

LAWRENCE L. CRAWFORD AKA
JONAH GABRIEL JAHJAH T. TISHBITE
#300839 F3B. RM. 148
EVANS C.I. 610 HWY. 9 WEST
BENNETTSVILLE, S.C. 29512

IN RE: CASE 2025-001856 AND SUBMITTING COPY OF THE TRIAL
TRANSCRIPT.

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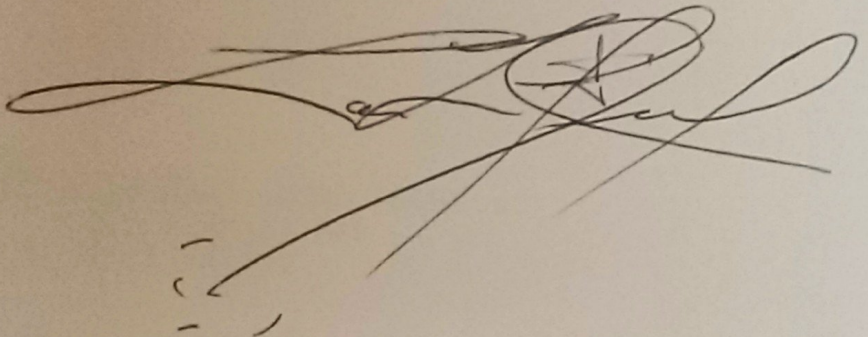
Aug 20 2026

SC Court of Appeals

TO: THE S.C. COURT OF APPEALS,

ATTACHED THE COURT WILL FIND A COPY OF THE TRIAL
TRANSCRIPT FROM THE LOWER KERSHAW COUNTY COURT OF GENERAL
SESSIONS. PLEASE FILE IT WITHIN THE COURT RECORD. CAN YOU ALSO
LET ME KNOW WHAT IS THE STATUS ON THE COURT RULING ON THE MOTION
TO AMEND THE CAPTION AND THE INTERVENTION OR ADDING AS AN
APPELLANT YAH DINA OVERSTREET-U-DEEN. WE THANK YOU IN ADVANCE.
STILL REMAIN,

RESPECTFULLY,
JONAH THE TISHBITE

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Jonah The Tishbite', with a large circular flourish and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

AUGUST 20, 2026

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA	*	COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS
	*	
COUNTY OF KERSHAW	*	TRANSCRIPT OF RECORD

-----X	
THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA	*
	*
vs.	* Case No. 2004-GS-28-00385
	*
LAWRENCE LAMAR CRAWFORD,	*
	*
Defendant.	*
-----X	

September 13, 2025

B E F O R E:

The Honorable Jocelyn J. Newman, Presiding Judge

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

Curtis Anthony Pauling, III, Esq.
Assistant Solicitor for the State

Lawrence Lamar Crawford, Pro se Defendant

RECEIVED

Aug 20 2026

SC Court of Appeals

Recorded by: Elize Peruzzi, DCRP (BIS)
Transcribed by: Bobbi Fisher, RPR
SC Official Court Reporter III

I N D E X

DESCRIPTION	PAGE
Proceedings	3

E X H I B I T S

(None.)

COURT REPORTER/TRANSCRIBER LEGEND

Dash (--)	Indicates an interruption in speech
Ellipses (...)	Indicates trailing off in speech
(ph)	Indicates phonetic word/unclear word
[sic]	Indicates the word is written as said
(Indiscernible)	Indicates word(s) is not known due to poor audio recording quality

P R O C E E D I N G S

(The proceedings commenced at 9:45 AM:)

MR. PAULING: Good morning, Your Honor. May it please the Court.

THE COURT: Good morning.

MR. PAULING: Judge, before you is Mr. Lawrence Crawford.

Judge, this is the State's Motion to Dismiss Application for Forensic DNA Testing. And Mr. Crawford is present here in the courtroom, and I believe he wishes to proceed pro se, but I didn't know if the Court needed to ask him any questions before we begin.

THE CLERK: Mr. Crawford, place your left hand on the Bible and raise your right hand.

THE DEFENDANT: No.

THE COURT: We can do it without a Bible.

THE DEFENDANT: That's disrespecting the Word of God. I don't do that. My word is sufficient.

You're Judge Newman, ma'am?

THE COURT: I am.

Do you affirm that you will tell the truth --

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, ma'am.

THE COURT: -- in these matters? Okay. That's good enough.

All right. Mr. Crawford, do you have an attorney?

THE DEFENDANT: Are you Judge Newman, ma'am?

1 THE COURT: I am.

2 THE DEFENDANT: All right. Judge Newman, you know me.
3 You know my name.

4 THE COURT: I do know your name. Tell me how I know you.

5 THE DEFENDANT: You know my name because you sat on the
6 case since 2006. Case 2006-CP-400-3567, 3568, 3569. You
7 blocked me from getting that DNA for 20 years, ma'am. You
8 want to come in here and sit on this case now? I object. I
9 motion for your recusal now, ma'am.

10 THE COURT: Okay. Well, I wasn't even a judge in 2006,
11 so that couldn't have been me.

12 THE DEFENDANT: Well, you picked it up -- you picked that
13 case up yourself. And y'all blocked me and the state from
14 getting that DNA to prove my innocence for 20 years. 20
15 years, ma'am. And so now you want to (indiscernible) a Motion
16 to Dismiss? Ma'am, I want you off this case. I motion for
17 your recusal.

18 THE COURT: Okay.

19 Do you know anything about this, Mr. Pauling?

20 MR. PAULING: Your Honor, so Mr. Crawford filed a
21 motion -- post-conviction motion for DNA application, Judge,
22 pursuant to 17-28-20, Your Honor. At one point, he filed it
23 in Richland County; it was supposed to be filed in Kershaw
24 County.

25 And I don't know if you had ruled on any Common Pleas

1 matter at any point, Judge, but, it's laying here at my feet
2 now, Judge. There -- now, he did file this a number of years
3 ago, Judge, and, candidly, I told the Court there had been
4 some delay, Judge, but I was trying to find our file -- our
5 case file, which I have not found.

6 This is a case back from 2001. This incident occurred
7 back in 2001 -- January 25th of 2001 on Sheffield Road in
8 Kershaw County. Mr. Crawford was living at that home with his
9 wife, Sylvia, and they had five children there: Selena,
10 Michael Lee, Karisha (ph), Quinta (ph), and Ariel.

11 On that particular day, Karisha, the 11-year-old child
12 was assaulted by Mr. Crawford.

13 THE DEFENDANT: Objection.

14 MR. PAULING: She succumbed to her injuries.

15 But at any rate, Judge, Mr. Crawford was eventually
16 charged with murder on this particular -- from this particular
17 incident.

18 Now, he did go to trial looks like back in March of 2004.
19 The prosecutors at that time were Barney Giese, John Meadors,
20 and Ron Moak.

21 Mr. Crawford did proceed pro se, but he did have standby
22 counsel, that being Tom Lee, who I believe is deceased at this
23 time, Your Honor.

24 He was convicted of murder and received a life sentence.
25 It was Judge Reginald Lloyd who presided over the case. And

1 that would have been March 26th of 2004, Your Honor.

2 Again, the incident -- I'm sorry.

3 THE COURT: I was going to say, let's pause because I'm
4 trying to figure out this recusal motion first.

5 THE DEFENDANT: If it please the Court, Your Honor. May
6 I?

7 THE COURT: Yes, sir.

8 THE DEFENDANT: All right. Part of the historical facts
9 of this case was that, first, I was not charged with murder at
10 all. I was charged with two counts of unlawful neglect.

11 THE COURT: Okay. Let's pause. Let me hit the time-out
12 because I'm trying to see -- you've asked me to recuse myself.

13 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, ma'am.

14 THE COURT: I first need to determine whether that should
15 happen and whether you should go before another judge.

16 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

17 THE COURT: Now, you say I dismissed your case. Was that
18 here in Kershaw or --

19 THE DEFENDANT: In Richland County. In that same case, I
20 was seeking that DNA, and y'all found every excuse in the
21 world to keep me from getting that DNA, because you knew it
22 proved my innocence.

23 And so now you want to come sit on this case, too, now,
24 ma'am, and I object adamantly.

25 But the point still remains, I had this pathologist, this

1 coroner show up at my bond hearing for criminal unlawful
2 neglect, and he had the autopsy in his hand. This man
3 testified and said no alleged assault being done killed my
4 child, at most had been a contributing factor.

5 But they would more than likely to point out that that
6 boy sexually -- sexually assaulted my child, killed my baby,
7 and they covered up in this state. And so that's why they
8 don't want to give me that DNA. That DNA is going to prove
9 that his DNA is in those samples, and that's why they don't
10 want to give it to me.

11 You sat on that. I tried to get this DNA from you and
12 every lawyer in this state for 20 years, and now you want to
13 come in here and sit on this case now? I don't -- I object,
14 ma'am, because I don't trust you. I don't trust you, the way
15 you handled that case. I should have been given that DNA 20
16 years ago, and I'm still fighting for it now today.

17 THE COURT: Okay. So I will say this: I only have a
18 recollection of hearing one post-conviction DNA matter, and
19 that is in the matter of Willie James Brown that is still
20 pending before me in Richland County.

21 I've also searched the public index -- the Richland
22 County Public Index for Mr. Crawford's name --

23 THE DEFENDANT: It was a tort action, ma'am.

24 THE COURT: Yes, sir. So both criminal and civil matters
25 pop up in this search. The only ones that were disposed of in

1 any way -- there are only one, two, three, four -- is it four
2 or five -- five cases that were disposed of during the years
3 that I have been a judge.

4 THE DEFENDANT: In the case --

5 THE COURT: So that would be from 2016 forward. Only
6 five cases disposed of. Four of those were disposed of by
7 Judge Coble in August of 2024. One of those was disposed of
8 by Judge McLeod in 2019. I am not the disposition judge on
9 any of them.

10 THE DEFENDANT: Ma'am --

11 THE COURT: So while your name is familiar to me --

12 THE DEFENDANT: I have your name on legal documents in my
13 possession, ma'am.

14 THE COURT: Well, let me see them.

15 THE DEFENDANT: Not to my -- inside my -- I don't have
16 them with me here because I did not know you was going to sit.
17 They never told me you was going to be on this case.

18 THE COURT: Okay.

19 THE DEFENDANT: I got documents with your name on it.

20 THE COURT: I understand.

21 THE DEFENDANT: And I wrote you personally several times.

22 THE COURT: But I say that to say I have not dismissed
23 any case, that I can tell.

24 THE DEFENDANT: In that case -- we're looking for that
25 DNA case 200 -- 2006-CP-3567, 3568, and 3569. You sat on

1 those cases several times, ma'am. All right? Whether --
2 because you were doing the circuit judge, so judges sat one
3 time and y'all start switching up like you were doing. All
4 right? But you sat on those cases, Judge Newman. All right?
5 I got your name on documents inside my possession at the
6 institution.

7 THE COURT: And that may be the case. I may have heard
8 something in the case, but those cases were ultimately
9 dismissed by Judge Coble.

10 THE DEFENDANT: And they're still pending because there's
11 a motion for rehearing that, apparently, the Court has ignored
12 to prevent me from getting that DNA.

13 THE COURT: Okay. Well, I say all that to say the Motion
14 for Recusal is denied.

15 THE DEFENDANT: Motion for recusal is denied?

16 THE COURT: Recusal, yes, that's denied. Your Motion for
17 Recusal is denied.

18 Mr. Pauling, let's go further into your Motion to
19 Dismiss.

20 THE DEFENDANT: Can you hand me my bag, please. I have
21 those documents.

22 THE DEPUTY: Judge, he has some paperwork.

23 THE COURT: Yeah, sure.

24 THE DEFENDANT: There was a Rule 56 affidavit filed
25 inside this case seeking additional discovery. It would be

1 inappropriate for this case to be dismissed when there's
2 Rule 56 affidavit asking for that discovery.

3 Did you see those documents, ma'am?

4 THE COURT: No, sir.

5 THE DEFENDANT: Well, let's see if we can get them for
6 you.

7 THE COURT: But, typically, Motions to Dismiss don't have
8 anything to do with discovery. Motions to Dismiss typically
9 come before the discovery phase.

10 THE DEFENDANT: No, after Rule 56 affidavit filed in
11 opposition of his summary dismissal.

12 Can you hand me my glasses, please?

13 THE COURT: Right. That would be Rule 56, summary
14 judgment. And that's 56 of the Rules of Civil Procedure.

15 THE DEFENDANT: And -- and --

16 THE COURT: But that's not --

17 THE DEFENDANT: It also applies to --

18 THE COURT: -- the motion that has been filed.

19 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

20 THE COURT: So it's pending before me today.

21 I'll take the whole file if you have it. Yeah, I know
22 it's big. I'll take the whole thing.

23 THE DEFENDANT: Do the Court have a copy of this
24 document, ma'am?

25 Do you see a copy of this, Mr. --

1 MR. PAULING: I'm not certain, sir.

2 THE COURT: I'll let you know if I need anything.

3 THE DEFENDANT: All right. Where's the bailiff?

4 All right. There we go.

5 Do the Court have a copy of that document?

6 This case sat since 2020. At that particular point,
7 based upon Betterman v. Montana, I wound up filing a petition
8 for a motion of jurisdiction (indiscernible) the South
9 Carolina Supreme Court because the case was sitting too long.

10 The statute required that the State respond within 90
11 days. Why haven't Mr. Curtis or anyone from the Fifth Circuit
12 Solicitor Office responded within 90 days as the statute
13 requires?

14 The Supreme Court require that they give an explanation,
15 why this case sat that long. So if you wind up having this
16 case going forward when the statute required that he respond
17 within 90 days, you'll be suddenly expanding and, of course,
18 obstructing the statute, ma'am. So I object to that.

19 Also, there was a Motion for Default filed at the
20 one-year mark based upon the claim processing rule, that they
21 were supposed to adjudicate this case within 365 days of the
22 case filed. That right was automatically invoked at the time
23 that the -- at the time that the rule was set -- triggered.
24 All right?

25 The Fourth Circuit and the U.S. Supreme Court -- I said

1 that once that claim process rule was timely asserted, that
2 became mandatory, too, and he did not even address that inside
3 his response.

4 Why did you not try to move for the default or against
5 the default, Mr. Curtis, when it filed after the one-year
6 mark?

7 THE COURT: All right. Mr. Crawford, I know you have a
8 number of questions.

9 THE DEFENDANT: Did you get a copy of these, too? This
10 is the documents challenging the Court's jurisdiction. Once
11 this case went past 365 days, the case -- in violation of that
12 claim processing rule, once the State failed to respond within
13 the 90 days required by the statute. Also, the United States
14 Supreme Court under Betterman v. Montana said that, if the
15 case is held over four years, it becomes unconstitutional.
16 That's challenge to the Court's jurisdiction based upon those
17 documents.

18 You did not get those documents in this case, ma'am?

19 THE COURT: Did I personally receive them?

20 THE DEFENDANT: Well, you're a judge sitting on the case.
21 I would assume that they would have gave you a copy.

22 THE COURT: I have the file right here, but you keep
23 talking and I can't really look through it and comprehend any
24 of it because I'm trying to pay attention to what you're
25 saying.

1 But the fact remains -- and I will hear from you again in
2 a moment, but -- but we are here on the State's Motion to
3 Dismiss. I need to first hear from them why they even want it
4 dismissed --

5 THE DEFENDANT: Exactly.

6 THE COURT: -- before I can hear from you as to why it
7 shouldn't be dismissed. Right?

8 THE DEFENDANT: Makes sense.

9 THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Pauling?

10 MR. PAULING: Thank you, Your Honor. May it please the
11 Court.

12 THE COURT: Yes, sir.

13 MR. PAULING: Your Honor, per the post-conviction DNA
14 Testing and Preservation of Evidence Act under South Carolina
15 law 17-28-20, and -- further, Judge, it allows for a
16 defendant, someone who's been convicted of certain crimes, to
17 apply for post-conviction DNA testing, but it allows for their
18 particular DNA to be tested.

19 What Mr. Crawford, from what I can gather -- and at least
20 what I've got listed as Exhibit Lawrence L. Crawford, it's 5
21 of 20 and 21 of 206, what he is actually asking for is that
22 the DNA of another individual -- the individual he names is
23 Michael Lee, who's his stepson at the time -- that his DNA be
24 tested against any DNA that was recovered from the victim,
25 Ms. Karisha Crawford, at the time of autopsy.

1 Judge, back to January 25th of 2001 -- and, Judge, I've
2 gleaned this from a review of the transcript, Your Honor. I
3 did speak briefly with John Meadors, who was one of the
4 prosecutors on the case, but for what I'm gleaning from the
5 transcript -- and this would have been, obviously, the
6 information that was presented at trial before Judge Newman
7 back in March of 2004 -- is that, on January 25th of 2001,
8 Mr. Crawford and his wife, Sylvia -- again, they had five
9 children at that time. Selena, my understanding, was 17 years
10 old at the time. Michael Lee was 13. Karisha, the victim,
11 was 11. Quinta, a son, was 11. And then Ariel was eight.

12 They were living at an address on Sheffield Road here
13 in --

14 THE DEFENDANT: Objection, Your Honor. What's the
15 relevance of this?

16 THE COURT: I don't know. It's not necessary to object,
17 though. I'm going to hear from you in a minute. Okay?

18 MR. PAULING: And, Judge -- and so, on that particular
19 day, Karisha was told to clean up in the house. And while she
20 was cleaning up in the house, she accidentally knocked over a
21 microscope off of a table --

22 THE DEFENDANT: Objection.

23 MR. PAULING: -- and had broken the microscope, Your
24 honor --

25 THE COURT: Continue.

1 MR. PAULING: Had broken the microscope, Your Honor, and
2 then was told to -- by Mr. Crawford -- was told to put on her
3 shirt and put on her shorts.

4 The other children, that being Michael Lee, who had
5 testified, as well as Selena, indicated that "put on your
6 shorts, put on your shirt" means it's time to get your
7 beating. She was going to be disciplined for breaking this
8 microscope.

9 Selena testified that Karisha did put on her shirt and
10 shorts, as she was instructed to do, by their father,
11 Mr. Crawford. She was actually escorted to Mr. Crawford's
12 bedroom.

13 Now, the mother, Sylvia, was not present in the home at
14 the time. She was at work. My understanding is she worked
15 two jobs, but she was at work at the time, was not there when
16 this occurred; that Karisha was then ordered to go into
17 Mr. Crawford's bedroom. Selena was also ordered to come to
18 the bedroom, but she couldn't walk -- couldn't cross the
19 threshold of the bedroom because she was on her cycle.

20 And it was Mr. Crawford's belief that, because she was on
21 her cycle, she wasn't clean, she couldn't come into the
22 room --

23 THE DEFENDANT: Objection.

24 MR. PAULING: -- but he did want to have her observe the
25 discipline.

1 And so Selena testified that he did beat Karisha with an
2 electrical cord. And then there was a stick of some sort that
3 he had beat her with.

4 Prior to going into the bedroom, the kids were also
5 instructed to turn up -- turn up the music. They knew, when
6 the music was turned up -- it was loud, I guess, to cover any
7 sounds that were made from Karisha while she was being beaten
8 in that bedroom.

9 Now, Michael Lee was in his bedroom at the time, could
10 hear what was going on but could not see what was going on in
11 that bedroom at the time. He was in his bedroom because he
12 was confined to that bedroom by Mr. Crawford.

13 After that initial beating, Karisha, as I recall, was
14 escorted back to her room wherein she broke a mirror of some
15 sort in that room. And because she had done that --

16 THE DEFENDANT: Objection. Your Honor, this is -- this
17 testimony the man is giving is perjured testimony. It's not
18 true.

19 THE COURT: I understand. You're going to disagree with
20 a whole lot of what he says, so it's not even necessary
21 because I'm going to hear from you. You're going to tell me
22 how he was wrong all the way.

23 THE DEFENDANT: All right.

24 THE COURT: So you don't need to interject and object
25 because I assume that you disagree with everything he says.

1 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, ma'am.

2 THE COURT: Okay. Continue, Mr. Pauling.

3 MR. PAULING: And so, Karisha was ordered again to
4 prepare for a second beating, which she had received. Again,
5 this was testified to by Selena, the 17-year-old, as well as
6 Michael Lee.

7 Now, after that, Mr. Crawford had to go pick up his wife
8 She did not drive; he would take her to and from work. And he
9 went to pick her up.

10 Now, Karisha would have still been in her room at that
11 particular time. When Sylvia, Mr. Crawford's wife, and
12 Mr. Crawford got back to the home, Selena had indicated that
13 Karisha wasn't responding. I believe it's -- the best I
14 recall, she was supposed to be coming to dinner, but she
15 wouldn't eat. And then Selena tried to get her up, and she
16 was unresponsive.

17 Mr. Crawford went in to try to get her up, saw that she
18 was unresponsive, and then he got his wife, and they loaded
19 Karisha into their van and took her to the hospital.

20 Now, the kids stayed back at the house -- at the home.
21 Mr. Crawford, Sylvia -- and they take Karisha to the hospital.
22 At some point in time, Mr. Crawford actually calls back to the
23 home to speak with Selena and Michael, but he tells Selena to
24 get rid of the --

25 THE DEFENDANT: Objection.

1 MR. PAULING: -- extension cord, to get rid of the stick
2 that was used to assault Karisha, indicated that -- and what
3 he was aware of at that time was law enforcement was going to
4 be coming to the house.

5 Karisha succumbed to her injuries, Your Honor, and did
6 pass away. But law enforcement was going to be coming to the
7 house for, one, to check on the other children, but law
8 enforcement was coming to the house.

9 Now, Selena did as she was -- as she was told and -- but
10 law enforcement did respond to the home and spoke with Selena
11 and the kids. But, again, prior to that, there was also a
12 discussion because -- where Mr. Crawford talked with the
13 children, talked with the family and indicated that they
14 needed to put this on Selena, the 17-year-old. They needed to
15 put it on Selena because he is or claims to be a Nazarite
16 priest, and for his ministry to go on, he couldn't go to jail.

17 THE DEFENDANT: Objection.

18 MR. PAULING: He had to keep the family together. And
19 Selena, because she was 17, not much would happen to her.

20 And so the story would be that Selena had disciplined --
21 had disciplined Karisha. And I think he tries to tie that
22 back to there was an occasion upon which Selena -- and this
23 was some point in time prior to this day, Your Honor, that
24 January 25th day, that Selena had walked in on Michael, the
25 13-year-old, and Karisha, the 11-year-old, having sex.

1 THE DEFENDANT: Your Honor, what's the relevance to
2 obtaining the DNA? This is not relevant to what the statute
3 says.

4 THE COURT: I think he's getting there. He's giving me
5 some background so that I know what's going on in this case.

6 You may proceed, Mr. Pauling.

7 MR. PAULING: Thank you, Your Honor.

8 And so that was the -- that was the story that they're
9 going to say that Selena did it. And this is what the
10 children initially told law enforcement, was that Selena was
11 the one who had assaulted Karisha.

12 After law enforcement began their investigation and after
13 the children and their mother were away from Mr. Crawford --
14 and this would have been a few days later in February -- they
15 did tell law enforcement actually what did occur.

16 And so while Mr. Crawford may have been charged with
17 unlawful neglect or whatever prior to, he was, and as I
18 stated, eventually charged with murder. That's what he was
19 tried for, and that's what he was convicted of, Your Honor.

20 And so, Mr. Crawford, as best as I can understand from --
21 from his motion is indicating that because -- or he believes
22 that Michael Lee sexually assaulted Karisha at some point in
23 time and, at some point in time, because of that, she was --
24 became pregnant and then there was a spontaneous abortion.
25 And due to that, she had complications that led to her death,

1 ultimately being of natural causes.

2 Dr. Joel Sexton with Newberry Pathology, excuse me,
3 Associates was the pathologist and testified that the cause of
4 death was -- that she essentially lost blood internally; that
5 she was -- because of this beating that she received, that she
6 lost about two to four pints of blood in the soft tissue of
7 her legs, back, and arms. And her death was a slow death. It
8 wasn't immediate but it was rather a slow death.

9 He indicated you'd have ten pints of blood in your body,
10 and it takes about a third of that blood loss for you to die
11 because of that, but she essentially bled internally, which
12 led to her death.

13 She was asked specifically, I can't remember, if it was
14 by John Meadors or Barney Geise, but was there any indication
15 during the autopsy was she pregnant? And he said no, there
16 was no indication that she was pregnant.

17 And, again, the sexual assault that Mr. Crawford refers
18 to, there wasn't any indication of what point in time that may
19 have occurred. But, again, the first story he wanted told to
20 law enforcement was that Selena was the one who had assaulted
21 and killed Karisha. And now he's requesting DNA, and the --
22 let me see, the statute indicates -- there are a number of
23 boxes that Mr. Crawford has to check for this -- for the Court
24 to grant his application. I'm looking at 17-28-40. And,
25 Judge, again, this is for -- or this allows for his DNA to be