

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
In The Court of Appeals

APPEAL FROM SPARTANBURG COUNTY
Court of General Sessions

Lee S. Alford, Circuit Court Judge

Case Nos. 2012-GS-42-2624, 2012-GS-42-2625, 2012-GS-42-2626,
2012-GS-42-2627, 2012-GS-42-2633, and 2012-GS-42-2634

Appellate Case No. 2012-213228

The State of South Carolina, Respondent,

v.

Ronasha Taylor, Appellant.

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THE FOLLOWING EXHIBITS ARE ON FILE WITH THE COURT:
State's Exhibits 1, 2, 7, 9, 10, 19, 22, and 40

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1 **Q.** Okay. So did you waive your right to remain silent?

2 **A.** Yes, sir.

3 **Q.** And did you give up your right to have a lawyer?

4 **A.** Yes, sir.

5 **Q.** But you knew you had those rights?

6 **A.** Yes, sir.

7 **Q.** Okay. And did you have that interview with the detective, then, to talk
8 about the complaints that were made by -- by the children at Kids "R" Kids?

9 **A.** Yes, sir.

10 **Q.** And were you asked by the detective to write a statement as well?

11 **A.** Yes, sir.

12 **Q.** And did you do that?

13 **A.** Yes, I did.

14 **Q.** Did you write it --- where -- where were you when you wrote it?

15 **A.** I was in an interview room.

16 **Q.** Okay. All right. And, when you were asked questions about these --
17 the kids, did you admit or deny that you committed any abuse?

18 **A.** I denied.

19 **Q.** After you talked to Detective Burrell, did you --- did you talk to any
20 other officers while you were there?

21 **A.** Yes, I did.

22 **Q.** Do you remember who that officer was?

23 **A.** Deputy Bryant (phonetic).

24 **Q.** Okay. Did Deputy Bryant ask you to sign another waiver form?

25 **A.** Yes, sir.

MS. RONASHA TAYLOR - DIRECT by MR. HENRY

1 **Q.** And did you understand that form?

2 **A.** Yes, sir.

3 **Q.** Did you waive your Constitutional Rights there?

4 **A.** Yes, sir.

5 **Q.** And did you answer all of his questions?

6 **A.** Yes, sir.

7 **Q.** Did you admit or deny that you committed any child abuse offenses?

8 **A.** I denied.

9 **(Brief Pause)**

10 **Q.** Why did you agree to talk to these officers?

11 **A.** Because I hadn't do anything wrong and because they were police
12 officers.

13 **Q.** Okay. Did you --- after you talked to the officers, did you leave the ---
14 the sheriff's office or were you arrested that day?

15 **A.** I left.

16 **Q.** Okay. And you went home?

17 **A.** Yes, sir.

18 **Q.** Okay. And, at some point later, were you arrested?

19 **A.** Yes, I was.

20 **Q.** Did you — did they come to your house and arrest you? How did that
21 happen?

22 **A.** They asked me to turn myself in before five (5:00).

23 **Q.** And did you do that?

24 **A.** Yes, sir.

25 **Q.** Okay. At any time during this case, Ronasha, did the — the police ask

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for permission to search your house?

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1

2

A. No, sir.

3

Q. Did they ask for permission to — to look at your computer?

4

A. No, sir.

5

Q. If they had asked you, would have you consented to that?

6

A. Yes, sir.

7

Q. Do you have any pornography at your house?

8

A. No, sir.

9

Q. Do you have any — any pornography on your computer?

10

A. No, sir.

11

MS. MILES: Objection, Your Honor. This isn't relevant

12

to what we're here for. It's not for ----

13

THE COURT: I'll sustain the objection. You couldn't go in it the

14

other side; you can't go your side, Counsel. Move on.

15

MR. HENRY: Yes, sir.

16

Q. (By Mr. Henry) Let's go back to — to the Kids "R" Kids a second. You

17

told about some of your duties working there. What about some of the school

18

activities that went on during the day? Can you tell us about those?

19

A. At Kids "R" Kids they had soccer. They had dance. They had an ice

20

cream truck, an Italian icee truck.

21

(Brief Pause)

22

A. I believe that's --- I believe that's it.

23

Q. Okay. What about parent visits? Did parents come to visit at all?

24

A. Yes, sir.

25

Q. Was there a certain schedule for parents coming to — to visit the Kids

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"R" Kids?

A. No, sir. Parents could come in at any time they wanted to.

Q. Did the parents always drop off and pick up at the same times?

A. They could drop off any time they wanted to drop off or pick up anytime they wanted to pick up.

Q. And did they often do that at different times?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Okay. Now as there any security, any special like security at Kids "R" Kids?

A. Yes, there was. It was call Watch Me Grow. Watch Me Grow was cameras where the parents could go on, on the internet, type in their own user name and password. We didn't have access to it.

They had their own user name and password. And they could watch their child from the time they drop them off till the time they pick them up.

Q. Okay. Now did you what — where they had access? Where they could get access to the Watch Me Grow Program? Where they'd have to be to get access?

A. On the internet.

Q. On the internet? Okay. All right. Did you ever look at the Watch Me Grow Program yourself?

A. I watched the monitors sometimes.

Q. Okay. Tell about --- tell the jury about the monitors.

A. The monitors sat up front. They were real-time. They usually flashed like every ten (10) seconds of the different classrooms.

Q. Okay. And so when would you look at the monitors?

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1 **A.** Usually when I was up front or just walking by.

2 **Q.** Was it part of your job to take — to look at the monitors that were at
3 the front desk?

4 **A.** No, sir.

5 **Q.** Okay. So did -- did the director look at the monitor or ----

6 **MS. MILES:** Objection, Your Honor. He's leading this
7 witness.

8 **THE COURT:** Avoid leading, Counsel.

9 **MR. HENRY:** All right.

10 **Q.** (By Mr. Henry) Did anyone else look at the monitors besides the
11 people at the front desk? Or do you know?

12 **A.** The parents.

13 **Q.** Okay. All right. Was there any other -- was there any other security
14 features at Kids "R" Kids beside the Watch Me Grow?

15 **A.** Well, when you come to Kids "R" Kids at the front door, someone has
16 to let you in. And the back doors are always locked.

17 **Q.** Okay. How were the classrooms set up? Not all of --- let's just say
18 this: How was the classroom set up that you were in, in your K-4? What was the
19 number of the classroom and how was it set up?

20 **Q.** The classroom was set up by suites. You got Suite 500 and Suite
21 550, which was the K-4 classrooms. Suite 500 was bigger than Suite 550. Suite
22 500 is really wide.

23 You have --- when you walk in, right up top you have a camera right
24 there. At the back door you have another camera up top. The cameras pretty
25 much show a lot of view.

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1 You have the camera in the front at the front door. It shows the front
2 of the classroom. And you have the camera at the back door. It shows the back of
3 the classroom.

4 **Q.** Okay. Which of those two suites were you in, Ronasha?

5 **A.** I was in Suite 550.

6 **Q.** All right. And who was in the other suite?

7 **A.** Laurie was in Suite 500.

8 **Q.** And, again, you were in 550 from which dates to which dates?

9 **A.** From August of 2010 to October of 2010.

10 **Q.** Okay. During that period of time, which of the six (6) children that are
11 in this case were you the — their teacher?

12 **A.** Child 1 and Child 6

13 **Q.** So you weren't the teacher for the other four (4)?

14 **A.** No, sir.

15 **Q.** Were the other four (4) in Ms. Laurie's class?

16 **A.** Yes, sir.

17 **Q.** Okay. So you saw them?

18 **A.** Yes, sir.

19 **Q.** But you weren't teaching them?

20 **A.** No, sir.

21 **Q.** All right. When did you normally see the other kids, the four (4) kids?

22 **A.** Usually in the morning when I came in. We usually come in and go
23 into the cafeteria where the children are eating at. And I would usually see them
24 there or I'd be there before they do and they'll see me.

25 And, then, our classrooms are right beside each other so I would see

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1 them in Ms. Laurie's class or I would see them at lunch or when we go outside for
2 recess.

3 **Q.** Okay. Tell the jury how nap time was for those kids in K-4.

4 **A.** Nap time each child had their own mat. Me and Ms. Laurie, we'd
5 named our mats ----

6 **Q.** How did you ----

7 **A.** --- write their name on it.

8 **Q.** How did you do that?

9 **A.** We usually got like a piece of tape or we'd print out their names.
10 They'd have a name on it with their number. The kids laid on their same mats.

11 We usually had sheets for the mats so we would put the sheets on the
12 mats. Lay their mats out. Usually they brought their own blanket. If they didn't
13 bring their own blanket, we would give them one. But usually they had their own
14 blanket, their -- whatever they wanted to sleep with.

15 And we would lay the mats out. Every child laid in the same spot
16 everyday because you got two classrooms in one classroom so you can't just lay the
17 mats anywhere. So everybody usually lay the spots --- the same spots every --
18 every day. And we didn't lay like friends beside friends because they wouldn't be
19 able to nap.

20 **Q.** Okay. Now, when you had nap time, did your -- were your kids in your
21 room or where were they?

22 **A.** They were in Ms. Laurie's class.

23 **Q.** Okay. All right. And so -- so were you and Ms. Laurie both in the
24 same classroom at that time?

25 **A.** Yes, sir.

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1 **Q.** Did you --- when did you take breaks, like lunch breaks?

2 **A.** Usually we took breaks when we brought the kids back from lunch.

3 And usually Ms. Laurie would take her break first which would be like from twelve
4 (12:00) to one (1:00). And, then, when she comes back, I'll take my break. It would
5 be like from one (1:00) to two (2:00).

6 **Q.** How long was nap time?

7 **A.** Nap time was about two (2) hours, sometimes two and half (2 ½).

8 **Q.** And what time period was nap time?

9 **A.** From twelve (12:00) to two (2:00) or twelve (12:00) to two-thirty (2:30).

10 **Q.** Okay. Now, during the nap time, where were you in the room usually?

11 **A.** I'd usually be sitting at — at the round table. I'd usually be sitting
12 there. I'm doing my daily reports, checking my homework folders, putting new
13 homework in the folders, writing notes to the parents about the homework or what's
14 the upcoming event that we're going to be working on. I'd usually be writing sight
15 words and putting their sight words on their keyring to take home.

16 **Q.** Okay. Did you know if you could see the — the room where the naps
17 were done from the monitor?

18 **A.** Yes, you can.

19 **Q.** Have you seen that before?

20 **A.** Yes, sir.

21 **Q.** Even though the lights might be out?

22 **A.** Yes, sir.

23 **Q.** Okay. And, from the monitors, can you see the bathroom door?

24 **A.** Yes, you can.

25 **Q.** You can't see inside the bathroom?

1 A. No, sir.

2 Q. The kids that are in this case, do you know them pretty well?

3 A. Yes, sir, I do.

4 Q. Okay. Tell --- tell us a little bit about each one if you don't mind and
5 what's your --- what you know about them and what's your experience has been with
6 them as a teacher at nap time at the school.

7 A. Child 1 she's very unique. She's really smart. She makes friends well.
8 She loves books. She really don't like to take a nap. She just likes to lay on her
9 mat and just lay there and talk to herself or read her book.

10 Q. Okay. How about Child 2

11 A. Child 2 is every outgoing. Child 2 is like a little teacher. She can take
12 over the classroom if you needed her to. She always know what to do next
13 because we go by a schedule. So she always knows what to do next.

14 She's really good friends with Child 3 She's really smart. And that's
15 about it.

16 Q. Well, how about Child 3

17 A. Child 3 is --- she's very outgoing too. She's very smart. She can be
18 bossy at sometimes. She can walk around the classroom like, "Let's clean up." "If
19 you don't clean up you're going to get a 'oh no' report."

20 She's very helpful. She loves playing with Child 2 Her and Child 2 are
21 like --- were best friends at school. That's about it for Child 3

22 Q. Okay. How about Child 5

23 A. Child 5 is very video game. He loved video games. He --- he loves
24 super hero. He love Legos. He can be very friendly but, if somebody takes
25 something from him, he can --- he can cry a lot.

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1 Q. Okay. How about Child 4

2 A. Child 4 is very shy. He's — was always the shy type. He loved to play
3 with Child 5 And he --- he's just very shy. He's smart, but he's — he's very shy.
4 He's to hisself.

5 Q. How about Child 6

6 A. Child 6 is very active. Child 6 he's smart, but, if something ticks Child 6
7 off, he's ticked off. And it takes a minute for Child 6 to calm down.

8 He has --- he does have tantrums where he throw things. He tips stuff
9 over or he'll try to run out of the classroom or he'll just fall in the middle of the floor
10 and just drool. And it — it takes a minute for Child 6 to calm down. But he's a smart
11 kid.

12 Q. Did you ever have any problems with Child 6 yourself?

13 A. Yes, I did.

14 Q. Could you tell us about that?

15 A. One day we were coming out of the classroom lining up. And I was
16 taking them to the library; we have like a little book area in the hallway.

17 And we were sitting there and one of this friends had a book that he
18 wanted. And he tried to take his friend's book. And I said, "Child 6 you can't take
19 his book, get your another book."

20 And he started getting really upset and kicking. And all the kids were
21 sitting around him in a circle. So I grabbed Child 6 and moved him because he was
22 kicking the rest of the children.

23 Well, as I grabbed him, he slapped me in my face. So I took Child 6 to
24 the front office to my director. And I told her, "Child 6 slapped me in my face."

25 Q. Okay.

1 A. And so he stayed in the office for a little bit.

2 Q. All right. Other than that, did you get along with --- with Child 6

3 A. Yes, I did.

4 Q. Did he have any --- cause any difficulties for other teachers?

5 A. He did.

6 Q. Okay. Any in particular?

7 A. With Ms. Bridgett, with Ms. Phyllis.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. And that's -- excuse me, that's about it.

10 Q. Of the kids that you've mentioned, were there any of the kids that ---
11 that fooled around in the bathroom?

12 A. Yes, there was.

13 Q. Who?

14 A. Child 1 when she didn't want to take a nap or lay on her mat, she would
15 ask to go to the bathroom several times. Like just coming back in from lunch, we
16 just let all the kids go to the bathroom.

17 But she would get on her mat for about five (5) or ten (10) minutes and
18 she'd ask to go to the bathroom. And she'll be in there just singing, just --- just
19 playing. And one day she just ripped some toilet paper off and had it on the floor.

20 Q. Okay. Did any of the kids -- well, let me ask you this: The --- the
21 bathroom has a --- a light switch. Where's the light switch located?

22 A. The light switch is on the outside of the bathroom door.

23 Q. Did you ever have any problems with the kids and the light switches?

24 A. Yes, I did.

25 Q. What was that?

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1 **A.** Usually when we come back in, if our classrooms are combined
2 together, if Child 5 goes to the bathroom, then, usually Child 6 will -- or some other
3 kids in the classroom like Harrison and Shawn, would go behind him and turn off the
4 lights on him.

5 And Child 5 does not like the dark. He don't like to be in the dark.
6 And they would turn off the lights on him. And how I would know is Child 5 would
7 be in there screaming. And usually Child 6 would have his back up against the
8 bathroom door. So I'd have to go and move Child 6 and turn the lights on to make
9 Child 5 is all right.

10 **Q.** Okay. And did all the kids sleep during nap time?

11 **A.** Not all of them, no, sir.

12 **Q.** Okay. What would they do if they weren't sleeping? Tell us about
13 that.

14 **A.** They would lay on their mat or play with a book, play with a puzzle or
15 just lay there.

16 **Q.** Did you communicate with the parents about how their kids were doing
17 while you were teaching them?

18 **A.** Yes, sir, I did.

19 **Q.** How --- how would you do that?

20 **A.** Usually, if I seen them at the end of the day, I would let them know if
21 they had a good day, what we're working on. And, if they an issue that day, I would
22 let them know.

23 **Q.** You mentioned something about a schedule, that -- that there was a
24 schedule for your classroom. How did the schedule work for each -- for your 4-K?

25 **A.** In the morning they would come in and they would have breakfast.

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1 And, then, usually I didn't get them in the morning until about nine thirty, (9:30), ten
2 o'clock (10:00) because I was always in another classroom waiting for that teacher
3 to come in.

4 So they would be with Ms. Laurie until I come get my class. And that
5 would usually be about ten o'clock (10:00). And I would take my class and go over
6 to my classroom. And we'll start our circle time.

7 **Q.** What's circle time?

8 **A.** Circle time is like a learning area where we all get in a circle. They all
9 have assign seats, but they sit on their assigned spots. And, in circle time, I would
10 always let one of them take turns doing the pledge of the allegiance.

11 We'll do the pledge of allegiance. We'll do our alphabets. We'll do our
12 numbers and our colors. We do our colors in Spanish as well.

13 We'll also do the days of the week. What's the weather like. Also
14 we'll do whatever the theme of that week is they'll have curriculums. They'll do
15 themes, either beach wear or going to the beach.

16 We'll talk about what do you do at the beach, stuff like that. We also
17 had sight words and we'll go over our sight words.

18 **Q.** All right. So what other parts of the schedule were there?

19 **A.** Then you had where recess — we'll go outside. We usually go on the
20 bigger playground, but before the after schoolers get there because there's more
21 stuff out there for them to play on.

22 So, when we come back in, we usually wash our hands and get ready
23 for lunch. I usually let one be a line leader. They take turns and line leader and
24 pledge of allegiance. I'll let one of them be the line leader. They take turns in line
25 leader and pledge of allegiance. So I'll let one of them be the line leader.

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1 And we'll walk to lunch and they'll have lunch. When we come back
2 from lunch, it'll be nap time. When they come in, everybody has their chance to go
3 to the bathroom.

4 And usually, while they go into the bathroom, we're laying out mats
5 getting them ready for nap time. And they'll go over and get their stuff out of their
6 own cubbie and lay on their mats.

7 **Q.** Okay. After nap time what happens next?

8 **A.** After nap time they — they get up. I usually -- during that time, I
9 usually go ahead and have their snack already on the table and whatever they're
10 drinking, whether it be water or juice, I have that prepared too.

11 So, when they get up, they use the bathroom. And they sit in -- well
12 Ms. Laurie's class sits in their assigned seats and my class fill in wherever there's a
13 seat.

14 **Q.** Okay. And — and now take us to the end of the day.

15 **A.** After nap time, like I said, we have snacks. And, then, after that I —
16 me and my classroom go back to my class and we review what we learned for the
17 day.

18 And, then, I'll let them play with — in play centers which is you have
19 home living, you have books. You have blocks. And, then, you have table toys.

20 And I usually let them do that until it's time for them to go home. We'll
21 pack up. I usually put their daily reports inside their homework folder and put their
22 stuff in their cubby. And they usually go to the gym until their parents come pick
23 them up.

24 **Q.** Okay. So that's pretty much the day?

25 **A.** Yes, sir.

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1 Q. Now how do you prepare for --- let me ask you this: Do you do some
2 --- you do some teaching obviously during the day; is that right?

3 A. Yes, sir.

4 Q. Is that the mainly at circle time or is that other places?

5 A. It's other places too.

6 Q. How do you prepare that?

7 A. I usually prepare it during nap time. I take my stuff home every day,
8 but usually, if I don't get it done that night, I do it at nap time and over on the
9 weekend too.

10 Q. Well, what do you actually do to get ready for --- for class?

11 A. Well, we go by curriculum. So I go over whatever the theme of --- of
12 that week. And I think of different activities we can do revolving [sic] that curriculum.

13 Q. Okay. Is the curriculum set by --- by the school?

14 A. Yes, sir.

15 Q. Okay. All right. Now I'm going to show you a couple of photographs.
16 And ask you --- and ask if you can identify them first. Let me show you this first one.

17 (Photo shown to the witness.)

18 Q. Can you identify what that is for me?

19 A. This is Ms. Laurie's class.

20 Q. Okay. Now, I'm going to show you a second one. This has two
21 pictures on it. Can you tell us what both of those are, the top and the bottom?

22 (Photo shown to the witness.)

23 A. This picture right here is also Ms. Laurie's class ---

24 MS. MILES: Your Honor, have these been admitted into
25 evidence and published to the jury? She's ----

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1 **MR. HENRY:** No.

2 **Q.** (By Mr. Henry) Just identify them for me. Don't show them to anybody
3 yet. Just ---

4 **A.** Oh, I'm sorry.

5 **Q.** Just tell me what they are.

6 **A.** This is Ms. Laurie's class as well, the other classroom. And this
7 picture at the bottom is Ms. Laurie's class.

8 **Q.** Okay. And can you identify that for me, please?

9 **A.** This is Ms. Laurie's class as well.

10 **MR. HENRY:** Okay. We'd like to offer all these three (3)
11 photographs into evidence, Judge.

12 **THE COURT:** Any objection, Counsel?

13 **MS. MILES:** No objection, Your Honor.

14 **THE COURT:** All right. Admitted without objection, Counsel.

15 **MR. HENRY:** Thank you.

16 **(Whereupon, Defendant's Exhibit Numbers 3 through 5 were**
17 **marked and admitted into evidence without objection.)**

18 **MR. HENRY:** With the Court's permission, I would like my client
19 to stand down and show the jury all these pictures.

20 **THE COURT:** All right. Let's let's do this: I hate to take a break
21 right at this point, but however one of the jurors is requesting a short break.

22 **MR. HENRY:** Oh, sure.

23 **THE COURT:** So let's just take a short break at this time.

24 **MR. HENRY:** Yes, sir.

25 **THE COURT:** Mr. Foreman, ladies and gentlemen of the jury,

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we're going to take a short break and allow you to refresh yourself at this time. Thank you.

(The jury exited the courtroom at 10:21 a.m.)

THE COURT: All right. We'll all take a short break at this time. Ms. Taylor, you — you may stand down and refresh yourself during the break. You can't, however, discuss this case with your attorney or anyone else. You can talk about something else, but not the case itself. It's the same as if you're still on the stand, okay?

THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

THE COURT: All right. We'll take a short break.

(Whereupon, a recess was taken from 10:22 a.m. till 10:29 a.m.)

THE COURT: Please, ma'am, if you'll get back on the stand.

THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

(Witness complied with the Court's request.)

THE COURT: All right, sir. You can see if they are ready, please, and bring them in.

(The jury was summoned entered the courtroom at 10:31 a.m.)

THE COURT: All right, sir, please proceed.

MR. HENRY: Thank you, sir.

Q. (By Mr. Henry) Ronasha, if you would, can you step down in front of the jury and walk through these pictures with us for a second? And we might have to do this twice because they — they might not all be able to see at the same time. So let me show you first Exhibit —

THE COURT: Counsel, feel free to move around if you wish.

Q. Exhibit Number 3, can you see that picture?

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1 **A.** Yes, sir.

2 **Q.** First tell the jury what that is a picture of.

3 **A.** This is a picture of Ms. Laurie's classroom. And right here (indicating)
4 is a window. You can see -- all the classrooms have a window like this and you can
5 see — from this classroom, you can see 450, 400, and 350.

6 **Q.** Okay. And you can also see coming other direction?

7 **A.** Yes, sir, you can.

8 **Q.** Okay. So are the walls there glass?

9 **A.** Yes, sir, the walls are glass.

10 **Q.** And can you see how many rooms from that one spot?

11 **A.** You can see 450, 400, and 350.

12 **Q.** And — and what room — what is this in?

13 **A.** This is in 500, Ms. Laurie's class.

14 **Q.** Let's move down here and make sure all the jurors can also see this
15 and get this testimony. Again, what is this a photograph of, Ronasha?

16 **A.** This is a photograph of the glass wall. And it's in Ms. Laurie's
17 classroom which is 500. And you can see from her classroom down in 450, 400 and
18 350 and also coming up you can see.

19 **Q.** Okay. Stay here for this part. This is now Exhibit Number 4 for the
20 Defense. Which picture do you want to identify now?

21 **A.** I'm — I'm going to start at the top picture.

22 **Q.** Okay.

23 **A.** This is also Ms. Laurie's class. This is like from the middle going up to
24 the — the entrance of her classroom.

25 **Q.** Okay.

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1 **A.** And right here is where I sat at, at nap time when I did my daily reports
2 and my homework and my notes to parents and stuff, I sat at that table. And the
3 kids would sleep on the carpet.

4 And right here (indicating), if you look out this glass window, because
5 there's a glass window in front of the classroom as well. If you look out of this glass
6 window, you see Ms. Kori's class.

7 And at that door some days during nap time me and Ms. Kori would
8 come to the door and talk. And I would usually stand right here where the doorway
9 is at because I'm still in the classroom and I could see the kids and I could still talk
10 to her too.

11 **Q.** Okay. Let's move down so the others members of the jury can see
12 that same photograph. Explain that once, again, Ronasha, if you don't mind.

13 **MS. MILES:** Objection, Your Honor. She's already said all of
14 this once. Does she need to answer all this questions twice?

15 **THE COURT:** I'd just do it in the middle of the jury box. I don't
16 think you need to —

17 **MR. HENRY:** All right.

18 **THE COURT:** It's large enough, but I don't —

19 **MR. HENRY:** All right.

20 **THE COURT:** I don't think you need to do it on both ends.

21 **Q.** (By Mr. Henry) All right. Let's try the next photograph. This is Exhibit
22 Number 5. What is that a picture of? And stand back just a little bit so —

23 **THE COURT:** You might back up just a little bit so every body
24 can see. But I don't think you need to do it on both ends.

25 **Q.** (By Mr. Henry) It's hard to see. What's that top picture of?

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1 **A.** This top picture is also Ms. Laurie's class. Right here (indicating) ---

2 **Q.** Why don't you put it up front if you can, so, that everybody can see.

3 **A.** Well right here (indicating) is the carpet area. This is where the
4 children would lay at nap time, on the carpet area. Also there is a table that I sat at
5 during nap time.

6 Back here at the back door, there's the back door (indicating). There's
7 a camera right there at the back door. Also there's a glass wall again as well. In
8 this picture --- in this picture it shows the girls bathroom door.

9 **Q.** Okay. Thank you. You can resume your seat.

10 **(Witness complied with the request.)**

11 **JUROR:** May we see those?

12 **(Documents handed to the jury.)**

13 **JUROR:** Thank you.

14 **Q.** Ronasha, do you have some unusual marks on your body?

15 **A.** Yes, I do.

16 **Q.** And what are those?

17 **A.** I have a surgery scar going across my stomach.

18 **Q.** Okay.

19 **A.** And I also have a huge birth mark starting up under my breast, my left
20 breast, going down.

21 **Q.** Okay. This is Exhibit Number 1 for the Defense. Does this
22 photograph accurately show the scar on your stomach?

23 **A.** Yes, sir, it do.

24 **Q.** Okay. And does Exhibit Number 2 accurately show the — the mark
25 under your breast?

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1 **A.** Yes, sir, it do.

2 **Q.** Is that the way it looked back in October 2010?

3 **A.** Yes, sir.

4 **Q.** How about in April 2009?

5 **A.** Yes, sir.

6 **Q.** Okay. Can the surgery scar be seen when you're standing?

7 **A.** Yes, sir.

8 **Q.** Can it be seen while you're lying down?

9 **A.** Yes, sir.

10 **Q.** Can it be seen when you're sitting?

11 **A.** Yes, sir.

12 **Q.** How about the birth mark? Can that be seen while you're standing
13 up?

14 **A.** Yes, sir.

15 **Q.** Can it be seen while you're lying down?

16 **A.** Yes, sir.

17 **Q.** Can it be seen while you're sitting?

18 **A.** Yes, sir.

19 **Q.** What color is the birthmark?

20 **A.** My birthmark is black.

21 **Q.** A couple of other personal questions if you don't mind. Back in the fall
22 of 2010, what did you weigh?

23 **A.** Two hundred (200) pounds.

24 **Q.** And did you have pubic hair back then?

25 **A.** Yes, sir, I did.

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1 **Q.** How about in 2009?

2 **A.** Yes, sir, I did.

3 **Q.** Ronasha, you understand what the charges are against you?

4 **A.** Yes, sir, I do.

5 **Q.** Did you ever, while you were working at Kids "R" Kids, expose your

6 breasts to any children?

7 **A.** No, sir.

8 **MS. MILES:** Objection, Your Honor, leading the witness.

9 **THE COURT:** I — I will allow it.

10 **MR. HENRY:** Thank you.

11 **Q.** (By Mr. Henry) When you worked at Kids "R" Kids, did you wear a

12 bra?

13 **A.** Yes, sir, I did.

14 **Q.** Were there any days when you did not?

15 **A.** No, sir.

16 **Q.** Did you ever take off your clothes in the presence of any child at Kids

17 "R" Kids?

18 **A.** No, sir, I didn't.

19 **Q.** Did you ever make any children at Kids "R" Kids take off their clothes?

20 **A.** No, sir, I didn't.

21 **Q.** Did you ever touch the body parts of any child at Kids "R" Kids?

22 **A.** No, sir, I didn't.

23 **Q.** Did you ever kiss them?

24 **A.** No, sir, I didn't.

25 **Q.** Did -- did you ever molest them in any way?

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1 **A.** No, sir, I didn't.

2 **MR. HENRY:** Ronasha, answer any questions the State may
3 have for you, please.

4 **CROSS EXAMINATION by MS. MILES:**

10:37 A.M.

5 **Q.** Good morning, Ms. Taylor.

6 **A.** Good morning.

7 **Q.** You taught at Kids "R" Kids from April of 2009 until October of 2010,
8 correct?

9 **A.** Yes, ma'am.

10 **Q.** Okay. And you know Child 1

11 **A.** Yes, ma'am, I do.

12 **Q.** Child 2

13 **A.** Yes, ma'am.

14 **Q.** Child 3

15 **A.** Yes, ma'am.

16 **Q.** Child 4

17 **A.** Yes, ma'am.

18 **Q.** Child 5

19 **A.** Yes, ma'am.

20 **Q.** And Child 6

21 **A.** Yes, ma'am.

22 **Q.** Okay. You watched over all these children at nap time, correct?

23 **A.** Yes, ma'am, I have.

24 **Q.** By yourself?

25 **A.** Yes, ma'am, I have.

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1 **Q.** When you were in a 4-K classroom?

2 **A.** Yes, ma'am.

3 **Q.** Okay. And this was back in 2010, correct?

4 **A.** Yes, ma'am.

5 **Q.** Okay. You testified on direct that you went to Stayer University for
6 legal studies and then elementary education; is that correct?

7 **A.** Yes, ma'am.

8 **Q.** Okay. When did you stop taking all those courses?

9 **A.** I stopped taking --- I stopped going to Strayer University I do recall in
10 either the end of 2007 or the beginning of 2008.

11 **Q.** Okay. You also testified about Kenya, your ex-husband, who did
12 come in here and testify as well. You said you dated him for about three (3) or four
13 (4) years before you got married?

14 **A.** Yes, ma'am, I did.

15 **Q.** Okay. So you had a long dating relationship?

16 **A.** Yes, ma'am.

17 **Q.** But a very short marriage?

18 **A.** Yes, ma'am.

19 **Q.** Your dating relationship was different than your marriage?

20 **A.** Ma'am?

21 **Q.** Your dating relationship was different than your marriage?

22 **A.** Yes, ma'am.

23 **Q.** Okay. You testified that you filed for divorce and the grounds that you
24 cited was a year's separation?

25 **A.** Yes, ma'am.

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1 **Q.** Okay. Didn't you tell co-workers that your divorce was because
2 husband slept with another man?

3 **A.** No, ma'am, I did not.

4 **Q.** Okay. You also testified that you baby-sat, correct?

5 **A.** Yes, ma'am, I did.

6 **Q.** What age did you start baby-sitting?

7 **A.** I was sixteen (16) when I started baby-sitting.

8 **Q.** Okay. Who all would you baby-sit?

9 **A.** My nieces and nephews, people that I went to church with, their
10 children.

11 **Q.** Okay. And how old were those children?

12 **A.** Well, my niece — my niece back then was young. My nephew I think
13 he was — he was still young as well.

14 **Q.** Okay. And you baby-sat them by yourself?

15 **A.** Yes, ma'am, I did.

16 **Q.** Okay. You also testified to a lot of your involvement in the church,
17 correct?

18 **A.** Yes, ma'am.

19 **Q.** A lot of involvements involving working with children?

20 **A.** Yes, ma'am.

21 **Q.** The drill team?

22 **A.** Yes, ma'am.

23 **Q.** Children's choir?

24 **A.** Yes, ma'am.

25 **Q.** You testified that you wanted to raise up a nation that would obey; is

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that correct?

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A. Yes, ma'am. That was our -- that was our theme.

Q. Okay. And children did obey you, didn't they?

A. Yes, ma'am, they did.

Q. Okay. You testified regarding Child 1 Child 2 and Child 3 that those
were the three (3) children that you knew about when you spoke to Bobby
Seepersaud?

A. Yes, ma'am.

Q. Okay. And you testified that the allegations were -- were similar and
identical ----

A. Yes, ma'am.

Q. ---- correct? But they weren't identical, were they? They referred to
your breast area, but those used different terminology, correct?

A. Yes, ma'am.

Q. Okay. Different names, "tummy," "hip"?

A. Yes, ma'am.

Q. Okay. So they weren't identical?

(Brief Pause)

A. Are you asking me that?

Q. Yes.

A. Oh, yes, ma'am.

Q. Okay. And Child 4 had actually come forward at that time as well,
correct?

A. I didn't know anything about Child 4 ma'am.

Q. You didn't know anything about Child 4 when you spoke with Bobby

MS. RONASHA TAYLOR - CROSS by MS. MILES**Page 1154**

1 Seepersaud?

2 **A.** No, ma'am, I didn't.

3 **Q.** Okay. We'll get back to that in the minute. Mr. Henry asked you
4 about when you met with law enforcement that you did denied the abuse, correct?

5 **A.** Yes, ma'am, I did.

6 **Q.** Okay. Would you agree that it's common for a suspect to deny
7 allegations to law enforcement?

8 **MR. HENRY:** Objection, Your Honor.

9 **THE COURT:** I'm sorry, I didn't hear your question.

10 **MS. MILES:** I asked if she agreed that it's common for a
11 suspect to deny allegations to law enforcement; in your knowledge.

12 **THE COURT:** It's - it's argumentative. I will ----

13 **MS. MILES:** I'll withdraw.

14 **Q.** (By Ms. Miles) Mr. Henry also brought up that you -- that law
15 enforcement didn't ask you for permission to search your house or your computer,
16 correct?

17 **A.** Yes, ma'am.

18 **Q.** Okay. You were aware of the allegations against you, correct?

19 **A.** When I talked to Detective Burrell

20 **Q.** Okay. And Mr. Henry asked you about images on your computer. You
21 aren't charged with anything regarding images, are you?

22 **A.** No, ma'am.

23 **Q.** And you didn't take any pictures or videos of the actions with the
24 children, correct?

25 **A.** Correct.

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1 **Q.** Okay. Would there be any evidence of these crimes on your
2 computer?

3 **A.** No, ma'am.

4 **Q.** Okay. You talked about a lot of different activities that they did at Kids
5 "R" Kids; the ice cream truck, going outside, those types of things. Those activities
6 weren't during nap time, were they?

7 **A.** No, ma'am.

8 **Q.** Okay. Nap time was for sleeping?

9 **A.** Yes, ma'am.

10 **Q.** Okay. Quiet time?

11 **A.** Yes, ma'am.

12 **Q.** Okay. You testified that a lot of parents would come and go
13 throughout the day. The parents had to go through a locked front door, correct?

14 **A.** At the front door, yes, ma'am.

15 **Q.** Had to be buzzed in?

16 **A.** Yes, ma'am.

17 **Q.** So they didn't spontaneously appear? People were aware they were
18 coming?

19 **A.** Are you -- like me, was I aware or ...?

20 **Q.** Anyone?

21 **A.** Whoever was at the first desk to open the front door, they were.

22 **Q.** Okay. You also testified about the Watch Me Grow cameras. And
23 you testified that you watched the monitors up front, correct?

24 **A.** I've seen them, yes, ma'am.

25 **Q.** Okay. And you testified that you thought that they switched cycles

MS. RONASHA TAYLOR - CROSS by MS. MILES
every ten (10) seconds?

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1

2

A. Yeah, ten (10) maybe. It could be longer.

3

Q. Okay.

4

A. I don't know.

5

Q. But would it have been more like three (3) seconds?

6

A. I don't know. That wasn't my job so I don't know.

7

Q. Okay. And you testified that, that was your access to Watch Me Grow,

8

correct?

9

A. I didn't -- I mean, I could see them actually from the monitor.

10

Q. Okay. You didn't have a log in or password?

11

A. No, ma'am.

12

Q. But you did have access to Watch Me Grow when Donna Wilson gave

13

you her log in to watch the children online, correct?

14

A. When I wasn't there, yes, ma'am.

15

Q. Okay. Now you testified that you were in the 4-K classroom from

16

August of 2010 to October of 2010, correct?

17

A. Yes, ma'am.

18

Q. Okay. Did you tell Bobby from OHAN that you had been placed in an

19

infant room as a floater for the last nine (9) weeks before these allegations came out

20

and that you had limited access or reason to go to a four-year old class?

21

A. Yes, ma'am, I did. I had been moved to the infant classroom. But

22

there was not a teacher assigned to my classroom so that means I'm still their

23

teacher.

24

Q. So were you working with infants from August to October or were you

25

working with the four-year old class from August to October?

1 A. Both.

2 Q. Both?

3 A. Yes, ma'am.

4 Q. Would you just go back and forth between the classrooms?

5 A. Whenever my director would move me, I would go where she tell me
6 to go.

7 Q. Okay. You testified that at nap time you had certain procedures so the
8 children would nap and wouldn't disrupt the class I guess. You wouldn't lay friends
9 by friends?

10 A. Yes, ma'am.

11 Q. Okay. What else did you do to make sure they would nap?

12 A. Well, they didn't have to take a nap. They just were required to lay on
13 their mat. Whether they went to sleep or not, they were supposed to stay on their
14 mat because we had to stay in DSS ratio.

15 Q. Okay. And it was supposed to be quiet during nap time?

16 A. Yes, ma'am.

17 Q. So they could do other things just as long as they weren't loud or
18 disruptive or running around the room?

19 A. Yes, ma'am.

20 Q. Okay. You testified to teaching Child 1 and Child 6 correct?

21 A. Yes, ma'am.

22 Q. You weren't Ashley's, Elena's, Child 4 or Child 5 teacher?

23 A. No, ma'am.

24 Q. Okay. What about other classes like not the K-4 class? Did you ever
25 teach those children?

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1 A. Yes, ma'am, I have.

2 Q. Okay. All of them, all six (6) of them?

3 A. Yes, ma'am, I have.

4 Q. Okay. You talked specifically about Child 1 how Child 1 doesn't like to
5 nap; is that correct?

6 A. Yes, ma'am.

7 Q. Okay. And you testified originally that she likes to lay on her mat and
8 read a book if she didn't feel like napping, correct?

9 A. Yes, ma'am.

10 Q. Okay. And, then, later in your testimony you said that she would go
11 fool around in the bathroom?

12 A. Yes, ma'am.

13 Q. Okay. On one occasion?

14 A. It could be more than one.

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. I mean, I don't have -- I don't know how many times.

17 Q. But you testified that one day she ripped up some toilet paper in the
18 bathroom?

19 A. Yes, ma'am, she did.

20 Q. Okay. You also testified to knowing Child 2 very well and Child 3

21 A. Yes, ma'am, I do.

22 Q. That they were best friends?

23 A. Yes, ma'am, they are.

24 Q. Okay. And you knew a lot about the kids?

25 A. Yes, ma'am.

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1 Q. Okay. You testified about Child 5 how he could cry if someone took
2 things from him?

3 A. Yes, ma'am.

4 Q. Okay. Would he cry in your presence regularly?

5 A. No, ma'am.

6 Q. Would he cry if someone made him do something he didn't want to
7 do?

8 A. No, ma'am.

9 Q. He wouldn't cry if someone made him do something he didn't want to
10 do?

11 A. I mean meaning as — I mean as what?

12 Q. Just anything he didn't want to do?

13 A. I mean, I'm sure, if it something he didn't want to do, he'd cry. But, I
14 mean, with me Child 5 — he never cried or broke down or anything.

15 Q. Only if someone took something from him?

16 A. Yes, ma'am.

17 Q. Okay. And Child 6 you testified about tantrums that Child 6 threw,
18 correct?

19 A. Yes, ma'am.

20 Q. Did you tell his mother about these tantrums?

21 A. Yes, I have.

22 Q. Okay. Were you present when she testified regarding not hearing
23 anything about tantrums from you?

24 A. Yes, I was.

25 Q. Okay. And you also testified that Child 6 slapped you in your face; is

MS. RONASHA TAYLOR - CROSS by MS. MILES

that correct?

1

2

A. Yes, ma'am, he did.

3

Q. Okay. And how old was Child 6 at this time?

4

A. He was four (4).

5

Q. He was four (4)?

6

A. Yes, ma'am.

7

Q. Okay. Was Child 6 standing up?

8

A. Say that again.

9

Q. Was Child 6 standing up when he slapped you?

10

A. Yes, ma'am, he was.

11

Q. Were you standing up when he slapped you?

12

A. No, ma'am.

13

Q. Were you sitting down?

14

A. I was on my knees ----

15

Q. Okay.

16

A. ---- getting ready to stand up.

17

Q. And what were you doing on your knees?

18

A. Getting ready to stand up.

19

Q. Okay. What were you doing on your knees before standing up?

20

A. Well, I was reading a book to one of the kids.

21

Q. Okay. So Child 6 slapped you in your face while you were on your

22

knees?

23

A. Yes, ma'am, he did.

24

Q. Okay. And you didn't send a oh, no report to his mother at that time?

25

A. I talked to his mother that afternoon.

MS. RONASHA TAYLOR - CROSS by MS. MILES**Page 1161**

1 **Q.** Okay. Would you be surprised to know that his mother knows nothing
2 of this incident?

3 **A.** I would be very surprised.

4 **Q.** Okay. You also mentioned other — other children playing near the
5 bathroom; Child 5 and Child 6 like being all --- like being all in and out of the
6 bathroom. Were these children running wild at nap time?

7 **A.** Well, it just wouldn't have to be at nap when this happened. I mean,
8 they would — Child 6 and Child 5 are like --- they set each other off. So, I mean,
9 when they're together, it's like party time for them.

10 **Q.** Well, they were together at nap time, correct?

11 **A.** Correct.

12 **Q.** They weren't in the same classroom?

13 **A.** No, ma'am, they wasn't.

14 **Q.** Okay. Did you send a oh, no report home to their parents?

15 **A.** I talked to their parents before about that.

16 **Q.** Okay. I'm going to show you some of these pictures that Mr. Henry
17 talked to you about, okay?

18 **A.** Okay.

19 **(Brief Pause while Ms. Miles retrieves exhibits.)**

20 **Q.** Now you testified first about this picture, Defendant's Exhibit 3,
21 correct?

22 **A.** Yes, ma'am.

23 **Q.** And this is the glass partition?

24 **A.** Yes, ma'am, it is.

25 **Q.** And you can see all the way through to the other classrooms, correct?

- 1 A. Yes, ma'am, you can.
- 2 Q. How many classrooms do you think you can see?
- 3 A. I can see 450. I can see 400. And I can see 350.
- 4 Q. Okay. And this glass wall is at the back of the classroom, correct?
- 5 A. It's in the middle of the classroom.
- 6 Q. Okay. One thing you can't see through any of these classrooms is the
- 7 bathroom, correct?
- 8 A. Correct.
- 9 Q. Okay. Because the wall across from the bathroom is a solid wall,
- 10 correct?
- 11 A. Correct.
- 12 Q. Okay. Let's talk about some of the other pictures. Now you testified
- 13 that the children napped on the carpet area?
- 14 A. Yes, ma'am.
- 15 Q. Okay. What about the linoleum, would they nap there as well?
- 16 A. Some.
- 17 Q. Okay. And what are these doors to the bathroom made out of?
- 18 A. I believe wood.
- 19 Q. Okay. They're not clear, correct?
- 20 A. No, ma'am, they're not.
- 21 Q. All right. And you testified standing in a doorway to talk to Ms. Kori?
- 22 A. Yes, ma'am.
- 23 Q. But you didn't testified that was at nap time, correct?
- 24 A. Yes, ma'am, it was.
- 25 Q. At nap time?

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1 **A.** Yes, ma'am.

2 **Q.** When the children were napping, you would stand at the doorway and
3 talk to other teachers?

4 **A.** Yes, ma'am.

5 **Q.** But wouldn't Ms. Kori's nap --- class nap with your class so she could
6 take a break?

7 **A.** Sometimes.

8 **Q.** Sometimes?

9 **A.** Yes, ma'am.

10 **Q.** Okay. So you wouldn't be talking to her at those times obviously?

11 **A.** When she came back from break.

12 **Q.** Okay. Ms. Taylor, you testified that Ms. Sally approached you after
13 learning of the allegations, correct?

14 **A.** Yes, she did.

15 **Q.** Okay. And you found out what they entailed?

16 **A.** Ma'am?

17 **Q.** You found out what those allegations entailed at that time?

18 **A.** Yes, ma'am.

19 **Q.** Okay. You told Bobby from OHAN that at that point you tried to put in
20 your two weeks' notice, correct?

21 **A.** Yes, ma'am, I did.

22 **Q.** Okay. But you wrote a letter to Sally Strickland saying that you didn't
23 want to give your resignation; that you wouldn't write a letter of resignation, correct?

24 **A.** Yes, ma'am, I did.

25 **Q.** Okay. You were present for a meeting after that first allegation,

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1 correct, a meeting with Mrs. Spicer and Sally and Anita and Child 1

2 A. I was present with Ms. Spicer, Child 1 and Sally.

3 Q. Okay. And Anita?

4 A. No, ma'am, she was not in the meeting.

5 Q. Okay. You were here when she testified that she was at the meeting?

6 A. Yes, ma'am.

7 Q. You were here when Mrs. Spicer testified that she was at the meeting?

8 A. Yes, ma'am.

9 Q. Okay. In that meeting, you -- you talked about going into the
10 bathroom with Child 1 to stop her from playing?

11 A. Yes, ma'am, I did.

12 Q. Is that correct?

13 A. Yes, ma'am.

14 Q. And you were present when Child 1 made her allegation of abuse,
15 correct?

16 A. Yes, ma'am.

17 Q. She said that in front of you after being confronted?

18 A. Yes, ma'am.

19 Q. Okay. You talked about Bobby with OHAN and what information you
20 had when you spoke with him. When Bobby from OHAN interviewed you, you told
21 him that you had only assisted in cleaning Child 1 on one occasion, correct?

22 A. Yes, ma'am.

23 Q. And cleaning her because she was playing in the bathroom?

24 A. Yes, ma'am.

25 Q. Okay. And for that one time you cleaned Child 1

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1 A. Yes, ma'am.

2 Q. After she was singing and tearing up paper?

3 A. Yes, ma'am.

4 Q. Okay. You also told him you had to keep the bathroom door open in
5 order to check on Child 1 because of these behaviors?

6 A. Correct.

7 Q. These behaviors that occurred one time?

8 A. Not -- it -- it was more than one time, not just one time.

9 Q. Okay. But you told him one time. And you testified earlier than one
10 time?

11 A. I -- I don't -- I don't think I testified earlier one time, but it wasn't one
12 time.

13 Q. Okay. And you were also present for Zhling's testimony that Child 1
14 never played in the bathroom and didn't require assistance in the bathroom?

15 A. Yes, ma'am.

16 Q. Okay. And you were present for Laurie's testimony?

17 MR. HENRY: I'm going to objection to the form, Your Honor.

18 MS. MILES: It's cross, Your Honor.

19 THE COURT: I'll allow it. Go ahead.

20 Q. (By Ms. Miles) And you were present for Laurie's testimony, the other
21 4-K teacher who would watch Child 1 at nap time, correct?

22 A. Yes, ma'am.

23 Q. Okay. Did you hear Laurie say that she never had to stop Child 1 from
24 playing in the bathroom?

25 A. I did.

1 Q. That she never had to assist Child 1

2 A. I did.

3 Q. Okay. You also told Bobby that you monitored Child 4 in the bathroom
4 on one occasion?

5 A. Yes, ma'am.

6 Q. So you did know about Child 4 at the time you spoke to Bobby?

7 A. (No Response)

8 Q. Or were you just mentioning him causally?

9 A. I don't -- I don't remember him telling me anything about him so I can't
10 say that I know or I don't know.

11 Q. Okay. But, when asked, you told Bobby that you monitored Child 4 in
12 the bathroom on one occasion?

13 A. Okay.

14 Q. To assist him with a zipper?

15 A. Yes, ma'am.

16 Q. Okay. Were you present when his parents testified that he didn't need
17 assist in the bathroom?

18 A. Yes, ma'am.

19 Q. And were you present when his teacher Laurie, his primary teacher
20 who was with him every time at nap time, testified that she never had to help him in
21 the bathroom?

22 A. Yes, ma'am.

23 Q. Okay. You also talked with Bobby about Child 3. You testified or you
24 told Bobby that you had assist Child 3 on one occasion, correct?

25 A. Yes, ma'am.

MS. RONASHA TAYLOR - CROSS by MS. MILES

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1 Q. Okay. And you were present when both of her parents testified she
2 didn't require assistance?

3 A. Yes, ma'am.

4 Q. And you were present when Laurie, her primary teacher, said she
5 never needed assistance?

6 A. Yes, ma'am.

7 Q. Okay. Let's talk about Child 2. You also told Bobby you wiped Child 2
8 once because the child couldn't clean herself?

9 A. Yes, ma'am.

10 Q. Okay. You watched these kids at nap frequently, correct?

11 A. I have, yes, ma'am.

12 Q. So, if Child 2 couldn't clean herself, was it pausable you would have to
13 assist her more than once?

14 A. If she went into the bathroom to make a bowel moment, when I was
15 with her, yes.

16 Q. Okay. But you assisted her once?

17 A. Yes, ma'am.

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. Because Child 2 was not --- she wasn't in my class. So I didn't have
20 Child 2 all the time.

21 Q. Okay. Were you present when Child 2 parents testified?

22 A. Yes, ma'am.

23 Q. And when Child 2 --- I mean, when Laurie, Child 2 primary teacher,
24 testified?

25 A. Yes, ma'am.

MS. RONASHA TAYLOR - CROSS by MS. MILES**Page 1168**

1 **Q.** That she never had to assist Child 2 in the bathroom?

2 **A.** Yes, ma'am.

3 **Q.** Okay. You met with Bobby on approximately October 21st?

4 **A.** Yes, ma'am.

5 **Q.** Is that right? Okay. And at that time three (3) or four (4) children had
6 made allegations?

7 **A.** Yes, ma'am.

8 **Q.** Okay. And these were the three (3) or four (4) children that you
9 mentioned assisting in the bathroom each one time?

10 **A.** Yes, ma'am.

11 **Q.** Okay. When --- when would you see the parents at Kids "R" Kids?

12 **A.** Pretty much every day.

13 **Q.** Okay. All the parents at Kids "R" Kids?

14 **A.** Pretty much every day, yes.

15 **Q.** Okay. What interaction would you have with them?

16 **A.** As far as talking to them?

17 **Q.** Uh-huh (affirmative). How much would you observe them in the
18 mornings or in the afternoon?

19 **A.** I would usually see some of them in the morning when they dropped
20 their child off or in an afternoon.

21 **Q.** Okay. How much have you seen them interact with each other?

22 **A.** I --- I've seen Child 3 and Child 2 mom talk a little bit. I seen
23 Child 5 and Child 4 mom talk a little bit. I mean, I see parents interact all the
24 time, talking so

25 **Q.** Okay. Dropping off their kids?

MS. RONASHA TAYLOR - CROSS by MS. MILES

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A. Yes, ma'am.

Q. Okay. But you were close with some parents in this case, correct, or in this — in the daycare?

A. Yes, ma'am.

Q. Okay. Like Donna Wilson?

A. Yes, ma'am.

Q. Okay. You told law enforcement, when they interviewed you, that it was your responsibility to make sure nothing but toilet paper was flushed down the toilet, correct?

A. Correct.

Q. Okay. And you told Bobby from OHAN that you even had to sign a paper from the owner of the daycare to make sure that nothing was flushed down the toilet but toilet paper?

A. Well, it wasn't the owner. It was actually Sally. She had a meeting concerning things being flushed down the toilet. And she printed out her staff meeting and we signed the papers.

Q. Okay. And what — what was --- tell us about what was happening with the toilets.

A. Well, in the staff bathroom, there was some staff flushing tampons and brown paper towels down the toilet. And it was messing up the toilets.

Q. Okay. So that notice was that you were not supposed to flush tampons and paper towels down the toilet?

A. It was that the staff was not supposed to flush toilet -- brown paper bags and tampons down the toilet.

Q. Okay. So that you and all other members of the staff were not

1 supposed to do that?

2 A. Correct.

3 Q. That notice wasn't anything about the children going into the bathroom,
4 correct?

5 A. Yes, it was. It had -- she had on there that there had been a pacifier
6 that had been flushed and there was a silly band.

7 Q. Okay. She had that on her notice?

8 A. Sally talked about that in our meeting, in our staff meeting.

9 Q. Okay. But that wasn't on the notice you signed, correct?

10 A. Correct.

11 Q. Okay. So you said a pacifier and a silly band had been flushed down
12 the toilet?

13 A. Yes, ma'am, that's what Sally said.

14 Q. Okay. So that's the reason you gave Bobby for why you monitored
15 these children in the bathroom?

16 A. Yes, ma'am, it was.

17 Q. Okay. Do four-year olds have pacifiers?

18 A. No, ma'am, they don't. But I didn't -- I just didn't work with four-year
19 olds. I worked with all ages.

20 Q. Okay. Children aren't allowed to have toys when they go to the
21 bathroom, correct?

22 A. Correct, but some take them in there anyway.

23 Q. Okay. But you could check before they went into the bathroom if they
24 had a toy rather than monitor them while they're in there?

25 A. If they are already in there, I don't know what they took in there. I don't

MS. RONASHA TAYLOR - CROSS by MS. MILES

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1 know what they have in their pockets.

2 Q. Okay. Brown paper towels, they weren't located in the bathroom,
3 correct?

4 A. Not in the children's bathroom, no, ma'am.

5 Q. Okay. They were outside on the wall?

6 A. Yes, ma'am.

7 Q. Okay. Well, they wouldn't be able to access them in the bathroom?

8 A. No, ma'am.

9 Q. Okay. You talked a lot about your scar and your birthmark, correct?

10 A. Correct.

11 Q. And you even had your mother take a picture of this scar?

12 A. Yes, ma'am, she did.

13 (Ms. Miles retrieves exhibit.)

14 Q. Okay. And is this the scar in the picture?

15 A. Yes, ma'am, it is.

16 Q. Okay. And this is what it looks like when you're laying down?

17 A. Yes, ma'am.

18 Q. Okay. But this is not a picture of you standing up?

19 A. No, ma'am, it's not.

20 Q. Or a picture of you sitting down?

21 A. No, ma'am, it's not.

22 Q. And I believe this — it was testified that this was taken in very good
23 light with a very good camera?

24 A. Yes, ma'am.

25 Q. Okay. You talked about that you were approximately two hundred

MS. RONASHA TAYLOR - CROSS by MS. MILES
(200) pounds at the time this allegation, correct?

Page 1172

1

2

A. Yes, ma'am, I was.

3

Q. Okay. Is it fair to say that you were larger than you are now?

4

A. No, back then I was two hundred (200) pounds. I'm big now.

5

Q. Did you weigh more or less?

6

A. I weigh more now.

7

Q. You weigh more now?

8

A. Yes, ma'am.

9

Q. Okay. So at two hundred (200) pounds you --- you weighed less then,

10

that's what ---

11

A. Then I was two hundred (200) pounds.

12

Q. Okay.

13

A. Now, I'm ---

14

Q. I won't ask you that.

15

A. Okay.

16

Q. That's okay. Okay. Is it fair to say that, if you were sitting, your

17

stomach area -- your stomach does not lay the same way as if you were laying; is

18

that a fair assessment?

19

A. Yes, ma'am.

20

Q. Okay. So, when you lay, your stomach may be flat. And, when you

21

sit, your stomach may not be flat?

22

A. Not necessarily because my stomach's still fat.

23

Q. Okay. So you might not be able to see all portions of the your

24

stomach while sitting?

25

A. Yeah, you can see my stomach.

MS. RONASHA TAYLOR - CROSS by MS. MILES**Page 1173**

1 **Q.** Okay. But if -- would there be any parts that would be covered up by
2 what you refer to as fat?

3 **A.** I don't know.

4 **Q.** You don't know? Okay. Would it be fair to say that your scar may
5 look different while you're sitting and when you're standing?

6 **A.** No, ma'am.

7 **Q.** No?

8 **A.** No, ma'am.

9 **Q.** Didn't you just testify that you didn't know?

10 **A.** You asked me about my stomach.

11 **Q.** Right ----

12 **A.** You didn't say anything about my scar.

13 **Q.** ---- to what your stomach looked like. Well, your scar is on your
14 stomach, correct?

15 **A.** Well, either way, if I lay down, my stomach is still fat. If I sit up, I'm still
16 fat.

17 **Q.** Okay.

18 **A.** Fat doesn't go anywhere.

19 **Q.** Okay. But it may cover your scar?

20 **A.** (No Response)

21 **Q.** Yes or no?

22 **A.** No.

23 **Q.** Okay. And what about your birthmark? You testified that it was very
24 visible?

25 **A.** Yes, ma'am, it is.

MS. RONASHA TAYLOR - CROSS by MS. MILES

- 1 Q. And it's located under your left breast?
- 2 A. Yes, ma'am.
- 3 Q. Can you see it when you're wearing a bra?
- 4 A. Yes, ma'am.
- 5 Q. What about when you're not wearing a bra?
- 6 A. Yes, ma'am.
- 7 Q. Okay.
- 8 (Ms. Miles retrieves exhibit.)
- 9 Q. This is a picture of it?
- 10 A. Yes, ma'am, it is.
- 11 Q. Okay. And this is taken on your left or your right side?
- 12 A. That's my left side.
- 13 Q. That's your left side? And so the camera is facing your birthmark?
- 14 A. Yes, ma'am.
- 15 Q. Okay. And that's this purplish mark — dark mark?
- 16 A. That's actually dark brown.
- 17 Q. Dark brown? Okay. So this is it when you're looking at your left side?
- 18 A. Yes, ma'am, it is.
- 19 Q. And it's your testimony that it's always highly visible?
- 20 A. Yes, ma'am, it is.
- 21 Q. Okay. What about this picture where your laying down? Can you see
- 22 it in this picture?
- 23 A. Yes, ma'am, I can.
- 24 Q. How well?
- 25 A. Very well.

MS. RONASHA TAYLOR - CROSS by MS. MILES

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1 Q. Very well?

2 A. Yes, ma'am.

3 Q. Okay. And what if you're arms are like this (demonstrating), can you
4 see it then?

5 A. You can see part of it.

6 Q. Part of it?

7 A. Yes, ma'am.

8 Q. But not to this extent (indicating)?

9 A. No, ma'am.

10 Q. Okay. So is it your testimony that this scar would be visible to anyone
11 who saw under your shirt?

12 A. Correct.

13 Q. And is it your testimony that, if you showed underneath your shirt to
14 any of these six (6) children, at least one of them would have noticed it?

15 A. Yes, ma'am.

16 Q. Okay. We've heard people testify regarding your love of children and
17 how you care for them and all that?

18 A. Yes, ma'am.

19 Q. Is that true?

20 A. Yes, ma'am.

21 Q. Okay. Would it surprise you to learn that some of your co-workers
22 referred to you using homophobic or racial language?

23 MR. HENRY: Objection, Your Honor.

24 THE COURT: Approach just a minute.

25 (Whereupon, a bench conference was had with all attorneys

MS. RONASHA TAYLOR - CROSS by MS. MILES
present.)

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(Off-The-Record Comments)

THE COURT: I don't want to hear anything out of the courtroom.

If I hear anything out of the spectators, they're going to have to leave the
courtroom.

Q. (By Ms. Miles) Ms. Taylor, would you ever make racial or homophobic
comments about the children to your co-workers?

MR. HENRY: Objection.

THE COURT: Counsel, approach just a minute.

(Whereupon, a bench conference was had with all attorneys
present.)

THE COURT: Mr. Foreman, ladies and gentlemen of the jury
panel, I instruct you to disregard a question, the last question by the Assistant
Attorney General. Disregard that question all -- all together; not give it any
consideration whatsoever.

And -- and -- and ask the court reporter to strike that from the record.

All right. Proceed.

MS. MILES: Yes, sir, Your Honor.

Q. (By Ms. Miles) Would you ever make any negative remarks about any
children at the daycare?

A. No, sir -- I mean, no, ma'am. Sorry.

Q. Okay. Ms. Taylor, let's talk about your employment, okay?

A. Okay.

Q. When you applied to work at Kids "R" Kids, you mentioned that you --
you put on your application that you worked at your mother's in-home daycare from

MS. RONASHA TAYLOR - CROSS by MS. MILES
2001 to 2004?

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A. Yes, ma'am. I helped my mom. It's was more volunteer work.

Q. Okay. But you listed the amount of money that you got paid, correct?

A. I did.

Q. And the dates of employment?

A. I did.

Q. Okay. And — and you didn't mention that as one of the places that
you worked on your direct, correct?

A. Ma'am?

Q. When you testified on direct, you didn't mentioned that as one of the
places that you worked?

A. No, ma'am, because it was more volunteer. And it was my mom's
place, so...

Q. Okay. Well, did you get paid that you listed on your application?

A. She bought me things. She gave me money when she could.

Q. Okay. Did you make about eight twenty five (\$8.25) an hour?

A. Yes, ma'am.

Q. Or six-fifty (\$6.50) an hour? But she no longer has an in-home
daycare?

A. No, ma'am, she don't.

Q. Okay. Do you know why?

A. Say it again. I'm sorry.

Q. Do you know why?

MR. HENRY: Objection to relevance, Your Honor.

MS. MILES: I'm asking about her pervious employment.

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1 **THE COURT:** All right. You can confine it to that, her previous
2 employment.

3 **MS. MILES:** Okay.

4 **THE COURT:** What her employment was.

5 **Q.** (By Ms. Miles) So you worked there from 2001 to 2004, correct?

6 **A.** Yes, ma'am.

7 **Q.** Okay. And after that you mentioned working at Klassy Kids from 2004
8 to 2006?

9 **A.** Yes, ma'am.

10 **Q.** Okay. What age group did you teach there?

11 **A.** I was in the three-year old classroom and the two-year old classroom,
12 after-schoolers, the K-4.

13 **Q.** Okay. Did you move around good bit there too?

14 **A.** Yes, ma'am, I did.

15 **Q.** Okay. And what about next? You went to Palmetto Prep; is that
16 correct?

17 **A.** Yes, ma'am.

18 **Q.** For eight (8) months?

19 **A.** Yes, ma'am.

20 **Q.** Okay. In 2007?

21 **A.** Yes, ma'am.

22 **Q.** Okay. And what age did you teach there?

23 **A.** It was called infant 3. They were one (1).

24 **Q.** Okay.

25 **A.** And I also taught two-year olds.

MS. RONASHA TAYLOR - CROSS by MS. MILES

- 1 Q. Okay. So infants and two-year olds?
- 2 A. Yes, ma'am.
- 3 Q. Okay. And what about next? Where did you go?
- 4 A. The Goddard School.
- 5 Q. The Goddard School in 2008?
- 6 A. Yes, ma'am.
- 7 Q. Okay. What about Small World?
- 8 A. I can't remember the year.
- 9 Q. Okay. You didn't put that on your application?
- 10 A. Of where?
- 11 Q. For Kids "R" Kids?
- 12 A. No because the director there, which was Donna at the time, she ---
- 13 when I came in for my interview we talked about Small World.
- 14 Q. Okay. And you also didn't mention in your job application for Kids "R"
- 15 Kids that you worked at Kiddie Academy in 2008, correct?
- 16 A. We talked about that as well.
- 17 Q. We talked about what?
- 18 A. Me and Donna about Kiddie Academy as well.
- 19 Q. But you didn't put it on your application?
- 20 A. No, ma'am.
- 21 Q. Okay. You were fired from Kiddie Academy, correct?
- 22 A. Yes, ma'am, I was.
- 23 Q. Okay. And that was prior to going to Kids "R" Kids?
- 24 A. Yes, ma'am.
- 25 Q. Okay. Also on the application you mentioned that three and half to

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fours were you're preferred age; is that correct?

A. Yes, ma'am.

Q. Okay. You testified that you were fired from Kids "R" Kids in October of 2010?

A. Yes, ma'am.

Q. Was that approximately the weekend of the 16th - 17th of October?

A. Yes, ma'am, it was.

Q. Okay. And then you went and applied to work at another daycare, Park Place, correct?

A. Yes, ma'am, I did.

Q. And you began to work there?

A. Yes, ma'am.

Q. Okay. Is it fair to say you wanted to continue to working with children?

A. Yes, ma'am.

Q. Okay.

MS. MILES: I beg the court's indulgence.

(Brief Pause)

MS. MILES: May we approach briefly, Your Honor?

THE COURT: You may.

(Whereupon, a bench conference was had with all attorneys

present.)

Q. (By Ms. Miles) Ms. Taylor, just briefly. You talked about on direct that you did not have a criminal record, correct?

A. Correct.

Q. A couple of speeding tickets?

MS. RONASHA TAYLOR - REDIRECT by MR. HENRY**Page 1181**

1 **A.** Yes, ma'am.

2 **Q.** Okay. Were you found guilty in October of — of 2009 for operating a
3 vehicle which was not licenced or registered?

4 **A.** I don't remember that.

5 **Q.** Okay. But that's not a speeding ticket, correct?

6 **A.** No, ma'am, it's not.

7 **Q.** Okay.

8 **MS. MILES:** The State has nothing further, Your Honor.

9 **MR. HENRY:** Just a couple of things.

10 **REDIRECT EXAMINATION by MR. HENRY:**

11:12 A.M.

11 **Q.** Ronasha, when you were terminated at the Kiddie Academy, was that
12 for abusing children?

13 **A.** No, sir, it wasn't.

14 **Q.** Was it for engaging in any kind of sexual activity with children?

15 **A.** No, sir, it wasn't.

16 **Q.** And did you fully disclose, in your — your meeting with the Kids "R"
17 Kids director at that time, what your prior work history was?

18 **A.** Yes, sir.

19 **Q.** Okay. When you were checking on the kids who were fooling around
20 in the bathroom, where would you situate yourself?

21 **A.** Usually I had the bathroom door open and I would go in and check on
22 them and come back out. But usually the bathroom door was open and I was sitting
23 at a table.

24 **Q.** The same table you mentioned earlier?

25 **A.** Yes, sir.

MS. RONASHA TAYLOR - RECROSS by MS. MILES

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1 MR. HENRY: That's all. Thank you.

2 RECROSS EXAMINATION BY MS. MILES:

11:13 A.M.

3 Q. It wasn't -- was it the protocol to have the bathroom doors open while
4 the children used the restrooms?

5 A. If the child was in the bathroom, then, I -- I would watch the child. I
6 mean, I wouldn't want a child playing in the bathroom.

7 Q. Okay.

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

9 MR. HENRY: Nothing further, Your Honor.

10 THE COURT: Thank you, ma'am. You may stand down.

11 (Witness complied with the Court's request.)

12 (Brief Pause)

13 MR. HENRY: That's the case for the Defense, Your Honor.

14 THE COURT: You going to have reply testimony or not?

15 MS. HALL: We do, Your Honor.

16 THE COURT: Thank you. All right. Let's take a short break and,
17 then, we'll get into that.

18 Mr. Foreman, ladies and gentlemen of the jury panel, let's take a short
19 recess at this time. You may refresh yourself. This will be short break.
20 Thank you.

21 (The jury exited the courtroom at 11:14 p.m.)

22 THE COURT: All right. I'm going to give you the opportunity to
23 put the motion on the record. You say you want put a motion on the record?

24 MR. HENRY: Thanks, Judge. I'd just make a motion for a
25 mistrial right quick.

MS. TABITHA WEBER - DIRECT by MS. HALL

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1 **MS. MILES:** No, sir, Your Honor. And I apologize to the Court
2 and Mr. Henry again.

3 **THE COURT:** All right. All right. Let's — let's take a quick break.
4 We'll just take a very short break and come back. And we'll take whatever
5 reply testimony you've got before we break for lunch.

6 **(Whereupon, a recess was taken from 11:19 a.m. till 11:29 a.m.)**

7 **(Off-The-Record Comments)**

8 **THE COURT:** All right. Please, bring the jury in, sir, if we're
9 ready.

10 **(The jury was summoned and entered the courtroom at 11:30**
11 **a.m.)**

12 **THE COURT:** All right. Counsel, ready to proceed?

13 **MS. HALL:** We are, Your Honor. The State calls Tabitha
14 Weber.

15 **(The witness stepped forward.)**

16 **THE COURT:** Ma'am, you were — you were previously sworn.
17 You continue to be sworn and under oath. She previously testified, Madam
18 Clerk.

19 **THE WITNESS:** Thank you, sir.

20 **(The witness returned to the witness stand.)**

21 **DIRECT EXAMINATION by MS. HALL:**

11: 31 A.M.

22 **Q.** Ms. Weber, would you just briefly refresh us on where you work and
23 what you do?

24 **A.** I work at the Children's Advocacy Center in Spartanburg. I'm a
25 forensic evaluator and the clinical director. I do child abuse assessments when

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there's been an allegation of sex — sexual abuse, physical abuse, or witness to a violent crime.

Q. And on what dates did you conduct forensic interviews with Child 6 Davis?

A. That was on January 26th and February 2nd of 2011.

Q. What was unusual about Child 6 second forensic interview?

A. Child 6 began talking about a bruise on Ms. Ro. And I didn't understand what he was talking about, and so I asked him to draw it for me. It was while he was looking at the outline drawing of Ms. Ro.

And he drew — he looked for a dark brown crayon and drew a mark under her left breast and said that, that was a bruise.

Q. In your opinion, is it unusual that Child 6 might mention a bruise that the other two children you interviewed did not mention?

A. No, not really. It could be a factor with Child 6 ADHD that, that caught his attention. I — children, just like you have adults that may witness a crime and, when they witness a crime, they don't remember every detail, even when they know they're witnessing a crime, whether it be a robbery or trying to make sure they remember the color, make, and model, tag number of a car.

The children undergoing abuse would not be sitting there thinking, "I need to make sure I remember every detail of this because maybe in a year or two adults are going to be asking me questions about it."

So some kids may, you know, recall something like that; some kids may not. I would think children being exposed to a grown woman lifting her shirt the way the children have disclosed —

MR. HENRY: I'm going to object, Judge.

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1 **THE COURT:** And I'm going to sustain the objection, Counsel.

2 **Q.** (By Ms. Hall) All right. Why is it you think that some children may not
3 mention a marking and others may?

4 **MR. HENRY:** Objection.

5 **(Brief Pause)**

6 **THE COURT:** I will hear the answer. Go ahead.

7 **A.** Some children may not have seen it. Some children may have only
8 focused on the breasts instead of the mark. Who knows if they could see the mark
9 or not.

10 **Q.** Were you or the other forensic interviewer in this case, that you are
11 aware of, were either of you screening for birthmarks or bruises?

12 **A.** No, we were not. We were screening for inappropriate touches,
13 whether someone had touched them inappropriately or if somebody had wanted
14 them to touch them inappropriately. We were not screening for birthmarks, tattoos,
15 anything like that.

16 **Q.** Okay. And you mentioned that Child 6 was — you said he was fixated
17 on what he called a bruise?

18 **A.** Yes, yes.

19 **Q.** And what did you have him do?

20 **A.** I had him draw it so I would understand. I wasn't clear what he was
21 talking about. So I asked him if he could draw it for me to show me what he was
22 talking about. And — and he did.

23 **Q.** All right.

24 **(Whereupon, State's Exhibit Number 40 was marked for**
25 **identification.)**

MS. TABITHA WEBER - DIRECT by MS. HALL

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1 MS. HALL: Permission to approach.

2 THE COURT: All right.

3 (Exhibit shown to the witness.)

4 Q. Ms. Weber, I'm showing you what has been previously marked as --
5 for identification purposes as State's Exhibit 40. Would you take a look at that for
6 me?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Do you recognize that?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. What is it?

11 A. This is the -- the gingerbread drawing of Ms. Ro that we did to help --
12 initially we did this drawing to understand what terms he uses for different parts of
13 the body after he had made a disclosure.

14 Q. Okay.

15 A. And, then, I did the dots here (indicating). When I did the outline of
16 the gingerbread ----

17 Q. Don't publish it to the jury just yet.

18 A. I'm sorry.

19 Q. That 's okay. You can talk about it.

20 A. I did dots for the breasts and asked, "What name do you use to call
21 that part of the body?" And he took the crayon from me and said, "No, they're bigger
22 than that." And he drew the bigger circles and colored them in.

23 And, then, when he was telling me about the bruise, he used this
24 picture to show me. And he got a -- a brown crayon and drew to show me under
25 the left breast where there is what he called a bruise.

MS. TABITHA WEBER - CROSS by MR. HENRY

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Q. And is that a fair and accurate representation of what Child 6 drew on February 2nd, 2011?

A. Yes.

MS. HALL: State requests permission to enter State's Exhibit 40 into evidence.

MR. HENRY: No objection, Judge.

THE COURT: Admitted without objection.

(Whereupon, State's Exhibit Number 40 was admitted into evidence without objection.)

MS. HALL: Request permission to publish to the jury.

THE COURT: You may publish, yes, ma'am.

(Whereupon, State's Exhibit 40 was published to the jury.)

Q. Ms. Weber, what is it about this drawing that is particularly unusual to you?

A. That he drew the bruise on there under the left breast; that he — he recalled that and noticed it.

Q. And is this bruise under the left breast in the same place the Defendant herself testified that she had a birthmark under the left breast?

A. Yes.

MS. HALL: No further questions. Please answer any questions Mr. Henry may have for you.

MR. HENRY: Just a couple.

CROSS EXAMINATION by MR. HENRY:

11:38 A.M.

Q. But you didn't testify about this when you testified earlier, did you?

A. Well, that was on the video. It was — it was done in the video. And

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the video was published. I wasn't asked about it.

Q. Okay. So you weren't asked and you didn't mention it?

A. Right, right.

Q. Okay. Now did — did Child 6 determine the size of the breasts?

A. Yes.

Q. I mean, he was — he determined the size of this drawing ----

A. Yes, he drew that too, yes.

Q. Okay. I got you. So — and — and the bellybutton would be right here .

(indicating); is that right?

A. I did that part.

Q. Okay. You did the bellybutton?

A. Yes.

Q. And you put dots for the breasts?

A. Yes.

Q. And he colored in the bigger size of the breasts?

A. Yes.

Q. And he put the mark here with a brown crayon?

A. Yes, he did.

Q. Okay. All right.

(Brief Pause)

Q. And right after he — he told you about the bruise, did he also say the
bruise was inside her body?

A. No, I don't believe he did.

Q. Okay.

A. I would have to refer to the video in its entirety ----

MS. TABITHA WEBER - CROSS by MR. HENRY

1 **Q.** Sure.

2 **A.** — so...

3 **Q.** Sure. And — and, then, after that did he said something about, "She
4 never done it?"

5 **A.** No, I don't recall that.

6 **MR. HENRY:** Okay. Thanks.

7 **MS. HALL:** No further questions.

8 **THE COURT:** Thank you, ma'am. You may stand down.

9 **(Witness complied with the Court's request.)**

10 **MS. HALL:** No other witnesses, Your Honor.

11 **(Brief Pause)**

12 **THE COURT:** All right. Mr. Foreman, ladies and gentlemen of —
13 of the jury panel, this concludes all the taking of testimony and evidence in
14 the case.

15 We have yet remaining final arguments of Counsel and my instruction
16 to you with regard to the law that applies to the issues in this case.

17 It's by the courtroom clock — it's almost twenty (20) minutes til 12:00.
18 And so what I want to do is go ahead and send you to an early lunch. And
19 we'll have arguments and charge directly after lunch when we come back
20 from lunch.

21 And so I'm going to ask you — there are couple of matters I need to
22 take up with Counsel. And, so, I'm going to ask you to be back in the jury
23 room at one o'clock (1:00), at one o'clock (1:00).

24 And it's — again, it's about twenty (20) minutes till 12:00, so, that's
25 about an hour and twenty (20) minutes. So, please, have a lunch and be

1 back in the jury room ready to go at one o'clock (1:00). Thank you.

2 (The jury exited the courtroom at 11:39 a.m.)

3 THE COURT: All right. I'll hear you with regard to any motions
4 you might wish to make at this time from either side.

5 MR. HENRY: No, sir. You already dealt with the motion for —
6 for a directed verdict that I made.

7 THE COURT: All right, sir. If there's nothing further, then, I
8 wanted to give you a little time if you needed it to prepare for your final
9 arguments. And so we'll recess and we'll get started right back at one o'clock
10 (1:00).

11 If you have any questions or anything, I'll be around and available. But
12 we'll start at one o'clock (1:00) with final arguments.

13 MR. HENRY: Thanks, Judge.

14 THE COURT: Let me ask you when we get started — I'll go
15 ahead and ask you now. Are you going to require the State to open on the
16 law?

17 MR. HENRY: No, sir. I've already told them I would not.

18 THE COURT: All right. Good. All right. We know where we are
19 now. Thank you.

20 MS. MILES: Thank you.

21 (Whereupon, a lunch recess was taken from 11:40 a.m. until 1:00
22 p.m.)

23 THE COURT: Please keep your seats. Thank you. All right. Is
24 Counsel ready to proceed?

25 MR. HENRY: Yes, sir.

1 **THE COURT:** All right. Please bring the jury in, sir.

2 **(Jury is summoned and returned to the courtroom at 1:01 p.m.)**

3 **THE COURT:** Good afternoon, Mr. Foreman, ladies and
4 gentlemen of the jury panel. I hope you enjoyed your lunch. We are to that
5 part of the trial where Counsel will make their final arguments to you. I ask
6 that you listen attentively now as counsel address you in final arguments.

7 **MR. HENRY:** May it please the Court, Your Honor?

8 **THE COURT:** Yes, sir.

9 **CLOSING ARGUMENTS 1:01 P.M.**

10 **MR. HENRY:** I'm just going to remind you I'm Steven Henry. I
11 represent Ronasha Taylor. It's been my privilege and — and honor to
12 represent Ronasha. And — and now I'll talk to you a little bit about the trial,
13 the facts, the evidence and leave it to you to decide.

14 Real trials like this are -- are herky-jerky. I guess you've gotten that.
15 You've been in and out for seven (7) days with evidence.

16 These particular cases are difficult because there are so many videos.
17 You have to stop and get it set up. And the Judge has to rule on all the
18 issues. Don't hold that against either side; that's just the way trials go.

19 We're not like an *Law and Order* episode where you get to start and
20 finish in an hour or an half an hour and you're done. These are different.

21 This is even more different than other cases because you have,
22 depending on how you look at it, eight (8) cases based on the eight (8)
23 charges or six (6) cases, based — based on the six (6) children; six children
24 to decide. So you have separate cases. And you've got a lot of evidence to
25 look at.

Closing Arguments - Mr. Henry

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1 And I think the Judge will charge you that you're supposed to take
2 each of these cases individually and weigh it on — on their own individual
3 merits. He's also going to charge in the case about reasonable doubt, which
4 I'm going to talk to you about a little bit at the beginning.

5 If you have a reasonable doubt, as to any individual charge, that
6 should lead to a not guilty verdict.

7 Proof beyond a reasonable doubt is the State's burden. And what
8 that means is you have to be firmly convinced of her guilt on any particular
9 charge before you can return that verdict. If you hesitate, or feel like you
10 hesitated to act to make a vote on that particular charge, that's a reasonable
11 doubt.

12 But, if you're firmly convinced of her guilt beyond a reasonable doubt,
13 that's what you should find on the charges.

14 I should also tell you that there's not a different standard of reasonable
15 doubt or burden of proof. Her cases is involving children as victims. As
16 much as we --- our — our heart goes out to these few kids, this — this is a
17 criminal case with criminal penalties and the standard of proof and the
18 burden of proof are the same as it would be for an armed robbery.

19 One of the questions that I would ask you — there are several to
20 consider — is look at this from both sides, of course. What would you expect
21 to see in the evidence if she did it? What would you be — what would you
22 expect to see if she did not do it? And follow that.

23 We're not sure from the evidence from when this even happened.
24 According to the SLED agent, we're not even sure what year it happened.
25 That may be a reasonable doubt.

Closing Arguments - Mr. Henry**Page 1196**

1 How would this have happened given the cameras, the amount of
2 people coming in and out and all of these glass walls? You can see three
3 rooms over. How many times did it happened? Who saw it?

4 Why wasn't even one teacher, of all these teachers you've heard
5 testify, told by any child? Why was there nothing on the Watch Me Grow
6 camera show any incident even suggesting that this happened?

7 Is it really conceivable that, now that you've seen these six (6) children,
8 many of whom are what I would call chatter boxes, that they wouldn't have
9 told somebody about these usual events?

10 Did the forensic interviewers ask leading questions? They insist that
11 they did not. You — you watched and you decide: Was the testimony in
12 those interviews the product of leading questions? I submit that it was but
13 you — you make that judgement.

14 Does what the children said in their testimony conflict with what they
15 said in the forensic interviews? They're going to talk about — the State's
16 going to talk about the delayed and — and partial disclosure in reporting. I
17 want you to consider disclosures or reporting that is inconsistent.

18 It's one thing to say this happened over here; I'm adding to this as we
19 go. It's another thing to say this happened over here, but it didn't happen
20 when I talk again. That's not delayed disclosure or partial disclosure; that's
21 inconsistent disclosure.

22 Did Ronasha Taylor become a pedophile on her sixth daycare job?
23 Why didn't any child, who claimed to have seen my client's bare body from
24 her neck to the bellybutton, see the scar?

25 Did the forensic interviewers ever give any of these children a chance

Closing Arguments - Mr. Henry**Page 1197**

1 to say that it didn't happen? There were many opportunities.

2 Let's talk about the individual cases. With respect to Child 3 there are
3 two charges here; criminal sexual conduct and lewd act. At first she testified
4 on the stand that nothing happened at Kids "R" Kids.

5 Then, when she was in the t.v. room, she testified right off the bat,
6 "She touched my body parts." If you remember the forensic interviewers
7 gave us a warning about that kind of language.

8 Normally kids talk in terms of peepee and coochie and all of that. Is
9 "touched my body parts" the kind of language that a child would use?

10 The charge of criminal sexual conduct in this case has to do with —
11 with the use of her tongue. Consider this: She didn't know if Ronasha was
12 sitting or standing.

13 She said her pants were at her waist. She never saw her bellybutton.
14 She did not see her skin below the waist, didn't know what it felt like. And
15 there was no mention of any of that tongue to coochie in all three of her
16 forensic interviews. And, of course, there's no medical evidence.

17 I submit to you that the criminal sexual conduct charge with respect to
18 Child 3 should be easy to see. There's just no evidence this occurred.

19 With respect to the lewd act charge involving Child 3 no disclosure at
20 all in the first and third interview, none. In the second interview, she said that
21 she and Child 2 pinched Ronasha's boobies.

22 But, in her testimony, there's no mention of pinching boobies. She
23 said she touched them, but no pinching; part of what I was saying before
24 about the inconsistency of the statements. No mention of the scar. No
25 mention of the birthmark.

Closing Arguments - Mr. Henry**Page 1198**

1 And, until Child 1 made her complaint and the parents talked, there was
2 no claim by Child 3 at all. And nothing on Watch Me Grow.

3 Child 4 criminal sexual conduct. Said he touched Ronasha's boobies,
4 vagina and butt with his hands and his tongue. No mentioned of the vagina
5 or butt in his two forensic interviews. No medical evidence. Does not know
6 what it felt like to lick her vagina.

7 Now this is kind of nasty stuff, but if she had pubic hair, he would've
8 said, "I felt hair." He didn't say that. The details are important. Details are
9 critical.

10 Go back and watch and listen to the --- and remember the testimony
11 about the clothing.

12 The clothing part of this is, there's nothing there about clothing. The
13 important part about Child 4 testimony, he says it happened when she sat
14 him on a chair, did not — did not know how it felt when she sat on top of him.

15 Assuming this is one of the chairs that we saw in — in the video, these
16 children's chairs, and a two hundred (200) pound woman sat on a little boy,
17 he would remember that. Try to figure that out on how it could've happened
18 the way he said that she was sitting there. It couldn't.

19 On the — the lewd act, he testified that he saw her skin. He saw her
20 skin from neck to waist standing in front of him and while seated.

21 Now the State will say you can't see the scar while — while she's
22 sitting, but that's just conjecture. He said the light was on. You can go back
23 and check your notes on that. No mentioned of the birthmark. No mentioned
24 of the scar.

25 We know that, if Child 4 had complained to his mom or dad, they would

1 have taken the laptop right into the director and confirmed it.

2 When Bridget scratched him, that's exactly what happened. And

3 Bridget was fired. Not in this case.

4 On the lewd act charge involving Child 5 the thing he said most was
5 he smelled her feet, at least three times. The lights were on.

6 When asked, "Did -- did Ronasha touch you anywhere," the answer
7 was "No, but she wanted me to smell her feet." "Did she do stuff to you?"
8 "No."

9 Did not know what happened to her shirt. "I will show you what
10 Ronasha did." "She wanted me to smell her feet."

11 In his testimony, he said he was standing by the door, if you remember
12 that. He too said he saw her skin from boobies to bellybutton; not her scar.
13 Not her birthmark.

14 Child 6 two forensic interviews. "Has anybody touched you or wanted
15 to touch you?" "No." "What kinds of things did Ronasha want you to do that
16 you didn't want to do?"

17 When that question was asked I think we all thought this was going to
18 be something sexual. Instead it was, "color and circle time." But that was the
19 wrong answer for the interviewer so she kept on.

20 Then she asked again and he said, "She makes us take naps." That
21 too was the wrong answer. "She makes us go the gym." Wrong answer.

22 Then she started leading with the picture. "What do you call those on
23 Ro?" "Boobies." And then we're off to the races.

24 "She showed us, just showed it to us." "She took it off." Wrong
25 answer. "Did she take it off or pull it off?" He'd already said, "took it off" but

Closing Arguments - Mr. Henry**Page 1200**

1 that wasn't the right answer. So she went to the multiple choice question.

2 Not leading according to the forensic interviewer, who called that a focus
3 question. I call it a leading.

4 The other kids were playing when it happened so apparently it was not
5 at nap time. "Were there other things that she wanted you to do?" And he
6 shook his head.

7 "She showed her boobs to all his friends at circle time." That would
8 have been a good place to — to say, "Did this really happen?" He said that
9 twice. But he didn't touch her anywhere.

10 She tried to get him to say that he used her mouth — his mouth for
11 some kind of — or her mouth for some kind of sexual activity. His answer
12 was, "She used her mouth for eating." And, then, we have the — the bruise
13 comment, which I'm sure you're going to spend some time on.

14 If you go back to your notes — and I hope you have it — have it down
15 --- what he said about the bruise was that she had bruises inside her body.
16 Now I asked that of the forensic interviewer and she denied that. And you —
17 you determine that for yourself. What does that mean?

18 Right after that he said, "She never done it." In his testimony he too
19 used the phrase, "touched my private parts" right off the bat; adult language.
20 Where does that come from.

21 And where does it come from when he said, "She's going to jail"?
22 Certainly that was not his concept. They used pictures of naked people on
23 the board and who knows how many times they've seen that board before
24 and they testified.

25 He said he squeezed Child 5 peepee and made him cry, but

1 apparently Child 5 has — must have forgotten that incident.

2 Because we knew about the — the quote "bruise comment" in the
3 forensic interview — because I knew about that, I was very careful with this
4 testimony on Child 6 about what he saw on her skin from boobies to
5 bellybutton. And we used the board to show that. No marks seen.

6 He never has mentioned anything about the scar. But, when he had
7 the chance to testify about that, he said nothing about even — even the
8 bruise.

9 In Child 2 case, in the first and second interviews, no disclosures. The
10 third she said that she licked and touched Ronasha's hips, which they
11 interpret as breasts, although you can't tell what that identification was
12 because it was off camera.

13 When she testified she called breasts ribs and says that Ronasha was
14 sitting on a toilet, but mentions no licking at all. Another clear difference from
15 what she said in the forensic interviews.

16 She said she told her mom and dad what happened, which cannot be
17 correct. She said when — when it happened she told them. But didn't know
18 what it felt like and knew nothing about Ronasha's clothing.

19 And, then, she said nobody touched her. And no mention of scars or
20 marks. If she had touched Ronasha in those places, just like the other
21 children, she would had to have seen the scar and hadn't.

22 In Child 1 case, she too said she saw Ronasha's skin from just below
23 her neck to her waist. No scar and no birth — birthmark mentioned.

24 Although it's not tremendously important, she did point to her tummy and her
25 waist in the forensic interview, although they — the argument is going to be

1 that, that meant breasts. Nothing happened there.

2 The mom waited a couple of days when she found out. Apparently,
3 when she woke up, Child 1 told her mom this. And, then, she sent her back to
4 school for several days including the field trip with Ronasha.

5 The sexualized behavior was not mentioned until after these
6 allegations were made. I submit to you that the forensic interviews led this
7 case, not the parents. These are nice people; there's no question about it.
8 But, once they got to the forensic interviews, they all went in that direction.

9 Donna Wilson almost fell into that same situation, but she decided that
10 — that her — her child had not been abused and didn't want to be involved
11 with that and took a different route. She also confirmed that kids do discover
12 themselves at a young age.

13 The evidence is just not there. Proof beyond a reasonable doubt is a
14 very high standard the Judge will explain to you in detail. Is there evidence in
15 these cases that makes you hesitate to act? If there is, not guilty is the only
16 verdict. The birth mark. The scar. Ronasha's family. Her character.

17 In fact, her character was unchallenged. Her good character is
18 unchallenged. And I — I believe the Judge will give you instruction of this
19 case that a Defendant's good character by itself is enough for you to return a
20 verdict of not guilty when you consider all the evidence in the case.

21 They tried to impeach but they never quite accomplished that. If you --
22 if you remember they asked her a question about another charge that she
23 had, which she did not, but they didn't produce any evidence of that. I don't
24 know what that was all about.

25 In addition, I want you to consider how Ronasha acted. Did she act

Closing Arguments - Mr. Henry**Page 1203**

1 like a guilty person? Did she go into the DSS and ask for a lawyer or to the
2 sheriff's office and ask for a lawyer? Or did she cooperate fully and answer
3 all the questions? I don't know who would do that besides an innocent
4 person these days.

5 If you think something happened; that's not enough. You must return
6 a verdict of not guilty. If the evidence is there. then. you return the verdict.

7 At least two witnesses in this case said this was impossible, but for
8 different reasons.

9 Ronasha's sister Consundra knows her extremely well. If you
10 remember, she had difficulty answering the hypothetical, "What if she did,
11 would you be disappointed?" She couldn't get her mind around that because
12 she knows the character of her sister. And she couldn't answer the question.

13 The other person who said it's impossible was Donna — Donna
14 Wilson. And Donna is a long time parent of Kids "R" Kids.

15 She knows the system there. She knows the security there. She
16 knows the monitors and Watch Me Grow, the glass walls.

17 Either of those reasons, character or the set up at Kids "R" Kids, leads
18 to that conclusion that she's not guilty.

19 In addition to that, it's really impossible not to see the scar. And the — and
20 the pictures were introduced. You can even see the scar in the picture of the
21 bruise.

22 How you can miss the scar here, if you're a child, if you're a curious
23 child, as all of these are, if you're smart child, as all these kids are, how can
24 you miss that scar if you saw her skin?

25 Ronasha doesn't not have to prove that this was impossible. She only

Closing Argument - Ms. Miles**Page 1204**

1 has to create a reasonable doubt as to whether it can be proven. The State
2 has to prove, beyond a reasonable doubt, that each and every one of these
3 eight (8) cases occurred to your satisfaction.

4 And I know you will deliberate carefully and look at the evidence. If
5 you're stuck on the picture of the so-called bruise, be sure you double check
6 the testimony as to what Child 6 actually said.

7 And remember that he denied seeing it after he was asked on the
8 stand. But, if --- if he did see a big bruise, that's not it. It doesn't match the
9 actual bruise.

10 And, if he did, what does that mean about the other five children?
11 They did not testify at any point; forensic interview, the testimony in t.v. room,
12 testimony on the stand, that they saw either the bruise or the scar.

13 Without the scar and the bruise, this would be a very difficult case for
14 her to defend. We don't know when it happened. She can't present alibi
15 evidence for an eighteen-month period.

16 Ironically, fortunately, she had surgery when she was seven years old.
17 And that's your reasonable doubt. Thank you very much.

18 **(Mr. Henry's closing argument concluded at 1:21 p.m.)**

19 **MS. MILES:** Beg the court's indulgence for technology.

20 **(Brief pause while ELMO is turned on.)**

21 **MS. MILES:** May it please the Court?

22 **THE COURT:** Yes, ma'am.

23 **MS. MILES:** Mr. Henry, members of the jury? A wolf in sheep's
24 clothing, that's what this case is about; a wolf in sheep's clothing.

25 We stand before you today representing the State of South Carolina,

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the Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office, the South Carolina Law Enforcement
Division, and on behalf of the children who come before you in this case:

Child 1 Child 2 Child 3 Child 4 Child 5

Salazar, and Child 6 not only the victims of the crime, but most
importantly in the search for justice. We thank you for your time and your
patience throughout the duration of this lengthy trial.

I took a minute and listened carefully to Mr. Henry's argument to all of
you a minute ago. And I took from it one central thing: That the voice of a
child means nothing or so he would have you to believe.

But that's not the law in the State of South Carolina nor will it ever be.
In South Carolina, specific statute 16-3-657 provides that "The testimony of
the victim need not be corroborated in prosecution."

The voice of a child does matter. Child 1 voice matters. Child 2 voice
matters. Child 3 voice matters. Child 4 voice matters. Child 5 voice
matters. And Child 6 voice matters.

In this case you've heard the testimony of Child 1 age five (5), one of
the victims of this crime, who described to you what happened to her at the
hands of the Defendant. What she saw. What she felt. And what she
experienced.

You also heard from Child 2 and Child 3 and Child 4 and Child 5 and
Child 6. You heard from each child as they described what happened to
them.

In legal terms that's what we call direct evidence; not circumstantial
evidence, but direct evidence from someone who was there. Someone who
witnessed the crime and someone who has first hand knowledge.

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1 We know what kind of crime was committed here. And for some a
2 crime of this nature seems unthinkable. But I submit it happens all the time in
3 cities and counties all over the state. And it effects all walks of life.

4 There's no mold, no standard for sex offenders. Sex offenders don't
5 wear labels to let you know who they are. They've been teachers, priests,
6 leaders in the community, all sorts of people who appear normal on the
7 outside, but hold within them something dangerous and something
8 devastating to children.

9 In reality sexual abuse is a secret crime. It's a crime of silence and of
10 shame. It's a secret kept by both the victims and the perpetrator.

11 The perpetrator keeps this secret by blending in, disguising their true
12 selves, hiding parts of themselves. Wolves in sheep's clothing.

13 In reviewing this case, I ask you to consider a number -- a number of
14 points. Most significantly the testimony of the victims and their families.

(Brief Pause)

15
16 **MS. MILES:** Let's take a look at the State's case, the credibility
17 of the State's witnesses. You are the judges of credibility. The Judge I
18 expect will charge you on credibility; how as the jury you are the sole judges
19 of the facts, the sole judges of credibility.

20 Credibility means believability. Can I believe this witness? Is this
21 witness creditable? And you can take into account appearance, manner,
22 demeanor.

23 Did the witness have an interest in the outcome of this trial? Was the
24 witness forthright or hesitant? Was the witness' testimony consistent or did it
25 contain discrepancies?

1 What was the ability of the witness to know about the facts concerning
2 which she or he gave testimony? Did the witness have cause or reason to be
3 biased or prejudiced in the favor of the testimony that he or she just gave?

4 Was the testimony of the witness corroborated or made stronger by
5 other testimony and evidence? Or was it made weaker and impeached by
6 other testimony and evidence?

7 Let's take a look at the State's witnesses. You heard from Zhling and
8 Kevin Spicer. You heard from them about the sheep that they believed
9 Ronasha Taylor to be; the sheep they dropped their daughter off with every
10 morning, that they personally requested to be the teacher of their child that
11 they learned the truth about one night in October of 2010 when their four —
12 almost four-year old daughter, Child 1 couldn't sleep.

13 You heard how Child 1 told her mother about Ronasha Taylor that night.
14 And you heard how she told her mother and father the same story again the
15 next day.

16 You heard from her mother Zhling and the assistant director, Anita, at
17 the daycare. You heard how Child 1 was made to confront the wolf, confront
18 Ronasha. And, when she did, did her story change once the director, Sally,
19 questioned her in front of Ronasha? No.

20 You heard from Zhling and Anita that Child 1 allegations remained
21 consistent even when questioned in front of the Defendant herself.

22 During her testimony, the Defendant acknowledged this disclosure
23 made by Child 1 in her own presence -- Child 1 You also saw Child 1 forensic
24 interview.

25 After she had first told her mother about what happened, she went to

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1 Children's Advocate Center. You saw Child 1 tell the forensic interviewer
2 about having to lick Ms. Ronasha's tummy, which she demonstrated was the
3 breast area.

4 She told the Advocacy Center about how this happened while she was
5 in the bathroom at Kids "R" Kids daycare. You heard from Child 1 herself
6 when she testified.

7 The wolf that woke Child 1 from nap time called her into the bathroom
8 and got her to lick her tummy. You heard from Child 1 again where that
9 tummy was, where Child 1 identified the tummy as the breast area.

10 You also heard Child 1 testify that she saw another child, Child 2
11 She saw Child 2 go into the bathroom with Ronasha Taylor after her. This is
12 the same information that Child 1 told her forensic interviewer and that she
13 also told her mother in the beginning.

14 The same information that Zhling Spicer told Child 2 mother, Demie,
15 about. But Child 2 mother didn't think much of it.

16 She didn't know Zhling Spicer. She'd only seen her at the daycare.
17 She had never had a conversation with her. And you heard from Demie on
18 the stand that she thought the whole thing was odd.

19 See, the Garcias, they also knew Ronasha Taylor as the sheep. The
20 sheep that was with their child Child 2 in the evenings when they arrived to
21 pick her up.

22 The sheep that referred to Child 2 as her best student and said she
23 never had any problems with her. But you heard how all that changed once
24 Demie asked her four -year old daughter, Child 2 about having to lick
25 Ronasha Taylor's body.

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1 You heard from Demie about how her daughter, Child 2 told her what
2 had happened with the wolf that Child 2 knew in the bathroom. You heard
3 from Demie about how she thought it was bazaar. How she worked in HR
4 and she didn't want to rush to judgement because she knew how these types
5 of allegations could damage someone's life especially if they weren't true.

6 You also heard from Demie how she spoke with Child 2 again to try to
7 get her to explain what happened, to try and make sense of it all. You heard
8 from Demie how Child 2 tried to grab her -- her mother's breast at that time,
9 when asked where she had to lick. And when Demie told her "No, we don't
10 do that," show me using your own body, where Child 2 touched her hands to
11 her own bare breast.

12 You heard Mr. Henry ask Demie about there being no symptoms of
13 sexual abuse until after talking to Ms. Spicer and after talking to Child 2 You
14 heard Demie's answer: How, after learning of the abuse, looking back, things
15 did stand out. Things did make sense.

16 You heard how months before Child 2 had been in the bathroom
17 pinching her nipples. When asked who taught her that, who did she
18 respond? Ronasha Taylor.

19 You heard from Demie and Anderson about how Child 2 behaviors
20 have changed; how she didn't want to take naps. How she was clingy. How
21 she would pinch her own nipples and her brother's nipples.

22 You heard how Child 2 would touch herself and make panting noises.
23 You heard how, on the third forensic interview visit, after being questioned
24 about Ronasha, how she tried to grab her mother's breast and said, "That's
25 what Ronasha wanted."

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1 You heard from the forensic interviewer how startled Demie was after
2 coming out of the bathroom. You also heard from Mrs. Laurie, another
3 teacher at Kids "R" Kids. She sent a note home regarding Child 2 putting her
4 hands down her pants at nap time.

5 Who else did you hear from about Child 2 herself. You
6 watched as Child 2 had her forensic interviews. You saw how she avoided
7 questions about Kids "R" Kids, questions about Ronasha.

8 You heard her talk about secrets. How she had to touch and witness
9 Ronasha's kiss. These hips are what four-year old Child 2 identified as the
10 breast area.

11 You also heard from Child 2 herself when she testified. She testified
12 regarding the Ronasha Taylor she knew; the wolf behind the sheep's clothing.

13 You heard again about the sheep, the sheep that -- that the Steins
14 knew. The sheep that they thought was a great teacher. The sheep they
15 were happy who spent one on one time with their four-year old daughter
16 Child 3

17 You heard from Lynette how she learned of what was going on at the
18 daycare from Demie, who she didn't know very well and she only knew as
19 Child 2 mom. And the two of them had talked because the girls were friends
20 at school and wanted to see Disney on Ice.

21 You heard from Lynette how she thought it was very strange. How she
22 didn't know what to do. You heard from Lynette how she questioned Child 3
23 How Child 3 began acting unusual, how she avoided eye contact.

24 You heard how Lynette took some time and, then, spoke to Child 3
25 again asking her what happened. And then you heard how Child 3 attempted

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1 to reach inside her mother's shirt and bra to show her mom what had
2 happened to her.

3 When her mother stopped her, Child 3 then pulled up her own dress
4 and demonstrated on her breast a rubbing circle around the nipple part of
5 breast and then a pinching of the nipple.

6 You heard from the Steins and from Anita, the assist director at the
7 daycare, about a meeting between all of them; the Steins, Child 3 and Sally.
8 You heard the Steins and Anita testify that Child 3 made a disclosure of
9 abuse during that meeting at the daycare. And that it was consistent with
10 what she had previously told her mother.

11 You heard from both of Child 3 parents about how they noticed some
12 different behavior in Child 3 By being their first child, they didn't know what
13 to make of it.

14 You heard from them how looking back, several things stuck out. You
15 heard how Child 3 would pinch her father's nipples. How she would touch
16 herself, in a sexual way, and how she would act out sexually with others.

17 You also saw and heard in Child 3 forensic interviews her talking
18 about Ronasha loving them and Ronasha kissing them. She talked about
19 how she had to pinch Ms. Ronasha's boobies, that her and Child 2 both had
20 to.

21 You also heard from Child 3 when she testified. She testified that
22 Ronasha touched her body. Child 3 also testified to having to touch
23 Ronasha's body.

24 You also heard from Ivonne and Diego, Child 4 parents. Ivonne knew
25 Ronasha Taylor. She knew the sheep as well. The sheep that she and her

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1 husband both testified seemed nice.

2 Ivonne testified that she didn't originally think Child 4 was involved; that
3 it wasn't until she asked her son a second time about things, when she asked
4 him if he had to touch someone else, that he had made a disclosure.

5 You heard how Child 4 was asked about his allegations while at a
6 meeting at the daycare. You heard from Denise, the assistant at the daycare
7 who was present for that meeting, that his disclosure was consistent with
8 what he had -- he had told his mother.

9 You also heard his mother talk about the disclosure Child 4 made to the
10 doctor; that it was consistent, but he added more details. You also heard
11 from Ivonne how she would watch the cameras that we heard so much about
12 throughout this trial. How she would look for Child 4 at nap time. How it was
13 hard to see, but if you knew what blanket your child had, then, you could
14 probably find them.

15 She testified that at times she wasn't able to find Child 4 at nap time.
16 You heard how Child 4 began wetting his pants at school, but not at home.
17 How he suddenly was afraid of the dark. How he was afraid to go into the
18 bathroom by himself.

19 You also heard that Child 4 began having tantrums, began
20 disrespecting female teachers. You also heard of unusual sexual behavior.
21 How he tried to lay on top of his mother. How he tried to kiss her on the
22 mouth and how he tried to grab her breasts.

23 You also heard from Ms. Laurie about how Child 4 never wanted to go
24 with Ms. Ronasha, how he would cry and beg not to go with her.

25 You also saw Child 4 forensic interview where he told of the Ronasha

1 Taylor that he knew. You saw him tell how he had to pinch and lick Ronasha
2 Taylor's boobies, which is what he described as the breast area. He also
3 described these were brown.

4 He also heard — or you also heard him say that Ronasha climbed on
5 top of him in a chair and faced him. You also heard from Child 4 when he
6 testified.

7 You heard him say that he had to touch Ronasha's private part, how
8 he had to use his hands and his tongue. You saw him draw, when asked,
9 "Where was her shirt pulled?" You saw him draw up above the breasts.

10 When asked where her underpants and underwear were, where did he
11 draw? After thinking, he drew below the knees.

12 You also heard him testify about Ronasha sitting on top of him facing
13 him with one leg on each side. The same thing he had said during the
14 forensic interviews.

15 You heard him testify that's when she pulled her shirt up. He did
16 testify being able to see her skin then as well as seeing her skin when her
17 underwear was down.

18 You then heard from Child 5 Salazar's parents about the Ronasha
19 Taylor that they knew, the sheep who they thought was nice and cared for
20 their child.

21 You heard how Child 2 dad called Jose after Child 2 disclosure
22 because he was concerned because their children were friends; they were in
23 class together. He was concerned other children may have been involved.

24 You heard how Jose and Andrea thought there was no way anything
25 could have happened to their child. They thought this because he was

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1 always in law enforcement and the mother was in healthcare.

2 You heard how Child 5 had already left the daycare because his
3 baby — when his baby brother was born back in September before these
4 allegations came out.

5 You've heard how they sort of blew off Mr. Garcia about the
6 allegations. They didn't think their son was involved.

7 You, then, heard about how they learned about the wolf that their child
8 knew. You heard how Andrea was breastfeeding her newborn baby, over
9 Christmas break, when her son Child 5 began asking her questions.

10 He began asking her curious questions when he was four years old.
11 And ultimately described -- disclosed the sexual abuse that he had been
12 subjected to.

13 And you heard about Child 5 behaviors, how he began chewing his
14 nails. How he began making thrusting movements with his hands beneath his
15 body on his private parts, thrusting his hips against things.

16 You heard how he gets over excited about naked bodies. How he
17 wants to see his mom naked, how he touches his private parts.

18 You heard from Ms. Laurie also about how he didn't want to go with
19 Ms. Ronasha, how he would pitch fits and try not to go.

20 You also saw Child 5 forensic interview. You saw him tell about
21 how he had pinched Ms. Ronasha's boobies. You saw him say that Ms.
22 Ronasha touched his peepee and butt, how it was dark, how it was disgusting
23 and how he didn't want to talk about it.

24 You also heard Child 5 mention his friend Child 6 who he referred to
25 as being in the bathroom with him and Ms. Ronasha. You also heard from

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1 Child 5 himself when he testified.

2 He testified to having to touch Ronasha's body, having to touch her
3 boobies that were brown and felt squishy like gummy bears, as Child 5
4 described.

5 You also heard Child 5 testify about juice. He testified that juice is
6 what comes out of his penis or his peepee as he refers to it. It comes out of
7 his peepee when you push it with your fingers a bunch of times.

8 He testified that juice is different from pee. That it's clear and that
9 Ronasha Taylor is the one who taught him about it.

10 You heard from Pam, Child 6 mom, about the Ronasha Taylor that
11 she knew, the sheep that she believed took a special interest in her son. The
12 sheep that always spoke to Child 6 The sheep Pam thought was the excited
13 to be around kids.

14 You then heard Pam tell about how she learned of the wolf. How law
15 enforcement called her to let her know that one of the victims had also
16 named her son, Child 6 being present in the bathroom with him and
17 Ronasha.

18 You heard Pam testify that had she previously asked Child 6 about the
19 Defendant around Christmas, after she saw the news, but he had kept his
20 head down and shook it when she tried to bring it up.

21 You heard her testify what she did once she did learn of the
22 allegations from law enforcement. She was too upset to even speak with
23 Child 6 about it.

24 She did take him to the CAC for a forensic interview. And you heard
25 her testify that it wasn't until January of 2012 that Child 6 finally opened up to

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her about what happened to him.

You heard Pam testify to Child 6 outburst. How his tantrums had gotten worse. How he got to hate nap, would no longer nap, and how he had to be moved from daycare to daycare because of his behavioral problems.

Child 6 you also saw Child 6 forensic interview where he talked about Ronasha touching his privates while his pants were down. You also heard Child 6 talk in his forensic interview about what he referred to as bruises on Ronasha's skin. You saw where he colored on the gingerbread man her boobies and her bruises.

(Brief Pause)

MS. MILES: You also heard from Child 6 himself when he testified. You heard Child 6 testify to seeing Ronasha's breasts and private area. You saw him talk about how Ronasha wanted to touch his body, his private parts, the adult words that Mr. Henry referred to. But Child 6 later referred to it as his peepee.

He also testified to Ronasha making him squeeze his friend, Johnny's, peepee part and making him cry. And how he didn't like that. He testified about the wolf that he knew, the wolf his friends knew.

You heard from Bobby Seepersaud of OHAN about his interview with the Defendant. What did she say to him about the four children that had made allegations up to this point? That she had to clean Child 1 once because Child 1 was playing in the bathroom and singing.

That she had to clean Child 2 once because the child didn't know how to clean herself. That she had to wipe Child 3 once. That she had to monitor Child 4 once because his zipper was stuck.

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1 Each child involved in this case, the Defendant claimed to Bobby
2 Seepersaud that she had only assisted once.

3 You also heard from each of those children's parents that those
4 children didn't play in the bathroom nor did they need assistance in the
5 bathroom. They'd all been potty trained for about two years.

6 You also heard from Laurie who taught Child 3 Child 2 Child 4 and
7 Child 5 How many times did Laurie, their primary teacher, have to help
8 them? Once? No, never.

9 She also watched Child 1 and Child 6 at nap time, Laurie did. How
10 many times did those children require Laurie's assistance when she watched
11 them at nap time? Never.

12 What did the Defense ask you to believe in this case? Probably that
13 Ronasha Taylor is --- is innocent. That there's an alternative explanation.
14 And what is that alternative explanation?

15 Did the children make it up? The children encouraged other children?
16 We have six four-year old children at the time who all disclosed similar but
17 not identical things. Did they conspire together?

18 The four-year olds all disclosed seeing, touching, or licking Ronasha
19 Taylor's breast area. Some called that "tummy" or "hips" or "boobies."
20 Others testified to having to touch or lick her private part, which some called
21 her peepee or coochie or chee chee.

22 If a child was repeating what they heard from a friend, would they use
23 the same words? What motive did the children have?

24 What about the parents, did the parents make it up? Did the parents
25 encourage the other parents? We have in this case six sets of parents of

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1 children at the daycare. Not six sets — six sets of friends. Not even six sets
2 of acquaintances; six sets of parents of different races, different
3 backgrounds, different occupations.

4 Before these allegations, these parents knew each other as Child 1
5 mom or Child 5 dad. Did Child 1 mom speak to Child 2 mom about her
6 daughter's allegations? Yes. And she testified it was because her daughter
7 named Child 2 and she thought her mother needed to know.

8 How did the — Diego Bermudez learn of the allegations? From Child 4
9 Who did the Salazars learn about the allegations from? Child 5 And who
10 did Pam Davis learn from? She learned from law enforcement because her
11 child had been named by another.

12 The Steins, they heard from their daughter Child 3 Child 2 mom,
13 although she first heard from Ms. Spicer, questioned Child 2 herself. Who did
14 she learn the allegations from? Her daughter.

15 Mr. Henry would also have you to believe that the forensic interviewer
16 asked leading question so the information that they elicited couldn't possibly
17 be accurate. He would have you to believe that the forensic interviewers
18 drove this bus.

19 The videos show what questions were asked. The videos show what
20 information was elicited. The information showed — or the videos show what
21 information the kids gave.

22 You saw the kids disclose to the forensic interviews — interviewers a
23 lot of what they disclosed to their parents, a lot of what they disclosed at the
24 daycare during the meetings when asked, and a lot of what they testified to at
25 trial.

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1 If the forensic interviewers drove this bus, why did the children make
2 the allegations to their parents originally? The kids were at the forensic
3 interview, I submit, because they had already made previous disclosures of
4 abuse.

5
6 **(Brief Pause)**

7 **MS. MILES:** We'll talk about credibility again. Credibility is also
8 something you pay attention to when looking at what other witnesses put
9 forth, the Defense's witnesses. The things to consider again, credibility,
10 believability.

11 Can I believe this witness? Was the witness credible? Did the witness
12 have an interest in the outcome? Was the witness forthright or hesitant?
13 Was the witness' testimony consistent or did it contain discrepancies?

14 What was the ability of the witness to know about the facts concerning
15 the testimony he or she gave? Did the witness have cause or reason to be
16 biased or prejudiced in favor of the testimony they were giving?

17 Was the test -- testimony of the witness corroborated or made
18 stronger by the evidence or testimony or made weaker or impeached by the
19 evidence or testimony presented?

20 Let take a look at who the Defense witnesses were. We had family,
21 friends, an ex-husband, members of a church, all who testified that they
22 believe Ronasha to be a good person.

23 All who were never present in the daycare with Ronasha, never
24 present with the children in this case. All who were never in the bathroom at
25 Kids "R" Kids.

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1 All of them received all their information in this case from Ronasha
2 Taylor. Some of those testified that their opinions of her wouldn't even
3 change if they found out these allegations were true.

4 They all believe Ronasha to be a good person, a great teacher, and a
5 person who really truly loved kids.

6 Look at all parents in this case who testified what they believed before
7 they learn what happened to their children; that they all thought the same
8 things until the sheep in wolf's clothing [sic] was exposed to them.

9 Ms. Burns, who used to work at the daycare, testified. And what did
10 she say? That Ronasha went to her church and was nice to her when she
11 trained her.

12 What else did she say? That Ronasha trained her regarding the
13 cameras at Kids "R" Kids. That they all were aware of what areas the
14 cameras did and did not cover.

15 You did hear from one parent with a child at the daycare, Donna
16 Wilson. She testified that her daughter Brianna had been in Ronasha's class.
17 You heard her admit to calling Child 4 mother inquiring as to what his exact
18 allegations were and asking who she should contact.

19 You heard her admit to calling Bobby from OHAN, not because she's
20 concerned, but because she was curious. You also heard her say that she
21 called Sargent Bobo, Detective Burrell, and that she also took her daughter to
22 the pediatrician because she was curious, not concerned.

23 She also testified that she didn't take her daughter in for a forensic
24 interview although she was aware that, that's how they assess children for
25 child abuse.

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1 She testified that, upon learning of the abuse allegations, she believed
2 it to be a SpongeBob SquarePants that taught these three --- these six three-
3 and four-year old children these sexual things.

4 She also testified regarding her daughter who began touching herself
5 at the age of two and half (2 ½), how she — she researched this because she
6 became concerned. How the research indicated it was normal. Yet she also
7 admitted on the stand it was also a symptom of sexual abuse.

8 You heard from the Defendant herself. She testified to knowing each
9 of the children in this case, to watching over each of these children at the
10 daycare during nap time.

11 She testified that she only taught Child 1 and Child 6 but she knew the
12 other children; had taught them before. She testified that she was very
13 familiar with all these children.

14 She testified that she denied the abuse to law enforcement, how many
15 suspects deny allegations when questioned by law enforcement?

16 She also testified that she knew about Watch Me Grow. That she
17 could watch from the monitors up front. She also could watch from the log in
18 password that Donna Wilson gave her so she could watch her children on
19 line.

20 She also testified that she worked in the 4-K class from August until
21 October of 2010, yet also testified telling Bobby Seepersaud that she was
22 working in the infant room during that time period.

23 She testified that she recalled Child 3 Child 2 and Child 1 making
24 identical allegations. Yet she admitted on the stand that they weren't really
25 identical, that each child referred to her breast area, but called it by their own

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1 name; "tummy," "hips," "boobies."

2 The allegations weren't identical, but her explanation was she testified
3 to helping Child 3 one time. Helping Child 2 one time. And cleaning Child 1 one
4 time when Child 1 was playing and singing in the bathroom.

5 She testified to not knowing Child 4 came forward at that period of time
6 she talked to Bobby. Yet she talked to Bobby about Child 4 that she also had
7 to assist him one time.

8 When asked on the stand about wether she assisted each of these
9 children in the bathroom once, her answered varied. Maybe it was once,
10 maybe it was more than once.

11 Her story was consistent when she prepared for her meeting with
12 Bobby. I submit yet, when she took the stand, her story changed. Changes
13 that benefit her.

14 The truth doesn't change. Who has a motive to change stories? Who
15 has a motive to lie?

16 Ronasha Taylor testified to Child 1 not wanting to nap, she wanted to
17 read a book instead. Then later in her testimony testified that she had to stop
18 Child 1 from playing in the bathroom on one occasion.

19 She also testified that she had to monitor Child 1 in the bathroom
20 because of these behaviors. The behaviors that she testified occurred once.
21 Yet she kept the door open to monitor Child 1 in the bathroom.

22 She testified about Child 6 throwing tantrums. Child 6 slapping her in
23 the face while she was on her knees. Were oh no reports sent? No.

24 She also testified to the glass walls. How at the back of the classroom
25 there are these glass walls and how you can see through to all of the other

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classrooms.

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And where are these glass walls located? At the back of the classroom. And where are the bathrooms located? At the front of the classroom.

What can you not see through all these glass walls? You can see probably three — three or so classrooms, but not one single bathroom.

You heard the Defendant testify to being present when Child 1 made an allegation of abuse; that Child 1 made that disclosure even after being confronted in front of Ronasha, the same allegations that her mother Zhling and Anita both testified to.

You heard her testify about her responsibilities in monitoring the bathroom, how she was supposed to make sure tampons weren't flushed in the staff bathroom.

She testified that, although the notice didn't say anything about monitoring the children in the bathroom, she had to make sure that the children weren't taking pacifiers, paper towels, and toys into the bathroom and flushing them.

She also testified as to the different places she worked on direct exam. However she left out working at her mother's daycare for four years. She also left out working at Kiddie Academy on her application for Kids "R" Kids, left out the fact that she was fired.

The information mentioned on her application was the information that was beneficial to her at the time I submit. The information she mentioned on her direct examination I submit was the same; was also beneficial for her at the time.

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1 She also didn't mention applying and starting to work at a new daycare
2 after she was fired at Kids "R" Kids because of these allegations. Applying
3 and starting to work at this daycare because, as she testified, she wanted to
4 still be around children.

5 What else has the Defense focused on throughout this trial? The
6 children. The children waiting to come forward. The children waiting to
7 disclose. How could they -- how could they have not told someone?

8 But you've heard from three of the State's experts regarding delayed
9 disclosure and tentative disclosures. You've heard how these are present in
10 over ninety percent (90%) of child sexual abuse cases, especially when the
11 perpetrator is someone close to the child.

12 You've heard throughout the testimony of this trial how the children
13 seem to love the Defendant. You've also heard from the State's experts
14 about how different children have different emotions when it comes to a
15 perpetrator. How the perpetrator may at other times do fun activities with
16 them or treat them well at other times; how they may still love and care for the
17 perpetrator.

18 You've heard it harped on throughout this trial that there's no physical
19 evidence; it's a normal medical exam. But one of the State's experts, Dr.
20 Henderson, told us about medical — medical evidence in child sexual abuse
21 exam — in sexual abuse cases; that, in her experience, physical findings are
22 present in three to five percent (5%) of cases involving a female child. And
23 less than three percent (3%) of cases involving a male child.

24 These three (3%) and five percent (5%) of cases include cases of
25 digital penetration, cunnilingus, fellatio, and intercourse.

1 She testified to the healing nature of the body. And that many acts of
2 sexual abuse never cause any trauma, never cause any signs of physical
3 findings.

4 And what did she say about cases where a child has alleged that they
5 had to touch the body of another person? That she would not expect to find
6 physical findings.

7 What did she say about cases where cunnilingus was alleged to have
8 been performed by the perpetrator on the child or by the child on the
9 perpetrator? That, in her expert opinion, she would usually expect to find no
10 physical findings.

11 When asked if a normal medical exam without physical findings could
12 rule out or confirm sexual abuse, she testified that no, a normal medical
13 exam wouldn't rule out abuse.

14 She also testified about what factors she looked at; whether there had
15 been a delay in time, where there's other trauma in the first place. And she
16 told you about how she looked at the big picture, including what behaviors of
17 the child had been reported, and what the child said during their medical
18 interview; the voice of a child.

19 There's been a lot of focus on clear walls and camera monitors. But
20 where are the clear walls? They're in the back of the classroom. What were
21 the walls across from the bathroom? Solid wood walls.

22 What were the bathroom walls? Solid walls. What were the bathroom
23 doors? Solid wood doors.

24 And the cameras, the cameras did cover a large portion of the
25 classroom, but what portion of the room did the cameras not cover? The only

Closing Argument - Ms. Miles**Page 1226**

1 place that the children allege the abuse took place, the bathroom; behind the
2 solid walls, behind the solid doors.

3 The Defense has also focused on a scar on the Defendant's stomach
4 and a birthmark. You've seen a picture of the scar. It's a scar from when she
5 was fifteen (15) months old that they later reopened at the age of seven (7).
6 A scar that you can see in this picture (exhibit shown to the jury) where she's
7 taking it laying down.

8 Her mother testified it was taken with a very good camera in very good
9 light. If standing, would the height of a four-year old have been high enough
10 to see the scar?

11 Many of these children testified that the Defendant was sitting down on
12 a stool, chair, or toilet in a darkened bathroom. Would this scar be visible
13 while sitting up or would the stomach possibly fold over preventing it from
14 being seen?

15 Would a person be able to see it? Would a child, who is unfamiliar
16 with a person's body of a different race, notice different marks on her body?
17 Would a child be able to see the scar in the bathroom with the lights off?
18 Would they be focusing on other parts of the body that they may also be
19 unfamiliar with instead?

20 And the birthmark, that dark purplish-brown birthmark, the Defense
21 has pointed out that nobody can miss that birthmark. Let's look at the picture
22 of the birthmark.

23 **(Ms. Miles retrieves exhibit and shows it to the jury.)**

24 **MS. MILES:** This picture was taken on the left side of her body.
25 The — the birthmark is very visible. If you take a look at the picture directly

Closing Argument - Ms. Miles**Page 1227**

1 facing, you can see the birth mark is not as visible in this picture.

2 If the Defendant had her arms up at her sides lifting her shirt, as many
3 as the kids testified, would you be able to see the birthmark? But the
4 Defense would have you believe that surely the kids saw it.

5 Well, at least one of them did. Remember Child 6 forensic interview?
6 He talked about bruises on Ms. Ronasha. Does the child know a difference
7 between a bruise and a birthmark?

8 On his gingerbread man what did he draw? He drew two breasts and
9 a mark. And where was the mark? Under her left breast. So I guess the
10 Defense was right about that.

11 The Defendant testified that, if she lifted her shirt in front of six
12 children, that at least one of them would have seen her birthmark. And at
13 least kid — one kid did notice it.

14 What is your role in this case? Your role is to follow the law and to
15 apply the facts of this case to the law.

16 The offenses charged in this case are six counts of lewd act upon a
17 child, committing or attempting a lewd act upon a child under sixteen (16).
18 The statute reads, "It is unlawful for a person over the age of fourteen (14) to
19 willfully and lewdly commit or attempt to com — commit or attempt to commit
20 a lewd or lascivious act upon or with the body or its parts of a child under the
21 age of sixteen (16), with the intent of arousing, appealing to, or gratifying the
22 lust or passion or sexual desires of the person or the child."

23 The Defendant is also charged with two counts of criminal sexual
24 conduct with a minor. Criminal sexual conduct with a minor first degree
25 reads: "A person is guilty of criminal sexual conduct with a minor in the first

Closing Argument - Ms. Miles**Page 1228**

1 degree if the actor (phonetic) engages in sexual battery with a victim who is
2 less than eleven (11) years of age."

3 And what is a sexual battery? A sexual battery can be any number of
4 things. It could mean sexual intercourse, cunnilingus, fellatio, anal
5 intercourse, or any intrusion however slight of any part of a person's body or
6 of any object into the genital or anal openings of another person's body,
7 except when such intrusion is accomplished for medically recognized
8 treatment or for diagnostic purposes.

9 In — in a little while, I expect the Judge will instruct you further on both
10 of these charges, but essentially a lewd act is fondling or when a person over
11 the age of fourteen (14) touches the body of a child under the age of sixteen
12 (16) in an improper way.

13 That improper touching can be under the clothed or unclothed part of
14 the child's body by the perpetrator or on the clothed or unclothed part of the
15 perpetrator's body and touched by the child, if this act was committed with the
16 intent of arousing, appealing to, or gratifying the lust, passions, of — or sexual
17 desires of the perpetrator or the child.

18 I expect the Judge will also instruct you further on the criminal sexual
19 conduct charge, but it is when a actor engages in a sexual battery. One of
20 the things in sexual battery is cunnilingus.

21 Cunnilingus is what would be most applicable in this case.

22 Cunnilingus is placing the mouth on the female genital area. This can be
23 done by the perpetrator on the victim or by the victim on the perpetrator.

24 Indictment 2012-GS-42-2625 is for lewd act on a child for the victim

25 Child 1 What did Child 1 testify to? She testified to having to lick

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Ronasha Taylor's tummy, which she designated as the breast area. She testified that she had to lick it under her clothes.

2012-GS-42-2624, lewd act with victim Child 2 What did Child 2 testify to? She testified to Ronasha Taylor making her touch her ribs, which she identified as the breast area. The brown circle shape ribs. She had to touch them with her hands and her fingers.

She also testified to having to touch Ronasha Taylor's peepee, which is what she called the vaginal area. She testified that she had to touch her peepee and her bottom with one finger. When asked what finger, it was her pointer finger.

2012-GS-42-2626, that is an indictment for lewd act upon a child for the victim Child 3 Child 3 testified to having to touch Ronasha's body, that she had to Ronasha's butt with her hands. How she had to touch Ronasha's boobies that were round and brown with her hands.

Child 3 also testified to Ronasha touching her body. How Ronasha Taylor touched Child 3 coochie with one finger.

The next indictment is for lewd act upon a child with Child 4 You heard from Child 4 when he testified, that he had to touch Ms. Ronasha's chee chee, her private part, which is what he refers to as the vagina area.

You heard him testify that he had to use his hands to touch her chee chee. You also heard — heard him testify to touching her boobies, which he describes as brown circles, and to touching her butt with his hand and his tongue.

The next indictment is for lewd act upon a child involving Child 5 Salazar. Child 5 testified to having to touch Ronasha's boobies. He also

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1 testified that they were squishy like gummy bears and brown.

2 The next lewd act indictment is for Child 6 testified
3 to Ronasha touching his breast area, his boobies, squeezing his peepee and
4 to touching his butt.

5 The criminal sexual conduct indictments, Child 4 testified
6 that he had to perform cunnilingus on Ronasha's private part, that he had to
7 use his tongue to touch her chee chee, which is his word for vagina.

8 Child 3 also testified to criminal sexual conduct. She testified
9 also to cunnilingus; that she had to use her tongue to touch Ronasha Taylor's
10 coochie.

11 Something else that I expect the Judge will tell you more about is
12 reasonable doubt. Reasonable doubt is not any doubt, it's not one hundred
13 percent (100%) certainty. It's not an absolute.

14 If after listening to all the testimony and evidence in this case, you are
15 firmly convinced that there is no other reasonable explanation for these
16 events, then, you return a verdict of guilty.

17 As jurors you decide which crimes will and will not be tolerated. You
18 have before you the most noble of opportunities; the opportunity to seek
19 justice.

20 You have to listen to the evidence, weigh the credibility of the State's
21 witnesses and the Defense witnesses. After you go back to the jury room, I
22 ask that you take a look back over everything; over everything you've seen
23 and heard during this case. And I ask you to deliberate.

24 I submit to you that, once you do that, you'll be able to look pass the
25 sheep's clothing and see the wolf inside. And you'll return the verdict against

Jury Charge

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Ronasha Taylor of guilty on all counts. Thank you.

JURY CHARGE**2:06 P.M.**

THE COURT: All right. Mr. Bailiff, close the courtroom door.

Allow no one in or out during my charge on the law.

Mr. Foreman, ladies and gentlemen of the jury panel, you've heard the final arguments of Counsel. It's now — now time for me to charge you; that is, to instruct you as to the law that applies to the issues in this case.

In this case, the State charges — and it's going to be submitted to you — eight (8) charges. Two (2) counts of criminal sexual conduct and six (6) counts of lewd act on a child under the age of sixteen (16).

To these eight (8) charges, the Defendant has pled not guilty, which then places upon the State the burden of proving the Defendant guilty of each of these charges. And you'll be asked to make a separate finding as to each of these charges in your deliberations. But they have to prove each charge beyond a reasonable doubt.

A person charged with committing a criminal sexual offense in South Carolina is never required to prove himself or herself innocent. I charge you that it is a vital and important Rule of law that any Defendant in a criminal trial, no matter how great or serious maybe the offense for which he or she is charged, must always be presumed innocent until his or her guilt has been proved beyond a reasonable doubt.

This presumption of innocence remains with the Defendant at all times throughout the trial and it is only removed when and if the State has proved guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. So it's your solemn duty, ladies and gentlemen, if not clearly convinced of guilty beyond every reasonable doubt

Jury Charge**Page 1233**

1 Mr. Foreman, ladies and gentlemen of the jury panel, there are two (2)
2 types of evidence which are generally presented during a trial; direct
3 evidence and circumstantial evidence.

4 Direct evidence is the testimony of a person who asserts or claims to
5 have actual knowledge of a fact, such as a eyewitness.

6 Circumstantial evidence is proof of a chain of facts and circumstances
7 indicating the existence of a fact. The law makes absolutely no distinction
8 between the weight or value to be given to either direct or circumstantial
9 evidence, nor is a greater degree of certainty required of circumstantial
10 evidence than of direct evidence.

11 You should weigh all the evidence in the case. After weighing all the
12 evidence, if you're not convinced of the guilt of the Defendant beyond a
13 reasonable doubt, you must find the Defendant not guilty.

14 Mr. Foreman, ladies and gentlemen of the jury panel, you have heard
15 the testimony of witnesses who have special knowledge, skill, experience,
16 training, or education in a particular field and who have given opinions as to
17 matters in which they are skilled.

18 In determining the weight to be given such opinions, you should
19 consider the qualifications and credibility of the expert witnesses and the
20 reasons given for their opinions. You are not bound by such opinions; give
21 them the weigh, if any, you deem them entitled.

22 Mr. Foreman, ladies and gentlemen of the jury panel, Section 16-3-
23 657, of the South Carolina Code, provides that the testimony of a victim in a
24 criminal sexual conduct case need not be corroborated by other testimony or
25 evidence.

Motions & Matters - Testimony Replayed
September 19, 2012

Page 1248
9:30 a.m.

(The jury resumed deliberations and requested that Child 2

Garcia's, Child 3 Stein's, Child 4 Bermudez's, and Child 6

testimony be played back.)

(Pause while IT man edited the video of Child 4 Bermudez's closed
circuit testimony.)

(Off-The-Record Comments)

(Whereupon, Court's Exhibit Number 4 through 6 were marked.)

THE COURT: All right. Let's bring them in, please, sir. We've
got the jury coming in. The jury is coming in.

(The jury entered the courtroom at 10:00)

THE COURT: All right. Mr. Foreman, ladies and gentlemen of
the jury panel, we have your note — I had your note this morning indicating
that you wanted the testimony of four of the witnesses in this case. And
we're going to do it. This is how we plan to do it.

We're going to replay I believe it is Child 2 who was in the courtroom to
testify. And we will replay for you her testimony. She testified from the stand.

And, then, I think Child 3 started out in — in the courtroom and we had
some brief testimony from her. We'll replay that for you in the courtroom.
And, then, the rest of Ashley's, along with the other two witnesses you
requested, that was done on video tape. And, so, you'll be able to see that
testimony and hear that testimony by video tape.

All of Ashley's, Child 6 and the other one, I believe Child 4 maybe, the
one that you requested. And — but what we'll do is, we'll — we're able to
provide that — access to that in the jury room.

Motions & Matters - Testimony Replayed**Page 1249**

1 So, a tech person is back there who is going to set that up while we're
2 listening. When you go back, he will show one of you — I think who will have
3 more technical experience maybe how to operate it. And, then, you can
4 operate it for yourselves.

5 And you can look at what you want to look at and back it up or go
6 forward. So, you'll be able to see that in full. If you want to just sit there and
7 listen to it, look and watch it, you'll be able to do that in full back in the jury
8 room rather than the courtroom.

9 So, that's how we're going to proceed. And — and, at this time, we're
10 going to playing back I believe it's Child 2 We'll — we'll play back her
11 testimony.

12 (Whereupon, ^{Child 2} **Garcia's testimony was played in full and the**
13 **first part of Child 3 testimony in the courtroom was replayed**
14 **for the jury.)**

15 **THE COURT:** All right. Mr. Foreman, ladies and gentlemen of
16 the jury panel, at that point, the decision was made to allow the — the child to
17 testify by remote t.v. site and, so, that is on the remote t.v.

18 That you'll have back in the jury room. So, you can finish up her
19 testimony there and get the other testimony as well. And that should be
20 ready to go for you back in the jury room.

21 There will be a tech person back there who will simply show somebody
22 how to operate it. And, then, he will leave. And, once you've done that, you
23 can look at these and listen to them.

24 All right. Please retire to the jury room and resume your deliberations.

25 **(The jury exited at 10:32 a.m.)**

1 **THE COURT:** We'll be a ease.

2 (Pause because court reporter remembered incorrectly and
3 thought the closed circuit television portion of Child 3 testimony was
4 recorded, but it had not been. So the jury was brought back to the
5 courtroom and the testimony was replayed with the court reporter's
6 recording.)

7 (Off-The-Record Comments)

8 **THE COURT:** Counsel approach just a minute.

9 (Whereupon, a bench conference was had with all attorneys
10 present.)

11 **THE COURT:** Bring them in, please, sir.

12 (The jury entered at 11:30 a.m.)

13 **THE COURT:** All right. Mr. Foreman, ladies and gentlemen of
14 the jury panel I apologize we had this long delay in trying to get — we're were
15 trying to be able to replay the testimony as it was on the remote t.v. camera,
16 but there has turned out to be problems with that and — and listening to it
17 with extraneous material on there and — and problems with it technically. So,
18 we're not able to.

19 We are going to be able to — apparently you will have Child 4
20 testimony will be available as we discussed earlier in the jury room. And
21 we're not sure about Child 6 testimony; they're looking at that one now. So,
22 they're reviewing it.

23 But Child 3 is not available by the — audio was not made of that and
24 — and — when she testified on the camera.

25 So, we're going to give you the audio back. It may not be the best in

Motions & Matters**Page 1251**

1 the world, but we're going to play her audio back for you now. I apologize for
2 the delay in getting that done.

3 Then, once we've done that, you can go back to the jury room and be
4 able to listen to and watch Child 4 testimony as it was recorded. And, then,
5 we'll see about Daniel's. We may have to bring you back out in -- in the
6 courtroom and play the audio on that. We'll see how that tape works out.

7 All right. With that, we're going to play the rest of Child 3 testimony
8 at this time.

9 **(The closed circuit testimony of Child 3 Stein's was replayed.)**

10 **THE COURT:** All right. Mr. Foreman, Ladies and gentlemen of the
11 jury panel, if you'll retire back to the jury room. We have his tape back there;
12 Child 4 tape is here.

13 Okay. The bailiff will bring you the tape back for Child 4 and you can go
14 ahead and be -- and play that as you wish.

15 **(The jury retired back to the jury room and watched the video tape**
16 **of Child 4 Bermudez's testimony.)**

17 **(Off-The-Record Comments)**

18 **THE COURT:** All right. Counsel, we'll be -- we'll be at ease
19 again. I think the tape was -- the replay was better than I thought it was
20 going to be. It's good quality, so, I'm pleased with that. Yes, sir?

21 **MR. HENRY:** I -- I'm -- I'm not sure what to say about the tape,
22 Judge. You said it was good quality. I would disagree.

23 **THE COURT:** About the -- the audio?

24 **MR. HENRY:** Yeah, the audio was pretty bad I thought.

25 **THE COURT:** Well, I mean, it wasn't perfect, but it was --

1 **MR. HENRY:** I've heard undercover drug buy tapes clearer than
2 that, but ----

3 **THE COURT:** Well, I -- I don't -- I disagree with that. I mean, I've
4 heard some that were pretty clear too. But, I mean, I could understand what
5 was being said on there.

6 It was not the best quality, and I wish it was, but I'd rather have the --
7 the video itself that was done in the interview back there, but we -- we don't
8 have that, so....

9 **MR. HENRY:** I understand that. I just -- from my perspective, I
10 heard the repetition of what the child said. I didn't hear much of what -- a
11 whole lot of what the child said, if anything --

12 **UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE:** Uh-huh (affirmative).

13 **THE COURT:** Well, I mean, you -- did somebody say something
14 in the audience? Now I'm --

15 **MR. HENRY:** I mean, you ----

16 **THE COURT:** Wait a minute. Now, I'm not going to put up with
17 that. Somebody in the audience just said something agreeing with you. But
18 I'm not going to tolerate that in the courtroom. I'm just not going to do that.

19 This is a courtroom and you can't tolerate any kind of interference of
20 what's going on in the courtroom; just can't do it. And so, if you can't control
21 your comments, emotions, you need to not come into the courtroom.

22 All right. Go ahead.

23 **MR. HENRY:** Judge, I -- I understand this is a difficult situation.
24 It is what it is, but the -- the tape was difficult to hear from my perspective.

25 **THE COURT:** Well, like I said, I don't think it's perfect, but I think

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1 I could understand it. So, in any event, that — it may have been that way the
2 first time around; I'm not — I'm not sure about that.

3 But, at any rate, it was replayed like it was. It wasn't the best quality, I
4 wish it was better quality, but I'd point out to you the jury heard it the first time
5 anyway.

6 **MR. HENRY:** That's right.

7 **THE COURT:** That was just doing a replay. And, so, for any —
8 any — for their benefit. All right. Anything else?

9 **MS. HALL:** Nothing from the State, Your Honor.

10 **THE COURT:** All right. We'll be at ease till we hear from them.
11 Thank you.

12 **MR. HENRY:** Thank you, Judge.

13 **(Court was at ease until a verdict was reached.)**

14 **(Child 6 testimony was never replayed as the jury reached a**
15 **verdict and never again made the request for his testimony to be**
16 **replayed.)**

17 **(Off-The-Record Comments)**

18 **VERDICT** **2:21 P.M.**

19 **THE COURT:** Thank you. Please, be seated.

20 **(Brief Pause)**

21 **THE COURT:** All right. For the record, we had replayed Child 4 —
22 we gave them the DVD; we were able to get that to play. The jury played
23 that.

24 Then we broke for lunch — well, I mean, they brought lunch and
25 they're eating lunch. And we understand now — we were going to replay

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1 Daniel's; he was the only one we hadn't gotten replayed, and the bailiff
2 informs me that they indicate they have a verdict.

3 **MR. HENRY:** All right, sir.

4 **THE COURT:** And so we'll not play — replay Daniel's. So let
5 me say I have no idea (clears throat) — excuse me — I have no idea what
6 the verdict is of the jury, but what I'm going to ask is that whatever the jury's
7 verdict is, that we all respect the jury's verdict. And, please, do not
8 demonstrate any emotions or — or act out in any way here in the courtroom.

9 I ask you to respect the jury's verdict. If you emotionally disagree,
10 please, save that until you're away from the courthouse.

11 And — and, please, just control your emotions here in the courtroom
12 because we can't have any outbursts or demonstrations here in the
13 courtroom from either side; however it goes from anyone.

14 So, please, again, honor the jury's verdict, whatever it might be.
15 Thank you. Please bring the jury in.

16 **(The jury was summoned and entered the courtroom at 2:22 p.m.)**

17 **THE COURT:** Mr. Foreman, have you and the jury reached a
18 unanimous verdict in these cases?

19 **MR. EARL:** Yes, Your Honor.

20 **THE COURT:** Sir, would you, please, hand the verdict forms up
21 to the bailiff, please?

22 **(The foreman complied with the Court's request.)**

23 **(Documents handed up to the Court.)**

24 **(Brief Pause)**

25 **THE COURT:** I'm going to read the jury verdicts. In case

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number 2012-GS-42-2628, the case of *The State vs. Ronasha Taylor*, "we...

— this is in regards to Child 3 — "We, the jury, find the Defendant Ronasha Taylor not guilty of criminal sexual conduct with a minor."

In case number 2012-GS-42-2631, *The State vs. Ronasha Taylor* in the case of Child 4, the jury finds, "We, the jury, find the Defendant Ronasha Taylor not guilty of criminal sexual conduct with a minor under eleven (11) years of age first degree.

In case number 2012-GS-42-2627, *The State vs. Ronasha Taylor*, "We, the jury, find the Defendant — and this is in Child 4 — "We, the jury, find the Defendant Ronasha Taylor guilty of the offense of committing or attempting a lewd act upon a child under sixteen (16)."

Case number 2012-GS-42-2624, *The State vs. Ronasha Taylor* in Child 2, "We, the jury, find the Defendant Ronasha Taylor guilty of the offense of committing or attempting a lewd act upon a child under sixteen (16).

Case number 2012-GS-42-2625, in the case of Child 1, "We, the jury, find the Defendant Ronasha Taylor guilty of the offense of committing or attempting a lewd act upon a child under sixteen (16)."

Case number 2012-GS-42-2626, *The State vs. Ronasha Taylor* in Child 3, "We, the jury, find the Defendant Ronasha Taylor guilty of the offense of committing or attempting a lewd act upon a child under sixteen (16)."

Case number 2012-GS-42-2633, *The State vs. Ronasha Taylor* in Child 6, "We, the jury, find the Defendant Ronasha Taylor guilty of the offense of committing or attempting a lewd act upon a child under sixteen

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(16)."

Case number 2012-GS-42-2634, *The State vs. Ronasha Taylor* in
Child 5 ., "We, the jury, find the Defendant Ronasha Taylor guilty of the
offense of committing or attempting a lewd act upon a child under sixteen
(16)."

Mr. Foreman, ladies and gentlemen of the jury panel, if I have
accurately recited your verdict in this — in these cases, please, indicate by
raising your right hands.

(All jurors raised their right hand.)

THE COURT: Let the record reflect — thank you. Let the record
reflect that all twelve (12) jurors have raised their right hand.

Any questions of the jury panel from the State?

MS. HALL: Nothing from the State, Your Honor.

THE COURT: From the Defense?

MR. HENRY: No, sir. You've already polled them. Thank you,
Judge.

THE COURT: All right. Thank you. Ladies and gentlemen of
the jury panel, this will complete your service on the case. It will, of course,
complete your service. And we went longer than a week.

I would normally say it completes your service for the week, but this
will complete your service.

This has been a — a — a long and tedious case that required you to
be away from your jobs and families and things for now a total of eight — this
being the eighth day. And we deeply appreciate your sacrifices you've made
to help make our justice system work.

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1 You might think that we — we don't appreciate that sacrifice, but
2 believe me, we deeply appreciate that sacrifice and understand how much
3 sacrifice you've made in helping make our justice system work.

4 I thank you for your patience and — and your willingness to serve.
5 You're free to go at this time. A check will be put in the mail for your service
6 this week. That will be put in short order.

7 Does anybody need anything to take to your employer showing that
8 you were required to be here these eight days?

9 **(Jurors raise hands in response.)**

10 **THE COURT:** All right. If you'll, please, go out into the hallway
11 by the clerk's office there, go to the clerk's desk out here and they will give
12 you something to take to your employer, those of you that need it.

13 Again, thank you very much. And you're free to go.

14 **(The jury was excused and exited the courtroom at 2:26 p.m.)**

15 **(Off-The-Record Comments)**

16 **THE COURT:** I'll hear you with regard to any motions you might
17 wish to make at this point.

18 **MR. HENRY:** Judge, I'm going to -- if I could, I have a Rule 29 --
19 reserve — reserve my motion for a new trial within the ten-day period if I
20 could.

21 I've got — there are a number of issues. I'd like to be able to collect
22 them and put them in writing.

23 **THE COURT:** All right, sir. You can do that. I want to say for the
24 record, while we're on the record, you had expressed some concern about
25 the quality of the audio of — of Child 3 I believe it was.

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1 And I just want to cite for the record the fact that, at the time that
2 testimony was taken — of course, it was just replaying the testimony — it
3 might not have been quite as good a quality as it would have been originally.
4 However, your concern was that the solicitor was repeating what the child
5 said.

6 **MR. HENRY:** Right.

7 **THE COURT:** But that was the same way the testimony was
8 taken and you expressed no objection to that at the time it was taken. So I
9 assume that you did not disagree at that time that the solicitor was accurately
10 repeating what the child said because that's the way it was done the first
11 time. I just wanted to — to point that out.

12 **MS. HALL:** And if I may respond, Your Honor. I know the
13 other is the — the quality of the audio. I don't believe any of the jury
14 members indicated that they couldn't hear the audio played.

15 **THE COURT:** Well, that's true. All right. Thank you.

16 Anyway, I just -- it -- it occurred to me I didn't say that at the -- when
17 you expressed some concern about that at the time.

18 But, of course, you made no objection whatsoever when the testimony
19 was taken originally. So I assume that you -- they accurately recited --
20 reflected what the child had said in each -- in that case.

21 All right. Thank you. Do you all have your sentencing sheets ready for
22 sentencing?

23 **MS. MILES:** We were going to ask somebody about ----

24 **MS. HALL:** If we can have just a few minutes to get them
25 ready?

Sentencing

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1 **THE COURT:** All right. Well let's — how long will that take? It
2 should be short, shouldn't it?

3 **MS. HALL:** Five (5) more minutes.

4 **MR. HENRY:** I'd — I'd like to have about fifteen (15) minutes
5 myself before sentencing.

6 **THE COURT:** All right. Well, certainly. All right. Let's do this
7 then, we'll take about — let's take about fifteen (15) minutes or so. I'll step
8 out.

9 Just let me know when the sentencing sheets are ready. And, then,
10 we'll have the Defendant up for the sentencing.

11 **MR. HENRY:** Thank you, Judge.

12 **THE COURT:** All right. Thank you. Again, I — I appreciate
13 everybody observing my request that — that you not show any emotion in the
14 courtroom. I appreciate that very much. Thank you.

15 **(The Court stepped down at 2:29 p.m.)**

16 **(Off-The-Record Comments)**

17 **SENTENCING** **2:56 P.M.**

18 **THE COURT:** Do you have the sentencing sheets ready?

19 **MS. HALL:** We do, Your Honor.

20 **THE COURT:** All right. Please bring the Defendant around.

21 **(The Defendant stepped forward with her attorney.)**

22 **(Brief Pause)**

23 **THE COURT:** Does the State wish to be heard on sentencing
24 first?

25 **MS. HALL:** Sure, Your Honor. Your Honor, you've heard all

Sentencing**Page 1260**

1 the testimony in this case. You've heard from the parents and the children
2 on the stand.

3 These children were three (3) and four (4) years old at the time of
4 these assaults. Their lives and their families' lives will never be the same.

5 At the appropriate time, their families do wish to be heard. They
6 would like to address the Court.

7 The State is requesting maximum consecutive sentences. We would
8 like fifteen (15) years to run consecutively for each victim in the
9 corresponding charge.

10 **THE COURT:** All right. I will go ahead and hear from the victims'
11 families now before I hear from you.

12 **MR. HENRY:** Thank you, Judge.

13 **(The families stepped forward to address the Court.)**

14 **THE COURT:** If you will, please, give us your name for the
15 record, sir.

16 **MR. SPICER:** Yes, sir. My name is Kevin Spicer. I'm the father
17 of Child 1

18 This case has profoundly affected my family and caused us much
19 stress. We put our trust in Ronasha Taylor with our daughter and that trust
20 was betrayed. This incident will affect my daughter for the rest of her life.

21 Ronasha Taylor has shown no remorse, no regret. And, therefore, I'm
22 asking for the maximum sentence, sir.

23 **THE COURT:** Thank you, sir.

24 **(Brief Pause)**

25 **MS. GARCIA:** Demie Garcia —

1 **THE COURT:** Yes, ma'am.

2 **MS. GARCIA:** — Child 2 mother. Your Honor, we cannot begin
3 to describe the last almost two years of our lives and even more for our
4 daughter Child 2. A roller coaster would put it mildly.

5 Upon first discovery, I was in shock. As a parent, you hear of such
6 abuse, but you never think it could happen to you and your child.

7 At the beginning, I thought the lewd acts were the worse thing that
8 could happen, but no. Over time we continue going up and down the hills of
9 the roller coaster discovering bigger hills even with worse discoveries of what
10 happened to my child; what she was asked to do and who she was asked to
11 do things with.

12 What kind of person could or would do such things to and with
13 innocent children? A very sick and disturbed person that should be removed
14 from our society and other children.

15 We would never want another child or family to go through the
16 constant pain we currently feel and may continue to endure forever,
17 especially Child 2

18 Child 2 innocence was stripped from her at age four (4) and maybe
19 earlier by Ronasha. We trusted Ronasha to protect our child. I even
20 personally handed Child 2 over to Ronasha on many occasions thinking she
21 really loved my child.

22 What a sick sense of love. A kind of love that our child never asked
23 for. To this day, Child 2 is scared of Ronasha and ashamed of what especially
24 Ronasha — of what Ronasha made her do.

25 She has nightmares at night, is scared to go to sleep without

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1 medication. We pray every day will get better for Child 2 and our family.

2 Ronasha was given an opportunity to prevent Child 2 and the other
3 children, from enduring this trial on top of what she had already put each of
4 them through.

5 We ask that you give Ronasha the maximum sentence for the crimes
6 against her and the rest of the children. Please provide the justice that each
7 of these children so deserve and have waited over two years for seeking the
8 Court. Thank you.

9 **(Brief Pause)**

10 **THE COURT:** Yes, ma'am?

11 **MS. STEIN:** Good afternoon. My name is Lynette Stein. My
12 daughter is Child 3

13 Being our only child at the time, we really didn't know what was natural
14 and what was not to expect from a four-year old. This definitely wasn't
15 natural. It wasn't expected at all.

16 If you would have asked us this time two years ago what we would
17 have asked for a sentence, we probably would have told you to throw the
18 book at her, give her life, as much as you could give her.

19 After thinking about it and going through counseling myself and with
20 my daughter, knowing everything she's gone through, I just ask for a fair
21 sentence for her, but I would also ask for some counseling for Ronasha so
22 that she can understand and learn what she's done to these children was not
23 the right thing to do. Thank you.

24 **(Off-The-Record Comments)**

25 **MS. BERMUDEZ:** Ivonne Osorno Bermudez. In the past two

Sentencing**Page 1263**

1 weeks, I saw six (6) heros that have stood up for themselves and for other
2 victims that did not come forward.

3 No kid and no parent should go through what we did. Kids should
4 spend their childhood in a playground with friends, in a classroom learning
5 the ABC's, shapes, figures, instead of "poop," "peepee," "boobs." That's not
6 fair to them.

7 Kids shouldn't spend not even a single minute thinking that they
8 cannot be safe in a classroom or in a bathroom in the dark.

9 Our lives have been marked forever. After this, everyone will go home
10 and, for my family, it is not over yet. We still have to work through Child 4
11 fears, go to the therapist, and help him overcome this abuse.

12 Your Honor, you only heard part of what Ms. Ronasha did to my son.
13 There was a lot more; a lot. I am Child 4 mom and I should teach him things.
14 Child 4 in these two years, taught us more than we could imagine.

15 He gave us a lesson in courage. He was able to speak in front of
16 strangers and told what happened to him. My son was abused. I will never
17 sit in a courtroom and say it is normal for these things to happen.

18 As a parent, I teach him what is right and what is wrong. This is not
19 only wrong but unacceptable and I know that I learned from it.

20 He was only three and a half (3 ½) years old. It's been two years, and
21 we're still struggling with this. These wounds will not heal in the near future.
22 Therefore, I'm asking, on my family's behalf, to give the maximum sentence
23 possible for the lewd act. Thank you so much.

24 **THE COURT:** Thank you, ma'am.

25 **(Brief Pause)**

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1 **MR. SALAZAR:** Your Honor, Jose Salazar, the father of Child 5

2 Disbelief, sadness, and anger are just a few words to describe what my
3 family felt since the first day my son disclosed the abuse.

4 **(Off-The-Record Comments)**

5 **(Mr. Salazar becomes emotional.)**

6 **MR. SALAZAR:** Ms. Ronasha was entrusted with safeguarding my
7 — my son. That didn't happen. She took advantage of his trust and stripped
8 away his innocence.

9 For the past — for the rest of our lives, we not only have to worry about
10 the consequences this will bring on to him in his life, we also need to worry
11 about our young son and how Child 5 plays with him or other children.
12 Because of Ms. Ronasha, our lives will never be the same.

13 I'm going to ask you to consider the pain our children have gone
14 through and will continue to endure throughout their lives. Justice describes
15 what we feel at this moment. Thank you.

16 **(Brief Pause)**

17 **MS. DAVIS:** Your Honor, as a teacher, Ms. Taylor abused a
18 position of authority and trust by performing a sick and vicious act and
19 beyond on these children.

20 These acts will have a debilitating and life-long effect on Child 6 And
21 his future friendships and relationships will all be negatively affected. So I'd
22 just like to — to tell you that I feel like the maximum sentence is not only
23 justified but necessary in this case.

24 **THE COURT:** Okay. Thank you. Please give us your name for
25 the record, ma'am.

1 **MS. DAVIS:** Pamela Davis.

2 **THE COURT:** Thank you.

3 **(Brief Pause)**

4 **THE COURT:** Anything else?

5 **MS. HALL:** Again, Your Honor, we ask — you've heard from
6 these parents. We ask you sentence her to the maximum sentence. Thank
7 you.

8 **THE COURT:** Okay. Counsel?

9 **MR. HENRY:** Thanks, Judge. I want to make a few comments.
10 I'd like to have Pastor Terry come up and make some comments after I finish
11 if that's all right.

12 **THE COURT:** Okay.

13 **MR. HENRY:** Thanks, Judge.

14 **(Off-The-Record Comments)**

15 **(Pastor Terry stepped forward.)**

16 **MR. HENRY:** A couple of things, Judge, before you pass
17 sentence. This case started out as a — there were eleven (11) indictments
18 as you know. Five of them were CSC cases.

19 All of the CSC cases have been either dismissed or found not guilty by
20 the — by the jury. I think that's relevant. She has been convicted of the six
21 (6) lewd act charges.

22 I want to tell you a couple of things that — that we wish you'd consider.
23 First of all, she had six (6) months in pre-trial detention. She had a year and
24 three (3) months in home detention with a monitor.

25 She had no bond violations, no violations of home detention. She has

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1 no prior record. She has tremendous family support. She has tremendous
2 support from her church members.

3 As a result of this -- these convictions, she will be on the central
4 registry for life. And she will not be able to work around children or be around
5 children.

6 And based on her lack of a prior record and the fact that she did so
7 well on home detention with a monitor, I'd ask you to consider that type of a
8 sentence for her.

9 She has proven that she will not be in contact with children, will not
10 work with children, has done everything that home detention has asked for
11 her to do during the entire time she was out on bond.

12 She -- she is -- as I said the only prior record we're aware of is she
13 has a couple of speeding tickets.

14 I know this is a difficult case. I really appreciate the -- the parents'
15 point of view here and the generosity of the Steins as far as their
16 recommendation. I do think that counseling would be definitely in order.

17 I don't know what would be accomplished by putting her in prison
18 considering her lack of prior record and the fact that she can be on home
19 detention without incident.

20 I would like for you to hear briefly from Pastor Terry from her church.

21 **THE COURT:** Yes, ma'am?

22 **PASTOR TERRY:** Yes, sir, Your Honor. In doing this I -- all I can
23 say is what I previously stated. I've known her all my life. And it's been an
24 tremendous experience for all of us.

25 If there is anything that you can see that we can do, in helping her with

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counseling and stuff like as was suggested, that is good, but we've known her for like twenty-some years. And we'll stand behind her based on your sentences.

I'd just ask that you considerate in doing it based on all of our knowledge that we know of her. And that 's what I would like for us to consider — like for you to consider as you do this for us, please.

THE COURT: Thank you, Pastor Terry.

MR. HENRY: Judge, I've — I've asked my client; she does not want to make a comment. She's twenty-four (24) years old. I wanted to make sure you were aware of her age.

THE COURT: Yeah — yeah, I'm — I'm aware of her age. And, you know, it's a shame at her age that she finds herself in this situation.

MR. HENRY: Yes, sir.

THE COURT: However — let me go ahead and finish these, filling these out now.

MR. HENRY: Yes, sir.

THE COURT: There are a couple of things I want to say, and — to everybody involved.

(Pause while the Court fills out sentencing sheets.)

THE COURT: First of all, let me say with regard to the sentences, they are paroleable whereas criminal sexual conduct first degree with a — with a child under eleven (11) first degree is not paroleable.

These are paroleable. I take that into consideration in — in giving these sentences. So she would have at some point some hope of making parole on these charges.

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1 I want to, again, express my appreciation for everyone controlling their
2 emotions in the courtroom. I — my belief is, when I'm presiding over
3 the courtroom, I want there to be absolute decorum in the courtroom and no
4 — and I — I appreciate everybody doing as I asked in that regard because I
5 think it's important in — in operating court for it to be operated in that kind of
6 — in that kind of environment.

7 So, I — I appreciate that. With regard to the family of Ms. Taylor,
8 you've been here, expressed support for her, a lot of family and friends,
9 church members. My heart goes out to you.

10 You have my sympathies in this case. I know it's hard for you to
11 accept what's been said and what's been done in this case. And — and you
12 may have trouble accepting it. I understand that as well.

13 And I know it's a hardship for you and a loss for you what's happening
14 in this case. And I — I — I appreciate that; I understand that. And I want you
15 to understand I understand that. Sometimes we just have to come to a — to
16 a realization of — of what is.

17 And I know you love Ronasha Taylor, the Defendant in this case. And
18 I know you — most of you have been with her all of her life and that sort of
19 thing.

20 And it's very hard for you to accept what's going on. And — and I'm —
21 I'm sorry for that, sorry you have to go through that.

22 For the victims, let me say you've been through an awful lot. The
23 children have been through an awful lot. And I think that no one who has had
24 a child go through that understands what you've gone through and what the
25 child goes through.

Sentencing

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1 I don't think anybody understands that. And I've been a judge — it'll
2 be thirty-four (34) years in January, thirteen and a half (13 ½) of those years
3 was a Probate Judge.

4 And I've had to commit people to institutions for help who were
5 sexually abused as children and never got any counseling or help. And it was
6 repressed until it all comes to pass — well, it came to pass when they were in
7 their twenties or thirties and there would be just complete self destruction of
8 that person. And they went off the deep end and just had to have a whole lot
9 of institutional help and that sort of thing.

10 When you don't get help, when you have that abuse, and it rots along
11 and it's not aware — you know, no one is aware of that abuse, and all of a
12 sudden — but it doesn't go away.

13 And eventually it comes back. It will come on — come to pass for that
14 person; that they're going to suffer a great deal and just be emotionally --
15 disintegrate at some point in time.

16 I've seen that. I've had to commit people to the state hospital, had the
17 doctors, the psychiatrists, et cetera, discuss that in the hearings on that when
18 we were doing commitment hearings for them and that sort of thing.

19 So I — and, then, I've been in Family Court where children were
20 abused and that happened and — and had situations there where you had
21 adults who had been abused and problems in a relationship later or in a
22 marriage and that sort of thing.

23 And, then, I've been to seminars and I've also listened to experts
24 testify many times in court. What happens in these kinds of cases,
25 particularly where a child does not get counseling, once they've undergone

Sentencing**Page 1270**

1 something like this, that, you know, there may be a time bomb later on that
2 goes off with regard to them often — even when they get counseling.

3 And they may go through a lot of counseling early on and less
4 counseling later. But eventually in the process, they're going to continue to
5 need — in most cases, they're going to need counseling the rest of their lives
6 because there may be times, after the initial years of counseling and — and
7 things seem to be better, there are going to be times when there are going to
8 be triggers.

9 The trigger is something that happens that causes that person to
10 revert back. And they're going to be back in that bathroom at Kids "R" Kids
11 with Ms. Taylor. They're going to be back in there with her.

12 And, during that time, a lot of these people — these — these victims,
13 there's a loss of self esteem, a loss of confidence in themselves; guilt,
14 shame, all that stuff. And that — that stuff doesn't just go away.

15 And so it will affect probably these children, to some extent or lessor
16 extent as time goes along, but it will affect them for a long period of time.
17 And maybe for the rest of their life. I don't think Ms. Taylor understands that.

18 Certainly I believe based on everything I've heard in this case and
19 knowing what I've heard, I believe she's a pedophile. I don't believe there's
20 any treatment for pedophilia that's going to prevent her from having sexual
21 fantasies with children in the future.

22 I don't believe that's going to happen. Hopefully, she would not act out
23 on those sexual fanta — fantasies.

24 But I think these are serious offenses that she has committed against
25 these children. And the jury has made its decision in this case. And they

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1 found her guilty of these particular charges.

2 There was evidence to support the other two criminal sexual conduct
3 charges, but the jury has found her not guilty on those charges. Of course, I
4 always accept what the jury decides.

5 But on the lewd act charges, they have found her guilty of each — of
6 lewd acts on each of these six (6) children. And the Court has to take that
7 into consideration and the consideration of the victims as well in this case.

8 I've taken into consideration also her age and — and the lack of
9 criminal record, but these are serious sentences — they're serious charges
10 that — that require a sentence — serious sentences in this case in my
11 opinion.

12 In case number 2012-GS-42-2633, Ronasha Taylor, having been
13 found guilty by the jury after a jury trial of lewd act — committing or attempting
14 a lewd act upon a child under sixteen (16), the sentence of the Court is she
15 be committed to the State Department of Corrections for the determinate
16 term of fifteen (15) years, given credit for any time served.

17 She's required to register as a sex offender.

18 Case number 2012-GS-46 — 42-2634, Ronasha Taylor, having been
19 found guilty of lewd act, committing or attempting a lewd act upon a child
20 under sixteen (16), the sentence of the Court she be committed to the State
21 Department of Corrections for the determinate term of fifteen (15) years.

22 The sentence is consecutive. She's to be given credit for time served.
23 Again, sex registry required.

24 Case number 2012-GS-42-2624, Ronasha Taylor, having been found
25 guilty of lewd act, committing or attempting a lewd act upon a child under

Sentencing

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1 sixteen (16), the sentence of the Court is she be committed to the State
2 Department of Corrections for the determinate term of five (5) years.

3 That sentence is consecutive; sex offender registry required.

4 In case number 2012-GS-42-2625, Ronasha Taylor, having been
5 found guilty of lewd act, committing or attempting a lewd act upon a child
6 under sixteen (16), the sentence of the Court is the same as the previous
7 sentence; that is, five (5) years to run consecutive and sex offender registry
8 required.

9 Case number 2012-GS-42-2626, Ronasha Taylor, having been found
10 guilty of lewd act, committing or attempting a lewd act upon a child under
11 sixteen (16), the sentence of the Court is the same as the previous sentence
12 to run consecutive.

13 Case number 2012-GS-42-2627, Ronasha Taylor, having been found
14 guilty of a lewd act, committing or attempting a lewd act upon a child under
15 sixteen (16) years of age, the sentence of the Court is the same as the
16 previous sentence to run consecutive.

17 Let me say I'm making these sentences consecutive because she will
18 be paroleable and I want to be sure that she serves out these first earlier
19 sentences before she starts serving the other sentences.

20 All right. That's the sentence of the Court. Thank you.

21 **MR. HENRY:** Yes, sir.

22 **(Whereupon, the proceeding concluded at 3:20 p.m.)**

23 **End of Volume III**

24

25

WITNESSES

Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office,

SLD

[Signature]

ARREST WARRANT NUMBER

M-124301

ACTION OF GRAND JURY

[Signature]
True Bill

Foreperson of Grand Jury
Date:

MAY 03 2012

VERDICT

Foreperson of Petit Jury
Date:

Docket Number 2012-GS-42- 2624

The State of South Carolina
County of Spartanburg

COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS

MAY 07 2012

THE STATE

vs.

**Ronasha Taylor,
DEFENDANT**

Indictment for

**COMMITTING OR ATTEMPTING
LEWD ACT UPON A CHILD UNDER
SIXTEEN**

SC Code: §16-15-0140
CDR Code: 2468

ALAN WILSON, ATTORNEY GENERAL

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.

A CERTIFIED COPY
[Signature]
CLERK OF COURT
SPARTANBURG COUNTY
BY *[Signature]* D.C.
DATED 5-4-12

001128

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
)
 COUNTY OF SPARTANBURG)

COMMITTING OR ATTEMPTING
 LEWD ACT UPON A CHILD
 UNDER SIXTEEN

INDICTMENT

MAY 03 2012

At a Court of General Sessions, convened on _____ the Grand Jurors of
 Spartanburg County present upon their oath:

**COMMITTING OR ATTEMPTING LEWD ACT UPON A CHILD UNDER
 SIXTEEN**

On or about sometime between April 2, 2009 and October 19, 2010, the defendant,
 Ronasha Taylor, being over the age of fourteen (14) years, did in Spartanburg
 County, willfully and lewdly commit or attempt to commit a lewd and lascivious act
 upon or with the body a minor under the age of sixteen (16) years, Child 2, date of
 birth 7/24/06, with the intent of arousing, appealing to, or gratifying the lust,
 passions, or sexual desires of herself or of such child, in violation of §16-15-140,
THE CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, (1976), as amended).

Against the peace and dignity of the state and contrary to the statute in such case
 made and provided.



ALAN WILSON (KWH)
 SOUTH CAROLINA ATTORNEY GENERAL

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF SPARTANBURG
STATE VS.

Ronasha Taylor

AKA:

Race: BLACK Sex: F Age: [REDACTED]DOB: [REDACTED]

Address:

City, State, Zip:

DL#:

SID#:

*CDL Yes ☐ No ☐ CMV Yes ☐ No ☐ Hazmat Yes ☐ No ☐

In disposition of the said indictment comes now the Defendant who was

TO: Lewd Act, committing or attempting lewd act upon child under 16 (0 - 15 years)

in violation of § 16-15-0140

of the S.C. Code of Laws, bearing CDR Code #

2468

☒ NON-VIOLENT☐ VIOLENT☐ SERIOUS☐ MOST SERIOUS☒ Mandatory GPS(CSC
w/minor 1st or Lewd Act)☐ §17-25-45The charge is: ☒ As Indicted, ☐ Lesser Included Offense, ☐ Defendant Waives Presentment to Grand Jury (defendant's initials)The plea is: ☐ Without Negotiations or Recommendation, ☐ Negotiated Sentence, ☐ Recommendation by the State.

ATTEST:

GENERAL ATTORNEY

SC Bar#

Defendant

Attorney for Defendant

SC Bar#

WHEREFORE, the Defendant is committed to the

☒ State Department of Corrections,☐ County Detention Center,

for a determinate term of

5 days/months/years or

☐ under the Youthful Offender Act

not to exceed

years

and/or to pay a fine of \$

; provided that upon the service of

days/months/years and/or payment

of \$

; plus costs and assessments as applicable*; the balance is suspended with probation for

months/years and subject to South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services standard conditions of probation, which are incorporated by reference.

☐ CONCURRENT or ☒ CONSECUTIVE to sentence on:☒ The Defendant is to be given credit for time served pursuant to S.C. Code § 24-13-40 to be calculated and applied by the State Department of Corrections.☐ The Defendant is to be placed on the Central Registry of Child Abuse and Neglect pursuant to S.C. Code §17-25-135.

Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 922, it is unlawful for a person convicted of a violation of Section 16-25-20 or 16-25-65 (Criminal Domestic Violence) to ship, transport, possess, or receive a firearm or ammunition.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS:

☐ RESTITUTION: ☐ Deferred ☐ Def. Waives Hearing ☐ Ordered

PTUP

Total: \$ plus 20% fee: \$

Payment Terms:

☐ Set by SCDPPPS

Recipient:

*Fine:

§ 14-1-206 (Assessments 107.5 %)

\$

§ 14-1-211(A)(1) (Conv. Surcharge)

\$100

\$

§ 14-1-211(A)(2) (DUI Surcharge)

\$100

\$

§ 56-5-2995 (DUI Assessment)

\$12

\$

§ 56-1-286 (DUI Breath Test)

\$25

\$

Proviso 47.9 (Public Def/Prob)

\$500

\$

§ 14-1-212 (Law Enforce. Funding)

\$25

\$

§ 14-1-213 (Drug Court Surcharge)

\$150

\$

§ 50-21-114(BUI Breath Test Fee)

\$50

\$

§ 56-5-2942(J) (Vehicle Assessment)

\$40/ea

\$

Proviso 90.5 (SCCJA Surcharge)

\$5

\$

3% to County (if paid in installments)

\$

TOTAL

\$

Clerk of Court/ Deputy Clerk

Court Reporter:

SCCA/217 (03/2011)

IN THE COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS

INDICTMENT/CASE#: 2012GS4202624

A/W#: M124301

Date of Offense: 7/1/2010

S.C. Code § : 16-15-0140

CDR Code #: 2468

SENTENCE SHEET

☒ CONVICTED OF or ☐ PLEADS

78212/79181

_____ days/hours Public Service Employment

Obtain GED ☐

Attend Voc. Rehab. or Job Corp. _____

May serve W/E beginning _____

Substance Abuse Counseling ☐Random Drug/Alcohol testing ☐Fine may be pd. in equal, consecutive weekly/monthly
pmts. of \$ _____ beginning _____

\$ _____ paid to Public Defender Fund

Other: _____

☐ Appointed PD or appointed other counsel,
§ 47.12 requires \$500 be paid to Clerk
during probation.

Presiding Judge

Judge Code:

Sentence Date: 7/19/12

WITNESSES

Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office,

SLED

Kevin R. [Signature]

ARREST WARRANT NUMBER

M-124302

ACTION OF GRAND JURY

[Signature]

True Bill

Foreperson of Grand Jury
Date:

MAY 03 2012

VERDICT

Foreperson of Petit Jury
Date:

Docket Number 2012-GS-42-

2625

The State of South Carolina
County of Spartanburg

COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS

MAY 07 2012

THE STATE

vs.

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SC Code: §16-15-0140
CDR Code: 2468

ALAN WILSON, ATTORNEY GENERAL

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.

FILED
CLERK OF COURT
SPARTANBURG COUNTY
2012 MAY -3 PM 4:07
M. HOPE BLACKBURN

A CERTIFIED COPY
M. Hope Blackburn
CLERK OF COURT
SPARTANBURG COUNTY
BY *[Signature]* D.C.
DATED 5-4-12

001131

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
)
 COUNTY OF SPARTANBURG)

COMMITTING OR ATTEMPTING
 LEWD ACT UPON A CHILD
 UNDER SIXTEEN

INDICTMENT

At a Court of General Sessions, convened on MAY 03 2012 the Grand Jurors of
 Spartanburg County present upon their oath:

COMMITTING OR ATTEMPTING LEWD ACT UPON A CHILD UNDER SIXTEEN

On or about sometime between July 23, 2009 and October 19, 2010, the defendant,
 Ronasha Taylor, being over the age of fourteen (14) years, did in Spartanburg
 County, willfully and lewdly commit or attempt to commit a lewd and lascivious act
 upon or with the body of a minor under the age of sixteen (16) years, Child 1, date of
 birth 10/9/06, with the intent of arousing, appealing to, or gratifying the lust,
 passions, or sexual desires of herself or such child, in violation of §16-15-140, *THE
 CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA*, (1976), as amended).

Against the peace and dignity of the state and contrary to the statute in such case
 made and provided.



ALAN WILSON (KWH)
 SOUTH CAROLINA ATTORNEY GENERAL

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF SPARTANBURG
STATE VS.

Ronasha Taylor

AKA:

Race: BLACK Sex: F Age: [REDACTED]

DOB: [REDACTED]

Address:

City, State, Zip:

DL#:

SID#:

*CDL Yes ☐ No ☐ CMV Yes ☐ No ☐ Hazmat Yes ☐ No ☐

In disposition of the said indictment comes now the Defendant who was

TO: Lewd Act, committing or attempting lewd act upon child under 16 (0 - 15 years)

in violation of § 16-15-0140

of the S.C. Code of Laws, bearing CDR/Code #

2468

☒ NON-VIOLENT ☐ VIOLENT ☐ SERIOUS ☐ MOST SERIOUS ☒ Mandatory GPS (CSC w/minor 1st or Lewd Act) ☐ §17-25-45The charge is: ☒ As Indicted, ☐ Lesser Included Offense, ☐ Defendant Waives Presentment to Grand Jury (defendant's initials)
The plea is: ☐ Without Negotiations or Recommendation, ☐ Negotiated Sentence, ☐ Recommendation by the State.

ATTEST:

[Signature] 7820 79181
GENERAL ATTORNEY SC Bar#

Defendant

Attorney for Defendant

SC Bar#

WHEREFORE, the Defendant is committed to the

☒ State Department of Corrections,☐ County Detention Center,for a determinate term of 5 days/months/years or ☐ under the Youthful Offender Act not to exceed _____ years
and/or to pay a fine of \$ _____; provided that upon the service of _____ days/months/years and/or payment
of \$ _____; plus costs and assessments as applicable*; the balance is suspended with probation for _____

months/years and subject to South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services standard conditions of probation, which are incorporated by reference.

☐ CONCURRENT or ☒ CONSECUTIVE to sentence on:☒ The Defendant is to be given credit for time served pursuant to S.C. Code § 24-13-40 to be calculated and applied by the State Department of Corrections.☐ The Defendant is to be placed on the Central Registry of Child Abuse and Neglect pursuant to S.C. Code §17-23-135.

Pursuant to 18 U.S.C Section 922, it is unlawful for a person convicted of a violation of Section 16-25-20 or 16-25-65 (Criminal Domestic Violence) to ship, transport, possess, or receive a firearm or ammunition.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS:

☐ RESTITUTION: ☐ Deferred ☐ Def. Waives Hearing ☐ Ordered

Total: \$ _____ plus 20% fee: \$ _____

Payment Terms:

☐ Set by SCDPPPS

Recipient:

*Fine:

§ 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	\$
Proviso 47.9 (Public Def/Prob)	\$500	\$
§ 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	\$
Proviso 90.5 (SCCJA Surcharge)	\$5	\$5.00
3% to County (if paid in installments)	\$	\$3.90
TOTAL		\$133.90

IN THE COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS

INDICTMENT/CASE#: 2012GS4202625

A/W#: M124302

Date of Offense: 7/1/2010

S.C. Code § : 16-15-0140

CDR Code #: 2468

SENTENCE SHEET

☒ CONVICTED OF or ☐ PLEADSin violation of § 16-15-0140 of the S.C. Code of Laws, bearing CDR/Code # 2468
☒ NON-VIOLENT ☐ VIOLENT ☐ SERIOUS ☐ MOST SERIOUS ☒ Mandatory GPS (CSC w/minor 1st or Lewd Act) ☐ §17-25-45The charge is: ☒ As Indicted, ☐ Lesser Included Offense, ☐ Defendant Waives Presentment to Grand Jury (defendant's initials)
The plea is: ☐ Without Negotiations or Recommendation, ☐ Negotiated Sentence, ☐ Recommendation by the State.

ATTEST:

[Signature] 7820 79181
GENERAL ATTORNEY SC Bar#

Defendant

Attorney for Defendant

SC Bar#

WHEREFORE, the Defendant is committed to the

☒ State Department of Corrections,☐ County Detention Center,for a determinate term of 5 days/months/years or ☐ under the Youthful Offender Act not to exceed _____ years
and/or to pay a fine of \$ _____; provided that upon the service of _____ days/months/years and/or payment
of \$ _____; plus costs and assessments as applicable*; the balance is suspended with probation for _____

months/years and subject to South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services standard conditions of probation, which are incorporated by reference.

☐ CONCURRENT or ☒ CONSECUTIVE to sentence on:☒ The Defendant is to be given credit for time served pursuant to S.C. Code § 24-13-40 to be calculated and applied by the State Department of Corrections.☐ The Defendant is to be placed on the Central Registry of Child Abuse and Neglect pursuant to S.C. Code §17-23-135.

Pursuant to 18 U.S.C Section 922, it is unlawful for a person convicted of a violation of Section 16-25-20 or 16-25-65 (Criminal Domestic Violence) to ship, transport, possess, or receive a firearm or ammunition.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS:

☐ RESTITUTION: ☐ Deferred ☐ Def. Waives Hearing ☐ Ordered

Total: \$ _____ plus 20% fee: \$ _____

Payment Terms:

☐ Set by SCDPPPS

Recipient:

*Fine:

§ 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	\$
Proviso 47.9 (Public Def/Prob)	\$500	\$
§ 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	\$
Proviso 90.5 (SCCJA Surcharge)	\$5	\$5.00
3% to County (if paid in installments)	\$	\$3.90
TOTAL		\$133.90

PTUP

_____ days/hours Public Service Employment

Obtain GED ☐

Attend Voc. Rehab. or Job Corp. _____

May serve W/E beginning _____

Substance Abuse Counseling ☐Random Drug/Alcohol testing ☐Fine may be pd. in equal, consecutive weekly/monthly
pmts. of \$ _____ beginning _____

\$ _____ paid to Public Defender Fund

Other: _____

☐ Appointed PD or appointed other counsel,
§ 47.12 requires \$500 be paid to Clerk
during probation.

Clerk of Court/ Deputy Clerk

Court Reporter:

SCCA/217 (03/2011)

Presiding Judge

Judge Code:

Sentence Date:

WITNESSES

Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office,

[Signature]

ARREST WARRANT NUMBER

M-124303

ACTION OF GRAND JURY

[Signature]

True Bill

Foreperson of Grand Jury MAY 03 2012
Date:

VERDICT

Foreperson of Petit Jury
Date:

Docket Number 2012-GS-42- 2626

The State of South Carolina
County of Spartanburg

COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS

MAY 01 2012

THE STATE

vs.

Ronasha Taylor,
DEFENDANT

Indictment for

**COMMITTING OR ATTEMPTING
LEWD ACT UPON A CHILD UNDER
SIXTEEN**

SC Code: §16-15-0140
CDR Code: 2468

ALAN WILSON, ATTORNEY GENERAL

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.

FILED
CLERK OF COURT
SPARTANBURG COUNTY
2012 MAY -3 PM 4:06
M. HOPE BLACKLEY

A CERTIFIED COPY

[Signature]

CLERK OF COURT
SPARTANBURG COUNTY
BY *[Signature]* D.C.
DATED 5-4-12

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
)
 COUNTY OF SPARTANBURG)

COMMITTING OR ATTEMPTING
 LEWD ACT UPON A CHILD
 UNDER SIXTEEN

INDICTMENT

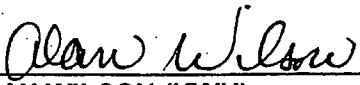
MAY 03 2012

At a Court of General Sessions, convened on _____ the Grand Jurors of
 Spartanburg County present upon their oath:

**COMMITTING OR ATTEMPTING LEWD ACT UPON A CHILD UNDER
 SIXTEEN**

On or about sometime between April 2, 2009 and October 19, 2010, the defendant,
 Ronasha Taylor, being over the age of fourteen (14) years, did in Spartanburg
 County, willfully and lewdly commit or attempt to commit a lewd and lascivious act
 upon or with the body of a minor under the age of sixteen (16) years, Child 3, date
 of birth 7/9/06, with the intent of arousing, appealing to, or gratifying the lust,
 passions, or sexual desires of herself or such child, in violation of §16-15-140, *THE
 CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA*, (1976), as amended).

Against the peace and dignity of the state and contrary to the statute in such case
 made and provided.


 ALAN WILSON (KWH)
 SOUTH CAROLINA ATTORNEY GENERAL

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Computer

IN THE COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS

COUNTY OF SPARTANBURG
STATE VS.

Ronasha Taylor

AKA:

Race: BLACK Sex: F Age: [REDACTED]

DOB: [REDACTED]

Address:

City, State, Zip:

DL#:

SID#:

*CDL Yes ☐ No ☐ CMV Yes ☐ No ☐ Hazmat Yes ☐ No ☐

In disposition of the said indictment comes now the Defendant who was

☒ CONVICTED OF or ☐ PLEADS

TO: Lewd Act, committing or attempting lewd act upon child under 16 (0 - 15 years)

in violation of § 16-15-0140

of the S.C. Code of Laws, bearing CDR Code #

2468

☒ NON-VIOLENT ☐ VIOLENT ☐ SERIOUS ☐ MOST SERIOUS ☒ Mandatory GPS(CSC w/minor 1st or Lewd Act) ☐ §17-25-45The charge is: ☒ As Indicted, ☐ Lesser Included Offense, ☐ Defendant Waives Presentment to Grand Jury. (defendant's initials)The plea is: ☐ Without Negotiations or Recommendation, ☐ Negotiated Sentence, ☐ Recommendation by the State.

ATTEST:

[Signature] / [Signature]
GENERAL ATTORNEY

SC Bar# 7802 / 7918

Defendant

Attorney for Defendant

SC Bar#

WHEREFORE, the Defendant is committed to the ☒ State Department of Corrections, ☐ County Detention Center,for a determinate term of 5 days/months/years or ☐ under the Youthful Offender Act not to exceed _____ years
and/or to pay a fine of \$ _____; provided that upon the service of _____ days/months/years and/or payment

of \$ _____; plus costs and assessments as applicable*; the balance is suspended with probation for _____

months/years and subject to South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services standard conditions of probation, which are incorporated by reference.

☐ CONCURRENT or ☒ CONSECUTIVE to sentence on:☒ The Defendant is to be given credit for time served pursuant to S.C. Code § 24-13-40 to be calculated and applied by the State Department of Corrections.☐ The Defendant is to be placed on the Central Registry of Child Abuse and Neglect pursuant to S.C. Code §17-25-135.

Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 922, it is unlawful for a person convicted of a violation of Section 16-25-20 or 16-25-65 (Criminal Domestic Violence) to ship, transport, possess, or receive a firearm or ammunition.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS:

☐ RESTITUTION: ☐ Deferred ☐ Def. Waives Hearing ☐ Ordered

Total: \$ _____ plus 20% fee: \$ _____

Payment Terms:

☐ Set by SCDPPPS

Recipient:

*Fine:

§ 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	\$
Proviso 47.9 (Public Def/Prob)	\$500	\$
§ 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	\$
Proviso 90.5 (SCCJA Surcharge)	\$5	\$5.00
3% to County (if paid in installments)		\$390
TOTAL		\$13340

PTUP

_____ days/hours Public Service Employment

Obtain GED ☐

Attend Voc. Rehab. or Job Corp. _____

May serve W/E beginning _____

Substance Abuse Counseling ☐Random Drug/Alcohol testing ☐Fine may be pd. in equal, consecutive weekly/monthly
pmts. of \$ _____ beginning _____

\$ _____ paid to Public Defender Fund

Other: _____

☐ Appointed PD or appointed other counsel,
§ 47.12 requires \$500 be paid to Clerk
during probation.

Clerk of Court/ Deputy Clerk

Court Reporter:

SCCA/217 (03/2011)

Presiding Judge

Judge Code:

Sentence Date:

WITNESSES

Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office,

SLED,

Kevin R. [Signature]

ARREST WARRANT NUMBER

M-124304

ACTION OF GRAND JURY

[Signature]

True Bill

Foreperson of Grand Jury
Date:

MAY 03 2012

VERDICT

Foreperson of Petit Jury
Date:

Docket Number 2012-GS-42-

2627

The State of South Carolina
County of Spartanburg

COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS

MAY 07 2012

THE STATE

vs.

Ronasha Taylor,
DEFENDANT

Indictment for

COMMITTING OR ATTEMPTING
LEWD ACT UPON A CHILD UNDER
SIXTEEN

SC Code: §16-15-0140

CDR Code: 2468

ALAN WILSON, ATTORNEY GENERAL

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.

FILED
CLERK OF COURT
SPARTANBURG COUNTY
2012 MAY - 3 PM 4:06
M. HOPE BLACKLEY

A CERTIFIED COPY

M. Hope Blackley
CLERK OF COURT
SPARTANBURG COUNTY
BY *[Signature]* D.C.
DATED 5-4-12

001137

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
)
 COUNTY OF SPARTANBURG)

COMMITTING OR ATTEMPTING
 LEWD ACT UPON A CHILD
 UNDER SIXTEEN

INDICTMENT

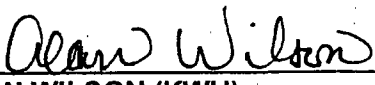
MAY 03 2012

At a Court of General Sessions, convened on _____ the Grand Jurors of
 Spartanburg County present upon their oath:

**COMMITTING OR ATTEMPTING LEWD ACT UPON A CHILD UNDER
 SIXTEEN**

On or about sometime between May 13, 2009 and October 19, 2010, the defendant,
 Ronasha Taylor, being over the age of fourteen (14) years, did in Spartanburg
 County, willfully and lewdly commit or attempt to commit a lewd and lascivious act
 upon or with the body of a minor under the age of sixteen (16) years, Child 4, date
 of birth 12/19/06, with the intent of arousing, appealing to, or gratifying the lust,
 passions, or sexual desires of herself or such child, in violation of §16-15-140, *THE
 CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA*, (1976), as amended).

Against the peace and dignity of the state and contrary to the statute in such case
 made and provided.


 ALAN WILSON (KWH)
 SOUTH CAROLINA ATTORNEY GENERAL

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Computer

IN THE COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS

COUNTY OF SPARTANBURG
STATE VS.Ronasha Taylor

AKA:

Race: BLACK Sex: F Age: 21DOB: [REDACTED]

Address:

City, State, Zip:

DL#:

SID#:

*CDL Yes ☐ No ☐ CMV Yes ☐ No ☐ Hazmat Yes ☐ No ☐

In disposition of the said indictment comes now the Defendant who was

TO: Lewd Act, committing or attempting lewd act upon child under 16 (0 - 15 years)INDICTMENT/CASE#: 2012GS4202627A/W#: M124304Date of Offense: 7/1/2010S.C. Code § : 16-15-0140CDR Code #: 2468

SENTENCE SHEET

in violation of § 16-15-0140

of the S.C. Code of Laws, bearing CDR Code #

2468☒ NON-VIOLENT☐ VIOLENT☐ SERIOUS☐ MOST SERIOUS☒ Mandatory GPS(CSC
w/minor 1st or Lewd Act)☐ §17-25-45The charge is: ☒ As Indicted, ☐ Lesser Included Offense, ☐ Defendant Waives Presentment to Grand Jury. (defendant's initials)The plea is: ☐ Without Negotiations or Recommendation, ☐ Negotiated Sentence, ☐ Recommendation by the State.

ATTEST:

Patricia M. Kelly Hall
GENERAL ATTORNEY7820 7916
SC Bar#

Defendant

Attorney for Defendant

SC Bar#

WHEREFORE, the Defendant is committed to the

☒ State Department of Corrections,☐ County Detention Center,

for a determinate term of

5

days/months/years or

☐ under the Youthful Offender Act

not to exceed

years

and/or to pay a fine of \$

; provided that upon the service of

days/months/years and/or payment

of \$; plus costs and assessments as applicable*; the balance is suspended with probation for

months/years and subject to South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services standard conditions of probation, which are incorporated by reference.

☐ CONCURRENT or ☒ CONSECUTIVE to sentence on:☒ The Defendant is to be given credit for time served pursuant to S.C. Code § 24-13-40 to be calculated and applied by the State Department of Corrections.☐ The Defendant is to be placed on the Central Registry of Child Abuse and Neglect pursuant to S.C. Code §17-25-135.Pursuant to 18 U.S.C Section 922, it is unlawful for a person convicted of a violation of Section 16-25-20 or 16-25-65 (Criminal Domestic Violence) to ship, transport, possess, or receive a firearm or ammunition.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS:

☐ RESTITUTION: ☐ Deferred ☐ Def. Waives Hearing ☐ Ordered

PTUP

Total: \$ plus 20% fee: \$

Payment Terms:

☐ Set by SCDPPPS

Recipient:

*Fine:

§ 14-1-206 (Assessments 107.5 %)	\$	
§ 14-1-211(A)(1) (Conv. Surcharge)	\$100	\$ <u>100.00</u>
§ 14-1-211(A)(2) (DUI Surcharge)	\$100	\$
§ 56-5-2995 (DUI Assessment)	\$12	\$
§ 56-1-286 (DUI Breath Test)	\$25	\$
Proviso 47.9 (Public Def/Prob)	\$500	\$
§ 14-1-212 (Law Enforce. Funding)	\$25	\$ <u>25.00</u>
§ 14-1-213 (Drug Court Surcharge)	\$150	\$
§ 50-21-114 (BUI Breath Test Fee)	\$50	\$
§ 56-5-2942(J) (Vehicle Assessment)	\$40/ea	\$
Proviso 90.5 (SCCJA Surcharge)	\$5	\$ <u>5.00</u>
3% to County (if paid in installments)	\$	\$ <u>3.40</u>
TOTAL		\$ <u>133.40</u>

 days/hours Public Service EmploymentObtain GED ☐Attend Voc. Rehab. or Job Corp. May serve W/E beginning Substance Abuse Counseling ☐Random Drug/Alcohol testing ☐Fine may be pd. in equal, consecutive weekly/monthly
pmts. of \$ beginning \$ paid to Public Defender FundOther: ☐ Appointed PD or appointed other counsel,
§ 47.12 requires \$500 be paid to Clerk
during probation.

Clerk of Court/ Deputy Clerk

Court Reporter:

SCCA/217 (03/2011)

Presiding Judge

Judge Code:

Sentence Date:

WITNESSES

Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office,

5180

Kevin R. Tate

ARREST WARRANT NUMBER

M-752380

ACTION OF GRAND JURY

J. C. Smith
True Bill

Foreperson of Grand Jury MAY 03 2012
Date:

VERDICT

Foreperson of Petit Jury
Date:

Docket Number 2012-GS-42-2633

The State of South Carolina
County of Spartanburg

COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS

MAY 07 2012

THE STATE

vs.

Ronasha Taylor,
DEFENDANT

Indictment for

COMMITTING OR ATTEMPTING
LEWD ACT UPON A CHILD UNDER
SIXTEEN

SC Code: §16-15-0140
CDR Code: 2468

ALAN WILSON, ATTORNEY GENERAL

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.

FILED
CLERK OF COURT
SPARTANBURG COUNTY
2012 MAY -3 PM 4:06
M. HOPE BLACK KEY

A CERTIFIED COPY
M. Hope Black Key
CLERK OF COURT
SPARTANBURG COUNTY
BY *C. Squire* S.C.
DATED 5-4-12

001140

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
)
 COUNTY OF SPARTANBURG)

COMMITTING OR ATTEMPTING
 LEWD ACT UPON A CHILD
 UNDER SIXTEEN

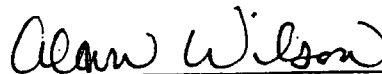
INDICTMENT

At a Court of General Sessions, convened on MAY 03 2012 the Grand Jurors of
 Spartanburg County present upon their oath:

**COMMITTING OR ATTEMPTING LEWD ACT UPON A CHILD UNDER
 SIXTEEN**

On or about sometime between July 22, 2009 and October 18, 2010, the defendant,
 Ronasha Taylor, being over the age of fourteen (14) years, did in Spartanburg
 County, willfully and lewdly commit or attempt to commit a lewd and lascivious act
 upon or with the body of a minor under the age of sixteen (16) years, Child 6 date
 of birth 3/12/06, with the intent of arousing, appealing to, or gratifying the lust,
 passions, or sexual desires of herself or such child, in violation of §16-15-140, *THE
 CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA*, (1976), as amended).

Against the peace and dignity of the state and contrary to the statute in such case
 made and provided.



ALAN WILSON (KWH)
 SOUTH CAROLINA ATTORNEY GENERAL

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS

COUNTY OF SPARTANBURG

STATE VS.

Ronasha Taylor

AKA:

Race: BLACK Sex: F Age:

DOB:

Address:

City, State, Zip:

DL#:

SID#:

*CDL Yes ☐ No ☐ CMV Yes ☐ No ☐ Hazmat Yes ☐ No ☐

In disposition of the said indictment comes now the Defendant who was

INDICTMENT/CASE#: 2012GS4202633

A/W#: M752380

Date of Offense: 7/1/2010

S.C. Code §: 16-15-0140

CDR Code #: 2468

SENTENCE SHEET

TO: Lewd Act, committing or attempting lewd act upon child under 16 (0 - 15 years) ☒ CONVICTED OF or ☐ PLEADS

in violation of § 16-15-0140

of the S.C. Code of Laws, bearing CDR Code # 2468

☒ NON-VIOLENT ☐ VIOLENT ☐ SERIOUS ☐ MOST SERIOUS ☒ Mandatory GPS(CSC w/minor 1st or Lewd Act) ☐ §17-25-45The charge is: ☒ As Indicted, ☐ Lesser Included Offense, ☐ Defendant Waives Presentment to Grand Jury. (defendant's initials)
The plea is: ☐ Without Negotiations or Recommendation, ☐ Negotiated Sentence, ☐ Recommendation by the State.

ATTEST:

BETTY MILLER KELLY HALL

7/20/12

GENERAL ATTORNEY

SO Bar#

Defendant

Attorney for Defendant

SC Bar#

WHEREFORE, the Defendant is committed to the ☒ State Department of Corrections, ☐ County Detention Center,
for a determinate term of 15 days/months/years or ☐ under the Youthful Offender Act not to exceed _____ years
and/or to pay a fine of \$ _____; provided that upon the service of _____ days/months/years and/or payment
of \$ _____; plus costs and assessments as applicable*; the balance is suspended with probation for _____

months/years and subject to South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services standard conditions of probation, which are incorporated by reference.

☐ CONCURRENT or ☐ CONSECUTIVE to sentence on:☒ The Defendant is to be given credit for time served pursuant to S.C. Code § 24-13-40 to be calculated and applied by the State Department of Corrections.☐ The Defendant is to be placed on the Central Registry of Child Abuse and Neglect pursuant to S.C. Code §17-25-135.

Pursuant to 18 U.S.C Section 922, it is unlawful for a person convicted of a violation of Section 16-25-20 or 16-25-65 (Criminal Domestic Violence) to ship, transport, possess, or receive a firearm or ammunition.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS:

☐ RESTITUTION: ☐ Deferred ☐ Def. Waives Hearing ☐ Ordered

PTUP

Total: \$ _____ plus 20% fee: \$ _____

Payment Terms:

☐ Set by SCDPPPS

Recipient:

*Fine:

§ 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	\$
Proviso 47.9 (Public Def/Prob)	\$500	\$
§ 14-1-212 (Law Enforce. Funding)	\$25	\$25.00
§ 14-1-213 (Drug Court Surcharge)	\$150	\$
§ 50-21-114(BU) Breath Test Fee)	\$50	\$
§ 56-5-2942(J) (Vehicle Assessment)	\$40/ea	\$
Proviso 90.5 (SCCJA Surcharge)	\$5	\$5.00
3% to County (if paid in installments)	\$	\$3.90
TOTAL		\$133.90

_____ days/hours Public Service Employment

Obtain GED ☐

Attend Voc. Rehab. or Job Corp. _____

May serve W/E beginning _____

Substance Abuse Counseling ☐Random Drug/Alcohol testing ☐

Fine may be pd. in equal, consecutive weekly/monthly pmts. of \$ _____ beginning _____

\$ _____ paid to Public Defender Fund

Other: _____

☐ Appointed PD or appointed other counsel, § 47.12 requires \$500 be paid to Clerk during probation.

Clerk of Court/ Deputy Clerk

Court Reporter:

SCCA/217 (03/2011)

Presiding Judge

Judge Code:

Sentence Date:

WITNESSES

Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office,

SLED

Kevin Lofe

ARREST WARRANT NUMBER

M-124582

ACTION OF GRAND JURY

John C. Cothran
True Bill

Foreperson of Grand Jury MAY 03 2012
Date:

VERDICT

Foreperson of Petit Jury
Date:

Docket Number 2012-GS-42-

2634

**The State of South Carolina
County of Spartanburg**

COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS

MAY 07 2012

THE STATE

vs.

**Ronasha Taylor,
DEFENDANT**

Indictment for

**COMMITTING OR ATTEMPTING
LEWD ACT UPON A CHILD UNDER
SIXTEEN**

**SC Code: §16-15-0140
CDR Code: 2468**

ALAN WILSON, ATTORNEY GENERAL

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.

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CLERK OF COURT
SPARTANBURG COUNTY
2012 MAY -3 PM 4:06
M. HOPE BLACKLEY

A CERTIFIED COPY
M. Hope Blackley
CLERK OF COURT
SPARTANBURG COUNTY
BY *A. Wilson* D.C.
DATED 5-4-12

001143

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
)
COUNTY OF SPARTANBURG)

COMMITTING OR ATTEMPTING
LEWD ACT UPON A CHILD
UNDER SIXTEEN

INDICTMENT

MAY 03 2012

At a Court of General Sessions, convened on _____ the Grand Jurors of
Spartanburg County present upon their oath:

**COMMITTING OR ATTEMPTING LEWD ACT UPON A CHILD UNDER
SIXTEEN**

On or about sometime between May 2, 2009 and October 18, 2010, the defendant,
Ronasha Taylor, being over the age of fourteen (14) years, did in Spartanburg
County, willfully and lewdly commit or attempt to commit a lewd and lascivious act
upon or with the body a minor under the age of sixteen (16) years, Child 5, date
of birth 2/21/06, with the intent of arousing, appealing to, or gratifying the lust,
passions, or sexual desires of herself or such child, in violation of §16-15-140, *THE
CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA*, (1976), as amended).

Against the peace and dignity of the state and contrary to the statute in such case
made and provided.



ALAN WILSON (KWH)
SOUTH CAROLINA ATTORNEY GENERAL

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS

COUNTY OF SPARTANBURG
STATE VS.

Ronasha Taylor

AKA:

Race: BLACK Sex: F Age: [REDACTED]

DOB: [REDACTED]

Address:

City, State, Zip:

DL#:

SID#:

*CDL Yes ☐ No ☐ CMV Yes ☐ No ☐ Hazmat Yes ☐ No ☐

In disposition of the said indictment comes now the Defendant who was

INDICTMENT/CASE#: 2012GS4202634

A/W#: M124582

Date of Offense: 7/1/2010

S.C. Code § : 16-15-0140

CDR Code #: 2468

SENTENCE SHEET

TO: Lewd Act, committing or attempting lewd act upon child under 16 (0 - 15 years)

☒ CONVICTED OF or ☐ PLEADS

in violation of § 16-15-0140 of the S.C. Code of Laws, bearing CDR/Code # 2468

☒ NON-VIOLENT ☐ VIOLENT ☐ SERIOUS ☐ MOST SERIOUS ☒ Mandatory GPS(CSC w/minor 1st or Lewd Act) ☐ §17-25-45The charge is: ☒ As Indicted, ☐ Lesser Included Offense, ☐ Defendant Waives Presentment to Grand Jury (defendant's initials)The plea is: ☐ Without Negotiations or Recommendation, ☐ Negotiated Sentence, ☐ Recommendation by the State.

ATTEST:

Bettany Miles
GENERAL ATTORNEYKilly Hall
SC Bar#

Defendant

Attorney for Defendant

SC Bar#

WHEREFORE, the Defendant is committed to the ☒ State Department of Corrections, ☐ County Detention Center,for a determinate term of 15 days/months/years or ☐ under the Youthful Offender Act not to exceed _____ years

and/or to pay a fine of \$ _____; provided that upon the service of _____ days/months/years and/or payment of \$ _____; plus costs and assessments as applicable*; the balance is suspended with probation for _____

months/years and subject to South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole and Pardon Services standard conditions of probation, which are incorporated by reference.

☐ CONCURRENT or ☒ CONSECUTIVE to sentence on:☒ The Defendant is to be given credit for time served pursuant to S.C. Code § 24-13-40 to be calculated and applied by the State Department of Corrections.☐ The Defendant is to be placed on the Central Registry of Child Abuse and Neglect pursuant to S.C. Code §17-25-135.

Pursuant to 18 U.S.C Section 922, it is unlawful for a person convicted of a violation of Section 16-25-20 or 16-25-65 (Criminal Domestic Violence) to ship, transport, possess, or receive a firearm or ammunition.

Let Offender Register Required
SPECIAL CONDITIONS:☐ RESTITUTION: ☐ Deferred ☐ Def. Waives Hearing ☐ Ordered PTUP

Total: \$ _____ plus 20% fee: \$ _____

Payment Terms:

☐ Set by SCDPPPS

Recipient:

*Fine:

§ 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	\$
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§ 50-21-114(BUI Breath Test Fee)	\$50	\$
§ 56-5-2942(J) (Vehicle Assessment)	\$40/ea	\$
Proviso 90.5 (SCCA Surcharge)	\$5	\$ 5.00
3% to County (if paid in installments)		\$ 3.90
TOTAL		\$133.90

_____ days/hours Public Service Employment

Obtain GED ☐

Attend Voc. Rehab. or Job Corp. _____

May serve W/E beginning _____

Substance Abuse Counseling ☐Random Drug/Alcohol testing ☐

Fine may be pd. in equal, consecutive weekly/monthly pmts. of \$ _____ beginning _____

\$ _____ paid to Public Defender Fund

Other: _____

☐ Appointed PD or appointed other counsel, § 47.12 requires \$500 be paid to Clerk during probation.

Clerk of Court/ Deputy Clerk

Court Reporter:

SCCA/217 (03/2011)

Presiding Judge

Judge Code:

Sentence Date:

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
) COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS
 COUNTY OF SPARTANBURG)

THE STATE,)
)
 v.) Indictment #s 12-GS-42-2624, 2625, 2626,
) 2627, 2633 & 2634
 RONASHA TAYLOR,)
 Defendant.)

POST TRIAL MOTIONS ON BEHALF OF RONASHA TAYLOR

On May 7, 2012 the Spartanburg County Grand Jury indicted the defendant on six counts of lewd act upon a minor (lewd act) and five counts of criminal sexual conduct with a minor (CSC). The lewd act charges each carry a 15 year maximum sentence and the maximum sentence for CSC is life with a 25 minimum sentence, no parole.

Trial was held before the Honorable Lee S. Alford and a jury starting on September 10, 2012 with pretrial motions and jury selection and concluding with jury verdicts on September 19, 2012.

At the conclusion of the state's case and as the defendant was prepared to make her motions for directed verdict on the CSC indictments, the state dismissed two of the CSC indictments, specifically indictment numbers 2012-GS-42-2629 (Child 6) and 2012-GS-23-2632 (Child 5). The Court then granted the defendant's directed verdict motion on CSC indictment number 2012-GS-42-2630 (Child 2).

After the jury deliberated for parts of two days and after they had submitted several questions in writing to the Court including one indicating they were a long way from reaching a verdict, they returned not guilty verdicts on the remaining two CSC indictments, numbers 2012-GS-42-2628 (Child 3) and 2012-GS-42-2631 (Child 4). The jury also found the defendant guilty on all six lewd act charges. After her trial and conviction on the six lewd act counts, the Court sentenced the defendant to consecutive sentences of 15, 15, 5, 5, 5 and 5 years for a total of 50 years.

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 MICHELLE BLANKLEY

Prior to trial the state, with the participation of the Court, offered the defendant a plea offer. That plea offer included the following terms: the defendant would plead guilty to all six lewd act indictments, the state would dismiss all of the CSC indictments and the state would recommend two consecutive sentences, one for 15 years on one lewd act count and a second sentence in the Court's discretion which in theory could have been from 1 year to 15 years. If the defendant had accepted the plea offer and waived her right to a jury trial, the state would have recommended a sentence from 16-30 years.

Both prior to trial and during the trial certain evidence was admitted over the defendant's objection and certain defense motions were denied. The defendant asks the Court to reconsider those rulings and to grant her a new trial.

Motions to quash the indictments due to hearsay testimony, etc.

These motions were made in writing and heard by Judge Cole. The grand jury returned 498 indictments during a session that lasted one half day. One witness was listed on the indictment as having testified before the grand jury. The children did not testify. There was insufficient time for the forensic interview tape which lasted more than six hours to have been viewed and for the indictments to have been considered. Hearsay evidence in summary form was necessarily introduced as the sole support for the indictments. This process violated the defendant's state and federal due process rights, the right to a fair grand jury proceeding and prior South Carolina Supreme Court precedent condemning summary hearsay testimony as the basis for grand jury indictments.

Lack of notice in the indictments

The six lewd act indictments failed to sufficiently notify the defendant of the acts she allegedly committed and merely recited the language of the lewd act statute. The defendant was concerned and correctly so, that without specific notice of the criminal acts she allegedly committed, the state would be permitted to use whatever testimony was admitted at trial to support the lewd act charges and the (the defendant) would be on "notice" of which acts she allegedly committed, not from the indictment as required, but from the trial testimony. It is

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MOORE & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

not always sufficient to write an indictment merely in the language of the statute without providing facts upon which a defendant can rely as notice of the charges against her. The defendant asks that the Court revisit this ruling.

Denial of motion for separate trials

The state asked the Court to permit the eleven indictments to be consolidated for trial and the defendant requested that the indictments (or at least the cases against each of six individual children) be tried separately. The state's motion to consolidate was granted. A review of the indictments shows that the prosecution did not know by year or month when the alleged crimes occurred. There was no indication that any of the eleven crimes charged occurred on or near the same date.

By not stating a specific day, month or year as to when the crimes allegedly occurred, the state failed to notify the defendant when her crimes were committed and then argued that the cases should be consolidated. The Court's rulings prejudiced the defendant since she could not submit alibi evidence without a specific offense date and faced the additional penalty of having to defend all charges at the same time, not knowing when they allegedly occurred.

Had the state been required to try one child's case/cases at a time it would certainly have been possible for the Court to admit evidence of other children's allegations. However, that is a different question than whether separate trials should have been held. If the jury could only consider the charges against one child at a time, there may have been a different outcome.

Inconsistent verdicts

The defendant's defense was based on the claim that the children did not see her naked skin because if they had, they would have certainly noticed and mentioned her abdominal surgery scar from a procedure she had twice, more recently at age seven.

By finding the defendant not guilty on two CSC charges but guilty on six lewd act charges the jury acted in a manner inconsistent with the evidence presented. The defense to all charges was the same.

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IN HOPE, AMERICA

Denial of motion to allow the jury to view the scene of the crime

The defendant made this motion prior to trial and in writing. The motion was tentatively rejected by the Court at a pretrial hearing on the theory that the numerous photographs would be sufficient to demonstrate the setting of the crime scene to the jury. Of course, the Court's trial ruling on this motion was consistent with its pretrial pronouncement.

However, as the defendant anticipated, questions about the daycare center lay out, placement of the monitors, the operation of the "Watch Me Grow" program, whether the monitors operated in "real time" and who could see which rooms or bathroom doors from which points in the daycare center all became important during the trial.

The defendant denied committing any of the crimes charged. More than one witness testified that due to the lay out of the daycare center, it would have been difficult if not impossible for these crimes to have been committed without any teacher or parent becoming suspicious either because the adult was working on the premises or was able to watch the "Watch Me Grow" video feed from home or work.

Additionally the defendant claimed that the children did not see her skin which would have been essential for the crimes to have been committed because they did not mention the surgery scar in her abdomen and/or the birthmark below her breast. (Note that the prosecution offered the testimony of Daniel about a "bruise" as well as a drawing of a bruise in response to the defendant's photograph of her birthmark.)

The evidence of the daycare center lay out which included glass walls and the marks on the defendant's body was critical to a full presentation of the defendant's case.

A jury's viewing of a crime scene in person is both a statutory and a constitutional matter. Under our statute, a jury may view a crime scene at the request of either party when it appears to the court that such view is necessary to a just decision. Also the due process clauses of the state and federal constitutions require a fair and impartial trial.

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J. H. HOLLOMAN, CLERK

Given the extensive testimony about the daycare center lay out (in particular by Kids R Kids staff members and parent Donna Wilson) and other issues which could have been resolved by a crime scene viewing as well as the trial judge's reluctance to change his preliminary pretrial ruling, there was sufficient evidence presented to show that the jury's trip to the daycare center where the crimes were allegedly committed was necessary for a just decision and for a fair trial.

Denial of challenges to unconstitutionality of "Jessie's Law", etc.

Throughout the case, the defendant challenged Jessie's Law, in particular the part of the law which permits hearsay testimony of forensic interviewers. Both as written and as applied in this case, the law is, the defendant argued then and now, unconstitutional.

By permitting forensic interviewers to tape record children's statements and then playing them for the jury denies defendants their state and federal constitutional right to confront their accusers.

§17-23-175 is South Carolina's Jessie's Law. Jessie's Law was rejected by Congress but many states passed a version of the law which originated in Florida. One key evidence provision is that the law grants prosecutors permission to introduce otherwise inadmissible out of court statements given by child victims to interviewers if certain conditions are met. Although the defendant has challenged the statute on its face because she strongly believes the law denied her right to confront the witnesses against her she has also challenged the Court's determination that the children's statements possessed the statutorily required "particularized guarantees of trustworthiness".

At the heart of the "trustworthiness" argument is defendant's repeated claim during trial that the interviewers asked leading questions and that the children's taped statements lacked internal coherence.

The Court addressed both questions but, in the defendant's view, wrongly decided them. The children's taped statements were not internally coherent when taken as a whole. One interviewer testified that she tried not to ask leading questions and the other said she did not ask them. The taped interviews show otherwise. In some instances, the interviewers presented drawings of body parts

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M. HOPKINS

before a child made any sex disclosure. In other instances the interviewer rejected a child's answer which did not fit the abuse scenario. There were many examples of both leading questions and internal inconsistency. So many that the taped interviews did not meet the trustworthiness test under the statute and should have been excluded.

Overruling objection to interviewers being qualified as experts

Juries receive a separate jury charge to evaluate expert testimony. Experts are given a higher status in court and can give opinions. So called forensic interviewers are not experts. There is no college degree, no state license and no list of qualifications to become a forensic interviewer. If the courts are going to allow social workers to qualify as expert forensic interviewers based on a 40 hour course and experience questioning children, the standard for what an expert is will be greatly diminished.

In a trial like the defendant's, particularly one where the jury's verdict was in conflict and there was a lengthy deliberation, seemingly small distinctions can be important. Although there were few instances where the interviewers directly commented on their belief that a child was truthful, there main reason for testifying is to confirm the believability of the child victims. After all they are experts in child interviews.

When you couple the expert status with the hearsay videos and leading questions, a jury could easily reach the conclusion that the "experts" wouldn't be here if they, as part of their expertise, did not believe the children were telling the truth. The danger of allowing a 40 hour course to make one a child interview expert is obvious, particularly in a close trial without medical evidence, with delayed reporting and conflicting testimony from children.

Overruling objections to children's closed circuit testimony

With one exception (Child 6) all of the children could have testified in open court. The trial judge disagreed. One of the goals for prosecutors in these cases is to present child witnesses in a stress free environment – no jury, no judge and no defendant.

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H. HOLCOMBE

To the extent that plan is successful, the child witness can testify in a room where he/she is comfortable and possibly where the child has been previously been prepared to "testify".

The Court was understandably concerned about the children's emotions and relied upon the therapist's testimony that each of the four children offered as TV witnesses would be devastated by the courtroom confrontation with the defendant. After the Court interviewed the children, including those whom the therapist said could not testify in open court, he found that a couple of them were not afraid and could take the stand. Later this changed.

There is more than one reason that a child witness is hesitant to face an adult defendant in open court. One reason of course is that the child was abused and is fearful of further violation. Another reason, however, and upon which much of our confrontation clause is based upon is that the child is not telling the truth and for that reason does not want face his accuser. The defendant does not believe the Court considered this later reason in making its decision to allow two of the child witnesses to testify outside of the defendant's and jury's presence.

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J. D. BACKLEY

Overruling objections to leading questions asked to the children

The defendant objected to many leading questions asked of the children, including showing the children the poster boards with adult and child body parts, redirecting answers, etc.

Imposing fifty year sentence in retaliation for seeking jury trial

The plea offer in this case was for no more than a 30 year sentence and with the possibility of as little as 16 years. The defendant declined the offer and faced five counts of CSC in addition to six lewd act indictments. The state did not convict the defendant of a single CSC count. The Court imposed a 50 year sentence on the lewd act indictments. The sentence amounted to punishment of the defendant's decision to seek a jury trial.

Overruling irrelevant, prior bad act and prejudicial questions by the prosecution

Although there were several examples of this, without the transcript the defendant is not in a position to list each one. However, during the testimony of

Kenya Rainey the state asked this witness, the defendant's ex-husband, if he would be surprised to learn that the defendant had told a co-worker that Kenya had slept with another man. Over objection, this question and answer were allowed.

Denial of mistrial motion

The prosecutor asked the defendant whether she would be surprised to learn that a co-worker said she (defendant) had made homophobic and racist comments. The defense objected to this question and after a bench conference the objection was sustained. At the same conference the Court gave clear instructions to the prosecutor not to ask the question again and exactly what type of question was permissible. In direct disregard of the Court's instruction the prosecutor asked the same question of the defendant again at which point defense counsel objected (again) and moved for a mistrial which was denied.

Overruling objection to question of the defendant about her prior record

During her testimony the defendant stated that she only had speeding tickets on her record. The prosecution asked the defendant about another conviction which question was allowed over objection. When the defendant denied having the conviction in response to the prosecutor's question, the prosecutor did not ask further questions and importantly did not produce any record or document showing that the defendant had such a conviction. It was improper for the Court to permit the state to ask a question about the defendant's prior conviction record without a substantial factual basis to support that the prior conviction existed.

Granting state's motion to exclude all reference to defendant's polygraph test

This in limine motion was made by the state and heard pretrial by Judge Cole. The defendant argued that since the polygraph test was given during interrogation and since the defendant had agreed to its use in court, including at trial, that the evidence should have been admitted.

Refusing to allow defendant to fully cross examine Lynn McMillan

In addition to qualifying the forensic interviewers as expert witnesses over objection the Court restricted the defendant from cross examining child interviewer and expert witness Lynn McMillan about a family court order which

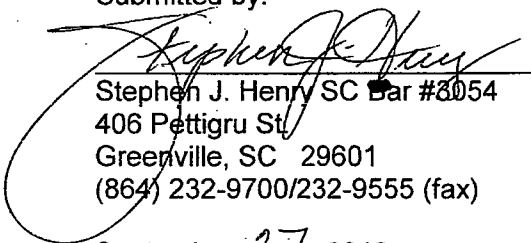
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H. H. COLE

found her child interviewing method to be "not credible", to include "inappropriate leading and suggesting", etc. These judicial conclusions in another case where Ms. McMillan testified had been upheld by the South Carolina Court of Appeals (SCDSS v. Mary C., 396 S.C. 15, 720 S.E.2d 503, S.C. App. 2011) The defendant had copies of both decisions, including a certified copy of the family court order and had subpoenaed the clerk of the Greenville County Family Court to produce the court order if necessary.

The Court determined at a bench conference that the family court case and the present case were too dissimilar for the judge's finding to be relevant and cautioned counsel of consequences if he pursued his line of questioning of Ms. McMillan further.

For these reasons as well as for the denial of all other trial objections and pretrial motions, the defendant asks the Court to grant her a new trial.

Submitted by:


Stephen J. Henry SC Bar #8054
406 Pettigru St.
Greenville, SC 29601
(864) 232-9700/232-9555 (fax)

September 27 2012

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SPARTANBURG COUNTY
2012 SEP 27 PM 4:56
M. HOPE BLACKLEY

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

COUNTY OF SPARTANBURG

The State

Plaintiff,

v.

Ronasha Taylor,

Defendant.

IN THE COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS
FOR THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUITIndictment #'s: 12-GS-42-2624, 2625, 2626,
2627, 2633, and 2634

ORDER

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SPARTANBURG COUNTY
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M. HOPE BLACKBERRY

This matter is before the Court on Post-Trial Motions on behalf of Ronasha Taylor.

On May 7, 2012, the Spartanburg County Grand Jury indicted Ronasha Taylor on six counts of Lewd Act Upon A Minor (Lewd Act) and five counts of Criminal Sexual Conduct with a minor under eleven years of age (CSC).

The trial took place from September 10, 2012 and concluded with jury verdicts on September 19, 2012.

At the conclusion of the State's case, the State dismissed two of the CSC indictments, specifically indictment numbers 2012-GS-42-2629 (Child 6) and 2012-GS-42-2632 (Child 5), as those two children did not testify as to conduct of Taylor required to prove the elements of CSC. The Defendant

then moved for a directed verdict on CSC indictment number 2012-GS-42-2630 (Child 2), which was opposed by the State. The Court granted the motion for directed verdict on that indictment. There was substantial evidence through the children's testimony on the other two CSC indictments. The Defendant did not move for a directed verdict on those two indictments and the Court would not have granted the motions if they had been made.

The defense was centered around the fact that Taylor had surgery, which left a scar on her abdomen and that she had a birthmark below her left breast, which were not identified by the victims. However, one of the victims, Daniel, identified the birthmark and drew it during his forensic interview. He also testified about bruises on Taylor, which could have been referencing the scarring.

Taylor introduced pictures of her abdomen showing the scar and the birthmark. Her mother took the pictures with a high quality camera in a very bright light while she was lying on her back.

The victims testified that the abuse took place in a dark bathroom while Taylor was either standing, sitting on the toilet, or sitting on them in a chair which she brought from outside the bathroom. The victims testified Taylor

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pulled up her shirt or pulled down her pants, but was never naked. The victims, who were three and a half (3-1/2) or four (4) years of age, were forced to participate and it was unpleasant to them, according to their testimony. The Defendant testified that she weighed about two hundred (200 lbs.) pounds at that time. Obviously, a scar from surgery seventeen years earlier could have been obscured by fatty tissue when she was sitting or standing. Whether the three and a-half (3-1/2) and four (4) year old victims should have seen a scar in a dark bathroom under those circumstances was a question for the jury to decide, along with the credibility of the witnesses.

This was a lengthy trial. The jury started deliberations about 3:00 p.m. A little after 5:00 p.m., the jury requested a transcript of the testimony of some of the victims. Their testimony was lined up on audio replay of that testimony. When informed of this, the foreperson sent a note to the Court about 5:30 p.m. and requested that the jury be allowed to go home and return the next morning to resume deliberations. He added that they were not near reaching a verdict at that time. The Court reluctantly agreed to the request of the jury, with the concurrence of the State and the Defendant. The jury had only been deliberating about two and one-half (2-1/2) hours, but may well have been tired from the long trial. The jury never informed the Court that they were

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M. ROPELACKLEY

#3
26th

divided or deadlocked. The jury reached a verdict after about eight (8) hours of deliberation. That time is certainly reasonable, given the length of the trial and the fact that they were presumably following the instructions of the Court to consider the evidence on each charge separately and to make a unanimous decision as to each charge separately.

There was stronger evidence as to each of the Lewd Act charges than on the CSC charges. There was substantial evidence from which the jury could have convicted Taylor on two CSC charges. The convictions would have been upheld by the Court. But, there was more detailed and more substantial evidence on each of the six (6) Lewd Act charges, and the Court finds that each of the guilty verdicts are supported by the evidence.

The Defendant asked that the jury be taken to the daycare center where the abuse took place. The Court denied the motion, finding that there was no additional information that could be gained by the jury from such viewing. There was exhaustive testimony and pictures introduced and published on a screen of the daycare center, cameras in the daycare center, and the bathroom in question. All of the sexual abuse took place in a bathroom which was not visible by camera or by any individual in any part of the daycare building. The Defendant was left alone with the children during naptime while other teachers left for lunch break.

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HONOLULU COUNTY
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M. HONOLULU
BLACKLEY

#4
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The Defendant makes a disingenuous motion for a new trial, based on an allegation that the Court punished her for exercising her right to a jury trial. The Defendant in effect says that because the Court sentenced her to a longer sentence than she would have gotten had she accepted the plea bargain offer from the State, the Court was punishing her for exercising her right to a jury trial. If a Defendant could negotiate the best offer she could get from the State, go to trial, but could not be sentenced to more time by the Court than she would have received by accepting the plea bargain offer, one of two things would happen. The State would no longer make plea bargain offers or the Defendant would always take her chances with a jury trial after getting her best plea bargain offer.

This Court has never punished a Defendant for exercising his or her constitutional right to a jury trial. I did not do so in this case.

The Court heard same pre-trial motions and reviewed the forensic interview videos pre-trial with the consent of the parties to consider their admissibility at trial. They were seven and one-half (7-1/2) hours in length. Given the expected length of the trial, the technical requirements and the expectation that all six children would testify, the Court asked to meet with the parties prior to trial. The Court first informed the parties that it was within the

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CLERK OF COURT
JANUARY 10, 2012
M. HOPE BRACKLEY
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sole discretion of the State whether to make a plea bargain offer to the Defendant and the terms of such. That it was the sole decision of the Defendant to accept a plea bargain offer or to exercise her right to a jury trial. The Court encouraged the parties to explore the possibility of a plea agreement prior to trial.

The Court was informed prior to trial that a new offer had been made to the Defendant by the State, but rejected by the Defendant.

The Court listened to the testimony and evidence over seven (7) days, to include the victims and their parents. The parents of the minor victims spoke at sentencing. They informed the Court of all they and the children had endured over a two-year period, and would continue to endure for the foreseeable future because of the Defendant's sexual abuse of the children. Six of the seven parents asked the Court to sentence the Defendant to the maximum of ninety (90) years. After she was fired by the daycare center where she abused the children, she was applying for work at similar daycare centers. The Court took into consideration the Defendant's age and lack of criminal record. The sentences on Lewd Acts are paroleable. The Defendant will not have to serve anywhere near the fifty (50) year sentence. The Court fashioned a sentence, which it believed to be appropriate in this case.

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Punishment for exercising the right to a jury trial was not a factor or consideration in that decision. If the Court had followed the requests of the parents of the minor victims, it would have imposed a sentence which is almost double the sentence that was imposed. There were a number of factors the Court considered in sentencing the Defendant, but the fact that she chose to exercise her constitutional right to a jury trial was not one of them.

The Defendant testified and thereby placed her character and credibility in question. She also called family members, members of her church, and friends who testified about her credibility and truthfulness, which again places her character and credibility in issue. She testified that she had no criminal record other than speeding tickets. The State asked her about another charge which showed up on her NCIC report. The Court allowed the State to ask her if she had the conviction, not as a prior bad act or impeachable offense under Rule 609 of the SCRE, but to impeach her about the truthfulness of the statement she made about her criminal record. The door was opened by her testimony. The Defendant denied knowledge of the conviction and the State did not further question her about it.

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The Defendant herself and through a number of other witnesses testified about her love of children and how children loved her. But, some of the teachers who worked with the Defendant testified that some of the victims did not like the Defendant and adamantly opposed going into her class. Two other teachers, according to the State's Attorney, were prepared to testify that the Defendant did not treat some of the children well and that she made homophobic and racist remarks about some of the children. An Assistant Attorney General asked the Defendant on cross-examination whether she would be surprised to hear that her co-workers say she made homophobic and racist remarks about some of the children. Defense counsel immediately objected. The Court called the attorneys to the bench. The Court found the evidence relevant and probative in light of the testimony and evidence presented by the defense. But, weighing the evidence pursuant to Rule 403 of the SCRE, the Court determined it was more prejudicial than probative and ruled it would not be admissible.

The Assistant Attorney General then asked the same question again. The defense objected and there was another bench conference. The Assistant Attorney General apologized and stated that she misunderstood the ruling and thought it meant that she could not call the witnesses.

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teachers) to testify about Defendant's remarks, but that she could be asked about making them. The Court clarified the ruling. The Court then gave a curative instruction to the jury to disregard the question altogether and to not give it any consideration whatsoever in their deliberations. The question was ordered to be stricken from the record. Several of the jurors nodded in the affirmative that they understood the instruction. In this regard, it should be considered that the jury deliberated for about eight (8) hours and gave the Defendant the benefit of the doubt in the CSC cases. The jury at no time indicated that they were divided or deadlocked.

The defense attorney sought to impeach Lynn McMillan, a state expert witness, about critical remarks allegedly made by a family court case several years earlier. Apparently, defense counsel had just received a copy of the case. McMillan had testified about a substantial amount of training and experience, including being qualified many times as an expert by Courts, since that opinion was issued. Defense counsel was, therefore, instructed to be fact specific as to the particular criticism in the family court opinion to which he was referring, so the witness could respond to it. Defense counsel

was unable to do so at that time. He, therefore, stopped on his own and said he would come back to it. But, he did not do so. The Court did not stop him from cross-examining the witness.

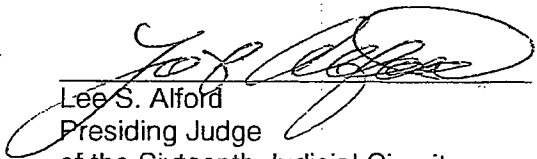
The Court finds that the other issues raised by defense counsel were adequately addressed on the record by the Court and will not address them further in this order.

There was substantial evidence which supports the jury's verdicts in this case, and the Court was not shocked or surprised by the verdicts.

Conclusion

The Court denies the Defendant's motion for a new trial on the verdicts in this case.

IT IS SO ORDERED.


Lee S. Alford
Presiding Judge
of the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit

York, South Carolina

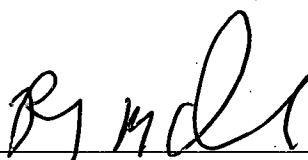
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SPARTANBURG COUNTY
2012 OCT -9 AM 10:50
M. HOPE BLACKLEY

CERTIFICATE OF COUNSEL FOR APPELLANT

Counsel for the 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 August 13, 2007 order of the South Carolina Supreme Court entitled "Interim Guidance Regarding Personal Data Identifiers And Other Sensitive Information in Appellate Court Filings."

June 9th, 2014



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