 MS. ABEE: Judge, if we could have one second,
21 please.

22 THE COURT: Yeah.

23 MS. ABEE: Thank you very much.

24 (Pause.)

25 BY MS. ABEE:

1 Q Investigator Morecraft, with the Joe's Auto video,
2 was there more than one channel that you could see from
3 varying different directions?

4 A Yes, I believe there were.

5 Q Okay. So what we're going to do now is show you one
6 of those other directions of the cars that we saw leaving.

7 MS. ABEE: And, Your Honor, with agreement from
8 Defense Counsel, we will burn this during our break and
9 submit it. We're playing it from the computer right now.
10 That will be marked as the next State's Exhibit, which
11 will be State's Exhibit No. 75.

12 MR. NEELY: No objection.

13 THE COURT: State's Exhibit No. 75 without objection.

14 MS. ABEE: Thank you.

15 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibit No. 75 was admitted into
16 evidence.)

17 MS. ABEE: And Judge, for the record, we're playing
18 from the 12:57 timestamp at the top of the video, which is
19 approximately 39 and a half minutes into the video for
20 publishing purposes.

21 THE COURT: Okay.

22 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibit No. 75 was played in open
23 court.)

24 BY MS. ABEE:

25 Q Investigator Morecraft, what it looked like was at

1 the top of that, the 13 timestamp and about 33 seconds, we
2 first saw a car come out and turn right, kind of a bigger
3 car, and then we see that smaller hatchback car. Did you
4 see that with us?

5 A If you want to rewind it.

6 Q Yeah, let's rewind it about ten seconds here.

7 Investigator Morecraft, we saw the car in the first
8 video kind of pull out and then come here to get ready to
9 turn left. Do you remember that?

10 A Yes.

11 Q And it was behind the car, do you recall that?

12 A Yes.

13 Q So we're going to be looking right here and we're
14 going to see that first car go and then the second car go.
15 This is a separate view.

16 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibit No. 75 continued to be
17 played in open court.)

18 BY MS. ABEE:

19 Q There's car number one, that red truck, and car
20 number two. Now, talk to us about the body type of the
21 car you just saw right there. Is that consistent with
22 what we saw in the previous video, State's Exhibit No. 13?

23 A Yes, it is.

24 Q And what is that body type again?

25 A Small hatchback.

1 Q And whose car is that consistent with -- I know many
2 cars, but who, also, owns a car consistent with that?

3 A The Defendant.

4 MS. ABEE: Thank you.

5 Your Honor, I have no further questions at this time.

6 THE COURT: All right. Cross?

7 MR. NEELY: Thank you, Your Honor.

8 CROSS-EXAMINATION

9 BY MR. NEELY:

10 Q Good afternoon.

11 A Good afternoon.

12 Q Let's start by talking about your years in law
13 enforcement, okay?

14 A Yes, sir.

15 Q All right. You're retired now. Congratulations on
16 that.

17 A Thank you.

18 Q But you spent 25 years in law enforcement?

19 A Yes.

20 Q Now, to become, ultimately, a homicide investigator,
21 you don't get to just start there, do you?

22 A That's correct.

23 Q All right. About all law enforcement officers in the
24 State of South Carolina, they start out the exact same
25 way, don't they?

1 A I can't speak for other departments.

2 Q For the most part --

3 A Generally, yes.

4 Q -- everybody starts out by going to the South
5 Carolina Criminal Justice Academy?

6 A Yes.

7 Q All right. And depending on what year you go to the
8 criminal -- to the justice academy, the length of time
9 varies, but, typically, somewhere between eight, nine,
10 ten, 12, 14, 16 weeks, somewhere in there?

11 A That's right.

12 Q All right. And so when you were there, it was?

13 A It was eight weeks when I went.

14 Q It was eight weeks when you were there. Now, when
15 you go to the Criminal Justice Academy, you are learning
16 how to be a police officer, correct?

17 A Yes.

18 Q You are taking all sorts of classes on how to be a
19 police officer?

20 A Yes.

21 Q And you are, also, doing practical applications of
22 what you're learning in the classroom?

23 A Yes.

24 Q So in the classroom, you're learning all sorts of
25 things, like legals?

1 A Yes, sir.

2 Q And you're learning how to talk to suspects?

3 A Yes.

4 Q You're learning how to interview witnesses?

5 A Yes.

6 Q You're learning how to drive a patrol vehicle?

7 A Yes.

8 Q With safe technique?

9 A Yes.

10 Q While going really fast?

11 A Yes.

12 Q You're learning how to properly handle a firearm?

13 A Yes.

14 Q How to properly deploy a firearm?

15 A Yes.

16 Q How to properly deploy a taser?

17 A Yes.

18 Q You are learning how to be a law enforcement officer?

19 A Correct.

20 Q And to become a law enforcement, you have the pass
21 those courses, don't you?

22 A You do.

23 Q And it's safe to say since you had a very successful
24 25-year period, you passed your classes at the academy?

25 A I did.

1 Q Now, while you were at the academy, one of the things
2 you learned while you were there was how to write incident
3 reports, correct?

4 A Yes. .

5 Q Now, when you write an incident report, what they
6 teach you at the academy, they want you to be thorough?

7 A Yes, sir.

8 Q And they want you to be accurate?

9 A Yes.

10 Q And they want you to be complete, correct?

11 A Yes.

12 Q They want you to put as much information in those
13 incident reports as possible?

14 A Yes, sir.

15 Q Because you wind up in a situation like where we are
16 here, eight years later, right?

17 A Yes, sir.

18 Q And then you have people like the Attorney General's
19 defense counsel and we're relying on your reports,
20 correct?

21 A Yes, sir.

22 Q And it's been eight years, so you're relying on your
23 report, correct?

24 A Yes.

25 Q So that we can talk about what happened eight years

1 ago?

2 A Right.

3 Q So when you write your incident reports, you're
4 thorough?

5 A Yes, sir.

6 Q And accurate?

7 A Yes, sir.

8 Q And complete?

9 A Yes, sir.

10 Q And over the course of your 25-year career, that's
11 exactly what you did, right?

12 A The best I could.

13 Q Every time you wrote an incident report?

14 A To the best of my ability.

15 Q You were thorough, right?

16 A Yes, sir.

17 Q And accurate?

18 A Yes, sir.

19 Q And complete?

20 A Yes, sir.

21 Q So in this case here, talking about John Blauvelt,
22 you wrote an incident report, several incident reports or
23 supplemental reports?

24 A Yes, sir.

25 Q And in each one of those, you used your training and

1 | experience, correct?

2 | A Yes, sir.

3 Q And you learned -- you used what you learned at the
4 academy, correct? .

5 | A Yes, sir, and throughout the years.

6 Q Right. So when you wrote the incident report --
7 these incident reports in this case, you were thorough?

8 | A Yes, sir.

9 Q And you were as accurate as possible?

10 | A Yes, sir.

11 Q And complete as possible?

12 | A Yes, sir.

13 Q And you wrote down to the best of your ability
14 everything you did during the court of this investigation?

15 A To the best of my ability.

16 Q All right. Now, like you said, you had other
17 training as you went over the years, correct?

18 | A Yes, sir.

19 Q So your training to be a law enforcement officer
20 doesn't just stop after you leave the criminal justice
21 academy?

22 A Right, you get continuing training.

23 Q Right. You're required every year to get a certain
24 number of continuing training hours, correct?

25 | A Yes.

1 Q And they offer a -- a variety of courses that you can
2 take, correct?

3 A Yes, sir.

4 Q And depending on what your role is in the various
5 departments that you're in, you take courses tailored
6 towards your job assignment, correct?

7 A Yes, sir, that's right.

8 Q So towards the end of your career, you would have
9 taken courses on how to be a violent crimes investigator?

10 A Right, how to investigate violent crimes, crime scene
11 processing, things of that nature.

12 Q Right. So, again, when you act as the lead
13 investigator in this case -- let me stop right there for a
14 second. In 2016, on this particular case, you were the
15 lead investigator at the time, correct?

16 A Yes, sir.

17 Q All right. So you would have used your training and
18 experience as a homicide investigator when this case was
19 being investigated?

20 A Yes.

21 Q Now, your role as a lead investigator, it's not the
22 same as just being a regular investigator, correct?

23 A Correct. You're kind of -- it's kind of like being a
24 producer of a movie. You're kind of guiding the
25 investigation, assigning responsibilities.

1 Q Right. And this is -- this is a -- this is a large
2 case. It's an involved case, correct?

3 A It is.

4 Q There's -- there's a lot going on and y'all are
5 trying to figure out what's going on, correct?

6 A Yes.

7 Q So there are several investigators that are involved.
8 It's not just you?

9 A That's correct.

10 Q Right. Investigator Donnelly, sitting third row back
11 there?

12 A Yes, sir.

13 Q He assisted in the investigation?

14 A He did.

15 Q All right. And Investigator Schofield sitting right
16 there?

17 A Yes.

18 Q Right. And as a matter of fact, we had other
19 agencies get involved?

20 A Yes, sir.

21 Q We had help from Fountain Inn?

22 A Fountain Inn, Greenville County.

23 Q Greenville County assisted, right? They did an
24 agency assist?

25 A Yes, sir.

1 Q So it's -- it's not all just on your shoulders?

2 A Right.

3 Q But like you said, it's kind of like being a
4 producer?

5 A Yes, sir.

6 Q So you are -- you're delegating assignments?

7 A Yes.

8 Q But, ultimately, at the end of the day, you're the
9 lead investigator?

10 A Yes.

11 Q And so you are responsible?

12 A Yes.

13 Q Okay. And so in your role as lead investigator, one
14 of the -- one of the responsibilities that you're going to
15 take on is reviewing everybody else's work, correct?

16 A Yes, sir -- not reviewing it as far as approving of
17 it, but to keep yourself abreast of what the other
18 investigators are doing and their findings.

19 Q Right. Because, again, you want to make sure as you
20 delegate out assignments, things are not missed, correct?

21 A Yes, sir.

22 Q And you want to make sure nothing is overlooked?

23 A Yes, sir.

24 Q Right. So in your role as lead investigator, you
25 will watch all of the interviews, correct?

1 A Yes, sir.

2 Q You won't just rely on the interviews that you've
3 done, correct?

4 A That's correct. .

5 Q You'll review the interviews that other people have
6 done?

7 A Yes, sir.

8 Q Right. Interviews that investigators within your
9 department have done?

10 A Yes.

11 Q Interviews that investigators from Fountain Inn would
12 have done?

13 A Yes, sir.

14 Q All right. And interviews that the sheriff's office
15 would have done?

16 A Yes.

17 Q All right. Now, I owe you an apology. I think I
18 disparaged you earlier in front of Mr. Meadors and the
19 jury here. I asked Mr. Roper when he was on the stand
20 about you not advising him of his rights. Ms. Abee
21 cleared that up. When you interviewed Mr. Roper at three
22 o'clock in the morning, you did advise him of his rights,
23 correct?

24 A Yes, sir.

25 Q But he was interviewed a second time on the 26th of

1 October, correct?

2 A I -- you'd have to show me a supplement on that.

3 Q Sure. And I don't think you actually went and
4 observed, I think it was Investigator Schofield, but he
5 was later interviewed by Fountain Inn?

6 A Okay.

7 Q Okay. Now, let's switch a little bit to this
8 investigation, okay? One of the things that came up was
9 the topic of a life insurance policy?

10 A Yes.

11 Q All right. So you set out to investigate whether or
12 not there was a life insurance policy, correct?

13 A Yes, I did.

14 Q All right. And in your supplemental report that you
15 wrote -- and, again, your supplementals were thorough,
16 accurate and complete, correct?

17 A I would hope so.

18 Q So, again, in your supplemental report at the end of
19 November, you detailed steps that you took to investigate
20 whether or not there was a life insurance policy, correct?

21 A Yes.

22 Q All right. And so as part of your investigation, you
23 e-mailed the U.S. Army Human Resources?

24 A Yes.

25 Q And you requested any information about a life

1 insurance policy on Cati Blauvelt, correct?

2 A Yes, sir.

3 Q And they advised you to fill out what's called a form
4 180?

5 A Yes, sir.

6 Q And they advised you to file that form 180 through
7 the FOIA office?

8 A Yes.

9 Q And you did that?

10 A I did.

11 Q And then you wrote another supplemental report around
12 the middle of December, correct?

13 A I take your word for it.

14 Q All right. And in that supplemental report, you
15 detailed the response back to that FOIA request. Do you
16 recall that?

17 A You'd have to show it to me to reference it.

18 Q Do you remember when we talked about this the other
19 day?

20 A Yes, sir.

21 Q Do you remember I showed you the response back from
22 the Army that said they don't have information about a
23 policy, no policy exist?

24 A Yes.

25 Q So you got an e-mail back from the U.S. Army that

1 said no policy for Cati Blauvelt existed?

2 A Yes, sir.

3 Q And they referred you to the DMDC, the Defense
4 Manpower Data Center, correct?

5 A I don't recall that part.

6 Q But you do recall getting something back that said no
7 policy existed?

8 A Yes, sir.

9 Q Now, throughout this investigation, you started by --
10 let me start that over.

11 On the 26th of October, you went to do a death
12 notification, correct?

13 A Yes, sir.

14 Q You went to John Blauvelt's office?

15 A Yes, sir.

16 Q And he was there?

17 A He was.

18 Q And he sat down with you?

19 A He did.

20 Q And Ms. Abee asked you on the second of November, you
21 requested that he come to the police station?

22 A That's correct.

23 Q All right. He showed up?

24 A He did.

25 Q You executed a search warrant for his car?

1 A Yes.

2 Q He gave you the keys?

3 A He did.

4 Q You executed a search warrant for his phone?

5 A Yes, sir.

6 Q He turned over his phone to you?

7 A Yes, he did.

8 Q You executed a search warrant for his DNA?

9 A Yes, sir.

10 Q You took a buccal swab from him?

11 A Captain Schofield, actually, physically took it.

12 Q But y'all were able to execute a search warrant?

13 A We were.

14 Q He opened his mouth and let somebody swab around?

15 A Yes, sir.

16 Q All right. As Ms. Abee asked you, he was gone for a
17 while? He was gone for a long time?

18 A Yes, sir.

19 Q He left around the early part of November, didn't he?

20 A Yes.

21 Q You didn't, actually, seek a warrant for his arrest
22 until November 18th, though, did you?

23 A That's correct.

24 Q Now, you're able to -- in your role as an
25 investigator, you're able to go to the Court and request

1 search warrants for various things that you want to
2 search, correct?

3 A Yes, sir.

4 Q You're able to get a search warrant for phones?

5 A Yes, sir.

6 Q DNA?

7 A If we have probable cause, yes.

8 Q Cars?

9 A Yes, sir.

10 Q At what point in time, did you ever get a search
11 warrant for ■ South Kings Drive in Fountain Inn?

12 A I didn't.

13 Q You never got a search warrant. That's where John
14 was residing, correct?

15 A Yes, sir.

16 Q All right. You could have -- if you had gone to that
17 house, you could have seen the kind of knives that were in
18 the drawers?

19 A That --

20 Q Potentially?

21 A I don't know what he keeps in his drawers.

22 Q Right, because you didn't do into that house, did
23 you?

24 A Right, because I didn't have anything linking me to
25 the fact that there would be evidence in his home.

1 Q It was his residence, correct?

2 A Yes.

3 MR. NEELY: One second.

4 (Pause.)

5 BY MR. NEELY:

6 Q You were informed that he had a Yukon, a GMC Yukon?

7 A Yes, sir.

8 Q You could have gotten a search warrant for that Yukon
9 to see if there was any evidence in that, correct?

10 A If I had information that led me to believe it was
11 involved in a crime.

12 Q Okay. But you never did get a search warrant for
13 that Yukon?

14 A No, I didn't.

15 Q Okay. Now, between you and the other investigators,
16 y'all interviewed about 25 different people?

17 A That's a rough estimate.

18 Q Rough estimate. All right. We've heard a little bit
19 during this trial about a man named Zach Lewis?

20 A Yes, sir.

21 Q That's somebody that's been testified to that Cati
22 and Zach were in a relationship for about two months prior
23 to her death?

24 A That's to the best of my knowledge, yes.

25 Q And that's somebody she met through Wayne Roper?

1 A Yes.

2 Q And Zach told you that they saw each other literally
3 everyday?

4 A I don't remember if those were his exact words.

5 Q Okay. Now, he told you on the day of Cati's
6 disappearance that y'all believed that she passed away, he
7 didn't see her that day, correct?

8 A Correct.

9 Q Because he was starting a new job?

10 A Yes.

11 Q All right. Now, I believe that interview lasted
12 approximately 12 minutes. Does that sound about right?

13 A I couldn't recall that exact information.

14 Q Now, at what point during that interview did you seek
15 confirmation of his employment?

16 A I don't recall that I did.

17 Q Okay. You and Ms. Abee talked about -- I believe
18 what you said was you seized phones from Hargrove, Roper
19 and other folks in the case. At what point in time did
20 you seize Mr. Lewis's phone?

21 A I didn't.

22 Q All right. At what point in time did you get a
23 search warrant for Mr. Lewis's DNA?

24 A I didn't.

25 Q At what point did you ask him to consent to give a

1 DNA swab?

2 A I didn't. There was no reason to.

3 Q At what point did you ask him to provide you with his
4 fingerprints?

5 A I didn't.

6 Q At what point did you get a search warrant for his
7 car?

8 A I did not.

9 Q All right. Now, another one of these people that you
10 interviewed, it's been testified that he was in the friend
11 group, a young man named Kameron Vaughn?

12 A Yes, sir.

13 Q And he's got an interesting spelling to his name.
14 It's Kameron spelled K-A-M-E-R-O-N.

15 A Yes.

16 Q Do you remember sitting down and talking with him?

17 A Yes, sir.

18 Q Now, again, this was another one that was about a
19 12-minute interview. He was in this friend group,
20 correct?

21 A Yes, sir.

22 Q And this is somebody that had been out to this
23 abandoned house?

24 A Yes.

25 Q And this is somebody that knew Cati?

1 A Yes, sir.

2 Q All right. Do you recall that your very first
3 question to this young man was about John Blauvelt?

4 A I don't recall, but if that's what you're reading.

5 Q And every question, actually, throughout this entire
6 interview was about John Blauvelt?

7 A Okay.

8 Q Now, you're the lead investigator on this case at
9 this point in time, correct? Not now, but back then?

10 A Yes, sir.

11 Q When you're conducting this interview?

12 A Yes.

13 Q So you are aware of all of the evidence that's been
14 collected?

15 A As much as I've been updated, yes.

16 Q Okay. And so there's been testimony from our -- from
17 Chelsie Wills, who was the forensic technician on the
18 scene, that she collected a Powerade bottle that night
19 that said Kameron V on it, okay?

20 A Yes, sir.

21 Q And you interviewed him, right?

22 A Yes, sir.

23 Q At what point in time did you ask him why a bottle
24 with his name on it was 18 feet from a large pool of blood
25 at the crime scene?

1 A There was so much trash at that scene and he was a
2 known person that frequented that location that, you know,
3 it wasn't a damning piece of evidence.

4 Q So the answer is -- so you never asked him that .
5 question, did you?

6 A Not to my recollection.

7 Q And at no point in time did you ask him to provide
8 you with his fingerprints, did you?

9 A No, sir.

10 Q His DNA?

11 A No, sir.

12 Q His phone?

13 A No, sir.

14 Q You never even asked him where he was the night of --
15 or the evening of October 24th, did you?

16 A I don't recall.

17 Q You didn't?

18 A Okay.

19 MR. NEELY: One moment, Your Honor.

20 (Pause.)

21 BY MR. NEELY:

22 Q Just a couple more questions for you.

23 A Sure.

24 Q On the 26th, you went to -- on the 28th, you sat down
25 and you interviewed Crystal Tucker, do you recall that?

1 A Yes.

2 Q She was a roommate of John's at the time?

3 A That's correct.

4 Q Do you recall telling her that you have other
5 suspects because you don't want to get tunnel vision
6 because when you get tunnel vision, that's when you make
7 mistakes because you overlook things that are obvious?

8 A I don't recall making that statement, but if it's on
9 record, it's on record.

10 Q Okay. The last thing I want to ask you about, you're
11 doing -- over the course of your investigation, you
12 testified that you're doing everything you can to solve
13 this crime, correct?

14 A Yes.

15 Q And so one of the tools that law enforcement often
16 uses is Crime Stoppers?

17 A Yes, sir.

18 Q Right. And it's -- it's a tool for citizens in the
19 community to anonymously report information, correct?

20 A Yes.

21 Q All right. In this case, our Crime Stoppers liaison
22 was Investigator Donnelly, correct?

23 A I believe so, yes, sir.

24 Q So a citizen calls in, reports a tip anonymously,
25 right?

1 A Yes, they can.

2 Q And then it gets forwarded to Officer Donnelly for
3 investigation?

4 A Yes.

5 Q And he's supposed to follow up on that lead?

6 A Right.

7 Q Right. Now, in this case that we have here, you
8 responded out on the night of the 26th of October,
9 correct?

10 A To where?

11 Q To the abandoned house?

12 A Yes, sir.

13 Q All right. And law enforcement, not necessarily you,
14 but law enforcement stayed out at the crime scene for 16
15 hours approximately?

16 A That sounds right.

17 Q You weren't there for all of that, you started
18 conducting interviews and doing other things?

19 A Yes, sir.

20 Q But all in all, law enforcement stayed out at the
21 crime scene for about 16 hours that day?

22 A Yes, sir.

23 Q The scene was processed?

24 A Yes.

25 Q Pictures were taken?

1 A Yes.

2 Q Evidence was collected?

3 A Yes.

4 Q Never collected on the 26th were Cati Blauvelt's
5 shoes, right?

6 A I don't recall them being located that day.

7 Q Okay. Now, that -- that -- her shoes and other
8 items, those were recovered on the first of November,
9 right?

10 A Like I said, I don't have the exact dates with me,
11 but if that's what you're reciting.

12 Q Now, on the 29th of October, three days before her
13 shoes were found -- and, again, you're the lead
14 investigator, so you would have reviewed everything,
15 correct?

16 A Yes, sir.

17 Q So you would have reviewed a Crime Stoppers tip that
18 comes in on the 29th of October about a Jeep driving --

19 MS. ABEE: Objection, Your Honor, hearsay.

20 THE COURT: Mr. Neely.

21 MR. NEELY: Your Honor, I'm not going to the truth of
22 the matter asserted, I'm going to their investigation and
23 what they did and didn't do.

24 THE COURT: But you're asking what was said --
25 whether somebody called in, right?

1 MR. NEELY: Oh, I don't know whether it's true or
2 not, Your Honor. I'm --

3 THE COURT: Rephrase it and I'll see. Rephrase it.
4 Sustained.

5 MS. ABEE: Thank you.

6 BY MR. NEELY:

7 Q Did a Crime Stoppers tip come in about a Jeep driving
8 through the crime scene?

9 A I don't know that it was driving through the crime
10 scene?

11 Q If I showed you the tip, would it refresh your
12 recollection?

13 A Sure.

14 MS. ABEE: And, Your Honor, we would just ask to see
15 what Mr. Neely is showing opposing counsel [sic].

16 BY MR. NEELY:

17 Q So on the 29th of October, a Crime Stoppers tip comes
18 in about a Jeep driving through that property, correct?

19 A The information that was given stated that what they
20 had seen was on the 29th.

21 Q Okay. And then on the first of November, Cati's
22 shoes are found?

23 A Yes, sir.

24 Q All right. And then we heard when you were on
25 direct, Hannah Thompson gave an interview in December of

1 2016 and, ultimately, it led to you calling public works
2 and draining the flood inside of the basement?

3 A Yes.

4 Q And Cati's phone was found?

5 A Yes.

6 Q At what point in time as the lead investigator did
7 you delegate the task or do yourself the task of following
8 up on this Crime Stoppers tip?

9 A Off the top of my head, I don't know who worked this
10 lead.

11 Q If I told you that nobody worked it, does that sound
12 correct?

13 A That wouldn't be what I would want to hear.

14 Q But it's what happened. Okay.

15 MR. NEELY: Nothing further, Your Honor.

16 THE COURT: Any redirect?

17 MS. ABEE: Yes, Your Honor.

18 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

19 BY MS. ABEE:

20 Q Investigator Morecraft, Mr. Neely just talked to you
21 about a Crime Stoppers tip, okay. And let's kind of get
22 some of those details out there because it's a little
23 muddy. That tip referenced activity at the abandoned
24 house on October the 29th of 2016; is that right?

25 A Yes.

1 Q Okay. And to just clarify, Cati's body was located
2 when?

3 A On the 26th.

4 Q And the last time she was seen alive was on what day?

5 A The 24th.

6 Q So she had already been located, the scene had been
7 processed and then this Crime Stoppers tip comes in about
8 somebody being at the scene; is that right?

9 A And the scene had been released.

10 Q Tell us what that means, when the scene is released.

11 A It means we're no longer conducting an active
12 investigation at the scene. We don't have personnel on
13 the scene and have done all the processing at that time to
14 the best of our ability, to the best of our knowledge.

15 Q So can anyone just walking the street kind of walk
16 back up to that abandoned house at that point in time?

17 A Yes.

18 Q And had to your knowledge news articles already been
19 released about Cati's body being found there?

20 A Yes.

21 Q So anyone reading the news would know that was a
22 crime scene at one time, right?

23 A Yes.

24 Q Okay. Is it unusual for people to be interested in
25 looking at crime scenes and stuff like that?

1 A Not at all.

2 Q And Mr. Neely just talked about Cati Blauvelt's shoes
3 then being subsequently found on November the first. And
4 I want to talk about that a little bit. Were they ever
5 confirmed to be Cati Blauvelt's shoes? Could anyone ever
6 say yes, these are her shoes?

7 A I don't believe so.

8 Q They were just shoes located at the property, right?

9 A Yes, ma'am.

10 Q And I think they were maybe black shoes that may have
11 been consistent with something someone at PetSmart would
12 wear; is that your recollection?

13 A Yes.

14 Q But no one, Ms. Piver, no one ever said yes, these
15 are Cati's shoes?

16 A Correct.

17 Q And then you were there when the crime scene was
18 searched originally on October the 26th for a little bit,
19 right?

20 A Yes.

21 Q And it was very dark, wasn't it?

22 A During part of the time I was there.

23 Q And Chelsie Wills testified earlier that she had a
24 head lamp on. Do you remember any other big pole lights
25 or anything like that being on?

1 A No.

2 Q And then the area surrounding this abandoned house,
3 is it fair to say that it is dark, overgrown --

4 A Very much so.

5 Q -- foliage, okay. And so the only light that anyone
6 had to locate items would have been Chelsie Wills with her
7 head lamp or flashlights?

8 A Correct.

9 Q And then, finally, I went to talk just a little bit
10 about the tunnel vision that Mr. Neely talked about,
11 specifically, with Zach Lewis and Kameron Vaughn. I
12 believe you interviewed Zach Lewis on October the 28th.
13 So that would have been two days after Cati's body would
14 have been found; is that fair?

15 A Yes.

16 Q Three days after you had already been talking to
17 people and collecting and gathering evidence in the case?

18 A Yes.

19 Q And then Kameron Vaughn was talked to on October the
20 30th, so that would have been four days after Cati's body
21 was located; is that right?

22 A Yes.

23 Q And six days since the last time anybody saw her
24 alive?

25 A Right.

1 Q And is it fair to say that although you keep an open
2 mind throughout your investigation, you've got to let the
3 evidence lead you certain places; is that fair?

4 A Exactly.

5 MS. ABEE: Your Honor, I have no further questions.

6 THE COURT: Any recross?

7 MR. NEELY: One moment, Your Honor.

8 (Pause.)

9 RECROSS-EXAMINATION

10 BY MR. NEELY:

11 Q Now, again, as the lead investigator, you would have
12 reviewed all the other investigators' reports, correct?

13 A As quickly and as much as possible.

14 Q Now, Ms. Abee just asked you that nobody ever
15 confirmed that those were Cati Blauvelt's shoes that were
16 found on the first?

17 A She did say that, yes, sir.

18 Q All right. I'm going to show you -- again, this is a
19 report that you reviewed as lead investigator, Officer
20 Donnelly's report. Do you see where it talks about the
21 victim's mother?

22 A Yeah. Do you want me to read it?

23 Q No, just -- she does, in fact, confirm those are
24 Cati's shoes, doesn't she?

25 A Yeah, his supplement states that a photograph was

1 shown to the mother and she did confirm it was Cati's
2 shoe.

3 MR. NEELY: Okay. Thank you.

4 THE COURT: Anything else, Ms. Abee?

5 MS. ABEE: No, Your Honor.

6 THE COURT: You may step down.

7 Thank you, sir.

8 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

9 THE COURT: All right. Next witness.

10 MS. ABEE: Your Honor, may we approach briefly?

11 THE COURT: Yeah.

12 (WHEREUPON, a bench conference was held.)

13 THE COURT: All right. Ladies and gentlemen, the
14 next witness is going to be a little bit longer, so we're
15 going to go ahead and take our break now.

16 So, please, don't discuss the case.

17 (WHEREUPON, the jury was excused from open court at
18 approximately 2:52 p.m.)

19 THE COURT: All right. We'll be in recess. We'll
20 take about a ten-minute break.

21 (WHEREUPON, a break was taken.)

22 THE COURT: Bring them in.

23 (WHEREUPON, the jury came into open court at
24 approximately 3:17 p.m.)

25 THE COURT: You may call your next witness.

1 MS. ABEE: Thank you, Your Honor.

2 The State calls Jim Perry.

3 THE CLERK: Mr. Perry, please, come forward.

4 If you'd, please, pause at the end of the bench,
5 place your left hand on the Bible and raise your right
6 hand.

7 WHEREUPON,

8 JAMES PHILLIP PERRY,

9 after first having been duly sworn, testified as follows:

10 THE CLERK: Thank you.

11 Please be seated.

12 And, please, state your name for the record.

13 THE WITNESS: James Phillip Perry.

14 THE CLERK: Thank you, sir.

15 DIRECT EXAMINATION

16 BY MS. ABEE:

17 Q And Mr. Perry, go ahead and tell us all what you do
18 for a living?

19 A I'm an investigator with the Greenville County
20 Sheriff's Office.

21 Q How long have you been in law enforcement?

22 A Forty-two years.

23 Q And how many of those 42 years have you been with the
24 Greenville County Sheriff's Office?

25 A Twenty-nine.

1 Q What division are you currently assigned to or what
2 section?

3 A I'm assigned to the specialized investigation
4 division, which includes the crimes against children and the
5 I-cat, which is the internet crimes against children. And
6 in that position, I do cell phone and computer forensics,
7 dealing with online predators, child pornography. But we,
8 also, handle all the other crimes that happen within
9 Greenville County and with other agencies. And because
10 our equipment is so expensive, other agencies, smaller
11 agencies can't afford to have it. So we assist other
12 agencies when they have a need for cell phone forensics.

13 Q And when you say cell phone and computer forensics,
14 what does that mean?

15 A It means we're going to image the device, we're going
16 to load it into a software program. And once we load it
17 into the software program, then we're able to create a
18 report to give to the investigators for their continuing
19 investigate.

20 Q So is it fair to say what you do is you get these
21 devices, you plug them into some sort of software and then
22 it kind of extracts what's in that device, puts it in a
23 computer system for you to kind of look at, filter
24 through, stuff like that?

25 A That's correct.

1 Q All right. I'm following you, Investigator Perry.

2 Approximately how many of these extractions would you
3 say you've done.

4 A Well, the last time I checked on my spreadsheet, I
5 was at 2,600 from 2017.

6 Q Okay. So just since 2017, you've done approximately
7 2600?

8 A Correct.

9 Q All right. Now, were you asked to image some devices
10 in this case?

11 A I was.

12 Q Okay. And we've heard from Investigator Morecraft in
13 this case, specifically, about two phones that I want to
14 talk to you about. One is an iPhone 6 and one's an LG.
15 You heard the Defendant's phone, okay?

16 A Correct.

17 Q So I want to talk to you a little bit about those.
18 Now, in full disclosure, have you and I met before?

19 A Yes, we have.

20 Q And have we gone through kind of the imaging of those
21 devices?

22 A We did.

23 Q And have we kind of gone through those reports?

24 A We did.

25 Q Okay. And is it fair to say, Investigator Perry,

1 that when you're imaging these devices, you're just
2 creating the pure copy of it; is that right?

3 A Not a pure copy.

4 Q Okay, explain that to us.

5 A A copy of it, yes.

6 Q So to the best of what can be extracted out of the
7 device?

8 A That's correct.

9 Q Do you have the ability to manipulate what the report
10 says in terms of putting things there that weren't on the
11 phone?

12 A No. Once you image the phone and load it into the
13 program, there's no changing any of the data that's on the
14 phones as it is presented.

15 Q So what we see here, what we're going to walk through
16 are things that were, actually, contained on these cell
17 phones?

18 A That is correct.

19 Q And is it fair to say that sometimes you can't
20 recover everything on a phone?

21 A Absolutely.

22 Q Okay. But in you and I meeting, these are things
23 that we've discussed and reports that I've asked you to
24 kind of prepare; is that fair, in conjunction with my
25 office?

1 A That is correct.

2 MS. ABEE: All right. Your Honor, I'm showing
3 opposing counsel what's been pre-marked as State's Exhibit
4 No. 76, 77, 78, 79 and 80.

5 I'm approach approaching the witness.

6 BY MS. ABEE:

7 Q Okay. Investigator Perry, I'm showing you what's
8 been marked as State's Exhibit No. 76.

9 A Okay.

10 Q State's Exhibit No. 77, 78, 79, and 80. And other
11 than my sticky notes to help me remember what's contained
12 in these reports, have these been altered in any way?

13 A No.

14 Q And is this a fair and accurate representation of
15 information and data that's contained on phones you were
16 asked to image in this case?

17 A It is.

18 MS. ABEE: Your Honor, the State moves State's
19 Exhibit Nos. 76 through 80 into evidence.

20 THE COURT: Any objection?

21 MR. MEADORS: Without objection.

22 THE COURT: State's Exhibit No. 76 through 80
23 admitted into evidence without objection.

24 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibit Nos. 76 through 80 were
25 admitted into evidence.)

1 BY MS. ABEE:

2 Q Investigator Perry, I first want to talk about that
3 iPhone 6 that was located and has been determined to
4 belong to the victim, Cati Blauvelt, in this case. Were
5 you able to look through that phone?

6 A I was.

7 Q And in that, did you locate a photo from October the
8 24th of 2016?

9 A I did.

10 MS. ABEE: Permission to publish, Your Honor.

11 THE COURT: You may.

12 BY MS. ABEE:

13 Q And I'm going to show you what's already been
14 admitted as State's Exhibit No. 1. Do you recognize this
15 photo?

16 A I do.

17 Q And was this a photo that was contained on Cati
18 Blauvelt's phone?

19 A Correct.

20 Q And I'm going to show you now State's Exhibit No. 76.
21 Was there information contained on the phone that told us
22 when this photo was created on the phone?

23 A There is. It contains metadata.

24 Q Okay. And so what we're seeing here are those -- is
25 that image, right?

1 A I'm sorry?

2 Q What we're seeing here on these thumbnails right
3 here, that's that image I just showed you in State's
4 Exhibit No. 1?

5 A Correct.

6 Q And tell us the time and the date that this photo was
7 created?

8 A That photo was created on October 24th, 2016 at 4:17
9 p.m.

10 Q Okay. So this photo right here?

11 A That is correct.

12 Q Was 4:17 on October the 24th, 2016?

13 A Correct.

14 Q And to your knowledge after your review of Cati's
15 phone, was there anything else on the phone after that
16 time?

17 A Not that I recall anything being on there.

18 Q And you, also, pulled some information from an LG, I
19 think, V10; does that sound familiar?

20 A The V10?

21 Q Yes.

22 A Yes.

23 Q Now, tell us what the timeline feature is in
24 Cellebrite. And kind of explain what Cellebrite is. I
25 don't think we've used that word yet, so kind of explain

1 it to you.

2 A Cellebrite is the forensic tool and program that we
3 use to extract the cell phone image. And then we take it,
4 load it into our computer, at which time we use what's
5 called UFED physical analyzer. We load it into there. It
6 opens it up and gives it to us in a format that we can
7 search through it and see what's on there.

8 Q So Cellebrite is kind of what helps you extract the
9 information and the data out?

10 A It's what does it, yeah.

11 Q What does it, okay. So when we see in these State's
12 Exhibits where it says Cellebrite up at the top, that's
13 just --

14 A The program.

15 Q The program used, okay. So explain to us now, what
16 is the timeline feature in Cellebrite?

17 A The timeline feature in Cellebrite is -- it breaks
18 down in the phone how things happen on the phone. So if
19 you sent a text message and then you receive a phone call
20 and then you take a picture or something, it puts it in
21 chronological order as how it's happening on the phone.

22 Q So it, basically, gives us an opportunity to see kind
23 of a chronological view of what that person is doing in
24 regards to their phone that day?

25 A That is correct.

1 Q When you and I met together, Investigator Perry, did
2 we take some time to look at the Defendant's John Blauvelt
3 timeline that day?

4 A We did.

5 Q And I'm going to show you what's been entered as
6 State's Exhibit No. 78, which is this timeline, okay?

7 So throughout these columns, this one right here says
8 time stamp, right? Is this the time that that activity is
9 happening?

10 A That is correct.

11 Q And beside it, we see party. Is that going to tell
12 us who's communicating, who's doing what in this case?

13 A Correct.

14 Q And then over here in this description column, is
15 that going to give us any information we know -- or what
16 does that give us?

17 A It's going to give you the -- like, the source text
18 now, that's going to tell you what app was used and that's
19 going to give you the content of that.

20 Q Okay. And then over here in type to the far left,
21 that's going to tell us what it is; is that fair?

22 A Correct.

23 Q So first, we see call log. So that would be a call
24 that somebody received?

25 A Correct.

1 Q And you and I have had the opportunity to look
2 through this; is that right?

3 A That is correct.

4 Q So I'm going to flip through. Does this go in
5 chronological order?

6 A Yes.

7 Q It looks like we've got some activity starting on Mr.
8 Blauvelt's phone at 9:26 in the morning. Is that what
9 that says at the top?

10 A That is correct.

11 Q So we're going to go on down. All of this is
12 activity that's happening on the 24th. Flipping to Page
13 3. Flipping to Page 4.

14 And Investigator Perry, by the time we get down to
15 the end of Page 4, it's still looks like we're only at --
16 let's see, what's this time down here if you can see that
17 for us? Down here on 10:24 -- on Page 4, we're still only
18 at what time.

19 A You're at 11:11 a.m.

20 Q Okay. So all that other activity we just flipped
21 through, all of that has happened before 11:11 a.m. on the
22 24th?

23 A Correct.

24 Q Now, keep flipping here to Page 5. And we, again,
25 see 11:16, 11:17, 12:09, 12:19, 12:24. But then we see a

1 gap here between 12:24 p.m. and 5:03 p.m. What does that
2 mean?

3 A It means there was no activity on the phone.

4 Q Okay. So four pages -- or, I guess -- yeah, four
5 pages of activity before, say, 11:00, but once we get to
6 Page 5 and noon on October the 24th of 2016, there's no
7 activity on the phone until 5:03; is that right?

8 A That is correct.

9 Q And I want to talk about what this 5:03 activity is
10 right here. I'll slide it over. So it's section 71. So
11 71, this is what type of information?

12 A It's an outgoing call.

13 Q So at 5:03 p.m., there's an outgoing call to who in
14 his phone?

15 A It's going to Hannah.

16 Q Okay. How long does that call last?

17 A Just one second.

18 Q Okay. And then in line 72 right after it, what type
19 of communication is this?

20 A That's an instant message.

21 Q And what's the time stamp on that?

22 A It's 5:04.

23 Q And then we see from, which would be this phone to
24 this number right here; is that fair?

25 A That is correct.

1 Q Okay. And then what does that say? What's the
2 content of that text?

3 A Check out your Snapchat chat, LOL.

4 Q And so that was line 72. I'm going to go down now to
5 line 73. Line 73 is what?

6 A Another instant message.

7 Q And that outgoing means what?

8 A Means it's being sent from that phone.

9 Q Okay. So instant message coming at what time?

10 A 5:04.

11 Q And it is from this to who? What name is that?

12 A To Hannah.

13 Q Okay. And then we know that's used in what app?

14 A That is a Snapchat.

15 Q Okay. So we've got no activity from 12:24 to 5:03
16 and then at 5:03 -- sorry, 5:03:59, a call to Hannah,
17 5:04:24, a text now to Hannah asking her to check her Snap
18 and then 5:04:38 a Snap to Hannah. Am I accurately saying
19 that?

20 A That's correct.

21 Q And Investigator Perry, if I'm wrong, please, correct
22 me, okay?

23 A I will.

24 Q Now, I see here this red yes. What does this red yes
25 mean?

1 A That indicates that that had been deleted off the
2 phone.

3 Q So does this Cellebrite program have the ability to
4 retrieve some deleted items?

5 A It does. Back then, it's -- getting deleted stuff
6 off of cell phones, it all depends on make, model, what
7 year we do it in. The further we've gotten to today's
8 technology, we're less likely to get deleted messages
9 nowadays because of the way the operating systems are.
10 But back then, we are able to get deleted -- at least, the
11 metadata on a deleted Snapchat.

12 Q And so we have these kind of back to back to back,
13 5:03, 5:04, 5:04 and then we see another gap in time.
14 What's the next time something happens on this timeline.
15 So we stopped here at 5:04, what's our next time?

16 A 6:21 p.m.

17 Q So we again have a little bit of a gap, right, from
18 5:04 to 6:21?

19 A Correct.

20 Q Then I'm going to continue on and show you -- or, I
21 guess, the rest of this is kind of other activity that the
22 Defendant did that day; is that fair?

23 A Correct.

24 Q And kind of into the next day as well. And we're
25 going to go through a little bit of those or some of those

1 a little bit more. I show you State's Exhibit No. 77. We
2 just referenced a Snapchat at 5:04. Now, tell us a little
3 bit about Snapchat. What do you know about it?

4 A I know I don't have it on my phone.

5 Q Aside from you not having it on your phone, as far as
6 retrieving information from Snapchat, tell us a little bit
7 about that?

8 A It just -- it depends on what the user does with the
9 Snapchat when they -- when they're using it, they can
10 delete it. They can set it up to be deleted. It's just,
11 you know, a third party app. On your normal text between
12 two people that come with the phone, then you have other
13 apps that you can download to your phone.

14 Q Okay. And I'm going to publish now State's Exhibit
15 No. 77. So we saw kind of in one format this, Checkout
16 you're Snapchat, LOL, right? We just looked at that on
17 the timeline?

18 A Correct.

19 Q So this is kind of pulling that text message out,
20 right?

21 A Correct.

22 Q And, again, we see the timeline on that is still
23 5:04:24 p.m.?

24 A Correct.

25 Q I'm going to come up here and show you that Snapchat.

1 Now, do we have the content of that Snap?

2 A No.

3 Q Okay. And is that consistent with kind of the idea
4 of Snapchat?

5 A It is.

6 Q Okay. So what we know is that John Blauvelt sent a
7 Snapchat to Hannah at 5:04:38 p.m. that he deleted off his
8 phone, but we don't know the content of what it is?

9 A That is correct. All we know is that it was a
10 picture file.

11 Q Okay. Now, we talked about that Text Now where the
12 Defendant said, Check your Snapchat, LOL. Is Text -- kind
13 of tell us what Text Now is.

14 A I'm sorry?

15 Q Tell us what Text Now is if you're familiar with it?

16 A Again, it's just another app out there. A lot of
17 people feel secure with it because it's encrypted. So
18 that's a plus for some people to use it because it is.

19 Q So it's just another way to kind of text and
20 communicate back and forth with someone?

21 A Yeah.

22 Q And did you and I kind of look through some of those
23 Text Now conversations on the Defendant's phone?

24 A We did.

25 Q Did I ask you to kind of generate a report about some

1 of them?

2 A I did -- or you did.

3 Q I'm going to show you now what's been entered as
4 State's Exhibit No. 79. Now, in this report, we've got
5 some participants, right? So we see the owner, that would
6 be the owner of the phone?

7 A Correct.

8 Q And then we have a Hannah Thompson listed at this 864
9 number. Is that what that says?

10 A Correct.

11 Q Okay. What I want to do now, Investigator Perry, is
12 kind of go through some of this. So let's look at -- I'm
13 going to zoom out a little bit for us and then zoom back
14 in. So I'm seeing green and I'm seeing blue. From the
15 green, it appears to be that is the owner of the phone?

16 A That is correct.

17 Q So that would be the Defendant, John Blauvelt. So
18 John Blauvelt is in green. And then the other
19 participant, who we looked at as Hannah would be in blue;
20 is that right?

21 A That is correct.

22 Q Can you tell us the date of this conversation
23 starting?

24 A That is 10/19 of 2016 at 10:10 a.m.

25 Q So we're looking at October the 19th?

1 A Correct.

2 Q John says do you want to talk to me? Hannah responds
3 with, In person, so I'll wait. He says, Okay. It won't
4 be today then. The next text comes in still on what date?

5 A That comes in on 10/19.

6 Q Okay.

7 A October 19th, 2016 at 10:19.

8 Q So still part of this conversation, he responds with,
9 I promise you I'm not talking to Cati?

10 A Correct.

11 Q Next page, still the same conversation?

12 A Yes.

13 Q Hannah respond with, I'll leave you if you talk to
14 her, I swear. It looks like we get a response from the
15 Defendant that says, I know. I'm not and I won't.

16 A Correct.

17 Q Am I doing this correct? All right.

18 Continuing with October the 19th, again, from the
19 blue in Hannah, can you read that top one to us?

20 A It says, I can't let people treat me like shit
21 anymore and that's what you do when you talk to her.

22 Q Okay. And he responds with?

23 A I know.

24 Q And then?

25 A She's gone.

1 Q And we're still continuing. This is still what date?

2 A October 19th, 2016 at 10:20.

3 Q So all of this is still the same conversation we've
4. been reading. Continuing that conversation, the Defendant
5 responds with what?

6 A He responds with, I'm done with her.

7 Q And then?

8 A And Chyanne.

9 Q And then it looks like we get from Hannah something
10 that says, Okay?

11 A Yeah, she replies, Okay.

12 Q Now, I want you to look at the date and time of this
13 one. Are we still in the same conversation?

14 A It appears we are, yes.

15 Q So still on 10/19/2016?

16 A Right.

17 Q Still at 10:00 something in the morning, right?

18 A Right.

19 Q Mr. Blauvelt says what?

20 A He says, I promise.

21 Q Hannah responds with?

22 A I'm trusting you.

23 Q And then read us this next one.

24 A I'm going through with that thing, though, soon.

25 Q So I'm going through with that thing, though, soon?

1 A Uh-huh.

2 Q Is that still on 10/19?

3 A 10/19 at 10:24.

4 Q The next is, again, in the same conversation is what?

5 A He says, Like Friday or Saturday.

6 Q Hannah responds with?

7 A I'm going to be staying with you.

8 Q And he responds with?

9 A Good.

10 Q So Investigator Perry, this is a conversation that
11 you and I located we talked about from the Text Now
12 thread, right?

13 A Correct.

14 Q And all of this is going back and forth between the
15 Defendant and someone in his phone named Hannah, right?

16 A Right.

17 Q And this is all on October the 19th in the morning
18 hours?

19 A That is correct.

20 Q Okay. And it sounds like they're talking about some
21 issues with Cati. The Defendant says he's going through
22 with that thing soon, though. And she says, Okay, I'll be
23 staying with you. And he says, Good. Is that fair?

24 A That is correct.

25 Q Last thing I want to talk about, Investigator Perry,

1 does Cellebrite have the ability to look at your search
2 history? Like, if I open up Google Chrome and I Google
3 something?

4 A. Yes, it will capture that.

5 Q Okay. And did you and I take a look at John
6 Blauvelt's search history?

7 A We did.

8 Q And did we kind of prepare or have you prepare in
9 conjunction with our office a report of some items that
10 the Defendant had searched?

11 A That is correct.

12 Q What I want to do now, Investigator Perry, is publish
13 State's Exhibit No. 80 and talk about some of these
14 searches, okay?

15 A Okay.

16 Q And unlike the last one where we kind of started at
17 the beginning and went to the end, we're going to start in
18 reverse on this one, okay? So we're going to start at the
19 most recent searches and then kind of backtrack; is that
20 fair?

21 A Sure.

22 Q All right. I'll give you a heads up. So let's look
23 at November the 1st of 2016. So our time stamp is going
24 to be in this time stamp column; is that fair?

25 A That is correct.

1 Q So all of these times, this would be the time that
2 that activity is happening on Mr. Blauvelt's phone?

3 A That is correct.

4 Q And then when it says source, what does that mean?

5 A How we search, the browser we used.

6 Q And is Chrome a browser?

7 A Chrome.

8 Q And then when it says value, what does that mean?

9 A That's telling you what he has searched for.

10 Q And so, we're looking at the time he's searching
11 these things, that he's searching for them in Google
12 Chrome and then we can see what he's, actually, typing in?

13 A Correct.

14 Q So on 11/1 of 2016, what do we see here?

15 A You've got when can police get phone records.

16 Q Okay. And count these with me, Investigator Perry.
17 We see that one, two, three, four times. And then kind of
18 a different variation. What does this one say?

19 A When can police tap your phone.

20 Q So then five and six. Is that fair?

21 A That is correct.

22 Q Okay. So six times on November the 1st of 2016, he's
23 Googling when can police tap your phone or when can police
24 get phone records?

25 A That's correct.

1 Q Now, I'm going to kind of flip through the next pages
2 because I think they're going to look pretty similar here.
3 But from this date -- again, we're moving backwards.
4 We're moving closer to the time of Cati's death. So we
5 start seeing searches for what?

6 A He starts searching for her name in Simpsonville.

7 Q I'm going to turn the page to Page 3 of State's
8 Exhibit No. 80. And do we see that again?

9 A Yeah.

10 Q Okay.

11 A He changed up a little bit, but still.

12 Q Fox Carolina Blauvelt, Fox Carolina Blauvelt,
13 Blauvelt Greenville, Blauvelt Greenville, Blauvelt
14 Greenville, Blauvelt Greenville, Blauvelt Greenville,
15 Blauvelt Greenville. Unlike the more recent search we saw
16 where he said Cati Blauvelt, these just say what?

17 A Just last name.

18 Q Just last name. So all throughout these dates that
19 we see over here on the left-hand side, column 13 -- or
20 row 13, 14, 15, 16, he's Googling pretty frequently
21 Blauvelt Greenville on the 1st, on the 29th. We go down
22 to the 28th and that kind of continues, right?

23 A Correct.

24 Q We're going to stop here on row 24. And on
25 October 28th at 12:46 p.m., what does he search there?

1 A He searches what do I do if my wife dies.

2 Q And before that, again, going back into it, what is
3 he searching?

4 A (No response.)

5 Q Are we back to the Blauvelt Greenville?

6 A Correct.

7 Q I'm going to flip now to Page 4 of this report.
8 Starting in row 38, do we continue to see this Blauvelt
9 Greenville search?

10 A We do.

11 Q That continues down to row 55 where we see maybe a
12 flower delivery. Does that look right?

13 A Yes, 1800 Flowers -- or 1-800 Flowers, sorry.

14 Q Then picking back up at row 60, are we back to
15 Blauvelt Greenville?

16 A Correct.

17 Q Okay. So now we've got this search coming all the
18 way back to the 27th of October; is that fair?

19 A That is fair.

20 Q So as we move closer in time, we're seeing that he's
21 still kind of searching Blauvelt Greenville. I'm going to
22 flip now to Page 5. Starting up here at row 66, we still
23 have the same thing, Investigator Perry?

24 A Still searching the same thing.

25 Q Fox Carolina Blauvelt, WYFF News?

1 A It changes and goes to WYFF News, but not what
2 particularly he's looking for.

3 Q What date are we at now once we continue to move back
4 in time?

5 A 10/26.

6 Q And so we've received some information from
7 Investigator Morecraft that he notified the Defendant of
8 Cati Blauvelt's death at approximately 4:00 p.m. on
9 October the 26, okay?

10 A Okay.

11 Q So I want to look at that time frame here. Because
12 we're starting to see the search change a little bit. So
13 in between lines 92 and 93, would you agree with me that
14 that's when kind of four o'clock would happen?

15 A Yes.

16 Q Okay. So after four o'clock, after the Defendant has
17 been notified that his wife has been found dead, what does
18 he Google there at 5:08 p.m. at line 92?

19 A He Googles his own name.

20 Q Okay. He doesn't Google Cati Blauvelt; is that fair?

21 A That's correct.

22 Q We didn't see that until what November 1st or so?

23 A Somewhere in that neighborhood.

24 Q But the first thing he Googles after finding out that
25 his wife is dead is his name. Okay. Then I'm going to

1 flip now to Page 6. And on the 26th, looks like we're
2 still kind of Googling some Fox Carolina; is that fair?

3 A Correct.

4 Q And then on the 25th, we've got some Bluefield, West
5 Virginia being Googles here in lines 96 through 98?

6 A Correct.

7 Q And it looks like on the 24th at 7:00 p.m. Reddit,
8 and 11:00 a.m., Fountain Inn Police Department on the
9 24th?

10 A Correct.

11 Q Now, I really want to talk about these last few rows
12 here. And, again, we're moving back. So from 1:02 to
13 1:03, what date is that?

14 A That's 10/18 -- or October 18th, 2016 at 6:56.

15 Q And what is the Defendant Googling?

16 A He's looking for my airline miles don't show up.

17 Q And then the last thing I asked you to pull, focusing
18 back right before he starts Googling my airline miles
19 won't show up, on October the 18th of 2016, what is he
20 Googling?

21 A How to use Smith's knife sharpener.

22 Q And how many times does he Google that?

23 A Six.

24 Q So six different times on October the 18th, there is
25 some sort of entry or response to how to sharpen a knife

1 and how to use Smith's knife sharpener; is that fair?

2 A Correct.

3 MS. ABEE: Your Honor, I have no further questions
4 for this witness.

5 THE COURT: All right. Cross.

6 CROSS-EXAMINATION

7 BY MS. WALKER:

8 Q Good afternoon. You extracted data from the devices
9 that were provided to you?

10 A Correct.

11 Q And not from any other devices than the ones that
12 were given?

13 A Only ones that were given to me.

14 Q And this data shows the usage on that device?

15 A Correct.

16 Q Not the user?

17 A I'm sorry?

18 Q It shows the usage on the device, not who the user
19 was?

20 A Correct.

21 MS. WALKER: I have no further questions.

22 THE COURT: Any redirect?

23 MS. ABEE: No, Your Honor.

24 THE COURT: All right. You may step down.

25 MS. ABEE: And, Your Honor, we ask that this witness

1 be excused from his subpoena.

2 THE COURT: Any objection?

3 MR. NEELY: None, Your Honor.

4 THE COURT: All right. You are excused.

5 MR. MEADORS: Can we approach, please?

6 THE COURT: Yeah.

7 (WHEREUPON, a bench conference was held.)

8 THE COURT: All right. Ladies and gentlemen, we are
9 going to go ahead and just end for the day. This is a
10 good time to end for the day. So we'll start back at nine
11 o'clock in the morning. We will get going as we have
12 been. As you see, we don't slow down a whole lot. We
13 keep it moving and we'll do that tomorrow.

14 I'm going to excuse you. Let's be back tomorrow at
15 nine o'clock. I hope all of you have a good night.
16 Again, my warning, as you know, please, don't discuss the
17 case and do not watch any news until this case is over.

18 So I hope all of you have a good night.

19 (WHEREUPON, the jury was excused from open court at
20 approximately 3:54 p.m.)

21 THE COURT: All right. We'll adjourn until nine
22 o'clock in the morning.

23 Anything we need to take up from the State?

24 MS. ABEE: Nothing from the State, Your Honor.

25 THE COURT: Anything from the Defendant?

1 MR. NEELY: Nothing from the Defendant, Your Honor.

2 THE COURT: All right. We'll see y'all in the
3 morning.

4 Thursday, September 19, 2024

5 THE COURT: Good morning. Please be seated.

6 Any matters we need to take up before we bring in the
7 jury?

8 MR. MEADORS: Your Honor, just very briefly, this
9 next witness, one of the things she put in her statement,
10 written and audio -- well, summary in the audio, was that
11 Cati ruined his military career and that was all he ever
12 wanted to do. I've instructed her not to mention the DV.
13 I wanted to elicit that just because that's what he said
14 without tying it in. My cocounsel wanted to make sure,
15 and I do, too, that that doesn't offend the Court. But
16 I'm looking for guidance and we're happy to go either way.

17 THE COURT: Well, what's -- so what's the witness --

18 MR. MEADORS: That Cati Blauvelt just ruined his life
19 and his military career and that's all he ever wanted to
20 do. And I just wanted to bring it --

21 THE COURT: It doesn't mention -- let me hear from
22 the Defendant.

23 MS. WALKER: Your Honor, we would object to that
24 statement. I think the only thing to say that she would
25 be the tie in and the involvement of an arrest. That was

1 the whole argument we had at pretrial was how the
2 connection between his career and that to try and tie it
3 in would be a Lyle. And Your Honor ruled that, obviously,
4 it doesn't come in, which is the issue here. So I don't
5 think there's any other way to explain it. Nothing has
6 been elicited until now. So I think it would still be
7 inadmissible.

8 THE COURT: Yeah. Mr. Meadors, I understand why
9 you're trying to get it in. I appreciate that. I just
10 think it is -- although it's not mentioning the DV, I'm
11 keeping that out, and there's no testimony so far, at
12 least, about the military career and how it ruined his
13 military career and that could lead the jury to wonder. I
14 just think it's prejudicial. So I'm not going to allow
15 that. And even if it was probative, I think it's unfairly
16 prejudicial and would substantially outweigh the probative
17 value.

18 MR. MEADORS: That's why I brought it up. I didn't
19 want to --

20 THE COURT: I appreciate that.

21 MR. MEADORS: If I can just have 20 seconds to tell
22 her she can't say that.

23 THE BAILIFF: Your Honor, you want us to bring the
24 jury in?

25 THE COURT: Yeah, go ahead.

1 (WHEREUPON, the jury came into open court at
2 approximately 9:31 a.m.)

3 THE COURT: All right. Good morning, ladies and
4 gentlemen. I hope all of you had a good night. Sorry for
5 the little bit of delay, we just had system matters to
6 take up. Any time there's a delay, blame me.

7 With that, the State call its next witness.

8 MR. MEADORS: May it please the Court, the State
9 would call Allison Somerville.

10 THE CLERK: Ma'am, please, just pause right here.
11 Place your left hand on the Bible, raise your right hand.
12 WHEREUPON,

13 ALLISON SOMERVILLE,

14 after first having been duly sworn, testified as follows:

15 THE CLERK: Please be seated.

16 Please state your name for the record.

17 THE WITNESS: Allison Somerville.

18 DIRECT EXAMINATION

19 BY MR. MEADORS:

20 Q Spell your last name, please.

21 A Somerville, S-O-M-E-R-V-I-L-L-E.

22 Q Good morning, Ms. Somerville.

23 A Good morning.

24 Q Please tell the ladies and gentlemen of this jury
25 about Ally Somerville. Where are you from?

1 A I'm from Fountain Inn, born and raised.

2 Q Born and raised?

3 A Yes, sir.

4 Q Let's start, where did you go to school?

5 A Elementary school, I went to Fountain Inn. Middle
6 school, I went to Bryson Middle School and I went to
7 Hillcrest High School.

8 Q How -- most respectfully, how far did you go in high
9 school?

10 A My 11th grade year, I left and ended up getting my
11 GED.

12 Q And what did you do after high school?

13 A I had a baby. I had a baby after high school.

14 Q And not to pry, but that's what I do. How old is the
15 baby?

16 A He's seven. He just turned seven.

17 Q And in 2000 and -- is -- are you a little nervous
18 today?

19 A Yes.

20 Q Is your mama in the courtroom?

21 A Yes.

22 Q Is she here to support you?

23 A Yes.

24 Q After high school, you had a baby and you started
25 raising your baby?

1 A Yes, sir.

2 Q What I want to ask you -- I'm sorry. How did you get
3 to know the folks in this case? That's why we've got you
4 here today. Was it high school?

5 A Yes. So I met Chyanne my tenth grade year. We had
6 the same animal science class. And as soon as I met
7 Chyanne, she became like my sister.

8 Q And Chyanne is Cati's?

9 A Niece.

10 Q And is Chyanne pregnant now and can't travel?

11 A Yes.

12 Q Where is she living?

13 A She's living in San Diego.

14 Q And Chyanne is whose niece?

15 A Cati's.

16 Q And you got to know Chyanne how?

17 A From school. We were best friends in school.

18 Q From when? What grade?

19 A Tenth.

20 Q Did you know Cati then?

21 A I met -- I didn't know Cati, like, physically, but
22 when I first met Chyanne, she was -- Cati was going to
23 basic and they were writing letters. And Chyanne used to
24 always talk about how, you know, when Cati comes back, I
25 really want you to meet my aunt. She's my aunt, but she's

1 really my sister. They grew up together, you know, like,
2 really close in age. And all the letters they wrote each
3 other, like, she really wanted us to meet.

4 Q And did you, ultimately, meet her?

5 A I'm sorry?

6 Q You, ultimately, met Cati?

7 A Yes, sir.

8 Q And I think -- you were talking kind of fast there,
9 but I think you said when she went to basic?

10 A Yeah, she was in basic training.

11 Q Let me just ask you some of these other parties
12 involved here. Brandon or Crystal?

13 A Yes.

14 Q Gorto or Tucker?

15 A Yes.

16 Q You know them?

17 A I do.

18 Q Wayne?

19 A Wayne.

20 Q Rucker?

21 A Yes.

22 Q And the Defendant, John Blauvelt?

23 A Yes.

24 Q Take us from your relationship with Chyanne to ■
25 South Kings Drive, how did you end up getting to know the

1 Defendant, John Blauvelt, and ■ South Kings Drive?

2 A So he was the Army recruiter for our school. And I
3 met him through Chyanne there. And she told me that Cati
4 and John were -- you know, they were dating at the time.
5 And I remember, like, during lunch and stuff like that, he
6 would have his booth set out there and we would go and,
7 you know, eat our pizza. We ate Papa John's pizza at our
8 school and we would sit out there and talk to him and eat.
9 And that's how I met him there.

10 And after I ended up leaving high school, when John
11 and Cati moved into ■ South Kings Drive, shortly after
12 that, Chyanne was staying with them as well. I think I
13 remember when they moved there, actually, because I
14 remember Chyanne saying that she was going to help Cati
15 move her stuff over there.

16 Q And after that, is that when you started going over
17 there?

18 A Yes, sir.

19 Q And were you already out of the 11th grade or still
20 in school when you started going over there?

21 A So I was not going to school at the time, but Chyanne
22 was -- or I might have gone shortly after stopped going to
23 school when, like, they moved in there. Because I
24 remember Chyanne was still going to school when Chyanne
25 was living at ■ South Kings Drive, but I was not.

1 Q When you started going to ■ South Kings Drive, how
2 often would you go over there?

3 A Just about everyday.

4 Q And what did you do over there?

5 A (No response.)

6 Q Why did you go over there everyday?

7 A Because my best friend lived there, my sister.

8 Q Did y'all party?

9 A Yes.

10 Q Drink?

11 A Yes, sir.

12 Q Smoke marijuana?

13 A Yes, sir.

14 Q How old were you?

15 A 16.

16 Q And who all would be there participating and
17 partying?

18 A Me, Chyanne, Kimone, Cati, Wayne, Lucia, Kameron,
19 Victor and John.

20 Q And y'all just pretty much partied?

21 A Yes, sir.

22 Q And whose house was it?

23 A It was John's house.

24 Q I'm going to show you State's Exhibit No. 81?

25 A Yes, sir.

1 Q Do you recognize that and does it relate to what
2 you're talking about?

3 A Yes, sir.

4 Q What is State's Exhibit No. 81?

5 A (No response.)

6 Q What is this a picture of?

7 A Oh, that's a picture of ■ South Kings Drive.

8 Q The Defendant's and Cati Blauvelt's residence?

9 A Yes, sir.

10 Q And is this where you went about everyday once you
11 started going over there?

12 A Yes, sir.

13 Q Do you remember what year it was when you first went
14 over there? What part of the year?

15 A Probably around the beginning of 2016.

16 Q Could you have been there some in 2015, 2016?

17 A Yes.

18 Q Let me ask you this much, did there come a point
19 where John and Cati Blauvelt got married?

20 A Yes, sir. We drove them to their honeymoon. We
21 drove to the airport.

22 Q Had you been over there to that house prior to them
23 going on their honeymoon?

24 A Yes, sir.

25 Q So if they got married in December of 2015, you would

1 have been there prior to that?

2 A Yes, sir.

3 Q Is that fair?

4 A Yes.

5 Q You drove them to the airport?

6 A Yes.

7 Q They came back from their honeymoon?

8 A Uh-huh.

9 Q Did the relationship seem to change after that?

10 A Yes, it went downhill very quickly.

11 Q Fair to say it went south?

12 A Yes, very quickly.

13 Q And at some point after that --

14 MR. MEADORS: Beg the Court's indulgence.

15 (Pause.)

16 MR. MEADORS: Sorry, Judge.

17 THE COURT: All right.

18 BY MR. MEADORS:

19 Q Did there come a point when John Blauvelt moved out
20 for a while?

21 A Yes, sir.

22 Q And when he was out, was Cati still there?

23 A Yes, sir.

24 Q At ■ South Kings Drive?

25 A Yes, sir.

1 Q Where did John Blauvelt go when he moved out?

2 A He moved to the abandoned house.

3 Q How long did he stay there?

4 A Two weeks, around two weeks.

5 Q Was he just sleeping on the floor or did he have
6 something with him?

7 A A tent.

8 Q A tent?

9 A He had a tent and a sleeping bag.

10 Q When he -- did there come a time he came back to
11 South Kings Drive?

12 A Yes, sir.

13 Q And at that point, what did Cati do?

14 A I'm sorry?

15 Q What did Cati do when John Blauvelt came back to this
16 residence?

17 A She moved out. I believe she moved in with one of
18 her family members.

19 Q Okay. So after that, they were not living there
20 together at the same time?

21 A No, sir.

22 Q Did the Defendant seem to change after that?

23 A Yes.

24 Q In what way?

25 A In a negative way. I feel like everything -- it got

1 darker. If I could describe it, everything got darker.

2 Like, the whole mood, his mood, the mood around the house,

3 it all just got -- yeah.

4 Q Was he drinking?

5 A Yes, sir, heavy.

6 Q Did there come a point during this time period where

7 he mentioned something to you about Charleston?

8 A Yes, sir.

9 Q Tell these folks what he mentioned about Charleston,
10 please.

11 A So John asked me if I wanted to go Charleston one

12 day, like, for a weekend. And I was like, Yeah, I love

13 Charleston. Why do you want me to go to Charleston? It

14 was a weird question to ask. And he was like, Well, I

15 want you to take my car and my credit card and my phone

16 and go to Charleston, spend as much money as you want,

17 then come back in a couple days. And I said, Why? And he

18 said, Because I'm going to kill Cati. And he was like,

19 Don't listen to me, I'm drunk.

20 Q But he had that conversation with you?

21 A Yes, sir.

22 Q To take his phone, his car and his credit card to

23 Charleston?

24 A Yes, sir.

25 Q And did you know if he was serious at that point?

1 A I had no idea what to think honestly.

2 Q Did you go to Charleston?

3 A No, sir.

4 Q . And during these dark periods, you said -- did he
5 ever talk about just killing in general?

6 A Yes, sir.

7 Q What did he say?

8 A He said he was born to kill, good and bad people,
9 that he loved to kill. That's what he was born to do.

10 Q John Blauvelt told you he was born to kill?

11 A Yes, sir.

12 Q Good and bad people?

13 A . Good and bad people.

14 Q What was John's relationship with Hannah Thompson
15 during this time period, if any?

16 A Well, at first, she was part of our friend group, me
17 and Chyanne. I've known Hannah since middle school. And
18 when she was introduced to our friend group, she was like
19 all of the rest of us. But one night, we were all at the
20 abandoned house and Hannah and John disappeared and came
21 back, like -- it was when he had the red Tahoe, but they
22 came back, like, a couple hours later. And Hannah ended
23 up telling us that they went into the field beside the
24 abandoned house and had sex. And I couldn't believe it.
25 And from then on, it was -- John would say jump and Hannah

1 would say how high.

2 Q Well, I guess you've gone beyond my question.

3 A I'm sorry.

4 Q Did they start dating and moving in together?

5 A Yes.

6 Q Did she end up moving in with him?

7 A Yes, very quickly.

8 Q And when I say moving in, did he -- she end up going
9 in the same room with him?

10 A Yes, sir.

11 Q Had you lived there?

12 A At the time?

13 Q 10 South Kings, yes?

14 A Yes, sir.

15 Q And how long had you lived at this residence ■ South
16 Kings Drive in Fountain Inn, South Carolina?

17 A Probably about four or five months.

18 Q Where was your room?

19 A I was in Chyanne's room. Me and Chyanne were in the
20 same room.

21 Q So when did you move out?

22 A I moved out when --

23 Q And don't reference anything. I mean, a time period
24 I'm looking for.

25 A Right after that four-or-five-month mark, me and

1 Chyanne both moved out and moved in with my mom.

2 Q Okay.

3 A Yes, sir.

4 Q What -- what -- to your knowledge, was John still
5 talking or attempting to talk to Cati?

6 A I think, yeah, they did have conversations and stuff,
7 but I don't -- that's all I know about that.

8 Q You gave an interview back October the 27th of 2016,
9 right?

10 A Yes, sir.

11 Q October 27th of 2016?

12 A Yes, sir.

13 Q Was that three days after the murder now that you --

14 A Yes, sir.

15 Q Did John Blauvelt ever specifically -- did you ever
16 tell the police -- what did he say specifically about how
17 he felt about Cati? Did he ever call her anything?

18 A Yeah, he called her a piece of trash a lot. He said
19 she was a bad person.

20 Q Did he say trash or another word?

21 A He called her a piece of trash, said she was a piece
22 of shit.

23 Q Did he ever express hatred for her?

24 A Yes. Yes.

25 Q Did he ever say the words I hate her?

1 A Oh, I hate her. Yes.

2 Q Now, have you been to this -- you just said you did,
3 but have you been to the abandoned house?

4 A Yes, sir.

5 Q How many times?

6 A Many times.

7 Q Everybody knows the answer to this, but why did y'all
8 go to the abandoned house?

9 A To -- we went to party.

10 Q And was there a -- did you ever go to the basement?

11 A Yes, sir.

12 Q I'm going to show you what's entered as State's
13 Exhibit No. 27. Do you recognize that?

14 A Yes, sir.

15 Q And what is that?

16 A That's the concrete culvert that we used to go smoke
17 on, like, we used to sit there and smoke.

18 Q Did John Blauvelt ever specifically say anything
19 about this hole?

20 A He said when you down here and drink and party, make
21 sure you don't leave your trash leaving around, make sure
22 you throw it in here because that's where the trash goes.

23 Q That's where the trash goes?

24 A Yes, sir.

25 Q Did he did he ever specifically -- you said

1 Charleston. Any other times did he talk about killing
2 Cati and did he mention insurance?

3 A Yes, he --

4 MS. WALKER: Objection.

5 THE COURT: Overruled.

6 MS. WALKER: May I put something on the record?

7 THE COURT: Yeah.

8 MS. WALKER: Just subject to our prior objection.

9 THE COURT: So noted. Overruled.

10 BY MR. MEADORS:

11 Q Can you tell us what he said?

12 A Yes, he said that he would get a \$100,000 life
13 insurance policy.

14 Q Did he ever offer to split that with anybody?

15 A Yeah. He said that he would split it with me,
16 Chyanne.

17 Q What was John Blauvelt's financial condition as far
18 as you knew then?

19 A He was definitely in debt. Like, he was having money
20 troubles for -- not when I first met him, but very quickly
21 after, he had financial struggles.

22 Q Well, Ms. Somerville, did he ever tell you
23 specifically I'll give you money if you help?

24 A Yes, sir.

25 Q Referring back to State's Exhibit No. 27, did he ever

1 reference about what this might be a good place for?

2 A For trash, that's where you put the trash.

3 Q Did he say anything else about hiding anything here?

4 A No, sir. He said that's where you -- make sure you
5 put your trash there because that's where the trash goes.
6 Oh, he said that the basement of the abandoned house would
7 be a perfect place to put a body.

8 Q ...And I didn't lead or give you that answer?

9 A No, sir.

10 Q So did John Blauvelt tell you that?

11 A Yes, sir.

12 Q The basement of the abandoned house would be a good
13 place to put a body?

14 A Yes, sir.

15 Q And you moved out when?

16 A I moved out -- I couldn't give you an exact date, but
17 it was four or five months after I had first started
18 coming around there, so like maybe around May of 2000
19 [sic].

20 Q Do you remember when --

21 A Maybe later than that.

22 Q When you quit going there?

23 A Yeah.

24 Q If you'd say yes for the record. Just say yes.

25 A Oh, yes. I quit going around John and that residence

1 when we got a no trespassing order on us.

2 Q Okay. When's the last time you talked to Cati?

3 A I couldn't even give you a specific answer on that.

4 Q . Okay.

5 A I remember the last time that -- I guess the last
6 time I remember talking to her, me, her and Chyanne were
7 in the kitchen at the [REDACTED] South Kings Drive dying our hair.

8 Q Okay.

9 A Having a girls night.

10 Q Did she have one of the dogs there? Was one of the
11 dogs kind of hers?

12 A Yes.

13 Q And was one of the dogs the Defendant's, John
14 Blauvelt?

15 A Yes, the black one, I believe.

16 Q Around the time of her disappearance and discovery of
17 the body, did you ever talk to the Defendant during that
18 time?

19 A I'm sorry. Can you --

20 Q Did you ever talk to John Blauvelt in October around
21 when all this happened?

22 A No, sir. No, sir.

23 Q I'm going to show you what's marked as State's
24 Exhibit No. 82. Please tell the Judge at this point, do
25 you recognize this?

1 A Yes, sir.

2 Q Does it relate to this whole time that you were at 10
3 South Kings?

4 A Yes, sir.

5 MR. MEADORS: Your Honor, we'd offer State's Exhibit
6 No. 82.

7 THE COURT: Any objection?

8 MS. WALKER: No objection, Your Honor.

9 THE COURT: State's Exhibit No. 82 is admitted into
10 evidence without objection.

11 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibit No. 82 was admitted into
12 evidence.)

13 BY MR. MEADORS:

14 Q Ms. Ally, what is this?

15 A That is a list that he had hanging on the fridge at
16 ■ South Kings Drive.

17 Q And can you see it on your monitor?

18 A No, sir, there's nothing there.

19 THE COURT: It's coming up.

20 MR. MEADORS: Okay.

21 BY MR. MEADORS:

22 Q Can you read it now?

23 A Yes, sir. It says things to do around the house.

24 Q All right. Do you know when this was written
25 approximately?

1 A After John moved back in.

2 Q Would this be fair to say the same time he was saying
3 these things about Cati and killing her?

4 A Yes, .sir.

5 Q Whose handwriting is this?

6 A My handwriting.

7 Q And up on number one, get rid of Cati where who knows
8 who, clean the house, Kings Court, everyone, move Chy back
9 in, make money, who knows, John and Ally?

10 A Yes, sir.

11 Q Why did you write that first sentence?

12 A John genuinely had everybody who was around the house
13 and who, like, was at the house daily believing that Cati
14 was a --like, she was a problem. Like, she was always
15 harassing us always, like -- just, like, made an issue for
16 us. Like, she was annoying us or coming around and
17 stopping the fun, stuff like that. I guess, stopping us
18 from drinking and partying.

19 Q He was putting that in y'all's mind?

20 A 100 percent.

21 Q Get rid of Cati, did you mean kill her?

22 A No, sir.

23 Q What did you mean by putting that?

24 A We just wanted peace. We wanted her to stop coming
25 over and ruining our fun. We just wanted her to, like,

1 move on with her life.

2 Q You didn't want her dead, did you?

3 A No.

4 Q Would you please turn on the back of State's Exhibit
5 No. 82. Do you want me to read this?

6 A I can read it or you can read it. It's up to you.

7 Q Go ahead. You read it then?

8 A I don't -- I don't want you to ever lose or get rid
9 of this. Me, you and Chy have gotten so close in the last
10 year. I love you and I want to see the best happen for
11 you. You have had a huge impact in my life, good and bad.
12 LOL. I miss you, John. I miss being here and calling
13 this home. This shit really sucks. Me and Chy need you,
14 dude, we really do. I'll be here for you no matter what
15 when -- or no matter what the situation is, I'll be there.
16 I pinky promise. I can't wait for things to be better
17 again. I love you, Ally Somerville, 4/27/16.

18 Q And down there, it's got to John Blauvelt with a half
19 smily face?

20 A Yes, sir.

21 Q How old were you when you wrote that?

22 A 16.

23 Q And again, was this when he was out of the house?

24 A Yes, it's when he was in the --

25 Q Abandoned house?

1 A Yes.

2 Q Okay. Ally, I want to talk about you just for a
3 second.

4 A Yes, sir. .

5 Q Under the rules, when you take the stand and you have
6 a prior conviction, certain things I'm allowed to ask you.

7 A Yes, sir.

8 Q I told you that.

9 A Uh-huh.

10 Q No disrespect.

11 A Of course.

12 Q Back in 2019, did you have conviction for possession
13 of cocaine?

14 A Yes, sir.

15 Q It looks like another one at the same time?

16 A Yes, sir.

17 Q Possession cocaine first?

18 A Yes, I did.

19 Q And I don't know if you have the whole world
20 watching, but a lot of folks may see this. Did you have a
21 drug problem at some point in your life?

22 A A huge one, a huge drug problem.

23 Q And have you recently kicked that? I don't know if
24 you ever kick it, but have you recently made progress in
25 that?

1 A Yes.

2 Q So tell them about that.

3 A Yes, last Friday, I, actually, commenced from the
4 rehab. And this is the best I've felt in the last eight
5 years of my life.

6 Q Tell the world you're clean.

7 A I'm clean.

8 Q You're proud of it?

9 A I'm proud of it.

10 MR. MEADORS: I beg the Court's indulgence.

11 (Pause.)

12 BY MR. MEADORS:

13 Q Would you, please, listen to my last question?

14 A I'm sorry?

15 Q Please listen to one more question.

16 A Yes, sir.

17 Q Is the individual in this room that asked you to go
18 to Charleston and take his car, credit card and phone and
19 be an alibi, is the person in this room that told he liked
20 to kill good and bad people and is the person in this room
21 that told you that Cati was a piece of shit and he hated
22 her and is the person in this room that told you he'd give
23 you some of the life insurance proceeds if you helped and
24 is the person in this room who told you he was born to
25 kill good and bad? If I already said that, I apologize.

1 And is the person in this room who told you this is where
2 the trash went, State's Exhibit No. 27 and is the person
3 in this room that told you the abandoned house would be a
4 good place to hide a body? .Is that person in this
5 courtroom?

6 A Yes, sir.

7 Q Please point him out for the ladies and gentlemen.

8 A (Witness complied.)

9 Q You are pointing to Mr. John Blauvelt sitting next to
10 Ms. Walker?

11 MR. MEADORS: We would ask the record to so reflect.
12 That's all I have.

13 THE COURT: All right. Cross?

14 MS. WALKER: Thank you, Your Honor.

15 CROSS-EXAMINATION

16 BY MS. WALKER:

17 Q Good morning, Ms. Somerville.

18 A Good morning.

19 Q And congratulations on being clean. I know that's
20 quite a feat.

21 So you told Mr. Meadors that the way that you became
22 involved with this group of people was because you and
23 Hannah, for one, had gone to middle school together, were
24 very close friends.

25 A Yeah, that's not how I became involved with the

1 group, though. Hannah came later.

2 Q It was Chyanne?

3 A Yes, it was Chyanne and Hannah came later.

4 Q I'm sorry?

5 A Hannah was -- we were friends in middle school, but
6 we didn't, like, hang out and stuff like that until we got
7 in, like, tenth grade. She was in the same group as me
8 and she had other friends that were in our group as well.

9 Q Sure. And you lived at the house at 10 South Kings
10 for about four or five months; is that right?

11 A Yes, ma'am.

12 Q And so you lived there with both John and Cati?

13 A Yes, ma'am.

14 Q And as -- around the time that Cati went missing and
15 was found, you and Chy were still very close?

16 A Of course.

17 Q And the reason you found out about Cati was because
18 Chy told you?

19 A No. My mother told me.

20 Q I'm sorry?

21 A My mother told me.

22 Q Your mother told you?

23 A Yes.

24 Q But you found out about the same time everyone else
25 did, on the 26th, 27th, right around there, right?

1 A Yes.

2 Q And so as part of this case, you talked to law
3 enforcement twice. So the first time you spoke to law
4 enforcement was October 27th. And that was Investigator
5 Morecraft and two investigators, I believe, from Fountain
6 Inn, Mr. -- or Investigator Padan and Investigator
7 Hawkins. And then the second interview is October 28th?

8 A (No response.)

9 Q I'm so sorry, you have to answer out loud so she can
10 take --

11 A Oh, I'm sorry. Yes.

12 Q That's okay. And that was with Investigator Bailey
13 and Investigator Hayden of Greenville County Sheriff's
14 Office?

15 A Yes.

16 Q And so the first interview, they asked you a little
17 bit about living with John and Cati. And you told them
18 about this Charleston conversation. And the reason the
19 police come talk to you is because Chy told them that you
20 had something to tell them?

21 A (Witness nodded.)

22 Q I'm so sorry, you have to --

23 A Yes, I'm sorry.

24 Q That's okay. That's okay. And so the police come
25 and you tell them about this Charleston story; is that

1 right?

2 A Yes, ma'am.

3 Q And you say he was really drunk?

4 A Yes, ma'am.

5 Q And --

6 A He told me he was really drunk. I wasn't physically
7 with him.

8 Q You weren't physically with him during this
9 conversation, is that what you said?

10 A No, we talked on the phone.

11 Q Oh, you talked on the phone?

12 A Yes.

13 Q Even though you were living at the house, you were
14 talking on the phone about this?

15 A Yes.

16 Q Okay. And so that is the first time you told
17 investigators about it, though, was on that interview on
18 the 27th?

19 A Yes, ma'am.

20 Q And you told them that you -- he had offered some
21 life insurance money?

22 A Yes.

23 Q And he, also, offered it to Chyanne?

24 A I don't know if he told Chyanne that, but he told
25 that to me.

1 Q I believe you told Investigator [sic] Meadors that he
2 had offered the money to you and Chyanne and then a bunch
3 of other people?

4 A Yeah, yeah. I don't know if he, like, physically
5 told them that, but he said I would give you and Chyanne,
6 that's what he told to me.

7 Q And needless to say, you did not get any money or any
8 proceeds or anything at all after Cati passed away?

9 A I'm guessing not -- you said him?

10 Q No, no, no, not him, you?

11 A Oh, me, no.

12 Q Absolutely. And so you, also, tell them about John
13 and Hannah dating?

14 A Yes.

15 Q Pardon me, I need to grab a drink of water.

16 (Pause.)

17 BY MS. WALKER:

18 Q And this is Hannah who used to be your best friend?

19 A No, she wasn't one of my best friends, she was a
20 friend of mine.

21 Q And that's how she got to know these people that are
22 hanging out at John's house? Is Hannah got there is what
23 you testified to earlier?

24 A That --

25 Q That she met them?

1 A We all met at school. I didn't bring Hannah over to
2 that house.

3 Q Okay.

4 A Hannah met --

5 Q That same group of friends?

6 A Yeah.

7 Q I think you said you were in the same group. And the
8 more that Hannah got close to John, the less you started
9 hanging out with Hannah?

10 A Yeah.

11 Q And you told investigators that Hannah hated Cati?

12 A Yeah, she most definitely -- like, she hated Cati.

13 Q I'm sorry, say that one more time.

14 A She hated Cati.

15 Q She hated Cati. And that Hannah wanted to be John's
16 wife?

17 A Yes.

18 Q And that was part of the reason she hated her?

19 A Yes. And -- yes.

20 Q Because John and Cati were still married?

21 A Yes.

22 Q And you, also, told the investigators that John was
23 still talking to Cati and they were trying to work stuff
24 out?

25 A I don't know if they were trying to work things out,

1 but I know they were having conversations.

2 Q Okay. And after that interview on the 27th, they
3 come back -- well, different law enforcement officers come
4 back the next day; is that right?

5 A Yes.

6 Q And they show you a -- sometimes they call it a
7 letter, sometimes they call it a list, but it's State's
8 Exhibit No. 82. And you said that you recognized your
9 handwriting?

10 A Yes, I wrote that.

11 Q And this is the things to do around the house. It's
12 a preprinted list that you buy at the store?

13 A Yes.

14 Q And it sticks to the door usually on the refrigerator
15 with, like, a magnet and it's a whole pad of paper?

16 A Yeah.

17 Q And so the reason they have this letter is because
18 Cati had it?

19 A Yes.

20 Q And Cati had seen it and it really made her mad?

21 A Yeah, she took it off the fridge, like, either the
22 day I wrote it or the day after I wrote it.

23 Q And that was in April, because you dated it on the
24 back?

25 A Yes.

1 Q And so you write on this list that has this
2 preprinted place where you say what you're going to do or
3 what whoever is going to do, where and who's going to
4 handle it, right?

5 A Yeah.

6 Q And the top line, get rid of Cati, who knows, and
7 then who is crossed out?

8 A Yeah.

9 Q And then, you say make more money?

10 A Yeah.

11 Q And who knows how? But who, you put John and Ally?

12 A Because Chyanne went to school, John had a job
13 working for the Army recruiter and I wasn't in school at
14 that time, so I could help with money.

15 Q Okay. And when the investigators came back to ask
16 you about it, you knew what they were coming to talk to
17 you about immediately?

18 A Yeah, as soon as they showed me the paper.

19 Q And you kind of laughed?

20 A I laughed?

21 Q You kind of scoffed, like, that looks bad. I don't
22 know if scoff is the word, but you kind of hesitate and go
23 oh, yeah, that was stupid?

24 A Well, it was stupid.

25 Q Yeah. It was kind of a joke is what you told them?

1 A It -- you said it was a joke?

2 Q And that it looked really bad, but that's not what it
3 meant?

4 A Well, of course, it looked really bad. And no, it's
5 not what I meant.

6 Q Absolutely. So that's what you told them because you
7 knew they were going to ask you about it?

8 A Yes.

9 Q Okay. And you said when John and Hannah nature
10 first -- or John and Hannah, pardon me. When John and
11 Cati separated that the mood got darker?

12 A Yes.

13 Q And he had separated from his wife?

14 A Yes, he separated from his wife. But they were --

15 Q And he was drinking a little more back then when he
16 first separated from Cati?

17 A No, I think he was drinking about the same amount the
18 whole time.

19 Q Okay. And then the investigators from Greenville
20 County on the 28th asked you about this letter, but they,
21 also, asked you, like, what did you think the first you
22 heard that Cati was missing and that she was found at the
23 abandoned house?

24 A Well, I was in jail, so I didn't -- I couldn't talk
25 or, like, I didn't get to talk to my friends like that. I

1 called my mom a couple times a day. And for the first
2 three days, it was we can't find Cati or nobody has found
3 her yet. And she was supposed to meet Chyanne after she
4 got off work. That was really all I got until Chyanne
5 came and visited me one day and Chyanne said they had
6 found her.

7 Q But you're able to make phone calls from the jail?

8 A Yeah, I was talking to my mom.

9 Q And -- but you didn't just talk to your mom. You,
10 also, talked to Chyanne?

11 A Yeah.

12 Q And she talked to you on the days leading up to them
13 finding Cati and realizing she was missing?

14 A Yes.

15 Q So if I told you you talked about seven times between
16 the 24th and the 26th, that wouldn't be surprising?

17 A No.

18 Q Okay. And so you said that you were at -- you all
19 would go to this abandoned house and party?

20 A Yes, ma'am.

21 Q And at some point when they had separated, in order
22 for Cati to be at the house, he stayed at the abandoned
23 house?

24 A Yes.

25 Q In a tent?

1 A Uh-huh.

2 Q But that was something that you, also, did when you
3 partied?

4 A No, we did not stay at the abandoned house in a tent.
5 He moved all his belongings in there.

6 Q He moved all his belongings from the house he owned
7 --

8 A Yeah -- not all of them, but he had all of -- like,
9 90 percent of his clothes there, a tent, a towel, like,
10 toothbrush. He was living at that abandoned house.

11 Q And the abandoned house, it is exceptionally run
12 down?

13 A Exceptionally.

14 Q And so your testimony today is that you would never
15 take chairs, blankets, things to sit on while you partied
16 at the abandoned house?

17 A We would take, like, maybe -- never chairs, but,
18 like, a blanket or two to sit on the ground.

19 Q Okay. And then the conversation that you recalled
20 from Charleston, that was in May or June of that year.
21 And then Cati was missing and found in October; is that
22 right?

23 A Yes.

24 Q You, also, said that you had stopped talking to John
25 because -- and I want to be very specific about this

1 question. But you told Mr. Meadors that once you had this
2 no trespassing issue that you had -- that's when you
3 stopped talking to John and stopped hanging out?

4 A No. I stopped going over there because if I went
5 over there, meaning like, everybody that was on the no
6 trespassing order, the cop that put us on that used to
7 ride around. Like, if we were in that yard, we were going
8 to jail. I stopped talking to John because he asked me to
9 go to Charleston because he wanted to kill Cati. That was
10 why I stopped talking to John, just so we're clear.

11 Q Not because of the trespass?

12 A I mean, I stopped going over there because of the
13 trespassing, but I stopped talking to him when he said
14 that.

15 Q And that letter that you recognize, the to-do list, I
16 suppose, that was removed from the refrigerator?

17 A Yes.

18 Q And Cati removed it from the refrigerator?

19 A Yes.

20 Q And you had written it in April?

21 A Yes.

22 Q And in that list in April, number two is clean the
23 house and number three is move Chy back in?

24 A Uh-huh.

25 Q Okay. And I believe I was -- I probably got

1 sidetracked. When they asked you what you first thought
2 when you heard about Cati was you thought about John?

3 A Of course.

4 Q But then you -- they start to ask another question
5 and you said, Well, I started thinking. And, at first,
6 you thought it was some random person?

7 A Did I say that?

8 Q You did.

9 A I said I thought it was a random person?

10 Q If I showed you a clip from your interview, would
11 that help refresh your recollection?

12 A Well, I was just asking.

13 Q I can tell you that you said -- first, you said John
14 and then you said, Well, my first thought, I didn't know
15 who it was at first, thought it was somebody random. But
16 I can play the statement for you if it would refresh your
17 recollection?

18 A Oh, that's up to you.

19 Q Okay. But if I told you that's what you said, you
20 would agree with me?

21 A No, not until I see the video.

22 Q Okay.

23 A Because my first thought, like I said, was John
24 first.

25 Q Okay.

1 A And then my second thought was maybe it was a
2 stranger and then went back to John. I thought it was
3 John.

4 MS. WALKER: Beg the Court's indulgence?

5 (Pause.)

6 BY MS. WALKER:

7 Q And you had said earlier that you were in jail and it
8 was something minor, but do you recognize this video?

9 A Yes.

10 Q And it's a video from when you were interviewed by
11 Greenville County Sheriff's Office?

12 A Yes.

13 Q Okay.

14 (WHEREUPON, unmarked video was played in open court.)

15 BY MS. WALKER:

16 Q That's when you said initially you thought it was
17 somebody random?

18 A When they asked me, I said John and then I was like,
19 Well, it could have been a random person.

20 Q Okay.

21 A If you keep playing the video, like, ten seconds
22 longer, it went back to John.

23 Q Yeah, you go back to John, you do. But then you say,
24 I keep -- you kept thinking about it?

25 A Well, yeah.

1 Q Of course. And you said you started thinking about
2 the Zach guy?

3 A I'm sorry?

4 Q I'm so sorry. So you told the officers that you
5 started thinking about this Zach guy?

6 A Yeah, I met him once. That was like -- I think it
7 was Cati's new boyfriend or guy she was talking to.

8 Q Right. Because you told even though y'all had your
9 disagreements in the past, that prior to her disappearing
10 that y'all had become really close?

11 A Yeah, we got back -- we started talking again.

12 Q Because your friend group had kind of split up a
13 little bit, kind of dwindled down to you and Chy and
14 Wayne?

15 A Me and Chy.

16 Q Okay.

17 A I guess -- I mean, Wayne, also, but --

18 Q But you, also, told --

19 A And Kimone and Kameron. Like, we all -- we stayed
20 close for a long time after that. It wasn't...

21 Q You told them you knew Wayne really well?

22 A Yes.

23 Q And you had became really good friends?

24 A Uh-huh.

25 Q And that your friend group is not quite as big

1 anymore. It's more just you, Chyanne and Wayne?

2 A Okay, yeah.

3 Q Okay. And then Cati had told you about Zach and
4 becoming close with her those one to two months and that
5 she had been dating him and she really liked him?

6 A Yeah.

7 Q And you, also, told officers that Zach had been
8 brought to the abandoned house --

9 A Yeah.

10 Q -- about three days prior to Cati being found? And
11 you, also, said that you feel like if John was involved
12 that he wouldn't have put her at the abandoned house?

13 A Yeah. And then if you watch that video just, like, a
14 little bit longer. I was like, Well, no, it makes sense
15 that John would put her at the abandoned house.

16 Q Well, if I showed you that video --

17 A Yeah.

18 Q I do believe you had this conversation about
19 possibly -- hold on one second.

20 A I just watched the video, so, yeah, I remember.

21 Q Right. You talk about the trash conversation at some
22 point. But this conversation was you felt like if John
23 had anything to do with this, he wouldn't have done
24 anything with the abandoned house because y'all went there
25 all the time?

1 A Yeah, and then, like, five seconds later, I said, No,
2 actually, it makes sense John would put her in the
3 abandoned house. If you play the video, like, ten seconds
4 longer. So yes, I did say that --

5 Q You believe ten seconds longer is when you say,
6 Actually, no --

7 A Yeah.

8 Q -- it probably was?

9 A Yes.

10 MS. WALKER: Okay. I beg the Court's indulgence.

11 (Pause.)

12 BY MS. WALKER:

13 Q And, again, you recognize this video?

14 A Yes.

15 (WHEREUPON, an unmarked video was played in open
16 court.)

17 BY MS. WALKER:

18 Q And so you talk about the abandoned house and then
19 you bring up Zach. So you talk about John and the
20 abandoned house and then you return to Zach; is that
21 right?

22 A Yes.

23 Q And so all this time has passed, eight years since
24 those interviews and then you talk to the Prosecutors?

25 A Yes.

1 Q And you told them in this interview that you recalled
2 a conversation with John about the perfect murder?

3 A Yes.

4 Q And that the perfect murder would involve an icicle?

5 A Yes.

6 Q And that after a murder with an icicle, he would take
7 off to Alaska and jump on a fishing boat?

8 A Yes.

9 Q And that was the first time you told them that?

10 A Yes, probably, like, in that -- like, in the
11 interviews -- or maybe when I got out of jail I think is
12 when that was.

13 Q And that was -- I'm sorry, you thought about that
14 after you got out of jail?

15 A I said I think the interview that I said that in
16 might have been -- I don't think it was the one when I was
17 in jail. It was when I was at Simpsonville Police
18 Department, I'm pretty sure.

19 Q So you had another interview at Simpsonville Police
20 Department?

21 A Yeah.

22 Q Do you know when that was?

23 A I couldn't give you an exact date.

24 Q But you said it was after you got out of jail?

25 A Yeah.

1 Q Around November?

2 A I couldn't give you an exact date.

3 Q Okay. But it was close to when you got out of jail?

4 I mean, obviously, you weren't there if you had gone to
5 Simpsonville; is that right?

6 A It could -- yeah.

7 Q Okay.

8 A I'm not sure if it was the other interview or if it
9 was shortly after I got out.

10 MS. WALKER: Beg the Court's indulgence.

11 (Pause.)

12 MS. WALKER: Thank you, Ms. Somerville. I have no
13 further questions.

14 THE COURT: Any redirect?

15 MR. MEADORS: Very briefly.

16 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

17 BY MR. MEADORS:

18 Q When they started playing that interview, the first
19 word was John you heard, right?

20 A Yes.

21 Q Is that when you said John first?

22 A Yes, because that was my initial thought.

23 Q And then after that, you said it could have been
24 somebody random?

25 A Yes, sir.

1 Q And then you came back, no, John does make sense?

2 A Yes, a hundred percent.

3 Q And you listened to that again earlier this morning,
4 didn't you?

5 A Yes, sir.

6 Q And that interview -- and they asked you about Zach.
7 Did Zach ever tell you I want to kill her and did he ever
8 ask you to go to Charleston and did he ever tell you that
9 would be a good place to put a body?

10 A He sure didn't.

11 Q And was Zach dating -- who was Zach?

12 A It was somebody that Cati was seeing. I don't know
13 if they were, like, in a relationship.

14 Q But they were dating?

15 A Yeah, they were seeing each other.

16 Q And she asked you and, I guess, I forgot. You were
17 in jail when you gave this interview in October of 2016?

18 A Yes, sir.

19 Q All right. Again, not to pry, but what were you in
20 jail for?

21 A I had gotten arrested for simple possession of
22 marijuana and when I went to court, they sentenced me to
23 30 days.

24 Q So you got the maximum?

25 A Yes.

1 Q Okay. So you were in jail when Cati was murdered?

2 A Yes, sir.

3 Q And everything else that we talked about, the
4 conversations, the killing, Charleston, everything, you
5 told them that in October of 2017 [sic]. Did they bring
6 you from the jail to talk?

7 A Yes, sir.

8 Q None of that's changed in six [sic] years, has it?

9 A It has not.

10 MR. MEADORS: Thank you.

11 That's all.

12 THE COURT: Any recross?

13 MS. WALKER: Briefly one or two questions.

14 RECROSS-EXAMINATION

15 BY MS. WALKER:

16 Q You said you had only met Zach Lewis once?

17 A Yeah.

18 Q And --

19 A It was like very briefly. It wasn't a hangout or
20 anything.

21 Q And I believe this is just an error, a little
22 misspoken date. I believe Mr. Meadors asked you if you
23 had told police that in October of 2017 --

24 MR. MEADORS: I didn't ask her about that.

25 Objection. I apologize.

1 BY MS. WALKER:

2 Q No, no, no, if you had talked to law enforcement in
3 October of 2017, but I think he meant October of 2016
4 right after you got out of jail -- or while you were in
5 jail would have been not '17, but '16?

6 A Yeah, it was '16.

7 Q Okay. And that would have been very close to the
8 events?

9 A Yeah.

10 MS. WALKER: No further questions.

11 MR. MEADORS: I guess I'm getting old. I apologize.
12 2016. Thank you.

13 THE COURT: All right. You may step down. Thank
14 you.

15 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

16 THE COURT: Next witness.

17 MR. NEELY: Your Honor, before that, can we approach
18 briefly?

19 (WHEREUPON, a bench conference was held.)

20 THE COURT: Ladies and gentlemen, the next witness
21 may be a little long. So let's go ahead and take a
22 restroom break now.

23 Please don't discuss the case.

24 (WHEREUPON, the jury was excused from open court at
25 approximately 10:25 a.m.)

1 THE COURT: All right. We'll be in recess.

2 (WHEREUPON, a break was taken.)

3 THE COURT: Bring them in.

4 (WHEREUPON, the jury came into open court at
5 approximately 10:49 a.m.)

6 THE COURT: All right. Next witness.

7 MS. ABEE: Thank you, Your Honor. The State calls
8 Tim Nafziger.

9 WHEREUPON,

10 TIMOTHY NAFZIGER,

11 after first having been duly sworn, testified as follows:

12 THE CLERK: Thank you.

13 Please be seated.

14 Please state your name for the railroad.

15 THE WITNESS: Timothy Nafziger, Jr.

16 DIRECT EXAMINATION

17 BY MS. ABEE:

18 Q And go ahead and spell that last name for us.

19 A N-A-F-Z-I-G-E-R.

20 Q Tell us a little bit about yourself. Are you
21 currently employed?

22 A I work for the Greenville County Department of Public
23 Safety in the DNA lab. I'm the DNA technical leader.

24 Q And if you could, go ahead and tell us all a little
25 bit about your educational background and your work

1 history?

2 A I have a Bachelor's Degree in biological sciences
3 from Clemson University and a Master's Degree in
4 entomology from Auburn University. I've worked at the DNA
5 lab for a little over 11 years. I started as a
6 serologist. I was trained in-house as a serologist and
7 DNA analyst. My training involved, obviously, reading the
8 procedures of the lab, doing mock samples, mock cases, a
9 competency exam and a mock court.

10 Q And while you're performing -- let's first talk about
11 serology. As you're performing serology examinations or
12 extractions, is your work peer reviewed or checked in any
13 way?

14 A Yes. All our reports are peer reviewed by another
15 analyst.

16 Q And how long were you specifically in serology or
17 active as a serologist?

18 A For about six years.

19 Q And tell us, generally, what is serology?

20 A So serology at the DNA lab is identification of human
21 bodily fluids on evidence. It, also, involves just
22 prepping the samples for DNA. So that could mean swabbing
23 things as well as identifying body fluids and taking
24 samples for DNA analysis.

25 Q And as a serologist, approximately, how many samples

1 do you think you have examined or prepared in your career?

2 A Several thousand.

3 Q And do you use methods and standards that are
4 typically relied on in the field when you perform that?

5 A Yes, I do.

6 Q And Mr. Nafziger, have you ever testified in court
7 before?

8 A Yes, I have.

9 Q Have you ever been qualified as an expert before?

10 A Yes, I have.

11 Q How many times?

12 A Approximately, 25.

13 Q And was that all in serology?

14 A Approximately, 20 or so were serology and about five
15 or so DNA analysis.

16 Q Tell us a little bit about your educational
17 background and training in regards to DNA.

18 A So for training, I was -- I was trained initially in
19 serology and then I was trained in DNA analysis at a later
20 time. It was very similar. I did mock samples, mock
21 cases, a competency exam, a mock court. I, also, get
22 proficiency tested twice a year where we have an external
23 provider provide us samples that we have to test and then
24 turn the results over to them and they check to make sure
25 we give the right answers.

1 Q And similar to serology, do you use standards and
2 methods that are relied upon in the field?

3 A Yes, we do.

4 Q And is your work additionally peer reviewed and
5 examined?

6 A Yes, it is.

7 Q And I think you said a couple minutes ago or just
8 about a minute ago that you've been qualified as an expert
9 in the areas of DNA as well?

10 A I have.

11 MS. ABEE: Your Honor, at this time, the State moves
12 Tim Nafziger as an expert in the areas of serology and
13 DNA.

14 THE COURT: All right. Any objection from the
15 Defendant?

16 MR. NEELY: None, Your Honor.

17 THE COURT: All right. In serology and DNA?

18 MS. ABEE: Yes, Your Honor.

19 THE COURT: All right. The witness will be qualified
20 as an expert in the field of serology and DNA.

21 Ladies and gentlemen, as I mentioned to you
22 previously, witnesses normally can only testify to facts,
23 what they saw, what they observed, things along those
24 lines. But witnesses that are qualified by either
25 education or experience are allowed to testify as to

1 opinions. And you are to judge that testimony as you do
2 the other witnesses.

3 MS. ABEE: Thank you, Your Honor.

4 BY MS. ABEE:

5 Q And Mr. Nafziger, we've heard about a case this
6 entire week that took place in October of 2016. Tell us
7 where you were working then and what you were doing.

8 A I was working at the Greenville County Department of
9 Public Safety DNA lab as a serologist.

10 Q And were you asked to perform or process some items
11 that came in regards to this case?

12 A Yes, I was.

13 Q And do you recall what date you were asked to process
14 some items?

15 A I don't know the exact date.

16 MS. ABEE: And if it's okay with Defense counsel that
17 he review his report while he's up there for reference?

18 MR. NEELY: No objection.

19 THE WITNESS: So the date I started working the
20 evidence was November 18th of 2016.

21 BY MS. ABEE:

22 Q So let's talk a little bit first about how you
23 receive items to review. Kind of walk us through that
24 process.

25 A So in order for us to test evidence, the investigator

1 has to fill out a DNA request form asking us to test that
2 case. So when I go to work the case, I go to our property
3 and evidence department, which is at the law enforcement
4 center downtown. And I pick up the evidence and ensure
5 that it's in a sealed package that's uniquely labeled and
6 then I take it back with me to the DNA lab. The DNA lab
7 is a secure facility. We have card access and alarm
8 system. And it stays there until I'm done working on it.

9 When I work the evidence in serology, I sterilize my
10 work surfaces and tools. I wear a lab coat, mask and
11 gloves. And I work only one item at a time. I always
12 work -- I only have one item open at a time. And I, also,
13 only work -- I only work the questioned items first, then
14 clean everything again, clean things between items as
15 well, and then work any known samples after all of that
16 has been sealed up and put away.

17 Q Now, when you go and receive the evidence, you said
18 it's in this secured, sealed package; is that right?

19 A That's right.

20 Q And if for some reason those seals were broken or
21 appeared as if they had been tampered with, is that
22 something you would dictate and note?

23 A I would note that, yes.

24 Q And did you note any of that in this case?

25 A I did not.

1 Q And then you started talking about performing
2 examinations on questioned items. What's a questioned
3 item?

4 A So a questioned item is something that -- typically,
5 from a crime scene that we don't know whose DNA is on it.
6 So we're trying to find out whose DNA is on it.

7 Q And is it fair to say that you're performing kind of
8 a forensic test, right?

9 A Yes.

10 Q Okay. And so you're not in charge of investigating
11 the case or anything like that?

12 A That's right.

13 Q All right. And so in regards to this particular
14 case, how many questioned items did you review for
15 serology?

16 A Fifty-eight.

17 Q So 58 items. What do you compare it to? What are
18 those items called?

19 A Those are called reference items or known samples.
20 DNA is a comparison science, so in order to know who's DNA
21 is somewhere, you have to have something to compare it to.

22 Q And how many reference samples were there in this
23 case?

24 A I processed four reference samples.

25 Q And, specifically, I'm going to ask about item 59.

1 Is that an additional reference sample that came in later?

2 A Yes, that's correct. That would be five.

3 Q So five total. And who were the reference samples
4 that you were comparing some things against?

5 A So item 60 was a sealed package containing buccal
6 swabs of Franklin Wayne Roper. Item 61 was a sealed
7 package containing buccal swabs of Richard Larry Hargrove.
8 Item 62 was a sealed package containing buccal swabs of
9 John Tufton Blauvelt. Item 63 was a sealed package
10 containing the blood spot of Catherine Anne Blauvelt. And
11 item 59 was a sealed package containing buccal swab of
12 Charles S. Scott.

13 Q And if you could, kind of walk us through the process
14 of serology once you have these, I believe, 58 questioned
15 items.

16 A So it depends on what I'm doing with the -- what the
17 item is determines what I end up doing with it. But for
18 most of these -- just let me have my report. Most of
19 these were swabs. At that point, I would take a cutting
20 from a swab, put it in a small tube. That sample then
21 gets sealed into a small envelope and it gets assigned a
22 bar code number and its own chain of custody. It is
23 sealed and stored in a freezer in the lab for the DNA
24 analyst to pick up and perform the DNA analysis
25 procedures.

1 Q Okay. Earlier throughout this week, we've heard some
2 testimony and have seen some images of some suspected
3 blood spots that were found at the scene on some foliage,
4 some sticks, some leaves down at the abandoned house where
5 Cati Blauvelt's body was located. I want to turn your
6 attention to items 18 through 23, 25 and 26. Is that that
7 foliage that I was kind of referencing?

8 A Yes.

9 Q And tell us what you did with that.

10 A So item 18 was a sealed package containing swab of
11 suspected blood from a leaf on a driveway. Visual
12 examination revealed a reddish-brown stain on the swab. A
13 presumptive examination with Phenolphthalein tested
14 positive for the presence of blood. The swab was sampled
15 for DNA analysis as item 18A.

16 Item 19 is a sealed package containing swab of
17 suspected blood from leaves near the basement opening on
18 the northwest side of residence. Visual examination
19 revealed a reddish-brown stain on a swab. A presumptive
20 examination with Phenolphthalein tested positive for the
21 presence of blood. The swab was sampled for DNA analysis
22 as item 19A.

23 Item 20 was a sealed package containing swab of
24 suspected blood from leaves near basement opening on the
25 northwest side of residence. A visual examination

1 revealed a reddish-brown stain on the swab. A presumptive
2 examination with Phenolphthalein tested positive for the
3 presence of blood. The swab was sampled for DNA analysis
4 as 20A.

5 Item 21, sealed package containing swab of suspected
6 blood on leaves on path to porch. Visual examination
7 revealed a reddish-brown stain and brownish material on
8 swab. A presumptive examination with Phenolphthalein
9 tested positive for the presence of blood. The swab was
10 sampled for DNA analysis as item 21A.

11 Item 22, a sealed package containing swab of
12 suspected blood from a tree on the northwest side of
13 residence. Visual examination revealed a brownish stain
14 on swab. Presumptive examination with Phenolphthalein
15 tested positive for the presence of blood. The swab was
16 sampled for DNA analysis as item 22A.

17 Item 23, a sealed package containing swab of
18 suspected blood from a tree root on path to the porch.
19 Visual examination revealed a dark reddish-brown stain on
20 the swab. A presumptive examination with Phenolphthalein
21 tested positive for the presence of blood. The swab was
22 sampled for DNA analysis as item 23A.

23 Q Then let's go to item 25.

24 A A sealed package -- item 25 is a sealed package
25 containing a sample of vegetation with suspected blood

1 from near basement opening on northwest side of residence
2 containing three leaves. Visual examination revealed dark
3 blackish stains on each leaf. Presumptive examination
4 with Phenolphthalein tested positive for the presence of
5 blood on all three leaves. The stains on all three leaves
6 were swabbed with a single swab and swabbed as sampled for
7 DNA analysis as item 25A.

8 Item 26 is a sealed package containing a sample of
9 vegetation with suspected blood from path to the porch.
10 Contained two stems and lots of leaves both on and off the
11 stems. Visual examination revealed reddish-brown stains
12 on several leaves. A presumptive examination with
13 Phenolphthalein tested positive for the presence of blood.
14 The reddish-brown areas were swabbed and the swab was
15 sampled for DNA analysis as 26A.

16 Q Explain to us a little bit -- you're saying
17 presumptively positive for blood. Explain to us that
18 process. What is that?

19 A So the Phenolphthalein test in my report is a test
20 that is positive for blood, generally, and not positive
21 for most other things. But presumptive means it indicates
22 the presence of blood. There are false positives and
23 there can be false negatives as well. But it's useful as
24 a screening tool to kind of decide what samples should be
25 forwarded for DNA analysis.

1 Q So you kind of use the screening tool and once you've
2 got this presumptive positive, you create a swab. And
3 then what, send that off to DNA?

4 A That's correct. So then I take a cutting of that
5 swab, it gets put in a tube and then it's sealed in its
6 own small envelope, given a bar code label that tracks the
7 chain of custody and that gets stored in the DNA lab for
8 the DNA analyst to take for their procedures.

9 Q So out of all of these 58 questionable items, do you
10 create a swab for each of them or what do you do?

11 A It depends on what they are. Most of these were
12 swabs that somebody else had collected. So in that case,
13 I could just take a cutting from that swab that they
14 collected.

15 Q And then you take those cuttings and then those go
16 where?

17 A They each get sealed into their own envelopes, given
18 their own bar code label, their own chain of custody and
19 stored in the DNA lab for the DNA to take.

20 Q And I want to look now at items 35 through 45. We
21 heard earlier from a witness who talked about processing a
22 black Ford Fiesta. Are these the swabs from that black
23 Ford Fiesta, 35 through 45?

24 A I believe so.

25 Q And what would you have done with these swabs once

1 you received them?

2 A If there's no reason to test for a body fluid,
3 typically, I would just take a cutting of the swab so that
4 he can go forward for DNA analysis.

5 Q And is that what you would have done in 35 through
6 45?

7 A Yes, that's correct.

8 Q It makes no sense, there's bodily fluids on, say, a
9 steering wheel or a turn signal, right?

10 A That's true. If there had been some reason to test
11 either from case scenario or from just observation, for
12 example, if there was reddish-brown staining on it, I
13 might have done a blood test, but if there's no indication
14 of anything like that, we'll just preserve that sample and
15 send it on for DNA analysis.

16 Q Okay. And then for the reference items, what do you
17 do with those in terms of preparing them for DNA?

18 A It's very simple. The same way. We just take a
19 cutting from it, put it into a tube, put it in envelope,
20 seal it and give it a bar code label and it's passed on to
21 the DNA analyst as well.

22 Q Okay. So your role in this particular case was
23 initially as the serologist; is that fair?

24 A That's correct.

25 Q So with serology, other than kind of these

1 presumptive tests that are acting as a filter for you, are
2 you making any kind of conclusions or anything about
3 what's on these items, who it belongs to, anything like
4 that?

5 A None of the serological tests can link up to any
6 person.

7 Q And even though serology or some sort of bodily fluid
8 may exist on some of these items, serology can't time that
9 for us, right, and tell us when this bodily fluid or fluid
10 got there?

11 A That's right, you cannot tell when it was put there.

12 Q And so you collect all of these -- you prepare all of
13 these items and you send them over to DNA. Who performed
14 the DNA analysis initially on these items?

15 A Dr. Jagannadha Kandala.

16 MS. ABEE: Your Honor, may I have one second?

17 THE COURT: Yes.

18 (Pause.)

19 MS. ABEE: Your Honor, I have no further questions
20 for this witness at this time.

21 THE COURT: Cross.

22 CROSS-EXAMINATION

23 BY MR. NEELY:

24 Q Good morning.

25 A Good morning.

1 Q How are you doing this morning?

2 A Pretty well.

3 Q Back in 2016, you were working as a serologist in the
4 department, correct?

5 A That's right.

6 Q Now, in 2024, where you are now the technical leader
7 for the entire lab, correct?

8 A That's right.

9 Q All right. You testified that back in 2016 -- and I
10 assume it's the same today, that all of your reports are
11 peer reviewed by another analyst?

12 A That's correct.

13 Q So any report that you would have generated would
14 have been peer reviewed by somebody else?

15 A That's right.

16 Q And any report that Dr. Kandala would have done would
17 have been peer reviewed by somebody else?

18 A That's correct.

19 Q You testified that in 2016 when you began working on
20 this case that you began working on the evidence on
21 November 8th of 2016?

22 A I'll have to check my notes to verify that.

23 Q Please do.

24 A My notes say November 18th.

25 Q I'm sorry, November 18th of 2016. That's when you

1 started the process of working on the evidence?

2 A That's right. I picked up the evidence from property
3 and evidence the day before, but I did not physically
4 start doing anything with the evidence until the next day.

5 Q And, again, serology, that starts the process that
6 gets us to the DNA testing, correct?

7 A That's right.

8 Q So, certainly, on November 18th of 2016, there were
9 no DNA results at that point?

10 A That's right.

11 Q Those results would come much later?

12 A That's right.

13 Q Now, you testified that the questioned item is the
14 sample that you're trying to figure out whose DNA is on
15 them?

16 A That's right.

17 Q And then you compared that DNA to a known sample?

18 A That's, ultimately, what happens to it, yes.

19 Q Right, because at that time, you were in serology?

20 A Right.

21 Q A DNA analyst compares it to a known sample?

22 A That's right.

23 Q Okay. Ultimately, the analyst can only compare
24 something to what he has, right?

25 A That's right.

1 Q And in this case, you testified that, ultimately,
2 there were only five samples that were provided -- five
3 known samples that were provided?

4 A That's right. .

5 Q If the State had wanted to test more samples, provide
6 you with more known samples, that would have been
7 something they could have done; isn't it?

8 A That's correct.

9 Q At any point in time, did your lab receive any more
10 known samples?

11 A No, we did not.

12 Q We talked a little bit about this last week. But as
13 the technical leader, when you took that role on, your job
14 was to review all of the quality assurance procedures that
15 are in place, correct?

16 A That's right.

17 Q So in reviewing all of those quality assurance
18 procedures, you're making sure that your lab will remain
19 accredited?

20 A That's correct.

21 Q There are certain guidelines that your lab has to
22 meet?

23 A That's right.

24 Q And your lab comes up for accreditation every year,
25 every two years?

1 A We get some form of an audit every year. Ultimately,
2 our reassessments happen every four years, but we have an
3 audit of some kind every year.

4 Q And there are certain accreditation guidelines that
5 are out there that are guidelines. Ultimately, you're
6 responsible for setting your labs standard operating
7 procedures?

8 A So the standards that our accrediting body abides by,
9 we have to meet, but there's, obviously, some room where
10 we have to set our own procedure based on our specific
11 technology that we have in our lab.

12 Q But those guidelines that are out there, those are
13 sort of best practices?

14 A So there is the Swgdam guidelines which are -- those
15 are not our standards that we're accredited by. They have
16 some influence on what, actually, becomes standards, but
17 Swgdam guidelines are generally considered best practices
18 to follow, yes.

19 Q And so for the most part, your lab tries to
20 incorporate the Swgdam guidelines as your standard
21 operating procedures?

22 A That's right.

23 Q Let's talk a little bit about DNA testing. Because
24 now in your role as technical leader for the lab, you are,
25 also, acting as a DNA analyst, correct?

1 A That's right.

2 Q So let's talk a little bit about DNA. To test DNA in
3 this case, several items were tested using what's known as
4 STR DNA, correct?

5 A That's correct.

6 Q Or STR DNA analysis?

7 A That's right. SRTs are short tandem repeats, which
8 are a variable part of the DNA that's used in testing
9 forensic samples.

10 Q Okay. And short tandem repeat analysis, it looks at
11 markers throughout different chromosomes, correct?

12 A That's right.

13 Q All right. And there's 23 pairs of chromosomes?

14 A Yes, that's right.

15 Q Forty-six total?

16 A That's right.

17 Q So STR testing, that's looking at markers throughout
18 the different chromosomes?

19 A That's right.

20 Q And due to the unique nature of these markers and
21 these chromosomes, you're able to actually perform human
22 identification?

23 A That's right, yes.

24 Q Because you're able to, actually, map out the human
25 genome with that?

1 A Mapping the human genome is a different process.

2 Q Okay.

3 A So we're looking at, technically, a very small
4 portion of DNA. Most DNA, because we're the same species
5 is the same, person to person. But these are parts of DNA
6 that vary from person to person. So they're useful in
7 comparisons and we can use statistical calculations based
8 on them.

9 Q And that's STR testing, short tandem repeat testing?

10 A That's right.

11 Q Now, oftentimes, you will either have too much female
12 DNA, correct? Sometimes you will have too much female
13 DNA?

14 A It depends on the context of the case, but, yes.

15 Q Okay. Let's do it this way, can you explain to us
16 why you would do something called YSTR testing?

17 A Okay. So there are some situations we frequently run
18 into which were mixtures, where we have more than one
19 person's DNA together. And you have a situation where you
20 have one person has a lot of DNA and one person has a very
21 small amount of DNA. So a lot of times, if that's too
22 much, we can't see the other person, the person with less
23 DNA, their DNA. It's kind of like you're trying to hear
24 your phone ringing in the middle of a rock concert. You
25 just can't hear it. It kind of washes it out.

1 So what we can do in certain situations, if we have a
2 major female, so there's a lot of female DNA, and a very
3 small amount of male DNA, we can look at some short tandem
4 repeats that are, specifically, found on the white
5 chromosome because only biological males have a white
6 chromosome. So it kind of looks past all that extra DNA
7 and only looks at the Y chromosome.

8 Q Now, unlike all of the other chromosomes where you're
9 getting a little bit from your mom and a little bit from
10 your dad, the Y chromosome contains haplotype, correct?

11 A That's right. So regular DNA, you get half from your
12 mom and half from your dad. So it's unique to each person
13 unless you have an identical twin. The Y chromosome,
14 though, is inherited unchanged from father to son. So it
15 is the same among of lineage or paternal male line.

16 Q So the Y chromosome, which, again, just for a male,
17 is passed down that paternal lineage completely intact,
18 correct?

19 A That's right.

20 Q From male to male to male?

21 A That's right.

22 Q So I would have the exact same Y chromosome that my
23 daddy has?

24 A That's correct.

25 Q And he would have the exact same Y chromosome that

1 his daddy has?

2 A That's right.

3 Q And he would have the exact same Y chromosome that
4 his daddy has?

5 A That's correct.

6 Q And then my son would have the exact same Y
7 chromosome that I have?

8 A That's right.

9 Q All right. My granddaddy was one of 11 and I think
10 there were seven brothers there. Now, I'm assuming that
11 they all, and they did, have the same father, all seven of
12 those brothers would have the exact same Y chromosome?

13 A That's right.

14 Q And all seven of those brothers have boys. Those --
15 all those boys would have the exact same Y chromosome?

16 A That's right.

17 Q And then their sons would all have the same Y
18 chromosome?

19 A That's right.

20 Q And then my daddy has two brothers and they would
21 have the same Y chromosome because they have the same
22 father?

23 A That's right.

24 Q And all of their sons would have the same Y
25 chromosome?

1 A That's right.

2 Q And I have two brothers, they have the same Y
3 chromosome that I have?

4 A That's right.

5 Q And that my daddy has?

6 A That's right.

7 Q And their sons -- they each have a son, their sons
8 have the exact same Y chromosome?

9 A That's right.

10 Q So when you look at this YSTR, you can't tell whose
11 it is, right?

12 A That's right. We can only -- we have to have a known
13 standard, but we will always report it as matches a person
14 and any paternal male relatives.

15 Q Okay. Let's go back to the Swgdam guidelines that
16 y'all have incorporated into standard operating
17 procedures. We looked at these last week, correct?

18 A Yes, we did.

19 Q Okay. Now, these guidelines, again, you don't have
20 to adopt them, but, again, best practices?

21 A That's right.

22 Q All right. And your office incorporated them into
23 your standard operating procedures?

24 A That's right.

25 Q All right. So this is what's incorporated into your

1 office's standard operating procedures. For YSTR testing,
2 it's noted that two specimens -- and when we say two
3 specimens, we're talking about the unknown sample that
4 we're trying to figure out where the DNA came from,
5 correct?

6 A That's right.

7 Q And we're talking about the -- what you're comparing
8 it to, correct?

9 A That's right.

10 Q Two specimens that exhibit the same YSTR haplotype.
11 That's that Y chromosome, correct?

12 A That's right.

13 Q Could have either originated from either a common
14 individual, right?

15 A That's right.

16 Q So there, we're talking about the person you're
17 comparing it to?

18 A That's right.

19 Q From any male within the same paternal lineage,
20 right?

21 A That's right.

22 Q So there, we're talking about that example we just
23 went through, any one of my male relatives going back
24 however many generations?

25 A That's right.

1 Q Or unrelated individuals?

2 A That's right.

3 Q So it could be somebody completely different?

4 A That's right.

5 Q Somebody not in the family?

6 A That's right.

7 Q Somebody not related to the person that you are
8 comparing the testing to?

9 A That's right.

10 Q Now, on that Y chromosome, for us to say that it is
11 a -- let's use the word. I don't want to use this word,
12 but let's use the word match, okay. For it to be a match,
13 there's 23 different markers on the Y chromosome, correct?
14 That you're looking at?

15 A That we look at, yes.

16 Q The testing for YSTR testing has 23 different
17 markers?

18 A That's right.

19 Q And to develop a -- to have a full haplotype profile
20 on the Y chromosome, you need all 23 of those markers?

21 A If it's going to be a full haplotype. Now,
22 occasionally, we don't get a full profile. And there's a
23 number of reasons for that.

24 Q But for it to be a full haplotype, you need all 23 of
25 those markers?

1 A That's right.

2 Q And if you get -- if you have 22 of those, it's not a
3 full haplotype profile, correct?

4 A That's right.

5 Q And if you have 22 and you don't know what that 23rd
6 is and then that 23rd ends up not being consistent with
7 the person you were provided a sample, it would no longer
8 be a match, right?

9 A So if there's no data at a particular point, which
10 can happen for either being low levels of DNA or
11 degradation, there's some things that inhibit DNA.
12 There's various reasons, depending on the nature of the
13 sample that we cannot get a full profile. If there's no
14 data at a significant point, so inclusion or exclusion, we
15 can only compare what we have.

16 That said, if there's even one mismatch on that
17 entire haplotype, it's an exclusion. So if we have 22
18 that match and one that doesn't, it's an exclusion. But
19 if we have 22 that show up and one that doesn't show up,
20 we can't make any conclusion based on the one that didn't
21 show up.

22 Q Right. Because those ones that are missing, you just
23 have no idea what that information is?

24 A That's right.

25 MR. NEELY: One moment, Your Honor.

1 THE COURT: Uh-huh.

2 (Pause.)

3 BY MR. NEELY:

4 Q All right. I want to talk a little bit about -- just
5 very briefly, about the actual testing process for DNA.
6 Following your guidelines, there are -- and I can't ever
7 remember, RFUs?

8 A Yes, RFUs.

9 Q And that stands for what?

10 A Relative fluorescent units.

11 Q And your standing operating procedures set the levels
12 of RFUs that are acceptable for your lab to use in
13 testing, correct?

14 A Yes. So a DNA profile is, basically, the end result
15 after we, actually, have a DNA profile and have done what
16 we need to chemically to develop it, it's a graft with
17 peaks on it. So RFUs are how we measure how high the peak
18 is, basically.

19 Q So for your lab, that number is set at 100 RFUs,
20 correct?

21 A At the time, it was 100 RFUs for our YSTR chemistry.

22 Q So at the time that this testing was done, it was 100
23 RFUs?

24 A That's right.

25 Q And anything below that would have violated your

1 standard operating procedures?

2 A That's right.

3 Q All right: Now, in your preparation for this case,
4 you had a chance to review Dr. Kandala's report, correct?

5 A I did.

6 Q Now, at the very beginning when I started asking you
7 questions, you said -- and you told Ms. Abee this as well
8 that all of your reports are peer reviewed by another
9 analyst?

10 A That's right.

11 Q So any report that Dr. Kandala would have generated
12 would have been peer reviewed by somebody else?

13 A That's right.

14 Q So any report that he did, another person in your lab
15 looked at?

16 A That's right.

17 Q And if it made it through that process, that means
18 that two different people signed off on it?

19 A That's right.

20 Q As that work being correct?

21 A Yes, that's right.

22 Q All right. Now, two of the samples that were
23 provided that you performed -- that you did serology on
24 and, ultimately, made it through DNA testing were
25 fingernail samples from Cati Blauvelt, correct?

1 A That's correct.

2 Q One from her left hand and one from her left hand?

3 A That's correct.

4 Q You can look if you want to.

5 A I'll double check, but I believe that's correct.

6 Q Items 54 and 55.

7 A Yes, that's correct.

8 Q Now, when Dr. Kandala issued his report, he stated
9 that there was a DNA match for John Blauvelt on 54 and 55,
10 correct?

11 A He had YSTR match to him and paternal male relatives.

12 Q He had a YSTR match to John and paternal match.
13 Okay. He had a match for John on left hand and right,
14 correct?

15 A That's right, I believe so.

16 Q All right. That's a letter that you -- or a
17 memorandum that you generated on July 26th of this year?

18 A That's right.

19 Q And that says in preparation for this trial, you
20 reviewed Dr. Kandala's work?

21 A That's right.

22 Q All right. And, again, that report that he issued
23 that you reviewed, that was something that was peer
24 reviewed by somebody else in your office?

25 A That's right.

1 Q And then in preparing those reports -- or in
2 reviewing those reports, you made the determination that
3 he had made mistakes?

4 A That's right.

5 Q And then you issued a new report?

6 A I released an amended report.

7 Q An amended report. At what point in time did you go
8 back and retest the DNA?

9 A So, normally, I'm not -- we've done, obviously,
10 thousands of cases. I don't have the opportunity to go
11 back and look at all of them. But if we get notification
12 that -- like we did in this case, we received a discovery
13 request for the DNA results here, I go back and review it
14 and look into the case as we're turning it over. And so
15 that was when I noticed the discrepancy.

16 Q Right. So my question was at what point in time did
17 you go back and retest the DNA?

18 A So following the issue -- finding the issue, we knew
19 we had to issue an amended report. So I didn't have to
20 physically go back and rehandle the actual samples because
21 we already had the profiles that had generated. The issue
22 was on the interpretation of those profiles. So I went
23 back and reinterpreted the haplotypes that he had produced
24 and reported on previously using the proper procedures.

25 Q Okay. So at no point you went back and retested the

1 DNA?

2 A I didn't have to go physically rehandle the DNA, no.

3 Q Okay. On this report that you generated, this
4 amended report, looking at -- I might mix these up -- item
5 number 54 on your amended record?

6 A Yes, I have it.

7 Q All right. Under the amended report, you note the
8 presence of two male DNA profiles?

9 A That's right. My results for that were -- do you
10 want me to say my results?

11 Q Sure.

12 A The DNA results from -- obtained from item 54A
13 contained a partial mixture of, at least, two individuals.
14 Charles S. Scott, Richard Larry Hargrove and Franklin
15 Wayne Roper are excluded as contributors to this mixture.
16 Due to limited data, no conclusive determination can be
17 made for John Tufton Blauvelt.

18 Q So no conclusion about John, but two males are noted,
19 two male profiles?

20 A At least, two.

21 Q So it could be three male profiles?

22 A As you mentioned, it's shared along lineage. So, for
23 example, you and your son, if we put your DNA together and
24 look only at the Y chromosome, it would look like one
25 person because there you have the same. So we can never

1 say how many people -- what the maximum number of people
2 are, but we can say how many the minimum are.

3 Q Right. So on 54, you noted, at least, two profiles
4 present?

5 A That's right.

6 Q And then for 55, you use the words partial match
7 referring to John Blauvelt, correct?

8 A I referred to it being a partial haplotype.

9 Q And that's very important, not a partial match, a
10 partial haplotype?

11 A That's right.

12 Q And, again, to have a full haplotype, you have to
13 have all 23 of those markers?

14 A That's right.

15 Q Now, for John -- and you can look back if you need
16 to, we had seven of those haplotypes, correct?

17 A Let me check my notes just to make sure.

18 (Pause.)

19 A That's right, there were seven.

20 Q Out of 23 markers, we had seven available to us?

21 A That's right.

22 Q And, again, if any one of those markers is
23 inconsistent, John Blauvelt would be excluded?

24 A That's right, if any of them did not match the known
25 sample, there would be an exclusion.

1 Q So we're operating with about 30 percent of the
2 available information on that haplotype?

3 A Approximately.

4 Q Okay. And, again, you're -- we've got about
5 30 percent of -- of the available data, right? Seven out
6 of the 23 markers?

7 A That's right.

8 Q And you're comparing that against four known samples?

9 A That's right.

10 Q And no more were provided?

11 A That's right.

12 Q And you issued your amended report in July of '24?

13 A That's right.

14 Q And you sent that -- you forwarded that information
15 onto Captain Schofield?

16 A Yeah, sent it forward with the discovery packet.

17 MR. NEELY: Nothing further.

18 Thank you, Your Honor.

19 THE COURT: Any redirect?

20 MS. ABEE: Yes, Your Honor.

21 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

22 BY MS. ABEE:

23 Q Mr. Nafziger, you and I had talked and I asked you to
24 stay around after your testimony in case I needed to
25 recall you about this DNA, do you remember that?

1 A Yes, I do.

2 Q Okay. Since Mr. Neely, kind of brought up this Y
3 strand DNA and Dr. Kandala's report, let's talk a little
4 bit about that. There are two types of DNA analysis that
5 were performed in this case; is that fair?

6 A That's right.

7 Q So Mr. Neely talked a lot about the Y strand DNA, but
8 then, there's autosomal DNA; is that right?

9 A That's right.

10 Q And if you could, explain to us what is the
11 difference between autosomal DNA and Y strand DNA?

12 A So autosomal DNA is what I think most people think of
13 when they think of DNA, is you inherit half from your
14 mother, half from your father and it's unique to each
15 person except for identical siblings. YSTR -- or Y
16 chromosome is just simply Y markers are only on the Y
17 chromosome. So that's the difference, you've got just the
18 Y chromosome versus all the other chromosomes.

19 Q And in preparation for this case coming to court, you
20 reviewed Dr. Kandala's analysis of the DNA extractions,
21 right?

22 A That's right.

23 Q And did you find any issues with the way that he
24 performed the DNA extractions?

25 A No, I didn't.

1 Q So as Mr. Neely's talking about you reprocessing the
2 DNA pieces, you didn't find any issues with that; is that
3 fair?

4 A No, I didn't find any issues with that.

5 Q Okay. And in regards to the autosomal DNA result
6 that Dr. Kandala had, you didn't see any issues with his
7 interpretation of those either?

8 A That's right. I did not amend any of those findings.

9 Q Okay. But you did amend the YSTR findings; is that
10 right?

11 A That's right.

12 Q And I want to kind of make sure it's clear as to why
13 you had to amend Dr. Kandala's YSTAR testing. So if you
14 could, just kind of explain that to us. I want to make
15 sure we understand.

16 A So like I was saying with the haplotype that when we
17 get the graft with the peaks on it, we validate a certain
18 level that's called an analytical threshold, which is a
19 with a hundred RFUs in the case. So, basically, that is
20 the level above which we can confidently say is a real
21 peak, a true peak. Because there can artifacts or
22 baseline noise and things that can pop up from time to
23 time. So we want to make sure when we validate our
24 procedures, before we ever use it on a case that we
25 validate and see what is going to be the level above which

1 we can be completely competent that this is a real marker.
2 So that's what that analytical threshold is.

3 So in this particular case, there are peaks that are
4 below a hundred RFU and they might be real peaks or they
5 might not be real peaks. But based on our validation,
6 we're not able to use them for anything because we don't
7 know for certain that they're real peaks. So we only use
8 peaks that are higher than 100 RFU.

9 Q Okay. So there's kind of peaks in this YSTR DNA and
10 when it hits a hundred or above, you get to start
11 considering it and looking at it; is that fair?

12 A That's right.

13 Q And if it doesn't hit a hundred, you're supposed to
14 scientifically exclude any interpretation of it?

15 A That's right.

16 Q Okay. And in reviewing Dr. Kandala's report, had he
17 included some of those peaks below a hundred?

18 A That's right. He had included four peaks that were
19 close to a hundred RFU, but were under a hundred RFU.

20 Q Okay. So they were close, but they weren't quite a
21 hundred?

22 A That's right.

23 Q So when you reinterpreted this, you excluded those;
24 is that fair?

25 A That's right.

1 Q So your results in your amended report issued in 2024
2 that we're about to go through, all of those
3 interpretations are at that 100 RFU threshold; is that
4 fair?

5 A That's right.

6 Q Okay. So kind of tell us why would there be peaks
7 that don't hit that 100 RFU. You know, we're kind of
8 seeing these partial profiles or partial haplotypes. Is
9 that normal in DNA?

10 A That is normal. It depends on the situation. There
11 can be different explanations for it. Sometimes there's
12 just not enough DNA there. And I think that was the case
13 in this one where it was just a very low amount of DNA,
14 but we'll try to see how much information we can get from
15 it.

16 You can, also, have situations -- and it may have
17 been the case as well, I don't know for sure, but you can
18 have degradation. Basically, your DNA over time can
19 degrade a little bit. It can break down. So depending on
20 how it's stored or how long it's been in and what elements
21 and that kind of thing.

22 So sometimes you can have -- some of your DNA,
23 certain markers will fall off because they have just
24 degraded. And there's some chemicals and various factors
25 that cause inhibition that can interfere with our ability

1 to get a profile.

2 I don't feel like that was the case in this situation
3 because we did get a profile. But we, also, run positive
4 and negative controls with every run so we can make sure
5 that all of our chemicals and instruments are operating
6 properly. And those all went perfectly in this case.

7 Q And so is it fair to say that sometimes DNA just
8 isn't left behind?

9 A That's right. Or -- that's right.

10 Q One of the reasons. And then it could have been
11 degraded through the elements and things like that?

12 A That's right. And we can't really tell for sure why
13 you don't get DNA or why you don't get a certain amount of
14 DNA. That's not something that we can really identify
15 with certainty through scientific things.

16 Q And you can't tell us how certain DNA got in a
17 certain location either; is that fair?

18 A That's right.

19 Q Okay. I want to talk through these items, 54A and
20 55A, which Mr. Neely talked to you about. 54A is what?

21 A 54A is a sample of fingernail clippings from left
22 hand.

23 Q And would that be the left hand of Cati Blauvelt?

24 A Of Cati Blauvelt.

25 Q So Cati Blauvelt's fingernail clippings from her left

1 hand. And what about 55A?

2 A 55A is sample of fingernail clippings from right hand
3 of Cati Blauvelt.

4 Q So we're talking about what's underneath her
5 fingernails?

6 A That's right.

7 Q So let's first talk about 54A. What were your
8 results in regards to the YSTR testing on 54A?

9 A The DNA results from item 54A contained a partial
10 mixture of, at least, two individuals. Charles S. Scott,
11 Richard Larry Hargrove and Franklin Wayne Roper are
12 excluded as contributors to this mixture. Due to limited
13 data, no conclusive determination can be made for John
14 Tufton Blauvelt.

15 Q What does that mean? Explain that to us. Due to
16 limited data, no conclusion can be made regarding the
17 Defendant. What does that mean?

18 A So we have two -- two things happening here. One,
19 there was a partial profile, so we did not have data at
20 every marker. And two, we had -- if you do a single
21 source haplotype from one person, one Y strand haplotype,
22 you have one marker at every location. But if we do it
23 and we see two markers at most locations, that means
24 there's -- or, really, almost any location, we know it's a
25 mixture of two people.

1 Okay. So a lot of times, unless there's a very --
2 like, unless one, like, is very, very low level and one is
3 very, very high level, we can't tell which marker goes to
4 which person. So we can't do a stat for someone. Even if
5 they have markers everywhere, there's other markers that
6 are not there. So we can't say for certainty whose that
7 is. However, we can exclude people if they have a
8 marker -- if it's a third marker that's not present on the
9 sample. So it's really in practice easier to exclude
10 someone than it is to include someone.

11 So this is a situation where we can exclude certain
12 people, but not exclude other people, but that doesn't
13 mean we can match that person to that.

14 Q So with the items that were underneath the
15 fingernails of the left hand on 54A, you were able to
16 exclude Charles Scott?

17 A Yes.

18 Q You were able to exclude Richard Larry Hargrove?

19 A That's right.

20 Q And you were able to exclude Franklin Wayne Roper?

21 A That's right.

22 Q And then you were, also, asked to look at John
23 Blauvelt, but, basically, there's just not enough
24 information -- you weren't able to exclude him; is that
25 accurate?

1 A That's right.

2 Q So you couldn't exclude him, but there wasn't enough
3 information for you to be able to say there's a partial
4 haplotype match?

5 A That's right. I can't make any -- I cannot say it is
6 a match between him and the sample.

7 Q And, again, you can't tell us how that DNA got
8 underneath the fingernails?

9 A That's right.

10 Q Now, 54A and 55A differ a little bit; is that fair to
11 say?

12 A That's right.

13 Q So in 55A, which I believe is the right fingernail
14 clippings?

15 A That's right.

16 Q The fingernail clippings from the right hand of Cati
17 Blauvelt?

18 A That's right.

19 Q Tell us about the results, kind of read that to us
20 and we'll go through about what's underneath the right
21 fingernail clippings of Cati Blauvelt?

22 A So the DNA results obtained from 55A contained, at
23 least, one partial haplotype. This partial haplotype
24 matches the haplotype of John Tufton Blauvelt and any of
25 his paternal male relatives. John Tufton Blauvelt and any

1 of his paternal male relatives cannot be excluded as a
2 contributor of the YSTR haplotype obtained from item 55A.
3 The YSTR haplotype obtained from item 55A is not expected
4 to occur more frequently than one in 86 individuals.
5 Charles S. Scott, Franklin Wayne Roper and Richard Larry
6 Hargrove are excluded as contributors to item 55A.

7 Q Okay. So 55A, you developed a partial haplotype that
8 does have enough information for you to kind of compare?

9 A That's right.

10 Q And let's start at the people you excluded. Who all
11 did you exclude? Charles Scott?

12 A Charles S. Scott.

13 Q Okay.

14 A Franklin Wayne Roper and Richard Larry Hargrove are
15 excluded as contributors to 55A.

16 Q Okay. So even though you only have seven out of the
17 23 peaks, you can tell that these three individuals, they
18 don't share one of those common peaks, so they're out?

19 A That's right. And, at least, one of those markers,
20 they do not share.

21 Q But John Blauvelt, the Defendant, shares all seven of
22 those markers; is that fair?

23 A That's right.

24 Q And if Mr. Blauvelt didn't have one of those seven
25 markers, you would have excluded him, too; is that fair?

1 A That's right.

2 Q But you weren't able to exclude Mr. Blauvelt, were
3 you?

4 A I was not. .

5 Q And then we know this, also, doesn't exclude
6 Mr. Blauvelt's male relatives, right?

7 A That's right.

8 Q And, also, there could be additional information in
9 the rest of those 23 peaks if we had a full haplotype that
10 could potentially exclude Mr. Blauvelt, right?

11 A That's right.

12 Q But it could, also, potentially match Mr. Blauvelt,
13 right?

14 A I can't make any conclusions with markers that I
15 don't have.

16 Q That's completely fair. And then the seven markers
17 that you have, you kind of give us the statistical
18 frequency in which you would expect to see that; is that
19 right?

20 A That's right. So there's a chance that there's
21 someone unrelated that could share those markers as well.
22 So that's what we use. We use the US YSTR data set and a
23 stat of one in 86 individuals.

24 Q And it says one in 86 individuals, but since this is
25 YSTR DNA, would that be biological males?

1 A That's right.

2 Q So one in 86 biological males would -- or
3 statistically could have those seven markers, right?

4 A That's right.

5 Q But those seven markers found underneath Cati
6 Blauvelt's right fingernails do, in fact, match the seven
7 markers that John Blauvelt and his paternal relatives
8 have?

9 A Yes, the markers on the evidence match the markers
10 from the buccal swab from John Blauvelt.

11 MS. ABEE: I beg the Court's indulgence, Your Honor.

12 (Pause.)

13 MS. ABEE: Your Honor, I have no further questions at
14 this time.

15 THE COURT: Any recross?

16 MR. NEELY: Yes, Your Honor.

17 RECROSS-EXAMINATION

18 BY MR. NEELY:

19 Q All right. In the letter where you amended your
20 report, you didn't just disagree with how Dr. Kandala
21 interpreted YSTR. You, also, disagreed with how he
22 interpreted YSTR mixtures, correct?

23 A That's right.

24 Q Okay. Now, this male lineage, we got into it a
25 little bit, but it could go back thousands of years

1 potentially?

2 A Potentially.

3 Q And then you start spotting off those paternal
4 lineages that -- it's all encompassing at that point,
5 correct?

6 A Yes.

7 Q Now, you -- we excluded three individuals, correct,
8 on 55, 54, one of those?

9 A On both of them.

10 Q On both of them, we were able to exclude, but we
11 couldn't exclude John Blauvelt, correct?

12 A That's right.

13 Q But, also, there's an expansive number of people that
14 we, also, couldn't exclude, correct?

15 A That's right.

16 Q All right. The number that you calculated was those
17 seven haplotypes occur in one out of every 86 biological
18 males?

19 A It is not expected to occur more frequently than one
20 in every 86.

21 Q One out of every 86?

22 A Uh-huh.

23 Q Now, as -- in your report, in your amended report,
24 the language that you used was that it can't exclude John
25 Blauvelt or any of his paternal male relatives, correct?

1 A That's right.

2 Q But you didn't include the language from your
3 standard operating procedures about or unknown
4 individuals, did you?

5 A I did. That is the stat, that is what the purpose of
6 the stat is, the YSTR haplotype obtained from item 55A is
7 not expected to occur more frequently than one in 86
8 individuals. That's based on population data of unrelated
9 people.

10 Q So one out of 86 people. Okay. Now, you and
11 Ms. Abee just talked about the RFUs and changing that
12 threshold. You put it -- you have software that generates
13 the grafts for the peaks, correct?

14 A That's right.

15 Q Now, that software is set based on your standard
16 operating procedures to a hundred RFUs?

17 A The data exists below that. We have the data that's
18 less than that and we have the data to tell how high the
19 peaks are at any height, but we're only allowed to use for
20 stats the peaks that are above the analytical threshold.

21 Q So according to your standard operating procedures,
22 you are only allowed to use peaks that are generated above
23 a hundred RFUs?

24 A Yes.

25 Q So your programming is set to be in compliance with

1 your standard operating procedures to generate a graft
2 above a hundred RFUs?

3 A There is no reason we can't look at what the RFU
4 values are below. Like, that information exist. The
5 information doesn't not exist.

6 Q Other than it violates --

7 A We're just not allowed to use it for comparison.

8 Q You're not allowed to use it, but Dr. Kandala did?

9 A He did.

10 Q And even using it, he only had 11 out of 23 markers?

11 A That's right.

12 Q So still less than 50 percent of available
13 information?

14 A That's right.

15 MR. NEELY: Nothing further, Your Honor.

16 THE COURT: Anything else, Ms. Abee?

17 MS. ABEE: No, Your Honor.

18 THE COURT: All right. You may step down.

19 Thank you.

20 Next witness.

21 MS. ABEE: Judge, can we approach briefly?

22 THE COURT: Yeah.

23 (WHEREUPON, a bench conference was held.)

24 THE COURT: All right. Ladies and gentlemen, we're
25 going to take a short restroom break, five minutes or

1 however long. Y'all need to go longer than five minutes,
2 that's fine. We're going to take a break before this next
3 witness, just a little restroom break.

4 (WHEREUPON, the jury was excused from open court at
5 approximately 11:52 a.m.)

6 THE COURT: All right. We'll be in recess.

7 (WHEREUPON, a break was taken.)

8 THE COURT: Are you all ready?

9 MS. ABEE: Yes, Your Honor.

10 MR. NEELY: Yes, sir.

11 (WHEREUPON, the jury came into open court at
12 approximately 12:02 p.m.)

13 THE COURT: State call its next witness.

14 MS. ABEE: Thank you, Your Honor. The State calls
15 Captain Cheryl Schofield.

16 WHEREUPON,

17 CHERYL SCHOFIELD,

18 after first having been duly sworn, testified as follows:

19 THE CLERK: Thank you.

20 Please be seated.

21 Please state your name for the record.

22 THE WITNESS: Cheryl Schofield.

23 DIRECT EXAMINATION

24 BY MS. ABEE:

25 Q And Captain Schofield, go ahead and spell that last

1 name for us.

2 A S-C-H-O-F-I-E-L-D.

3 Q And I'm calling you captain, but go ahead and let's
4 let the members of the jury know what you do for a living.

5 A I have been in law enforcement for 17 years.

6 Q Where are you currently working?

7 A Simpsonville Police Department.

8 Q What's your current position there?

9 A I am the administrative captain.

10 Q And how long -- or how many years have you spent at
11 the Simpsonville Police Department?

12 A Sixteen years.

13 Q And what was your position back in October of 2016?

14 A I was an investigator.

15 Q Okay. And tell us a little bit what you do now as
16 the administrative captain over at Simpsonville?

17 A I am one of two captains and I am currently over the
18 investigative division. And I'm, also, over dispatch as
19 well as several administrative lieutenants.

20 Q And you said you're over investigations, what does
21 that mean?

22 A I am their main boss. There's the chief that's above
23 me, but I'm their second boss to the chief for the
24 investigators.

25 Q And back in October of 2016, where were you assigned?

1 A I was assigned to the investigative division.

2 Q And what do you do in the investigative division?

3 A At that time, my primary focus was white collar.

4 There was only three investigators at the time, so we all
5 had our specifications. I was primarily focused for white
6 collar crime, things like bank frauds, money frauds,
7 credit card frauds, things like that.

8 Q Okay. Were you involved at all in this investigation
9 against the Defendant, John Blauvelt?

10 A I was.

11 Q And who -- what other investigators were involved in
12 that?

13 A It was Investigator Morecraft, Investigator Donnelly
14 and myself.

15 Q And why three investigators on this case?

16 A Our investigative division only had three people, so
17 when incidents of this magnitude happen, all three of us
18 come out and assist each other on scene.

19 Q Okay. Is it fair to say that it was all hands on
20 deck?

21 A Yes, ma'am.

22 Q I think maybe you worked some with Fountain Inn
23 Police Department; is that right?

24 A That's correct.

25 Q They assisted, and then we've heard from some

1 forensics division with Greenville County as well?

2 A That's correct.

3 Q And is that typical for Simpsonville when you have a
4 homicide to call in kind of other agencies to help assist
5 you?

6 A Yes, ma'am.

7 Q And how many people are on the police force of
8 Simpsonville PD?

9 A There are 51 sworn, I believe.

10 Q Okay. And in 2016, there were just three
11 investigators?

12 A That's correct.

13 Q Ultimately, who was the main case agent in this case
14 throughout 2016?

15 A It was Investigator Morecraft.

16 Q So Investigator Morecraft is kind of the main case
17 agent, but you and Investigator Donnelly were helping
18 throughout; is that fair?

19 A That's fair.

20 Q And did Investigator Morecraft, he told us he
21 retired?

22 A That's correct.

23 Q And once he retired in, I believe, 2019, did you take
24 over?

25 A I did.

1 Q Okay. Why is that?

2 A Just because there were still things to do.
3 Mr. Blauvelt still hadn't been arrested at that point and
4 there was still investigations that needed to be
5 concluded.

6 Q So at the point that Investigator Morecraft retires
7 in 2019, Mr. Blauvelt still hadn't been located?

8 A That's correct.

9 Q Okay. And were you involved in this case throughout
10 that time?

11 A I was.

12 Q All right. Now I believe you were in charge or
13 responsible for doing some interviews; is that fair? Or
14 you were present during some interviews?

15 A I was.

16 Q And was one of those Hannah Thompson?

17 A I interviewed her several times, yes.

18 Q And once Hannah Thompson returned in December of
19 2016, is that one of the interviews you were responsible
20 for?

21 A That was one of them, yes.

22 Q Investigator Morecraft showed us kind of an area of a
23 basement, kind of a water area of the basement, are you
24 familiar with that?

25 A I am.

1 Q Walk us through the process of interviewing Hannah
2 Thompson and then, ultimately, going back out to that
3 abandoned house?

4 A Hannah Thompson came back and interviewed with us in
5 December of 2016. And a part of that conversation was
6 kind of telling us about her and John fleeing from the
7 State of South Carolina and going out west. And a part of
8 that was, also, John Blauvelt telling Hannah what he had
9 done to Cati as far as murdering her and the fact that her
10 cell phone, Cati Blauvelt's cell phone, John Blauvelt
11 threw in a flooded basement that was adjacent to the
12 basement that we located Cati's body.

13 Q Now, were you involved early on in this case on
14 October the 26th when Cati's body was located?

15 A Yes, ma'am.

16 Q Had you been out to that house?

17 A I had.

18 Q Had you seen that side of the basement?

19 A I had not seen that particular side of the basement
20 at that point.

21 Q And to your knowledge, did anyone see a cell phone in
22 there at that point in time?

23 A To my knowledge, nobody knew the cell phone was back
24 there.

25 Q And in order for you to be able to see the cell

1 phone, what did y'all do help get the water out of there?

2 A We contacted our public works that was able to pump
3 the water out of that other part of the basement, which
4 then exposed the basement floor to be able to see the cell
5 phone.

6 Q And we looked through some pictures with Investigator
7 Morecraft yesterday. And once that water was pumped out,
8 I believe the cell phone was recovered?

9 A That's correct.

10 Q Was that the same area that Hannah had told you John
11 said he threw the phone?

12 A Yes.

13 Q Okay. We heard from someone yesterday with
14 Progressive Auto Insurance and he showed us Cati
15 Blauvelt's snapshot. He showed the distances and the
16 times of the drives that she had taken on October the 24th
17 -- or that had been taken in her car on October the 24th
18 of 2016. And you've been able to sit here all week long.
19 So do you remember that testimony?

20 A Yes, ma'am.

21 Q And in preparation for this trial, did I ask you to
22 --

23 MR. NEELY: Objection, Your Honor.

24 May we approach?

25 (WHEREUPON, a bench conference was held.)

1 BY MS. ABEE:

2 Q Captain Schofield, in preparation for this trial, I
3 asked you to drive some distances, do you remember that?

4 A Yes, ma'am.

5 Q Okay. And we're going to go through these here in a
6 minute, but I just want to be clear. We have no idea
7 which route John Blauvelt or whoever was in Cati's car
8 took that night; is that fair?

9 A That's correct.

10 Q Okay. We don't have a camera video of John Blauvelt
11 going from one location to another; is that fair?

12 A That's correct.

13 Q These distances that you drove and these routes that
14 you drove were just kind of the easiest possible way to
15 get from point A to point B; is that fair?

16 A That's correct.

17 Q And so first I asked you to drive from the PetSmart
18 on Woodruff Road, which we've heard is the last location
19 that somebody saw Cati, to the abandoned house. Do you
20 recall that?

21 A Yes, ma'am.

22 Q Okay. What was that distance?

23 A I calculated that distance to be 11 miles.

24 Q And is it fair to say that you drove this route in
25 2024?

1 A Yes.

2 Q The roads could have changed from 2016?

3 A That's correct.

4 Q And we have no idea which route someone would have
5 taken or could have taken on that day?

6 A Correct.

7 Q But that the PetSmart on Woodruff Road and the
8 abandoned house where Cati's body is located is
9 approximately 11 miles?

10 A Yes, ma'am.

11 Q Today?

12 A Yes, ma'am.

13 Q Now, the next thing I asked you to drive was from
14 that abandoned house to John Blauvelt's house back on
15 South Kings Drive, the house he was living in in 2016.
16 Were you able to drive that distance for us?

17 A Yes, ma'am.

18 Q And what was that distance?

19 A 2.5 miles.

20 Q And, again, that's using modern day roads, right?

21 A Correct.

22 Q That's using kind of the quickest possible way to get
23 there, right?

24 A Correct.

25 Q Okay. And then from the house on South Kings Drive

1 to White Horse Road where Cati's car was located, have you
2 been able to drive that?

3 A Yes, ma'am.

4 Q Okay. What is that distance?

5 A 14 miles.

6 Q And is that the quickest possible way to get there?

7 A It is.

8 Q And when you're taking that quickest possible way,
9 are you taking what types of roads?

10 A Highways.

11 Q Okay. Were you taking any sort of back roads or
12 anything like that?

13 A Just the main back roads off the highway.

14 Q So the quickest way to get from point A to point B
15 was 14 miles?

16 A Correct.

17 Q Okay. Now, were you involved at all in picking up
18 John Blauvelt in the State of Oregon?

19 A I was.

20 Q Okay. And tell us how you got out there?

21 A I was notified on July 20th, I believe, of 2022 that
22 he had been captured in Oregon. Myself, Investigator
23 Donnelly and a third investigator flew out to Medford,
24 Oregon on August 1st and we were able to meet with local
25 law enforcement, U.S. Marshals on August 2nd. And then,

1 subsequently, met with an officer at Medford Airport, I
2 believe, on August 3rd to pick up John Blauvelt, who was
3 transported.

4 Q Okay. So you physically flew out to Oregon, helped
5 pick him up and then flew back with him; is that fair?

6 A That's correct.

7 Q Now, had you seen John Blauvelt prior to him going on
8 the run in November of 2016?

9 A I did.

10 Q Were you familiar with the way that he looked?

11 A I was.

12 Q Now, when you saw him in Oregon in 20 -- what was
13 that 2022?

14 A Correct.

15 Q Okay. Subsequently in 2022, did he physically look
16 the same?

17 A No.

18 Q Okay. Tell us some of the differences in the way
19 that he looked?

20 A John Blauvelt in 2022 had hair that was probably down
21 to the middle of his back, which was not what he looked
22 like when he left. He was very -- had very short hair in
23 2016. Also, had a really thick beard, which was not,
24 also, the case in 2016, he was clean shaven. And he was
25 heavier in 2022 than he was in 2016 when he fled.

1 Q All right. So clean shaven, short hair in 2016, but
2 in 2022, long hair, thick beard, had gained some weight?

3 A Correct.

4 Q Okay. And when you were up in Oregon, did you take
5 into your possession some evidence that has been located
6 on Mr. Blauvelt?

7 A I did.

8 Q Okay. And I'm going to approach you with what's been
9 entered as State's Exhibit No. 2. And do you recognize
10 this?

11 A I do.

12 Q Okay. And tell us what is this?

13 A It's several items that I received from one of U.S.
14 Marshals in Oregon on August 2nd when we flew out there to
15 pick up John Blauvelt.

16 Q And are these a fair and accurate representation of
17 the items they gave you?

18 A It is.

19 Q It doesn't look like anything has been taken out or
20 anything like that?

21 A No, ma'am.

22 Q Okay. I'm going to pull something out of here. I
23 think this is what we've been referring to as the journal.
24 Did you have an opportunity to read and review this?

25 A I did.

1 Q Okay. And throughout this journal, does the
2 Defendant just kind of talk about what he's doing?

3 A Yes.

4 Q Okay. Were you made aware of the Defendant's
5 daughter's name?

6 A Yes, it was Madison.

7 Q And is she referenced throughout here?

8 A She is.

9 MS. ABEE: Your Honor, may I have one second?

10 THE COURT: Uh-huh.

11 (Pause.)

12 BY MS. ABEE:

13 Q And just before we get to this journal entry, I'm
14 going to ask you do you see the person that you flew out
15 to Oregon to pick up to be known as John Blauvelt in this
16 courtroom here today?

17 A I do. He's at the defense table in the blue jacket
18 and tie.

19 MS. ABEE: Your Honor, let the record so reflect.

20 BY MS. ABEE:

21 Q So you told us a little bit ago that Investigator
22 Morecraft was the lead investigator in this case. When
23 you were reading through this journal, did you have an
24 opportunity to read anything where the Defendant wrote
25 about Investigator Morecraft?

1 A I did.

2 Q And being one of three investigators in Simpsonville,
3 did you know Investigator Morecraft personally?

4 A Yes..

5 Q Are you aware if he had a daughter?

6 A I am.

7 Q Are you aware of his daughter's name?

8 A Yes.

9 Q Okay. What is his daughter's name?

10 A Madison.

11 Q And throughout this book, were you able to find
12 journal entries regarding Investigator Morecraft and his
13 daughter?

14 A I was, yes.

15 Q I'm going to approach you again with the journal and
16 show you Page 41. Do you recognize that?

17 A I do.

18 MS. ABEE: Permission to publish, Your Honor.

19 THE COURT: Yeah.

20 BY MS. ABEE:

21 Q So this is the journal entry that I just showed you?

22 A Yes, ma'am.

23 Q What's the date on that?

24 A January 3rd, 2017.

25 Q All right. I'm going to come down here to the

1 bottom. Down here, who's he referencing?

2 A Morecraft's daughter.

3 Q Okay. And Investigator Morecraft, is that the main
4 investigator in your case?

5 A It is.

6 Q And we see certain letters that are capitalized. Do
7 you see those?

8 A I do.

9 Q What are the capitalized letters that the Defendant
10 wrote in the journal when referencing Investigator
11 Morecraft?

12 A It spells out I did it.

13 MS. ABEE: Thank you.

14 I have no further questions, Your Honor.

15 THE COURT: All right. Cross.

16 MR. NEELY: Thank you, Your Honor.

17 CROSS-EXAMINATION

18 BY MR. NEELY:

19 Q Good afternoon.

20 A Good afternoon.

21 Q Captain Schofield -- let me start over. Captain
22 Schofield, you've been in law enforcement for 17 years?

23 A Yes, I have.

24 Q And now you're the administrative captain at
25 Simpsonville?

1 A That's correct.

2 Q But like we talked about with Officer Morecraft
3 yesterday, you didn't get to start out by being a captain?

4 A Correct. .

5 Q All right. And just like Officer Morecraft, you
6 started out your law enforcement career by going to the
7 criminal justice academy?

8 A I did.

9 Q And when Officer Morecraft went there, the academy
10 was eight weeks. How long was it when you went?

11 A It was the same, it was eight weeks.

12 Q Same, eight weeks. And you probably took the same
13 courses that Officer Morecraft took?

14 A Quite possibly.

15 Q Quite possibly. Again, you took legals?

16 A Yes.

17 Q How to interview suspects?

18 A Yes.

19 Q How to interview witnesses?

20 A Yes.

21 Q How to process a crime scene?

22 A Yes.

23 Q How to collect evidence?

24 A Yes.

25 Q How to hold a firearm?

1 A Yes.

2 Q How to discharge a firearm?

3 A Yes.

4 Q How to discharge a taser?

5 A Yes.

6 Q How to drive a vehicle?

7 A Yes.

8 Q How to drive a vehicle safely?

9 A Yes.

10 Q You learned how to the write incident reports?

11 A I did.

12 Q And just like Officer Morecraft, they taught you when
13 you write incident reports, you want to write them
14 thoroughly? "

15 A Correct.

16 Q And accurately?

17 A Correct.

18 Q And completely?

19 A Yes.

20 Q And it's safe to say you passed your courses at the
21 criminal justice academy?

22 A I did.

23 Q And so everyday for the last 17 years, you utilize
24 your training, correct?

25 A Correct.

1 Q So when you write incident reports, you always write
2 them the way you learned them, thoroughly?

3 A Yes.

4 Q And accurately? .

5 A Yes.

6 Q And completely?

7 A Yes.

8 Q And then over the last 17 years, every year, you've
9 been required to get continuing education requirements,
10 correct?

11 A Yes.

12 Q And as your career has progressed to the next steps,
13 those courses have been centered around what your current
14 job is?

15 A That's correct.

16 Q So when you were investigating violent crimes, you
17 were taking continuing education courses on violent crime
18 investigation?

19 A Yes.

20 Q Learning how to analyze forensic evidence, right?

21 A Correct.

22 Q And see what pieces of evident are potentially
23 relevant?

24 A Correct.

25 Q And learning to follow that relevant evidence to

1 where it leads you?

2 A Yes.

3 Q All right. As far as an investigation goes, you
4 learn that you wanted to talk to as many people as
5 possible?

6 A Correct.

7 Q You want to cast as wide a net as possible?

8 A For the relevant people, yes.

9 Q For the relevant people. Because you want to make
10 sure that you're interviewing everybody with potentially
11 relevant information?

12 A Correct.

13 Q Now, we heard yesterday from Officer Morecraft. And
14 you've been sitting in the courtroom the entire week?

15 A Yes.

16 Q All right. So we heard from Officer Morecraft
17 yesterday that between your agency and the Greenville
18 Sheriff's Office and Fountain Inn Police Department that
19 about 25 different people were interviewed?

20 A That's an approximate, yes.

21 Q All right. Let me back up for a second. You
22 testified that in 2019, your role shifted to being the
23 lead investigator?

24 A Correct.

25 Q Officer Morecraft testified yesterday that being the

1 lead investigator, that's like being a movie producer?

2 A Correct.

3 Q That you are now delegating all of the tasks, making
4 sure that everything is taken care of?

5 A That's what he said.

6 Q Would you agree with him?

7 A Yes.

8 Q Okay. You want to make sure that no stone is
9 unturned?

10 A Correct.

11 Q That every lead is tracked down?

12 A Correct.

13 Q So when you become lead investigator in 2019 -- let
14 me start over. In 2016, you were not the lead
15 investigator?

16 A That's correct.

17 Q There were three investigators?

18 A That's correct.

19 Q Officer Donnelly -- or Investigator Donnelly was the
20 on-call that night?

21 A Correct.

22 Q Investigator Morecraft became the lad?

23 A That's correct.

24 Q And then you were assisting in whatever role was
25 necessary?

1 A Correct.

2 Q In 2019, you became the lead investigator?

3 A Correct.

4 Q Prior to 2019, you might have, but there wouldn't
5 have been a need for you to familiarize yourself with
6 every aspect of this investigation?

7 A That's accurate.

8 Q Because you weren't the lead investigator at that
9 point?

10 A Correct.

11 Q Now, subsequently, in 2019, you became the lead
12 investigator?

13 A Yes.

14 Q And so then there is a need for you to familiarize
15 yourself with every aspect?

16 A Correct.

17 Q And so going through as -- during your role as lead
18 investigator, you go back and you read everybody else's
19 incident reports?

20 A Yes.

21 Q And you read all the forensic reports?

22 A Yes.

23 Q You watch all the videos, all the interviews?

24 A If I hadn't seen them prior, yes.

25 Q And so it's fair to say that you've reviewed all of

1 the interviews in this case at some point?

2 A I believe so, yes.

3 Q And, again, we heard from Officer Morecraft yesterday
4 that y'all interviewed about 25 people? .

5 A Correct.

6 Q All right. You -- Ally Somerville was interviewed?

7 A That's correct.

8 Q And she talked a lot about John, correct?

9 A She did.

10 Q Brandon Tucker was interviewed?

11 A Yes.

12 Q Y'all spent a lot of time talking to him about John?

13 A Correct.

14 Q His wife, Crystal Tucker, she was Crystal Gorto at
15 the time, she was interviewed?

16 A Correct.

17 Q Spent a lot of time talking about John?

18 A Yes.

19 Q Cati's niece, Chyanne Paxton, she was interviewed?

20 A She was.

21 Q Spent a lot of time talking about John?

22 A Yes.

23 Q A different friend, Devon Agbula (ph) was
24 interviewed?

25 A Yes.

1 Q Spent a lot of time talking about John?

2 A Yes.

3 Q Wayne Roper that we heard from yesterday, spent a lot
4 of time talking about John?

5 A I believe so, yes.

6 Q Tristan Vaughn, spent a lot of time talking about
7 John?

8 A Yes.

9 Q Kameron Vaughn, spent a lot of time talking about
10 John?

11 A Yes.

12 Q Carlos Waterfall, spent a lot of time talking about
13 John?

14 A Yes.

15 Q Janissa Waterfall, spent a lot of time talking about
16 John?

17 A Yes.

18 Q Let's go back to your start of this investigation,
19 okay?

20 A Uh-huh.

21 Q Prior to you becoming the lead?

22 A Yes.

23 Q You responded out to the scene on the night of
24 October 26th?

25 A I did.

1 Q And as Ms. Abee said, it's an all hands on deck
2 situation?

3 A That's correct.

4 Q So as you're out there, you're not the lead, so
5 you're going to do whatever task is asked of you?

6 A Correct.

7 Q So you wrote in your October 28th supplemental report
8 you began collecting evidence?

9 A I began collecting evidence?

10 Q Or looking for evidence?

11 A I -- I was on searches for evidence, yes.

12 Q You were on searches for evidence. And as a matter
13 of fact, Investigator Donnelly, who was, again, the
14 on-call investigator that night, correct?

15 A That's correct.

16 Q All right. He secured a golf cart or a gator?

17 A He did.

18 Q From the Fountain Inn Police Department, fire
19 department?

20 A I'm not sure where he got it from.

21 Q But he secured one?

22 A That's correct.

23 Q And you rode around in that gator looking for
24 additional evidence?

25 A Yes, I did.

1 Q All right. And at no point during your search for
2 evidence did you ever see a shoe belonging to Cati
3 Blauvelt?

4 A Not at that time, no.

5 Q And, again, that shoes wasn't found until six days
6 later to the best of your knowledge?

7 A I'm not sure of the dates.

8 Q But it certainly wasn't found on the night of the
9 26th?

10 A Correct.

11 Q Later on the 26th, you went to [REDACTED] South Kings Drive
12 in Fountain Inn?

13 A Yes.

14 Q John's house?

15 A Yes.

16 Q And that was the first time that your agency
17 interviewed Crystal Gorto?

18 A Correct.

19 Q And the first time your agency interviewed Brandon
20 Tucker?

21 A Correct.

22 Q While you were out there interviewing, you saw John
23 for the first time?

24 A I did.

25 Q He was wearing jeans?

1 A I don't remember exactly what he was wearing.

2 Q It's in --

3 A I don't have that with me.

4 Q And, again, you wrote an incident report detailing
5 what you did, correct?

6 A That's correct.

7 Q And this is your supplemental report from
8 October 28th of 2016?

9 A It is.

10 Q He was wearing jeans and a T-shirt?

11 A Yes.

12 Q Okay. And then he went running, correct?

13 A Correct.

14 Q While you were at the house, John went running?

15 A Correct.

16 Q And he went running in the woods behind the house?

17 A That's what I saw, yes.

18 Q You conducted additional interviews with other
19 potential witnesses, correct?

20 A I did.

21 Q As part of your investigation, what you were assigned
22 to do, you went to the PetSmart where Cati worked?

23 A I did.

24 Q And you spoke with several people who knew Cati?

25 A I did.

1 Q Several people who worked with Cati?

2 A Yes.

3 Q You spoke with her manager, Steve Humphries?

4 A I did.

5 Q And you spoke with Cierra Leone?

6 A I did.

7 Q And you, also, spoke with Jo Jo Chips?

8 A I did.

9 Q And Jo Jo, she worked with Cati at the pet hotel?

10 A Yes.

11 Q And she was somebody that Cati trusted?

12 A To the best of my knowledge, yes.

13 Q And somebody that Cati kind of confided in?

14 A To the best of my knowledge, yes.

15 Q And you were able to learn that Cati had recently
16 started dating other people?

17 A Yes.

18 MS. ABEE: Objection.

19 Your Honor, may we approach?

20 THE COURT: Yeah.

21 (WHEREUPON, a bench conference was held.)

22 BY MR. NEELY:

23 Q All right. As part of your investigation, you were
24 able to -- we heard from Investigator Jim Perry yesterday,
25 correct?

1 A Correct.

2 Q And he had done some Cellebrite extractions?

3 A Yes.

4 Q And you were able to look and see some of the -- or,
5 excuse me, Cellebrite extractions done on Cati's phone
6 eventually, correct?

7 A Correct.

8 Q And you were able to see some of the numbers that she
9 was texting?

10 A Yes.

11 Q So you were able to see a number that was listed as
12 Brian Mozingo?

13 A Yes.

14 Q This was somebody that Cati texted a lot, correct?

15 A I believe so.

16 Q As a matter of fact, he texted her up until 3:31 on
17 the day that she passed away, correct?

18 A If that's what it says, I'm not a hundred percent
19 certain.

20 Q At any point in time, did you bring Brian into the
21 police station?

22 A I don't believe so.

23 Q At any point in time, did you call Brian?

24 A I don't remember if we called him or not.

25 Q Interview Brian?

1 A I don't believe so.

2 Q Find out where he was on the 24th?

3 A No, because we didn't interview him.

4 Q So you didn't get his cell phone data?

5 A Correct.

6 Q You didn't get his fingerprints?

7 A Correct.

8 Q His DNA?

9 A Correct.

10 Q Investigator Morecraft retired in March of 2019?

11 A I believe so.

12 Q And after he retired, you became the lead
13 investigator?

14 A That's correct.

15 Q And you would write supplemental reports every time
16 you did something on the case?

17 A Correct.

18 Q And you testified when you were talking to Ms. Abee
19 that you became the lead in 2019 because there were still
20 things to do on the case?

21 A If leads came in and he hadn't been apprehended.

22 Q So you wrote an incident report at the end of 2016,
23 correct?

24 A Yes.

25 Q And then you didn't write another one until June of

1 2022?

2 A If that's accurate based on the report.

3 Q So for the three years prior to that where you were
4 the lead investigator, there was no activity going on in
5 the investigation?

6 A Outside of the U.S. Marshals looking for him.

7 Q So there was no activity on your part that you did in
8 that three years?

9 A Correct.

10 Q Now, we've heard a lot from Hannah this week, right?

11 A Correct.

12 Q And you interviewed Hannah Thompson several times?

13 A I did.

14 Q In your interviews with her, you discussed various
15 e-mail accounts?

16 A Yes.

17 Q Snapchat accounts?

18 A Yes.

19 Q Various phone numbers that they had on Text Now?

20 A Yes.

21 Q She told you about a secret Snapchat account?

22 A Of John's?

23 Q Of John's.

24 A Yes.

25 Q And you could have gotten a search warrant to send to

1 Snapchat to get access to the secret Snapchat account,
2 couldn't you?

3 A I believe she wasn't a hundred percent certain what
4 the name was if I'm remembering correctly.

5 Q You could have, at least, tried?

6 A I could have.

7 Q But you never did?

8 A I didn't, no.

9 Q In that June of 2022 interview with Hannah, she gave
10 you several e-mail addresses that John and Hannah both
11 used, correct?

12 A Correct.

13 Q She gave you the ones she could remember or that she
14 said she could remember?

15 A Correct.

16 Q One that she remembered for herself was
17 pizzabooties1234?

18 A I believe that's correct.

19 Q You asked for the log-in, but she said she couldn't
20 remember it?

21 A Correct.

22 Q At what point did you send a search warrant or
23 subpoena to Google?

24 A A lot of those were being dealt with by the U.S.
25 Marshals as far as the e-mail addresses go. So I didn't

1 send a search warrant out for any of those e-mail
2 addresses.

3 Q Were you in communication with the marshals?

4 A Off and on. When they had things to tell me about
5 the case, yes.

6 Q Did they ever tell you if they sent a search warrant
7 to Google?

8 A Specifically for that e-mail address, I don't
9 remember.

10 Q Did you ever inquire?

11 A Quite possibly. I don't remember the conversation
12 about that e-mail address.

13 Q If you would have done that, you would have wrote it
14 in your incident report, right?

15 A If I had received something as a result of that
16 conversation, it would have been put with the case, that's
17 correct.

18 Q After John was arrested, you, also, sought warrants
19 on Hannah, correct?

20 A Correct.

21 Q You wrote a supplemental report detailing why you
22 sought those warrants on Hannah?

23 A Correct.

24 Q In your report, you noted Hannah lied about not
25 knowing the vehicle belonged to the victim?

1 A That's correct.

2 Q And that she omitted information?

3 A Correct.

4 Q And that she lied?

5 A Yes.

6 Q Yesterday when we were in the courtroom and Officer
7 Morecraft was testifying, him and I talked a little bit
8 about a Crime Stoppers tip that came in?

9 A Yes.

10 Q Now, when he testified when he was the lead
11 investigator, nobody ever followed up on that tip?

12 A Okay.

13 Q At any point in time while you were the lead
14 investigator, did you assign that task of following up on
15 that Crime Stoppers tip to anybody in your office?

16 A I didn't.

17 Q At any point in time, did you bring Zach Lewis back
18 into the office and ask him for his fingerprints?

19 A I didn't.

20 Q His DNA?

21 A No.

22 Q His phone?

23 A No.

24 Q You were in the courtroom earlier today. Ally said
25 that the first time he had been to the house was three

1 days prior to Cati's death?

2 A Yes.

3 Q Now, again, you having watched all the videos, you
4 watched the interview of Kameron Vaughn?

5 A Correct.

6 Q And it's 12 minutes of Officer Morecraft asking
7 questions about John Blauvelt?

8 A Correct.

9 Q At what point in time did you bring him back in and
10 you ask him why is there a Powerade bottle with your name
11 on it 18 feet from a spot of Cati's blood?

12 A I didn't bring him in.

13 Q So at no point in time did you reinterview Kameron
14 Vaughn?

15 A No.

16 Q Never asked him where he was on the 24th?

17 A No.

18 Q Why something with his name on it was at the crime
19 scene?

20 A No.

21 Q We heard from Officer Bucholtz yesterday about the
22 six latent prints that were suitable for comparison that
23 he didn't have anything to compare them to?

24 A Correct.

25 Q Did you ever send any extra exemplars out there to

1 see if you could identify who those prints belonged to?

2 A No, I did not.

3 MR. NEELY: One moment, Your Honor.

4 (Pause.)

5 BY MR. NEELY:

6 Q We just spent a long time with Mr. Nafziger on the
7 witness stand talking about DNA?

8 A Correct.

9 Q Now, eight years ago, Dr. Kandala issued a report
10 that said that there was a DNA match for John Blauvelt
11 under Cati's fingernails and that report was issued to
12 your office, correct?

13 A Correct.

14 Q Doctor -- or Mr. Nafziger testified that Dr. Kandala
15 was mistaken and he had to issue an amended report in
16 2024?

17 A Yes.

18 Q You received that report in July of 2024?

19 A I did.

20 Q And you forwarded it to the Attorney General's
21 Office?

22 A That's correct.

23 Q And it did nothing to change your investigation?

24 A I don't necessarily know how to read the DNA samples
25 and stuff like that. I know an amended report was issued,

1 that's correct.

2 Q Again, in your thorough, accurate and complete
3 incident reports, if you do something, you will include it
4 in your reports, correct?

5 A Yes.

6 Q All right. So you testified you don't know how to
7 read -- or analyze a DNA report, correct?

8 A Correct.

9 Q At what point in time did you call Dr. Nafziger and
10 ask what that meant?

11 A I don't remember if I did or not to be honest with
12 you.

13 Q Again, if you did something, you would have put it in
14 your incident report, correct?

15 A Uh-huh.

16 Q And in any of your incident reports, you don't write
17 that you called Mr. Nafziger.

18 A Okay.

19 Q So at no point in time did you call Mr. Nafziger and
20 ask what this amended report meant?

21 A Correct.

22 Q Probably the last thing. When warrants were sought
23 -- and you weren't the officer that sought warrants,
24 correct?

25 A Correct.

1 Q When warrants were sought, an arrest warrant was
2 sought for John Blauvelt, correct?

3 A That's correct.

4 Q Now, we heard with Mr. Nafziger and a couple other
5 people, the name Charles Sydney Scott?

6 A Correct.

7 Q Now, an arrest warrant was, also, sought for Charles
8 Scott, correct?

9 A That's correct.

10 Q They were listed as co-defendants in this murder?

11 A That's correct.

12 Q Now, ultimately, the case against Mr. Scott was
13 dismissed by the Attorney General's Office?

14 A Yes.

15 Q Now, that case was dismissed in 2020, correct?

16 A That's correct.

17 Q Now, again, on the arrest warrants that were sought,
18 they were listed as co-defendants?

19 A Correct.

20 Q People that acted together?

21 A Yes.

22 Q And the case against Mr. Scott was dismissed based on
23 some phone evidence?

24 A That's correct.

25 Q You were the lead investigator in 2020?

1 A Correct.

2 Q When Mr. Scott's case was dismissed because he was
3 somewhere else, you didn't alter your investigation at
4 all. You didn't reopen your investigation, did you?

5 A No.

6 MR. NEELY: Nothing further.

7 THE COURT: All right. Any redirect?

8 MS. ABEE: Yes, Your Honor.

9 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

10 BY MS. ABEE:

11 Q Captain Schofield, the basis for Charles Scott's
12 warrants came from information from who?

13 A Information from multiple people, if I'm not
14 mistaken.

15 Q Let's talk about how the Charles Scott investigation
16 kind of got kicked off. Did you receive some information
17 from some inmates?

18 A Yes.

19 Q And according to those inmates, Charles Scott had
20 told them that he was with the Defendant, right?

21 A That's correct.

22 Q And just like Mr. Neely said, Mr. Scott's warrants
23 were, ultimately, dismissed in 2020, right?

24 A That's correct.

25 Q Because Mr. Scott's phone placed him somewhere else,

1 do you remember that?

2 A Yes.

3 Q Is it fair to say that if that evidence existed for
4 Mr. Blauvelt, that would have been included in your
5 reports as well?

6 A Yes.

7 Q And in regards to the DNA, the amended DNA report,
8 when you received that, did you send it over to me?

9 A I did.

10 Q And at that point in time, was the Attorney General's
11 Office prosecuting this case?

12 A You were.

13 Q Okay. And you just sat in here when Mr. Nafziger
14 testified. And at any point in time, did you hear Mr.
15 Nafziger say that Charles -- that the Defendant John
16 Blauvelt was excluded as a contributor of the DNA
17 underneath Cati's fingernails?

18 A No.

19 Q Okay. And then, finally, Mr. Neely talked to you
20 about some other individuals that I believe they think
21 y'all didn't vet out. First, he talked about a Brian that
22 Cati was texting. Does that ring a bell?

23 A Yes, ma'am.

24 Q And in your review of all those text messages, if
25 there had been something that you believed to be

1 problematic or anger between Brian towards Cati, would you
2 have tracked that down?

3 A Correct.

4 Q And at any point in time when you were interviewing
5 these 25 different people, did anyone indicate to you that
6 Zach Lewis had stated and asked them to help him kill Cati
7 Blauvelt?

8 A Not at all.

9 Q Did any of these 25 interviewers ask -- or tell you
10 that Kameron Vaughn asked them to help them kill Cati
11 Blauvelt?

12 A Not at all.

13 Q Who was the one person that these people told you
14 asked them to help them kill Cati Blauvelt?

15 A John Blauvelt.

16 MS. ABEE: Thank you, Your Honor.

17 I have no further questions.

18 THE COURT: Any recross?

19 MR. NEELY: None, Your Honor.

20 THE COURT: All right. You may step down.

21 Thank you.

22 Does the State have any additional witnesses?

23 MS. ABEE: No, Your Honor. We just have an exhibit
24 to enter.

25 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibit No. 83 was admitted into

1 evidence.)

2 MS. ABEE: Your Honor, per agreement with Defense
3 counsel, the State would move to enter State's Exhibit No.
4 1, which is an agreed-upon redacted copy of Dr. Kandala's
5 DNA report, Page one through three.

6 THE COURT: Is that correct, Mr. Neely?

7 MR. NEELY: That's correct.

8 THE COURT: So entered by stipulation.

9 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibit No. 1 was admitted into
10 evidence.)

11 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibit No. 1, being a photograph
12 of Cati, was previously entered.)

13 MS. ABEE: And then, Your Honor, prior to resting,
14 the State would like to confirm that State's Exhibit No.
15 81 has been entered into evidence.

16 THE COURT: It has not.

17 MS. ABEE: If not, Your Honor, the State would move
18 State's Exhibit No. 81, the picture of the South Kings
19 Drive house into evidence.

20 MR. NEELY: We have no objection, Your Honor.

21 THE COURT: State's Exhibit No. 81 is admitted into
22 evidence.

23 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibit No. 81 was admitted into
24 evidence.)

25 MS. ABEE: If I may have just one second, Your Honor.

1 (Pause.)

2 MS. ABEE: Your Honor, in the matter of the State of
3 South Carolina vs. John Blauvelt, the State rests.

4 THE COURT: All right. Ladies and gentlemen, the
5 State has rested. They have put in their evidence. So
6 that concludes this part of the trial. So it's a good
7 time for our lunch break. I'm going to excuse you for
8 lunch and, please, be back here at 2:30.

9 Please don't discuss the case. I hope you enjoy
10 lunch. I'll see you back here at 2:30.

11 (WHEREUPON, the jury was excused from open court at
12 12:50 p.m.)

13 THE COURT: All right. The State has rested. Any
14 motions? Anything from the Defense?

15 MR. NEELY: We would renew all of our previous
16 objections, Your Honor.

17 And we had a bench conference, I objected when
18 Captain Schofield was being questioned about driving the
19 routes. I objected to it on the grounds of speculation.
20 This is eight years later that she's driving these routes.
21 There's been no testimony about the routes that were being
22 driven, so to put that evidence in front of the jury, it's
23 purely speculative because I don't know if it pertains to
24 the case or not because there's been no evidence about
25 these routes.

1 So, Your Honor, I appreciate you letting me put my
2 objection on the record.

3 THE COURT: Ms. Abee.

4 MS. ABEE: Thank you. Your Honor, as the State
5 contended and cleared up with Captain Schofield, we
6 weren't asserting that these were the routes that were
7 driven, merely, these are the quickest possible ways to
8 get from point A to point B. The State doesn't intend to
9 say that this is the exact route that anybody drove.
10 There was no speculation. It was the actual fact of the
11 distance of the drive. And I think throughout the
12 questioning, it was clear this was in 2024 and nobody
13 knows the route that that car actually drove that day.

14 THE COURT: Okay. Anything else?

15 MR. NEELY: Well, we would just renew -- on that, no,
16 sir.

17 THE COURT: On that, your objection is noted.
18 Overruled.

19 Anything else from the Defendant?

20 MR. NEELY: We would renew our previous objections
21 and our pretrial motions to suppress.

22 THE COURT: All right. Objections are noted on the
23 record and my rulings remain on those issues.

24 MR. NEELY: And then no further motions, Your Honor.

25 THE COURT: All right.

1 MR. NEELY: Your Honor, may we approach?

2 THE COURT: Yeah.

3 (WHEREUPON, a bench conference was held.)

4 THE COURT: The State has rested. And so at this
5 time, Mr. Blauvelt, if you would, please, rise. I'm going
6 to place you under oath. Raise your right-hand.

7 WHEREUPON,

8 JOHN BLAUVELT,

9 after first having been duly sworn, testified as follows:

10 THE COURT: All right. We now have reached that part
11 in the trial where you may present your defense in this
12 case. And as part of that, you have the right to testify
13 or the right not to testify. You can claim the
14 protections that are given to you by the Fifth Amendment
15 of the Constitution of the United States. And this
16 amendment does read as follows in part: No person shall
17 be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against
18 himself. So that means that you cannot be required to
19 testify in this case. And you have the right to testify
20 on your own behalf. However, no one can make you testify.
21 This is a personal right of yours and yours alone. And no
22 one can waive this right except you.

23 If you decide to testify, you will be subject to the
24 same rules that govern any other witnesses that do testify
25 and that have testified in this case. And you may be

1 examined and cross-examined on relevant issues in this
2 case. And that includes any convictions involving
3 dishonesty or a false statement or any crimes punishable
4 by imprisonment for more than one year. And then I -- if
5 I determine that the probative value of admitting that
6 evidence outweighs any prejudicial effect to you, then the
7 Solicitor could potentially -- I mean, the State could
8 potentially introduce that record.

9 Is there any record that the State would intend to
10 introduce?

11 MS. ABEE: No, Your Honor.

12 THE COURT: All right. If you decide to testify, as
13 I said, this decision is yours and yours alone and must be
14 freely, voluntarily and intelligently made and considered.
15 It's made with the knowledge of the protections that have
16 been given to you and are given to you by the Fifth
17 Amendment of the Constitution.

18 If you decide not to testify, I will instruct the
19 jurors that they are not entitled to give that any weight,
20 any effect whatsoever. They cannot consider it and are
21 not to consider it. And there's absolutely no prejudice
22 to you because you did not testify if you make that
23 decision. It is left entirely whether or not you testify
24 up to you. You may discuss with your attorneys or any
25 friends or family members that may be here on that issue,

1 but the decision is yours and yours alone. It's your
2 final decision.

3 Now, do you understand everything that I have told
4 you?

5 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.

6 THE COURT: All right. And do you have any questions
7 whatsoever as to what I have explained to you?

8 THE DEFENDANT: No, sir.

9 THE COURT: All right. Would you like some time to
10 discuss with anyone -- you may have already discussed it,
11 but I will give you any amount of time you want. I will
12 step off the bench and give you any amount of time to
13 discuss it if you would like.

14 THE DEFENDANT: If I can, please, discuss it with my
15 attorneys, Your Honor?

16 THE COURT: I will allow you to do that. I will step
17 off the bench and will not be present while you do that.

18 THE DEFENDANT: Thank you.

19 (WHEREUPON, a break was taken.)

20 THE COURT: All right. Have you reached a decision?

21 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, sir.

22 THE COURT: And what is it?

23 THE DEFENDANT: I will not testify, sir.

24 THE COURT: All right. Thank you, sir. You may sit
25 down.

1 As I said, we could not catch the -- everybody from
2 the jury to bring them back in, so we'll be in recess
3 until 2:30 when I told them to come back.

4 Is the Defense going to put any witnesses up?

5 MR. NEELY: No, sir, Your Honor.

6 THE COURT: Okay. If it changes, let me know.

7 We'll start back at 2:30. So we'll be in recess
8 until 2:30. Anything we need to take up before we adjourn
9 for lunch?

10 MS. ABEE: Not from the State, Your Honor.

11 MR. NEELY: None from Defense. Argue and charge in
12 the morning?

13 THE COURT: Is that --

14 MS. ABEE: That's completely fine.

15 THE COURT: Argue and charge in the morning, is that
16 good?

17 MR. NEELY: Yes, sir, Your Honor.

18 THE COURT: Whatever y'all want to do, as I've told
19 you, I accommodate lawyers and if that's what y'all want
20 to do, that's what we'll do.

21 MR. NEELY: That would be perfect for the Defense,
22 Your Honor.

23 MS. ABEE: We have no objection to that.

24 THE COURT: All right. See y'all at 2:30.

25 (WHEREUPON, a lunch break was taken.)

1 THE COURT: All right. While we were on the lunch
2 break, it came to my attention, one of my bailiffs said
3 one of the jurors, Juror #237, had approached him and had
4 mentioned that after hearing some testimony and the name
5 of Mr. Morecraft's daughter's as Madison, this particular
6 juror, it kind of dawned on him that that may be somebody
7 that he's involved with in training at a gym that he
8 owns -- or runs. I'm not sure exactly what his status is,
9 but I think he's the owner of a gym. But, apparently, it
10 rung a bell with him and he let Mr. Dorthy know right away
11 that he had made that connection.

12 I brought the lawyers in my chambers and we talked
13 about it. Ms. Abee contacted Mr. Morecraft and confirmed
14 that that is, in fact, his daughter and that she works
15 out -- or goes to a --

16 THE BAILIFF: Cross Fit.

17 THE COURT: Cross fit gym. So, apparently, it is --
18 it is the same person. And there are some references in
19 some of the evidence here, particularly, in the journal
20 that may reference this particular person, the daughter,
21 Madison. And so we had a discussion off the record in my
22 chambers and have come to the agreement that we will
23 excuse this juror. Again, for the record, it's Juror
24 #237. And so we will excuse him.

25 So my intention is to bring the jury out, excuse them

1 for the day and then speak with this juror and just let
2 him know that he will be excused. Both the State and the
3 Defendant have agreed to excuse this juror.

4 Did I say all that correctly, Ms. Abee?

5 MS. ABEE: Yes, Your Honor.

6 THE COURT: Mr. Neely?

7 MR. NEELY: Yes, Your Honor.

8 THE COURT: All right.

9 MS. ABEE: Your Honor, just confirming the Defense
10 will be resting.

11 THE COURT: I was getting ready to say you're going
12 to rest in front of the jury?

13 MR. NEELY: That's correct.

14 THE COURT: You rest and then we'll -- I'll excuse
15 them for the day. We'll start at -- how's 9:30 in the
16 morning for argue and charge?

17 MS. ABEE: That will be great, Your Honor.

18 THE COURT: That was at Mr. Meadors's request. No,
19 I'm just kidding.

20 (WHEREUPON, the jury came into open court at
21 approximately 2:47 p.m.)

22 THE COURT: All right. Ladies and gentlemen, I hope
23 you all had a good lunch.

24 The Defense is recognized.

25 MR. NEELY: Thank you, Your Honor.

1 At this time, the Defense rests.

2 THE COURT: All right. Ladies and gentlemen, that,
3 actually, concludes the evidence in the case. And so
4 what's left are the closing arguments of the lawyers in
5 this case, and then my instructions on the law to you in
6 the case, and then to give the case to you to deliberate.

7 And with all of that, because it is a lot, what we're
8 going to do is we're going to adjourn for the day and we
9 will start and have the closing arguments and instructions
10 to you in the morning. So we're going to start at 9:30 in
11 the morning. And like I say, closing arguments, my
12 instructions and y'all will deliberate.

13 So let's adjourn until 9:30 in the morning. We will
14 finish up tomorrow. I hope all of y'all have a good
15 night. Again, please, do not discuss the case. Do not
16 look at any news. And after this case is over, again, you
17 can talk all you want to anybody you want to.

18 So with that, you're excused for the day. I'll see
19 you tomorrow morning at 9:30.

20 (WHEREUPON, the jury was excused from open court at
21 approximately 2:49 p.m.)

22 THE COURT: All right. Anything we need to discuss?
23 Let me step out for just a minute and go speak with this
24 juror -- oh, here he is.

25 I want to thank you for letting Mr. Dorthy know about

1 that. It is the same person. And with that, I'm going to
2 go ahead and just excuse you because you know her and, I
3 believe, work out with her or assist her with something.
4 So with that and because you know her and have that
5 knowledge of her and relationship with her, I'm going to
6 just go ahead and excuse you from service.

7 With that, I want to thank you for your service. I
8 sure do appreciate it. You've been attentive and listened
9 the whole time. And I really do appreciate it. You're
10 good -- you don't have to come back tomorrow. We're
11 excusing everybody today. And you're good for three
12 years. So if you get called on jury duty here again, you
13 don't have to come if you don't want to, but as I told
14 everybody on Monday, you can come back if you get called
15 if you want to serve.

16 Let the record reflect he's shaking his head.

17 But thank you for your service and you're going to
18 get a real big check in the mail. So don't spent it all
19 at one time.

20 JUROR #237: Yes, sir.

21 THE COURT: All right. Thank you for your service.

22 JUROR #237: Appreciate it.

23 THE COURT: All right. Anything we need to take up
24 before we adjourn other than the charges. He's got them
25 right there.

1 MR. NEELY: Your Honor, since the Defense has rested
2 and I would renew --

3 THE COURT: And I was getting ready -- that's what I
4 was getting ready to do. Any motions from the State?

5 MS. ABEE: None from the State, Your Honor.

6 THE COURT: Any from the Defense?

7 MR. NEELY: Again, I would renew my pretrial motions
8 and previous objections.

9 THE COURT: All right. Motions and previous
10 objections are noted for the record and my rulings stand
11 as previously decided.

12 All right. My intention to charge, just talking
13 about the indictment, obviously, it's not evidence.
14 Duties of the jury and the trial judge. I'll tell them
15 there are two indictments, presumption of innocence,
16 define reasonable doubt.

17 MR. NEELY: Your Honor, how does Your Honor define
18 reasonable doubt?

19 THE COURT: What the law says reasonable doubt is.

20 MR. NEELY: Does Your Honor use the hesitate to act
21 or if you're firmly convinced?

22 THE COURT: Let's see here. It doesn't -- what are
23 you requesting?

24 MR. NEELY: For the record, I request the hesitate to
25 act language.

1 THE COURT: Is there any objection from the State on
2 that?

3 This charge right here does not have the hesitate to
4 act language. In all candor, I have used the hesitate to
5 act charge, but I've, also, not used it as well.

6 MR. MEADORS: Judge, I've seen both used. I know
7 firmly convinced is used a lot, but hesitate to act has,
8 also, been used.

9 THE COURT: Yeah, I -- I have, again, used both.
10 This is firmly convinced charge here. Probably use firmly
11 convinced more than hesitate to act.

12 MR. MEADORS: State vs. Simmons is the firmly
13 convinced language and then -- and, of course, State v.
14 Manning is the other one. And I think Simmons came back
15 out after manning.

16 Could we e-mail you stuff, Your Honor?

17 THE COURT: Why don't we just do this because we're
18 adjourning for the day. I'll give y'all both an
19 opportunity and let me know.

20 MR. MEADORS: I'd like to check with Mr. Zelenka, if
21 that's okay.

22 THE COURT: That's fine. Just let me know and e-mail
23 me later.

24 All right. Direct and circumstantial evidence,
25 credibility of the witnesses. We have had expert

1 witnesses. There's some redactions, so I'll give a charge
2 regarding redactions. I'll give the Defendant's right to
3 remain silent and not testify in the case. I will give a
4 charge on prior inconsistent statements. I'll give the
5 charge on intent. I will then give the charge on murder.
6 I will then give the charge on possession of a weapon
7 during commission of a violent crime. I will give the
8 charge on sympathy. And then I will go through the
9 discussion of the verdict form and just give them the
10 deliberations discussion and the language.

11 MS. WALKER: Your Honor --

12 THE COURT: Is there anything from the State or the
13 Defendant?

14 MS. WALKER: What was the last instruction you
15 mentioned? Did you say Simmons?

16 THE COURT: Just -- the second to the last was
17 sympathy.

18 MS. WALKER: I don't believe I'm familiar with that
19 one.

20 MS. ABEE: I'm, also, not familiar with that one,
21 Judge.

22 THE COURT: I always give them a charge that a
23 verdict can't be based on any kind of sympathy, passion,
24 prejudice, emotion or any other consideration other than
25 what the evidence is.

1 MS. ABEE: No objection from the State.

2 MR. NEELY: None from us, Your Honor.

3 MS. WALKER: I think I've just never heard it called
4 the sympathy instruction was all. I've heard it called
5 many other things. So I will add that to the list to
6 remember for the future.

7 Thank you, Judge.

8 THE COURT: I've just called it --

9 MS. WALKER: Certainly.

10 THE COURT: -- through years the sympathy
11 instruction.

12 MS. WALKER: Thank you so much.

13 THE COURT: And the last one was just my telling them
14 what deliberations are and the importance of a unanimous
15 verdict and along those lines.

16 Anything to add, amend or modify as far as the State?

17 MS. ABEE: Not at this moment, Your Honor.

18 THE COURT: From the Defendant?

19 MR. NEELY: Other than the reasonable doubt language.

20 THE COURT: And y'all certainly -- between now and in
21 the morning, if y'all want to change something, add
22 something or want me to consider something, just let me
23 know and we'll address it in the morning. Of course, the
24 verdict form is fairly straightforward. I don't think
25 there's anything --

1 You have that?

2 THE LAW CLERK: Uh-huh.

3 THE COURT: It's our standard verdict form. As to
4 the charge of murder, we, the jury, unanimously find the
5 Defendant, John T. Blauvelt, check one, guilty or not
6 guilty.

7 As to the charge of possession of a weapon during a
8 violent crime, we, the jury, unanimously find the
9 Defendant, John T. Blauvelt, check one, guilty or not
10 guilty. And I certify it's a unanimous decision.

11 I'll let you look at it in the morning if you want to
12 or now.

13 All right. Anything before we adjourn from the
14 State?

15 MS. ABEE: No, Your Honor.

16 THE COURT: From the Defendant?

17 MR. NEELY: No, Your Honor.

18 THE COURT: All right. We will see y'all at 9:30.

19 If anything needs to be addressed, just e-mail my clerk
20 and I'll come in here early in the morning and talk to you
21 about it.

22 Y'all have a good night.

23 Friday, September 20, 2024

24 THE COURT: All right. Anything we need to take up
25 before we bring the jury in?

1 MS. ABEE: Nothing from the State, Your Honor.

2 THE COURT: Anything from the Defendant?

3 MR. NEELY: Your Honor, as far as jury charges go,
4 what is the jury going to charge on reasonable doubt?

5 THE COURT: On hesitation.

6 MR. NEELY: Thank you, Your Honor.

7 THE COURT: Anything else?

8 MR. NEELY: Nothing else, Your Honor.

9 THE COURT: All right. Bring in the jury.

10 (WHEREUPON, the jury came into open court at
11 approximately 9:38 a.m.)

12 THE COURT: All right. Good morning, ladies and
13 gentlemen. I hope all of you had a good night.

14 We are ready for closing arguments of the lawyers and
15 then I will give you my charge on the law and give you the
16 case to deliberate.

17 With that, I'll recognize the State.

18 MS. ABEE: Thank you, Your Honor. May it please the
19 Court.

20 Six inches, 2,724 miles, 2,086 days. On October 24th
21 of 2016, John Blauvelt plunged a knife six inches in the
22 body of his wife, Cati Blauvelt. And then as law
23 enforcement started figuring out it was him, he went on
24 the run with his 17-year-old girlfriend 2,724 miles away.
25 And he stayed gone living as a guy named Ben for 2,086

1 days. Six inches, 2,724 miles and 2,086 days and only one
2 verdict that makes sense.

3 Now, we're at the point in this trial where Judge
4 Morgan is about to instruct you on the law and ask you to
5 return a verdict of guilty or not guilty. And we're
6 asking that you find the Defendant, John Blauvelt, guilty
7 of the crimes of murder and possession of a weapon during
8 the commission of a violent crime. And in order for you
9 to do that, we had to prove certain things to you this
10 week beyond a reasonable doubt.

11 To prove to you murder, we had to prove to you that
12 the Defendant killed Cati Blauvelt with malice
13 aforethought. And malice aforethought is just a legal
14 term that simply means that he did so intentionally and
15 without any sort of justification.

16 Secondly, to prove to you possession of a weapon
17 during the commission of a violent crime, we had to prove
18 to you that when the Defendant caused Cati's death, he did
19 so with a weapon. In this case, a knife. And that's been
20 our burden throughout this entire week.

21 And in order to meet that burden, we called several
22 witnesses to the stand. And you got a little glimpse into
23 the life of John Blauvelt and Cati Blauvelt in 2016. John
24 Blauvelt, the 27-year-old Army recruiter. Cati Blauvelt,
25 the 21-year-old lover of dogs. And you heard that they

1 met when Cati was working at a Firehouse Subs and the
2 Defendant was an Army recruiter right next door. He even
3 recruited her to enlist in the Army. She was medically
4 discharged shortly after entering. And when she got out,
5 they continued to date all throughout 2015. And her mama
6 told you that she then got a text stating that Cati and
7 John had gotten married December the 7th of 2015.

8 And even though they had dated for a year when they
9 were married, the honeymoon ended pretty quickly. Because
10 what we heard is that in February of 2016 right at the end
11 to March of 2016, they separated and Cati began moving her
12 things out of the house on ■ South Kings Drive. You
13 heard that her mom helped her move out and she moved back
14 home. You heard she stopped driving John's gold Prius and
15 got her own car. Her mom helped her get it, a 2011 black
16 Ford. You heard she had a job at PetSmart on Woodruff
17 Road. And that closer to the time of her death in
18 October, she even started seeing people again. Life for
19 Cati looked like it was turning up.

20 But life for John Blauvelt, also, looked like it was
21 turning up. It looked like he was living his best life,
22 too. Throwing parties at his house, having 17-year-olds
23 there, everyone drinking, everyone smoking. He even had
24 moved on and started dating someone else, Hannah Thompson.
25 Someone you heard described as his little puppy. You

1 heard John said, Jump, and Hannah said, How high?

2 But you see, dating 17-year-olds come with its own
3 problems, right? Hannah would text John. You said that I
4 can't let people treat me like shit anymore and that's
5 what you do when you talk to her. John would respond, I
6 know. She's gone.

7 You see, even though John had moved on to Hannah,
8 something about Cati kept pulling him back. And so he
9 sent Hannah to see what kind of car Cati was driving.
10 That black 2011 Ford Fiesta. And one day, he had Hannah
11 drop him off at Cati's house because he wanted to see if
12 she had moved on, see the new person that she was dating.

13 And as Cati moves on with her life, something begins
14 to fester and grow inside of John. You heard from Hannah
15 that one day he takes her out away from the house and he
16 goes, One day, I'm going to need you to help me. When I
17 say I need your help, I'm going to need you to be there.
18 And Hannah, John's puppy, says, Okay. And that day came
19 on October the 24th of 2016.

20 Hannah took the stand and she told us that on that
21 morning, John got ready for work and she drove him to work
22 in their gold Prius. He went into the office to work and
23 she stayed in the car waiting on him. She said when he
24 got off work, she began to drive him down to the Shops at
25 Greenridge where there's a PetSmart on Woodruff Road. And

1 not any PetSmart, this is the PetSmart that Cati Blauvelt
2 worked at.

3 But before John got out of the car, he changed his
4 clothes and he left his cell phone for Hannah to take
5 home. Hannah said that she waited a little bit, but then
6 she drove back to the house on South Kings Drive and John
7 and Cati went to the abandoned house at [REDACTED] Southeast Main
8 Street.

9 And this is the house that they knew. This is the
10 house that a lot of people knew. You've heard that a lot
11 of people would go to this house, that they would party,
12 that they would have fun. John would do it. Cati would
13 do it. Several people we heard from would do it.

14 And while they're at that house, before they leave,
15 John takes a steak knife and he cuts Cati's throat. And
16 she tries to fight leaving defensive wounds on her hands.
17 And she looks at him and she says, Please let me go. If
18 you let me go, I won't tell anyone. And as Cati thinks
19 she's staring into the eyes of someone she loved, we know
20 she's staring into the eyes of someone that's about to
21 become her killer. Because he takes that knife and he
22 plunges it six inches deep into her throat. He then drags
23 her body across the ground, leaves her half naked in a
24 cement box.

25 Now, I know that is not easy to hear. It may be

1 easier to want to think that this must have just been some
2 random, deranged, crazy person. It's easier to think it's
3 someone like that than the clean-cut, clean-shaven
4 military recruiter that's her husband. But in this place,
5 in this courtroom, we're not concerned with what is easy.
6 We are concerned with the facts and the truth no matter
7 how hard of a pill that may be to swallow. And the facts
8 and the truth of this case is that John Blauvelt killed
9 his wife on October the 24th of 2016 with malice
10 aforethought.

11 Now, throughout this week, we've had over 80 exhibits
12 entered into evidence. And you've heard from several
13 witnesses. And when you start to piece all of those
14 together, we start to see exactly what happened in this
15 case. Hannah told you that she took John and dropped him
16 off at Cati's house so that John could see who Cati was
17 dating, to see if she moved on. And she said that she
18 went back home and that eventually John called her from a
19 hospital angry that she had left him. And when she goes
20 to pick him up, he shows her that he's found a steak
21 knife.

22 And, coincidentally, what do we see? On October the
23 18th, not one, not two, not three, but six separate times
24 John Blauvelt's phone Googles how to sharpen a steak
25 knife, how to sharpen a knife, how to sharpen a knife, how

1 to use Smith's knife sharpener. This is October the 18th.
2 This is six days before Cati is killed.

3 Hannah tells us that then after having a conversation
4 with John about Cati, he says, But don't worry, I'm going
5 to go through with that thing soon, though. And what do
6 you know, what do we have? A text from John to Cati [sic]
7 that says, I'm going through with that thing, though,
8 soon. And then he says, Like Friday or Saturday. And she
9 responds with, I'm going to be staying with you. And he
10 says, Good. This is five days before Cati's death.

11 And then we get to Monday, October the 24th of 2016.
12 And we know that Cati is scheduled to work at PetSmart
13 that day from 9:00 to 2:00. And we know that her car
14 turns off at 8:54 in the morning and that she then clocks
15 in at 8:55. We then know that Cati works her shift at
16 PetSmart and then clocks out at 2:05.

17 We then know that Cati's car starts back up, but that
18 -- at 2:08, but that it only goes about 5/100ths of a
19 mile. And then her car sits there for about an hour. And
20 then at 3:10, her car turns back on and it goes
21 10.44 miles. Captain Schofield got up here and testified
22 and told you that the distance from the PetSmart on
23 Woodruff Road to [REDACTED] Southeast Main Street, the abandoned
24 house, is 11 miles.

25 MR. NEELY: Objection, Your Honor. My prior

1 objection.

2 THE COURT: Overruled.

3 MS. ABEE: Now, do we know the exact route that Cati
4 drove that day? No, we don't. But what a coincidence
5 that her body is found in that abandoned house and that
6 her car travels nearly the exact same distance.

7 We know again that Cati's car once it is turned off
8 at 3:30 is idle. And it doesn't turn back on until 4:49.
9 That's an hour and 19 minutes when it's turned back on.
10 But we know from this photo, this one right here that Cati
11 was alive at 4:17 p.m. That photo and that PetSmart shirt
12 in those woods with that smile on her face was taken at
13 4:17. Her car turns back on at 4:49.

14 So between 4:17 and 4:49, the Defendant stabbed Cati
15 through this PetSmart shirt that we can see in that photo
16 right here in the neck. He then puts her body in that
17 cement box, drags her across the ground, leaving these
18 drag marks on her body, leaving her blood all over the
19 scene, which you'll get to see this report that was
20 entered yesterday. That blood, that was Cati Blauvelt's
21 blood. And then he puts her through this window into a
22 cement box.

23 And, coincidentally, John Blauvelt has no phone
24 activity on his phone from 12:24 p.m. to 5:03 p.m.
25 Somebody who has four pages of activity on his phone prior

1 to 12:24 just so happens not to be doing a single thing on
2 his phone at the point in time that his wife is being
3 killed. There's a point in time where a coincidence is no
4 longer a coincidence. It is overwhelming proof of guilt.

5 So when Cati's car turns back on, where does it go?
6 How far does it go? It goes 3.45 miles. ■ South Kings
7 Drive, John Blauvelt's house, from the abandoned house
8 according to Captain Schofield driving it was 2.5 miles
9 away.

10 But you've got to remember about the testimony we
11 heard. Remember Crystal Gorto, now Crystal Tucker, got on
12 the stand and said that at 4:56 she saw Cati's black Ford
13 pull into the driveway, then pull back out and drive away.
14 Do you see what time Cati's car is turned off? 4:58.

15 Hannah says that when she sees Cati's car pull in,
16 she then gets in the Prius to go try to find John. And
17 Crystal says that then John comes in from the back wood
18 line of the house sweating. Hannah tells us that at that
19 point, John either called her or texted her and what we
20 see is that John did both. 5:03, outgoing phone call to
21 Hannah. 5:04, a text now to Hannah, check out your
22 Snapchat, LOL. 5:04, deleted Snap from John's phone from
23 John to Hannah.

24 Hannah says John asked her to come back. And when he
25 comes back -- or when she comes back, he comes out of the

1 house, trash bags in hand. He puts the trash bags in the
2 back of the Prius. She said that he got in the car and
3 that they went left and then left again. And she said
4 they went out to the wood line behind the house where she
5 saw Cati's black Ford car. She said it was about a half a
6 mile to a mile. When you add that half a mile to a mile
7 to the 2.5, you end up with 3.5. And that car had just
8 driven a little over three miles when it was turned off.

9 And so then Cati says -- or Hannah says that she's
10 following John in Cati's car. And we know exactly where
11 this car ends up because we know that her car is turned
12 off at 6:05 p.m. And we know that it is turned off at the
13 place that it's finally located, across from Joe's Auto on
14 White Horse Road in downtown Greenville.

15 And Captain Schofield told you that the most direct
16 route in 2024 from John's house at [REDACTED] -- I'm sorry,
17 John's house at [REDACTED] South Kinds Drive to White Horse Road
18 was approximately 14 miles. And what we see here is this
19 car goes 23.8 miles. And those numbers aren't the same,
20 but that's the most direct route from point A to point B.
21 And what we heard from Hannah is that they took back
22 roads. That she was following John, that she didn't know
23 where they were going, but that they were driving on back
24 roads staying off of the main highways.

25 And what we know from this Progressive Snapshot is

1 that the way that the car is driving during this time,
2 these last two lines, is not consistent with the previous
3 preceding lines, the way that Cati Blauvelt drove. You
4 heard from Progressive and we're looking at seven hard
5 accelerations, 21 hard brake counts, four extreme brake
6 counts. The person driving this car to White Horse Road
7 isn't Cati Blauvelt because Cati Blauvelt was dead at that
8 point in time.

9 But we have this video. And I want us to take a
10 second and watch this video to look up here -- right here
11 by the channel four as we just saw two cars pulling in.
12 And I submit to you that that is a black Ford Fiesta and
13 that is a gold Prius. Hannah told us that. And what
14 you're going to see right now is somebody going to the
15 front of the car and then walking around to the back.

16 And we know exactly what John Blauvelt was doing as
17 he's looking at the front of the car and then going to the
18 back. He's looking to see if there are any identifiable
19 markers on that car. Is there a front license plate that
20 makes it look like Cati's? No. So then he stops and he
21 walks to the back. And we know exactly what he's doing
22 while he's at the back of this car. He's taking a
23 screwdriver and he is taking off the license plate, trying
24 to remove any identifiable markers of that car belonging
25 to Cati Blauvelt because he knows where Cati really is at

1 this point in time.

2 And as we watch this video, we're then going to see
3 him get into this gold Prius and that gold Prius begin to
4 back out and drive away. And you're going to see the
5 video switch views to the other channel. And you're going
6 to see the gold Prius driving down the road.

7 John gets back in that car, license plate in hand,
8 keys in hand and they drive off. And we know exactly
9 where they go. Hannah tells us that they stopped at two
10 dumpsters, one to throw away the trash bags that John had
11 put in the car, another to throw away the license plate
12 and Cati's keys.

13 Cati's mom filed a missing persons report on October
14 the 25th of 2016. And Investigator Morecraft told us that
15 after Wayne Roper found Cati's body in the early morning
16 hours of October the 26th, he notified next of kin, Cati's
17 husband, the Defendant. And that he notified Cati's
18 husband at around four o'clock in the afternoon on the
19 26th. And after the Defendant knows that his wife's body
20 has been at an abandoned house, the first Google search
21 that he has is not for her name. It's not for what
22 happened. It's for his name. He's trying to figure out
23 if he's being associated with this case. He's trying to
24 figure out if he is a suspect. Because he knows, he knows
25 it's only a matter of time until they figure out that it's

1 him.

2 He Googles his name here and then throughout the
3 following days continuously Googles Blauvelt, Greenville,
4 Blauvelt, Greenville dozens of times. He Googles what do
5 I do if my wife dies? And then he's asked to come into
6 the police station, Simpsonville PD on November the 2nd of
7 2016. And on November the 1st, he Googles when can police
8 get phone records, when can police get phone records, when
9 can police get phone records, when can police tap your
10 phone? Because he knows what's about to happen. He knows
11 the information that law enforcement is going to find when
12 they get his phone if they get his phone. He knows he's
13 Googled how to sharpen a knife. He knows he sent Hannah a
14 text saying he was going to go through with it soon.

15 And then on November the 2nd, they execute search
16 warrants for his car, for his DNA and for his phone. And
17 from then on, he went on the run. He went on the run for
18 so long that Investigator Morecraft retired before he was
19 found. He went on the run for so long that the U.S.
20 Marshals couldn't find him for six years. For them, it
21 became a cold case before they could find John Blauvelt.

22 Now, the burden of proof in this case rests here with
23 us. I said that in the beginning. It never moves over
24 here to this table. Mr. Neely and his team do not have to
25 prove a single thing to you. They don't have to call a

1 witness. They don't have to question a witness. They can
2 sit up here, kick up their feet and not say a single word
3 to you throughout the trial because it is our job to prove
4 to you this case beyond a reasonable doubt.

5 And when I'm done talking with you, Mr. Neely will
6 have an opportunity to present to you his closing argument
7 if they choose to do so. And I will not have the
8 opportunity to come back up and give a rebuttal argument.
9 I'm not going to get the opportunity to speak to you
10 again. So what I want to do is address some of the things
11 that we've heard them say throughout the course of this
12 trial.

13 The credibility of Hannah Thompson. They're going to
14 get up here and talk about Hannah giving various different
15 statements, her statements changing over time. And they
16 did. We're not going to try to hide that. We didn't try
17 to hide it in the first place. But what's important to
18 remember is that after Hannah came back from being on the
19 run with John in December of 2016, she told law
20 enforcement then that John told her that he killed Cati.

21 And the further and further she's able to distance
22 herself from John, distance herself from his manipulation,
23 she begins telling more and more. She didn't have to. In
24 fact, her telling more and more resulted in her own
25 arrest. You heard she has five pending charges for the

1 information she, ultimately, provided to law enforcement.
2 She is facing 55 years in jail upon conviction for those
3 crimes.

4 And she got up here with no deal. The State didn't
5 offer her a single thing. No agreement to dismiss her
6 charges, no cooperation agreement, no nudge, nudge, wink,
7 wink, none of it. She got up here and testified because
8 she told you she thought it was the right thing to do.

9 And you're to hear, I imagine, from Mr. Neely about
10 some other people. Zach Lewis, Kameron Vaughn, text
11 messages with a guy named Brian, Charles Scott. Zach
12 Lewis, the person that had been seeing Cati around the
13 time, the person that law enforcement interviewed. A
14 person that not a single other person in these 25 plus
15 interviews ever said yeah, he asked me to help him kill
16 Cati. So law enforcement moved on from him as a suspect.

17 Texts with a guy named Brian. You heard through
18 Captain Schofield that there were texts on Cati's phone
19 with a guy around the time the day that she died. And I
20 asked her specifically, I said, If there was any
21 indication in these texts that there was some sort of
22 problem between these two, some anger, anything like that,
23 is that something you would have noted? She said, Yes. I
24 said, Does that exist? She said, No.

25 Kameron Vaughn, somebody who, again, was interviewed

1 in this case. Again, somebody that nobody said hey, he
2 asked me if I'd help him kill Cati, like they all did
3 John. But they want to pull away your attention and have
4 you focus on Kameron Vaughn because there's a bottle at
5 the crime scene that says Kameron V, a Powerade bottle.

6 So let's think through this. Kameron Vaughn kills
7 Cati, gets really thirsty doing so, takes out a drink,
8 drinks it, makes sure he writes his name on it and then
9 leaves it at the crime scene. They don't have to prove
10 anything to you, but we get to question whether or not
11 what they're saying makes sense. That makes zero sense.
12 It makes zero sense that Kameron Vaughn would kill Cati
13 Blauvelt, the wife of Hannah Thompson's current boyfriend.
14 That doesn't bring Hannah and Kameron closer together.
15 That gives Hannah the opportunity to be the only person in
16 John's life. Kameron doesn't benefit from any of that.
17 That's because Kameron Vaughn isn't involved.

18 Again, they don't have to prove any of that to you,
19 but we get to ask ourselves if that makes sense. You
20 heard about this crime scene. This crime scene is a place
21 that these kids went all the time, that they always went
22 to party. There's trash everywhere around the entire
23 scene. The fact that Kameron or somebody Kameron V. left
24 a bottle there with his name on it doesn't mean they're a
25 killer. It means they left trash.

1 And without a doubt, I imagine you're about to hear
2 about the lack of forensic evidence in this case. That
3 there are six fingerprints on Cati's car that can't be
4 matched. Even if we could match them, we can't tell when
5 a fingerprint got some place. And you heard that Cati
6 worked at a busy shopping center.

7 And then there's, also, the question of the unknown
8 DNA or DNA that was underneath Cati's fingernails. And I
9 want to read this report to you. 54A are the fingernail
10 clippings underneath Cati Blauvelt's left hand. Results
11 from 54A contained a partial mixture of, at least, two
12 individuals. Not Charles Scott. Not Richard Larry
13 Hargrove. Not Franklin Wayne Roper. They're all
14 excluded. But because of the lack of DNA, they can't
15 create a full profile. It's a small sample. But even
16 with what they had, no determination can be made about the
17 Defendant.

18 And then 55A is the fingernail clippings of Cati's
19 right hand. And that contains, at least, one partial
20 haplotype. And this is Y strand DNA. We're not up here
21 saying this is a perfect match to John Blauvelt, but what
22 we are telling you is that there are seven markers for
23 comparison in that DNA. John Blauvelt possesses every
24 single one of those seven markers. So do his paternal
25 male relatives, so do one in 86 individuals. Richard

1 Hargrove doesn't. Wayne Roper doesn't. Charles Scott
2 doesn't. But John Blauvelt possesses every single one of
3 those DNA markers.

4 This is not an investigation that had tunnel vision.
5 That's their entire thing, that Simpsonville Police
6 Department focused solely in on John Blauvelt from the
7 beginning, that they failed to exclude other people. If
8 this was tunnel vision, they would have gotten a warrant
9 on October 26th, October 27th, October 28th, 29th, 30th.
10 It wasn't until November the 18th of 2016 that they
11 finally got a warrant for the murder of Cati Blauvelt
12 against John Blauvelt. That is not tunnel vision.
13 Collecting all the phone data is not tunnel vision.
14 Interviewing more than 25 people is not tunnel vision.

15 They want you to think that John Blauvelt has been
16 living in a tunnel for the last eight years. He hasn't
17 been living in a tunnel. He's been living in Oregon going
18 by the name of Ben. That's where he's been living, not in
19 a tunnel.

20 Now, it's not enough that we prove to you that John
21 Blauvelt just killed Cati, that's not enough. We have to
22 prove to you that he did so with malice aforethought,
23 intentionally, without justification. Malice aforethought
24 is finding a knife on the road, Googling how to sharpen it
25 and then carrying it with you to an abandoned house.

1 That's malice aforethought. Malice aforethought is asking
2 Ally Somerville to take your credit card, your keys, your
3 phone and to go to Charleston so it looks like you're down
4 in Charleston when you kill Cati. And when she declines,
5 having Hannah take your phone back to the house so that
6 nobody knows you're at that abandoned house as you kill
7 your wife. Malice aforethought is telling people
8 repeatedly that Cati is a piece of trash and then throwing
9 her body in the place where you say trash goes. That is
10 malice aforethought.

11 And we know exactly what John Blauvelt did. The only
12 thing we don't know is why. And in this state, as the
13 Judge instructs you on the law, what you're going to hear
14 is that we don't have to prove to you why. We don't have
15 to prove to you motive, although I think you've seen
16 throughout this week several different motives.
17 Jealously. His conversations with people about offering
18 to split life insurance money.

19 MR. NEELY: Objection, Your Honor, my prior
20 objection.

21 THE COURT: Overruled.

22 MS. ABEE: The fact that he had to live in the
23 abandoned house when they separated. And maybe it's
24 because of just what he said, maybe he just thought she
25 was a piece of shit. Or maybe it's again like he said,

1 maybe he was just born to kill people good and bad.

2 Now, our burden throughout this case has been beyond
3 a reasonable doubt. And a reasonable doubt doesn't mean
4 beyond all doubt. It doesn't mean it's a perfect
5 investigation. It simply means that you're firmly
6 convinced that John Blauvelt did what we say he did. That
7 we have proven that to you to the point where you can
8 stand back there with your two feet firmly planted on the
9 ground and say yeah, he did it.

10 And they're going to try to throw out these names and
11 try to throw out these things that weren't done in the
12 investigation to try to show you that it's reasonable
13 doubt. But that's not reasonable doubt. That's saying
14 look over here at this shiny thing that doesn't really
15 matter so that you can't see what our client really did.
16 That is not reasonable doubt. A reasonable doubt is a
17 doubt that causes you to hesitate to act. John Blauvelt
18 did not hesitate when he plunged that knife into Cati
19 Blauvelt's neck. And you should not hesitate in finding
20 him guilty.

21 But you don't have to take Hannah Thompson's word for
22 it. You don't have to take Ally Somerville's word for it.
23 You don't have to take Investigator Morecraft,
24 Investigator Schofield or even my word for it because you
25 can take his words for it.

1 MR. NEELY: Objection, Your Honor, my prior
2 objection.

3 THE COURT: Overruled.

4 MS. ABEE: December 22nd, 2016, going to keep going,
5 wish I could talk to you again. I fucking miss you. I
6 love you so much, Hannah. No matter what they say, I'm
7 sorry I got you involved. I was being selfish. I know if
8 I told you the truth, you wouldn't have done shit.
9 Hopefully, I kept you safe. That wasn't Scott's car,
10 baby. I'm so sorry. I love you. That was really
11 selfish. Hopefully, your life goes back to normal really
12 soon. I just saw myself on the news at the hotel. So I
13 guess I'm not welcome here anymore. Should probably
14 leave, but it's warm here and my phone is charging. I
15 don't know anymore. I still don't think I did anything
16 wrong. I'm going to have to die out here. I'm not going
17 to jail.

18 December 2016, a letter to his daughter, Madison. At
19 the end, some day I hope you understand why I did it.
20 That girl was evil to me. She treated me like dirt and
21 took everything from me, including you. I'm sorry that I
22 had to do that, but there was no other way for me. Sorry
23 bud, I love you.

24 Finally, an entry about Investigator Morecraft with
25 capitalized letter at the end, I did it. Six inches, six

1 years, one six-letter letter confession, I did it, and
2 only one verdict that makes sense. And so I'm asking on
3 the charges of murder and possession of a weapon during
4 the commission of a violent crime, you find John Blauvelt
5 guilty.

6 Thank you.

7 THE COURT: All right. Defense.

8 CLOSING ARGUMENT BY THE DEFENSE:

9 MR. NEELY: Thank you, Your Honor.

10 No one deserves to lose a daughter, a sister, a
11 niece, an aunt. And, certainly, not in such a horrific
12 way. And so I understand why the Simpsonville Police
13 Department went with their first thought. It's a small
14 municipality police department. They only had three
15 investigators. And they're dealing with a crime of this
16 magnitude.

17 And so first off, you come up with the answer right
18 away. There's information coming in from all over the
19 place. And if you can go ahead and decide what the answer
20 is, all the other information that doesn't fit that is a
21 distraction and you can ignore it. And for them, the
22 answer was John did it. So when you already have the
23 answer, you can ignore everything else.

24 They both said that being the lead investigator is
25 like being a movie producer. And any good movie producer

1 will tell you it's always the husband that did it. And
2 that's exactly how you get tunnel vision and that's how
3 you make mistakes and that's how you overlook things that
4 are obvious.

5 Let's talk about the DNA. In their DNA report, the
6 first report was issued in 2016. Dr. Kandala looked at it
7 and somebody else in that lab signed off on it. And it
8 said that there were matches for John Blauvelt's DNA under
9 both of Cati's fingernails. That report was issued in
10 2016. Eight years later, eight years went by before
11 somebody looked at it. And then when Mr. Nafziger,
12 actually, looked at the report, he said oh, these people
13 made mistakes. I don't need to go back and retest any of
14 this DNA, that doesn't matter, but these mistakes were
15 made.

16 And as it turns out, you know, when you look under
17 one hand, there's -- there's two -- there's profiles from
18 two different males. And the police department said oh,
19 it doesn't matter, we don't need to track that down. We
20 don't need to figure out who that's from. And under the
21 other hand, you get a partial haplotype for John. Seven
22 out of 23 markers. They're operating with 30 percent of
23 the information. And Mr. Nafziger calculates a statistic
24 for those seven markers and it's one out of 86 men have
25 those markers.

1 There are seven billion people in the world. Four
2 billion of them are men. One out of 86 is 43 million.
3 Those seven markers belong to 43 million men. And the DNA
4 lab here compared that DNA to four people. It belongs to
5 43 million people, they compared it to four people.

6 Tunnel vision is sitting up on the witness stand and
7 telling you I got this new report. That information is in
8 there. I don't understand DNA, but I didn't do the first
9 thing to look at my investigation again. I didn't call
10 the DNA lab to figure out what this means.

11 Cati's car. It was driven all over Greenville County
12 on the day of October 24th. It was an important enough
13 piece of evidence for law enforcement to process the car
14 to see if they could collect evidence. And they were able
15 to collect 16 latent fingerprints from that car. They set
16 out to compare those prints. And they got eight results,
17 four belonging to Cati, four belonging to her niece,
18 Chyanne, two that weren't suitable for comparison, but six
19 that were.

20 Now, when they compared these fingerprints, they
21 compared them to Cati and her niece, Chyanne, two guys
22 that found her that night, Ricky Hargrove and Wayne Roper.
23 They compared them to Charles Sidney Scott and they
24 compared them to John. And none of those fingerprints on
25 that car came back to John Blauvelt.

1 Now, tunnel vision is saying oh, you know what, we
2 don't know when fingerprints got on the car, so it doesn't
3 matter, we don't look -- we don't need to look at it
4 because it doesn't point to John Blauvelt. An open-minded
5 investigation says whose fingerprints are on this car?
6 Let's talk to them. Let's figure out where they were on
7 October 24th.

8 Tunnel vision is, also, processing your crime scene,
9 putting your forensic technician on the witness stand,
10 having her tell you all about the very detailed process
11 she goes through to collect evidence at a crime scene.
12 She said she walks the crime scene. She makes sure that
13 the crime scene is large enough so that they can collect
14 every piece of relevant evidence. They tape it off. They
15 start a crime scene log. Then she walks the crime scene
16 from the outside to the inside.

17 Then she goes back to the outside and she starts
18 putting evidence markers down around every piece of
19 evidence that she sees. And she goes back to the outside
20 and she photographs and she starts collecting this
21 evidence. It's a detailed process. She was out there for
22 hours. Law enforcement officers told us that they were
23 out there on that crime scene at the abandoned house for
24 16 hours that day.

25 Tunnel vision is taking -- is collecting that

1 Powerade bottle that says Kameron V on it, sitting in an
2 interview room with Kameron V, with Kameron Vaughn,
3 interviewing him for only 12 minutes and only asking him
4 about John. It's not asking him why is a Powerade bottle
5 with your name on it at a crime scene? Why is a Powerade
6 bottle with your name on it 18 feet from a pool of Cati's
7 blood? Tunnel vision is not asking him where were you on
8 the 24th? Tunnel vision is never having that conversation
9 with him.

10 It's, also, sitting up here and telling you we
11 interviewed 25 people and they all talked about John. And
12 then have them tell you well, they didn't mention anybody
13 else. Well, when the only questions they're being asked
14 is who do you think killed Cati and tell us why it was
15 John, they're only going to talk to you about John.

16 It's, also, putting Hannah Thompson up on the witness
17 stand and asking you to believe her lies. She told her
18 11th different version of events during this trial. This
19 time nothing was promised to her and she placed her hand
20 on the Bible and she swore to tell the truth. And they
21 want you to believe everything she said even though every
22 single time she has given a version of events, it's been
23 different than the one before. But that's okay, you can
24 forget the lying. Just ignore the lies and believe the
25 parts that implicate John.

1 It's, also, going through your crime scene collecting
2 all of this evidence on the 26th of October and then
3 saying oh, gee, you know what, I guess we missed her shoes
4 that were in the driveway. You know, we were able to find
5 those six days later, but I guess because we were
6 collecting evidence in the dark, we must have just missed
7 them. And we don't need to figure out why we missed them,
8 it doesn't matter. It's not relevant to our case.

9 It's, also, sitting up there and telling you that a
10 very important part of their investigation, a tool that
11 they use is Crime Stoppers. It's a way for citizens in
12 the community to anonymously report tips to law
13 enforcement. And then when one of these tips comes in on
14 the 29th of October, three days after you process the
15 crime scene and that tip says that there's a Jeep driving
16 through the crime scene, driving by the abandoned house,
17 driving through the field by the abandoned house and then
18 three days after that, you find Cati's shoes. And a
19 couple weeks after that, you find Cati's cell phone down
20 in the basement of this abandoned house. Tunnel vision is
21 doing nothing with that Crime Stoppers tip.

22 You don't try to figure out who the Jeep belongs to.
23 You don't bring the owner of that Jeep into the police
24 station. You never interview him. You don't say why were
25 you driving through the crime scene? Were you curious

1 about the crime scene? Or did this evidence show up at
2 the crime scene because you put it there?

3 It's, also, listening to these rumblings about a life
4 insurance policy. John said he's got a life insurance
5 policy and he's going to give me money if I help kill
6 Cati. And then during the course of your investigation,
7 you, actually, come to find out there is no life insurance
8 policy. No life insurance policy for Cati Blauvelt
9 existed. But yet, you stand up here and you say that one
10 of the motives for John to kill Cati is life insurance.

11 It's, also, saying gee, on the day that Cati died,
12 John came running up from the back of the house from the
13 woods and he's sweating and he's out of breath and that's
14 suspicious. And then it's ignoring the fact that his
15 roommate, Crystal Tucker, tells you that going running
16 through those woods is something that he does often for
17 long periods of time. For multiple hours, he goes out and
18 he goes running in those woods.

19 And then when Captain Schofield goes to the house two
20 days later to talk to Crystal Tucker for the very first
21 time, with her own eyes, she sees John coming out of the
22 woods running in jeans and boots. And just ignoring the
23 fact that that's something that he does often.

24 It's, also, sitting up here and saying I drove the
25 route that I think Cati's car took that day. And then

1 saying well, you know, I drove the route from Cati's
2 office to the abandoned house and, you know, it was
3 11 miles and the Snapchat says it's 10.44 miles. That's
4 close enough, so that must have been what happened. That
5 fits our narrative that John did it.

6 And then driving from the abandoned house over to
7 John's and saying well, you know, this only took me 2.5
8 miles, but the Snapchat says it went 3.4 miles, that's
9 close enough. And then saying from John's house to the
10 car wash -- you know, she said that she drove back roads,
11 she didn't get on the main roads. Captain Schofield said
12 she took back roads and she went 14.5 miles. Close
13 enough, 23 and a half miles on the Snapshot. That fits
14 what we're doing because the answer is John." That's
15 tunnel vision.

16 It's, also, looking at his search history where he
17 searches for Smith's knife sharpener, the guy that's in
18 the Army. And it's never getting a search warrant and
19 going through his house and see what kind of knives he,
20 actually, owns, if the guy in the Army, actually, owns
21 knives and if he's, actually, sharpened them. And just
22 saying well, now that his wife's dead, that's really
23 suspicious, so that fits our thought that he killed his
24 wife. That's tunnel vision.

25 What we do know is that at various points, Wayne and

1 Ally and Chyanne all lived in this house with John and
2 with Cati. They were there when John and Cati were
3 married. And they were there when they separated. Was
4 John a perfect husband? Absolutely not. Absolutely not.
5 But does being a terrible husband make you guilty of
6 murder? No.

7 But here's the thing, divorce, separation, it's messy
8 and it's angry and it's complicated and it's stressful and
9 it does bring out the worst in people. And they will say
10 hateful, spiteful, mean things. But what the State wants
11 you to believe is that in the months leading up to Cati's
12 death, John said all of these hateful things about Cati.
13 And these people who got on the witness stand, these
14 people who told you that they cared about Cati, that they
15 loved Cati, who got emotional talking about Cati when they
16 were talking to us this week, in those months leading up
17 to Cati's death never once mentioned to Cati that John was
18 saying these things.

19 What they, also, want you to believe is that in the
20 months leading up to Cati's death, John had a plan that he
21 was thinking out a way to commit the perfect murder. As a
22 matter of fact, he asked Ally Somerville to go to
23 Charleston. This is what Ally testified to, John asked
24 her go to Charleston, take my car, take my credit card,
25 take my phone so I've got an alibi. And then after

1 committing the murder, they drop the car off at the car
2 wash and the license plate comes off so that the car can
3 stay hidden. And then he's able to leave and go to Oregon
4 and he's able to plan out enough that he can stay hidden
5 from the Government for six years.

6 So what they want you to believe is that he came up
7 with the perfect plan before the murder and he was able to
8 execute a perfect plan after the murder. When it came
9 time for the staff sergeant in the Army to, actually,
10 execute the plan, it was done in the sloppiest way
11 possible. It was done at a place that he knows that all
12 of these people go, where all these people go multiple
13 times a week. And then that he put her body in a place
14 that Ally Somerville said they sit around and they smoke
15 weed around this concrete box and they regularly throw
16 their trash in this box. So she's definitely going to be
17 found. So the actual murder itself is done in the
18 sloppiest way possible, but he was able to have a perfect
19 plan on either side of that. That's what they want you to
20 believe.

21 They showed you this to-do list that said get rid of
22 Cati. And they introduce it as evidence in the trial
23 against John. Get rid of Cati. See, John had a plan the
24 whole time, get rid of Cati. Ally Somerville told you
25 that she wrote that, and that she wrote that because Cati

1 was getting in the way of Ally and Chyanne's fun.
2 Sometimes people write things and they don't mean what
3 they say. Ally said it didn't mean what she said. It
4 certainly wasn't about murder.

5 On October 24th, 2016, John's wife died and he was
6 notified by the Simpsonville Police Department two days
7 later. He called Crystal Gorto and he told her that Cati
8 was dead. And Crystal told us that John cried on the
9 phone and for about ten minutes, they both cried and they
10 tried to comfort each other.

11 But quickly, that grief gave way to fear. Because it
12 became obvious to John that he was going to be the only
13 suspect in this investigation. He talked to law
14 enforcement on the 26th when they told him about Cati.
15 And then on the second of November, they asked him, come
16 to the police station, we want to talk to you again. And
17 he went. He went to the police station. They said, We
18 have a search warrant for your phone. He gave them his
19 phone. We have a search warrant for your car. He handed
20 over his keys. We have a search warrant for your DNA. He
21 gave them a buccal swab. He cooperated with them.

22 But it became obvious that he was going to be the
23 only person that law enforcement investigated. So fear
24 got the best of him. He stayed in Greenville for two
25 weeks, talked to law enforcement twice. And then fear got

1 the best of him and he decided to take his chances on the
2 road.

3 And Hannah Thompson decided that she wanted to go on
4 a trip. She decided it would be fun to go on a trip with
5 John, that she could go across the country and see places
6 she's never seen before, the Grand Canyon, the Golden Gate
7 Bridge. She had always wanted to go to Oregon. This
8 would be a great time to do it. So they set out and they
9 go on this trip.

10 Now, I'm not sure what Hannah told John while they
11 were on this trip. This is what I do know, this is what
12 we know is that on October 24th, Hannah had John's car.
13 Crystal Gorto told us that on the 24th, Hannah left ■
14 South Kings Drive in John's car by herself. We know that
15 on the 24th, Hannah had John's phone. And there's been no
16 testimony that she ever gave it back to John.

17 We know that on October 24th, John was doing what he
18 always does and he was running. Crystal said that John
19 came up out of the woods about 15 minutes after Hannah
20 left and he was sweaty and he was out of breath, but
21 besides that, there was nothing unusual. He wasn't
22 covered in blood. There was nothing outside of the fact
23 that he was sweaty and out of breath. Crystal said that
24 John went to his room and he took a shower and she didn't
25 hear him leave. But she said she did hear Hannah come

1 back about two hours later by herself.

2 We, also, know that Hannah hated Cati and that Hannah
3 was in love with John. She wanted to be his wife. And
4 that John was still talking to Cati and that Hannah was
5 incredibly jealous and that she was worried that John was
6 going to cheat on her with Cati.

7 We, also, know from talking to Captain Schofield that
8 Hannah told them about secret Snapchat accounts, about
9 G-mail accounts, about various ways she could have
10 communicated with anybody. And they never got search
11 warrants for those communications. I don't know who
12 Hannah was talking to on the 24th of October, but I know
13 that she hated Cati.

14 Reasonable doubt is that doubt that causes you to
15 hesitate to act. It's that doubt that causes you to
16 hesitate to find somebody guilty, the kind of doubt that
17 causes you to hesitate to find John guilty. The State has
18 had tunnel vision for the last eight years. And they want
19 you to follow them into that tunnel and ignore the obvious
20 and they want you to find John guilty. Reasonable doubt
21 is going to be anything that you've heard in this trial
22 that causes you to hesitate to go into that tunnel with
23 them.

24 It's the DNA, two male suspects -- or two males under
25 her fingernails. I told you 43 million possible

1 contributors. It's the six fingerprints on the car that
2 they never bothered to send anymore comparisons to, but we
3 know John's fingerprints didn't come back on that car.
4 It's only asking people about John. It's Hannah hating
5 Cati and then lying with impunity for the last eight years
6 telling 11 different versions of events.

7 How did we get here? We didn't get here because of
8 the evidence. If law enforcement had kept an open mind
9 and done an investigation that looks at all of the
10 evidence and then follows it through to its natural
11 conclusions and, actually, tracked down that evidence and
12 talked to witnesses and followed the evidence where it
13 goes, we wouldn't be here. We're here because of tunnel
14 vision.

15 Mr. Meadors and Ms. Abee gave y'all three numbers to
16 keep in mind. Here's some other numbers, 43 million, 24
17 interviews about John, six fingerprints untested and only
18 one suspect. The only person they looked at was John.

19 Tunnel vision is what started this investigation
20 because they only had tunnel vision for John. It was only
21 ever going to be John because that's the only person they
22 ever looked at. Do not follow them into that tunnel.
23 Find John not guilty.

24 Thank you.

25 CHARGE ON THE LAW:

1 THE COURT: All right. Ladies and gentlemen, it is
2 my duty and obligation to now charge you on the law in
3 this case. First of all, I want to thank you, all of you.
4 You have paid attention in this case. You and I have
5 faced each other during this whole week in trial, so I've
6 had an opportunity to observe you. And you have all paid
7 attention and I want to thank you for that. And the
8 parties want to thank you for that as well.

9 Now, as I told you at the beginning of this trial,
10 the indictments charging the Defendant with murder and
11 possession of a weapon during the commission of a crime
12 are just that, indictments. I remind you, the fact that
13 the Defendant was arrested, charged and indicted in this
14 case is not evidence and cannot be considered by you as
15 evidence of guilt in this case nor does it create any
16 presumption or inference of guilt.

17 These indictments -- or these documents simply are
18 the formal written instruments which contain the charges
19 made against the Defendant in this case. They are the
20 formal documents by which the case is brought into this
21 Court. This is, also, true of any search warrants or
22 arrest warrants which may have been issued.

23 Now, I remind you that you and I during this trial
24 have had certain duties to perform. As the trial judge,
25 it has been my responsibility to preside over the trial of

1 the case. And I, also, have had the duty to rule on the
2 admissibility of the evidence offered during this trial.
3 You are to consider only the competent evidence before
4 you. If there was any testimony that was stricken from
5 the record in this case during this trial, you must
6 disregard that testimony. You are to consider only the
7 testimony which has come from this witness stand right
8 here or any other exhibits which may have been entered
9 into evidence. And that is all you are to consider.

10 I have the additional duty to charge you the law in
11 this case as the presiding judge. I am the sole judge of
12 the law of this case and it is your duty as jurors to
13 accept and apply the law as I now state it to you. If you
14 already have any idea as to what the law is or what the
15 law ought to be and it does not agree with what I now tell
16 you the law is, you must abandon this idea. Because you
17 are sworn to accept the law and apply the law exactly as I
18 state it to you now.

19 In every case tried in this court before a jury, the
20 jury becomes the sole and exclusive judge of the facts. A
21 trial judge like myself cannot state, comment or make any
22 statement to you as the jury about the facts in this case.
23 Since you, the jury, are the sole judges of the facts in
24 this case, you are not to infer from what I may have said
25 during the trial or any ruling on the admissibility of

1 evidence or otherwise or anything that I may have said
2 during this trial that I have any opinion about the facts
3 in this case. The law does not allow me to have any
4 opinion on the facts of the case. This is solely for you
5 and you alone. It is your duty to determine the effect,
6 value and weight of the evidence which has been presented
7 to you during this trial.

8 Now, as I have said and told you, the indictments in
9 this case allege two offenses against the Defendant. One
10 is for murder and the other is possession of a weapon
11 during the commission of a violent crime. Each indictment
12 charges a separate and distinct offense. You must decide
13 each indictment separately on the evidence and the law
14 applicable to that evidence uninfluenced by your decision
15 as to any other indictment. The Defendant may be
16 convicted or acquitted on any or all of the charges -- or
17 offenses charged. You will be asked to write a separate
18 verdict of guilty or not guilty for each indictment.

19 Now, the Defendant has pled not guilty in this case
20 to these indictments. And that plea puts the burden on
21 the State to prove the Defendant guilty. A person charged
22 with committing a criminal offense in South Carolina is
23 never required to prove himself innocent. I charge you
24 that it is an important rule of law that the Defendant in
25 a criminal trial, no matter what the seriousness of the

1 charge may be will always be presumed to be innocent of
2 the crime for which the indictment was issued unless guilt
3 has been proven by the evidence satisfying you of that
4 guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

5 This presumption of innocence does not end when you
6 begin your deliberations. But it accompanies the
7 Defendant throughout this trial until you reach a verdict
8 of guilty -- of guilt based on the evidence satisfying you
9 of that guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

10 The presumption of innocence is like a robe of
11 righteousness placed about the shoulders of the Defendant
12 which remains with the Defendant until it has been
13 stripped from the Defendant by the evidence satisfying you
14 of the Defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. The
15 presumption of innocence is not a mere legal theory. It
16 is not just a legal phrase. It is a substantial right to
17 which every defendant is entitled unless you, the jury,
18 are satisfied from the evidence of the Defendant's guilt
19 beyond a reasonable doubt.

20 Now, the State has that burden of proving guilt
21 beyond a reasonable doubt. Some of you may have served as
22 jurors in a civil case where you're told that the burden
23 there is to prove a fact more likely true than not or the
24 greater weight of the evidence, the preponderance of the
25 evidence. But in a criminal case, it is guilt beyond a

1 reasonable doubt.

2 A reasonable doubt is the kind of doubt that would
3 cause a reasonable person to hesitate to act. There are
4 very few things in this world that we know with absolute
5 certainty and in criminal cases, the law does not require
6 proof that overcomes every possible doubt. If, based on
7 your consideration of the evidence, you are convinced that
8 the Defendant is guilty of the crime charged, you must
9 find the Defendant guilty. If, on the other hand, you
10 think there is a real possibility that the Defendant is
11 not guilty, you must give the Defendant the benefit of the
12 doubt and find him not guilty.

13 Now, there are two types of evidence which are
14 generally presented during a trial, direct evidence and
15 circumstantial evidence. Direct evidence directly proves
16 the existence of a fact and does not require a deduction.
17 Circumstantial evidence is proof of a chain of facts and
18 circumstances indicating the existence of a fact. Claims
19 may be proven by circumstantial evidence.

20 The law makes no distinction between the weight or
21 the value to be given to either direct or circumstantial
22 evidence. However, to the extent the State relies on
23 circumstantial evidence, the circumstances must be
24 consistent with each other and when taken together point
25 conclusively to the guilt of the accused, the Defendant in

1 this case, beyond a reasonable doubt. If these
2 circumstances merely portray that the Defendant's behavior
3 was suspicious, the proof has failed. The State has that
4 burden of proving the Defendant guilty beyond a reasonable
5 doubt.

6 The burden rests with the State regardless of whether
7 the State relies on direct evidence, circumstantial
8 evidence or a combination of the two.

9 Now, what is not evidence? Statements and arguments
10 of the lawyers and any questions and objections that the
11 lawyers may have made during the trial. That is not
12 evidence. As I have told you, the evidence in this case
13 comes right here from this witness stand and any exhibits
14 that may have been admitted into evidence.

15 Now, in determining the facts of the case, you must
16 determine the credibility of the witnesses who have
17 testified in this case. Credibility, ladies and
18 gentlemen, simply means believability. It becomes your
19 duty as jurors to analyze and evaluate the evidence.

20 In determining the believability of witnesses who
21 have testified in this case, you may believe one witness
22 over several witnesses or several witnesses over one
23 witness. You may believe a part of the testimony of a
24 witness and reject the remaining part of the testimony of
25 that same witness. You may believe the testimony of a

1 witness in its entirety or reject the testimony of a
2 witness in its entirety. You may consider whether any
3 witness has exhibited to you any interest, bias, prejudice
4 or other motive in this case. You may, also, consider the
5 appearance and manner of a witness while on the witness
6 stand.

7 As I told you a couple times through the trial, we
8 have had some expert witnesses in this case. Now, the
9 rules of evidence, as I've told you, ordinarily do not
10 permit witnesses to testify to opinions or conclusions.
11 An exception to this rule exists for witnesses we call
12 expert witnesses. A witness who by education and
13 experience has become an expert in some art, science,
14 profession or calling, they may state an opinion as to
15 relevant and material matters in which that expert claims
16 to be an expert and may give reasons for that opinion.

17 You should consider any expert opinion received in
18 this case and just like any other evidence, give it the
19 weight you think it deserves. If you decide that the
20 opinion of an expert witness is not based on sufficient
21 education and experience or if you conclude that the
22 reasons given in support of the opinion are not sound or
23 if the opinion is outweighed by other evidence, you may
24 disregard the opinion entirely. An expert witness's
25 testimony is to be given no greater weight than that of

1 other witnesses simply because that witness has been
2 classified as an expert. You are not required to accept
3 an expert's opinion even though it is not contradicted.

4 Folks, during the trial of the case, you have made
5 notes and seen some of the exhibits. There may have been
6 some redactions due to the rules of court and those
7 decisions were made by me. Please do not speculate as to
8 what may or may not be contained in any portions which may
9 have been redacted.

10 Now, as I've said, the Defendant is charged with
11 murder in one of the indictments. The State must prove
12 beyond a reasonable doubt that the Defendant killed
13 another person with malice aforethought. Malice is
14 hatred, ill will or hostility towards another person. It
15 is the intentional doing of a wrongful act without just
16 cause or excuse and with an intent to inflict an injury or
17 under other circumstances that the law will infer evil
18 intent. Malice aforethought does not require that malice
19 exist for any particular time before the act is committed.
20 But malice must exist in the mind of the defendant just
21 before and at the time the act is committed. Therefore
22 there must be a combination of the previous evil intent
23 and the act.

24 Malice aforethought can be expressed or inferred.
25 The terms expressed and inferred do not mean different

1 kinds of malice, but merely the manner in which malice may
2 be shown to exist. That is either by direct evidence or
3 by any inference from the facts and circumstances which
4 are proved.

5 Expressed malice is shown when a person speaks words
6 which express hatred or ill will for another. Or when the
7 person prepared beforehand to do the act which was later
8 accomplished. Malice may be implied or inferred when
9 circumstances demonstrate a person had a wanton or
10 reckless disregard for human life where a reasonably
11 prudent man would have known that according to common
12 experience, there was a strong likelihood that death would
13 follow from the contemplated act.

14 The Defendant is, also, charged with possession of a
15 weapon during the commission of a violent crime. The
16 State must prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the
17 Defendant was in possession of a weapon or visibly
18 displayed what appeared to be a weapon during the
19 commission of a violent crime.

20 In order to find the Defendant guilty of possession
21 of a weapon during the commission of a violent crime, you
22 must first find the Defendant guilty of either committing
23 a violent crime or attempting to commit a violent crime.
24 Murder is a violent crime. The State must prove beyond a
25 reasonable doubt that the weapon further advanced or

1 helped in the commission of the crime.

2 Now, in order to establish criminal liability,
3 criminal intent is required. For example, the mental
4 state required to be proven by the State for a particular
5 crime might be purpose, intent, knowledge, recklessness or
6 criminal negligence. Criminal intent must be proven by
7 the State beyond a reasonable doubt. Criminal intent is
8 always a matter that must be determined by you, the jury,
9 based on the evidence in this case.

10 There is no way to prove intent to a mathematical
11 certainty. There is no way medical science can dissect a
12 person's brain and determine what the person had in mind.
13 So the law says that criminal intent may be inferred from
14 the circumstances shown to have existed. This is how you
15 make a determination of whether or not the element
16 requiring intent was present.

17 It is not necessary to establish intent by direct and
18 positive evidence. But intent may be established by
19 inference in the same way as any other fact by taking into
20 consideration the acts of the parties and all the facts
21 and circumstances of the case. Criminal intent is a
22 mental state, a conscious wrongdoing. It is up to you to
23 determine what the Defendant intended to do based on the
24 circumstances shown to have existed. Criminal intent can
25 arise from action or a failure to act. It may arise from

1 negligence, recklessness or an indifference to duty or to
2 consequences that is considered by the law to be
3 equivalent of criminal intent.

4 Now, ladies and gentlemen, I instruct you and I
5 emphasize that the fact that the Defendant did not testify
6 in this case is not a factor to be considered by you in
7 your deliberations and in your consideration on the
8 question of the guilt or innocence of the Defendant. It
9 must not be considered by you in any manner whatsoever. A
10 defendant has the Constitutional right to remain silent
11 and the assertion of the right must not be considered by
12 you in your deliberations.

13 I repeat, under your oath, you are to draw no
14 conclusion whatsoever from the fact that the Defendant did
15 not testify in this trial. The fact that the Defendant
16 did not testify should not even be discussed in the jury
17 room. The burden of proof, as I have stated, is on the
18 State. The Defendant is not required to prove his
19 innocence in this case. The burden of proof remains on
20 the State to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

21 Ladies and gentlemen, a verdict in this case cannot
22 be based upon sympathy, bias, emotion or any other
23 consideration except what came from that witness stand and
24 what came in the form of exhibits. And that alone is all
25 you are to consider.

1 Now, let me just say something briefly about
2 deliberations. It's often been defined as the act of
3 thinking about or discussing and deciding carefully. The
4 genius of our jury system, ladies and gentlemen, is that
5 they brought 12 of you from different places, different
6 ages, different backgrounds, different life experiences,
7 different perspectives, brought you together to consider
8 the evidence in this case to talk about it and,
9 ultimately, reach a verdict. We call them deliberations
10 for a reason. You are to consider the evidence in this
11 case carefully and deliberately and discuss it in a calm,
12 thorough and courteous manner.

13 Remember, you are not partisans or advocates for
14 either side in this case. You are the judges. You are
15 the judges of the facts in this case. Listen to the views
16 of all of your fellow jurors. Consider other people's
17 points and points of view. Discuss the evidence. And
18 remember, if you are discussing and doing something
19 deliberately, you are not in a big hurry. And you should
20 not be in a big hurry here. This case is very important
21 to both sides in this trial. And this is their day in
22 court.

23 When you retire to the jury room, as I have said,
24 discuss it with your fellow jurors to reach an agreement
25 if you can do so. But your verdict must be unanimous.

1 Each of you must decide the case for yourself. But you
2 should do so only after you have impartially considered
3 all evidence, discussed it fully with other jurors and
4 listened to the views of your fellow jurors.

5 Do not be afraid to change your opinion if the
6 discussion persuades you that you should. But do not come
7 to a decision simply because other jurors think it is
8 right. It is important that you attempt to reach a
9 unanimous verdict. But, of course, only if each of you
10 can do so after having made your own decision in this
11 case. Do not change an honest belief about the weight and
12 the effect of the evidence simply to reach a verdict. In
13 other words, do not change your opinion solely for the
14 sake of reaching a unanimous verdict.

15 Now, Mr. Foreman and ladies and gentlemen, you will
16 have a verdict form back there with you to discuss. It is
17 very straightforward. There are two questions. Those
18 questions are, question number one, as to the charge of
19 murder, we, the jury, unanimously find the Defendant, John
20 T. Blauvelt, and it has check one, guilty or not guilty.

21 Now, do not consider the order of how I put that in
22 there. Guilty came first and not guilty was behind it. I
23 simply have to do it one way or the other and I do it by
24 the alphabet, G before the N. That is simply the reason I
25 do that. Do not take that into consideration.

1 As to the second question, as to the charge of
2 possession of a weapon during the commission of a violent
3 crime, we, the jury, unanimously find the Defendant, John
4 T. Blauvelt, again, guilty or not guilty.

5 Mr. Foreman, if you are able to reach a verdict, you
6 will sign the verdict form and knock on the door and let
7 the bailiff know by the button there.

8 Now, if any of you have any questions at all, do the
9 same, let the bailiffs know that you have a question.

10 And Mr. Foreman, if you would, write it out on a
11 piece of paper. Let the bailiff know. He will hand that
12 to me. He'll get it to me. I'll let the lawyers know
13 that there is a question. And I can do one of two things.
14 I may can just write an answer on the paper where you have
15 asked that question and just send it back to you. Or I
16 may need to bring all of you out to explain it a little
17 bit further. So if there are any questions or if you want
18 to rehear any testimony, please, let the bailiffs know.
19 Again, as I said, I will take a look at it. I will
20 discuss it with the lawyers and make a decision on how we
21 proceed from there.

22 I am going to excuse you now, but do not begin to
23 discuss the case yet. I have got to discuss with the
24 lawyers and make sure I charged you the correct law. If
25 they think I may need to do something else or add

1 something to it, I'll bring you back in and recharge you.
2 If not, I will have the bailiffs gather up the evidence
3 and bring it into you with the verdict form and instruct
4 you to begin your deliberations.

5 So I'm going to ask you to retire to your jury room.
6 Please do not discuss it yet. I will get word to you here
7 shortly.

8 Thank you.

9 (WHEREUPON, the jury was excused from open court at
10 approximately 11:07 a.m.)

11 THE COURT: All right. Any exceptions from the
12 State?

13 MS. ABEE: No, Your Honor.

14 THE COURT: Any from the Defendant?

15 MR. NEELY: No, Your Honor.

16 THE COURT: All right. If you would, please, take a
17 look at the exhibits and make sure everything is there.
18 Let me know when you have done that, I'll stay here on the
19 bench and I will instruct them to begin deliberations.

20 (Pause.)

21 THE COURT: We'll be in recess.

22 (WHEREUPON, the proceedings were recessed at
23 approximately 11:09 a.m.)

24 THE COURT: I understand we have a verdict.

25 Anything from the State before we bring the jury in?

1 MS. ABEE: No, Your Honor.

2 THE COURT: Anything from the Defendant?

3 MR. NEELY: No, Your Honor.

4 THE COURT: All right. I want to remind everybody
5 that once this verdict is heard, I don't want to have any
6 outbursts or any issue with that. If you feel that you
7 cannot contain yourself from that, I want you to leave
8 now. I don't want to have any reaction or outburst from
9 anyone when this verdict is read.

10 Let's bring the jury in.

11 (WHEREUPON, the jury came into open court at
12 approximately 4:00 p.m.)

13 THE COURT: All right. Mr. Foreman, I understand
14 that you have reached a verdict; is that correct?

15 THE FOREMAN: Yes, Your Honor.

16 THE COURT: If you would, please, hand the verdict to
17 the bailiff.

18 All right. I'll ask the clerk to publish the
19 verdict, please.

20 VERDICT:

21 THE CLERK: Your Honor, in the case of
22 2023-GS-23-4013 and 4014, the State of South Carolina vs.
23 John T. Blauvelt. Number one, as to the charge of murder,
24 we, the jury, unanimously find the Defendant, John T.
25 Blauvelt, guilty. Number two, as to the charge of

1 possession of a weapon during the commission of a violent
2 crime, we, the jury, unanimously find the Defendant, John
3 T. Blauvelt, guilty. I certify that this is the unanimous
4 decision of the jury, signed by Mr. Lyda, our Foreperson.

5 Ladies and gentlemen, if you agree these are the
6 verdicts you reached in your deliberation room, would you,
7 please, raise your right hand.

8 (WHEREUPON, all jurors raised their right hand.)

9 THE CLERK: Thank you.

10 THE COURT: Thank you, Madam Clerk.

11 All right. As to the jury, anything from the State?

12 MS. ABEE: No, Your Honor.

13 THE COURT: Anything from the Defense?

14 MR. NEELY: Poll the jury, please, Your Honor.

15 THE COURT: All right. Poll the jury.

16 THE CLERK: The verdict that was published was the
17 verdict you reached in your deliberation room. I ask you
18 was it your verdict then and is it your verdict now? When
19 I call your juror number, please, answer yes or no.

20 Juror 150.

21 JUROR #150: Yes.

22 THE CLERK: 225.

23 JUROR #225: Yes.

24 THE CLERK: 87.

25 JUROR #87: Yes.

1 THE CLERK: 100.

2 JUROR #100: Yes.

3 THE CLERK: 211.

4 JUROR #211: Yes.

5 THE CLERK: 229.

6 JUROR #229: Yes.

7 THE CLERK: 57.

8 JUROR #57: Yes.

9 THE CLERK: 90.

10 JUROR #90: Yes.

11 THE CLERK: 17.

12 JUROR #17: Yes.

13 THE CLERK: 244.

14 JUROR #244: Yes.

15 THE CLERK: 88.

16 JUROR #88: Yes.

17 THE CLERK: 179.

18 JUROR #179: Yes.

19 THE CLERK: Was there anyone I did not call?

20 (WHEREUPON, there was no response.)

21 THE CLERK: Thank you.

22 THE COURT: Anything else from the Defendant?

23 MR. NEELY: Nothing, Your Honor.

24 THE COURT: Ladies and gentlemen, that concludes your
25 service in this trial and your jury service this week. I

1 want to thank you for your service to Greenville County
2 and the State of South Carolina.

3 I am going to excuse you. I'm going to step back for
4 just a minute and speak with you. But, again, I want to
5 thank you for your service and your work and your effort
6 in this case.

7 Thank you.

8 (WHEREUPON, the jury was excused from open court at
9 approximately 4:03 p.m.)

10 THE COURT: All right. I'm going to step back for
11 just a minute. We will have sentencing, so I'm going to
12 step back and give y'all some time to be prepared. I will
13 step back out here and we'll go to sentencing.

14 (WHEREUPON, a break was taken.)

15 THE COURT: All right. On sentencing, I'll hear from
16 the State.

17 MS. ABEE: Thank you, Your Honor. May it please the
18 Court.

19 Your Honor sat through this entire trial for this
20 week. You have heard the heinous way in which John
21 Blauvelt caused the death of Cati. Your Honor, I'm not
22 really sure there's much impact that the State could give
23 regarding sentencing, however, Cati's mother and two of
24 her sisters would like to address you at the appropriate
25 time, Your Honor. And we would, obviously, defer to their

1 wants and wishes in this case.

2 THE COURT: I'll hear from them now.

3 MS. ABEE: Thank you, Your Honor.

4 Your Honor, first is Brandy Blackwell, sister to Cati
5 Blauvelt.

6 MS. BRANDY BLACKWELL: I'm sorry, I didn't know I was
7 allowed to turn this on and I was waiting until the last
8 moment. I didn't know -- I didn't want to have this on.
9 I didn't want to get in trouble, so I was waiting until
10 the last minute.

11 THE COURT: Take your time. Take your time.

12 MS. BRANDY BLACKWELL: Judge, my name is Brandy
13 Blackwell. I'm Cati's eldest sister. And I wanted to
14 read what is my daughter, Chyanne's statement. Let me
15 just find it.

16 Okay. The twisted and evil actions of John Blauvelt
17 took so much from so many. He took the innocence and
18 youth from so many naive young adults in which he was
19 meant to guide. He took a daughter from her mother, a
20 sister from loving siblings and an aunt from her young
21 nieces, a friend from so many. Most of all, John took
22 Cati's life, her future and all of her peace.

23 Six years went by where John was able to escape the
24 reality of what he did as well as the consequences of his
25 actions. He had the ability to live a life and feel at

1 peace. During those same six years, I worried that he
2 would come back. I hoped and prayed that he was not
3 taking from others as he took from us.

4 My husband and I started our lives, our family within
5 the same years we spent trying to heal from the trauma and
6 chaos John caused. Memories of our first apartment, also,
7 bring memories of in pursuit setting up in our living room
8 and having to relive and remember what John had done in an
9 attempt to help catch him. Memories of having our first
10 child got mixed with the fear that he would come back.
11 How could we protect our family and our peace from someone
12 who couldn't be found? We left our home, our families at
13 a young age in an attempt to escape all of the memories
14 and the what ifs.

15 Not a day goes by that I don't think of Cati. I
16 wonder what her future would have looked like, what kind
17 of adventures we would have had together as we both grew.
18 I even wondered how many -- how many cats she would have
19 had, probably a lot. Those are the good thoughts I have
20 daily.

21 I, also, wonder what her last thoughts were. I
22 relive that last conversation we had and I wish we would
23 have known that she was in danger. I think about how
24 scared she must have been and I wish that I could have
25 protected her from him. I want to tell her so many things

1 and it hurts knowing I'll never get the chance.

2 Nothing can bring Cati back or heal all of the pain
3 John caused. The only thing we can do for her now is make
4 sure that he's never capable of hurting anyone else. She
5 would want that to protect others from what she endured.

6 Thank you.

7 THE COURT: Thank you, ma'am.

8 MS. ABEE: Your Honor, next is Jennifer Piver.

9 MS. JENNIFER PIVER: Your Honor, thank you for this
10 time. I am Jennifer Piver, Cati's stepsister. And as I
11 stand here, I never could have imagined I would have had
12 anything to be grateful for today, but this is where I
13 want to start.

14 From the moment we walked into the Simpsonville
15 Police Department to report Cati missing, the
16 investigators took us seriously, trusted we knew our Cati,
17 understood something serious was wrong and they
18 immediately began to search for Cati. We will forever be
19 grateful to them and Captain Schofield for their kindness
20 during our darkest hours, for their eight years continued
21 pursuit of justice for Cati, for their willingness to
22 follow every lead and to answer millions of questions and
23 their assurance that they will never gave up.

24 We, also, know there's a whole village behind the
25 Simpsonville and Fountain Inn and Greenville Police

1 Departments who helped. We might not know your name, but
2 trust that we are grateful.

3 Later, the U.S. Marshals were added to this pursuit
4 and I often thought you had total control of the wild
5 west. I didn't know how you would do it. I had no idea
6 what tools were at your disposal, but I had faith that you
7 would bring him back to Greenville to face the
8 consequences. You did that and we thank you.

9 To the Attorney General's Office, to Kinli and John
10 and Erica and Kristin. You were magnificent. Your
11 skills, competence and most important, your commitment to
12 Cati made us believe that there would be justice for Cati
13 after all.

14 I'm, also, grateful for my family and friends and the
15 community who pushed us for eight years and propped us up
16 at times we didn't think we could go on.

17 Obviously, the focus this week was on Cati's murder.
18 It was a focus on the single worst day of our lives. I
19 appreciate that now it is our time to remind you that
20 there were 22 years of life prior to this horrific day and
21 now is the time to remember that Cati was more than a
22 victim of a violent and selfish act.

23 This week, we saw the brutal photos of Cati's bruised
24 body. We saw the cuts on her neck and the deep stab wound
25 that drained her of her life. We, also, saw that last

1 selfie she took right before her death. She was
2 beautiful, she was silly and she was okay. It served as a
3 reminder of John's manipulation and betrayal. She still
4 trusted him. She begged for her life. She hoped he would
5 free her. He did not.

6 What I wish everyone could have seen would be the
7 tens of thousands of photos of Cati. When I say tens of
8 thousands, I really do mean it. That girl couldn't put
9 her phone down ever and there certainly wasn't a filter
10 she didn't try. Her and our little sister, Taylor, used
11 to sit there for hours taking goofy photos of themselves.
12 We would be watching movies and those two would be
13 clicking away and giggling. It was annoying. Oh, how I
14 would give anything to be annoyed by their joyfulness
15 again.

16 In those photos, you would see her beautiful, thick
17 long hair, twinkling eyes, her unmistakable and joy-filled
18 smile. You would see her playfulness. You would see her
19 pulling family and friends in the photos, too. At any
20 time, you would hear her talking about Harry Potter. And
21 Lord knows, she would never be without a book.

22 We would want you all to know there was never a
23 bigger animal lover. She loved her pets like family,
24 particularly, her fur babies. She was happiest when she
25 was with them. We would want you to know that she was

1 loved and loving. She made the most incredible BLTs in
2 the middle of the night. We would sit up, eat and talk
3 because it was the only time we were in the house
4 together. We did this the very night before she died.

5 I, also, want you to know that I think Cati was
6 brave. She took a risk in loving John and she would have
7 loved him fiercely and his daughter, Madison, forever.
8 Cati was loyal and loving. However, John abused that love
9 and loyalty and then abused her. He put a gun to her
10 head, threatened her, threatened her family. He wanted
11 her to kill herself, isolated her and he wanted her dead.

12 However, our Cati was brave. She left him. We
13 started to see her again. She was everything. She moved
14 out. She came home to those who loved her free from
15 John's control. Cati was becoming the woman she was
16 always meant to be. She grew more confident and happy
17 with each day.

18 Since the day Cati was violently murdered and thrown
19 away, our lives have been in pieces. We have no peace.
20 We are not alone. There's a whole community that was
21 affected by Cati's death. These young kids who didn't
22 know any better have had a hard time now in the cruel
23 world this murder introduced them to.

24 For my family, none of us are the same. We keep
25 brave faces. We go through the emotions. We've tried to

1 stay strong and engage in the world for our kids, nephews
2 and nieces. My heart breaks for all of our minis who
3 never met Cati and for all of our minis who can't
4 understand the brokenness they see in us. We are haunted
5 by the horror and walk with a deep sense of grief. Her
6 loss in our lives is profound and permanent.

7 Your Honor, I would like to close with this. John
8 Blauvelt was a coward. He evaded responsibility. He's
9 shown no remorse. He mocked the law. He continued to
10 blame Cati. He was free for six years. He got to see the
11 Grand Canyon, Cati didn't. He got to see the Golden Gate
12 Bridge, Cati didn't. That time of running evading the
13 lawsuit, living without consequences must end.

14 I've heard it said if someone tells you who they are,
15 believe them. Your Honor, you now know what others didn't
16 know at that time. Please take him seriously. He told us
17 he was going to kill the good and the bad. He told us he
18 did it. He is telling us that if he is ever free, he will
19 hurt or kill again. Believe him.

20 We ask that you send a message that domestic violence
21 and murder will not be tolerated in South Carolina. In
22 doing so, you will send a message to other abused South
23 Carolina women that they, too, will be believed and can
24 get help despite what happened to Cati. I ask that you
25 send a profound and permanent message by sentencing John

1 Tufton Blauvelt to life in prison.

2 Thank you.

3 THE COURT: Thank you, ma'am.

4 MS. ABEE: And, Your Honor, finally, Patricia Piver,
5 Cati's mother.

6 MS. PATRICIA PIVER: Mine is much shorter. Your
7 Honor, I'm Patricia Piver, Cati's mom. Cati was my middle
8 child. When I was young, I had two older brothers. Of
9 course, they treated me like a little sister. You can't
10 do this because you're a girl. So I prayed to God when I
11 grew up I would only have girls. God answered my prayers.
12 I knew I would let them be what they wanted when they grew
13 up.

14 God gave me three daughters. Brandy, Cati and Taylor
15 were the three parts that made my heart whole. Catherine,
16 the name, means pure. In Irish, it means pure, clear and
17 innocent. In Italian, it means a beautiful soul inside
18 and out.

19 I grew up in a time when parents would spank you and
20 then tell you to stop crying or they would give you
21 something to cry about. My dad meant it, so I learned not
22 to cry. I took it to heart and refused. Throughout my
23 life, I had to be tough. Even when my mother passed away,
24 I briefly cried, but then I straightened up because, at
25 least, I got a chance to say goodbye.

1 Six months after Cati was murdered, my dad found out
2 he had cancer. I sat there for six weeks watching him
3 dwindle away. But I didn't cry because I got a chance to
4 say goodbye.

5 My life changed forever on October 24th, 2016. And I
6 have not stopped crying since John not only murdered Cati,
7 but John murdered and ripped out part of my heart. The
8 middle of my heart is gone. My middle child, Cati, was
9 ripped away. My heart will never heal. Instead of
10 bleeding blood, my heart will forever bleed tears. I will
11 always cry for Cati.

12 John murdered my future. My future of watching
13 happiness as Cati grows to be a wonderful person and have
14 a future family is gone. The future seeing her smile in
15 real life, even her goofy smiles and her eye rolls,
16 they're gone. The future of hearing about her joy of
17 playing with her dogs and animals at work is gone. The
18 future of hearing her infectious laugh, that beautiful
19 laugh is gone. The future of getting hugs and kisses and
20 hearing I love you is gone.

21 I always told people when things got bad to always
22 have faith. Since October 24th, 2016, I'm sorry to say
23 I've lost faith. And for the next six years, it slipped
24 away further and further. A tiny bit of faith twinkled
25 the day that I got the call that John was caught and in

1 custody. Please help me get my faith back.

2 Ally said John put trash in that box. John put Cati
3 in that box. Cati was not trash. Cati was a gift from
4 God. John gave me a life sentence, a life sentence
5 without Cati. He gave Brandy and Taylor a life sentence
6 without their sister. He gave Dan, Jenny, John, Danielle,
7 Brandon and Brittany a life sentence without Cati. John
8 gave Brandy's three daughters, Chyanne, Sharon and Patty a
9 life sentence without Cati. He gave to Cati's friends,
10 some she had known since kindergarten and those who are
11 still supporting her today eight years later, a life
12 sentence. John deserves the same life sentence. A life
13 sentence away from everybody.

14 And then, Brandy gave me a little something she
15 wanted me to say. John kept Cati away from the world and
16 for that, we have to suffer. John took the world away
17 from Cati and for that, he should suffer. I beg you.

18 I love you, Cati, more always.

19 Thank you, Your Honor.

20 THE COURT: Thank you, ma'am.

21 Anything else from the State?

22 MS. ABEE: Nothing else from the State.

23 THE COURT: All right. Mr. Neely, I'll hear from the
24 Defense.

25 MR. NEELY: Yes, sir, thank you, Your Honor. May it

1 please the Court.

2 Your Honor, by way of mitigation, I would ask the
3 Court first hear from Ms. Pia Valere Adams from the public
4 defender's office.

5 THE COURT: Yes, ma'am.

6 MS. ADAMS: Your Honor, may it please the Court.

7 For the record, my name is Pia Valere Adams, public
8 defender's office. Social worker for the 13th Circuit
9 Public Defender's Office. My role on this team is a
10 mitigation specialist. And my purpose in this case is to
11 provide content about John Blauvelt's life that has not
12 been touched upon during these trial proceedings in hope
13 that you'll take this account into consideration when
14 deciding sentencing.

15 Over the past several months, I have worked close to
16 60 hours in gathering information. I have extensively
17 interviewed Mr. Blauvelt, his family and a few close
18 friends. John Tufton Blauvelt is, also, affectionately
19 known to his family as Frank and family and friends as
20 J.T.

21 When I initially met Mr. Blauvelt, he was reserved.
22 As I took time to build rapport, he eventually was willing
23 to talk more candidly about the details of his life. Some
24 discussions were more difficult than others, but
25 Mr. Blauvelt persisted with the process.

1 Considering the length of prison time that this
2 client is potentially facing, I felt it appropriate to
3 provide an in-depth narrative to the Court and I ask for
4 the Court's patience when doing so.

5 My goal is to be succinct as well as thorough in this
6 report. I have been trusted by Mr. Blauvelt as well as my
7 team members to accurately deliver this summary, to be the
8 voice of John Tufton Blauvelt and give the context of what
9 has gone on in his life up to the point in time before
10 John got taken into custody. He has requested that I be
11 as sensitive and careful as possible not to offend anyone
12 that this account may mention. That being said, I will
13 continue.

14 John was born in 1988 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
15 He grew up in the southern part of New Jersey. He was
16 born to parents, Barbara and Scott. His mother was 20 and
17 father 22 years old when he was born. John's mother
18 married Chris, who became John's stepfather, at two years
19 old.

20 It's really for the purpose of context so you can get
21 a picture of his life.

22 THE COURT: All right.

23 MS. ADAMS: Thank you.

24 So Chris and John's mother, Barbara, had three
25 children, making John the oldest of four children. Next

1 in brick order are his brother, Steven, sisters, Courtney
2 and McKayla.

3 I will now discuss the dynamics of John's family.
4 John's mother worked as a director of a daycare and
5 subsequently opened her own successful childcare business.
6 He described his mother as great, fun-loving, hard-working
7 towards her work. He said that she was gone a lot because
8 of work. And he shared that she was a college graduate
9 and went back to school obtaining her Master's Degree. He
10 said his mother played a traditional role and participated
11 as a soccer mom and helped with homework. He said they
12 never talked about anything serious or emotional, but if
13 he needed anything, he could probably go to her.

14 His stepfather is the one that he called dad. To
15 facilitate a more clear understanding, I will refer to him
16 as stepdad to decipher between the biological parent and
17 the one established by marriage.

18 His stepdad was a state trooper, worked really hard
19 and did a lot of overtime and worked the night shift. He
20 was very active with John and his youngest brother. He
21 coached baseball and football and was active with
22 schoolwork. He was strict and -- I'll go into that more
23 later in this report.

24 When I asked John if he felt that he was treated any
25 differently from the younger siblings because he was a

1 stepchild and he adamantly stated that he was not. When
2 John was born, his mother did not want the father to have
3 him by himself because she did not trust that he could
4 properly take care of a baby. So his Aunt Linda was
5 appointed to be the one to have supervised visitation.

6 Initially, his father was not allowed to go to where
7 John and his mother lived and his Aunt Linda would be the
8 one to pick him up from his mother's house and facilitate
9 visits. Aunt Linda had a three-year-old daughter of her
10 own and took care of J.T. as her own and included him as a
11 second child in her home. She was the strong link for
12 J.T. to remain connected to his biological father's
13 family.

14 There were a number of dynamics that took place. So
15 bear with me with your patience. He had a maternal
16 grandfather who was very outspoken that he could not stand
17 John's biological father and made every effort to let John
18 know what he thought of his father. The maternal
19 grandfather repeatedly called John's father names that
20 would be totally inappropriate to use in this courtroom.

21 This eventually became an internal conflict and a
22 point of contention for John because he loved his father
23 and was unable to express how he felt about it. This
24 behavior created a wedge in John fully getting to know his
25 father's side of the family as much as he would have

1 liked.

2 John's biological dad, Scott, is now deceased.
3 Initially, had court supervised visitation, but that was
4 established within a month of his birth. After several
5 years passed of visiting, John's father was eventually
6 allowed to go pick John up on his own without being
7 supervised because the restriction had been lifted.
8 John's father was very consistent in showing up for his
9 visits and being the best father he could to him even
10 though he knew that John's grandfather disliked him. He
11 provided a consistent source of support and was a valuable
12 presence in his life.

13 J.T.'s aunt tells that his paternal side of the
14 family was much a part of his life and they made sure that
15 they included him for all the family activities.

16 Throughout school years, his closest sibling was his
17 brother, Steven. John's stepdad told stories of how John
18 was a good big brother and that he played video games with
19 his siblings and would help them to improve on their
20 performance when they played and spent time together.
21 John's stepdad, also, said that John was very helpful in
22 offering to do chores and didn't hesitate when he was
23 asked.

24 Now, I will discuss a couple minutes of the family
25 dynamics that for the sake of this being potentially live

1 streamed, I changed a little bit to protect the anonymity
2 of the family.

3 So John went by John a different last name, which I
4 can't say, which was his stepfather's name. It was the
5 name he used until eighth grade. It was not until then
6 that he was told that his -- that this was not his real
7 name and that his name was Blauvelt. There was no
8 explanation given. He did not question it. And he
9 started going by John Blauvelt from the ninth grade
10 onward. This was the name that was on his birth
11 certificate.

12 John did not really enjoy school and said that all he
13 ever wanted to do was to join the Army. John attended
14 Catholic school. When he spoke about school, he reflected
15 that homework was torture. He said that he did well in
16 some classes, especially when teachers indicated that they
17 cared or were interested in him doing well. Other than
18 that, he got in trouble at school primarily for not
19 turning in homework.

20 At home, however, he did admit to excessive physical
21 punishment and got in trouble for the smallest of things.
22 He said that he had no voice and even if he did tell the
23 truth, he was told that he was lying and would still get
24 punished.

25 J.T.'s biological dad died suddenly and unexpectedly

1 at the age of 38. His biological dad died at 38 when John
2 was 15. This was the beginning of a downward spiral for
3 him. Not only was he in the midst of puberty with
4 hormonal changes contributing to anger, frustration,
5 irritability and mood swings, now, add the sudden death of
6 a parent to an already uncomfortable place in life.

7 He began getting in trouble and acting out at home.
8 No one understood what was wrong with him. He was his
9 father's only child and did not have any siblings or
10 anyone to grieve with. So John's less than desirable
11 acting out led to John being physically tossed out of his
12 home and told not to come back to the home of his mother,
13 stepfather and siblings.

14 He then moved to his paternal grandparents' home and
15 continued to attend school. He eventually left school in
16 the 11th grade, took the GED and went immediately to
17 enlist in the Army. He did not share it with anyone in
18 his family because he felt that they would try to talk him
19 out of it.

20 Fast-forward to his military career. When John
21 joined the Army shortly -- well, he joined the Army after
22 his 18th birthday. He sought to be an infantry soldier,
23 but when he chose the job, he was offered to be a 19 kilo
24 tanker and hesitantly obliged. Private Blauvelt felt like
25 he finally fit in and belonged somewhere for the first

1 time in his life. His nickname was Blue.

2 In all of my social investigation with this client,
3 when he spoke about his Army experience, the energy shift
4 that took place was immediately palpable for me as it was
5 a strong punch in my chest. The excitement that came
6 across was certainly noticeable. That was the first sign
7 of real life and happiness that I detected from him. He
8 told stories of his different duty stations, of his
9 deployments to Iraq. He was in his element doing what he
10 loved and that was soldiering and serving in the United
11 States Army. When he was serving on deployments, he was
12 in harm's way, but he enjoyed the camaraderie of his
13 fellow soldiers and was immersed in the purposefulness of
14 his missions.

15 The following is a brief summary of Sergeant
16 Blauvelt's military -- I'm sorry, I'm repeating myself.
17 He started as a private with some additional rank because
18 he took the initiative to do so with some additional
19 activity. Several months later, he got promoted to
20 private first class. Sixteen months later, he became a
21 specialist E4. Two and a half years later, he made the
22 rank of sergeant and three years later reached staff
23 sergeant E6 in January of 2014. He was very successful as
24 a service member.

25 Staff Sergeant Blauvelt served overseas deployments

1 during the following dates of May 12th, 2008 through June
2 3rd, 2009. The second deployment was from September 13th,
3 2010 to August 24th, 2011.

4 Fast-forwarding to recruiting duty. School was at
5 Ford Jackson, Columbia, South Carolina. Staff Sergeant
6 Blauvelt was completely out of his element. Now, 24 years
7 old and this was drastically different than a normal
8 active duty Army station. Sergeant Blauvelt went from
9 being a field soldier to becoming the equivalent of a
10 salesperson out in a civilian community.

11 Recruiting duty was not something he was allowed to
12 turn down. He had orders to go. He did not want to do
13 it. As an Army veteran myself, I can attest to the fact
14 that he was required to put a certain number of people in
15 the Army each month or it would be deemed a failure. He
16 was up against a tremendous amount of pressure to put
17 people in that often did not want to join. He found
18 himself starting to get depressed and getting caught up in
19 less than functional behavior because of the lack of
20 structure that the regular Army provided and under the
21 pressure that he was placed under to put people in the
22 Army.

23 The regular Army structure included daily formation,
24 random drug and alcohol testing, group physical fitness
25 training and physical fitness testing, also, known as the

1 PT test. All of these disciplines are what helped
2 maintain a proper military standard that which prior to
3 recruiting duty, Sergeant Blauvelt strived hard to meet
4 and maintain. Even while on recruiting duty, he continued
5 to take correspondence classes to remain progressive in
6 his career.

7 Recruiting duty did not foster the normal
8 camaraderie, rather it fostered an environment of
9 competition and meeting numbers requirements. John was
10 lost here and it appears that this was what led to him
11 being involved in the circles that he ended up in. None
12 of this excuses what happened and I'm only lending context
13 that was not revealed earlier.

14 For John, being in this environment was a distraction
15 and a fall from grace from his normal military
16 performance. Back in Garrison and non-deployment status,
17 he was a good friend to his Army buddies, always allowing
18 a friend to use an extra room in his house. He was a
19 generous friend. While on active duty, John married his
20 high school girlfriend and they had a daughter, who's now
21 a teenager. And out of respect for my client's wishes, I
22 will only say that. I felt that it was important enough
23 to acknowledge.

24 I would like to state that Mr. Blauvelt's military
25 career and deployments have not left him completely

1 unscathed. He shared with me two of his scariest
2 incidents that he experienced as a result of diagnosed
3 Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. Once incident was that
4 there was a trash can that triggered him and caused him to
5 start rocking back and forth and he could not sit still
6 because he believed that it was rigged with explosives.

7 And then another time of seeing a man in a store that
8 had on a white outfit that resembled what Iraqi men wore
9 before they committed suicide. He shared that
10 intellectually, he knew it was not real, but he still had
11 panic and sweat and had to be talked down from these
12 incidents. John's current charges leave him ineligible to
13 be heard in veteran's treatment court.

14 Fast-forward again to John's time in Oregon. While
15 he was away, he lived a very simple life. He did farm
16 work when it was available and he went by Ben. John has
17 had a number of names that he has been referred to in his
18 life. Name changes seem to be a theme throughout his life
19 and it was easy for him to make that shift.

20 While in Oregon, he was of significant help to his
21 girlfriend. He did not have anything in his name with
22 her, but was instrumental in her buying the home that she
23 had while they were together. It was portrayed during the
24 trial as though he lived off of her, but I, also, stood
25 here and listened to her say that he helped her so much

1 before the recording had ended.

2 This is what he shared with me. He shared that since
3 he had very little material possessions that it helped him
4 to mature. And he let go of needing to have things his
5 way and let go of his former arrogance and selfishness.

6 I would be remiss if I did not mention that John is
7 an avid reader. He stated that this started when he lived
8 at home with his family and was often sent to his room and
9 that reading was the only thing he was allowed to do. He,
10 also, liked running, history and museums.

11 He has been humbled. He's humbled and thankful by
12 the fact that he still has the support of his family. He
13 did not think they would ever talk to him again. His aunt
14 and cousin flew in from New Jersey to stand on behalf of
15 their family in support of their beloved family member.
16 This is his aunt's third visit here. The first two visits
17 were accompanied by John's 85-year-old grandmother to
18 visit John in the detention center.

19 I stand here in staunch advocacy as he has allowed me
20 to peer into his life and witness the patterns that have
21 developed in his life. I stand not in judgement or
22 criticism of this client's life, but, rather, as an
23 objective observer as best as possible. Not having stood
24 in his shoes, but as someone that has been allowed access
25 and an up close and personal glimpse.

1 My observation from all of this is that I can stand
2 here and tell you that John was not perfect as with all of
3 us. That he was a good father and generous friend, that
4 the men in his life did not all model the best example of
5 manhood when he was a child. I observed that up until the
6 point of him being arrested that he was a functioning
7 member of society. He was not only a functioning member
8 of society, he wore a uniform that means something to us
9 in this country. It is a symbol of honorable service,
10 commitment and of valor. He has fought for this country
11 and endured true sacrifice.

12 It is my truest and sincere belief that John Tufton
13 Blauvelt is every bit worth not being sentenced to the
14 rest of his life in the South Carolina Department of
15 Corrections.

16 Your Honor, I have done a thorough social and
17 historical investigation for the expressed purpose of
18 sharing it with you highlighting what I feel is
19 significant. My request is that you, please, take this
20 into consideration.

21 And I just wanted to add that in my work with him and
22 I'm sure that all my team members will agree that John has
23 been one of the most respected, patient, easy and
24 appreciative clients that we have had the opportunity to
25 serve.

1 Thank you.

2 THE COURT: Thank you, ma'am.

3 MR. NEELY: Your Honor, as we often see abuse gets
4 abuse and gets abuse and gets abuse. John grew up in a
5 home where he was abused and then, ultimately, kicked out
6 of the home. He enlisted in the Army and rose to the rank
7 of staff sergeant. He served two tours of duty overseas.
8 He served this country faithfully. But, undoubtedly,
9 between the abuse and the tours of duty overseas, it had a
10 major impact on him, PTSD, which led to drug abuse and
11 alcoholism. And, ultimately, I think that is how we wind
12 up where we are today.

13 There's no excuse for why we're here, but the PTSD
14 and the alcoholism and drug abuse certainly mitigates.
15 It's not just maliciousness and cold-bloodedness. There's
16 some underlying mental health issues and drug abuse issues
17 that need to be dealt with.

18 Your Honor, I don't believe given that that life in
19 prison is appropriate. I think that at some point, he is
20 redeemable and he can be redeemed and he can be
21 rehabilitated. We all understand and John understands the
22 minimum that the Court has to sentence him to is 30 years
23 in the Department of Corrections and he's got to serve the
24 entire 30 years or more, whatever Your Honor feels is
25 appropriate.

1 He is 37 years old and he's been in custody for two
2 years at this point, since July 20th of 2022. So if Your
3 Honor gave him the minimum, he would be in his mid-60s
4 when he was released from the Department of Corrections
5 with not much life ahead of him.

6 I would respectfully request Your Honor consider a
7 sentence somewhere in the 30 to 35 year range.

8 Thank you, Your Honor.

9 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

10 This is a tragedy for all concerned in this case.
11 None more so than the family of Cati, a daughter, an aunt,
12 a sister and a friend. I know she is missed and will
13 always be missed. And she will be somebody you will
14 always remember and keep in your heart. It is a difficult
15 thing and you will never forget it. Hopefully, this will
16 bring some closure to the family, to you and your family.
17 Hopefully, this will bring some closure. I know it won't
18 for the rest of life totally be that closure, but, at
19 least, maybe now, you can put some of this behind you and
20 your family can to some degree move on. I know it is
21 difficult.

22 Mr. Blauvelt, it's a tragedy for you as well. You
23 are a young man. You were a young man when all of this
24 occurred. It sounds like you had the beginning of a good
25 military career. You had a daughter. So you had a lot to

1 live for. But the crimes that you have been convicted of
2 here have caused irreparable harm to many. I hope that
3 while you are incarcerated that you will reflect on the
4 choices that you have made and the impact that has
5 occurred on everyone that's been involved in this case.

6 The law in its wisdom provides consequences. And the
7 consequences in this case for the charge of murder are
8 that you spend the rest of your life incarcerated with the
9 South Carolina Department of Corrections without the
10 possibility of parole. As to the charge of possession of
11 a weapon during the commission of a violent crime, that
12 does not apply due to the life sentence.

13 Again, as I have said, it is a tragedy for all. And
14 I hope some measure of justice has occurred here.

15 And, Mr. Blauvelt, you will hopefully reflect during
16 your time of incarceration the choices you have made.

17 That is the sentence of the Court and we are
18 adjourned.

19 MS. WALKER: Your Honor, one brief matter. May we
20 submit our brief motions for a new trial --

21 THE COURT: Rule 29, you got ten days.

22 MS. WALKER: Thank you, Judge.

23 *****END OF TRANSCRIPT OF RECORD*****
24
25

004013

WITNESSES

Simpsonville Police Department

Captain Cheryl Gibbs

Cheryl Gibbs 1021298

ARREST WARRANT NUMBER

2016A2320400627

ACTION OF GRAND JURY

TRUE BILL

Foreperson of Grand Jury Joel B Barker
FOREMAN GRAND JURY

Date:

VERDICT

Foreperson of Petit Jury

Date:

Docket Number 2023-GS-23-

The State of South Carolina

County of Greenville

COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS

June Term

THE STATE

vs.

John T. Blauvelt

DEFENDANT

Indictment for

Murder

16-03-0010

Felony

CDR Code 0116

After being fully advised as to my legal rights, I hereby waive presentment to the Grand Jury

Defendant

I, _____
hereby appear in my own proper person
and plead guilty to the within indictment or
to _____

Defendant

Witness:

C.C.C. Pls. And G.S.

803

ENTERED ACCT

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
) IN THE COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS
 COUNTY OF GREENVILLE)

INDICTMENT JUN 27 2023

At a Court of General Sessions, convened on _____ the Grand Jurors of Greenville County present upon their oath:

Murder

On or about October 24, 2016, the Defendant, John T. Blauvelt, did in Greenville County commit the crime of Murder in that the Defendant did kill the victim, Catherine Ann Blauvelt, with express or implied malice aforethought in violation of §16-03-0010, 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.


 ALAN WILSON/ JBF
 SOUTH CAROLINA ATTORNEY GENERAL

004014

WITNESSES

Simpsonville Police Department

Captain Cheryl Gibbs

Cheryl Gibbs 1021295

ARREST WARRANT NUMBER

2016A2320400628

ACTION OF GRAND JURY

TRUE BILL

Foreperson of Grand Jury Joel B Barber
FOREMAN GRAND JURY

Date:

VERDICT

Foreperson of Petit Jury

Date:

Docket Number 2023-GS-23-

The State of South Carolina

County of Greenville

COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS

June Term

THE STATE

vs.

John T. Blauvelt

DEFENDANT

Indictment for

Weapons/ Possession weapon during
violent crime, if not also sentenced to
life without parole or death

16-23-0490

Felony/Class F

CDR Code 0549

After being fully advised as to my legal
rights, I hereby waive presentment to the
Grand Jury

Defendant

I, _____
hereby appear in my own proper person
and plead guilty to the within indictment
or to _____

Defendant

Witness:

C.C.C. Pls. And G.S.

805

ENTERED ACCT

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
) IN THE COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS
COUNTY OF GREENVILLE)

INDICTMENT JUN 27 2023

At a Court of General Sessions, convened on _____ the Grand Jurors of
Greenville County present upon their oath:

Possession Weapon during Violent Crime

On or about October 24, 2016, the Defendant, John T. Blauvelt, did in Greenville
County, commit the crime of Possession of a Weapon During a Violent Crime in that the
Defendant did, possess a knife during the commission of a violent crime; to wit, the
defendant did murder Catherine Ann Blauvelt with a knife, in violation of § 16-23-0490,
Code of Laws of South Carolina, (1976, as amended).



ALAN WILSON/ (JBF)
SOUTH CAROLINA ATTORNEY GENERAL

STATE VS. John Tufton BlauveltINDICTMENT/CASE#: 2023 -GS- 23 - 4013

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS

COUNTY OF Greenville

STATE

VS.

INDICTMENT/CASE#: 2023 -GS- 23 - 4013John Tufton BlauveltA/W#: 2016A2320400627

AKA: _____

Date of Offense: October 24, 2016Race: W Sex: Male Age: 36S.C. Code §: 16-3-0010DOB: [REDACTED] SS#: _____CDR Code #: 0116

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

DL# _____ * SID# _____

SENTENCE SHEET

*CDL Yes ☐ No ☐ CMV Yes ☐ No ☐ Hazmat Yes ☐ No ☐☐ Defendant Pro Se

In disposition of the above indictment comes now the Defendant who

☒ WAS CONVICTED OF or ☐ PLEADSTO: MurderIn violation of § 16-3-0010 of the S.C. Code of Laws, bearing CDR Code # 0116
☐ 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.

The State's Position is:

☐ None☐ Negotiated and Agreed Upon Sentence: _____ Years, _____ Months, Probation for _____ Years, _____ Months;☐ Negotiated and Agreed as to Charges Only☐ Recommended and Agreed Upon Sentence: _____ Years, _____ Months, Probation for _____ Years, _____ Months;

ATTEST:

Kimberly Abel 100017
Solicitor SC Bar #Paul V. May 101474
Attorney for Defendant SC Bar #WHEREFORE, the Defendant is committed to the ☒ State Department of Corrections ☐ County Detention Center,for a determinate term of LWOP Hours/ Days/ Months/ Years ☐ Time Served
☐ Home Detention Program(HIP) ☐ MH Evaluation and Compliance ☐ Batterer's Treatment
☐ Domestic Abuse Counseling ☐ Drug Court ☐ Drug Program ☐ Alcohol Program ☐ Inpatient Facility
☐ Hold Until Bed Space Available ☐ Mental Health Court ☐ Balance Suspended with Drug Court
☐ Other: _____
☐ Judicial Review _____ Days/ Months☐ Youthful Offender Act not to exceed _____ Days/ Months/ Years

And/ Or to pay a fine of \$ _____ ;

STATE VS. John Tufton BlauveltINDICTMENT/CASE#: 2023 -GS- 23 - 4013provided that upon the service of _____ Hours/ Days/ Months/ Years ☐ Time Served

- ☐ Home Detention Program(HIP) ☐ MH Evaluation and Compliance ☐ Batterer's Treatment
☐ Domestic Abuse Counseling ☐ Drug Court ☐ Drug Program ☐ Alcohol Program ☐ Inpatient Facility
☐ Hold Until Bed Space Available ☐ Mental Health Court ☐ Balance Suspended with Drug Court
☐ Suspended To Batterer's Treatment
☐ Other: _____

And/ Or a payment of \$ _____ ; plus costs and assessments as applicable*

the balance is suspended with **probation** for _____ Months/ Years

- ☐ Suspended During Probation ☐ Suspended During Drug Court ☐ Suspended During Batterer's Treatment
☐ Other: _____

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. _____ 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. Section 922 and §16-25-30 it is unlawful for a person convicted of a violation of Section §16-25-20 or §16-25-65 (Domestic Violence) to ship, transport, possess, or receive a firearm or ammunition.

Defendant has 10 days to apply for Home Detention Program or this will convert to an active sentence.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS:

- ☐ **PTUP** after _____ Months/ Years ☐ Home Detention Program(HIP)

And Other Terms Listed Below:

- ☐ Conditional Discharge
☐ 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: _____

STATE VS. John Tufton BlauveltINDICTMENT/CASE#: 2023 -GS- 23 - 4013☐ RESTITUTION: ☐ Deferred ☐ Def. Waives Hearing ☐ Ordered☐ See Attached Restitution Order

Total \$ _____ plus 20% fee: _____ \$ _____

Payment Terms: _____ ☐ Set by SCDPPPS

Recipient: _____

*Fine: _____ \$ _____

Fine may be pd. in equal consecutive weekly/monthly pmts. of \$ _____ Beginning _____

§14-1-206 (Assessments 107.5%) \$ _____

§14-1-211 (A)(1)(Conv. Surcharge) \$100 \$ 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 \$ 55.00

§14-1-213 (Drug Court Surcharge) \$150 \$ _____

§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

Other Costs (As Authorized by Cost Code)* \$ _____

☐ 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 \$ 128.75 PAClerk of Court/Deputy Clerk: Brian HarcourtCourt Reporter: JackiePresiding Judge: pgJudge Code: 2773Sentence Date: 9-20-24

Specify Other Costs*

☐ Cost Code	Cost Description	Amount
☐	_____	_____
☐	_____	_____
☐	_____	_____
☐	_____	_____
☐	_____	_____

STATE VS. John Tufton BlauveltINDICTMENT/CASE#: 2023 -GS- 23 - 4014

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS

COUNTY OF Greenville

STATE

VS.

INDICTMENT/CASE#: 2023 -GS- 23 - 4014John Tufton BlauveltAW#: 2016A2320400628

AKA: _____

Date of Offense: October 24, 2016Race: W Sex: Male Age: 36S.C. Code §: 16-23-0490DOB: [REDACTED] SS#: _____CDR Code #: 0549

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

DL# _____ * SID# _____

SENTENCE SHEET

*CDL Yes ☐ No ☐ CMV Yes ☐ No ☐ Hazmat Yes ☐ No ☐☐ Defendant Pro Se

In disposition of the above indictment comes now the Defendant who

WAS CONVICTED OF or ☐ PLEADSTO: Possession of a Weapon During the Commission of a Violent CrimeIn violation of § 16-23-0490 of the S.C. Code of Laws, bearing CDR Code # 0549
☐ 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.

The State's Position is:

☐ None☐ Negotiated and Agreed Upon Sentence: _____ Years, _____ Months, Probation for _____ Years, _____ Months;☐ Negotiated and Agreed as to Charges Only☐ Recommended and Agreed Upon Sentence: _____ Years, _____ Months, Probation for _____ Years, _____ Months;

ATTEST:

[Signature]100017

Solicitor

SC Bar #

[Signature]

Attorney for Defendant

101477

SC Bar #

WHEREFORE, the Defendant is committed to the ☐ State Department of Corrections ☐ County Detention Center,for a determinate term of _____ Hours/ Days/ Months/ Years ☐ Time Served☐ Home Detention Program(HIP) ☐ MH Evaluation and Compliance ☐ Batterer's Treatment☐ Domestic Abuse Counseling ☐ Drug Court ☐ Drug Program ☐ Alcohol Program ☐ Inpatient Facility☐ Hold Until Bed Space Available ☐ Mental Health Court ☐ Balance Suspended with Drug Court☐ Other: _____☐ Judicial Review _____ Days/ Months☐ Youthful Offender Act not to exceed _____ Days/ Months/ Years

And/ Or to pay a fine of \$ _____ ;

STATE VS. John Tufton BlauveltINDICTMENT/CASE#: 2023 -GS- 23 - 4014provided that upon the service of _____ Hours/ Days/ Months/ Years ☐ Time Served

- ☐ Home Detention Program(HIP) ☐ MH Evaluation and Compliance ☐ Batterer's Treatment
- ☐ Domestic Abuse Counseling ☐ Drug Court ☐ Drug Program ☐ Alcohol Program ☐ Inpatient Facility
- ☐ Hold Until Bed Space Available ☐ Mental Health Court ☐ Balance Suspended with Drug Court
- ☐ Suspended To Batterer's Treatment
- ☐ Other: _____

And/ Or a payment of \$ _____ ; plus costs and assessments as applicable*

the balance is suspended with **probation** for _____ Months/ Years

- ☐ Suspended During Probation ☐ Suspended During Drug Court ☐ Suspended During Batterer's Treatment
- ☐ Other: _____

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. _____ 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. Section 922 and §16-25-30 it is unlawful for a person convicted of a violation of Section §16-25-20 or §16-25-65 (Domestic Violence) to ship, transport, possess, or receive a firearm or ammunition.

Defendant has 10 days to apply for Home Detention Program or this will convert to an active sentence.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS:

- ☐ **PTUP** after _____ Months/ Years ☐ Home Detention Program(HIP)

And Other Terms Listed Below:

- ☐ Conditional Discharge
- ☐ 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: No sentence under SC Code 16-23-490

STATE VS. John Tufton BlauveltINDICTMENT/CASE#: 2023 -GS- 23 - 4014☐ RESTITUTION: ☐ Deferred ☐ Def. Waives Hearing ☐ Ordered☐ See Attached Restitution Order

Total \$ _____ plus 20% fee: _____ \$ _____

Payment Terms: _____ ☐ Set by SCDPPPS

Recipient: _____

*Fine:

Fine may be pd. in equal consecutive weekly/monthly pmts. of \$ _____ Beginning \$ _____

§14-1-206 (Assessments 107.5%) \$100 \$ 100.00

§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 \$ 25.00

§14-1-213 (Drug Court Surcharge) \$150 \$

§50-21-114 (BUI Breath Test Fee) \$50 \$

§56-5-2942(J) (Vehicle Assessment) \$40/ea \$

3% to County (if paid in installments) TBD \$ 375

Other Costs (As Authorized by Cost Code)* \$

☐ 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 \$ 128.75Clerk of Court/Deputy Clerk: Brian SmithCourt Reporter: AmeliaPresiding Judge: [Signature]Judge Code: 2773Sentence Date: 9-20-24

Specify Other Costs*

Cost Code	Cost Description	Amount
☐	_____	_____
☐	_____	_____
☐	_____	_____
☐	_____	_____
☐	_____	_____

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

South Carolina Commission on Indigent Defense
Division of Appellate Defense
PO Box 11589
Columbia, SC 29211-1589

ATTORNEY FOR APPELLANT

This 25th day of June, 2026.

RECEIVED

Jun 25 2026

SC Court of Appeals