

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

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

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SC Court of Appeals

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

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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

1 tested.

2 What he's asking for is Michael Lee's DNA to be tested
3 against DNA that came from the autopsy of Karisha Crawford to
4 determine paternity when --

5 THE DEFENDANT: Objection.

6 MR. PAULING: -- she wasn't pregnant, Judge.

7 But, first and foremost, what he's asking for, the
8 statute doesn't allow. And he doesn't check the box on any of
9 the other requirements as well, such as 17-28-40, Subsection
10 5, "Explain why the identity of the applicant was or should
11 have been a significant issue during the original court
12 proceedings;" 6, "Explain why the physical evidence or
13 biological materials sought to be tested was not previously
14 subject to DNA testing." But, No. 7, "Explain why, if the DNA
15 testing produces exculpatory results, the testing will
16 constitute new evidence that will probably change the result
17 of the applicant's conviction or adjudication if a new trial
18 was granted and not merely cumulative or impeaching."

19 But again, first and foremost, Judge, the statute doesn't
20 allow for that.

21 And, Judge, the written motion I provided to the Court
22 was also provided to Mr. Crawford, and I would -- I would
23 stand on the written motion as well, Your Honor, and
24 respectfully ask that this post-conviction DNA application be
25 dismissed. Judge, you can't order what he's asking for.

1 THE COURT: Okay. All right.

2 Mr. Crawford?

3 THE DEFENDANT: All right. Judge Newman, all right.

4 Let's -- first of all, let's give more context to the history.

5 This is part of the issue that we're trying to bring before

6 the Court. All right?

7 When you have a DNA application, subject matter
8 jurisdiction can be raised at any time, of course. It cannot
9 be waived or forfeited (indiscernible) after the final,
10 ultimate issue.

11 So the issues that I've put before this Court are
12 jurisdiction in nature, which cannot be waived or forfeited.
13 That's one thing I wanted to make sure (indiscernible) the
14 Court.

15 The issue I'm talking about is perjured testimony,
16 violation of due process. What they did is that, when I was
17 first arrested for two counts of unlawful neglect, the coroner
18 shows up at my bond hearing.

19 And let me ask something on the record: Are bond
20 hearings in this county recorded, ma'am? Are they normally
21 recorded in 2001?

22 THE COURT: I don't know. In 2001, I had just started
23 law school.

24 THE DEFENDANT: Is that normally -- does anybody --
25 anybody here in the court -- anyone in the court know are

1 bond hearings recorded?

2 THE COURT: It is not done in a court of record. There
3 typically is an audio recording that is available for a, I
4 believe, maybe 30 days after the bond hearing.

5 THE DEFENDANT: When I was at my bond hearing with the
6 charge of two counts of neglect, the coroner shows up at my
7 bond hearing with the autopsy in his hand, ma'am. I'm looking
8 at it. He's reading from it. And he said no alleged beating
9 killed my child. At most, it must have been a contributing
10 factor.

11 At that point, well, I said, "Well, geez, then, you know,
12 the hard part is over, because we need to find out what killed
13 her at that point."

14 Before she died, she had this unexplained weight loss
15 about 30 pounds, just out of -- overnight, out of nowhere.
16 And we were trying to figure out what that was. She was
17 scared to go to the doctor, and we never made it to that
18 point.

19 She was missing a period for three months. We discovered
20 that, too. All right?

21 They wind up getting perjured testimony, saying that she
22 was disciplined behind a \$5 telescope when she was disciplined
23 for having sex with her brother. All right? And so that's
24 what the issue was.

25 And so that was not neglect, and that's why they had to

1 come up with this excuse, because they had to prove the
2 elements of murder, a wicked and depraved mind.

3 So they went in and they compromised my family,
4 threatened them with putting them in jail. They suppressed
5 the SLED file -- SLED file 5501014 that's down at SLED. I
6 requested that as part of discovery. That SLED file has the
7 coroner's notes in it that will have the true cause of death
8 in it. That's why they suppressed it.

9 It was asked for at the competency hearing, and John
10 Meadors lied on the record and said he didn't even know what I
11 was talking about. All right? And the file does exist
12 because I just gave you the number.

13 So they suppressed evidence of actual innocence inside
14 that file. If that -- if the SLED file was revealed and the
15 coroner's notes were shown, then they would not have been able
16 to pull the stunt off that they pulled.

17 This is why, when the DNA was taken from my child at time
18 of death, they were supposed to have tested Michael Lee.

19 Now, if they would have tested Michael Lee and his DNA
20 would have showed up in the samples, they would not be able to
21 perpetrate the fraud in which they did. They wind up getting
22 an indictment. It never went to the grand jury on the day of
23 my trial -- and this was also, by the way, this DNA
24 application, too, the grand jury panel documents, to show they
25 wound up rubber-stamping the indictment the day of my trial,

1 never gave me notice until like an hour or two before the
2 trial began, but not for me to challenge it and wound up going
3 on with the trial.

4 Now, this is the thing. He said to the applicant objects
5 -- and this is part of the document I just served you with, a
6 copy of the 23-page document, and they filed objection to the
7 very response -- to which the respondent just mentioned to
8 you.

9 The applicant objects to the respondent's absurd claim
10 that the applicant has failed to show how the DNA testing will
11 constitute new evidence that will probably show probable cause
12 and result (indiscernible) as in -- required in
13 17-28-40(c)(7).

14 All right? Let's break this thing down. All right? The
15 pathologist and the coroner set up there and said that she was
16 not pregnant. All right? This would destroy the corpus
17 delicti if it was found out that she was.

18 There's a case called Howard v. City of Durham, 684 5th
19 F.4th [sic] 934, Fourth Circuit out of 2023. The Fourth
20 Circuit determined that it's a genuine cause of fact if you
21 can show that the DNA will inculcate someone else in the
22 crime. That triggers the statute.

23 Now, DNA from the -- from a male semen and the egg is
24 what is called haploid in nature; in other words, they have
25 one set of chromosome and alleles in it. All right? But if

1 it's DNA from a bio -- bio samples that will have mother and
2 father and child, then it will be called diploid. All right?

3 I was a paramedic in the military, ma'am. All right? I
4 was pre-med in school. I'm not the doctor, but I have a
5 little above-average normal understanding of medical --
6 certain medical terms.

7 With that being said, they perjured themselves to make it
8 look like it was a homicide when the person died of natural
9 causes. If they -- if I'm lying, then give me the DNA. The
10 DNA will kill the whole controversy across the board. All
11 right?

12 Then the one thing, too: the statute does not just simply
13 require my DNA. The statute requires the testing of any DNA
14 in the hands of the State that potentially prove my guilt or
15 innocence. Don't have to be my DNA. That's cited in that
16 24-page document that I served you just on the record there,
17 talking about that very thing.

18 Any DNA in the point -- that's in the possession of the
19 State that's relevant to my guilt or innocence, it can be
20 tested. And it's case law, too. I cited the 24-page
21 document, too. One of the cases, you talk about the case with
22 the guy in -- was it Iowa or wherever it was, where he wound
23 up killing the students? They wound up testing the DNA, the
24 ancestry registry. So it can be tested. There's plenty of
25 case law in support of that.

1 But the point is, if it's relevant, it's in the
2 possession of the State, it can be obtained. All the case law
3 put inside that 24-page document talk about that, and without
4 -- but when it comes to the very issue that I'm talking about
5 when it comes to Howard -- the case of Howard v. City of
6 Durham, the case citing I just gave you, that's in that
7 document, too, that we have what's called collateral estoppel
8 -- res judicata and collateral estoppel issue preclusion.
9 That Court determined it is a genuine issue of fact, if you
10 can get that DNA and prove and inculcate someone else.

11 Now, this is the issue here: If she was not pregnant,
12 then when you test those DNA samples, they will come back
13 saying that they are haploid. Okay? That's how the DNA is
14 going to prove my innocence. All right?

15 If the DNA samples come back and say they're diploid,
16 that's scientific proof and evidence that she was pregnant and
17 they perjured themselves at that testimony -- at that trial to
18 frame me for murder of my own child, ma'am.

19 That's how it triggers the statute. If what -- if you
20 come -- if that DNA's tested and it comes back the samples of
21 mother and father in there and it's easy to distinguish -- you
22 know what I'm saying? Because he's my stepson. Okay? So if
23 his DNA shows up in those samples, it will prove I was
24 innocent. They perjured themselves about the testimony about
25 the cause of death.

1 And so if he -- if the pathologist perjured himself that
2 she was not pregnant, that goes towards the autopsy itself,
3 and that would destroy the corpus delicti and, of course, it
4 would be more than sufficient grounds for a new trial. All
5 right?

6 But that's not even counting all the other things they
7 did. All right? Rubber stamping indictments. That's why
8 they didn't want to give it to the grand jury. Suppression of
9 the evidence of the actual innocence with the SLED file at
10 SLED; that he perjured himself on -- in the competency hearing
11 and said he don't even know what it exists. All right?

12 And they perjured testimony, she was just behind a \$5
13 telescope. If she was just behind a \$5 telescope, Your Honor,
14 why were they -- supposedly just signs of discipline on
15 Michael Lee? Where did that come from? Why were they both
16 disciplined? It don't -- their story don't add up.

17 I mean, that for both of them to be disciplined, they
18 both had to be doing something. They was having sex with each
19 other and that had to be stopped. All right? Whether anybody
20 want to admit that or not, that's a crime. That's a Class A
21 felony under South Carolina law, and it would be negligent for
22 any parent to allow that to go underneath this roof.

23 So with that being said, she was not beat to death. All
24 right? That will prove that, once that DNA is tested and
25 those DNA samples come back and if those samples turn out to

1 be diploid in nature as opposed to being haploid, it will
2 prove that something -- they falsified that autopsy and framed
3 me for murder, ma'am, behind religious and racial hatred,
4 because I was calling myself being Christian, Muslim, and Jew
5 combined. They couldn't comprehend something like that. All
6 right?

7 And so with that being said, this was -- all this is
8 impetus of. All right? They held me in that county jail for
9 almost five years. I had to go to the federal habeas corpus
10 court to force them to give the hearing. All right? So they
11 rushed me in the courtroom with an indictment they never even
12 had.

13 All right? The grand jury didn't even meet that time
14 when I wound up at an administrative law court, and they wound
15 up prosecuting this case, and they got that perjured testimony
16 and whatnot, because they figured they were going to
17 compromise my family because they wanted to attack me, because
18 Michael was afraid that that DNA is tested, that he would be
19 implicated in the crime that caused the child's death.

20 And so it does trigger the statute, ma'am. All right?
21 And the DNA statute does not just require the DNA of myself
22 being tested. It says any DNA in the possession of the State
23 that will prove my guilt or innocence and that that Durham
24 case is Howard v. City of Durham is the very case that talks
25 about that very thing. That was a murder case where the guy

1 sought that DNA to implicate someone else.

2 And so I have rights of res judicata and collateral
3 estoppel as it relates to the Durham case. That DNA
4 application should not be tossed out. And I tried to get
5 that. When I tried to file a PCR, they blocked me from the
6 court. Not this young lady, because there was another clerk.
7 I don't know why they wouldn't file my PCR. They blocked me
8 from the court. That forced me to file a case in Richland
9 County. All right? That's how it got there, because it
10 wasn't blocked -- wouldn't let me get inside this court here.

11 Why would you block me from the court on my DNA
12 application? Or, excuse me, on my PCR application.

13 So I had to make the point, when I tried to file -- like
14 he admitted, I tried to file the DNA in Richland and all over
15 the place because I was trying to get the evidence. And they
16 blocked me. Found every other reason not to give it to me.

17 Finally, I had to get my sister from Illinois to come and
18 file a DNA because it was blocking me. Why would I have to
19 get her to come if they were not blocking me? She had to file
20 it. That's the point. That's how this thing got here.

21 So, since 2000, they let it sit because they didn't want
22 to give me DNA even now. So after the four-year mark, based
23 upon Betterman, I went to the Supreme Court and said, "Look,
24 why these people still got this case sitting here?" All
25 right?

1 I said, "You already know I've been before that -- before
2 that court in 2020, 2006, or '13, trying to get that DNA."

3 So if I'm wrong, just kill it. Give me the DNA, test it.
4 All right? Because it (indiscernible) prove my innocence and
5 be done with it. If I'm a liar, that DNA is going to prove
6 it, ma'am. It triggers the statute. Any DNA in the
7 possession of the State. It don't matter whether it's me or
8 Michael Lee. If that DNA will prove my innocence, I'm
9 entitled to it under the statute.

10 THE COURT: Okay. What about that, Mr. Pauling, the
11 portion of the statute that says he may apply for forensic DNA
12 testing of his DNA --

13 THE DEFENDANT: Thank you.

14 THE COURT: -- and any physical evidence or biological
15 material related to his conviction or adjudication?

16 THE DEFENDANT: That's in the document. That's what I
17 was --

18 MR. PAULING: But he's asking for Michael Lee's DNA.

19 THE COURT: And you're saying that's not related to his
20 conviction?

21 MR. PAULING: That's correct.

22 THE DEFENDANT: It is, ma'am, because it says that --
23 that was -- the samples -- well, let me ask you also, too. At
24 the time when this happened, the DNA samples were taken from
25 my child. Right? I talked to the analyst myself, ma'am. He

1 told me those samples are in his possession.

2 He said, "Mr. Crawford, I got the samples." He said,
3 "The County is supposed the standard for Michael Lee and they
4 never did." He was waiting for months.

5 So why were they -- if there was a charge, an allegation
6 of CSC with a minor -- she was 11 years old. She could not
7 give consent -- why would the State not test that DNA? They
8 were obligated just for that reason alone.

9 So let me ask you this, Mr. Curtis now: At 25 -- 20
10 years -- 21 -- 20 years, has that boy been tested, that DNA?
11 Has he been arrested?

12 And the question is why? Because under South Carolina
13 law, it was a crime. And y'all did not prosecute it. Why?

14 So that being the case, ma'am, again, those samples were
15 taken. I talked to the analyst myself. He said, "Mr.
16 Crawford, they have it." So I called them him back. I
17 said -- said, "Why was it not tested?"

18 So he said, "Well, Mr. Crawford, we sent them back to the
19 Kershaw County coroner." They had them there since then, and
20 they were not tested, because if they would have tested them,
21 they will not be able to pull the stunt they pulled on me
22 inside that courtroom, ma'am.

23 The statute requires any DNA that's relevant. Just like
24 the part -- that's the part I was relying upon, the part you
25 just read. And he's -- he's not -- he's not correct in his

1 assertion of his claim.

2 Test the DNA and be done with it. And if I'm wrong, then
3 throw away the key. But they framed me, ma'am, and I need
4 that DNA.

5 THE COURT: Mr. Pauling, any response?

6 MR. PAULING: Your Honor, I stand on my previous
7 argument, Judge. I do have the transcript, and I can give you
8 the hard copy or email a copy of the trial transcript for the
9 Court's review as it relates to what was presented, Your
10 Honor.

11 THE COURT: I don't believe that's necessary.

12 Mr. Crawford, is there anything else you want me to
13 consider?

14 THE DEFENDANT: Judge Newman, like I said, if I went back
15 inside my records, you would see that I do have documents
16 waiting for those cases. This has been an issue going on
17 since 2006, and every court I tried to go through to get that
18 DNA, if I'm wrong, if I'm acting without merit, why not give
19 it to me? Give me enough rope to hang myself. All right?

20 But I know what I'm saying is true, ma'am. All right?
21 All the evidence point to it, including the fact that that
22 coroner, Johnny Felders (ph), showed up at my bond hearing and
23 said there was -- that was not the cause of death.

24 Now, all of a sudden it is? It was only because they
25 figured they could manipulate my family, the way they got

1 perjured testimony, she being disciplined behind a \$5
2 telescope. I throw stuff like that away. All right? I
3 made sure them kids had everything I could possibly give them.

4 I'm going to discipline -- and you can look at the sign
5 inside the reports. So you're talking about supposedly over
6 that period of time, that one incident had only been for a \$5
7 telescope? Then why was (indiscernible) of this one being on
8 Michael? It had to be because they was having sex with each
9 other, and that was the cause. Because they perjured
10 themselves -- got that perjured testimony on the record and
11 whatnot, and that's reversible error by itself. All right?

12 But this is the issue, like I said. It's simple to
13 prove, ma'am, outside of exhuming the body. All right?

14 If he -- if she was pregnant, that DNA is going to be
15 diploid in nature, having two sets of alleles and chromosomes.
16 If it's haploid and she wasn't pregnant, then it seals it.
17 The Court wouldn't have to hear the rest of -- until I die.
18 All right?

19 But I'm telling you, ma'am, the statute does allow for
20 any evidence in the possession of the State that will prove my
21 guilt or innocence. It's just you read it, and that was very
22 part that I was relying upon, ma'am.

23 THE COURT: So, Mr. Pauling, Mr. Crawford was convicted
24 -- and I'm just recapping because a lot has been said this
25 morning. He was convicted of murder for allegedly beating his

1 daughter to death. So your argument then would be -- I don't
2 know if she was pregnant with Michael Lee's child or not, but
3 that doesn't have anything to do with the allegations, the
4 cause of death --

5 MR. PAULING: Right.

6 THE COURT: -- et cetera.

7 MR. PAULING: Right. And I understand what he says, but
8 -- well, I'm not saying I understand. I'll take -- I don't
9 know the conversation he had with Johnny Felders. I guess
10 what I'm telling you, it's not (indiscernible) Joel Sexton can
11 testify as to the cause and manner of death and the fact that
12 she was not pregnant. So I'm -- so I can't speak to that.

13 But, again, yes, he's asking for Michael Lee's DNA.

14 THE COURT: Right.

15 THE DEFENDANT: And, again, if it would please the Court,
16 Your Honor, it does relate to the death. Even Stevie Wonder
17 can see that. Because if she was -- if she was not -- if she
18 was not pregnant, ma'am, then the Court -- if she was
19 pregnant, that would prove that the pathologist committed
20 perjury on the stand. And if people think that it's
21 unreasonable -- it's impossible for a pathologist to lie, I
22 put that inside the document to record the history of
23 pathologists and medical professionals giving perjured
24 testimony and misinformation on the stand. So it's not
25 something that's just unusual. It's not a fluke.

1 That's the point here. All right? If the DNA is tested
2 and the samples come back diploid in nature as opposed to
3 being haploid, all right, then it will prove that the
4 pathologist lied.

5 And if the pathologist's testimony and the autopsy was
6 the source of establishing the corpus delicti, then, of
7 course, it would have a bearing on the conviction itself.

8 And that new evidence, once they seen that, when they
9 know that path [sic] and everybody lied in a trial where
10 jurors would hear those facts, any jurors would reasonably --
11 was -- can see that the outcome would have been probably
12 different.

13 And so, again, I -- I detailed and looked at the statute
14 and extensively as I can, and the statute clearly says -- and
15 that's the very portion of which you spoke of, the language
16 that I'm relying upon. It's not just DNA, my DNA. It's any
17 DNA.

18 And I put the other case law that are relevant that talk
19 about that very thing with third-party people were testing
20 DNA. Even when they talk about the Ancestry Registry, 23 and
21 more, and all of those, where that's been constantly done
22 across the nation. And so it's not just my DNA alone, ma'am.
23 And then the solicitor's misinterpreting the statute.

24 THE COURT: I tend to agree with the State because it's
25 not an issue of your alleged sexual contact with your daughter

1 where the -- Karisha's DNA testing as opposed to yours or
2 compared to Michael Lee's or somebody else's would be
3 instructive as to who committed --

4 THE DEFENDANT: Did you read the Durham case, ma'am?

5 THE COURT: -- sexual assault.

6 I did. It's right here on my screen.

7 THE DEFENDANT: Right. And it says that it becomes a
8 material fact if you can prove that the DNA inculpatates
9 somebody else. Didn't say it had to be sexual. It said if
10 you can prove it inculpatates somebody else.

11 THE COURT: I wasn't finished talking, but...

12 Yeah, I think certainly the statute says your DNA or the
13 DNA of --

14 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. In their possession.

15 THE COURT: Any physical evidence or biological material
16 related to your conviction or adjudication.

17 THE DEFENDANT: Yes. Right. And that covers that,
18 ma'am.

19 THE COURT: But the question of pregnancy.

20 THE DEFENDANT: It's not like I'm trying to find out
21 whether it's pregnancy. I'm trying to find out whether or not
22 the perjured testimony occurred at the trial that established
23 what the cause of death was. That's a whole different matter
24 in itself, ma'am. Not about whether or not she was pregnant.

25 That pathologist got on the stand and said that this was

1 the cause of death. And if that DNA is tested and it finds
2 out that I am right, that the samples are diploid in nature as
3 opposed to haploid, that means that he perjured himself as to
4 what the cause of death was. It's not about him -- her being
5 pregnant, ma'am.

6 THE COURT: Ms. Ginger, would you return these to
7 Mr. Crawford? Thank you.

8 I've tried twice to articulate on the record the
9 reasoning for my ruling, but I keep being interrupted, so I'm
10 going to give up on that.

11 The Motion to Dismiss the application for post-conviction
12 DNA testing is granted.

13 MR. PAULING: Thank you, Your Honor.

14 THE DEFENDANT: Say again now.

15 THE COURT: Your case is dismissed.

16 THE DEFENDANT: What about the jurisdictional questions
17 that were part of the case, too, ma'am? That has not been
18 adjudicated and determined as well.

19 THE COURT: Subject matter jurisdiction?

20 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, ma'am.

21 THE COURT: That is denied as well. This Court certainly
22 has subject matter jurisdiction over matters like this.
23 That's why you filed it here.

24 THE DEFENDANT: We're talking about the constitutional
25 elements of subject matter jurisdiction, ma'am.

1 THE COURT: That's why you filed it here because you know
2 this Court has subject matter jurisdiction.

3 (The hearing concluded at 10:34 AM)
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CASE NAME: State v. Lawrence Crawford
DATE OF HEARING: 9/11/25
RECORDING METHOD: Elize Peruzzi, DCRP (BIS)

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

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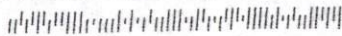
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APPELLANT YAH DINA OVERSTREET-U-DEEN. WE THANK YOU IN ADVANCE.
STILL REMAIN,

RESPECTFULLY,
JONAH THE TISHBITE

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Jonah The Tishbite', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.

AUGUST 20, 2026



LAWRENCE L CRAWFORD
#300839 F3B Rm 148
EVANS C II 610 Hwy 9 West
Bennettsville, SC 29512



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