

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
IN THE COURT OF APPEALS

---

ORIGINAL

Appeal from Newberry County  
Frank R. Addy Jr., Circuit Court Judge

---

THE STATE,

v.

CLIFTON CURTIS BOOZER,

RECEIVED  
JAN 09 2020  
SC Court of Appeals  
RESPONDENT

APPELLANT

APPELLATE CASE NO. 2018-001542

---

RECORD ON APPEAL

---

SUSAN B. HACKETT  
Appellate Defender

ALAN WILSON  
Attorney General

South Carolina Commission on Indigent  
Defense  
Division of Appellate Defense  
PO Box 11589  
Columbia, SC 29211-1589  
(803) 734-1330

DONALD J. ZELENKA  
Deputy Attorney General

MELODY J. BROWN  
Senior Assistant Deputy Attorney General

ATTORNEY FOR APPELLANT

MICHAEL D. ROSS  
Assistant Attorney General  
S.C. Bar No. 73986  
South Carolina Office of the Attorney General  
P.O. Box 11549  
Columbia, South Carolina 29211  
(803) 734-6307

David M. Stumbo  
Solicitor, Eighth Judicial Circuit

ATTORNEYS FOR RESPONDENT

# INDEX

|                                                |     |
|------------------------------------------------|-----|
| INDEX .....                                    | i   |
| TRIAL TRANSCRIPT DATED AUGUST 6-10, 2018 ..... | 1   |
| OPENING STATEMENT BY MR. DANIEL .....          | 2   |
| OPENING STATEMENT BY MR. VERNER .....          | 10  |
| TESTIMONY                                      |     |
| TERRI LAWSON                                   |     |
| Direct examination by Mr. Daniel .....         | 21  |
| Cross examination by Mr. Verner .....          | 26  |
| HARRY BODIFORD                                 |     |
| Direct examination by Mr. Daniel .....         | 29  |
| Cross examination by Mr. Verner .....          | 42  |
| JAMES TALLON                                   |     |
| Direct examination by Mr. Scott.....           | 48  |
| Cross examination by Mr. Verner .....          | 77  |
| Redirect examination by Mr. Scott .....        | 95  |
| LAURA KNEECE                                   |     |
| Direct examination by Mr. Daniel .....         | 98  |
| Cross examination by Mr. Verner .....          | 117 |
| Redirect examination by Mr. Daniel.....        | 135 |
| TIM GRAMBOW                                    |     |
| Direct examination by Mr. Scott.....           | 139 |
| Cross examination by Mr. Verner .....          | 151 |
| VERONA HERRERA                                 |     |
| Direct examination by Mr. Scott.....           | 163 |
| Cross examination by Mr. Verner .....          | 168 |
| MARYANN BOEHM                                  |     |
| Direct examination by Mr. Scott.....           | 170 |
| Cross examination by Mr. Verner .....          | 184 |
| Redirect examination by Mr. Scott .....        | 197 |
| WALTER BENTLEY                                 |     |
| Direct examination by Mr. Daniel .....         | 199 |

|                                                   |     |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Cross examination by Mr. Verner .....             | 210 |
| Redirect examination by Mr. Daniel.....           | 223 |
| Re-Cross examination by Mr. Verner.....           | 225 |
| VANISSIA WRIGHT                                   |     |
| Direct examination by Mr. Scott.....              | 226 |
| Cross examination by Mr. Verner .....             | 244 |
| Redirect examination by Mr. Scott .....           | 260 |
| JANICE ROSS                                       |     |
| Direct examination by Mr. Scott.....              | 264 |
| Cross examination by Mr. Verner .....             | 285 |
| Redirect examination by Mr. Scott .....           | 300 |
| Re-Cross examination by Mr. Verner.....           | 304 |
| JENNIFER BROKOB                                   |     |
| Direct examination by Mr. Daniel .....            | 307 |
| CHRIS JOHNSON                                     |     |
| Direct examination by Mr. Daniel .....            | 316 |
| Voir Dire examination by Mr. Verner .....         | 319 |
| Direct examination by Mr. Daniel (continued)..... | 321 |
| Cross examination by Mr. Verner.....              | 332 |
| HARRY BODIFORD (recalled)                         |     |
| Direct examination by Mr. Daniel .....            | 336 |
| Cross examination by Mr. Verner.....              | 387 |
| Redirect examination by Mr. Daniel.....           | 407 |
| Re-Cross Examination by Mr. Verner .....          | 410 |
| JENNIFER BROKOB (recalled)                        |     |
| Direct examination by Mr. Daniel .....            | 412 |
| Cross examination by Mr. Verner .....             | 419 |
| BRANDY COUNTS                                     |     |
| Direct examination by Mr. Scott.....              | 426 |
| Cross examination by Mr. Verner .....             | 437 |
| HEATHER HOBBY                                     |     |
| Direct examination by Mr. Daniel .....            | 449 |
| Cross examination by Mr. Verner .....             | 455 |
| Redirect examination by Mr. Daniel.....           | 462 |
| NIYLA W.                                          |     |
| Direct examination by Mr. Scott.....              | 465 |
| Cross examination by Mr. Verner .....             | 485 |

|                                         |     |
|-----------------------------------------|-----|
| EVE W.                                  |     |
| Direct examination by Mr. Scott.....    | 491 |
| Cross examination by Mr. Verner .....   | 511 |
| Redirect examination by Mr. Scott ..... | 517 |
| STATE RESTS .....                       | 518 |
| TESTIMONY                               |     |
| NATASHA ROBINSON                        |     |
| Direct examination by Mr. Verner.....   | 519 |
| Cross examination by Mr. Scott.....     | 533 |
| DEFENSE RESTS .....                     | 542 |
| CHARGE CONFERENCE.....                  | 542 |
| CLOSING ARGUMENT BY MR. VERNER.....     | 549 |
| CLOSING ARGUMENT BY MR. SCOTT .....     | 587 |
| CHARGE ON THE LAW .....                 | 628 |
| VERDICT .....                           | 649 |
| SENTENCING .....                        | 659 |
| INDICTMENTS AND SENTENCING SHEETS ..... | 660 |
| CERTIFICATE OF COUNSEL .....            | 663 |

**THE FOLLOWING EXHIBIT IS ON FILE WITH THIS COURT:**

**STATE'S EXHIBIT #60 (CD)**



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )  
COUNTY OF NEWBERRY ) COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS  
) 2017-GS-36-00290  
) **ORIGINAL**  
)   
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )  
PLAINTIFF)   
vs. ) TRANSCRIPT OF RECORD  
)   
CLIFTON CURTIS BOOZER )  
DEFENDANT)

August 6-10, 2018  
Newberry, South Carolina

B E F O R E:

THE HONORABLE FRANK R. ADDY, Judge; and a jury.

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

DALE SCOTT, ESQ.  
TAYLOR DANIEL, ESQ.  
Attorneys for the State

CHARLES VERNER, ESQ.  
Attorney for the Defendant

APRIL HERRON  
Official Court Reporter

1 recognized for your opening, sir.

2 MR. DANIEL: Thank you, Your Honor. May it  
3 please the Court?

4 THE COURT: Yes, sir.

5 OPENING STATEMENT

6 MR. DANIEL: Good afternoon, ladies and  
7 gentlemen, I'll kind of get to the point. This is a  
8 case that's rooted in domestic violence. You can't  
9 understand the dynamics of this case without me  
10 indicating domestic violence. We're here today  
11 because Clatie Stribble, the victim in this case, is  
12 not here. Thirty-five year-old woman, mother of  
13 four, was murdered May 3rd of last year at her home  
14 in Prosperity, [REDACTED] Conifer Drive. She died at the  
15 hands of her on-again, off-again boyfriend, Clifton  
16 Boozer, standing before you on trial.

17 And they dated sporadically throughout the  
18 years, lived together on and off. By all accounts, a  
19 tumultuous, toxic relationship. In a sense, her fate  
20 was sealed when she met Mr.~Boozer, because,  
21 ultimately, it ended with her death in the most  
22 violent, brutal fashion that you can imagine. She  
23 was strangled to death, suffered a horrible stab  
24 wound to the neck. She died a very bloody, painful,  
25 agonizing death. That's why it's a murder case.

1 Unlawful, unjustifiable, inexcusable killing of  
2 another person is what he's charged with. That's it,  
3 that's the case in a nutshell.

4 Take you back to May 3rd, 2017, early morning  
5 hours. Clifton Boozer doesn't live with Clatie  
6 Stribble at the time this happens. Goes to her  
7 house, we believe, a little after 5:00 a.m., gets a  
8 cab to drop him off. He's on the outs with Clatie.  
9 Of course, they're on-again, off-again throughout  
10 their entire dating history. Clatie, as I said, has  
11 four kids, three of them lived with her, three  
12 daughters, who are present in the courtroom today.  
13 They live with her -- they did live with her on  
14 Conifer Drive in Prosperity.

15 Mr.~Boozer takes a cab there that morning, goes  
16 there, waits on the kids to leave to go to school,  
17 get on the bus. He's lying in wait. Then makes his  
18 way into the house for a final confrontation with  
19 Clatie and it ended with her death. Again, this  
20 doesn't happen in a vacuum. They had been dating for  
21 years. They had a toxic, turbulent, tumultuous  
22 relationship. That's how you would describe it,  
23 that's a very fair and accurate way to describe it.  
24 So, that's what this case is about. You can't  
25 understand it without understanding their history.

1           You'll hear Mr.~Boozer's side of the story. He  
2 actually calls 911 and reports that he killed his  
3 girlfriend. You'll hear the 911 call. And I submit  
4 to you later on, he's interviewed by police after he  
5 makes that 911 call. He gives a very self-serving  
6 interview. You'll get to consider this interview as  
7 evidence. And based on that interview, you'll have  
8 some choices that are going to be presented to you at  
9 the conclusion of this case. You will have some  
10 choices related to whether he's guilty of murder or a  
11 lesser included offense of involuntary manslaughter.  
12 Or you can even decide to acquit him based on  
13 self-defense. This is all because he gives this  
14 self-serving interview. So, you'll be presented with  
15 choices. But, ultimately, it's the evidence that is  
16 going to decide this case. It's the evidence that is  
17 going to convict him.

18           I submit to you that the evidence points to only  
19 one verdict, that's a verdict of guilty of murder.  
20 We're not asking for a lesser offense because the  
21 evidence does not suggest he's guilty of anything  
22 other than murder. So, you will get the opportunity  
23 to review the evidence, hear from all the witnesses.

24           Kind of how we'll do this is we'll start the  
25 trial by playing the 911 call Mr.~Boozer makes.

1       You'll hear the dispatcher on the phone when he  
2       described how he killed his girlfriend and choked  
3       her. And he kind of says we've been dating for about  
4       six years, and then the police show up.

5               Lieutenant Harry Bodiford, he was the first  
6       officer on the scene, Town of Prosperity Police  
7       Department. He was the first officer to respond to  
8       that 911 call made by Mr.~Boozer. He's the one -- he  
9       arrives on scene, has to detain Mr.~Boozer, who's  
10      still on scene. He's also the lead investigating  
11      officer as well, so he has dual roles in this  
12      investigation. He's wearing two hats. He's the  
13      first officer on scene and he also does the  
14      investigation. He's also a part of the interview I  
15      told you about where he makes what I call farfetched  
16      statements that are not consistent with the evidence,  
17      that are self-serving and that he concocted this  
18      whole story.

19             And the story is simply this, Mr.~Boozer tells  
20      the police that he goes over there that morning to  
21      reconcile their relationship problems that he's  
22      having with Clatie. Now, they don't have any kids  
23      together. They don't have any biological kids, but  
24      they've been dating for years, as I stated. But he  
25      tells police he went over there that morning to

1       reconcile everything that was going on. And he tells  
2       Officer Bodiford he arrived there at 8 o'clock that  
3       morning, after the kids, after Clatie's kids had  
4       gotten on the bus to go to school. And her daughters  
5       are young teenagers. Mid-Carolina Middle School I  
6       think is where her daughters were going at the time.

7               So, he waits until the kids get on the bus. He  
8       goes up there about 8 o'clock, he says, to work on  
9       their relationship. He tells Officer Bodiford that  
10      they have a consensual sexual encounter, consensual  
11      sexual encounter. And at some point after they're  
12      done having their sexual encounter, Clatie just  
13      snaps. She starts degrading him. She starts talking  
14      about infidelity issues, things like that. And then  
15      she picks up a knife and comes after him. His story  
16      again. She picks up a knife that's in the bedroom,  
17      comes at him with a knife. A struggle ensues over  
18      the knife. Somehow she's stabbed in the process,  
19      there's blood everywhere. Eventually, he's able to  
20      get the knife away from her. And to prevent her from  
21      getting another knife, he says he chokes her. That's  
22      his story.

23              So, based on that statement alone, which is not  
24      consistent with all of the evidence, which we ask you  
25      to discount that version of story, you get to decide

1       whether he's guilty of murder or voluntary  
2       self-defense based on that story alone.

3               So, typically, I don't talk about the lesser  
4       charges you get to consider, but in this case, I  
5       will. It doesn't mean you have to accept my version.  
6       Again, it's our case, it's our burden of proof. And  
7       the evidence, as I stated, is only going to show one  
8       thing, how he got there early that morning. And he  
9       actually -- it's inconsistent what he said. He said  
10      he got there about 8 o'clock that morning. We have  
11      testimony or we're going to present testimony from  
12      the cab driver, the cab company who dropped his off,  
13      her testimony is that she dropped him off around  
14      5:00 a.m., a little after. We also have phone  
15      records of Mr.~Boozer showing he was in the area,  
16      hitting off a cell phone tower in the area of Conifer  
17      Drive at about 5:45 in the morning. Okay.

18             Then there's testimony you'll hear from Laura  
19      Kneece, who is the county coroner. She lives right  
20      near Clatie, where Clatie lived. She even saw  
21      Clatie's daughters, what time they get on the bus.  
22      You'll hear from Clatie's daughters about what time  
23      they got on the bus.

24             They got on the bus, the bus picks them up a  
25      little before 7:00 a.m. And then Mr.~Boozer doesn't

1 call 911 until about 8:26, 8:26 a.m. So, that puts  
2 him on Conifer Drive for two hours or more. So, he  
3 had two hours. Even after the kids leave, at around  
4 a little before 7:00, 6:45, perhaps, that still gives  
5 him, at least, an hour and half where he's alone with  
6 Clatie.

7 So, we'll go through all the crime scene photos.  
8 You'll see the blood in the bedroom. You'll see  
9 different crime scene photos, diagrams, things of  
10 that nature. And you'll see how there's a cigarette  
11 butt outside the bedroom window, Clatie's bedroom  
12 window and how a tire that was used to hold the  
13 crawlspace door secure, how that was used for  
14 somebody to possibly stand on to hear in this  
15 bedroom. This shows almost how calculating and  
16 premeditated this crime was, how he was lying in  
17 wait. How he didn't come there that day for a  
18 peaceful encounter. He came there that for one  
19 purpose, to hurt her, to kill her, to inflict harm,  
20 to wreak havoc. That's what he was there to do. And  
21 that's the evidence. There's no way around it. It's  
22 inescapable, unavoidable. It really is. That's the  
23 case.

24 This is not -- according to Mr.~Boozer, it's  
25 self-defense. This is not about self-defense. This



1 case is not about self-defense. It's about  
2 self-denial. Mr.~Boozer didn't have to kill her. He  
3 decided to kill her. He chose to kill her. That's  
4 why it's not a self-defense case. That's why it's  
5 murder, period.

6 Like I said, you will be presented with choices  
7 at the conclusion of this case. Choices. And what I  
8 will tell you at the outset of the trial is it's hard  
9 enough when people die through natural causes, old  
10 age, cancer, things like that. It's even tougher  
11 when people experience untimely deaths, accidental  
12 deaths, car wrecks. But something the law can't  
13 tolerate is when one person kills another person with  
14 malice, malice aforethought. And that's kind of the  
15 legal definition, the killing of another person with  
16 malice aforethought. We'll explain that -- that's  
17 murder, but we'll explain that later on in this case.

18 I'll leave you with one quote. I've used this  
19 before in murder trials. And I can't think of a more  
20 appropriate quote, that's why I use it again. And it  
21 was said by Voltaire. To the living, we owe respect,  
22 but to the dead, we owe the truth. We owe the truth.  
23 The evidence is going to make you see the truth. And  
24 from that, there will be justice. And I submit to  
25 you, justice in this case is a guilty verdict of

1 murder. That's all it is. Nothing more or nothing  
2 less, it's murder. Thank you.

3 THE COURT: All right, Mr. Daniel.

4 Mr.~Verner, recognize you for opening.

5 MR. VERNER: May it please the Court, Your  
6 Honor?

7 THE COURT: Yes, sir.

8 OPENING STATEMENT

9 MR. VERNER: Mr. Foreman, ladies and gentlemen  
10 of the jury, I'll clarify this some. I think the  
11 solicitor was a little bit incorrect on his time, but  
12 the evidence likely will be -- the evidence that  
13 you'll hear, I think the call to the taxi company by  
14 Clifton was 5:45 that morning, but he certainly was  
15 in a taxi about 6 o'clock that morning. Clifton and  
16 Clatie had been in a live-together,  
17 boyfriend-girlfriend relationship for about seven  
18 years. She had his name tattooed on her arm. They  
19 were a couple for many, many years, seven years, and  
20 living together. And again, it was off again and on  
21 again, and you'll hear about that.

22 In South Carolina, murder is obviously the top.  
23 We don't have first degree, second degree, third  
24 degree. When we talk about murder, that is what you  
25 think of as first degree murder, that is a

1 premeditated -- premeditated is you've got the time  
2 to think about it and plan it. You know they call it  
3 cold-blooded murder, that is you've got the time to  
4 think about what you're going to do and you execute  
5 it.

6 And here's why I'm going to submit to you that  
7 this is not a murder. Certainly, the State -- I  
8 understand why it's charged as a murder, the police  
9 get there, there's a dead lady and she's been killed  
10 by violence. That's murder. And that's where they  
11 started their case. And then they're building it  
12 down to the ground as opposed to figure everything up  
13 and build it up to the appropriate charge.  
14 Premeditated murder. Now, you don't have to have a  
15 long time to premeditate, but they have to prove that  
16 he has actually planned out a murder. He's got to  
17 have malice to kill somebody and then he sets the  
18 wheels in motion and completes it.

19 Why I submit to you some reasons that is just  
20 right off the beginning it just doesn't fit all four  
21 legs of a murder case. If I had it in my heart to  
22 kill somebody, I hate that jerk. I'm going to kill  
23 them. I hate them. I've got malice in my heart so  
24 much I'm going to kill them. The first thing -- and  
25 you've got time to think on it, that's the

1 premeditation. You've got time to premeditate. The  
2 first thing I'm going to do is get a weapon. I'm  
3 going to get a gun, actually. You know, if I'm going  
4 to kill somebody, I'm going to get a gun. I'm not  
5 going to get a knife, I'm not going to get a baseball  
6 bat. If it came to it, people do it that way. They  
7 get a gun. If you're going to kill somebody, you're  
8 going to get a gun or you're going to get a weapon.  
9 You're, at least, going to bring a weapon to the  
10 place where you're going to kill somebody.

11 The second thing they're going to do is there's  
12 going to be some attempt to -- if I'm going to go  
13 ahead and kill somebody and I've got time to  
14 premeditate it, I'm going to have some kind of  
15 explanation for what I've done. I'm either going to  
16 get in my car and leave. I'm not going to be dumped  
17 off by a taxi and have the taxi leave at the place  
18 where I'm going to kill somebody. If I'm going to  
19 kill somebody, I'm going to steal a damn car and I'm  
20 going to park it outside the house or I'm going to  
21 have a friend drive me away, or I'm going to have the  
22 taxi come back and pick me up. But I'm not going to  
23 be dumped off some place I'm committing a capital  
24 crime.

25 The -- I'm going to have, at least, some kind of

1 version of an excuse I can give to the police. I'm  
2 going to have an alibi witness, I was with you, Bob,  
3 I was with you, Ms. Georgia. Didn't you see me? I'm  
4 not going to be at the scene of a murder. I'm going  
5 to be gone. Either I'm leaving and going to Mexico  
6 or I'm leaving this county or I'm, at least, going  
7 back home and coming up with some kind of evidence  
8 that I wasn't there. The last thing I'm going to do  
9 is call the police immediately and call an ambulance  
10 and invite them over.

11 That just don't have any -- it doesn't make  
12 sense that I'm going to kill somebody and I know I'm  
13 going to kill somebody, but I don't bring a weapon, I  
14 don't bring a way to leave, I don't have any kind of  
15 excuse of alibi, any kind of defense and I call the  
16 police. None of that makes sense as a murder, other  
17 than you've got Ms. Clatie Stribble, who's dead, and  
18 it's violent.

19 And I am kind of struggling with the assistant  
20 solicitor is stating that he gives a self-serving  
21 statement to the police. I think that's cherry. But  
22 if you are ever interviewed in a crime and you give a  
23 state that's anything short of yes, I did everything  
24 y'all said I did and I'm guilty, then it's a  
25 self-serving statement. I think it's kind of a jaded

1 way to look at it.

2 What Clifton told the police the day he was  
3 arrested, the day he called the police, the day he  
4 called for EMS is the same story that you're going to  
5 hear. That they're in a long term relationship.  
6 They are still seeing each other. She was -- her car  
7 was at his house the day before where he was working  
8 on it. She had expected him to come that day. A  
9 little bit hazy, but he doesn't come until the  
10 children are gone to school, which, people do. I  
11 mean, we all know that sometimes if you're seeing  
12 somebody that you'll wait until their kids are gone  
13 or until their friends are gone so you can see them.

14 The only question for you, it's not a really  
15 forensically complicated case. We know she was  
16 killed and we know how she was killed and we know who  
17 did it. The reason is why. And your role as a jury  
18 is not we're here to find the truth. We can't do  
19 that. I wasn't there, you weren't there, they  
20 weren't there. There was only one person who was  
21 there. And he's going to give his side of the story  
22 and you're going to have to decide whether it's true  
23 or not. But he will say that they were in a sexual  
24 relationship for seven years.

25 The -- I'm not going to play it out now, but

1       there's some reasons, and I'll show you, I submit  
2       you'll see some reasons why she would lose her temper  
3       and where the knife would come from her. He is going  
4       to tell you that she was jealous and angry at him, a  
5       little bit controlling, felt she was being used at  
6       times. They got into an argument. She had a knife  
7       and she was going to cut him. And they fought over  
8       the knife the first time. It ended up with him  
9       throwing her and slamming her against the couch and  
10      she got cut. And they're fighting over a knife.  
11      He's got a stab wound in his arm to this day that you  
12      can see, which would make no sense of how he would  
13      get cut if he was the one holding the knife the whole  
14      time, in his upper arm. The fight resumed and he  
15      tried to put a submission hold on her. He tried to  
16      choke her out. He tried to hold her down and choke  
17      her until she calmed down or stopped fighting. And  
18      unfortunately, that's what killed her.

19             The coroner will testify that she was choked to  
20      death. Which again, if you're going to knife  
21      somebody, you're going to kill them with a knife.  
22      What Clifton did to Clatie was a submission hold. It  
23      is a painful technique. Cops do it all the time.  
24      Not that particular maneuver, but you will hear  
25      submission techniques or pain compliance. And we've

1 all been in a fight with our brother or little sister  
2 or somebody and you get them and you hurt them until  
3 they stop. That's exactly what he did to Clatie.  
4 She had a knife. He put her in a pain hold, a choke  
5 hold so she couldn't continue. He choked her out and  
6 he killed her. But it was when she brandished a  
7 knife and tried to cut him and did cut him.

8 I submit to you that that is a true version,  
9 that is self-defense. It is a tragic way for  
10 somebody to die. I'm not happy at all about it and  
11 he's not happy. No one is happy about it. But if it  
12 is likely or even possible that that is how she was  
13 killed, he's entitled to a not guilty verdict. You  
14 don't have to be cut with somebody -- and the judge  
15 will charge you, even if it is a woman, you do not  
16 have to be cut by a knife. You don't have to stand  
17 there and take it. If you think that you're in  
18 reasonable -- if there's a reasonable belief that you  
19 might be harmed or getting harmed, you've got the  
20 right to use any kind of force, even deadly force to  
21 defend yourself. And I do submit to you that we're  
22 starting that it's not guilty by self-defense. We're  
23 starting it from the ground up and building up to  
24 what the charges could be. They're starting from the  
25 maximum charge and trying to build their case to



1       justify the roof. And we're trying to build floors  
2       and build walls until y'all decide what the roof is.  
3       We think that you start any kind of deliberation with  
4       whether it's self-defense.

5               The second issue is we've got murder, which on  
6       TV, they say first degree murder, but it's just  
7       murder in South Carolina. Kind of what other states  
8       would call second degree murder or what South  
9       Carolina calls voluntary manslaughter is basically,  
10      if you kill somebody unlawfully in the heat of  
11      passion, there has to be provocation. The  
12      provocation can be an emotionally charged argument.  
13      It can be a mutual fight. It can be somebody  
14      damaging your property. It can be jealous rage by  
15      catching your spouse or your significant other in a  
16      romantically unfaithful-type position. But it's  
17      not -- the difference is between, I guess, voluntary  
18      manslaughter or second degree murder and first degree  
19      or murder, voluntary and murder is the lack of  
20      premeditation. It's a heat of passion killing.

21             For us, we submit that that is the roof on the  
22      case. But it's not murder if it's not planned. The  
23      only thing they have to justify a murder is that it  
24      is an up and down relationship. That's the only  
25      thing they're going to ask you to build a house on.

1 And I submit to you that it's much more likely an  
2 emotional situation on her end than his end. And  
3 possibly, it may be a involuntary manslaughter, which  
4 is if somebody is guilty of reckless behavior.  
5 Reckless behavior is something that you know has the  
6 likelihood or possibility of harming somebody, but  
7 you do it any way and it results in death. If you  
8 find that the choking was not with the intent to  
9 harm her, but that a reasonable person would have  
10 done that with indifference or understanding, if  
11 possible, I'm not -- we'll see how the case goes, but  
12 it could be an involuntary manslaughter, which would  
13 be the third degree, which is that his act of choking  
14 her was not designed to kill her, but it was still  
15 something that a reasonable person would know could  
16 lead to harm.

17 And that's where the case is. There are going  
18 to be a lot of witnesses to show where this was found  
19 and that was found. But essentially, we know who  
20 done it. We know when they done it. We know how  
21 they done it. We know what they did. The only  
22 difference is we don't know why. And they want to  
23 build their charge from the top at murder and then  
24 hope that you will work your way down slowly. And we  
25 are asking for you to consider self-defense and build

1       the case -- if you're going to send somebody to  
2       prison, build the foundation and then work your way  
3       up. And that is the role of the jury. You're not  
4       here to find the truth.

5               The reason we have jury trials is to protect a  
6       citizen from the State. If the State is going to  
7       take somebody's liberty, life or property, they have  
8       to get over a jury of your peers, people who live in  
9       your community. You're not here to help the State  
10      find out what happened. You are here to decide if  
11      the State has enough evidence to deprive somebody of  
12      their liberty and to what extent. You are a gate, a  
13      bar to the State. You are what protects the  
14      citizens. You're not -- you know, sometimes, we --  
15      it's like we're feeding the classroom, we're trying  
16      to help you learn, we're not. We're hoping that you  
17      exercise your duty of protecting the citizens. If  
18      the State has a strong case, you are duty bound to  
19      convict somebody. If the State has flaws with their  
20      case, under that same oath, you are duty bound to  
21      find them either guilty of what the charge is if  
22      think it's appropriate or not guilty.

23             And I will tell you, this is a murder case, this  
24      is unusual for Newberry. Not unique, but it's not  
25      that common either, thankfully. But I've been here

1       since 2005, we've tried a lot of cases in Newberry.  
2       One week of court every month of criminal court. We  
3       go through a lot of trials, a lot of pleas. At the  
4       end of the case, you've got nobody to help nor nobody  
5       to punishment. I accept the jury's verdict, whatever  
6       it is. I don't question it. And they do the same.  
7       They move on, too. Short term, somebody might say  
8       well, how in the hell did you lose that case on my  
9       end or their end. But we've got the next guy in  
10      line. We don't hold grudges. They don't hold  
11      grudges. I don't hold grudges. You're duty bound  
12      under your oath to do what you think is right. And  
13      what I think is right is for y'all to consider to  
14      start at the base of whether it's self-defense, then  
15      work up. Thank you.

16               THE COURT: Thank you, Mr.~Verner.

17               Solicitor, call your first witness, please.

18               MR. DANIEL: Your Honor, the State calls Terri  
19      Lawson.

20               TERRI LAWSON, after being duly sworn, testifies  
21      as follows:

22               THE CLERK: Have a seat. State your full name  
23      for the record.

24               THE WITNESS: My name is Terri Lawson.

25                       DIRECT EXAMINATION

TERRI LAWSON-DIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 BY MR. DANIEL:

2 Q Ms. Lawson, where are you employed?

3 A Newberry County Sheriff's Office dispatch  
4 center.

5 Q How long have you've been employed with Newberry  
6 County dispatch?

7 A Twenty-four years.

8 THE COURT: Lean forward just a little bit.

9 BY MR. DANIEL:

10 Q Make sure you speak up into that microphone,  
11 please. So, you've been employed at Newberry County  
12 dispatch for 24 years?

13 A Yes, sir.

14 Q What exactly is your job title?

15 A I'm the supervisor of the dispatch center.

16 Q Does that mean you fill 911 calls?

17 A Yes, sir.

18 Q So, if I were to call 911 and report an  
19 emergency, you would actually be an individual who would  
20 take that call?

21 A I would be one of them, yes, sir.

22 Q All right. I want to go back to May 3rd of last  
23 year, May 3rd, 2017. Were you working that morning?

24 A Yes, sir.

25 Q And did you have an occasion to take a 911 call

TERRI LAWSON-DIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 from an individual by the name of Clifton Boozer?

2 A I did.

3 Q Have you had a chance -- first of all, was that  
4 911 call recorded?

5 A Yes, sir.

6 Q Have you had a chance to listen to that 911  
7 recording?

8 A Yes, I have.

9 Q I'm going to hand you what's been marked for ID  
10 purposes as State's No. 2. Do you recognize that?

11 A Yes, sir.

12 Q And are those your initials, TL?

13 A Yes, sir.

14 Q And what is this?

15 A It's a recording of the call.

16 Q Okay. All right. And you've listened to it.

17 Is this 911 call a fair and accurate representation of the  
18 call you received from Clifton Boozer on May 3rd of last  
19 year?

20 A Yes, sir.

21 Q Okay. All right. What was the substance of  
22 that phone call? What emergency was being reported?

23 A He called to say that he killed his girlfriend.

24 Q Okay. Did Mr.~Boozer identify himself as  
25 Clifton Boozer?

TERRI LAWSON-DIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 A Yes, sir, he did.

2 Q Do you recall -- we'll play the video tape -- or  
3 we'll play the recording, but do you recall anything else  
4 of substance that he said to you?

5 A No.

6 MR. VERNER: Your Honor, that's very open-ended.  
7 The tape should speak for itself.

8 THE COURT: Fair enough. Sustained.

9 MR. DANIEL: And we'll play the tape.

10 BY MR. DANIEL:

11 Q And I know you receive a lot of calls?

12 A Yes, sir.

13 Q All right. And I want to talk to you, also,  
14 about what is a CAD report?

15 A It's what generated, that's how we keep all the  
16 information, keep up with times, the caller information.

17 Q What does CAD stand for?

18 A Computer-aided dispatch.

19 Q So, any time you receive a 911 call, there's a  
20 computer-generated report associated with that call?

21 A Yes, sir.

22 Q I'm going to hand you what's been marked for ID  
23 purposes as State's No. 1. Do you recognize this?

24 A Yes, sir.

25 Q What is that?

TERRI LAWSON-DIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 A That's the CAD report for this call.

2 Q Okay, for this particular case?

3 A Yes, sir.

4 MR. DANIEL: Your Honor, I offer State's No. 1  
5 for admission into evidence.

6 THE COURT: Without objection?

7 MR. VERNER: No objection, Your Honor.

8 THE COURT: State's 1 is in evidence.

9 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibit No. 1 was admitted  
10 into evidence.)

11 MR. DANIEL: And did I admit State's No. 2, the  
12 911 call into evidence, Your Honor?

13 THE COURT: Not yet.

14 MR. VERNER: I would like to see it to make sure  
15 it's the same one.

16 THE COURT: Sure.

17 MR. VERNER: Again, without objection, Your  
18 Honor.

19 THE COURT: All right. State's 1 and 2 are in  
20 evidence.

21 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibit No. 2 was admitted  
22 into evidence.)

23 BY MR. DANIEL:

24 Q All right. And on State's No. 1, does it also  
25 list what phone number someone's calling 911 from on the



TERRI LAWSON-DIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 CAD report?

2 A Yes, sir.

3 Q What phone number is on that report?

4 A 924 -- I can't see without my glasses. It's  
5 924-6991, 803.

6 MR. DANIEL: Put up State's No. 1. Okay.

7 BY MR. DANIEL:

8 Q All right. This is the CAD report I now have on  
9 the TV. So, the phone number -- the person calling 911,  
10 their phone number should be on this CAD report?

11 A Yes, sir.

12 Q And that is (803)924-6991?

13 A Yes, sir.

14 Q That's the number that Clifton Boozer called you  
15 from?

16 A Yes, sir.

17 MS. DANIEL: Your Honor, at this time, I would  
18 publish State's No. 2, the 911 call, as well.

19 THE COURT: You may proceed.

20 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibit No. 2 was  
21 published.)

22 BY MR. DANIEL:

23 Q All right. Ms. Lawson, that was about a  
24 four-minute phone call between you and Mr.~Boozer; is that  
25 correct?

## TERRI LAWSON-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 A Yes, sir.

2 Q Okay. And I should have asked you probably  
3 earlier, what time, according to that CAD report, did that  
4 phone call from Mr.~Boozer come in?

5 A 8:26.

6 Q 8:26 a.m.?

7 A Uh-huh.

8 Q May 3rd, 2017?

9 A Yes, sir.

10 Q All right. To your knowledge, are there any  
11 other 911 calls that Mr.~Boozer made to dispatch, Newberry  
12 County dispatch that day?

13 A Not that I'm aware of.

14 Q There's no recording where Mr.~Boozer calls in  
15 to report that he had been attacked with a knife?

16 A No, sir.

17 Q Okay.

18 MR. DANIEL: Thank you, Ms. Lawson. Please  
19 answer any questions that the Defense may have.

20 THE COURT: Mr.~Verner.

21 CROSS-EXAMINATION

22 BY MR. VERNER:

23 Q Ms. Lawson, are you employed by the sheriff's  
24 department?

25 A Yes, sir.

## TERRI LAWSON-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 Q Are you classified as a deputy or officer?

2 A No, sir.

3 Q But you've got speciality training in the  
4 emergency department?

5 A Yes, sir.

6 Q Okay. Is 911 the same call that I would call  
7 for an ambulance?

8 A Yes, sir.

9 Q So, any kind of emergency, you would use the  
10 911?

11 A Yes, sir.

12 Q Okay. The -- what you played for the jury, was  
13 that the full audio?

14 A Yes, sir. Both calls.

15 Q That ends where the tape ends?

16 A Yes, sir.

17 Q The -- is it fair to say that the -- assume  
18 that's Mr.~Boozer, and we're not contesting that, but he  
19 appears somewhat in shock or he's not in a talkative mood,  
20 is he?

21 A I don't know him personally. I don't know.

22 Q Okay. And you've been with 911 dispatch for how  
23 long?

24 A Twenty-four years.

25 Q Oftentimes, people -- in your experience, you

## TERRI LAWSON-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 would agree that people call that number in a panic?

2 A Often, yes, sir.

3 Q Okay. Have you ever heard of someone  
4 accidentally dialing 411 instead of 911 by accident? When  
5 you're scared, 411 is another common number that we hear  
6 of for information, right?

7 A I don't know about calling 411. I understand  
8 they call 911 trying to get 411.

9 Q Oh, okay. Two entirely different numbers, but  
10 they are kind of confusingly similar, you would agree with  
11 that?

12 A Yes, sir.

13 Q Okay.

14 MR. VERNER: Thank you, Ms. Lawson.

15 THE COURT: All right. Thank you, ma'am. You  
16 can step down.

17 All right, ladies and gentlemen, I neglected to  
18 mention one thing to you earlier. What we're going  
19 to do is I'm going to take a brief five minute break.  
20 If you want to take notes during the course of this  
21 trial -- and I simply forgot to mention this. Some  
22 people are note takers, some people are not. I  
23 usually get some note takers, at least, on every  
24 jury. It's perfectly fine for you to take notes. If  
25 you want a tablet, the clerk will pass some out to

HARRY BODIFORD-DIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 THE COURT: You ready for your next witness,  
2 Solicitor?

3 MR. SCOTT: Yes, sir.

4 THE COURT: Let's have the jury, please.

5 (WHEREUPON, the jury came into open court at  
6 approximately 4:10 p.m.)

7 THE COURT: All right. The record will reflect  
8 that the jury is back and seated.

9 Solicitor, call your next witness, please.

10 MR. DANIEL: The State calls Lieutenant Harry  
11 Bodiford.

12 THE CLERK: Place your left hand on the Bible  
13 raise your right hand.

14 HARRY BODIFORD, after being duly sworn,  
15 testified as follows:

16 THE CLERK: Have a seat and state your name for  
17 the record.

18 THE WITNESS: Lieutenant Harry Bodiford,  
19 Prosperity Police Department.

20 DIRECT EXAMINATION

21 BY MR. DANIEL:

22 Q Okay. Lieutenant Bodiford, as you stated,  
23 you're with the Prosperity Police Department. How long  
24 have you been with the Town of Prosperity Police  
25 Department?

HARRY BODIFORD-DIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1           A     Been with the Town of Prosperity Police  
2 Department since November of 2015.

3           Q     Okay. And what's your position there?

4           A     Currently, I'm serving as the interim chief of  
5 the police department, but I kind of wear every last  
6 single hat. I'm investigator, admin, training,  
7 coordinator, etc.

8           Q     So, you wear multiple hats. So, you're an  
9 investigator at times?

10          A     That's correct.

11          Q     And right now, apparently, you're serving as the  
12 interim chief?

13          A     That's correct.

14          Q     Okay. All right. May 3rd of last year, were  
15 you still lieutenant?

16          A     I was a sergeant at that time.

17          Q     And you weren't the interim chief then, were  
18 you?

19          A     No, sir.

20          Q     At that time. So, you were on the road, road  
21 patrol?

22          A     That's correct.

23          Q     Were you also considered an investigator as  
24 well?

25          A     That's correct.

HARRY BODIFORD-DIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 Q All right. May 3rd, 2017, were you on duty that  
2 day?

3 A That's correct.

4 Q Okay. Would you have been working that morning?

5 A That's correct.

6 Q All right. So May 3rd, that morning, did you  
7 receive a call from dispatch to head out to a residence  
8 located [REDACTED] Conifer Drive in the Town of Prosperity?

9 A That's correct. I received a call about 8:26  
10 that morning, approximately 8:26.

11 Q Were you already in the office?

12 A I was in the office at 250 School Drive.

13 Q So, you were advised by Newberry County  
14 Communications?

15 A That's correct.

16 Q What were you advised about this [REDACTED] Conifer  
17 Drive address?

18 A I was advised that a subject called in and,  
19 basically, told dispatch that he had just killed his  
20 girlfriend.

21 Q All right. And that was related to the 911 call  
22 we just played?

23 A That's correct.

24 Q And approximately what time did you first  
25 receive that call?

HARRY BODIFORD-DIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1           A     I believe I first received that call around  
2     8:26, 8:27, that's an approximation.

3           Q     And you were at the police department at the  
4     time you received the call?

5           A     That's correct.

6           Q     All right. How long did it take you to arrive  
7     on scene at [REDACTED] Conifer Drive?

8           A     From dispatch time, I believe the time they gave  
9     me was 8:31 is when I arrived on scene, so within five  
10    minutes. But I did not call out that I was on scene at  
11    the time because Mr.~Boozer was coming out of the house.

12          Q     So, would it be fair to say that you arrived at  
13    the Conifer Drive address within five minutes of receiving  
14    the call?

15          A     Yes, sir.

16          Q     Okay. And I have to ask you this, is [REDACTED]  
17    Conifer Drive in the Town of Prosperity, is that in  
18    Newberry County?

19          A     It is in Newberry County. It's in the municipal  
20    limits of Prosperity, though.

21          Q     So, you received this call related to the 911  
22    tape that was played?

23          A     That's correct.

24          Q     All right. When you arrived on scene, you said  
25    at 8:31 a.m.?



HARRY BODIFORD-DIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1           A     Yes, sir.

2           Q     Tell us what happens from there when you arrive  
3     on scene.

4           A     When I arrived on scene, I positioned my vehicle  
5     at the roadway. While in route to the address, I actually  
6     notified dispatch that they could notify the suspect --  
7     because they still had the suspect on the phone at the  
8     time, which was later confirmed as Mr. Clifton Boozer. I  
9     notified dispatch to let him know to come outside with his  
10    hands showing so we knew he didn't have any weapons at the  
11    time.

12                    When I arrived on scene at 8:31, he was  
13    walking out of the only entry/exit doorway to [REDACTED] Conifer  
14    Drive. He was wearing a hoodie at the time. He had both  
15    of his hands inside the hoodie to where I could not see,  
16    at which time, I drew my firearm and shouted several times  
17    show your hands, show your hands. At that time, he pulled  
18    his hands out, put them above his head and dropped a pack  
19    of Pall Mall cigarettes on the porch.

20          Q     Do you see this individual you're describing in  
21    the courtroom today?

22          A     That's correct.

23          Q     Could you please identify him?

24          A     Sitting right there by Mr.~Verner.

25          Q     Okay. Sitting beside Mr.~Verner. And that is

## HARRY BODIFORD-DIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 Clifton Boozer, correct?

2 A That's correct.

3 Q All right. So, at that point, your weapon is  
4 drawn because you're coming into a homicide scene; is that  
5 correct?

6 A That's correct.

7 Q Mr.~Boozer's, did you say, coming out of the  
8 front entrance or the entrance of the residence?

9 A Yeah, there's only one entry into [REDACTED] Conifer  
10 besides windows, of course.

11 Q And you ordered him to get on the ground  
12 immediately.

13 A I ordered for him to show me his hands. And I  
14 ordered him to start walking towards me with his hands  
15 above his head. As he's walking towards me and I get to  
16 a -- get him to a location to where I can put him down  
17 safely on the ground, I ask him to go to his knees, then  
18 go to his belly and put his hands to where I can see them.  
19 At that time is when I moved in and I handcuffed him.

20 Q Is Mr.~Boozer making any statements at this  
21 point in time?

22 A At that time, as I'm handcuffing him, he says  
23 exactly, Things went too far.

24 Q He just spontaneously said that?

25 A Yes.

HARRY BODIFORD-DIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 Q You didn't ask him any questions?

2 A I did not.

3 Q He said, Things went too far?

4 A Yes, sir.

5 Q And then, essentially, he's placed into  
6 handcuffs?

7 A Yes, sir.

8 Q And take us from that point forward, when you  
9 placed him in handcuffs.

10 A Well, as soon as he said, Things went too far.  
11 I then pulled my Miranda Warning card out of my wallet and  
12 then issued his Miranda Warning at that time. At which  
13 point he told me that he didn't want to talk right now.

14 Q So, Miranda Warnings, right to remain silent,  
15 anything you say can and will be used against you in a  
16 court of law?

17 A Yes, sir.

18 Q You have the right to an attorney?

19 A This card right here. Been carrying it for nine  
20 years.

21 Q Okay. All right. Now, you're the first law  
22 enforcement officer on scene, correct?

23 A That's correct.

24 Q Anybody else on scene besides you and Mr.~Boozer  
25 at this point?

HARRY BODIFORD-DIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1           A     Not at that time, no, sir.

2           Q     All right. Tell us what happens -- well, before  
3 I do that, I'm going to hand you what's been premarked for  
4 ID purposes as State's -- photographs, State's No. 3  
5 through 10. Do you recognize -- I'll give you a second to  
6 go through. Do you recognize all these photographs? Just  
7 tell me after you look through them.

8           A     Yes, sir.

9           Q     And are all those fair and accurate -- or what  
10 are those photographs of?

11          A     The first one of -- photograph 3 is actually the  
12 front of [REDACTED] Conifer Drive if you're looking at it from  
13 the roadway. The -- No. 4 is the side view of [REDACTED] Conifer  
14 Drive and the only entry doorway that actually goes into  
15 [REDACTED] Conifer Drive. Photo No. 5 is a photograph of  
16 Mr.~Boozer. This was him fully clothed. This was what he  
17 was wearing whenever he walked out of the resident on May  
18 3rd.

19          Q     Let me stop you. These are all photographs  
20 taken from the crime scene, photographs of the house and  
21 Mr.~Boozer?

22          A     That's correct.

23          Q     And you're on scene. Are those all fair and  
24 accurate representations of what you observed on May 3rd?

25          A     That's correct.

HARRY BODIFORD-DIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 MR. DANIEL: Your Honor, at this time, I'd offer  
2 State's Nos. 3 through 10 for admission into  
3 evidence.

4 THE COURT: Any objection?

5 MR. VERNER: Can I just check them, Your Honor?  
6 Without objection, Your Honor.

7 THE COURT: Without objection, 3 through 10 are  
8 in evidence.

9 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibits Nos. 3-10 were  
10 admitted into evidence.)

11 MR. DANIEL: At this time, Your Honor, I would  
12 ask to publish these on the television.

13 THE COURT: All right. State's Exhibit 3  
14 through 10.

15 BY MR. DANIEL:

16 Q All right. This is State's No. 3. All right.  
17 So, walk us through this. So, you pull up on scene, where  
18 in this photograph do you first observe Mr.~Boozer  
19 standing?

20 A Mr.~Boozer, he's actually -- there's a storm  
21 door to the only entry/exit way coming into the residence.  
22 He's actually coming out of the storm door at the time.

23 Q Okay. So, at the door when you first observe  
24 him?

25 A That's correct.

HARRY BODIFORD-DIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 Q All right. And that is [REDACTED] Conifer Drive, the  
2 brown house?

3 A That's correct.

4 Q All right. Your patrol vehicle is pulled in the  
5 driveway there?

6 A My patrol vehicle would have been probably about  
7 right here outside of -- I was actually on the roadway at  
8 the time.

9 Q All right. And State's No. 4, just a view of  
10 the house?

11 A Yes. That's actually going to be the side view.  
12 It's going to have the only entry/exit doorway to it.  
13 That was where Mr.~Boozer was coming out from.

14 Q Did you say he had a pack of cigarettes that he  
15 placed on the walkway there?

16 A Well, as he was pulling his hand out of his  
17 hoodie, they fell out of his hoodie. It was a black  
18 carton -- well, I say carton, a black box of Pall Mall  
19 cigarettes that was opened.

20 Q All right. State's No. 5, that's a photograph  
21 of Mr.~Boozer, correct?

22 A That's correct.

23 Q That's the attire he had on that day?

24 A That's correct.

25 Q And this was May 3rd of last year, what was the

## HARRY BODIFORD-DIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 temperature that day?

2 A It's South Carolina in May, it was warm. I  
3 can't remember exactly how hot it was.

4 Q Okay. All right. State's No. 6. This is the  
5 side view of Mr.~Boozer?

6 A That's the side view.

7 Q Okay. And the reason you take photographs of a  
8 suspect in custody, why do you do that?

9 A To make sure they don't have any other injuries  
10 at the time. Just basically to document the scene because  
11 not only is [REDACTED] Conifer Drive a crime scene, not only is  
12 the body a crime scene, but also the suspect is also a  
13 crime scene.

14 Q So, you're doing this to document what, if any,  
15 injuries the suspect may have?

16 A That's correct.

17 Q All right. We'll keep going through, State's  
18 No. 7, another side view, right side view of Mr.~Boozer?

19 A That's correct.

20 Q State's No. 8. That's obviously showing his  
21 hands?

22 A That's correct.

23 Q All right. And State's No. 9. Why take a  
24 picture of his boots?

25 A Because there were blood stains on his boots, as

HARRY BODIFORD-DIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 you see on the right boot and also on up near the waist.

2 Q So, does it appear to be blood stains on the  
3 boots?

4 A That's correct.

5 Q State's No. 10?

6 A Also, it appears to be blood on the left boot on  
7 the side as well.

8 Q Did you note any injures to Mr.~Boozer's person  
9 that you could see?

10 A No, sir.

11 Q Any injures to his hands?

12 A No, sir.

13 Q No injuries to his hands that would be  
14 consistent with defensive wounds, anything like that?

15 A No, sir.

16 Q No cuts or nothing?

17 A No, sir.

18 Q All right. Did Mr.~Boozer at that time complain  
19 of any injuries?

20 A No, sir.

21 Q Okay. All right. Tell us what happens next.  
22 Who arrives -- so, you have Mr.~Boozer in handcuffs, he's  
23 on the ground. Does backup, other law enforcement  
24 officers or EMS arrive on scene soon?

25 A Yes, since Prosperity Police Department is a



HARRY BODIFORD-DIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 small municipality, we usually have one, maybe two  
2 officers on duty at the time. So, we rely on the Newberry  
3 County Sheriff's Office to back us up on a lot of our  
4 calls. I'm not exactly sure who exactly would be first  
5 Newberry County Sheriff's Office personnel was on scene,  
6 but all I know is that Captain Dennis with the Newberry  
7 County Sheriff's Office arrived and a few others arrived  
8 shortly thereafter.

9 Q So, backup did arrive, different agencies  
10 arrived on scene?

11 A That's correct.

12 Q And eventually, Mr.~Boozer, does he stay on the  
13 crime scene for a while?

14 A He stays on the crime scene until we have SLED  
15 show up to photograph him. He -- we removed him from the  
16 ground, put him in the back of the patrol car at the time,  
17 basically, for us to be able to photograph him.

18 Q So, Mr.~Boozer is detained eventually in another  
19 patrol car?

20 A That's correct.

21 Q Is that so you can assist in processing the  
22 scene and investigating the crime scene?

23 A That's correct.

24 Q All right. And also, not only were you the  
25 responding officer in this case, did you do the

## HARRY BODIFORD-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 investigative work as well in this case?

2 A That's correct.

3 Q Okay. Did that consist of interviewing  
4 Mr.~Boozer at any point?

5 A That's correct.

6 Q Obtaining search warrants, things of that  
7 nature?

8 A That's correct.

9 MR. DANIEL: Your Honor, at this time, I would  
10 reserve the right to recall Lieutenant Bodiford later  
11 on in this trial, but that's all the questions I have  
12 for this limited purpose right now.

13 THE COURT: Mr.~Verner, cross subject to his --

14 MR. VERNER: Recall as a rebuttal witness or  
15 just recall --

16 THE COURT: I'm assuming he may want him -- I  
17 think know why the solicitor may have him come back  
18 up. Any questions as it relates to what he's  
19 testified to thus far, Mr.~Verner?

20 MR. VERNER: Just a few, Your Honor.

21 CROSS-EXAMINATION

22 BY MR. VERNER:

23 Q Are you familiar with the CAD report? Were you  
24 here for the testimony of the 911 dispatcher?

25 A Yes, sir.

## HARRY BODIFORD-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 Q Are you familiar with CAD reports?

2 A Yes, sir.

3 Q That's not something you would generate, that's  
4 a different department that does that?

5 A Dispatch actually generates the CAD report and  
6 if we request it, they will send us the CAD report just  
7 kind of to refresh our memory.

8 Q But, certainly, you get them enough where you're  
9 familiar with the document?

10 A Yes.

11 Q The CAD report --

12 Could I have, Walter, No. 1, please?

13 The call comes in on May 3rd, 2017 at 8:26,  
14 is that -- if you need the step down and see it?

15 A That's correct.

16 Q Or I can hand you this copy. And then according  
17 to the CAD report, the computer CAD report, you would have  
18 been dispatched about 8:27?

19 A That's correct.

20 Q So, your watch could have said 8:26, but within  
21 a minute or two?

22 A Usually whenever we request a dispatch time,  
23 time of arrival or anything like that from dispatch,  
24 that's usually what we go by. I requested dispatch time  
25 and I was told that it was -- let me look at my notes,

## HARRY BODIFORD-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 8:26.

2 Q And what does the IR stand for, do you know?  
3 would that be initial responder?

4 A I am not positive.

5 Q Okay. But is it possible that you responded to  
6 the scene about 8:30, which would be about four minutes,  
7 three or four minutes?

8 A I know when the call originally came out -- our  
9 department actually does school traffic for  
10 Prosperity-Rikard School. And I, actually, had just  
11 gotten done doing school traffic for Prosperity-Rikard. I  
12 don't believe I had freed up on the radio at the time. I  
13 believe there was some confusion with dispatch whether I  
14 was clear or not to be able to give me that call. So,  
15 they ended up starting to dispatch county when I popped up  
16 on the radio and informed them that I'm in route.

17 Q Okay. Could that be when the person responds,  
18 perhaps?

19 A That would be a question for dispatch.

20 Q Okay. But this is the EMS -- the ambulance was  
21 called out there, too, right?

22 A Let me see.

23 Q Where it says number two EMS, I assume that's an  
24 ambulance?

25 A I would assume so.

## HARRY BODIFORD-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 Q So, you would be the LSO number unit?

2 A No, I would actually be number four LPPD  
3 dispatch at 8:28.

4 Q Okay. So, they've got you arrived there about  
5 8:31?

6 A That's correct.

7 Q Is that consistent with your memory?

8 A That's correct.

9 Q So, the call came in at 8:26 and you were there  
10 within four minutes to five minutes at the most?

11 A That's correct.

12 Q Okay. The photographs we saw, did you take  
13 those of Mr.~Boozer?

14 A I believe Special Agent James Tallon with the  
15 State Law Enforcement Division did.

16 Q Were you there when they were taken?

17 A Yes, sir.

18 Q All right. Was he compliant with -- I mean,  
19 apparently, if you get all these different poses of him,  
20 he appears to be cooperating with the police to take the  
21 photographs?

22 A Yes, sir.

23 Q Okay. The pictures I'm showing you, is that  
24 consistent with the pictures?

25 A Yes, sir.

## HARRY BODIFORD-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1           Q     So, there are more pictures taken than just the  
2 ones the jury saw?

3           A     That's correct.

4           Q     Okay. On his middle finger of his -- which hand  
5 would that be? Of his left land, does that not appear to  
6 be a scratch across the middle finger?

7           A     That would be his right hand. It could be an  
8 abrasion. It's hard to tell from the black and white  
9 photo.

10          Q     It's a black and white photograph, but it's  
11 clearly some kind of scratch or abrasion or cut across his  
12 middle finger?

13          A     It could be an abrasion, yes, sir.

14          Q     Okay. And of course, if he had scratches on his  
15 chest or upper arms, you wouldn't see those through the  
16 clothes, would you, through the sweatshirt?

17          A     We would actually see them when we took his  
18 clothes at the Newberry County Detention Center.

19          Q     Were you one of the booking officers?

20          A     I was not, but Officer Corey Jones was there at  
21 the time when Mr.~Boozer relinquished his clothes to  
22 Prosperity Police Department.

23          Q     When -- ordinarily, when you're arrested, you  
24 get taken to the jail and searched again and you turn over  
25 all your clothes and they give you jail issued clothes?

## HARRY BODIFORD-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1           A     That's correct.

2           Q     And in a case like this, I guess clothes would  
3 be evidence and they were taken into custody at law  
4 enforcement?

5           A     That's correct.

6           Q     But that's not always the case, I guess, that  
7 you need somebody's clothes to investigate a case?

8           A     That would be on a case-by-case base.

9           Q     Sometimes they're left with them, sometimes  
10 they're taken as evidence?

11          A     Yes, sir.

12          Q     Okay. And he had a pack of Pall Mall  
13 cigarettes?

14          A     That is correct.

15          Q     Are you familiar with whether Ms. Clatie  
16 Stribble smoked?

17          A     I am not.

18          Q     Okay. Did you take part in the search of the  
19 house?

20          A     I did.

21          Q     Did you find other packs of Pall Mall  
22 cigarettes?

23          A     I do not recall. I know that we didn't tag any  
24 other cigarettes into evidence.

25          Q     Okay. The -- is it uncommon in your

JAMES TALLON-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 experience -- and I assume you've investigated in your  
2 career many different kinds of cases, drug cases to murder  
3 cases. Is it uncommon for a boyfriend or girlfriend of  
4 somebody who are in a relationship to smoke the same brand  
5 of cigarette?

6 A It's not uncommon.

7 Q Even as a non-law enforcement officer, you often  
8 see friends of yours who are couples smoke the same brand  
9 of cigarettes?

10 A I would guess so.

11 Q Okay. Thank you, Chief.

12 THE COURT: Redirect at this time?

13 MR. DANIEL: No, Your Honor.

14 THE COURT: Step down.

15 Call your next witness.

16 MR. SCOTT: The State calls James Tallon.

17 JAMES TALLON, after being duly sworn, testified  
18 as follows:

19 THE CLERK: Have a seat, state your name for the  
20 record.

21 THE WITNESS: My name is James Tallon,  
22 T-A-L-L-O-N.

23 DIRECT EXAMINATION

24 BY MR. SCOTT:

25 Q James, you are with SLED?



JAMES TALLON-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 A Yes, sir.

2 Q What is SLED?

3 A SLED is what stands for State Law Enforcement  
4 Division.

5 Q How long have you been with SLED?

6 A I've been with SLED since 2014.

7 Q What are your duties?

8 A I'm a crime scene special agent.

9 Q So what does that mean?

10 A We respond to crime scenes throughout the State  
11 of South Carolina and assist local agencies.

12 Q Not just homicides, but if local law enforcement  
13 agency needs y'all to help, you come process any kind of  
14 scene really, wouldn't you?

15 A That's correct.

16 Q But May 3rd of last year, did you have an  
17 occasion to come up to Prosperity to really kind of work  
18 the crime scene that involved a homicide?

19 A Yes, sir, I did.

20 Q And when did you respond?

21 A May I refer to my notes, Your Honor?

22 THE COURT: Yes.

23 THE WITNESS: We received a call at  
24 approximately 9:02 a.m.  
25

JAMES TALLON-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 BY MR. SCOTT:

2 Q Okay. And you're coming from Broad River, the  
3 SLED headquarters?

4 A Yes, sir, we all respond from Columbia.

5 Q How long does it take you to get up to  
6 Prosperity? 30, 40 minutes?

7 A I arrived on scene at 9:44 a.m.

8 Q Okay. All right. So, who do you show up with,  
9 do you have any help?

10 A Yes, sir, I had my partner Margaret Pawley.

11 Q Okay. What do you bring with you? I guess, a  
12 camera, what else do you bring with you when you come to a  
13 crime scene?

14 A We bring a whole lot of stuff. We have big  
15 pickup trucks with a slide-out bed that's full of  
16 fingerprint equipment, cameras, bags, tape.

17 Q Just stuff to help you collect evidence?

18 A Correct.

19 Q All right. Tell me what you observed when you  
20 responded to the scene. What's the address you responded  
21 to?

22 A We responded to [REDACTED] Conifer Drive.

23 Q Okay. Who all is there when you get there?

24 A There were several Prosperity Police Department  
25 members along with Sergeant Bodiford and the police chief

## JAMES TALLON-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 at the time, Bedingfield.

2 Q Okay. Where was Mr.~Boozer? Was he there when  
3 you got there?

4 A He was. He was detained in the back seat of a  
5 patrol car.

6 Q What's the first thing you do?

7 A Once we arrived on the scene, we spoke with the  
8 local agency to determine what information we had, what  
9 information we needed. Then we photographed Mr.~Boozer.

10 Q Okay. Did you see -- well, you weren't in here,  
11 but the pictures we had, those were 1 through 5 -- let's  
12 see, 3 through 10. Let's see, I've got some pictures here  
13 that were just introduced, 3 through 10, I believe. Did  
14 you take those pictures?

15 A Yes, sir, either myself or Margaret Pawley would  
16 have taken those photos.

17 Q Did you speak with Mr.~Boozer while you were  
18 taking pictures of him?

19 A Other than telling him to turn that way or that  
20 way would have been about it.

21 Q Did he appear to be in pain?

22 A No, sir.

23 Q Did he complain of any injuries to you?

24 A No, sir.

25 Q After you took the pictures of him documenting,

JAMES TALLON-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 I guess, what he was wearing and his physical state at the  
2 time, what else did you do?

3 A Once we finished with him, we waited on the  
4 search warrant. After we received a search warrant, we  
5 entered the scene and photographed the entire area.

6 Q Okay. Did you start on the outside of the house  
7 and kind of began --

8 A Yes, sir. We started from the outside,  
9 photographed all the way around the property, worked our  
10 way into the house photographing every single room.

11 Q I just want you to flip through these, State's  
12 11 through 42, flip through those real quick.

13 A (The witness complies.)

14 Q Generally speaking, are those pictures of the  
15 house, both the exterior, the interior, and the yard?

16 A That's correct.

17 Q Okay.

18 MR. SCOTT: Your Honor, I'm going to let Charles  
19 take a look at these and I'm going to move them into  
20 evidence as State's 11 through 42.

21 MR. VERNER: Your Honor, I just ask to be heard  
22 maybe sidebar on this one.

23 THE COURT: Come over here.

24 (WHEREUPON, an off-the-record bench conference  
25 was held in the presence of the jury but out of

JAMES TALLON-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 the hearing of the jury.)

2 THE COURT: The objection is noted to State's 31  
3 as an exhibit and is overruled.

4 MR. SCOTT: The State's going to offer State's  
5 11 through 42 admission into evidence.

6 THE COURT: Subject to objection on State's 31.  
7 All those in evidence.

8 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibits Nos. 11-42 were  
9 admitted into evidence.)

10 BY MR. SCOTT:

11 Q James, can you see that TV from where you are?

12 A Yes, sir.

13 Q Let me start at State's No. 11. I'm going to  
14 walk you through these pictures and you kind of explain to  
15 the jury what we're looking at and what you're trying to  
16 photograph. So, this is State's No. 11. What are we  
17 looking at here?

18 A This would be the front door of the residence.  
19 What I would consider to be the front door of the  
20 residence. I believe it's the only door to the residence.

21 Q Okay. So front, back and side door of that  
22 residence?

23 A Correct.

24 Q Go to State's No. 12. I guess this is where the  
25 storm door opened and you're looking inside?

JAMES TALLON-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 A Correct.

2 Q What is that that I'm looking down at the bottom  
3 left corner of that picture?

4 A May I stand?

5 THE COURT: Step down if you need to. Just be  
6 sure you project your voice so the jury and the court  
7 reporter can hear you.

8 THE WITNESS: Down at the bottom left-hand  
9 corner?

10 BY MR. SCOTT:

11 Q Yeah, did you note what that was?

12 A I did not.

13 Q Would that be a pack of cigarettes?

14 MR. VERNER: Your Honor, that would be a leading  
15 question.

16 THE COURT: All right. If he can identify it,  
17 he can, if not, he can't. You can't help him.

18 THE WITNESS: I'm not real sure what it is.

19 BY MR. SCOTT:

20 Q What are we looking at? What's the pink thing  
21 we're looking at in that picture?

22 A That is a -- I'm not very familiar with women's  
23 apparel, but I think it's some kind of tank top.

24 Q What did you notice about the tank top?

25 A One of the straps had been ripped.

JAMES TALLON-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 MR. SCOTT: Go on to the next one, Walter.

2 Q And that's just what, a closer-up picture of  
3 the --

4 A That's correct.

5 Q That's State's 13 with a tank top on the ground.  
6 And you said that one of the straps -- is there anything  
7 of relevance in the picture?

8 A Not this specific one.

9 Q All right. State's No. 14 is next. What are  
10 you trying to document here?

11 A Okay. So, I can actually see that pack of  
12 cigarettes now.

13 Q Do you remember the cigarettes?

14 A I don't readily remember them, but.

15 Q All right.

16 A The door frame to the residence appeared to have  
17 been damaged.

18 Q Is that noteworthy to you when you're  
19 investigating a homicide case?

20 A Yes, sir, we noted it.

21 Q Appeared to be damage to the frame?

22 A Correct, previous damage. We did not cause that  
23 damage.

24 Q Okay. Let's go to State's No. 15. Again, what  
25 are you attempting to document in this picture?

## JAMES TALLON-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1           A     The damage to the door.

2           Q     Okay. State's No. 16. This is the --

3           A     That's the tank top dress.

4           Q     Then you can see the torn strap?

5           A     Correct.

6           Q     All right. Did you collect that piece of  
7 clothing?

8           A     Yes, sir, we did.

9           Q     Let me show you State's No. 46, do you recognize  
10 that?

11          A     Yes, sir, this is the pink shirt from the  
12 kitchen that I collected with my initials and my signature  
13 on the sealed tape.

14          Q     That wasn't sent for any testing or anything,  
15 was it?

16          A     I don't believe so.

17               MR. VERNER: I couldn't hear the testimony.

18               MR. SCOTT: It wasn't sent for testing, so I'm  
19 going to open it.

20 BY MR. SCOTT:

21          Q     All right. Just inside the doorway, this is  
22 what you found. Hold that up. Then this is how you  
23 observed it? It was ripped?

24          A     Correct.

25          Q     The strap's broken?



JAMES TALLON-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 A Correct.

2 Q Okay.

3 MR. SCOTT: State offers State's 46 as admission  
4 into evidence.

5 THE COURT: Any objection?

6 MR. VERNER: No objection, Your Honor.

7 THE COURT: State's Exhibit 46 into evidence.

8 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibit No. 46 was admitted  
9 into evidence.)

10 BY MR. SCOTT:

11 Q Where was Ms. Stribble? Where was she located  
12 in the house?

13 A Once we entered the residence, we went and  
14 photographed all the rooms. She was located in what we  
15 call the master bedroom, which would have been all the way  
16 to the back to the left.

17 Q Okay. These pictures, 11 through 42, that I've  
18 been going through, you document kind of room by room, did  
19 you attempt to sketch or recreate the general layout of  
20 this house?

21 A Yes, sir. We document the area in a diagram.

22 Q Okay. Is that something you typically do at  
23 crime scenes?

24 A Yes, sir, almost all crimes we do that.

25 Q Basically, what is the purpose of one of the

JAMES TALLON-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 sketches like I have here in State's 43?

2 A Just makes it easier for us to go back and look  
3 and see what was where and the layout of the house for  
4 juries.

5 MR. VERNER: No objection.

6 MR. SCOTT: Let me get 43 up there.

7 BY MR. SCOTT:

8 Q The interior -- well, there it is. So, this is  
9 just -- kind of what you're attempting to do there is  
10 diagram the outside?

11 A Correct.

12 Q I want to go back. We'll go back to that  
13 minute. Let me get the inside sketch. Okay, so kind of  
14 label some things. It's not to scale, is it?

15 A No, sir, it's nowhere near to scale. Not  
16 everything is shown. Not every item in the residence is  
17 shown.

18 Q Okay. If we look at this, I guess this is the  
19 door that enters the house?

20 A That is correct.

21 Q Then you got the pink tank top notated to be  
22 right here just like the picture documented. This is in  
23 the living room?

24 A Correct.

25 Q Then you move towards the rear. You've got a

JAMES TALLON-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 black and white bed cover notated. And this is where  
2 Ms. Stribble is found in this back bedroom?

3 A That is correct.

4 Q You have a white phone cord noted beside where  
5 Ms. Stribble was?

6 A That's correct.

7 Q And you've got a pair of scissors found?

8 A That is correct.

9 Q That's what you observed the general layout of  
10 the house to be?

11 A General layout of the house, that's correct.

12 MR. SCOTT: Let me go, Walter, back to State's  
13 17.

14 Q So, she was found, it looks kind of beside a  
15 bed -- between a bed and the wall?

16 A That's correct. You can see she's -- I'm sorry.  
17 In the sketch, from what we're looking at now, she's to  
18 the left in between the bed and that window.

19 Q So, if we're looking at the bedroom, we have  
20 this window, she's up under the window down there?

21 A That's correct.

22 Q Is she in this picture or has she been taken  
23 away from the scene yet?

24 THE WITNESS: Do you mind I get up again, Your  
25 Honor?

JAMES TALLON-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 THE COURT: Just be careful.

2 THE WITNESS: She's still in the photograph.

3 BY MR. SCOTT:

4 Q And that's how you observed the room? That's  
5 how it appeared when you got there? Did you take the  
6 sheets off the bed or anything like that?

7 A No, sir, no processing was done. It's just the  
8 overall general photographs.

9 Q Okay. Let me go to State's 18 now. Okay, what  
10 are you trying to document there?

11 A This is just on the way around that corner.

12 Q What, if anything, are you attempting to  
13 document as far as this window is concerned?

14 A The window, as you notice, there's no curtain  
15 there. It had been torn down. It appeared it had been  
16 torn down.

17 Q Okay. Is that what we're seeing in State's No.  
18 19?

19 A That is correct.

20 Q Okay. What did you observe about Ms. Stribble  
21 whenever you got to where her body was?

22 A She was completely nude, and it appeared she had  
23 two defects into her body.

24 Q Defect? What do you mean? Just --

25 A Some type of penetration or abrasion.

JAMES TALLON-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 Q Okay. So, a stab wound, is that what it looked  
2 like?

3 A It did.

4 Q Let's have State's No. 20. Okay. Is that --  
5 where on Ms. Stribble are we looking?

6 A If you were to use me as an example, this would  
7 be here roughly approximately and over here somewhere.

8 MR. VERNER: I cannot hear the witness.

9 THE WITNESS: Sorry sir. Here and here.

10 THE COURT: All right. The witness is  
11 indicating about midway down on his back, his right  
12 side, then also upper torso, left side, I guess about  
13 right where his pecs are.

14 BY MR. SCOTT:

15 Q All right. State's No. 21. What are we looking  
16 at there?

17 A This was the white phone cord that was located  
18 underneath the victim?

19 Q So, this is taken after her body is removed?

20 A That's correct.

21 Q That's the phone cord that was laying up under  
22 her when she was removed?

23 A That's correct.

24 Q That's where she was lying. Is that all the  
25 blood you found under her body?

## JAMES TALLON-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1           A     Under the body, if we're right here, yes, sir.  
2     There was more throughout the room.

3           Q     Okay. Let me go to State's 22. What are we  
4     looking at here? That's the same area after her body is  
5     removed?

6           A     That is correct, that is after she has been  
7     removed. And it kind of shows a few suspected blood drops  
8     and some on the wall.

9           Q     Okay. State's 23?

10          A     This is before she had been removed. This is  
11     showing the blood stains on the wall.

12          Q     That's Ms. Stribble's arm at the bottom of the  
13     picture.

14          A     That's correct.

15          Q     State's 24?

16          A     Okay, this is the opposite side of the bed.  
17     It's the opposite side where she had been laying. She  
18     would have been on this side. This is in between -- there  
19     was a couch on the side of the bed. Here's the bed  
20     itself. Then there were some blood stains, suspected  
21     blood stains through this area.

22               MR. SCOTT: Walter, can you put State's No. 43  
23     up there at the same time, please?

24          Q     All right. The last picture we were looking at,  
25     we were focusing more on where her body was. That last

JAMES TALLON-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 picture you just showed me blood focuses on this area  
2 between the couch and bed?

3 A That's correct.

4 Q Okay.

5 MR. SCOTT: Can you go back now, Walter?

6 Q So, there -- here it is, there's the couch on  
7 the right and there's the bed on the left. And this is  
8 the opposite side of the bed from where her body was  
9 found?

10 A That is correct.

11 Q What you documenting here?

12 A Mainly, the blood stains.

13 Q State's No. 25? And I'm trying to orient the  
14 jury, but again, we're back on the side of the bed where  
15 her body is. In fact, is that her foot you see at the  
16 bottom?

17 A That is correct. This is the head of the bed.

18 Q Okay. What are we trying to document in this  
19 picture?

20 A Showing where the blood stains are in this area  
21 as well.

22 Q All right. No. 26.

23 A This is an overall photograph of, basically, the  
24 nightstand and everything that you can see from the  
25 photograph that's on it.

## JAMES TALLON-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 Q Okay. Did you collect anything from the  
2 nightstand?

3 A Inside of this box down a little bit was a pair  
4 of scissors, which was collected.

5 Q All right. State's 27, is that what you're  
6 documenting?

7 A That's correct, those are the scissors.

8 Q Were these scissors dry or were they wet?

9 A They appeared to be dry.

10 Q Is that rust on them?

11 A I cannot tell you exactly what that is.

12 Q At the time, did you know whether or not the  
13 scissors were relevant to this case?

14 A Did not.

15 Q State's No. 28. Is this the couch on the other  
16 side of bed?

17 A That's correct, on the opposite side of bed near  
18 the door to enter the room.

19 Q Okay. What are you documenting here?

20 A Just showing that all this bedding was piled up  
21 in an area.

22 Q Okay. State's No. 29?

23 A This is actually some of the bedding that we  
24 just took a photograph of that you just saw opened up and  
25 layed out so that we could photograph it, mainly, showing



JAMES TALLON-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 suspected blood stains.

2 Q And that was on the couch, that was piled up on  
3 that couch?

4 A That's correct.

5 Q State's 30, what are we looking at here?

6 A This is back in the bedroom, next to that window  
7 where the victim was, showing more suspected blood stains.

8 Q All right. Tell me, State's 31, what are you  
9 trying to document here?

10 MR. VERNER: Your Honor, subject to my --

11 THE COURT: Subject to your objection, State's  
12 31.

13 Go ahead.

14 BY MR. SCOTT:

15 Q What are you documenting here?

16 A Photographing the top left of the television  
17 that was right next to the entrance/exit door to the  
18 bedroom, the television and what I believed was a Cliff  
19 was here.

20 Q Okay. That's on the TV in bedroom?

21 A That's correct.

22 Q Okay. Is it drawn on there or is it carved in  
23 there?

24 A It appears to be -- I use the word etched in,  
25 but it was not written in pen or pencil, it was actually

JAMES TALLON-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 into the plastic itself.

2 Q Okay. State's 32, what is this?

3 A This is entry/exit screen door, I guess, you  
4 would call it, to the residence. And documenting  
5 suspected blood stain just behind it.

6 Q Okay. State's 33.

7 A This is behind the residence, opposite of the  
8 entry/exit door, showing -- this window here is the  
9 victim's bedroom or the bedroom where the victim was  
10 found.

11 Q What is that up under the window?

12 A There was a tire here.

13 Q What, if anything, did you observe about the  
14 tire?

15 A The tire appeared to have been moved at some  
16 point. You can tell from looking at the crawlspace door  
17 that the tire appeared to have been there at some point.  
18 You can also see that there is mud and dirt on the tire  
19 where it had been sitting for some time.

20 Q Let me show you State's No. 34, is that the tire  
21 again?

22 A That is the tire again underneath the same  
23 window where the victim was located.

24 MR. SCOTT: Zoom in on that crawlspace door.

25 Q Okay. Explain to me why the crawlspace door was

## JAMES TALLON-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 relevant?

2 A So, what we observed, it appeared that this tire  
3 may have been here. You can see a curvature, possibly  
4 where the rim had been and where the tire was.

5 Q Then the mud spot, I guess, would have been --

6 A Then this mud spot.

7 Q Then I guess 35, a close-up of the tire. Okay.  
8 And just your prior testimony as to why that was relevant.  
9 Then State's 36, that's just a close-up of the crawlspace  
10 door?

11 A Crawlspace, that's correct.

12 Q All right. State's No. 37?

13 A This is back still I guess you could say the  
14 front of the house, I guess, where the front door  
15 entry/exit door. Then you can see a marker one was placed  
16 there to indicate where we located a knife with a blue  
17 handle.

18 Q Okay. Knife just sitting in the yard like that,  
19 that's how you observed it when you were there?

20 A That's correct.

21 Q You used that marker one to denote its location.

22 A So, that you could see it better in the  
23 photographs do you could tell what we were trying to point  
24 out.

25 Q State's 38, is that just a close-up of number

## JAMES TALLON-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 one?

2 A That's a close-up of the same knife.

3 Q Let me go to State's 39. Thirty-nine, and you  
4 see again -- is that the same tire -- and that's the same  
5 tire at the crawlspace door?

6 A Same tire back behind the residence, same window  
7 where the victim is located. See marker two there where a  
8 cigarette butt was located.

9 Q That's on the back side of the house, the side  
10 opposite where the door is?

11 A That's correct.

12 Q And point to the victim's window again, bedroom  
13 window.

14 A It's right here.

15 Q Okay. Number two is a cigarette, you said. Let  
16 me have State's No. 40. It's just a close-up, it appears  
17 to have been smoked?

18 A Yes, sir.

19 Q Okay. State's 41, that's further back in the  
20 backyard it looks like?

21 A That's correct. This was -- I believe it was  
22 the following day, it was not the same day. We responded  
23 back out there. A knife had been located right in this  
24 area here.

25 Q Did that get missed on the first day?

## JAMES TALLON-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1           A     It is not located on the first day, that's  
2 correct.

3           Q     So, State's 42, how did y'all miss that? Was it  
4 just covered up with some leaves or something?

5           A     We can't find everything, but we did canvas the  
6 area and we did not locate it that day.

7           Q     Were y'all on the lookout for some other things  
8 you did not find?

9           A     Yes, sir. There were a few things that we went  
10 around the grounds back behind the property into the woods  
11 that we were looking for.

12          Q     Of particular interest, what were y'all on the  
13 lookout for?

14          A     More bedding for the bed. We didn't see  
15 anything that matched, what could have possibly been the  
16 fitted sheets, things like that. We were also looking for  
17 the victim's cell phone.

18          Q     Okay. Did you ever find the victim's cell  
19 phone?

20          A     No, sir, we never located it.

21          Q     Okay. Describe the area around where this house  
22 was.

23          A     So, where the house is, in front of it is a  
24 drive, I believe it was dirt. It was paved, but a dirt  
25 drive. Then behind that, it was woods for the most part.

JAMES TALLON-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 Then there was a path. It was woods, then there was a  
2 path, then there was more woods. So, it was a very wooded  
3 area. Then there was residences on both sides of the  
4 residence.

5 Q Okay. Let me show you State's 69. Is that an  
6 accurate depiction of the area you're describing?

7 A Yes, sir. That is the aerial photograph of the  
8 residence.

9 MR. SCOTT: Okay, Charles.

10 MR. VERNER: What number is this?

11 MR. SCOTT: State's offers 69 for admission into  
12 evidence, Your Honor.

13 MR. VERNER: No objection.

14 And that's just an aerial?

15 MR. SCOTT: Yeah.

16 THE COURT: All right, 69 is in evidence. While  
17 you're at it, were you offering State's 43 as well,  
18 the diagram of the residence?

19 MR. VERNER: He can put that in, Your Honor.

20 MR. SCOTT: Yeah, that's the diagram. We  
21 published it.

22 THE COURT: All right, State's 43 in evidence  
23 without objection.

24 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibits Nos. 43 & 69 were  
25 admitted into evidence.)

## JAMES TALLON-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 BY MR. SCOTT:

2 Q And the pin drop here, this is the incident  
3 location?

4 A This is the location. The residences on both  
5 sides of the roadway, then you can see that there's woods  
6 all the way back here. You can almost see the path right  
7 here.

8 Q Just like a foot path?

9 A Probably about wide enough you could drive a VW  
10 bug through there, but that would be about it.

11 Q Did you search that path, both sides looking for  
12 that phone?

13 A As much as we could, yes, sir.

14 Q And did you -- were you -- how much of the  
15 canvas were you involved in?

16 A I personally walked back through here and on  
17 back behind the residence here, and this path and back.  
18 But I observed other people canvassing different areas.

19 Q So, you weren't involved in the search on the  
20 opposite side?

21 A I did not canvas this area here.

22 Q But y'all were looking for the bedding and her  
23 cell phone, but were unable to locate it?

24 A That's correct.

25 Q That cigarette, did you collect that?

JAMES TALLON-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1           A     Yes, sir, that was collected.

2           Q     Okay. What did you do with it?

3           A     The cigarette was taken back to our headquarters  
4 along with all the other evidence. The cigarette butt in  
5 question was sent off for DNA to try to acquire a DNA  
6 profile.

7           Q     Okay. So, you took it from the scene and when  
8 did you drop it into evidence?

9           A     The cigarette would have been transferred out of  
10 my custody into the custody of the evidence locker or  
11 evidence custodians on the 15th of May at 11:39 a.m.

12          Q     Okay. You dropped it off with Doris Yarborough  
13 as indicated?

14          A     That's correct.

15          Q     State's 45, what is that?

16          A     This is the packaging that I placed the  
17 cigarette butt in as I collected it from the scene. It's  
18 sealed, initialed with my initials, the case number, the  
19 item number of evidence. And then once we get to SLED  
20 headquarters and package it to be processed, we place it  
21 in heat sealed pouch where it is heat sealed with my  
22 initials and the date?

23          Q     Okay.

24               MR. SCOTT: State offers State's 45 for  
25 admission into evidence.



JAMES TALLON-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 THE COURT: Any objection subject to the --

2 MR. VERNER: It's the actual physical cigarette?

3 THE COURT: The actual physical cigarette.

4 MR. VERNER: No objection, Your Honor. One  
5 cigarette butt.

6 THE COURT: Forty-five will be in evidence then.

7 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibit No. 45 was admitted  
8 into evidence.)

9 BY MR. SCOTT:

10 Q All right. Those scissors we talked about, you  
11 collected those, too?

12 A Yes, sir.

13 Q Did you submit those for processing?

14 A Yes, sir. These are the scissors with gray  
15 handles we collected with my initials, the date in which  
16 it was sealed.

17 Q Why did you collect those?

18 A We were unsure or it was unknown if those had  
19 been used during the commission of the crime. So, we  
20 collected them to see if we could get any evidentiary  
21 value out of them.

22 Q When did you drop those off and with whom?

23 A Those were also handed off on the 15th at 11:39.  
24 I believe they are to Ms. Yarborough as well.

25 Q What, if anything, did you collect from

## JAMES TALLON-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 Ms. Clatie Stribble?

2 A From Ms. Stribble, we collected -- on scene, we  
3 collected a set of fingernail scrapings and a set of  
4 post-mortem prints.

5 Q Okay. The fingernail scrapings, why do you do  
6 that?

7 A Basically, the reason why we do that is we have  
8 these little plastic, kind of like toothpicks, and we take  
9 those and put them underneath the fingernails and scrape  
10 any debris or anything that's under the fingernails onto  
11 sterile paper, which is then folded up. We take it back  
12 to the lab and send it off for the DNA. What we're mainly  
13 looking for is someone else's DNA where if you get in a  
14 fight with somebody and you scratch them, sometimes get  
15 your hands on them and get their DNA underneath your  
16 fingernails.

17 Q Did you send those off for testing?

18 A Yes, sir.

19 Q When did you drop those off?

20 A Those were also on the 15th at 11:39?

21 MR. SCOTT: Your Honor, the State would offer  
22 State's 47 for admission -- I'm sorry, 71 for  
23 admission into evidence.

24 THE COURT: 71 is the scissors?

25 MR. SCOTT: 71 is going to be the fingernail

JAMES TALLON-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 scrapings.

2 THE COURT: Any objection?

3 MR. VERNER: 71, Your Honor, which is the  
4 scrapings, no objection.

5 THE COURT: Those are in evidence.

6 Are you offering the scissors, too?

7 MR. SCOTT: Yeah, I'll go ahead and offer those.  
8 State's 47.

9 THE COURT: State's 47 in evidence without  
10 objection.

11 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibits Nos. 47 & 71 were  
12 admitted into evidence.)

13 THE COURT: All right.

14 BY MR. SCOTT:

15 Q Tell me, what is a buccal swab?

16 A A buccal swab is where we take two swabs --  
17 excuse me, two swabs like Q-tips, there's only a swab on  
18 one end, we place them in the mouth between the cheek and  
19 gum, rub them back and forth to collect that person's DNA.

20 Q All right. Did you collect any buccal swabs on  
21 May 3rd, 2017?

22 A Not on the 3rd.

23 Q Did you take buccal swabs?

24 A Not on the 3rd of May. They were collected on  
25 the 25th of May.

## JAMES TALLON-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 Q Who were they collected from?

2 A They were collected from Mr.~Boozer at the  
3 Newberry County Detention Center.

4 Q Who collected them?

5 A Me and my partner.

6 Q Okay. Tell the jury, I think you kind of  
7 touched on it, but what's the purpose, to collect a DNA  
8 sample?

9 A To collect a DNA sample, that way we know -- if  
10 I collect a DNA buccal swab from me, then I know it's my  
11 DNA. So, then I can run my DNA against any of the  
12 evidence from whatever crime that's said to be committed  
13 and see if I match.

14 Q All right. So, who did you collect the buccal  
15 swab from on May 25th?

16 A That was Mr.~Boozer.

17 Q It just simply entails taking a Q-tip and  
18 swiping inside his cheek?

19 A Yes, sir, rubbing in between the mouth and gum.

20 Q All right. State's 44, what is that?

21 A This is the actual buccal swab that I collected  
22 from Mr.~Boozer signed with my initials and sealed.

23 Q All right. What did you do with it after  
24 collecting it?

25 A We responded back to our lab and logged it in as

## JAMES TALLON-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 evidence for DNA.

2 Q Okay.

3 MR. SCOTT: Beg the Court's indulgence, Your  
4 Honor.

5 THE COURT: Yes, sir.

6 MR. SCOTT: I think I moved it in, Your Honor,  
7 but I do offer State's 44 for admission.

8 THE COURT: That's the swab?

9 MR. SCOTT: Yes, sir.

10 MR. VERNER: Without objection.

11 THE COURT: Without objection, State's 44 is in  
12 evidence.

13 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibit No. 44 was admitted  
14 into evidence.)

15 MR. SCOTT: Thanks, Mr. Tallon. Answer any  
16 questions Mr.~Verner has for you.

17 THE COURT: Mr.~Verner.

18 CROSS-EXAMINATION

19 BY MR. VERNER:

20 Q Good evening, Agent.

21 A Good evening, sir.

22 Q As a special agent for homicide, I guess, you're  
23 looking for everything to study the whole picture?

24 A As much of the picture as we can get.

25 Q Okay. Would fingerprints be part of that

## JAMES TALLON-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 picture?

2 A Yes, sir, fingerprints are a part of the  
3 picture.

4 Q You're trained -- if I left fingerprints on a  
5 car window, you think if they were there that you would  
6 have the knowledge to know how to pull them or retrieve  
7 them?

8 A If they're there, then there's a possibility you  
9 can retrieve them. Not always, but there's a possibility.

10 Q And taking pictures of crime scenes is one of  
11 your functions and what you've been trained for?

12 A That's correct.

13 Q The looking for odd pieces of evidence and  
14 hiding places and such not?

15 A That's correct.

16 Q Okay. Just putting everything together trying  
17 to get an accurate picture of everything?

18 A Yes, sir.

19 Q Okay. The -- well, first off, on the scissors,  
20 No. 47 that was put into evidence -- they stacked  
21 everything on your thing?

22 A Yes, sir, the scissors.

23 Q The scissors that was put into evidence by the  
24 State, are they the murder weapon?

25 A I cannot tell you that.

## JAMES TALLON-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 Q Did they have any evidence on them, such as  
2 blood or anything?

3 A I did not process them. I collected them and  
4 turned them in.

5 Q Okay. It's a stabbing and they possibly could  
6 have been used, so they were worth taking into evidence?

7 A That is correct.

8 Q Okay. Did Mr.~Boozer consent to you taking the  
9 cotton swab and taking the DNA sample from his mouth?

10 A I believe there was a search warrant for that.

11 Q Okay. But did he open his mouth and participate  
12 in that, cooperate?

13 A Yes, sir.

14 Q Okay. Are you familiar with who lived on  
15 Conifer Drive, the [REDACTED] Conifer Drive location?

16 A No, sir.

17 Q Did it appear to be -- what kind of condition  
18 was the home in, just in general, the killing aside? Was  
19 it a very tidy house or is it fair to say it was somewhat  
20 disorganized or very --

21 A That's very subjective. I mean, I can say it's  
22 disorganized, but you don't know what my house looks like,  
23 so.

24 Q It's fair to say that there were clothes lying  
25 around in several rooms?

## JAMES TALLON-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1           A     There were some clothes around.

2           Q     Okay. I saw -- in some of the pictures, you can  
3 see multiple laundry baskets lying out in some of the  
4 rooms?

5           A     That is correct, there were some laundry  
6 baskets.

7           Q     And clothes kind of thrown up around it?

8           A     There were some clothes around the laundry  
9 baskets.

10          Q     And that's not unnormal, but fair to say that  
11 there were clothes scattered throughout the house?

12          A     There were clothes around the house. I wouldn't  
13 say -- just thrown around randomly.

14          Q     Did they appear to be women -- do you know how  
15 many women lived in that house?

16          A     I do not.

17          Q     Do you know if that pink shirt belonged to  
18 Clatie Stribble or could it have been one of the other  
19 women or her daughters in the house?

20          A     I do not know who the pink shirt belonged to.

21          Q     Okay. Did you see any blood or any kind of  
22 indication that there was blood on that shirt?

23          A     I did not observe any.

24          Q     Did you see any blood in the kitchen?

25          A     I did not.



## JAMES TALLON-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1           Q     Okay. Is it possible that shirt was just -- is  
2     there anything other than the shirt was in the kitchen on  
3     the floor that connects it to what happened in the  
4     bedroom?

5           A     There were a pair of earrings on the floor in  
6     the kitchen as well, but I could not tell you who they  
7     belonged to either.

8           Q     All right. Again, do you know how many women or  
9     girls live in the house?

10          A     I do not. I believe she had some daughters, but  
11     I do not how many lived there.

12          Q     Do you know whether Cliff Boozer ever lived in  
13     that house?

14          A     I do not.

15          Q     Okay. The tire in State's No. 33 that you said  
16     use to be used to prop up the -- or is it a likely hunch  
17     that it was used to keep that storm door closed?

18          A     I would believe so, yes, sir.

19          Q     Is it fair to say that's bigger than a typical  
20     tire for like a little car?

21          A     You talking about a spare?

22          Q     It looks like a truck tire or that's a heavy  
23     tire, isn't it?

24          A     Well, I'm really not sure.

25          Q     That doesn't look like a -- it doesn't look to

## JAMES TALLON-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 you like a truck tire or some kind of heavier farm-type  
2 tire?

3 A I am in no way a car guy. I'm a computer nerd.

4 Q Have ever changed a tire on your car?

5 A Possibly once.

6 Q Okay. Even little tires are heavy, aren't they,  
7 with the wheels and metal stuff in them?

8 A Depending on how strong you are. For me, maybe.

9 Q Okay. The -- but to move that tire would take  
10 some force and effort, right?

11 A Sure, it would take force.

12 Q And if it was dropped on the ground underneath  
13 the -- you're sure that doesn't look like a bigger than  
14 average tire?

15 A Honestly, sir, I cannot tell you.

16 Q And that appears to be a steel wheel?

17 A It's metal of some sort, the actual rim is  
18 metal.

19 Q Have you ever moved a tire and then dropped it  
20 on the ground?

21 A I'm sure I have.

22 Q Okay. And you've heard it land and it kind of  
23 rolls around for a second, but it makes a noise, doesn't  
24 it?

25 A If you just let it fall, yes, sir, it does.

## JAMES TALLON-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1           Q     Assuming somebody just let it fall under the  
2 window, that would leave -- would make a sound, wouldn't,  
3 it?

4           A     I'm sure it would make some sound.

5           Q     Okay. Did Ms. Clatie have blinds on her  
6 windows?

7           A     I'm sorry.

8           Q     I'll help you out. Ms. Stribble, is this, what  
9 I'm handing you, one of the photographs of her room?

10          A     Yes, sir, it is. There are blinds on the  
11 windows.

12          Q     Do they appear to be in good condition?

13          A     They do.

14          Q     They're not ripped down or there are no holes or  
15 anything through them?

16          A     Not that I remember.

17          Q     Okay. And you can see closed blinds from the  
18 outside of the house just as well from the inside of the  
19 house, right?

20          A     Sure.

21          Q     Okay. If I hand you State's 39, you can see  
22 both Ms. Stribble's bedroom window and the room beside it?

23          A     Yes, sir, those are both -- that's  
24 Ms. Stribble's room where the victim was located and I  
25 believe this is the living room.

## JAMES TALLON-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1           Q     Ms. Stribble's bedroom would have been the one  
2 on the far left?

3           A     That is correct.

4           MR. VERNER: And Walter, would you put up 39,  
5 please?

6           Q     Again, if you can step down?

7           A     Sure.

8           Q     Point out for the jury which window would be  
9 Ms. Clatie Stribble's bedroom.

10          A     This would be the bedroom where the victim was  
11 located?

12          Q     Looking from the outside, does it appear that  
13 you could see in?

14          A     Maybe from that little spot there, but I can't  
15 really tell.

16          Q     And the other window appears to have the same  
17 kind of blinds?

18          A     That's correct, they both appear to be the same  
19 type blind.

20          Q     Okay. And you've looked into a house at  
21 nighttime, haven't you?

22          A     I'm sure I have.

23          Q     Is it easier to see through a window when the  
24 lights are on or when the lights are off?

25          A     When the lights are on.

## JAMES TALLON-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1           Q     That's right. So, if you're looking through a  
2 window at night with blinds on it, you can't see anything  
3 in there, right?

4           A     With the lights on inside?

5           Q     If I'm standing outside of a window and the  
6 lights are off in the room, ordinarily, I wouldn't see  
7 anything in the room unless somebody actually stood right  
8 next to the window, right?

9           A     If it's fully dark, yes, sir, that would be more  
10 difficult.

11          Q     Six in the morning would be dark, wouldn't it,  
12 even in May?

13          A     It depends on what time of the year. Not real  
14 sure how the sun was at that time.

15          Q     Okay. And regardless if there were lights in  
16 there, with the blinds closed, you couldn't see in there  
17 whether you were standing close to the window or further  
18 away?

19          A     Depends on how well the seal is for the blind,  
20 but it could make it more difficult, yes, sir.

21          Q     And you could tell that from looking outside?  
22 Before I even got to a window, I could tell that there was  
23 a blind up in front of it?

24          A     Sure, depending on how dark it was.

25          Q     You took fingernail scrapings from Clatie

## JAMES TALLON-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 Stribble?

2 A That's correct.

3 Q And what is probably the primary reason for  
4 doing that?

5 A Looking for any DNA other than her own.

6 Q Okay. Such as blood, scratches or --

7 A Blood or skin or any kind of DNA.

8 Q Is it a possible reason that if somebody is  
9 killed, they might fight off their attacker and they might  
10 have scratched their attacker?

11 A It's possible, which is why we collect those.

12 Q And that's more likely in a stabbing or a  
13 choking case than a gunshot case?

14 A If they're further away from the gunshot, that  
15 would be correct.

16 Q So, if a woman were attacked and she was  
17 fighting back, she would try -- even a man would try to  
18 scratch her attacker?

19 A It's possible.

20 Q Okay. Did you observe any kind of fingernail  
21 scratches across Mr.~Boozer?

22 A I did not observe any at the time I was taking  
23 the photographs.

24 Q Okay. The -- if a woman or a man even were  
25 fighting somebody in close contact and I was going to

## JAMES TALLON-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 scratch my attacker, where is the most likely place that  
2 you think I would try to scratch somebody to get them off  
3 of me?

4 A Could be arms, face. I mean, if you're on the  
5 ground, it could be legs.

6 Q Anywhere you can?

7 A Exactly.

8 Q But you would agree with me if I'm in a fight  
9 and I'm desperate that you wouldn't try to scratch  
10 somebody across the face or the eyes?

11 A It's possible. Me, I'm probably going to punch  
12 instead of scratch.

13 Q The -- that's right, punching also would work,  
14 but if you were going to scratch somebody, you would  
15 scratch them across -- if you were punching somebody, you  
16 wouldn't have fingernail debris --

17 A Correct.

18 Q Anything under your fingernail?

19 A That's correct.

20 Q But if you were scratching, you would?

21 A It's possible, yes. Doesn't mean you're going  
22 to for a fact, but it is possible.

23 Q And that's one of the reasons they train you is  
24 because that's what people do, they scratch their  
25 attackers?

## JAMES TALLON-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1           A     Sometimes, yes, sir.

2           Q     And that's one of the reasons they have you look  
3 at them?

4           A     That's correct.

5           Q     Okay. Did you see any scratches on Clifton  
6 Boozer -- you took photographs of Mr.~Boozer up close and  
7 I think you testified you told him to turn, turn, turn?

8           A     We would have told him to take half turns and we  
9 photograph all the way around him.

10          Q     If you saw --

11          A     I can't remember exactly if I was the  
12 photographer or my partner was the photographer at the  
13 time, but we were both standing there.

14          Q     And you were in close proximity of Mr.~Boozer on  
15 the morning of May 3rd?

16          A     That's correct.

17          Q     Did you see any obvious scratches or cuts,  
18 wounds to his face or any other part of his body?

19          A     There was, I believe it was his left index  
20 finger.

21          Q     That's right, he had a scratch across his  
22 left -- or across one of his third birdie fingers, I call  
23 it, he had scratch; is that fair to say?

24                 MR. SCOTT: Charles, let him testify to it.

25                 THE WITNESS: Correct, that's his right hand.



## JAMES TALLON-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 BY MR. VERNER:

2 Q Okay. Was there any evidence that the window to  
3 Ms. Clatie Stribble's room was the entranceway that was  
4 used to get into the home?

5 A No, sir.

6 Q Are you able to look at fingerprints or find  
7 fingerprints from on window sills?

8 A It's possible, yes, sir.

9 Q And window panes?

10 A Yes, sir, it's possible.

11 Q The -- and sometimes there's dust, particularly  
12 on the outside windows that might be disturbed by  
13 somebody?

14 A That's correct.

15 Q Did you observe anything like that on the window  
16 to Ms. Clatie's bedroom?

17 A Not that I recall. I believe it was taller than  
18 me a little bit, taller window.

19 Q You could have stood on the tire?

20 A That's correct, I could have stood on the tire.

21 Q If you were standing on the tire, is it possible  
22 that you might have put your hands on that window sill to  
23 keep your balance?

24 A That's correct.

25 Q Okay. But there was no evidence that you saw?

## JAMES TALLON-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1           A     None that I saw, which is why we would have  
2 collected the DNA swabs.

3           Q     Okay. Did you see any shoe impressions on the  
4 tire itself?

5           A     No, sir, not that I recall.

6           Q     If they were visible, do you think you would  
7 have observed them?

8           A     I hope so.

9           Q     Is shoe impressions something that you've also  
10 been trained to look for and study?

11          A     It is, yes, sir.

12          Q     Okay. And you thought it was suspicious that  
13 you couldn't find the fitted sheets to Ms. Clatie  
14 Stribble's bed, or, at least, interesting?

15          A     It's definitely noteworthy that there weren't  
16 any sheet on the bed.

17          Q     Oftentimes, people have fitted sheets and sheets  
18 on top of those on their beds?

19          A     That's correct.

20          Q     But it's also fair to say sometimes people just  
21 sleep with blankets or comforters?

22          A     Straight mattress sometimes.

23          Q     Even if you had fitted sheets on the bed, if  
24 somebody was bleeding on the bed, wouldn't that blood soak  
25 right through the sheets into the mattress itself?

## JAMES TALLON-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1           A     Depends on how much blood letting has occurred,  
2     but it's very possible.

3           Q     So, I mean, if I'm staying for any period of  
4     time on the bed and I'm bleeding, within a matter of  
5     moments, that blood will absorb right through those sheets  
6     into the mattress?

7           A     Into the -- there was a -- I call them an egg  
8     crate on top of it, but it would have gone into that,  
9     depending on how much blood letting had occurred.

10          Q     If somebody peed in their bed, it would go  
11     straight through the sheets and you would see the stain on  
12     the mattress or egg crate?

13          A     That's correct.

14          Q     And it would go through an egg crate, too,  
15     wouldn't it, if it was there long enough?

16          A     Yes, sir. If there was enough pooling, it  
17     would.

18          Q     Did you see any blood on the mattress itself? I  
19     guess --

20          A     I do not remember seeing any.

21          Q     My question is, are you sure there were fitted  
22     sheets that were removed or is it possible she was just  
23     one of the people who slept with like a comforter?

24          A     It is very possible they may have not have never  
25     been there.

## JAMES TALLON-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1           Q     Worth looking into, but not necessarily showing  
2 one way or the other?

3           A     I cannot positively say they were there.

4           Q     Okay. And in the -- was it 43 --

5                 MR. VERNER: Walter, may I have 43, the second  
6 page, sir? The second page, please, sir.

7           Q     Step down, please, Agent Tallon. The -- as best  
8 you can recall for the jury, kind of point out where you  
9 found blood stains in the bedroom?

10          A     It would have been between this couch and bed  
11 along here where the victim was, the wall right next to  
12 the victim, on the egg crate, memory foam kind of covering  
13 for the bed. I believe there was some more out front  
14 here, in front of the bed itself and next to the couch.  
15 That's all I recall at this time.

16          Q     The fact that you found blood in different parts  
17 of the room, could that indicate that there was somebody  
18 of struggle?

19          A     It could.

20          Q     You can take your seat again. That's all I have  
21 for that one. If I -- if Clifton Boozer had held  
22 Ms. Clatie Stribble down and stabbed her or choked her on  
23 the bed, you would expect to find the blood on the bed,  
24 right? Or the bulk of it?

25          A     If -- well, for a choking, you said a choking,

## JAMES TALLON-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 you wouldn't find much blood. But for the stabbing, it is  
2 possible, however, even with where she was, there wasn't a  
3 whole lot of blood located.

4 Q The -- but the fact that you found blood on both  
5 the right side of bed and left side of the bed that should  
6 suggest either one of two things, that the bodies has been  
7 moved or that there was some kind of struggle or, I guess,  
8 the third option would be that it's blood spatter, that is  
9 blood spray, right?

10 A It could be blood spatter where it could -- that  
11 is correct.

12 Q But blood spatter makes a particular type of  
13 pattern, doesn't it?

14 A That is correct.

15 Q Did the blood you found on the carpet on both  
16 sides appear to be blood spatter?

17 A They were not indicative of what we call a  
18 total-shaped pattern to indicate an angle of impact or  
19 coming from any type of speed out of the body.

20 Q Did it appear to be either more contact blood or  
21 dripping blood?

22 A That is correct.

23 Q What about the blood on the wall next to  
24 Ms. Clatie Stribble's body, did that appear to be contact  
25 where her body -- is it possible, at least, that her body

## JAMES TALLON-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 could have fallen off the bed into the wall and by the  
2 contact of the fall transferred the blood to the wall?

3 A From -- if she had blood on her hands and other  
4 areas of falling, it's possible that she could have wiped  
5 some of the blood onto the wall.

6 Q Okay. The -- and how far was the edge of the  
7 bed from the window?

8 A Like the foot of the bed?

9 Q The right edge of the bed as you're laying on it  
10 to the window, to the outside window?

11 A Maybe three feet.

12 Q At most?

13 A An approximate guess is about three feet.

14 Q Possibly even closer?

15 A It wouldn't be too much closer, but it would be  
16 about three feet.

17 Q Okay. So, a yard would be approximately -- hold  
18 up with your arms what an approximate yard is to the jury.

19 A Three feet, about that long.

20 Q That would be the distance from the edge of the  
21 bed to the wall?

22 A Approximately, correct.

23 Q Okay. And Ms. Clatie Stribble, her body was  
24 found in the nude?

25 A When I arrived on the scene, that's correct, she

## JAMES TALLON-REDIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 was.

2 Q Are you familiar with whether she slept in the  
3 nude or whether she ordinarily wore pajamas?

4 A No, sir, I am not.

5 Q Okay.

6 MR. VERNER: Thank you, that's all I have.

7 THE COURT: Anything on redirect?

8 MR. SCOTT: Yes, just briefly, Your Honor. I  
9 just want to clarify something.

10 THE COURT: Go ahead.

11 MR. SCOTT: Walter, can I have State's No. 23?

12 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

13 BY MR. SCOTT:

14 Q Talking about the blinds and everything, what  
15 are you noting right there at the bottom right of the  
16 blinds?

17 A There appears to be a broken section right here.

18 Q Okay. And do you know whether Ms. Stribble  
19 slept with her TV on or had a nightlight or anything like  
20 that?

21 A I do not.

22 Q So, you don't know what the visibility would  
23 have been into her room at 6:00 a.m.?

24 A I do not.

25 MR. SCOTT: Can I get State's 34?

## JAMES TALLON-REDIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1           Q     And then from the outside, is that still the  
2 bedroom window?

3           A     Yes, sir. This is the same window.

4           Q     Point to that defect in the blinds that allowed  
5 you to see in.

6           A     Appears in this area right here.

7           Q     Do you necessarily even know that he put his  
8 hands on the window or held onto the window while he  
9 looked in?

10          A     No, sir, I would not know that.

11          Q     But did you attempt to get fingerprint lifts and  
12 DNA from that window?

13          A     We attempted the DNA swabs. The fingerprints,  
14 we used what we call cross lighting where we look at the  
15 object with a flashlight at a bleak angle where you can  
16 see fingerprints. You can do it yourself at home or  
17 looking at your TV, you will notice your fingerprints more  
18 if you look at it from an angle or like coming at an  
19 angle, you can see the ridge detail better. We didn't see  
20 anything that led us to believe that there were any  
21 fingerprints there. Plus, the type of metal that this is,  
22 it's harder to get fingerprints off of it. It's oxidized  
23 metal. So we just go with the DNA swabs because we  
24 thought we would have a better opportunity of getting some  
25 evidence.



## JAMES TALLON-REDIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 Q Then finally --

2 Let me see No. 25, please, Walter.

3 They're asking about blood that may or may  
4 not have seeped through the sheets, what do we see in this  
5 picture on the phone?

6 A This was that egg crate they call it, memory  
7 foam. And this would have been the blood that I was  
8 indicating also on there.

9 Q So, there was some blood on the mattress cover  
10 there?

11 A Correct.

12 MR. SCOTT: Okay, that's all, thank you.

13 MR. VERNER: No further questions on cross.

14 THE COURT: All right. Mr. Tallon, thank you  
15 very much for coming. You're free to go. Thank you  
16 very much. Drive safely back.

17 All right. Ladies and gentlemen of the jury,  
18 we're going to go ahead and take our break for the  
19 evening. Let me speak to the attorneys over here  
20 about the first witness up.

21 (WHEREUPON, a bench conference was held in the  
22 presence of the jury but out of the hearing of  
23 the jury.)

24 THE COURT: Ladies and gentlemen, I'm going to  
25 ask that you be back here, please, at 9:00 o'clock

1           testify in this case, would that effect your ability  
2           to be fair and impartial to both the State or the  
3           Defense?

4           PROSPECTIVE JUROR:   Kind of.

5           THE COURT:   Kind of.   All right.

6           Solicitor, I think it's best that he not testify  
7           then.

8           All right.   Thank you for your honesty.

9           PROSPECTIVE JUROR:   Yes, sir.

10          THE COURT:   Solicitor, call your next witness,  
11          please.

12          MR. DANIEL:   Your Honor, the State calls Laura  
13          Kneece.

14          THE CLERK:   Raise your right hand place your  
15          left hand on the Bible.

16          LAURA KNEECE, after being duly sworn, testified  
17          as follows:

18          THE CLERK:   Have a seat, state your full name  
19          for the record.

20          THE WITNESS:   My name is Laura Kneece,  
21          K-N-E-E-C-E.

22                         DIRECT EXAMINATION

23          BY MR. DANIEL:

24           Q       You are -- Ms. Kneece, you are the Newberry  
25          County coroner, correct?

LAURA KNEECE-DIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1           A     Yes, sir, I am.

2           Q     That's an elected position in Newberry County,  
3 right?

4           A     Yes, sir.

5           Q     What is the Newberry County coroner? What's  
6 your job or role?

7           A     The State of South Carolina charges me to  
8 investigate the cause and manner of one's death.

9           Q     All right. So, there's 46 counties in South  
10 Carolina and there are 46 coroners, correct?

11          A     Correct, yes.

12          Q     So, any time somebody dies in Newberry County,  
13 you investigate and determine, I guess, the manner of  
14 death, that kind of thing?

15          A     Correct.

16          Q     And you help with issuing death certificates,  
17 things of that nature?

18          A     Yes, I do.

19          Q     So, you would work closely with pathologists to  
20 determine the cause of death as well?

21          A     Yes, we charge our pathologists to conduct our  
22 autopsies. Since I'm not a medical doctor, the medical  
23 doctor gives us the cause of death and we assist in  
24 determining the manner of death.

25          Q     How long have you been the elected coroner in

LAURA KNEECE-DIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 Newberry County?

2 A This is my first term and my second year.

3 Q Are you a resident of Newberry County?

4 A I am, yes.

5 Q Guess you have to be to be the coroner?

6 A Yes, the law states that.

7 Q All right. Before we get into your role as the  
8 coroner and your involvement in this particular homicide  
9 case, where do you live, Ms. Kneece?

10 A I live on Brown Street in Prosperity.

11 Q Okay. Actually, you -- this case kind of hits  
12 close to home to you literally; is that correct?

13 MR. VERNER: Your Honor, that's not a proper  
14 question.

15 THE COURT: Sustained. Sustained. She's a  
16 professional. She's got a job to do. Let's just  
17 stick to the professional role she plays in this.

18 BY MR. DANIEL:

19 Q Well, Ms. Kneece, so you live on Brown Street in  
20 the Town of Prosperity, correct?

21 A Yes. I live on the corner of Conifer -- of  
22 Brown Street and Conifer Street.

23 Q All right. And the victim in this case, Clatie  
24 Stribble, she was a neighbor of hers, correct?

25 A Yes, she lived around the corner on Conifer.

LAURA KNEECE-DIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 Q Okay. So, this incident occurred close to your  
2 home?

3 A Yes, it did.

4 MR. DANIEL: That was what my question was  
5 intended, Your Honor.

6 MR. VERNER: And again, I don't know how that is  
7 a relevant question to the cause of death of the  
8 crime that's alleged. I ask it be --

9 THE COURT: All right, I'm assuming that she did  
10 respond to the scene and this relates to how quickly  
11 she was able to get there?

12 MR. DANIEL: Well, actually, I need further  
13 questions because it's far more relevant than that,  
14 Your Honor.

15 THE COURT: All right. I'll give you some room.  
16 Go ahead.

17 BY MR. DANIEL:

18 Q All right. Ms. Kneece, you live on Brown  
19 Street, which is in close proximity to Conifer Drive where  
20 Clatie Stribble lived, correct?

21 A Correct, yes.

22 Q Okay. And Clatie Stribble lived on [REDACTED] Conifer  
23 Drive?

24 A Yes.

25 Q And your address was what on Brown Street?

LAURA KNEECE-DIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1           A     [REDACTED] Brown Street.

2           Q     Okay. I'm going to hand you what's been ID'd  
3 for identification purposes as State's 58. Do you  
4 recognize this aerial map?

5           A     Yes, I do.

6           Q     All right. Does that depict where your house  
7 is?

8           A     Yes, that's from the aerial map, yes.

9           Q     Does that also depict where Clatie Stribble  
10 lived?

11          A     Yes.

12               MR. DANIEL: Your Honor, at this time, I'd offer  
13 State's 58 for admission into evidence.

14               THE COURT: Any objection?

15               MR. VERNER: I thought we already had an aerial  
16 marked into evidence earlier, but I guess this one  
17 only includes the coroner's house as part of it?

18               MR. DANIEL: Yes, this is a wider aerial that  
19 would include where Ms. Kneece lives.

20               MR. VERNER: I'm dubious of the relevance in  
21 this particular case.

22               MR. DANIEL: We can explain.

23               MR. VERNER: So, there's no need -- I'm not  
24 objecting.

25               THE COURT: Without objection, State's 58 is in

LAURA KNEECE-DIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 evidence.

2 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibit No. 58 was admitted  
3 into evidence.)

4 BY MR. DANIEL:

5 Q At this time, Ms. Kneece -- I'm going to call  
6 you Coroner Kneece, is that okay?

7 A That's fine. Thank you.

8 Q All right. State's 58 in evidence, we'll go  
9 ahead and publish it on the TV. If you could, point on  
10 this map where your house is in relation to where Clatie  
11 live?

12 THE WITNESS: May I get off the stand, Your  
13 Honor?

14 THE COURT: Please.

15 THE WITNESS: My house is kind of in this area  
16 right here.

17 BY MR. DANIEL:

18 Q Okay.

19 A Where these trees are.

20 Q All right. Now, you live on Brown Street?

21 A Correct.

22 Q I've --

23 A Actually, this is my house right here.

24 Q Okay. So, that's on Brown Street where it  
25 intersects with Conifer?

LAURA KNEECE-DIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1           A     Yes.

2           Q     Then point -- it's kind of obvious, but point to  
3 where Clatie's house is depicted on the map.

4           A     (The witness complies.)

5           Q     Where that yellow pin drop is?

6           A     Yes.

7           Q     So, distance-wise, how far is that?

8           A     I want to say it's maybe a half mile, less,  
9 maybe one-fourth of a mile, not very far.

10          Q     Quarter of a mile?

11          A     Yes.

12          Q     All right. You can sit back down. So, you knew  
13 Clatie Stribble, correct?

14          A     I didn't know her personally, but I would see  
15 her children walk to the bus stop every morning.

16          Q     All right. And that's what I want to talk  
17 about. Did you actually know Clatie's children at the  
18 time of her death?

19          A     I did not.

20          Q     But you would see them in the neighborhood going  
21 to the bus stop, correct?

22          A     Correct.

23          Q     How many children did Clatie have?

24          A     I would see three girls in the morning walk to  
25 the bus stop.



LAURA KNEECE-DIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 Q Where exactly was the bus stop?

2 A The bus stop was at the corner of Brown Street,  
3 actually, the corner of my property on Conifer Drive.

4 Q So, essentially, you would see Clatie Stribble's  
5 three children, three daughters wait for the bus right in  
6 front of your house?

7 A To the side of it, yes.

8 Q And so, I guess, May 3rd of last year is when  
9 Clatie Stribble was killed; is that correct?

10 A Yes, that's when I received the call to do my  
11 job.

12 Q I guess that school year, you had -- I guess,  
13 every school day, would you pretty much see the daughters  
14 go to the bus stop?

15 A I did, yes.

16 Q Okay. And did the daughters walk to the bus  
17 stop or would they be at the bus stop always at a  
18 particular time?

19 A The only reason I would know this is because I  
20 would let my dogs out between 6:30, 6:45, that's what time  
21 I would usually get up to start my day. One of my dogs  
22 would always bark at the girls.

23 Q Okay. So, would it be accurate to say that you  
24 would see Clatie's daughters wait for the bus between 6:30  
25 and 6:45?

LAURA KNEECE-DIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1           A     Roughly, yes.

2           Q     And the bus was also pretty much consistently  
3 arriving at that time?

4           A     Yes.

5           Q     And on the morning of May 3rd of last year, do  
6 you recall seeing Clatie's children at the bus stop?

7           A     Yes, I do.

8           Q     Do you recall seeing all three daughters at the  
9 bus stop?

10          A     Yes.

11          Q     Okay. And would it have been between 6:30, 6:45  
12 a.m.?

13          A     Yes, sir.

14          Q     And did you see the children board the bus as  
15 well?

16          A     I can't say that I remember seeing them board  
17 the bus, but I do remember seeing them at the corner at  
18 the bus stop.

19          Q     So, it's safe to say that that's what time  
20 roughly the children departed for school?

21          A     Yes, sir.

22          Q     Between 6:30 and 6:45 a.m.?

23          A     Yes, sir.

24          Q     All right. Did you respond to the scene that  
25 day at ■■■ Conifer Drive?

LAURA KNEECE-DIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1           A     I did, yes, sir.

2           Q     Do you remember approximately what time you  
3 responded to the crime scene?

4           A     I received the call from dispatch at 0840 a.m.

5           Q     Okay. And when you arrived on scene, did you  
6 enter the residence?

7           A     I did not. I asked if there was -- I asked a  
8 summary from the officers on scene, what had occurred.  
9 And since it was considered a crime scene, I waited until  
10 the search warrant was signed.

11          Q     Okay. All right. But, eventually, you did  
12 enter the residence, correct?

13          A     Yes, sir, I did.

14          Q     Why did you enter the residence?

15          A     I entered the residence because it was confirmed  
16 that there was a decedent, who was identified as Clatie  
17 Stribble, in the residence dead.

18          Q     All right. And the pictures -- I'm not going to  
19 ask they be published again, they were admitted into  
20 evidence yesterday. But did you observe the body of  
21 Clatie Stribble inside that residence?

22          A     Yes, sir, I did.

23          Q     How is it positively identified as being Clatie  
24 Stribble?

25          A     It was known by the parties on scene as well as

## LAURA KNEECE-DIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 I did fingerprints at the autopsy.

2 Q So --

3 A And she was the only one that lived in that  
4 residence.

5 Q And she was pronounced dead -- was there an  
6 official time of death where she was pronounced dead at  
7 the scene?

8 A I pronounced -- well, I estimated her death to  
9 be at 7:30 a.m.

10 Q Okay. All right. And how is her body found?  
11 Where exactly in the house was it found?

12 A Ms. Stribble was located in what I would  
13 consider the master bedroom of the home. When you enter  
14 the home, you enter through the kitchen and through the  
15 living room, you would turn right. Once you walk back  
16 towards the house -- or bedroom where she was located was  
17 the bedroom to the left. She was located in between the  
18 bed and the window in the room, which would have been on  
19 the far left side of the room.

20 Q How was Ms. Stribble's body positioned in that  
21 bedroom?

22 A Ms. Stribble was located on the floor. And I  
23 believe she was on her left side, like I said, in  
24 between -- and she was nude. In between the bed and the  
25 window on the floor.

LAURA KNEECE-DIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1           Q     Okay. And we saw those photos yesterday. I'm  
2 not going to publish them again, as a stated. Did you  
3 observe any visible injuries to Ms. Stribble?

4           A     She did seem to have some type of wound on her  
5 chest area. I took photographs, of course. It didn't do  
6 much -- blood was present on the right side of her neck  
7 and a puncture wound on the left side of her chest near  
8 the clavicle area, which would be your collarbone.

9           Q     And at that time on scene, did you do a full  
10 physical examination of any other injuries? At least on  
11 scene?

12          A     On scene, I notated through my report there was  
13 blood present on the decedent's face that came from her  
14 mouth. She was photographed in that position. A small  
15 amount of blood on the floor where she was lying. Also,  
16 we had taken latent prints on the decedent due to positive  
17 identification.

18          Q     Okay. Now, at that point, what's the next step  
19 in doing an examination of body in a homicide case like  
20 this?

21          A     What occurs next is I transport the body in a  
22 body bag. And what we do before we leave the scene is I  
23 lock that body bag with a lock. That way, it shows  
24 there's no tampering. And from there, I moved the  
25 decedent to the morgue located at Newberry Hospital and

LAURA KNEECE-DIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 requested an autopsy by Dr. Ross with Newberry Pathology  
2 and Associates.

3 Q All right. So, Ms. Stribble's body was  
4 transported to the Newberry County morgue from the crime  
5 scene, correct?

6 A Correct, yes, sir.

7 Q And then an autopsy was scheduled with the  
8 pathologist?

9 A Yes, I called the pathologist and scheduled an  
10 autopsy.

11 Q And who is the pathologist who conducts these  
12 autopsies?

13 A Dr. Ross with Newberry Pathology and Associates.

14 Q Okay. And did an autopsy in this case take  
15 place?

16 A It did. It occurred the next day on May 4th.

17 Q At the county hospital?

18 A It's in the basement area of Newberry County  
19 Memorial Hospital.

20 Q And you were present during this autopsy?

21 A Yes, sir, I was.

22 Q Dr. Ross, she's an actual doctor who can  
23 determine the cause of death, is that correct?

24 A Yes, she's a board certified forensic  
25 pathologist.

LAURA KNEECE-DIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 Q And she will testify later on, so I'm not going  
2 to ask you certain questions that she would testify to,  
3 but what did you observe Dr. Ross do at the autopsy  
4 relating to any type of forensic evidence, if any?

5 A Dr. Ross photographed the decedent as per  
6 protocol. From there, they remove -- or take what we call  
7 toxicology. She also conducted a CSC, a criminal sexual  
8 conduct, kit. All that was collected. From there, she  
9 goes into her protocol of an external examination,  
10 additional photographs, then, of course, her internal  
11 prosecuting examination.

12 Q Okay. So, Dr. Ross is collecting blood samples,  
13 correct?

14 A She collected blood samples, urine as well as  
15 doing the CSC kit?

16 Q And what's a CSC kit?

17 A Criminal sexual conduct, also, known as a rape  
18 kit.

19 Q Okay. So, rape kit. And what is -- tell us  
20 about the rape kit?

21 A There's several things that SLED likes to have  
22 for a rape kit, vaginal smears, rectal smears, oral,  
23 vaginal and rectal swabs.

24 Q Okay. And what's the purpose of doing a rape  
25 kit?

LAURA KNEECE-DIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1           A     It's for -- defined for the SLED analysis to  
2 find semen analysis and DNA analysis.

3           Q     Okay. To determine if the victim has been  
4 involved in a sexual encounter, correct?

5           A     Correct, yes.

6           Q     So, you're looking for DNA that's foreign to the  
7 victim?

8           A     Correct, yes. And sperm.

9           Q     And bodily fluids?

10          A     Bodily fluids.

11          Q     As well, okay. I'm going to hand you -- related  
12 to the CSC kit, I'm going to hand you what's been marked  
13 as State's 56. Do you recognize this?

14          A     Yes, I do.

15          Q     What is that?

16          A     This is a sealed evidence bag that we turn into  
17 SLED?

18          Q     Okay. And what's in that sealed evidence bag?

19          A     The sealed evidence bag is marked with CSC  
20 slides and swabs that were collected at the autopsy.

21          Q     Okay. Those were the swabs that you were  
22 referring to?

23          A     Yes, the swabs and slides.

24          Q     Dr. Ross actually -- did you watch Dr. Ross take  
25 these swabs?



LAURA KNEECE-DIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 A Yes, sir, I did.

2 Q That would be of the vaginal and rectal areas of  
3 the victim?

4 A Yes, and the oral.

5 Q And the oral swab?

6 A Yes.

7 Q Did you submit those to SLED for testing?

8 A I did, yes.

9 Q And do you remember what date that you submitted  
10 those to SLED?

11 A I submitted those via evidence lockers on May  
12 19th at 2:09 -- or excuse me, 1:28.

13 Q Is there any type of case number associated with  
14 that rape kit?

15 A As far as SLED's or mine?

16 Q Yeah, SLED's case number.

17 A SLED assigned the case number of L17-07320.

18 Q Okay. And once it's to SLED, that goes to their  
19 analysts for testing?

20 A Correct.

21 Q And you picked up that evidence from SLED, is  
22 that correct?

23 A Yes, sir. All biological evidence that belongs  
24 when we do an autopsy is returned back to the coroner's  
25 office.

LAURA KNEECE-DIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1           Q     And you actually brought that to court  
2 yesterday, is that correct?

3           A     Yes, I did.

4           Q     Okay. Then also, was there -- there was blood  
5 drawn from the victim for testing as well you said?

6           A     Yes, sir.

7           Q     All right. And it was -- what type of blood  
8 evidence -- or what was the purpose of drawing blood from  
9 the victim again?

10          A     There are two reasons Dr. Ross draws blood from  
11 a decedent. Number one is for toxicology analysis and  
12 number two is for what we call lab DNA analysis if we  
13 should need that.

14          Q     Okay. For DNA purposes, you take a victim's  
15 blood sample -- is it a known standard, is that what you  
16 call it?

17          A     Yes, it's called a known standard.

18          Q     So, you're comparing that with blood evidence or  
19 DNA evidence found at the crime scene?

20          A     Correct.

21          Q     I'm going to hand you what's been marked for ID  
22 purposes as State's 57. Do you recognize State's 57?

23          A     I recognize the bag, that is a SLED evidence  
24 bag.

25          Q     Okay. And what is that? What is State's 57?

LAURA KNEECE-DIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 A It is a DNA card.

2 Q And is that related to the blood standard we  
3 were discussing?

4 A It is related, yes.

5 Q How so?

6 A This is a blood standard that SLED has taken the  
7 blood from the purple top, which is our known blood  
8 standard, serology, and made a DNA card in order to  
9 preserve and analyze Ms. Stribble's blood.

10 Q All right. Did you submit it to SLED in like a  
11 tube, the blood?

12 A Yes, sir, I did.

13 Q Obviously, does that blood have to be  
14 refrigerated or preserved in a special way?

15 A Yes, sir. All blood and biological evidence  
16 before testing and after testing has to be refrigerated or  
17 frozen.

18 Q All right. But that right there is not a tube  
19 of blood?

20 A Correct.

21 Q Is it a blood smear on a paper card?

22 A It is a special card that has preservatives and  
23 is called a DNA card. That way we can preserve DNA  
24 evidence without having to refrigerate it.

25 Q All right.

## LAURA KNEECE-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 MR. DANIEL: At this time, Your Honor, I'd offer  
2 State's 56 and 57 for admission into evidence.

3 THE COURT: Any objection?

4 MR. VERNER: Without objection, Your Honor.

5 THE COURT: They're in.

6 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibits Nos. 56 & 57 were  
7 admitted into evidence.)

8 BY MR. DANIEL:

9 Q And you submitted both those items into  
10 evidence, correct?

11 A Yes, I did.

12 Q And you also brought them to court yesterday as  
13 well?

14 A Yes, I did.

15 Q Now, as far as the analysis goes, I would have  
16 to check with the SLED analyst, correct?

17 A Correct.

18 Q And the cause of death, that would be Dr. Ross?

19 A Correct.

20 Q Any other involvement in this case, Coroner  
21 Kneece?

22 A No, sir.

23 MR. DANIEL: All right. Please answer any  
24 questions Mr. Verner has.

25 CROSS-EXAMINATION

## LAURA KNEECE-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 BY MR. VERNER:

2 Q Thank you, Coroner. Good morning.

3 A Good morning, sir.

4 Q Now, the coroner is an elected position?

5 A Correct.

6 Q Okay. Do you have to be in the medical field to  
7 be a coroner?

8 A No, sir, you do not.

9 Q Okay. And even if you were, you would still  
10 rely on a medical doctor for the autopsy results and the  
11 cause of death?

12 A As for standards in type of criminal cases, it's  
13 best practice nationally to use a forensic board  
14 pathologist for these type of cases.

15 Q We're fortunate in Newberry where we have a  
16 full-time forensic pathologist?

17 A Yes, sir, we do.

18 Q That's Dr. Janice Ross?

19 A Yes, sir.

20 Q But the coroner is charged for determining the  
21 cause of death for everybody who dies in Newberry?

22 A We're charged to determine the cause of death  
23 and we have certain statutory regulations. The only time  
24 that we do not have to do a cause or manner of death for a  
25 decedent is if they're admitted into a hospital more than

## LAURA KNEECE-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 24 hours or a practicing physician is willing to sign the  
2 death certificate.

3 Q Now, how many different kinds of causes of death  
4 are there?

5 A There's six.

6 Q What are they?

7 A They are natural, accidental, suicide, pending  
8 investigation, undetermined, and homicide.

9 Q Okay. And two of those kind of overlap, pending  
10 investigation and undetermined are kind of it's unknown at  
11 that time, the cause of death?

12 A Not necessarily.

13 Q Okay. And homicide means that you are -- that  
14 the cause of death was someone else contributed to it?

15 A The definition of a homicide is one person  
16 taking the life of another.

17 Q Okay. Can a homicide be an accidental killing  
18 or noncriminal killing?

19 A (There was no response.)

20 Q If I shot a man breaking into my house, that's a  
21 homicide, isn't it?

22 A Correct.

23 Q That would also be self-defense of my home,  
24 correct?

25 A That would be for law enforcement and court to

## LAURA KNEECE-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 decide, sir.

2 Q Right. But a homicide can be a noncriminal  
3 killing?

4 MR. DANIEL: Your Honor, just matter of law on  
5 that.

6 MR. VERNER: She's the coroner.

7 THE COURT: I think we all agree that it's  
8 entirely possible for a homicide to be justified. If  
9 that's what you're getting at, I think that's a  
10 correct statement of the law.

11 BY MR. VERNER:

12 Q Would you agree with the Court that homicide can  
13 be justified?

14 A Yes, I agree with the Judge.

15 Q Okay. Was that a trick question or just I don't  
16 --

17 A I'm not sure. I couldn't understand what you're  
18 asking, sir.

19 Q Had you ever been into Ms. Clatie Stribble's  
20 home prior to May 3rd?

21 A No, sir, I had not.

22 Q Do you recall ever talking to Ms. Clatie  
23 Stribble prior to May 3rd?

24 A No, sir, I do not.

25 Q Do you recall ever talking to the children prior

## LAURA KNEECE-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 to May 3rd?

2 A No, sir, I do not.

3 Q Do you have children of your own that are school  
4 age?

5 A I don't understand.

6 Q I'm just curious about seeing the kids and the  
7 bus, do you have children who take the bus that go to  
8 school?

9 A No, they do not.

10 Q So, just habitually, you're up at 6:30 in the  
11 morning?

12 A Yes, sir.

13 Q And just occasionally, you will hear the dogs  
14 bark and when you're taking the dog out or you're in the  
15 kitchen, you may see the Stribble children at the bus  
16 stop?

17 A I go outside in the morning with my dogs to  
18 enjoy the morning.

19 Q Is it just the Stribble children or are there  
20 other children that use that bus stop?

21 A At that time, I believe it was just the Stribble  
22 children.

23 Q And in general, the bus arrives about what time?

24 A 6:30, 6:45ish.

25 Q Sometimes a little bit early, sometimes a little



## LAURA KNEECE-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 bit later?

2 A I'm assuming so, yes.

3 Q Do you know how long the Stribble children have  
4 to wait for the bus before it comes?

5 A No, sir, I do not.

6 Q So, it's possible they arrive right when the bus  
7 arrives or it's possible they're there for 15 minutes or  
8 more?

9 A There's a possibility, but, usually, I would see  
10 them walking up the road to the corner.

11 Q In ballpark of about 6:30 everyday?

12 A 6:30, 6:45, yes, sir.

13 Q Okay. The -- is their home close enough where  
14 they could stay in the home and then come out when the bus  
15 arrives or is it they would have to be there prior to the  
16 bus arriving?

17 A I would feel that they needed to be there when  
18 the bus arrived. You can't see the stop sign where the  
19 bus stops from where their front door was.

20 MR. VERNER: May I ask the coroner to step down  
21 for just a second to the TV screen?

22 THE COURT: Sure.

23 BY MR. VERNER:

24 Q I just want to make sure -- Coroner, I'm going  
25 to give you this red pen. Just so it's clear, point out

## LAURA KNEECE-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 where Clatie Stribble's home?

2 A (The witness complies.)

3 Q Okay. The yellow mark, that's Conifer Drive  
4 right there?

5 A That's [REDACTED] Conifer Drive, yes.

6 Q Okay. The -- and your home is where again?  
7 Point it out. On the corner of Conifer and Brown?

8 A Correct.

9 Q Okay. The -- what is this, is this a carport or  
10 a shed or just a -- the white?

11 A That's part of our property, yes.

12 Q Where does the bus come from?

13 A Down Brown Street from Main Street.

14 Q And Prosperity would be in what direction?

15 A If you were facing out of -- this is the front  
16 door, Prosperity would be this direction.

17 Q You would turn to the left to go to Prosperity?

18 A Yes, sir.

19 Q Is that the direction of the children's school?

20 A Yes. I guess that's the way the bus --

21 Q Is that where most of the schools are in  
22 Prosperity?

23 A Yes, they're on 76.

24 Q Where does the bus stop?

25 A It would stop here at this intersection.

## LAURA KNEECE-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 Q Okay. So, the children couldn't see the bus,  
2 they would have to be there well before. Just ballpark,  
3 how long would it take the children to walk from Conifer  
4 to the end of the street?

5 A Five minutes at tops.

6 Q There's a little bit of a walk, okay. Thank  
7 you, Coroner, you can step back on the stand. How long  
8 have you lived on the corner of Conifer and Brown?

9 A Five plus years.

10 Q Five plus years. Is Conifer -- are there a lot  
11 of people who live on the road? It appears from the  
12 aerial there's just a few houses down Conifer?

13 A Yeah, there's not many. Maybe seven, eight at  
14 tops.

15 Q Okay. The -- how long -- and I understand this  
16 is ball parking or an estimate, but how long had you  
17 recognized the Stribble children?

18 A Well, I didn't realize they were the Stribble  
19 children until this incident.

20 Q Right, but I mean, you had been seeing them come  
21 to that bus stop a year, more than a year, since they were  
22 small?

23 A Not since they were small. Probably the  
24 beginning of the school year possibly, but that's clearly  
25 an estimate on my part.

## LAURA KNEECE-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 Q Did you know them by name?

2 A No, I did not.

3 Q Did you know which particular house they lived  
4 in?

5 A I did not.

6 Q They're just children that you saw regularly and  
7 didn't really realize who they were until after May 3rd?

8 A Correct.

9 Q Okay. Would you ever have occasion or the need  
10 to drive down Conifer towards the Stribble home?

11 A If there would be a need, I would drive down  
12 there, yes.

13 Q Often or just infrequently?

14 A Infrequently, I suppose.

15 Q Okay. You had lived there five years?

16 A Five plus years, yes.

17 Q Were you familiar with Clifton Boozer?

18 A I was not.

19 Q Did you know that he lived in that home?

20 A I did not.

21 Q Okay. So, you no idea how long he lived in that  
22 home?

23 A No, I do not.

24 Q Did you know anybody who lived in that home  
25 prior to May 3rd?

## LAURA KNEECE-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1           A     No, I did not.

2           Q     So, whether there was a husband, father or  
3 anybody else like that, you would have no more idea than I  
4 would?

5           A     No, sir, I would not.

6           Q     Other than you did see the children on a fairly  
7 frequent basis?

8           A     Yes, sir.

9           Q     Before school. Okay. Did you take photographs  
10 of Clifton Boozer or did you -- did you examine Clifton  
11 Boozer on May 3rd?

12          A     I did, yes.

13          Q     Did you take photographs of him?

14          A     I did, yes.

15          Q     Did you see any scratches or cuts or wounds on  
16 him?

17          A     I did not see any wounds.

18          Q     Okay. You didn't see any cuts on his hand?

19          A     No, sir.

20          Q     Did you photograph his hands?

21          A     Yes, sir.

22          Q     Did you photograph under his clothing?

23          A     Under his clothing?

24          Q     Do you remember what Clifton Boozer was wearing  
25 on May 3rd?

## LAURA KNEECE-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1           A     He had on all black and boots.

2           Q     All black what?

3           A     Clothing.

4           Q     I mean, what kind of shirt or jacket?

5           A     Black sweatshirt.

6           Q     Did you ask him to remove the sweatshirt and  
7 take pictures of his arms or forceps?

8           A     No, I did not.

9           Q     Okay. The -- as part of your duties, you are  
10 required -- or you issue a coroner's report?

11          A     Yes, sir.

12          Q     Did you do that in this case?

13          A     I did.

14          Q     I would -- does everybody who dies in  
15 Newberry -- is an autopsy required for every death in  
16 Newberry?

17          A     No, sir, there's not.

18          Q     Do you know what the requirement -- does it have  
19 to be specially requested or what are the kind of basic  
20 requirements for autopsy?

21          A     By state law, a coroner has to do autopsies that  
22 involved violent-related death, child death, any person  
23 that is of good health that dies, generally any person  
24 that has been treated in a medical facility or had a  
25 surgery within 24 hours, any person -- I have the

## LAURA KNEECE-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 discretion of ordering an autopsy of anybody, excuse me,  
2 that dies of an unattended death. For instance, if you  
3 are at home and you are an elder -- or 50, 60 years old  
4 but you are in good health, we would order an autopsy.

5 Q So, there are certain statutory requirements,  
6 such as small children?

7 A Correct.

8 Q Then there's a lot of discretion for the  
9 coroner?

10 A Yes.

11 Q Okay. And I would think that the coroner works  
12 pretty much hand in hand with the funeral homes in  
13 Newberry?

14 A Yes.

15 Q Okay. You've got a regular working relationship  
16 because they're the ones that take the bodies fairly  
17 quickly after death?

18 A Yes.

19 Q The -- and when you say you conducted an  
20 autopsy, the pathologist actually conducts the autopsy and  
21 you attend and make notes?

22 A Correct.

23 MR. VERNER: May I approach, Your Honor?

24 THE COURT: Yes, sir.

25

## LAURA KNEECE-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 BY MR. VERNER:

2 Q And I believe the coroner also issues a  
3 certificate of death?

4 A Correct.

5 Q Did you do that in this case?

6 A I did.

7 Q May I -- can you recognize the document I'm  
8 handing you?

9 A I do.

10 Q Okay. Would you hand it to the court reporter  
11 and let her mark that as Defendant's 1.

12 (WHEREUPON, Defendant's Exhibit No. 1 was marked  
13 for identification only.)

14 MR. VERNER: Go ahead, 2 and 3.

15 (WHEREUPON, Defendant's Exhibits Nos. 2 & 3 were  
16 marked for identification only.)

17 BY MR. VERNER:

18 Q Coroner, the document I'm handing up to you,  
19 what is that document?

20 A This is South Carolina Department of Health and  
21 Environmental Control Death Certificate.

22 Q Certificate of Death?

23 A Yes.

24 Q That's the report that you issued?

25 A Yes.



## LAURA KNEECE-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 Q Can you identify item 30 in that report?

2 A Item 30 is the actual presumed time of death.

3 Q And that's your report?

4 A The funeral home --

5 Q I'm asking if that's your Certificate of Death,  
6 and then you can explain.

7 A I signed the death certificate, yes.

8 Q Okay. So, that would be your document? If you  
9 signed it, I'm assuming you're signing it with your  
10 authority?

11 A Yes.

12 Q Okay. Now, if you need to explain it, you're  
13 certainly free to or I'll move to the next question.

14 A You can move to the next question.

15 MR. VERNER: Your Honor, I would offer the  
16 Certificate of Death as Defendant's 1.

17 MR. DANIEL: Your Honor, may we see it?

18 MR. VERNER: Absolutely.

19 THE COURT: Y'all go ahead and take a look at 2  
20 and 3 while you're at it.

21 MR. DANIEL: No objection, Your Honor. I just  
22 ask if there is any social security numbers on these  
23 documents, they be redacted.

24 THE COURT: We can do that later.

25 MR. VERNER: Well, I was going to publish them

LAURA KNEECE-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 real quick.

2 BY MR. VERNER:

3 Q Coroner, do you know if there are social  
4 security numbers on the Certificate of Death?

5 A Yes, there is. It's number three.

6 Q I see it.

7 MR. VERNER: Is there anything else, Solicitor,  
8 that you would like redacted?

9 MR. DANIEL: No, sir.

10 THE COURT: Okay.

11 (WHEREUPON, Defendant's Exhibit No. 1 was  
12 admitted into evidence.)

13 BY MR. VERNER:

14 Q I'm going to give you this yellow highlighter.  
15 Were there other certificates of death issued for  
16 Ms. Clatie Stribble or is that the official document?

17 A This is the official document.

18 Q Okay. Would you highlight number 30, please?

19 A (The witness complies.)

20 Q What is item 30 on the official Certificate of  
21 Death?

22 A Number 30 is the actual or presumed time of  
23 death.

24 Q What time was that?

25 A It's listed as 0825.

## LAURA KNEECE-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 Q 8:25 in the morning?

2 A Yes, sir.

3 Q Thank you. And in this case, did you authorize  
4 the autopsy -- well, let me ask you, what am I handing you  
5 on State's 2 -- or Defendant's 2?

6 A This is a Newberry County coroner's  
7 authorization for autopsy.

8 Q Now, that's not your hand signature on the form,  
9 is it?

10 A No, it's not, but it's my handwriting on the  
11 form.

12 Q That is your official request or authorization  
13 for the autopsy of Ms. Clatie Stribble body?

14 A Correct.

15 Q May I please have it for one second? And you  
16 issued this request or authorization on May 3rd?

17 A Correct.

18 Q What is the listed time of the injury to  
19 Ms. Clatie Stribble?

20 A The listed time of injury?

21 Q In your authorization?

22 A It is estimated at 8:20.

23 Q What time is the official -- the estimated time  
24 of death?

25 A Estimated time of death is 8:25.

LAURA KNEECE-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 Q Okay. The --

2 MR. VERNER: And Your Honor, I'm not offering 2  
3 into evidence, or it would need to be redacted.

4 BY MR. VERNER:

5 Q And I'm going to ask you if you can identify  
6 Exhibit 3?

7 A Yes. It is South Carolina Department of Burial,  
8 Removal, Transit Permit.

9 Q And what's the purpose of that document?

10 A The purpose of this document has to be issued by  
11 a coroner in reference to move a body. Basically, this is  
12 a ticket that goes along with every decedent, whether they  
13 go straight to the funeral home or if they go into an  
14 autopsy suite.

15 Q So, to take custody of a deceased body, you need  
16 legal authorization?

17 A Correct.

18 Q That's basically what that form is?

19 A Correct.

20 Q Okay. Do you know what day this form was filled  
21 out?

22 A May 3rd, 2017.

23 Q Okay. On the top right-hand corner, is there  
24 any kind of indication of the estimated time of death?

25 A Yes.

## LAURA KNEECE-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 Q What time is it?

2 A I actually have two different times of death.

3 Q Well, explain what you have there.

4 A I have -- first, I put 0825. I crossed that out  
5 and initialed it. And then I put estimated at 7:30.

6 Q When did you make that change?

7 A That day.

8 Q Okay. Are those your initials?

9 A Yes, they are.

10 Q Underneath it. Can you highlight -- do you  
11 still have the yellow highlighter? Highlight that portion  
12 you're talking about. Okay. What caused you to make that  
13 change?

14 A Honestly, I can't recall.

15 Q And those would be your initials, Coroner,  
16 underneath it?

17 A Uh-huh.

18 Q Okay. So on, at least, three -- are those all  
19 government forms or official forms?

20 A Yes, sir.

21 Q Okay. You would consider them government  
22 documents?

23 A Yes, sir.

24 Q Okay. They're not personal documents?

25 A Well, no, the autopsy form is what we use in my

## LAURA KNEECE-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 office?

2 Q But none of those are your personal notes or  
3 just recollections, those would all be --

4 A Yes, sir.

5 Q -- official government documents?

6 A Yes, sir.

7 Q Subject to FOIA to the extent that autopsy  
8 reports are, but they could be documents you would be  
9 required to keep in public records?

10 A I believe so, yes, sir.

11 Q And on, at least, three government documents,  
12 you initialed the cause -- the time of death was 8:25 to  
13 8:30?

14 A Yes, sir.

15 Q Okay. I understand it's a year ago, but do you  
16 recall what you were wearing at 8:30 in the morning on May  
17 3rd of last year?

18 A I'm assuming I was wearing a uniform.

19 Q You wear a uniform as coroner?

20 A Yes, sir.

21 Q If you were called early in the morning outside  
22 of the official hour, would you go back home and change to  
23 a uniform or do you remember putting on a uniform for this  
24 call?

25 A I generally wear a shirt, a uniform shirt that

LAURA KNEECE-REDIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 shows I'm the coroner and I represent my office.

2 Q So, you generally try to, but if you were called  
3 at midnight to a scene?

4 A Yes, I wear a shirt that represents the  
5 coroner's office.

6 Q Okay.

7 MR. VERNER: Your Honor, I don't know if I moved  
8 3 in, but I would move 3 in, 1 and 3.

9 THE COURT: Any objection to 3?

10 MR. DANIEL: No, Your Honor.

11 THE COURT: Defendant's 3 is in evidence.  
12 (WHEREUPON, Defendant's Exhibit No. 3 was  
13 admitted into evidence.)

14 MR. VERNER: Thank you, Coroner Kneece. The  
15 prosecutor may have followup.

16 THE COURT: Redirect?

17 MR. DANIEL: Very briefly, Your Honor.

18 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

19 BY MR. DANIEL:

20 Q All right. Those rough estimations, time of  
21 death on the Defense Exhibits, what time did you actually  
22 arrive on scene at [REDACTED] Conifer Drive?

23 A I arrived at 8:54 a.m.

24 Q Okay. Was EMS already on scene prior to your  
25 arrival?

LAURA KNEECE-REDIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 A Yes.

2 Q Did you receive information from EMS about  
3 Ms. Stribble's vital signs or anything like that?

4 A What EMS does is they go in and they do an  
5 assessment, patient assessment and there was determined  
6 that there was no --

7 MR. VERNER: Your Honor, I don't think that she  
8 can testify what other people determined.

9 THE COURT: I would assume that if EMS had  
10 arrived there and there was any chance of saving her,  
11 they would have gotten the body out of there. That's  
12 a logical conclusion I think that anybody could make,  
13 that they would have transported her to the hospital.

14 So, don't testify to what anybody else said,  
15 just testify to the fact that they had already been  
16 there and the body was still there.

17 Go ahead.

18 BY MR. DANIEL:

19 Q All right. To your knowledge, was any vital  
20 signs present in Ms. Clatie Stribble when you arrived on  
21 scene?

22 A No, sir.

23 Q All right. You got there at 8:54 a.m.?

24 A Yes, sir.

25 Q Okay. So, that's one way to determine when she



## LAURA KNEECE-REDIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 died because she's already pronounced dead when you got  
2 there?

3 A Yes, sir.

4 Q All right. So, but you don't know, you can't  
5 say with medical precision to a reasonable degree of  
6 medical certainty what time she died, can you?

7 A No, sir, I cannot.

8 Q So, for all you know, the last person to see her  
9 alive and the time you arrived, she could have died  
10 anywhere in between then?

11 A Correct, yes, sir.

12 Q All right. And do you know -- well, at the  
13 time, you said Clatie Stribble had three daughters,  
14 correct?

15 A Yes.

16 Q Are those three daughters present in the  
17 courtroom today?

18 A They are.

19 Q Are they -- could you identify them?

20 A Yes, sir, I can.

21 Q Okay. Go ahead.

22 A Eve is right there with the bun in her hair,  
23 Niyla right there and Isis.

24 Q And those are the same three girls that you saw  
25 at the bus stop May 3rd that morning around 6:30, 6:45?

LAURA KNEECE-REDIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1           A     Yes, sir.

2           MR. DANIEL:  No further questions.

3           MR. VERNER:  No questions, Your Honor.

4           THE COURT:  Madam Coroner, thank you very much.  
5     You're free to go.

6           All right.  Ladies and gentlemen, we're going to  
7     take -- I don't know if you need a break, but I do.  
8     So, we're going to take a break for about 10 minutes.  
9     Don't discuss the case.  Refresh yourself, help  
10    yourself to more coffee or whatever might be back  
11    there.  Be back on the record in about 10 minutes.  
12   Adjourn to the back, please, thank you.

13           (WHEREUPON, the jury left open court at  
14    approximately 10:23 p.m.)

15           THE COURT:  We'll be at ease for a few moments.

16           (WHEREUPON, a short break was taken.)

17           THE COURT:  Let's go ahead and get the jury in,  
18    please.

19           (WHEREUPON, the jury came into open court at  
20    approximately 10:45 a.m.)

21           THE COURT:  All right, the record will reflect  
22    the jury is back and seated.

23           Y'all can feel free to leave any purses or  
24    anything back there, okay, they will be secured.  But  
25    if you don't want to, that's fine, too.

TIM GRAMBOW-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 Solicitor, you may call your next witness,  
2 please.

3 MR. SCOTT: The State calls Tim Grambow.

4 THE CLERK: Raise your right hand, place your  
5 left hand on the Bible.

6 TIM GRAMBOW, after being duly sworn, testified  
7 as follows:

8 THE CLERK: Have a seat, state your name for the  
9 record.

10 THE WITNESS: Tim Grambow.

11 DIRECT EXAMINATION

12 BY MR. SCOTT:

13 Q Mr. Grambow, you are employed with SLED?

14 A Yes, sir, I'm a forensic toxicologist at SLED.

15 Q What is a forensic toxicologist?

16 A The forensic toxicologist is a forensic analyst  
17 and we analyze biological samples, whether they be blood,  
18 urine, ocular fluid or tissue samples. And we look for  
19 the presence or absence of drugs as they relate to  
20 criminal investigations, whether it be a sexual assault, a  
21 death investigation or DUI case.

22 Q Okay. How long have you worked with SLED?

23 A I've been an analyst for 16 years.

24 Q Okay. Any idea approximately how many samples  
25 you've tested in those 16 years working in toxicology?

TIM GRAMBOW-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1           A     Thousands. I mean, I've issued thousands of  
2 reports. Each case usually has multiple tests run with  
3 it. So, you know, thousands upon thousands.

4           Q     Okay. What is your background education?

5           A     I have a Bachelor's of Science Degree in  
6 chemistry from Wake Forest University in North Carolina.  
7 Once I began working at SLED, I underwent their in-house  
8 training program that lasted over two years. I became  
9 certified in analysis and interpretation of results  
10 through SLED, through that process.

11                     Since then, I've gone to several schools  
12 and short courses from experts in the field throughout the  
13 country. I have attended national meetings and I've  
14 presented at these meetings as well. I have become  
15 nationally board certified by the America Board of  
16 Forensic Toxicologist, which requires you sit down for an  
17 extensive exam, plus, having worked in the field for three  
18 year, recommendations as well as maintaining continuing  
19 education credits through that process.

20           Q     Okay. Mr. Grambow, you talked about you've had  
21 to do thousands and thousands of samples. SLED, overall,  
22 do y'all just run one sample at a time? You were talking  
23 to me early about batch testing. Describe to the jury  
24 what that means.

25           A     Well, there's two thoughts on a test. One is

TIM GRAMBOW-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 for one analyst to run one particular case sample from  
2 start to finish on the report. And that's how we did  
3 things when I first started. And, basically, you take a  
4 sample, whether it be blood or urine, and you do each  
5 test, you do a follow-up test on that one particular case  
6 by itself. Together it's one thing, so only one person  
7 handles that sample and controls everything. That is a  
8 very inefficient way to do that.

9               Pretty much, the national standard now,  
10 whether it be in a state crime lab or in a commercial lab,  
11 is to do batch testing. So, because we run a lot of the  
12 same types of cases and do a lot of the same types of  
13 tests, it makes economical and time sense to run the same  
14 type of tests on multiple samples at the same time. So,  
15 we will put them together in a batch.

16              Now, of course, that batch is going to have  
17 quality control for that entire batch, so if anything was  
18 off, that whole batch would be scrapped. But what we're  
19 going to do is run that batch that's going to have all the  
20 mini tests, the known standards run with it and they have  
21 to be particular set criteria. When that full batch is  
22 complete, before the individual samples get assigned to  
23 the individual cases that they represent, that whole batch  
24 data is reviewed, technically, by a senior analyst. Once  
25 that whole batch is approved, then the individual case

TIM GRAMBOW-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 data is divvied up and given to a particular analyst.

2 Q Okay.

3 A We do that throughout the process.

4 Q So, you could theoretically be testing 15 to 20  
5 people in the courtroom, all of our blood samples at once  
6 through a batch?

7 A Yes. And within that batch on those tests, we  
8 do multiple, you know, controls throughout that run to  
9 make sure everything within that particular run is good.  
10 Then we also run multiple tests on things.

11 So, for instance, on an alcohol sample, if  
12 we tested a case and on that particular batch, it came  
13 back positive, we actually run a second test with that  
14 case sample and make sure that numbers comes back and it  
15 has approximately the same value as the first one. So, we  
16 run things that replicate it. The same thing with the  
17 drug screening. If you get a positive, you follow up.  
18 You then take another sample of that same blood and run it  
19 again to find out which drug was -- so things get multiple  
20 tests, so it's not just one done for a particular case.  
21 So, even though you're running in a batch, that batch is  
22 certified as a good batch, then you going to followup  
23 testing to make sure that anything that was run in a batch  
24 is -- you know, everything matches up on the secondary  
25 test as well.

TIM GRAMBOW-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1           Q     All right. And there's a lot of peer review  
2 within your department as far as the testing and other  
3 people putting eyes on it to make sure the testing is  
4 correct?

5           A     Absolutely. Within a particular run, as a  
6 technician or someone is getting that initial batch  
7 together, there's multiple checks along the way. First of  
8 all, a second person comes through and checks to make sure  
9 that the files are in the correct order as they are on a  
10 particular sequence sheet to make sure that nothing is  
11 switched or flip-flopped case sample wise, so there's a  
12 check there, then again with the technical reviews.

13                     Then that's just for the -- after the batch  
14 is completed, when the individual data goes out to the  
15 analyst, that analyst in charge of that case, they have to  
16 go through and check each piece of quality control and  
17 certify that that's good. Then when the report is issued,  
18 before the report goes out, that is technically reviewed  
19 by another analyst as well. So, within any particular  
20 case, even the most basic simple case, you could have  
21 three, four, five, six runs of peer review before the  
22 report is even issued.

23           Q     All right. The July 3rd, 2017, did your  
24 department have an occasion to analyze some blood that was  
25 submitted to your office, femoral blood from Clatie

TIM GRAMBOW-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 Stribble? Refer to SLED lab number L1707320.

2 A Referencing my case file notes, the toxicology  
3 department did issue a report on July 3rd on -- yeah, on  
4 the femoral blood.

5 Q Okay. What was your involvement in this  
6 particular sample or testing?

7 A Well, I was not the toxicologist of record on  
8 this, I was not the toxicologist. But as it turns out, I  
9 was the -- for the batch analysis on the drug screen and  
10 on the additional sample run on the blue [indiscernible]  
11 substance on the second report, I was the technical  
12 reviewer for that.

13 Q Okay. So, there was a batch testing done and  
14 then you reviewed the results from the batch testing?

15 A Yes, to make sure all the quality control passed  
16 before it went on to the individual analysis.

17 Q Okay. The document I have, which has been  
18 premarked as State's No. 65, has got a forensic  
19 toxicologist name of Amanda Brooking. Do you know who  
20 Amanda Brooking is?

21 A Yes.

22 Q Who is she?

23 A She was formally a toxicologist in our  
24 department, but subsequent to issuing this report, she has  
25 moved to Hawaii.



TIM GRAMBOW-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 Q Okay.

2 A And she works in the lab in Hawaii currently.

3 Q Okay. But you were, in fact, on this --  
4 although you didn't issue the report, have you reviewed  
5 the findings and confirmed the findings?

6 A I have gone through all the individual case  
7 samples that she used to issue this report in the case  
8 file, as well as going back through all of the  
9 documentation to look at all the quality control going  
10 into this. Then, of course, I did the initial review of  
11 that back when the analysis was done back in 2017. So,  
12 I've looked over it several times and familiar with the  
13 individual analysis for this case.

14 Q Okay. Before asking you about the results of  
15 the testing on Ms. Stribble's blood, I would ask the Court  
16 to qualify Mr. Grambow as an expert in forensic  
17 toxicology.

18 THE COURT: Any objection or voir dire from the  
19 Defense?

20 MR. VERNER: No, Your Honor. I would ask that  
21 the --

22 Can I borrow it to make sure we're on the same  
23 page of what document you're talking about?

24 Without objection, Your Honor.

25 THE COURT: Ladies and gentlemen, normally, when

TIM GRAMBOW-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 a witness testifies, those witnesses have to testify  
2 as to something they observed with one of their  
3 senses, something they saw, heard, smelled, et  
4 cetera. They're not allowed to give opinion  
5 testimony. However, an exception to the rule about  
6 giving opinion testimony, there is an exception for  
7 people who are qualified as experts in their  
8 particular fields.

9 In this case, the parties agree that Mr. Grambow  
10 is an expert in the field of forensic toxicology.  
11 So, he's not been a witness to stuff that he saw,  
12 heard, smelled, tasted what have you. He can give  
13 opinion testimony is what I'm telling that you may  
14 use as you deem appropriate.

15 Solicitor, you may continue.

16 MR. SCOTT: Thank you, Your Honor. The State  
17 would offer State's 65 for admission into evidence.  
18 That's the toxicology report.

19 THE COURT: Any objection?

20 MR. VERNER: No objection.

21 THE COURT: Without objection, State's 65 is in  
22 evidence.

23 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibit No. 65 was admitted  
24 into evidence.)  
25

TIM GRAMBOW-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 BY MR. SCOTT:

2 Q Okay. I guess the battery of tests you ran on  
3 Ms. Stribble's blood were pretty much looking for the  
4 standard types of narcotics?

5 A The analysis that was run -- there were two  
6 biological samples, there were two samples tested, blood  
7 and the ocular fluid. Both blood and the ocular fluid got  
8 a volatiles test, which is looking for different types of  
9 alcohol. Ethanol, which is the alcohol commonly found in  
10 alcohol as well as methanol, acetone, found like in nail  
11 polish remover, isopropyl, rubbing alcohol. We look for  
12 those as a standard battery of tests in almost every  
13 sample that comes into our lab. Then we did in the blood  
14 a followup on the -- we did a 12-panel drug screen, which  
15 includes class of individual drugs that represent the most  
16 commonly found prescription and illicit drugs that we see  
17 in our lab, particularly in DUI cases.

18 Q Okay. Well, did you find any alcohol in the  
19 blood, any ethanol?

20 A There was no alcohol found in the blood or the  
21 ocular fluid?

22 Q So, in your opinion, had Clatie Stribble been  
23 drinking alcohol around the time of her death?

24 A There's no indication of that.

25 Q In your opinion, was she drinking alcohol around

TIM GRAMBOW-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 the time of her death, your professional expert opinion?

2 You didn't find any ethanol in the blood, right?

3 A There was not. I mean, at some point, you  
4 ingest alcohol and you reach a maximum limit in the blood  
5 and your body metabolizes it out, they just separate, your  
6 body does that. So, not within, you know, probably an  
7 hour or two, would have been a smallest amount that she  
8 would have had. So, at the time of death, she was by no  
9 means under the influence of alcohol.

10 Q Okay. What about any amphetamine? Did you find  
11 any amphetamine in her blood?

12 A Well, we're screening at this point, so the way  
13 those screens work is we're looking for representatives of  
14 a particular class of drug or a specific drug. So, we  
15 have a threshold, so any value that we get on a test that  
16 is above that threshold is flagged as a positive, which  
17 then goes on to that secondary testing that I mentioned  
18 earlier where we're going to confirm the presence of the  
19 compound as well as the blood. We're going to identify a  
20 specific compound to find a quantitative value for  
21 interpretation sake. For all these drugs listed, all the  
22 results were below our threshold limit.

23 Now, we've set a threshold limit as a  
24 number that is toxicologically significant and one that  
25 can be reproduced over and over again. So, even though

TIM GRAMBOW-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 all these are listed as negative, there could be a small  
2 trace amount of something. But we do not deem that as a  
3 significant amount to cause any sort of significant  
4 toxicological finding that would require further testing.  
5 So, it wasn't, you know, like I said, they all were  
6 negative tests, so they were below the minimum threshold  
7 we would consider well below the minimum in this  
8 particular case.

9 Q Let me just walk through and they're going to  
10 have your report. But for amphetamine, yes or no? I see  
11 a negative.

12 A It was a negative. There was no indication.

13 Q Cocaine, yes or no?

14 A No indication of cocaine. And this is actually  
15 a screen for metabolite, so that actually -- so, you take  
16 apparent cocaine and that's what's going to have the  
17 effects on you, then your body is going to break it down,  
18 it's a foreign substance and makes a metabolite. So, that  
19 metabolite was negative.

20 And the reason that's significant is  
21 because the metabolite is going to stay in your system a  
22 little bit longer than apparent cocaine will anyway, so  
23 this will actually give you a little bit longer window of  
24 insight as to whether -- you know, when the use was. But  
25 again, that was negative. So, there was no indication of

TIM GRAMBOW-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 cocaine use.

2 Q Cocaine metabolite negative. Methamphetamine  
3 negative?

4 A Correct.

5 Q Opiates negative?

6 A Correct. And that would include -- opiates  
7 included in that would be like hydrocodone, morphine.

8 Q Heroin?

9 A Heroin -- actually, heroin when you take it, it  
10 almost immediately breaks down in your body to the end  
11 result being morphine, that's what gets you high, so  
12 heroin becomes morphine. So again, morphine -- if the use  
13 of morphine was there, it would be indicated by opioids  
14 screen.

15 Q Oxycodone negative?

16 A Correct.

17 Q Tramadol negative?

18 A Correct. Tramadol is another popular narcotic.  
19 That was negative as well.

20 Q Marijuana negative?

21 A Correct.

22 Q So, I don't see -- correct me if I'm wrong, I  
23 don't see any positive findings for anything you tested  
24 for in Clatie Stribble's blood?

25 A For the common screens that we do, everything

TIM GRAMBOW-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 was negative.

2 MR. SCOTT: Thank you. Answer any questions  
3 Mr.~Verner has, please.

4 THE COURT: Cross?

5 CROSS-EXAMINATION

6 BY MR. VERNER:

7 Q Now, are you a special agent or agent of SLED?

8 A Yes.

9 Q SLED is just, again, the State Law Enforcement  
10 Division, kind of has jurisdiction all over the state?

11 A Yes, sir.

12 Q And typically, the county law enforcement  
13 agencies call you in when they need expertise or more  
14 important manpower?

15 A In general, SLED -- of course, SLED is a full  
16 service agency. So, we have everything from dog tracking  
17 teams to forensic services to investigative services and  
18 so on and so forth. Within forensics, we're a full  
19 service forensic laboratory. Now, some counties have  
20 their own, and cities have their own forensic testing  
21 capabilities based on their budgets and physical  
22 capabilities. We are the only toxicology, forensic  
23 toxicology lab in the state just because of the  
24 difficulties and cost associated with this. So, we handle  
25 cases from the entire state whether county, city, town,

TIM GRAMBOW-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 whether it's a big case that they need assistance with  
2 based on pure manpower or just budgetary constraints that  
3 they need basic testing for.

4 Q From DUI to murder?

5 A Correct.

6 Q Okay. Now, if I wanted to become a forensic  
7 toxicologist in high school or in college, is that  
8 basically chemistry classes? Or what would be the best  
9 studies that would lead into toxicology and forensic  
10 toxicology?

11 A We have analysts throughout our department that  
12 have various degrees. The majority of them do have a  
13 chemistry degree. Several people have Masters Degrees in  
14 forensics with specialization in toxicology. But  
15 chemistry is good way to go because we use a vast amount  
16 of chemistry to do the actual analysis.

17 Q Could be some other, biology, perhaps?

18 A Absolutely.

19 Q But you can come at it primarily from the  
20 scientific field, but pretty much from anything, then  
21 focus your skills?

22 A Yes.

23 Q Just so I understand, what does forensic mean?

24 A As it pertains to law.

25 Q Okay. So forensic in and of itself is not a



TIM GRAMBOW-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 special type of science, that's just using science and  
2 applying it to different legal cases?

3 A Correct. Within our laboratory, we do testing  
4 methods that are universally accepted. And they could be  
5 used in various -- you know, whether it be a work place  
6 drug testing laboratory or it be in just private testing  
7 for various reasons, we use universally the same accepted  
8 protocols. It's just our result are typically used in  
9 some sort of legal setting, whether it be basic  
10 investigations or determining results here in court today.

11 Q So my point, forensic toxicology is not a  
12 different type of toxicology, it's just that you've got a  
13 set of standards that you have to apply to your results  
14 and to your testing methods?

15 A Generally speaking.

16 Q Okay. And tell me again what you are? I heard  
17 you went to Wake Forest?

18 A Yes, sir.

19 Q Demon Deacon?

20 A Yes, sir.

21 Q What did you study at Wake Forest?

22 A Chemistry.

23 Q So, you did it from the chemistry field?

24 A Yes, sir.

25 Q And that was a Bachelor of Science?

TIM GRAMBOW-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1           A     Yes, sir.

2           Q     Did you get an advanced degree?

3           A     I did not.

4           Q     But you get specialized training once you get  
5 hired by SLED?

6           A     Yes. And at the time that I graduated in 2001,  
7 there weren't necessarily advanced schooling, be a Masters  
8 Degree, PhD in toxicology or forensics in general as there  
9 was. So, not knowing exactly which direction I wanted to  
10 go, I got on with SLED and they provided the training and  
11 sent me to speciality schools at the university and  
12 various other national programs.

13          Q     And you've been with SLED for about 16 years I  
14 thought I heard you say?

15          A     Yes, sir.

16          Q     Okay. I congratulate you. When I first saw  
17 you, I thought you were about 25 years old, so you're  
18 wearing it well. Now, we tested Ms. Clatie's body and she  
19 didn't have any illicit narcotics or drugs in her system?

20          A     For the screens that we ran, everything came  
21 back negative.

22          Q     If she did, they were at such low levels that  
23 they're forensically insignificant?

24          A     Yes.

25          Q     If I had a medical condition, such as high blood

TIM GRAMBOW-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 pressure or a heart medication that I was taking or  
2 steroids for a joint problem, would you anticipate finding  
3 those in your tests?

4 A Not on the analysis that was performed.

5 Q All right. Was this limited just to illicit or  
6 illegal or most likely to be abused type substances or was  
7 this for pretty much any kind of foreign substance in her  
8 blood?

9 A The testing panel that was run are typical  
10 panels that is run for homicide cases as well as suicide  
11 cases and driving under the influence cases.

12 Q So, the drugs you test for are the ones that are  
13 most likely to cause somebody to be under the influence  
14 type situation?

15 A What someone would commonly think of as under  
16 the influence. So, these are very commonly prescribed  
17 drugs that can be mentally impairing as well as, you know,  
18 frequently abused and illicit compounds. But it's not  
19 going to cover say blood pressure medicine or steroids  
20 like you inquired.

21 Q Okay. So, this is the same result -- if this  
22 was a DUI trial, this is largely the same screen that you  
23 would produce for the sheriff's department or county for  
24 Prosperity?

25 A Yes, sir.

TIM GRAMBOW-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1           Q     Okay. And some of these may be -- some of these  
2 drugs you tested for may be legally prescribed and some of  
3 them would be automatically illegal regardless?

4           A     Correct. It depends on the State's scheduling.  
5 And, of course, when these drugs, even if they are  
6 prescribed, depending on the type of case, the  
7 interpretation is going to have an affect on the case.  
8 So, obviously, the interpretation for a death  
9 investigation to see if somebody overdosed on a particular  
10 drug, those levels are going to be different than say the  
11 interpretation of somebody who is under the influence or  
12 somebody who was prescribed a drug who was supposed to be  
13 taking them was, in fact, not taking them that caused  
14 their demise.

15          Q     Well, that's my question. Sometimes people have  
16 such health issues that they're supposed to be taking  
17 medicine and that not taking it could lead to their death,  
18 I guess, like heart medicine or nitroglycerin?

19          A     In my experience as a toxicologist, that is a  
20 possibility.

21          Q     Okay. And as a chemist, are you -- and as a  
22 toxicologist, are you fairly familiar with some of the  
23 common prescribed medications or physical health problems  
24 and mental illness?

25          A     I'm familiar with a decent amount of

TIM GRAMBOW-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 medications.

2 Q You would almost have to know -- you would have  
3 to have a working knowledge of most of the major  
4 medications that are prescribed, wouldn't you?

5 A We do have access to a large array of different  
6 compounds, but there's so many medications out there we  
7 can't know everything about every single one. You can be  
8 familiar with them. So, of course, there's references  
9 just like any other pharmacist or a doctor would use.

10 Q And if you found a certain chemical in a  
11 person's body or blood, a lot of times, you can track back  
12 and determine what their physical condition was? If you  
13 found like some kind of medicine for heart disease, you  
14 can trace that back and get an idea of what their health  
15 was?

16 A Well, as a scientist, we can test the sample, we  
17 can see what is there. We can identify what that compound  
18 would be commonly used for. But as far as someone's usage  
19 and whether they're supposed to be taking it, not taking  
20 it or they're taking it as prescribed, we're not privy to  
21 that information. We try not to venture into guesses on  
22 that. We try and stick to what we test, what's there or  
23 what's not there and then interpret that appropriately.

24 Q All right. You look at it blind as opposed to  
25 having somebody tell you what they think would be in

TIM GRAMBOW-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 there?

2 A That's the absolute goal, yes, sir.

3 Q Okay. If I suffered or somebody suffered from  
4 depression, what are just some of the common medications  
5 that are prescribed for depression?

6 A Such drugs would be -- which we commonly see,  
7 I'll just give you a generic --

8 Q The most common generic --

9 A Citalopram, Escitalopram, Duloxetine, Bupropion,  
10 Venlafaxine, so a slew. There's several, say -- there's  
11 several classes of those drugs as well because not  
12 everyone works, you know, the same way on each person. So  
13 some work better than others with whatever the cause of  
14 depression is.

15 Q Those were the trade names of the drugs?

16 A Those are the generic names.

17 THE COURT: While we're on that, would you mind  
18 spelling those for my court reporter to the extent  
19 that you're able. Because I think she may need  
20 spelling or maybe we can get -- before you leave, why  
21 don't you write those down as best you can. I'll let  
22 you google them.

23 THE WITNESS: As long as I can remember which  
24 ones I rattled off, that will be fine.

25

TIM GRAMBOW-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 BY MR. VERNER:

2 Q I think you can just type random letters because  
3 I didn't recognize any of them either. We don't want you  
4 to answer that way again, okay. The trade names for --  
5 trade names for drugs now, that we might be a little bit  
6 more familiar with. Is bipolar condition a treatable  
7 condition by prescription medication?

8 A It can be.

9 Q What are some of the trade names, not too many,  
10 but just three or four of the common trade names that we  
11 might recognize?

12 A Lithium is definitely one that is used. I'm not  
13 sure what the trade name is.

14 Q We all understand Lithium.

15 A Lithium is fairly common. I'm not sure exactly  
16 for bipolar what the most common ones prescribed. They  
17 vary from doctor to doctor.

18 Q But there are several?

19 A As far as I know, there's, at least, a few,  
20 sure.

21 Q And that's a treatable condition?

22 A To a degree. You can minimize some of the  
23 bipolar actions and the manic stages that come.

24 Q Presump -- I apologize, I didn't mean to  
25 interpret. But presumptively, if a doctor's issuing

TIM GRAMBOW-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 prescriptions for a medical condition, then the doctor and  
2 the medical staff believe it's either treatable or the  
3 results can be minimized as much as possible?

4 A It's my understanding that's their goal, yes.

5 Q Did you find -- did you test for any of those --  
6 the alphabet that you just called out earlier of the  
7 depression medicine, did you test for any of those type?

8 A No, none of those specifically. Of the ones  
9 that we did test for, we test for benzodiazepines, within  
10 that class of drugs is Valium and Xanax, which are  
11 commonly given for either anxiety or depression that  
12 causes anxiety, so those could be included in there.  
13 But there are definitely numerous ones that we did not  
14 specifically test for. If we were to have an indication  
15 of a specific drug, we would go further into that testing.  
16 But that was not included in any of the submitting  
17 paperwork, so we just went with the standard policy that  
18 we run on this particular type case.

19 Q And those are -- the types of drugs that you  
20 test for are already told beforehand, the battery is  
21 already set up, these are the drugs we're going to test  
22 for in every case?

23 A Yes. This is our standard 12-panel test we run.

24 Q And when you have a need to test for a specific  
25 type of drug, you would do that, but that's over and above



TIM GRAMBOW-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 the standard test?

2 A Yes. So typically, when a case comes in, and  
3 this being a death investigation, we have known cause of  
4 death and no other specific drugs indicated. So, it would  
5 get the particular panel that we ran. If there was a  
6 pending toxicology case or a natural death, unexplained or  
7 there was a specific history, we would do more  
8 comprehensive testing that would be -- use different types  
9 of -- this would be included as well as additional types  
10 of tests that would use, at least, two other methodologies  
11 and sciences to look for specific tests.

12 Q Okay. Did you test for any of the drugs in the  
13 bipolar panel, such as the Lithium or the other?

14 A No.

15 Q So, that medication may or may not be in  
16 Ms. Scribble's body, but that's beyond what we would have  
17 been looking for?

18 A That's not what we -- I would have no idea  
19 because we did not look. That was not included in the  
20 panel that we ran.

21 Q As a toxicologist, are you familiar as part of  
22 that study on what some of these medical conditions do?

23 A (There was no response.)

24 Q Such as bipolar, are you familiar with bipolar?

25 A To a degree, but I'm not a medical doctor. I'm

TIM GRAMBOW-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 more concerned about the actual analytical testing for the  
2 compounds, and then we find the compounds, be able to  
3 interpret the levels for that. So, as far as what some of  
4 the compounds -- some of the drugs, some of the effects  
5 that they have, but as far as full range, you know, being  
6 able to diagnose bipolar condition as well as the full run  
7 what you would be hoping to achieve by prescribing a  
8 specific medication for a specific patient, that's beyond  
9 the scope of my expertise.

10 MR. VERNER: Thank you, Special Agent. The  
11 prosecutor may have followup.

12 THE COURT: Any followup?

13 MR. SCOTT: No, Your Honor.

14 THE COURT: All right.

15 Mr. Grambow, thank you much for coming.

16 Call your next witness.

17 MR. SCOTT: State calls Special Agent Verona  
18 Herrera.

19 THE CLERK: Place your left hand on the Bible,  
20 raise your right.

21 VERONA HERRERA, after being duly sworn,  
22 testified as follows:

23 THE CLERK: Have a seat, state your name for the  
24 record.

25 THE WITNESS: Verona Herrera.

VERONA HERRERA-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. SCOTT:

Q Mr. Herrera, you're with SLED as well?

A Yes, sir.

Q How long have you been with SLED?

A A little over 10 years.

Q Okay. And tell us about your education that you went through before you got your job at SLED?

A I have a two Associate Degrees. One in science and one in criminal justice with a forensics certificate. I also have a Bachelor of Science Degree from Liberty University in forensic sciences.

Q Okay. 10 years at SLED. Were you in the -- tell us what department you're in?

A I am a forensic serologist in the DNA case work department.

Q How long have you been in DNA at SLED?

A The entire time I've been with the agency, I've been a part of the DNA department. I started out as an evidence processing technician and that job kind of morphed in forensic serology.

Q How long specifically have you been in forensic serology?

A Forensic serology, three and a half years.

Q What is serology?

VERONA HERRERA-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1           A     Serology kind of has two parts. The forensic  
2 evidence processing I was talking about became part of  
3 serology. So, that is taking large pieces of evidence,  
4 body fluids or ownership or touch DNA. The serology  
5 aspect of it is taking and identifying body fluids, semen,  
6 saliva or blood.

7           Q     Have you testified in general sessions court  
8 before as an expert?

9           A     Yes, sir, I have.

10          Q     In forensic serology?

11          A     I have, yes.

12               MR. SCOTT: Your Honor, the State does offer  
13 Ms. Verona Herrera as an expert in forensic serology.

14               THE COURT: Any questions or objections or voir  
15 dire?

16               MR. VERNER: No objection, Your Honor.

17               THE COURT: Again, ladies and gentlemen, the  
18 parties agree that Ms. Herrera is an expert in the  
19 field of forensic serology, so she's not limited to  
20 something she merely observed. She can give opinion  
21 testimony and you may use it as you deem appropriate.

22               Go ahead.

23 BY MR. SCOTT:

24           Q     Okay. Let me show you State's No. 66. Do you  
25 recognize that?

VERONA HERRERA-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 A I do, yes, sir.

2 Q What is that?

3 A This is a copy of the report I issued based on  
4 some of the evidence I processed in this case.

5 Q Okay. And specifically, when was this report  
6 generated?

7 A It was approved November 30th of 2017.

8 Q Okay. Make sure I'm on -- I'm looking at the  
9 wrong -- that's Mary Ann's report. Okay. And that's SLED  
10 lab number L170-7320?

11 A Correct.

12 Q And you have a victim listed as who?

13 A Clatie Stribble.

14 Q Okay. Clatie Stribble?

15 A Excuse me, I'm sorry.

16 Q That's okay. And suspect is a Clifton Boozer?

17 A Correct.

18 Q All right. The items of evidence -- number 24  
19 is what?

20 A That is a sexual assault evidence collection kit  
21 from Clatie Stribble.

22 Q Okay. Then I'm going to just refer you to  
23 State's No. 56, which is in evidence. What is that?

24 A This is that sexual assault evidence collection  
25 kit, the lab number and the item that was issued as a

VERONA HERRERA-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 piece of evidence when it was submitted to laboratory is  
2 here. My initials are along the bottom here where I  
3 resealed the package.

4 Q So, State's 56 contains some evidence you  
5 analyzed?

6 A Yes, sir.

7 Q We heard from one of the prior witnesses  
8 regarding a rape kit or sexual assault kit. There are  
9 certain, I guess, samples or swabs you were given to  
10 analyze?

11 A That's correct.

12 Q Do these typically in a rape kit involve vaginal  
13 and rectal and oral swabs?

14 A Yes, sir.

15 Q Were those, in fact, submitted from Clatie  
16 Stribble to you for analysis?

17 A Yes, sir. There were smears from the vaginal,  
18 rectal and oral areas, vaginal swabs, oral swabs and  
19 rectal swabs.

20 Q Okay. Specifically, the vaginal swab, what, if  
21 anything, were your findings regarding the vaginal swabs  
22 you analyzed?

23 A Examination for a component of semen P30 were  
24 positive, no spermatozoa were identified and that sample  
25 was forwarded for further testing in the DNA department.

VERONA HERRERA-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 Q So, you did locate semen or the presence of  
2 semen in the vaginal swab?

3 A The fluid portion of the semen, components of  
4 that was identified.

5 Q But no sperm?

6 A No sperm cells.

7 Q What about the oral swabs, were there any  
8 presence of any semen or sperm?

9 A No. All my testing was negative for that item.

10 Q Rectal swabs, were there any semen or sperm  
11 present?

12 A On both, the protein and the fluid and the sperm  
13 cells, spermatozoa are positive and semen was identified.

14 Q Okay. And then did you forward those samples on  
15 to another department for further analysis?

16 A They were forwarded on to another section within  
17 the DNA department, yes.

18 Q So, it's not your job in serology to figure out  
19 whose sperm or whose semen that is?

20 A That is correct. It is my job to determine  
21 whether it's there or not.

22 Q You send that to another department for them to  
23 make that analysis?

24 A Yes.

25 Q Okay.

## VERONA HERRERA-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 MR. SCOTT: Your Honor, the State does offer  
2 State's 66 for admission into evidence.

3 MR. VERNER: Without objection.

4 Can I see it, though, just to make sure? Thank  
5 you.

6 THE COURT: Without objection, State's 66 is in  
7 evidence.

8 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibit No. 66 was admitted  
9 into evidence.)

10 MR. SCOTT: Thank you. Please answer any  
11 questions Mr.~Verner has for you.

12 THE COURT: Mr.~Verner.

13 CROSS-EXAMINATION

14 BY MR. VERNER:

15 Q And just so I understand, semen, I guess, sperm  
16 would be the little things that look like footballs with  
17 tails?

18 A That is the illusion, yes, sir.

19 Q You can look at that through a magnifying glass  
20 or some technique?

21 A Well, we look at it through a microscope?

22 Q And you didn't find any spermatozoa?

23 A Spermatozoa.

24 Q Spermatozoa. But it had its own kind of unique  
25 fluid that goes along with it?



## VERONA HERRERA-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1           A     There are proteins and enzymes in the fluid, the  
2 seminal fluid that we test for one enzyme and one protein,  
3 we have the ability to. In this case, we tested for one  
4 of the proteins, which is P30 protein. And it's found in  
5 high levels in seminal fluid.

6           Q     So, if you find sperm in a woman, I think in  
7 layman's terms, I think you can assume that she had sex  
8 with a man?

9           A     Usually, yes, sir.

10          Q     And that could be either consensual or  
11 nonconsensual?

12          A     That's correct.

13               MR. VERNER: Thank you, Agent.

14               THE COURT: Thank you very much. You're free to  
15 go. Thank you for coming.

16               Call your next witness.

17               MR. SCOTT: The State calls Special Agent  
18 Maryann Boehm.

19               THE CLERK: Raise your right hand, place your  
20 left hand on the Bible.

21               MARYANN BOEHM, after being duly sworn, testified  
22 as follows:

23               THE CLERK: Have a seat, state your name for the  
24 record.

25               THE WITNESS: My name is Maryann Boehm.

MARYANN BOEHM-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

DIRECT EXAMINATION

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

BY MR. SCOTT:

Q Okay, Maryann, I just want to briefly, you're obviously with SLED, you're a special agent?

A Yes, sir, I am employed with the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division, SLED, in the DNA case work department.

Q How long have you been in the DNA department?

A Approximately 12 and a half years.

Q What is the day-to-day life like at the SLED DNA department? What all are you up to?

A Well, my main job is to analyze DNA found from evidence from a crime and compare it to known standards in that case. I then make my comparison and write a report and testify as necessary.

Q Okay. So pretty much all day long, you're in the lab testing samples, unknown samples and comparing them to known samples of DNA?

A That's correct.

Q To see whether or not there's a match between the two?

A That's correct.

Q Then, in this case, I think I handed you State's No. 67, do you recognize that?

A Yes, this is a copy of my report that I issued.

MARYANN BOEHM-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 Q Okay. And that was issued June 29th of this  
2 year?

3 A That is correct.

4 Q And that, State's No. 67 there, did you attempt  
5 to compare some known samples from Clatie Stribble and  
6 Clifton Boozer to some unknown samples?

7 A That is correct.

8 Q Okay. I want to -- well, let me go a little bit  
9 further into your background. What do you have to do --  
10 or you, particularly, what did you have to do to become a  
11 DNA analyst for SLED?

12 A Once I was employed with the South Carolina Law  
13 Enforcement Division, I was in the DNA training program  
14 for approximately a year. I learned all the techniques  
15 and instrumentation used in the laboratory to run evidence  
16 and known standards. I also trained in how to make  
17 comparisons and how to testify.

18 Q Well, before that, what was your educational  
19 background?

20 A I receive a Bachelor of Science from James  
21 Madden University, that's in Harrisonburg, Virginia, in  
22 integrated science and technology with a concentration in  
23 biotechnology.

24 Q Okay. Tell me one more time how long have you  
25 been in the DNA department.

MARYANN BOEHM-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 A Twelve and a half years.

2 Q Twelve and a half years, okay. How many times  
3 have you testified in big court like today?

4 A Approximately 65 times.

5 Q Qualified as an expert in what?

6 A In DNA or DNA serology.

7 MR. SCOTT: Your Honor, the State does offer  
8 Maryann Boehm as an expert in DNA analysis.

9 THE COURT: Any objection?

10 MR. VERNER: Can I see the document from the  
11 State just to corroborate, Your Honor? Just -- I  
12 know it's semantically a trifle, but I'm not  
13 objecting -- I'm not necessarily agreeing she's an  
14 expert, but I'm not objecting to her being qualified  
15 as such.

16 THE COURT: All right. Ladies and gentlemen, in  
17 this case, the Court does find that Ms. Boehm is an  
18 expert in the field of DNA analysis and can give  
19 opinion testimony in that area.

20 You can continue, Solicitor.

21 MR. SCOTT: That was exhibit what?

22 THE COURT: Sixty-seven.

23 MR. SCOTT: Your Honor, I will offer State's 67  
24 for admission at this time.

25 THE COURT: Without objection?

MARYANN BOEHM-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 MR. VERNER: Without objection.

2 THE COURT: State's 67 is in evidence.

3 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibit No. 67 was admitted  
4 into evidence.)

5 BY MR. SCOTT:

6 Q All right. Were you able -- submitted to you,  
7 did you have a known sample of Clatie Stribble's blood?

8 A I did.

9 Q Did you have a known buccal swab sample from  
10 Clifton Boozer?

11 A Yes, sir.

12 Q Okay. I want to go over some things -- well,  
13 I'll go over the things you did not have findings from as  
14 well. There was a white phone charger cord. There was  
15 some prior testimony that was located near where  
16 Ms. Clatie Stribble was found. Did you have any DNA  
17 findings from the white telephone charging code?

18 A I did attempt to perform DNA analysis on this  
19 item. It was a partial DNA profile of a mixture of two  
20 individuals. However, I could not perform statistics on  
21 it so I cannot make any interpretations.

22 Q Okay. So -- well, let me ask you this, if that  
23 phone cord had been located under Mr. Clatie Stribble's --  
24 or Ms. Clatie Stribble's body, how do you explain to the  
25 jury how you did not, at least, find her DNA on it?

MARYANN BOEHM-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1           A     I may have. What we are looking for is more  
2     like what's called touch DNA where an item comes in  
3     contact with your skin. It just depends on how often you  
4     touch it or how hard you touch it whether you leave DNA  
5     behind or not. In this case, I can tell you that multiple  
6     people have come in contact with that item. The test  
7     results were just too low for me to perform statistics and  
8     interpret.

9           Q     Well, that's an interesting example because  
10    would you agree that there are some misconceptions about  
11    DNA or what the average person probably understands DNA  
12    evidence to be?

13          A     Yes, sir.

14          Q     Because as I said, if that cord was under her  
15    body -- and you didn't find Clatie Stribble's DNA, per se?

16          A     I couldn't make a comparison, so I couldn't tell  
17    you if I did or not.

18          Q     Okay. Let me ask you this, if all 13 of these  
19    jurors went to that jury room and they all touched that  
20    handle of the door, would you expect to find -- or be able  
21    to isolate each one of their DNA off of that handle?

22          A     No, sir. Most likely, I would find a mixture of  
23    a certain amount of people. But it would be far too  
24    complex for me to make any interpretations from it.

25          Q     And even if I just wiped my hand across that

MARYANN BOEHM-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 screen right there, would you necessarily find a DNA  
2 sample that you could pinpoint to me?

3 A No, not necessarily. It really depends on the  
4 situation whether you leave DNA behind or not.

5 Q Okay. So, it is possible that Clatie Stribble  
6 or even Clifton Boozer could have handled some of these  
7 items at some point, but you're unable to extrapolate one  
8 of the other DNA from that item?

9 A For that particular item, that's correct.

10 Q So, nothing from the phone cord even though it  
11 was laying up under her, that's correct?

12 A Yes, sir.

13 Q Did you test a silver in color knife? You have  
14 parentheses marker three.

15 A I did.

16 Q And your finding?

17 A The partial DNA profile was insufficient for  
18 interpretation. Again, there was a little bit of DNA  
19 there, although not enough for me to make any comparisons  
20 to.

21 Q All right. Swabs from the blue handled knife,  
22 you have in parentheses marker one. What were your  
23 findings?

24 A This was also a partial DNA profile. It was a  
25 mixture of, at least, two individuals. Due to the

MARYANN BOEHM-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 inability to extrapolate statistics, no interpretations  
2 could be offered.

3 Q State's No. 72, do you recognize that?

4 A Yes, I do.

5 Q Okay. What is State's No. 72?

6 A This is a heat sealed pouch containing several  
7 different swabs from this case, 1.1, 2.1, 3.1, 4.1 and  
8 4.2. I performed DNA analysis on all of these items.

9 Q Okay.

10 MR. SCOTT: Your Honor, just checking off my  
11 evidence, I'm going to offer State's No. 72 for  
12 admission into evidence.

13 THE COURT: Any objection to State's 72?

14 MR. VERNER: May I see 72?

15 MR. SCOTT: It's the swabs.

16 MR. VERNER: Okay. No objection, Your Honor.

17 THE COURT: All right, 72, that's in evidence.

18 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibit No. 72 was admitted  
19 into evidence.)

20 BY MR. SCOTT:

21 Q Item four is what according to your report?

22 A Can you repeat that question?

23 Q Item four in your report, what is it?

24 A I never received item four, I received items 4.1  
25 and 4.2.



MARYANN BOEHM-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 Q Well, you reference an item four in your report.

2 What does your report say item four is?

3 A The gray handled scissors.

4 Q And 4.2 would have been swabs from those  
5 scissors?

6 A Yes. 4.2 is swabs from the handle of those  
7 scissors.

8 Q Okay, thank you. Your findings for 4.2, what?

9 A The DNA profile is a mixture of, at least, three  
10 individuals, the partial DNA profile of a major  
11 contributor matches the DNA profile of Clatie Stribble.

12 Q Okay. And we know that -- I see a one in 6.2  
13 septillion, that's the number you gave. So, we can be  
14 certain that Clatie Stribble's DNA is on the handle of the  
15 scissors, at least?

16 A Yes, sir, in my opinion, that is Clatie  
17 Stribble's.

18 Q Okay. And it says a mixture of, at least, three  
19 individuals, do you know who the other two are?

20 A No. Due to the inability to state minor  
21 contributor, I was unable to make comparisons to.

22 Q Explain this. There is a -- as far as the  
23 scissors, there's a partial YSTR profile of the major  
24 contributor matching the YSTR profile of Clifton Boozer.  
25 That's on the handle of the scissors, what does that mean?

MARYANN BOEHM-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1           A     So, YSTR testing is another type of testing we  
2 do. The regular testing is called autosomal DNA testing.  
3 YSTR testing is just looking at the Y chromosome. It  
4 filters out, essentially, the female DNA, just leaving  
5 behind Y DNA profiles of male individuals. For this item,  
6 I did do YSTR testing. It was the mixture of, at least,  
7 two male individuals. The major contributor to this YSTR  
8 typing matched Clifton Curtis Boozer.

9           Q     Okay. So, we can say pretty certainly that  
10 Clatie Stribble's DNA is on the handle of those scissors?

11          A     That's correct.

12          Q     And we can't really include or exclude Clifton  
13 Boozer, is that safe to say?

14          A     He would be included in the YSTR profile  
15 developed from the scissors.

16          Q     So, there is some indicator on there that  
17 Clifton Boozer's DNA is on the handle of those scissors?

18          A     That's correct.

19          Q     Fingernail scrapings, I'm referring to your item  
20 5.1. You've got that listed as the right hand of  
21 Ms. Clatie Stribble. Somebody testified earlier about  
22 what the fingernail scrapings are. What is that, the  
23 sample you're testing?

24          A     I tested the fingernail scrapings from the  
25 individual, so Ms. Clatie Stribble's fingernail scrapings.

MARYANN BOEHM-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 Typically, they just scrape underneath the fingernails to  
2 collect any possible DNA, then I perform DNA analysis on  
3 those scrapings.

4 Q Okay. Was there any DNA findings from her right  
5 hand?

6 A From her right hand, the DNA profile was  
7 attributable to Clatie Stribble.

8 Q Okay. So, you have her DNA up under her  
9 fingers, which you'd expect to find?

10 A That is correct.

11 Q Okay. What about her left hand fingernail  
12 scrapings?

13 A The left hand fingernail scrapings was a mixture  
14 of, at least, two individuals. The DNA profile of the  
15 major contributor matches the DNA profile of Clifton  
16 Curtis Boozer.

17 Q Okay. So, you found Clifton Boozer's DNA up  
18 under her left hand fingernails?

19 A That's correct.

20 Q And the probability of that being somebody other  
21 than Clifton Boozer, you assigned one in 4.1 octillion?

22 A That's correct.

23 Q Can we be safe in saying that that's Clifton  
24 Boozer's DNA under her fingernail?

25 A In my opinion, yes.

MARYANN BOEHM-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 Q Okay. Well, octillion, how many zeros is that?

2 A I would have to count, but that's a lot of  
3 zeros.

4 Q Well, I mean, that number is far greater than  
5 the human beings living on earth right now, is it not?

6 A That's correct.

7 Q Then you have a partial minor contributor DNA of  
8 Clatie Stribble, which, again, you'd expect to find under  
9 her own fingernails her DNA?

10 A That's correct.

11 Q Item six, is that exterior swabs from a bedroom  
12 window?

13 A That's correct.

14 Q Any DNA profile developed?

15 A No, no DNA profile was developed.

16 Q Okay. Item seven is a cigarette butt, and that  
17 is parentheses marker number two. Would you tell the jury  
18 what findings that you have indicated on the cigarette  
19 butt?

20 A The DNA profile matches the DNA profile of  
21 Clifton Curtis Boozer. The probability of randomly  
22 selecting an unrelated individual having a DNA profile  
23 matching this item is approximately one in 2.0 sextillion.

24 Q So, your opinion, the cigarette butt that crime  
25 scene folks labeled as marker two, your opinion that that

MARYANN BOEHM-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 cigarette has Clifton Boozer's DNA on it?

2 A That's correct.

3 Q And then we're getting into your rape kit  
4 findings. 24.2, that is vaginal swabs. Let me ask you,  
5 the non-sperm fraction of the vaginal swab, what were your  
6 findings?

7 A That DNA profile developed was a mixture of, at  
8 least, two individuals. The DNA profile of the major  
9 contributor is consistent with the DNA profile of Clatie  
10 Stribble. The partial DNA profile of the minor  
11 contributor is insufficient for interpretation.

12 Q So, the non-sperm fraction, you're saying is, at  
13 least, two individuals. One is Clatie, which you'd expect  
14 to find on her vaginal swab?

15 A That's correct.

16 Q And the other contributor, you didn't have  
17 enough data for a sufficient interpretation?

18 A That's correct.

19 Q What about the sperm fraction of the vaginal  
20 swab?

21 A The DNA profile was a mixture of, at least, two  
22 individuals. The DNA profile of the major contributor  
23 matches the DNA profile of Clifton Curtis Boozer. The  
24 probability of randomly selecting an unrelated individual  
25 having a DNA profile matching the major contributor to

MARYANN BOEHM-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 this mixture is approximately one in 1.4 octillion.

2 Q So, it's your professional expert opinion that  
3 Clifton Boozer's sperm was found inside of Clatie  
4 Stribble's vagina or, at least, her vaginal swab indicated  
5 the presence of his sperm?

6 A His DNA profile was there. I can't say that it  
7 was sperm.

8 Q Well, you've got on your report a sperm  
9 fraction. Why did you put that there?

10 A That's how we label the item, so for any swabs  
11 that have a possibility of sperm is there, we do a  
12 differential extraction, try to isolate all the non-sperm  
13 cells from the spermatozoa cells and that's how  
14 [indiscernible] sperm fraction. However, I did not  
15 actually identify -- I didn't attempt to identify sperm.

16 Q Right. Okay. Well, you got the DNA samples by  
17 way of Verona Herrera; is that right?

18 A That's correct.

19 Q So, if she had tested it for sperm versus  
20 non-sperm portions, those findings would have been  
21 forwarded to you?

22 A That's correct.

23 Q Would that explain why you have the vaginal  
24 swabs broken up into non-sperm and sperm fractions?

25 A Her testing determines whether I do a

MARYANN BOEHM-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 differential extraction or not.

2 Q Well, how about this, is it your professional  
3 expert opinion that Clifton Boozer's DNA was found  
4 inside -- or rather on a vaginal swab taken from  
5 Ms. Clatie Stribble?

6 A That's correct.

7 Q Okay. What about the rectal swabs that were  
8 submitted to you, what did you find?

9 A The DNA profile on the semen matches the DNA  
10 profile of Clifton Curtis Boozer. The probability of  
11 randomly selecting an unrelated individual having a DNA  
12 profile matching the semen on this item is approximately  
13 one in 4.1 octillion.

14 Q Okay. So, is it your expert opinion that  
15 Clifton Boozer's DNA was found in Clatie Stribble's  
16 rectum?

17 A That's correct.

18 Q Okay.

19 MR. SCOTT: Your Honor, I did admit State's 67?

20 THE COURT: That's in evidence, yes.

21 MR. SCOTT: Okay. All right. Answer any  
22 questions Mr.~Verner has. Thank you.

23 THE COURT: Mr.~Verner.

24 CROSS-EXAMINATION

25 BY MR. VERNER:

## MARYANN BOEHM-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1           Q     It's still morning. Good morning, Agent. Just  
2 as a preliminary matter, when we're talking about these  
3 large numbers of the comparison groups, those are  
4 unrelated individuals from all over the world?

5           A     That's correct.

6           Q     But is it fair to say that when you start  
7 comparing them with people in a particular area, the  
8 numbers become much smaller because they're more likely to  
9 be related? Just sampling Newberry are more --

10          A     There's a coefficient in the calculation that  
11 does factor for a little bit of that for not as random  
12 selection, stuff like that, so there is a little bit more  
13 of a factor.

14          Q     Okay. Just -- I'm going to be brief, but I just  
15 want to make sure what we have and what we don't have.  
16 Law enforcement, the Prosperity police or whomever you  
17 received it from ask you to test a phone cord?

18          A     Yes, that is correct.

19          Q     Okay. And basically, you said there's just not  
20 enough there to test or the findings were so inconclusive  
21 that we can't?

22          A     That's correct. I did test it, however, the  
23 data that was there, it was insufficient -- or it was too  
24 low, basically, to make a comparison to.

25          Q     Just out of curiosity, does DNA have to be



MARYANN BOEHM-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 transferred kind of like by the moisture part of your body  
2 would be the most likely way of it getting transferred?

3 A Most likely, but it can be skin contact.

4 However, if I rub an object, I can transfer DNA, however,  
5 sweating, so moisture would assist with that.

6 Q It keeps better or it's more likely to be found  
7 in the liquid or the moist part of the body, so the blood,  
8 saliva, semen?

9 A Yes, body fluids, but it is found in your skin  
10 cells, too?

11 Q I suppose in bone, too?

12 A Yes.

13 Q Okay. Then the second thing we tested was the  
14 silver-handled knife?

15 A Yes, sir.

16 Q Okay. And no DNA could be found to make any  
17 kind of analysis?

18 A There was the partial DNA profile, but it was  
19 insufficient for interpretation?

20 Q Then you tested the blue-handled knife?

21 A That's correct.

22 Q And I'm just curious, when you test knives or  
23 guns or objects like that, just usually -- you've done  
24 thousands of them?

25 A That's correct.

## MARYANN BOEHM-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1           Q     I'm just curious what the percentage is  
2     successful that you find enough DNA to make a conclusion?  
3     What would you ballpark or estimate that you are able to  
4     --

5           A     It's really hard to estimate.  It's really hit  
6     or miss with touch DNA.  It depends on a lot of different  
7     factors, such as was the person wearing a barrier in  
8     between the skin and item, like a glove or clothing, was  
9     that individual sweating, how often does the individual  
10    touch the item.

11          Q     I know there's a lot of variables, but I'm just  
12    asking as best you can anecdotally guess what percentage  
13    do you think that you can come up with a positive test on  
14    touch-type objects?

15          A     I would say generally we develop a DNA profile  
16    from it.  I don't know if I have the ability to really add  
17    a percentage to how often there's a suitable for  
18    comparison versus not, but generally, you do get some kind  
19    of DNA profile.

20          Q     More often that not, you will find, at least,  
21    some evidence of DNA, but then it gets a lot more  
22    difficult determining whose?

23          A     That would be correct.

24          Q     Okay.  The third object we tested was the  
25    blue-handled knife and, at least, two different types or

MARYANN BOEHM-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 strands of DNA, but no ability to identify whose?

2 A That would be correct.

3 Q The fourth item would be the gray-handled  
4 scissors and no DNA was found at all?

5 A That's correct.

6 Q Okay. What is the difference between your tests  
7 in 4.1 and 4.2?

8 A So, 4.1 was swabs from the blade of item four,  
9 which was the gray-handled scissors versus item 4.2, which  
10 was swabs from the handle of item four, which was  
11 gray-handled scissors.

12 Q Okay. 4.1 was the blade, 4.2 was the handle?

13 A That's correct.

14 Q From the blade of the scissors, there was no  
15 DNA?

16 A Yes, that's correct.

17 Q If I had used or anyone has used those scissors  
18 as a stabbing instrument, the blood on them would lead to  
19 DNA evidence, wouldn't it?

20 A If there was blood on them. If they were clean,  
21 then most likely, there would be no DNA.

22 Q But if there was blood on them, even small  
23 amounts of blood, you would be able to find it?

24 A Generally, I'd be able to from even a small  
25 amount of blood.

## MARYANN BOEHM-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 Q And then the handle was also tested and you  
2 found, at least, three individuals who may have touched  
3 the handle of those scissors?

4 A That's correct.

5 Q One of whom was Clatie Stribble?

6 A Yes, sir.

7 Q Okay. Then -- I don't know much about it, but  
8 DNA is largely the X and the Y strands that wrap around  
9 each other?

10 A The X and the Y are two of the chromosomes of  
11 DNA, though you have a lot more chromosomes. And we look  
12 at the entire DNA strand, all the chromosomes except for  
13 YSTR where you just test for Y chromosome.

14 Q But is the Y strand the strand typically  
15 associated with males?

16 A Yes, if you are a male, you have a Y chromosome.

17 Q And if I'm a female, I do not?

18 A That's correct.

19 Q Okay. You were also able to test the Y strand  
20 and you do indicate some DNA from Clifton Boozer on  
21 scissors?

22 A Yes, for the Y strand.

23 Q And that's on the handle?

24 A That's correct.

25 Q Out of curiosity, how long will DNA remain on an

## MARYANN BOEHM-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 object?

2 A It really depends on how it's stored and how  
3 often it's cleaned. It can last forever if it's stored in  
4 pristine conditions at room temperature and not exposed to  
5 any elements.

6 Q Okay. So, if you found bones in the woods, you  
7 know, buried in the woods, would you be able to test them  
8 for DNA?

9 A It depends on how long they've been in the  
10 woods, how decomposed the bones are for the DNA testing we  
11 do. Now, there's other DNA testing, mitochondrial DNA  
12 testing where it's even a longer time you test bones, but  
13 we don't perform that test.

14 Q Is there a rule of thumb for how long DNA will  
15 remain?

16 A No, there really isn't.

17 Q So, if you had like a body that was buried for  
18 10 years, is it still testable for DNA?

19 A It's possible, we would definitely test it.

20 Q If someone lived in the home, would they be more  
21 likely or less likely to have samples of DNA in the home?

22 A More likely.

23 Q Okay. In fact, would it be unusual not to find  
24 DNA on, at least, some objects in the home if somebody  
25 lived there?

MARYANN BOEHM-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1           A     I would find that very unusual.

2           Q     Could it be as old as three months?

3           A     That's correct.

4           Q     Could it be as old as a year, if I would have  
5 touched something on the TV set a year ago?

6           A     Yes. Depends on, like I said, if it's been  
7 cleaned or anything like that. If it's been untouched,  
8 then I would expect DNA.

9           Q     Then the fifth thing you tested was the  
10 fingernail scrapings from Ms. Clatie Stribble?

11          A     That's correct.

12          Q     The right fingernail, you found only hers?

13          A     Yes, sir, that's correct.

14          Q     And how are some ways I could get somebody's DNA  
15 samples in my fingernails? And I guess the longer they  
16 are, that would be a factor. But typically, what are the  
17 ways you get it?

18          A     Typically, it's scratching them or coming in  
19 contact with some other body fluid somehow some way.

20          Q     Okay. Is it blood in the fingernails or is it  
21 skin scrapings or can you differentiate where the source  
22 of the DNA is that you found?

23          A     It depends. We can do blood testing. In this  
24 case, I did not do blood testing, so I can't tell you if  
25 it came from skin cells or blood.

## MARYANN BOEHM-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1           Q     Is there any other source commonly found under  
2     the fingernails other than -- it's either skin fragments  
3     or skin cells or it's blood or both. Is there any other?

4           A     It could be any body fluid; however, I would  
5     think skin cells or blood would be the most common?

6           Q     Could it be saliva?

7           A     It could be.

8           Q     Okay. Could it be sperm or semen?

9           A     It could be.

10          Q     Okay. And presumably, if somebody scratched  
11     somebody hard enough to get skin samples under their  
12     fingernails, there would be scratch marks?

13          A     It's possibly, yes.

14          Q     It's not likely?

15          A     It really depends.

16          Q     And you did find DNA of Clifton under her left  
17     fingernail scrapings?

18          A     That's correct.

19          Q     Are you testing each finger or is it just one  
20     finger that represents all of the fingers?

21          A     It's each finger together. So, I did all the  
22     fingernail scrapings from the left hand, so every  
23     fingernail on that hand, and then the right hand as well.

24          Q     Are you able to tell me whether you found it  
25     under one particular finger or whether you found it under

MARYANN BOEHM-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 all four or does the report --

2 A No, sir. No, sir. It's collective, the right  
3 hand and the left hand side.

4 Q So, if you find it under one fingernail, it  
5 would be positive regardless if it was just under that one  
6 finger and not the other three?

7 A Yes, sir, because we don't test it that way.

8 Q Okay. Does it even come to you identifying  
9 which particular finger was scraped?

10 A No, sir.

11 Q Okay. Does it suggest anything to you that DNA  
12 would be found under one fingernail as opposed -- one hand  
13 as opposed to both?

14 A The only thing I can say is that she has come in  
15 contact with the DNA of Clifton Boozer from that one hand.  
16 Other than that, I can't really tell you how the DNA got  
17 there or how long it's been there.

18 Q Do you know if Clatie Stribble was right-handed  
19 or left-handed?

20 A I do not.

21 Q Assuming there was a physical confrontation, the  
22 fact that there's fingernail scrapings or DNA under  
23 fingernail scrapings would indicate more likely that the  
24 hand was opened or, at least, curled as opposed to balled?

25 A I would believe so.



## MARYANN BOEHM-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 Q If you ball your hand in a fist, your  
2 fingernails are largely sheathed or covered by your own  
3 skin, right?

4 A That's correct.

5 Q All right. And likewise, if you're holding a  
6 object, it would be less likely to have a scraping in an  
7 open hand?

8 A That would be correct.

9 Q Okay. And then the sixth item you identified  
10 was swabs taken from the -- reportedly taken from the  
11 bedroom window?

12 A Yes, sir, the exterior.

13 Q And there was no DNA developed?

14 A That's correct.

15 Q Okay. If I had my hands on the window, could it  
16 be possible to find the DNA?

17 A It is possible.

18 Q Okay. It is more likely to find DNA -- like on  
19 fingerprints, you're more likely to find them maybe on  
20 glass than painted wood. Does DNA, is there particular  
21 items that it stays on better?

22 A No, there's no particular item that it stays on  
23 better, it's just how frequent you touch it.

24 Q DNA can be on anything, there's no particular  
25 item that you would look at first that would say, other

## MARYANN BOEHM-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1    than I guess items that you know were physically  
2    intrusive, like a toothbrush.

3           A     Would you repeat that question?

4           Q     Glass or wood wouldn't necessarily effect your  
5    ability to find DNA?

6           A     No, it would not effect it.

7           Q     Okay. Then the seventh item you tested was a  
8    cigarette butt?

9           A     That's correct.

10          Q     Okay. Do you know what kind of brand or you  
11   just got a swab from the cigarette butt or did you  
12   actually get the cigarette butt itself?

13          A     I got the cigarette butt itself. I don't have  
14   it in my report, but I can look at my notes to see if I  
15   wrote down the brand.

16          Q     It wouldn't be in your report, but you might  
17   have individual notes that you did along with it?

18          A     That would be correct.

19          Q     Okay. And you did match DNA to a cigarette butt  
20   to Clifton Boozer?

21          A     That is correct.

22          Q     Okay. Are you aware of whether Clatie Stribble  
23   smoked?

24          A     I do not know.

25          Q     Okay. Then you go from item seven to item 24,

## MARYANN BOEHM-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 which would be the vaginal swabs?

2 A Item 24.2.

3 Q Were there, like, items eight through 23 that  
4 you just didn't get or were not tested or what's the  
5 difference for the numbers?

6 A Right. I didn't receive them for my testing.  
7 However, there is eight through 23 logged in at SLED.

8 Q Okay. Why does the report start at 24.2 as  
9 opposed to 24 and then there's 24.1, 24.2?

10 A Because I only report on the items that I did  
11 testing on.

12 Q Okay. So, there might have been other -- it  
13 might have come in other holders or stuff that you marked  
14 24, like the bag it came in, or what would be 24?

15 A Right. The CSC kit, I believe that's what it  
16 was labeled, I'd have to look at my notes, would be item  
17 24. And that one contains a bunch of different swabs and  
18 items and it itemized out all the different swabs as 24  
19 point something, one, two, three.

20 Q Okay. In the sperm fraction of the vaginal  
21 swab, you found, at least, two DNA profiles? That's 24.2  
22 I guess, in sperm fraction?

23 A Yes, that would be correct.

24 Q Okay. One of whom would be Clifton Curtis  
25 Boozer?

## MARYANN BOEHM-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 A Yes, the major contributor.

2 Q Okay. And you've got Clatie Stribble's DNA on  
3 file, right?

4 A That is correct.

5 Q You've got two known samples, Clifton Boozer and  
6 Clatie Stribble?

7 A That's correct.

8 Q Okay. Are there any other known samples, like,  
9 such as her children or housemates or anybody else that  
10 you have?

11 A No, they were not submitted in this case.

12 Q Okay. So, the second sample, could that have  
13 been somebody other than Clatie Stribble as a second  
14 contributor?

15 A Yes, it may have been. I couldn't interpret it  
16 or compare it, so I have no idea.

17 Q Could the second individual be Clatie Stribble?

18 A It may be.

19 Q Do you have her DNA sequence collected?

20 A I did do a DNA profile on her.

21 Q But you couldn't automatically conclude that it  
22 was her?

23 A No. So, we look at the evidence first and make  
24 our conclusions whether we can interpret it or not before  
25 looking at the standards. So, for this sample, I looked

## MARYANN BOEHM-REDIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 at it and said, yes, there's a major contributor and I can  
2 compare to the standards. However, the minor contributor  
3 is insufficient and I can't do comparisons. Therefore, I  
4 didn't look at any of the known standards in this case to  
5 compare it to.

6 Q Okay. Then finally, I guess the ninth item you  
7 looked at were the rectal swabs, which were positive --  
8 the semen or the fluid part of the semen would be positive  
9 for Clifton Boozer?

10 A The DNA profile of the semen matches Clifton  
11 Boozer.

12 Q Okay. Were there any other items that you  
13 tested in this case?

14 A No, sir.

15 Q Thank you. Is it Boehm or Beam?

16 A Boehm.

17 Q Boehm. Two syllables?

18 A Yes, sir.

19 MR. VERNER: Thank you. Answer any questions,  
20 if the prosecutor has any.

21 THE COURT: Any redirect?

22 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

23 BY MR. SCOTT:

24 Q I think you used the word autsoma DNA?

25 A I may have.

MARYANN BOEHM-REDIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 Q How do you spell that?

2 A A-U-T-S-O-M-A.

3 THE COURT: Very good. Thank you very much for  
4 coming. You're free to go.

5 Solicitor, who's your next witness?

6 MR. SCOTT: The next one will be fairly lengthy.

7 THE COURT: All right, ladies and gentlemen of  
8 the jury, return to the back for a few moments.  
9 Don't talk about the case. Let me talk to them about  
10 logistics and we'll see where we are, okay. Have you  
11 back out here in ten minutes.

12 (WHEREUPON, the jury left open court at  
13 approximately 12:02 p.m.)

14 THE COURT: We'll be at ease for a few moments.

15 (WHEREUPON, a short break was taken.)

16 THE COURT: We'll go back on the record,  
17 Solicitor.

18 If you'll get the jury for us, please.

19 (WHEREUPON, the jury came into open court at  
20 approximately 12:14 p.m.)

21 THE COURT: All right, let the record reflect  
22 that jury is back and seated. Counsel is present.

23 Solicitor, call your next witness, please.

24 MS. DANIEL: Your Honor, the State calls Walter  
25 Bentley.

WALTER BENTLEY-DIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1           WALTER BENTLEY, after being duly sworn,  
2 testified as follows:

3           THE CLERK: Have a seat and state your name for  
4 the record.

5           THE WITNESS: Walter Bentley.

6                           DIRECT EXAMINATION

7 BY MR. DANIEL:

8           Q     You're Investigator Walter Bentley with the  
9 solicitor's office, correct?

10          A     That's correct.

11          Q     So, you've been behind the computer so far the  
12 entire trial?

13          A     Yes, sir.

14          Q     So, you work with us, you're our investigator?

15          A     Yes.

16          Q     And you used to be a police officer?

17          A     Yes, for 22 years.

18          Q     Okay. So, you have -- and you were a detective  
19 or investigator with the City of Laurens Police  
20 Department?

21          A     City of Laurens and the Laurens County Sheriff's  
22 Office prior to that.

23          Q     Okay. And you and I have been, and Dale Scott  
24 have been preparing this case for trial?

25          A     We have.

WALTER BENTLEY-DIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1           Q     And did you have an occasion in the course of  
2 preparing for this trial to consult with Harry Bodiford of  
3 the Prosperity Police Department?

4           A     Yes, I did.

5           Q     And I want to talk about phone records in this  
6 case. Did Lieutenant Bodiford obtain search warrants for  
7 phone records pertaining to the victim, Clatie Stribble,  
8 and also the Defendant, Mr.~Boozer?

9           A     He did. He obtained the Verizon records for  
10 Mr.~Boozer and T -- MetroPCS, which is actually T-Mobile  
11 for Ms. Stribble.

12          Q     So, in the investigation of Lieutenant Bodiford,  
13 the phone records associated with Mr.~Boozer were from  
14 Verizon, correct?

15          A     That's correct.

16          Q     Then the phone records associated with Clatie  
17 Stribble are from T-Mobile?

18          A     Yes.

19          Q     And search warrants were sent to these two  
20 different phone companies for records?

21          A     They were, yes.

22          Q     Okay. And did the companies provide records for  
23 us to analyze?

24          A     Yes, they did.

25          Q     Okay. I want to go into the phone number that



WALTER BENTLEY-DIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 we had as part of this investigation that was associated  
2 with Clifton Boozer. What number, what phone number did  
3 Clifton Boozer have?

4 A The number he called 911 on was the number I was  
5 referring to the records of, that number is (803)924-6991.

6 Q Okay. Then I want to hand you what's been  
7 premarked as State's No. 63 -- or excuse me, State's No.  
8 64.

9 MR. DANIEL: Beg the Court's indulgence.

10 Q All right. Do you recognize State's 64?

11 A Yes, I do.

12 Q What is State's 64?

13 A It's the disk of phone records.

14 Q The ones associated with Mr.~Boozer?

15 A Yes, the Verizon Wireless records.

16 Q Did Verizon Wireless carrier, did they provide  
17 some kind of affidavit certifying these records were  
18 authentic?

19 A Yes, they did.

20 Q Is that on the disk there?

21 A It's contained on this disk, yes.

22 Q Also, while we're at it, State's 63 is another  
23 disk, do you recognize State's 63?

24 A 63 is the records for Ms. Stribble.

25 Q Those are the phone records provided by

WALTER BENTLEY-DIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 T-Mobile?

2 A Correct.

3 Q Those are the phone records associated with  
4 Clatie Stribble?

5 A Yes.

6 MR. DANIEL: Your Honor, at this time, I offer  
7 State's 63 and 64 for admission into evidence.

8 MR. VERNER: Your Honor, at this point, I would  
9 object. If there's some kind of printed record or  
10 they introduce the substance of the disk, then I  
11 don't have any problem with the disk going in, but I  
12 would like to see some kind of foundation of what the  
13 contents are. And then if the disk are just the  
14 collaboration of what the voluminous records, then I  
15 don't have any objection. I don't know what's on the  
16 disks. I assume they're some phone records, but I'd  
17 like to see what's on the disk somehow. And if the  
18 disk is just a digital format of that, then I have no  
19 problem with the disks going in. But I just don't  
20 want to authorize a blank disk going in that I have  
21 no idea.

22 THE COURT: What exactly is on the disk so that  
23 --

24 MR. DANIEL: Well, Your Honor, we are calling  
25 witnesses out of order, so if that is -- it's

WALTER BENTLEY-DIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1       probably problematic here. We were going to  
2       introduce this through another witness essentially,  
3       but we're calling him out of order. It's,  
4       essentially, tower, cell tower location data and also  
5       data of numbers that Mr.~Boozer called and vice  
6       versa.

7               THE COURT: Okay.

8               MR. VERNER: I can just conditionally keep that  
9       objection out there so long as there's some kind of  
10      substance put in for what we're giving the jury so I  
11      know what the jury is getting.

12              THE COURT: At that point in time, you're really  
13      calling Mr. Bentley for purposes of showing that he  
14      collected this information, got the certification  
15      from Verizon, T-Mobile and the actual data about the  
16      cell phone's location. You've got another witness to  
17      kind of explain the meaning of all that?

18              MR. DANIEL: Yes, sir. We have a witness and an  
19      expert to talk about actual cell tower location.  
20      Mr. Bentley was just going to, essentially, testify  
21      to the numbers called from Mr.~Boozer, Clatie  
22      Stribble.

23              THE COURT: All right. All right. He can  
24      testify as to that. And you've got the motion on the  
25      floor to move the item into evidence once the other

WALTER BENTLEY-DIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 witness testifies. We'll move it in evidence with  
2 the location witness. You're going to have someone  
3 testify as to cell phone location data, that type  
4 thing?

5 MR. DANIEL: Yes, sir.

6 THE COURT: All right. Your objection is noted,  
7 the Court will move it in or allow it in at a later  
8 point in time, but he can go ahead and testify as to  
9 phone numbers and things like that since he's  
10 reviewed those.

11 MR. DANIEL: Yes, sir.

12 THE COURT: Go ahead.

13 BY MR. DANIEL:

14 Q Investigator Bentley, as far as State's 63, the  
15 T-Mobile, they provided an affidavit of authenticity of  
16 their records as well?

17 A Yes.

18 Q So, have you had a chance to review what's on  
19 those two disks from each of the phone carriers?

20 A I did. I actually brought a printout of the  
21 historical text messaging data on there. There's also  
22 historical call data. Looks like it goes from May 1st to  
23 May 3rd of last year.

24 Q And you've given us the phone number associated  
25 with Clifton Boozer I believe?

WALTER BENTLEY-DIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1           A     I did.

2           Q     Give us the phone number associated with Clatie  
3     Stribble.

4           A     It's (803)597-0624.

5           Q     All right. And these printouts that you just  
6     referred to, tell us what you analyzed or what you noted  
7     was significant about the call records from, at least,  
8     Mr.~Boozer's phone number?

9           A     I used Mr.~Boozer's number. These records are  
10    much easier --

11           MR. VERNER: Your Honor, I do object to the form  
12    of that question. It sounds like that's calling for  
13    an opinion? What do you think is important or  
14    significant about these records? That's an opinion  
15    type --

16           THE COURT: Sustained. If you want him to talk  
17    about what the records reveal, that's perfectly fine,  
18    but any inferences that can be drawn, that can be  
19    argued later.

20           MR. DANIEL: Yes, sir.

21    BY MR. DANIEL:

22           Q     Investigator Bentley, what do the phone  
23    records -- Mr.~Boozer's phone records reflect on the -- in  
24    terms of phone calls to and from Clatie Stribble?

25           A     On May the 2nd, 2017, they will reflect 40 or

WALTER BENTLEY-DIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 41 -- I might have miscounted, 40 or 41 phone calls from  
2 Mr.~Boozer's phone to Ms. Stribble's phone. That was all  
3 on May 2nd. Every one of those calls of duration -- most  
4 of those calls were a duration of mid-25 seconds to mid-30  
5 second range in duration.

6 Q Okay. What's significant about a phone call --  
7 a lot of phone calls the duration lasting only 25 to 30  
8 seconds?

9 A It indicates that the call wasn't answered.

10 Q Typically, how long does it take -- or how many  
11 rings does it take for a call to go to voice mail on these  
12 cell phones?

13 A Takes about six to eight rings depending on the  
14 carrier and the phone. I did a test with two separate  
15 phones just to kind of see for myself. I had a Samsung  
16 phone and iPhone. Both of those phones were 32 seconds  
17 from the first ring to when the voice mail started.

18 Q Okay. So, you timed it how long it takes for a  
19 typical phone call to go to voice mail is, essentially,  
20 what you did?

21 A Essentially, yes.

22 Q So, under 40 seconds?

23 A Correct.

24 Q So, a lot of those calls, you said on May 2nd  
25 that Clifton Boozer made 40 to 41 phone calls to Clatie

WALTER BENTLEY-DIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 Stribble's phone number?

2 A Yes.

3 Q And it is fair to say a majority of those phone  
4 calls, the duration of those phone calls were 40 seconds  
5 or under?

6 A Yes, the longest one is 49 seconds, I think was  
7 the longest one.

8 Q Okay. Would that be suggestive of the phone  
9 calls not being answered going to voice mail?

10 A It would be.

11 Q What about -- you said May 2nd of 2017 is what  
12 we just discussed?

13 A Yes.

14 Q What about going into May 3rd?

15 A May 3rd, I don't see any -- I don't see any  
16 phone calls between the two of them -- or attempted phone  
17 calls between the two of them on May 3rd.

18 Q All right. These phone records from Verizon  
19 concerning Mr.~Boozer's phone number, did they provide the  
20 text messaging data?

21 A They did.

22 Q Can you decipher from the phone records how many  
23 times leading up to the death of Clatie Stribble that  
24 Mr.~Boozer texted Clatie?

25 A Or May 2nd and May 3rd, I see 35 texts going

WALTER BENTLEY-DIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 from Clatie to Mr.~Boozer and I saw 50 texts from  
2 Mr.~Boozer to Ms. Stribble.

3 Q So, all and all, between Clatie and Cliff, there  
4 are about over 80 text messages going between them?

5 A Yes, about 85 approximately.

6 Q And that's May 2nd?

7 A May 2nd and May 3rd.

8 Q What time is the last text message communication  
9 on May 3rd?

10 A The records don't go in sequential order. And,  
11 also, I don't have the content of the messages, just  
12 showing that a message was sent and received.

13 Q So, we don't know the actual text messages, what  
14 was sent, the content, you're saying, but we just know  
15 that it was sent?

16 A Yes. I don't have the -- the records don't  
17 indicate it. I would need the actual phone to get the  
18 content.

19 Q Because these cell phone record companies -- or  
20 these cell phone companies, that would be a lot of data to  
21 store if they had to keep the actual content of these  
22 messages; is that correct?

23 A Correct. And to answer the prior question,  
24 approximately 2:47 a.m. in the early morning hours of 5/3  
25 is the last message I see.



WALTER BENTLEY-DIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 Q So, approximately 2:47 a.m. on May 3rd?

2 A Looks like 2:49. Like I said, these numbers  
3 don't go in time sequential order. I've got to look  
4 around and find them.

5 Q So, approximately 2:49 a.m., May 3rd is the last  
6 text message that's sent by Boozer to Clatie or Clatie to  
7 Boozer?

8 A This is Clatie from -- give me one second. This  
9 looks like that Boozer to Clatie.

10 Q Okay. And again, to get the actual content of  
11 the text messages, you would need to extract that from the  
12 actual physical phone?

13 A I would, yes.

14 Q Okay. And as part of your knowledge of the  
15 case, the investigative case file, was law enforcement  
16 able to access the digital content Mr.~Boozer's phone?

17 A They were not. They needed the password to be  
18 able to access the phone.

19 Q So, the phone is password protected?

20 A Correct.

21 Q Okay. What about Clatie Stribble's physical  
22 phone, were they able to extract any digital content from  
23 Clatie's phone?

24 A No, they are never able to enter the phone.

25 Q And Lieutenant Bodiford would be the one to

## WALTER BENTLEY-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 speak about that?

2 A Yes.

3 MR. DANIEL: Please answer any questions

4 Mr.~Verner has.

5 CROSS-EXAMINATION

6 BY MR. VERNER:

7 Q May I see the written report you were going by?

8 These are documents that you generated or these are

9 directly from the phone company?

10 A And from State's 63.

11 Q Okay. And 63 would be Ms. Clatie's?

12 A I'm sorry, 64. I printed them from Verizon

13 Wireless, Mr.~Boozer.

14 Q Both of these documents from the phone records

15 for the 6991, Clifton Boozer, phone?

16 A Yes, that's correct, with Verizon.

17 Q And that's the phone he used to call the EMS 911

18 number?

19 A He did call 911 with that number, yes.

20 Q Is there a difference between this set of

21 document -- one of these is phone calls and one of these

22 is texts?

23 A Yes, the one with the blue and yellow highlight

24 on it, that's the text document.

25 Q Okay.

## WALTER BENTLEY-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1           A     The one with just the yellow highlighting is the  
2 phone record.

3           Q     All right. And what's the significance of your  
4 blue and yellow color coding scheme?

5           A     It was just a visual aid for me to differentiate  
6 who was text came from. The blue I think is Clatie, if I  
7 recall the color coding correctly.

8           Q     If I hand it to you, would you be able to  
9 refresh your recollection?

10          A     Yes, yellow is from Mr.-Boozer to Ms. Stribble  
11 and blue from Ms. Stribble to Mr.-Boozer.

12          Q     So, you didn't use feminine colors or masculine  
13 colors. Blue is actually kind of the opposite, blue is  
14 her to him, yellow is him to her?

15          A     I just grabbed the first two highlighters I  
16 could find.

17          Q     I know that, but just so it's clear to me,  
18 yellow is Clifton to Clatie?

19          A     Correct.

20          Q     And blue -- if your records, if you matched it  
21 up correctly, would be Clatie to Clifton?

22          A     Correct.

23          Q     And you started from May 1st?

24          A     Actually, May 2nd and 3rd. I wasn't -- didn't  
25 know I going to be called this quickly, so I had to do it

## WALTER BENTLEY-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 kind of quickly.

2 Q But the phone records seem to start somewhere in  
3 May 1st and the text megassess start from May 2nd?

4 A Text messages May 1st, also. You got phone and  
5 text from May 1st to May 3rd.

6 Q Did the phone company just send you the records  
7 from May 1st on or did they send older records and these  
8 were just -- for time purposes, you just started close in  
9 time --

10 A Those are the records they sent. I don't have  
11 the search warrant in front of me, but I think the request  
12 is actually from May 1st to May 3rd. Those are the  
13 records directly from the phone company.

14 Q And you didn't have anything to do with issuing  
15 the search warrant to the phone companies, did you?

16 A No, I did not.

17 Q The police department did that?

18 A Yes, Lieutenant Bodiford.

19 Q And was that close in time to Ms. Clatie's  
20 death?

21 A Yes, within days.

22 Q Okay. And they only asked for May 1st to May  
23 3rd?

24 A I don't have the search warrant in front of me,  
25 but that's my recollection.

## WALTER BENTLEY-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 Q How do you make sense of the document -- the  
2 columns?

3 A Well, your first column is the subscriber's  
4 phone number. It's always -- the first column --

5 Q The first column's not really relevant to what  
6 you looked at?

7 A The second column [indiscernible] consistent  
8 with the same phone --

9 Q That's whose account?

10 A That's the account subscriber.

11 Q Okay.

12 A The next column is the date and time.

13 Q Now, I thought these phone companies -- we've  
14 had other cases where they used -- what kind of time clock  
15 system do these companies use?

16 A Depends on the company, most UTC time, but they  
17 don't say it on the record. Verizon seems to use local  
18 and it's not noted. Like I said, normally, any other  
19 phone records will note UTC. These Verizon records do not  
20 note UTC. In my past in working on Verizon cases, they  
21 usually do Eastern Standard.

22 Q Okay. The standard, typically, from the phone  
23 companies is to use UTC time stamps?

24 A I know that's AT&T, T-Mobile and Sprint.

25 Q What is UTC compared to Eastern timezone?

## WALTER BENTLEY-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1           A     If I remember correctly, it's plus four hours,  
2     depending on daylight savings time.

3           Q     So, a call that was from Newberry at 2 o'clock  
4     in the afternoon, the UTC time stamp would be?

5           A     It would be 6 o'clock, depending on daylight  
6     savings time.

7           Q     Okay. Is it possible -- does it show -- do  
8     these records show which timezone they're using?

9           A     No, they don't. That's why -- I'm working off  
10    assumptions here, to be honest with you. One is my past  
11    history working on Verizon records. Normally, it's kept  
12    in eastern standard when there are requested. And two is  
13    phone companies always notate UTC, plus four. And these  
14    are not in notated time.

15          Q     Because there's nowhere in the continental  
16    United States that's UTC time zone, is it?

17          A     No, it's not.

18          Q     The timezone that starts for UTC started before  
19    the continental United States started, somewhere between  
20    Europe and America?

21          A     Near Great Britain.

22          Q     But, typically, you will see that noted in the  
23    records?

24          A     Typically, yes.

25          Q     And what was the second assumption you said you

## WALTER BENTLEY-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 made? You said the first is that they're using Eastern  
2 timezone.

3 A And the second is that phone companies that are  
4 using UTC time, they give you the documentation, which is  
5 this. That's exactly what I put on this disk. I put UTC  
6 in parentheses beside the time so the user knows to be  
7 mathematic conversion. These records do not have UTC  
8 designation.

9 Q Do they have an Eastern timezone stamp?

10 A They don't normally.

11 Q How many timezones are there in the United  
12 States?

13 A There's four.

14 Q That's right. And it starts -- the east coast  
15 starts off with what?

16 A Eastern standard time.

17 Q And then the next timezone would be?

18 A Central.

19 Q Central timezone?

20 A Then the mountain specific.

21 Q Do you know where the central timezone starts?

22 A I know parts of Alabama.

23 Q So, as close as Alabama to Chicago?

24 A Alabama, I think, Auburn, for example.

25 Q And then we've got the mountain timezone

## WALTER BENTLEY-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 somewhere around Colorado just West of Texas?

2 A I think it's different timezones.

3 Q But we've got mountain timezone --

4 A Actually, multiple timezones.

5 Q Then the fourth would be California is in the  
6 specific timezone?

7 A Correct.

8 Q So, the presumption is these are correct, but it  
9 could be anywhere from one -- it could be exactly timezone  
10 correct or it could be up to three hours assuming they're  
11 using American timezones?

12 A In my experience, phone companies -- and I've  
13 examined phone records for many years, they will designate  
14 timezone on the records.

15 Q But these don't?

16 A It does not.

17 Q Okay.

18 A I was trying to finish. They will designate the  
19 timezone if it differs from the requesting area timezone.

20 Q Right. And I apologize, I asked you this, but I  
21 lost it. What was the second assumption you said you  
22 made? You said the first --

23 A The first is that they normally will document  
24 UTC, which is the most common one, or with a timezone.  
25 And the second is, I've worked with Verizon records before



## WALTER BENTLEY-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 and they've always been Eastern Standard.

2 Q Okay. But UTC would be kind of the standard and  
3 then some phone companies adjust it?

4 A UTC is what I normally see with AT&T and with  
5 T-Mobile and Sprint.

6 Q Okay. So, sometimes we see phone records that  
7 look like they happened on midnight of May 2nd, but it was  
8 actually four hours early or --

9 A It should be four hours ahead.

10 Q Ahead, okay. So, if it was UTC time, their  
11 timezone would be -- 2 o'clock here would be -- it would  
12 show up 6 o'clock on their timezone?

13 A If was 2 o'clock here, the UTC, depending on the  
14 daylight savings you had.

15 Q So, a call that could look like midnight here  
16 could be made as early as 8 o'clock that evening because  
17 UTC comes before eastern time?

18 A Repeat that.

19 Q Sun rises east to west, right?

20 A Correct.

21 Q So, the UTC would be -- they are four hours  
22 later or four hours earlier than we are right now?

23 A You add four hours for UTC.

24 Q Okay. So, what is 12 o'clock, 12:30 here would  
25 be 4:30 UTC in the afternoon?

## WALTER BENTLEY-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1           A     Depending on daylight savings time.

2           Q     And just out of curiosity, how on these were you  
3     able to determine what went from her to him? I guess,  
4     from the second to the last column with the phone numbers  
5     would be the originating phone?

6           A     The first phone is the originating phone. The  
7     second phone number is the receiving phone.

8           Q     And they've got some kind of --

9           A     It's on the disk. If you print the material I  
10    sent you yesterday, it actually has the designation to  
11    what each columns means.

12          Q     Over the columns, they have a heading on what  
13    the --

14          A     It's on the disk.

15          Q     So, we know Clatie texted Clifton, just starting  
16    at nine -- 2156 would be 9:56 in the evening?

17          A     Correct.

18          Q     So we know she texted him from 10 o'clock in the  
19    evening, basically, until 11:43 on May 2nd?

20          A     I would need to see the records.

21          Q     Twelve times?

22          A     I need to see them.

23          Q     Twelve blue stripes would be 12 texts from her  
24    to him?

25          A     Beginning at 9:56. From 9:56 to 11:43.

## WALTER BENTLEY-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 Q Okay.

2 A And some of these records, you really have to  
3 look at them because they have variable times, some jump  
4 all around on times. I mean, you have 2156 times, then  
5 below it, you have 1519 time stamp, which is before.

6 Q Okay.

7 A Actually, if you go in reverse order, it might  
8 be easier to understand it.

9 Q The earliest number I see is 11:43?

10 A The earliest contact where she texted him was  
11 11:43 on that first page of records.

12 Q And the latest goes until about 10:15 in the  
13 evening, 2215?

14 A Yes.

15 Q Okay. And likewise, I don't see a text from him  
16 to her later than 10:47 in the evening?

17 A You're just talking about on the 2nd?

18 Q On the 2nd?

19 A There's multiple pages.

20 Q But on that page I was handing you?

21 A On the page you handed me, that's correct, but  
22 there's multiple pages and multiple times.

23 Q All right. So, the second page, are these -- it  
24 looks like these pages are running backwards because it  
25 starts off May 2nd at the top of the page and it ends up

## WALTER BENTLEY-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1     like May 1st?

2           A     They do kind of run backwards.  Sometimes time  
3     stamps are intertwined.  Sometimes they'll get an earlier  
4     time stamp mixed in.  I don't know why.

5           Q     So, on the second page, it appears, just  
6     counting your blue stripes, and I know you're relying on  
7     my math being correct, but it appears one, two, three,  
8     four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14,  
9     15, 16 times that Clatie tested Clifton just on the second  
10    page?

11          A     Assuming your math --

12          Q     I know you're counting on my math, but that's  
13    assuming I hit every one.  Then your third page is,  
14    basically, May 3rd to May 2nd.  It starts off on May 3rd  
15    and ends up somewhere on May 2nd?

16          A     Yes, it looks like around 2151, which is 9:51 on  
17    May 2nd.  Like I said earlier, the time is being disbursed  
18    between the pages.

19          Q     But mostly that page is May 3rd?

20          A     The bulk of it 5/3.  There's only three texts on  
21    that page with 5/2 on them.

22          Q     How many blue lines, which are texts from Clatie  
23    to Clifton?

24          A     Looks like 11.

25          Q     Okay.  So, it's 11 on the third page, 16 on the

## WALTER BENTLEY-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 second page and what did we say was on the first page?

2 A I'm not sure. The total I had was 35 for three  
3 pages.

4 Q In a one-day period from her to him?

5 A Approximately one day, yes, sir.

6 Q And his was a little over 40?

7 A His was 50.

8 Q Fifty. So, she texted 35 times in those two  
9 days or that day beforehand and he texted her 50?

10 A Fifty, yes.

11 Q Okay. Do you know if Ms. Clatie only used one  
12 phone?

13 A I don't have knowledge of how many phones she  
14 had.

15 Q Okay. Do you know people who use more than one  
16 phone?

17 A I've heard of it. I've only had one phone in my  
18 life, but I know people who have two.

19 Q But my question is do you know whether other  
20 people possibly use other phones, too?

21 A Anything is possible, Mr.~Verner.

22 Q You don't know anybody?

23 A I said I knew examples of people who use two  
24 phones. I personally never have.

25 Q Okay. Do you know if Ms. Clatie had a land

## WALTER BENTLEY-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 line?

2 A I'm not familiar.

3 Q Okay. She may have, may not have, you don't  
4 know?

5 A Just my recollection of the pictures in this  
6 case, I don't recall seeing one. But I couldn't be 100  
7 percent without asking somebody.

8 Q The shorter the telephone call, the more likely  
9 it is that it didn't go through?

10 A Yes, sir. There's no duration set or minute  
11 over, they're all under -- well under a minute.

12 Q Do you know whether people -- a lot of people  
13 sometimes answer phone calls with text?

14 A Some people do. If I'm here in court and  
15 somebody calls me, I text them and tell them I'm in court.

16 Q That's not that uncommon? I would see so and so  
17 called me, my wife called me and I would text her back and  
18 say I'm busy or something?

19 A I would say it's not uncommon.

20 Q All right. And then some people -- my phone has  
21 the ability where I can turn off the ringer. Does your  
22 phone have something like that?

23 A Silent mode?

24 Q Right.

25 A Yeah.

WALTER BENTLEY-REDIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 Q That's a pretty common feature, too?

2 A It is.

3 Q Sometimes when people go to bed, they'll turn  
4 off the ringers. Have you heard of people doing that?

5 A Yeah.

6 Q So, I could call you after 8:30 in the evening  
7 when Bentley turned off his cell phone, it would go pretty  
8 much straight to voice mail without you ever hearing the  
9 phone?

10 A Because of my job, I leave my phone on 24/7 in  
11 case a law enforcement agency needs my help, but if I  
12 didn't, it may would if I cut it off, yes.

13 MR. VERNER: Okay. Thank you, Investigator  
14 Bentley.

15 THE COURT: Redirect?

16 MR. DANIEL: Briefly, Your Honor.

17 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

18 BY MR. DANIEL:

19 Q Investigator Bentley, Clifton Boozer's phone  
20 records from Verizon, were they in Eastern time or UTC?

21 A My understanding Eastern timezone.

22 Q All right. And according to the phone records  
23 from Verizon, what time does it show Boozer making a call  
24 to 911?

25 A It shows a 911 call at 8:26, which is another

WALTER BENTLEY-REDIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 reason I think all these records are Eastern Standard Time  
2 because we know from the CAD report that the call came in  
3 at 8:26?

4 Q You're already ahead of me. The CAD report that  
5 was admitted into evidence, State's No. 1, what time does  
6 it say that call came through?

7 A 8:26.

8 Q And from what number?

9 A Came from (803)924-6991, which is the same  
10 number on the Verizon wireless records.

11 Q And that's how we can tell, definitively state  
12 the Verizon records are in Eastern timezone?

13 A That's correct.

14 Q That we're all familiar with. And again, his  
15 phone records reveal that he called Clatie Stribble  
16 approximately how many times prior to the death?

17 A He called 41 times.

18 Q Forty-one times?

19 A On May 2nd.

20 Q May 2nd. And related to the text messaging  
21 content, the only way we can determine the content of the  
22 text messages is to actually get into Boozer's phone?

23 A That's the only way, yes.

24 Q Okay. Without the password, we aren't able to  
25 do that?



## WALTER BENTLEY-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 A Yes, can't do that without the password.

2 MR. DANIEL: Thank you.

3 MR. VERNER: Just brief, brief followup.

4 CROSS-EXAMINATION

5 BY MR. VERNER:

6 Q Do you know where my office is?

7 A Right over there. I've been there before.

8 Q I maintain an office in the courthouse, don't I?

9 A In the back halls, I see you here sometimes.

10 Q Did the solicitors ever ask you to walk down the  
11 hall and ask you to try to find out a password for the  
12 phone?

13 A No.

14 MR. VERNER: Okay. Thank you.

15 THE COURT: All right. Mr. Bentley, thank you,  
16 you can step down.

17 Next witness here?

18 MR. SCOTT: Let me check.

19 THE COURT: Yes, sir.

20 MR. SCOTT: She is here, Your Honor.

21 THE COURT: All right. She shouldn't be that  
22 long, correct?

23 MR. SCOTT: That's correct.

24 THE COURT: Go ahead and call your next witness.

25 MR. SCOTT: The State calls Vanissia Wright.

VANISSIA WRIGHT-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 THE CLERK: Raise your right hand, place your  
2 left hand on the Bible.

3 VANISSIA WRIGHT, after being duly sworn,  
4 testified as follows:

5 THE CLERK: Have seat, state your name for the  
6 record.

7 THE WITNESS: Vanissia Wright.

8 DIRECT EXAMINATION

9 BY MR. SCOTT:

10 Q Vanissia, where are you employed right now?

11 A I'm an at-home mom.

12 Q You just had a baby, didn't you?

13 A Yes, sir.

14 Q But last year, May of last year, weren't you  
15 working for a cab company here in Newberry?

16 A Blue Cabs, yes, sir.

17 Q Blue Cabs. How long had you worked there at  
18 that time?

19 A I've been there ever since 2015.

20 Q Okay. When did you stop working there?

21 A It was, I want to say, June of 2017.

22 Q Okay. And you know why we're here, I met with  
23 you before, did I not?

24 A Yes.

25 Q And we spoke a little bit about this case.

VANISSIA WRIGHT-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 Specifically May 3rd of 2017, do you remember picking up  
2 Clifton Boozer?

3 A Yes, sir.

4 Q Okay. Was he somebody you were familiar with?

5 A He was a regular customer.

6 Q A regular customer.

7 A Yes, sir.

8 Q Where did you have to pick him up?

9 A Between work and Prosperity.

10 Q So, he -- where was his work? In the past,  
11 where was he working where he would get you to pick him up  
12 from?

13 A He had, I'd say, probably about three different  
14 jobs from 2015 until 2017.

15 Q Okay.

16 A The last one I remember was Louis Rich, I think.

17 Q Okay. So, when you'd take him to Prosperity, do  
18 you remember where in Prosperity you would take him?

19 A To his home.

20 Q Okay. At the time, did you think he was -- did  
21 you understand him to be living at the Conifer Drive  
22 house?

23 A I never met the lady or, you know, the people  
24 that he was staying with, I never met them. I just met  
25 him and his kids one time.

## VANISSIA WRIGHT-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 Q Where would you meet his kids?

2 A I picked them up from Prosperity and took them  
3 back home.

4 Q Where was their home?

5 A I believe they was staying in a trailer in  
6 Prosperity.

7 Q So, those were his children, is that what you  
8 understood those kids to be?

9 A Yes, sir.

10 Q But just correct me, your testimony is that you  
11 would pick him up from his work, sometimes at Louis Rich,  
12 and take him from Newberry to Prosperity?

13 A Yes, sir.

14 Q And you said the house that you would go to, you  
15 never met the lady that was inside?

16 A Uh-huh.

17 Q How did you know a lady lived there?

18 A I mean, I -- we done had words before. And I  
19 met her kids, so I assumed that he was married.

20 Q Was this a white lady or a black lady? You  
21 don't know?

22 A I really wouldn't know.

23 Q What house did she live at?

24 A The first time I met him, they was staying in a  
25 trailer.

VANISSIA WRIGHT-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 Q I'm sorry, we just had to come get you to bring  
2 you from Clinton and you just literally walked in the  
3 courtroom, didn't you?

4 A Yes, sir.

5 Q Let's do it this way. Do you remember May 4th  
6 of 2017 when the Prosperity Police Department got in touch  
7 with you and they asked you some questions?

8 A Yes, sir.

9 Q Okay. Then did you give them a statement?

10 A Yes, sir.

11 Q Okay. Let me show you --

12 MR. SCOTT: Let me get this one marked. This is  
13 one I don't have premarked.

14 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibit No. 73 was marked  
15 for identification only.)

16 BY MR. SCOTT:

17 Q Vanissia, this is premarked as State's 73, do  
18 you recognize that?

19 A Yes, sir.

20 Q Okay. You gave that on May 4th, 2017. Were you  
21 working the night before?

22 A Yes, sir.

23 Q Driving the cab. Okay. And do you remember  
24 that night picking up Mr.~Boozer?

25 A Yes, sir.

VANISSIA WRIGHT-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 Q Okay. Tell me what you remember about that.

2 A I got a call that morning to pick him up. We  
3 normally -- I mean, we don't know who they is or whatever,  
4 but I end up picking him up that morning. And we talked,  
5 you know, along the way to taking him to Prosperity. And  
6 I dropped him off not at his house, that I know to be his  
7 house, I dropped him off a house before his. And I left  
8 the road after that and went to my next trip.

9 Q Okay. Do you remember about what time you  
10 picked him up that night?

11 A It was probably about 4, 5 o'clock in the  
12 morning.

13 Q Okay. And you got your statement there, if that  
14 helps you refresh your memory. Because you gave this the  
15 day after, did you not?

16 A Yes, sir.

17 Q So, you think it was sometime between 4:00 a.m.  
18 and 5:00 a.m. Is it still dark outside?

19 A Yes, sir.

20 Q Do you remember where you picked him up from?

21 A Newberry Arms.

22 Q So, that's here in Newberry city?

23 A Yes, sir.

24 Q And he needed a ride at 4:00 or 5:00 a.m. all  
25 the way to Prosperity?

## VANISSIA WRIGHT-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1           A     To Prosperity.

2           Q     And that was something you had done before, had  
3 you not?

4           A     Yes, sir.

5           Q     Was that the first time in a while that you had  
6 seen him?

7           A     Yes, sir. Like I said, the last time I saw him,  
8 he was working at Louis Rich. After that, I haven't saw  
9 him. I didn't see him no more.

10          Q     And then you got a call from him or you had to  
11 pick him up just out of the blue on May 3rd between 4:00  
12 and 5:00 a.m.?

13          A     Yes, sir. It was around 4:00 or 5:00 a.m., yes,  
14 sir.

15          Q     Do you remember it being dark outside or was it  
16 daylight yet?

17          A     It was dark. I had just dropped someone off at  
18 the Waffle House. It was dark.

19          Q     Okay. Then tell me what you remember about him  
20 while y'all were driving to Prosperity. How was he  
21 behaving?

22          A     Well, he was talking a little bit. He didn't  
23 seem like -- to me, he just seemed normal. I mean, I  
24 didn't recognize anything was wrong with him at the time,  
25 the moment or nothing. Because we was both just laughing

VANISSIA WRIGHT-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 and talking. I always talk to all my customers once they  
2 get in the car, you know, have a conversation with them.  
3 I didn't see nothing out of -- you know, see anything that  
4 was wrong.

5 Q Okay. What was normal for Clifton Boozer in  
6 your experience?

7 A He's joking, he's laughing. He always going to  
8 smile and stuff like that, you know, to you, I mean.

9 Q Okay. Well, what, if anything, do you remember  
10 about -- did he seem like he had been drinking?

11 A Yeah, I mean.

12 Q Was that normal for him?

13 A Yeah.

14 Q Okay. Did -- in your experience with him, did  
15 it seem like he was on something else?

16 A Not at the time, the moment, no. I mean,  
17 besides him looking like he was probably drunk or  
18 whatever, not really. I mean, his eyes always -- I mean,  
19 they always big.

20 Q His eyes always what?

21 A Big, like wide opened. And that night, once he  
22 got out the car, you know, after all this happened, I  
23 assumed that something was on his mind, something was  
24 wrong with him at the time, the moment, I mean.

25 Q All right. I don't want you to read it out



VANISSIA WRIGHT-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 loud, but look at the second page of your statement. Down  
2 towards the bottom, they asked what his behavior was like  
3 and you gave an answer?

4 A Yeah, he was acting like something was wrong  
5 with him. Like I said, he didn't really talk to me like  
6 he normally do, he was more quiet than he ever been.

7 Q You said normally, it was kind of -- he would be  
8 joking and sort of laughing?

9 A He be laughing and talking and joking.

10 Q But it was different this time?

11 A Yeah.

12 Q Do you remember what he was wearing?

13 A He always dressed up. I know he had on a black  
14 shirt, black coat that night, because it was cold,  
15 probably some blue jeans. And he loved to wear his hats,  
16 you know. I forget what kind of hat it was, but he always  
17 have something over his head when it cold and stuff like  
18 that outside. It was a black hoodie, I think.

19 Q Did he have the hoodie on his head? Let me show  
20 you State's No. 5. Is that how he appeared when you saw  
21 him?

22 A That's a black hoodie, yes, sir.

23 Q Do you recall whether he had the hoodie -- was  
24 he covering his head with it or not?

25 A He didn't -- when he was riding, he didn't have

VANISSIA WRIGHT-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 a hood all the way on his head. He had it like probably  
2 half way on him.

3 Q Okay. And when he got out, when you finally got  
4 to Prosperity -- do you remember the address?

5 A No.

6 Q Would you recognize it if I showed it to you,  
7 the house? Let me show you State's No. 4, do you  
8 recognize this?

9 A Yes.

10 Q Okay. If I told you the address is [REDACTED] Conifer,  
11 does that ring a bell?

12 A I really don't know the streets name. Once they  
13 show me how to get there, I remember the directions and  
14 stuff like that.

15 Q And you said you had dropped him off there  
16 before, that wasn't the first time you dropped him off  
17 there?

18 A No, sir.

19 Q Do you remember if the porch lights were on or  
20 off at the house?

21 A You mean for that night?

22 Q Yes, ma'am.

23 A No, it wasn't no lights on.

24 Q There weren't any lights on?

25 A No, sir.

VANISSIA WRIGHT-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 Q Was that typical of how the house appeared when  
2 you would drop him off there or were they normally on when  
3 he was getting dropped off?

4 A Normal time he get dropped off is a light on in  
5 the yard so I guess they can see.

6 Q But on this occasion, there was no light on?

7 A No, sir.

8 Q Again, let me ask you --

9 MR. SCOTT: Walter, can I get the aerial?

10 Q This is a --

11 MR. SCOTT: Can you put that one up?

12 MR. VERNER: I think this big one on the TV  
13 might have a better chance.

14 MR. SCOTT: Judge, this is one -- I'm going to  
15 go ahead -- it's just another aerial expanded.

16 MR. VERNER: If they want to mark it, I have no  
17 objection.

18 MR. SCOTT: I'm going to publish it, but I'd  
19 like to enter a colored copy. We just haven't had a  
20 chance to print it up yet. But tentatively, it will  
21 be State's 73 --

22 THE COURT REPORTER: Seventy-four.

23 MR. SCOTT: Seventy-four.

24 THE COURT: All right. You can substitute it  
25 later for the black and white.

VANISSIA WRIGHT-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 MR. SCOTT: Okay. Walter, can you just -- it's  
2 going to be State's 74.

3 MR. VERNER: In lieu of substituting, Your  
4 Honor, I just ask that they keep that one in there,  
5 just staple on top of it the aerial.

6 THE COURT: That's fine.

7 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibit No. 74 was marked  
8 for identification and received into evidence.)

9 MR. SCOTT: All right. Keep working on that.

10 BY MR. SCOTT:

11 Q I'm going to ask you, Vanissia, normally, when  
12 you dropped him off, you said a light was typically on  
13 when you dropped him off. Did you pull up to his house  
14 that he got let out at typically?

15 A No, they was doing yard work.

16 Q No, no, no. Do you understand what typically  
17 means? What I mean, in the past, you said you had taken  
18 him there a few times before, right?

19 A Yes, sir.

20 Q And the light was normally on the porch when you  
21 would drop him off, right?

22 A Yes, sir.

23 Q But on this occasion, May 3rd, 2017, you said  
24 the light was not on. And that was not typical, was it?

25 A No, sir.

## VANISSIA WRIGHT-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 Q Okay. And did you normally in the past drop him  
2 off at the house?

3 A Yes, sir.

4 Q But on May 3rd, did he want you to drop him off  
5 at the house?

6 A No, sir.

7 Q Where did he ask you to drop him off?

8 A A house before his.

9 Q On the left or the right?

10 A On the left.

11 Q Okay. Here we go. This is going to be what I  
12 was referring to, State's No. 74. Can you step down just  
13 one second, Vanissia? All right. You recognize this as  
14 Conifer and that being the house that he would get dropped  
15 off at?

16 A Uh-huh.

17 Q And you said normally when you dropped him off,  
18 you let him out just in front of the house at ■ Conifer?

19 A Yes.

20 Q Okay. Where did he want you to drop him off  
21 this time?

22 A Right here.

23 Q Okay. At the top of that driveway?

24 A Uh-huh.

25 Q We don't know the address, but that is a little

## VANISSIA WRIGHT-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 distance from the house. Tell me the reason he asked you  
2 to drop him off there instead of at the house?

3 A They was some yard work being done.

4 Q So, he said, Don't take me all the way down  
5 there, we got some yard work going on?

6 A Yes, sir.

7 Q Had he ever asked you to do that before?

8 A No, sir.

9 Q Okay. And then, I guess, did he get out of your  
10 cab up here?

11 A Yes, sir.

12 Q Which direction did he walk in?

13 A Headed towards the house.

14 Q This is the house that he was going to and  
15 normally went to. What is this house right here?

16 A That's a blue house in front of his house.

17 Q Okay. Show us the direction that you saw him  
18 traveling in when he went down the road.

19 A Basically, when he got out the vehicle, he went  
20 this way. By the time I backed up and was looking behind  
21 me, I didn't see him no more. So, I mean, I couldn't  
22 actually say if he went through the blue house way through  
23 the woods or he went straight to the house because I  
24 didn't see him no more after I started backing up.

25 Q So, you don't know -- he went towards the house,

## VANISSIA WRIGHT-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 but you couldn't tell when exactly he dipped off to the  
2 right of the roadway?

3 A Yes, sir.

4 Q Okay. Now, tell me how it was that you went and  
5 spoke with law enforcement about this? How did they find  
6 out -- or how did you find out you needed to speak with  
7 them?

8 A They found me.

9 Q They found you?

10 A Through the Blue Cabs' owner. Use time, we have  
11 to document who's driving that night or that morning. And  
12 I had just pulled from day shift to night shift, working  
13 two shifts for them. I had went home about 5:00 that  
14 afternoon, that's when they finally got in contact with me  
15 and told me that I had to come in to talk to possibly the  
16 police officers. I never knew the gentleman name. I  
17 didn't know what he was talking about because, at first, I  
18 was, you know, in denial that I was the one that was  
19 driving the vehicle. Then once they showed me a picture  
20 of him, that's when I just told them yes, it was me  
21 driving.

22 Q What you mean you were in denial about being the  
23 driver?

24 A Because I didn't remember at the time, the  
25 moment. You know, they was trying to explain who he was

VANISSIA WRIGHT-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 to me over the phone, you know, how he looked, stuff like  
2 that. I was like, I don't know who you talking about, you  
3 know, like that. But then once I got into the police area  
4 and they showed me pictures of him, they asked me do you  
5 recognize anybody on this paper? And it was like  
6 different people pictures on there. And I saw his face  
7 and I pointed at him, I was like, Yeah, I remember him.

8 That's when -- they was like, Where did you  
9 take him to?

10 And I was like, Prosperity.

11 You know, that's when they said, Are you  
12 aware of what happened?

13 And I was like, No, not really. My boss  
14 was trying to tell me over the phone, but then he was  
15 like, I'll let the police officers talk to you more about  
16 it. So, that's when I found out.

17 Q So, you didn't know -- whenever they were asking  
18 you about the last person you dropped off, you didn't know  
19 there had been a homicide the night before?

20 A No, I didn't know nothing.

21 Q And you said they just showed you a piece of  
22 paper and asked you if you recognized anyone on it?

23 A Uh-huh.

24 Q Did you end up recognizing somebody?

25 A Yes, sir.



VANISSIA WRIGHT-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 Q Did you circle the picture, the guy you  
2 recognized?

3 A Yes, sir.

4 Q Was that the person you were describing dropping  
5 off here at Conifer?

6 A Yes, sir.

7 Q This is State's 62, is that what you're talking  
8 about?

9 A Yes, sir.

10 Q Do you recognize that?

11 A Yes, sir.

12 Q Is that your initials on that picture where you  
13 circled the guy's face?

14 A Yes, sir.

15 Q Okay.

16 MR. SCOTT: Your Honor, that's the six-pack.  
17 The State offers State's No. 62 for admission into  
18 evidence.

19 MR. VERNER: Without objection.

20 THE COURT: It's in evidence.

21 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibit No. 62 was admitted  
22 into evidence.)

23 BY MR. SCOTT:

24 Q Tell me -- everybody kind of knows the -- yeah,  
25 this is it right here in State's 62. How certain were you

## VANISSIA WRIGHT-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 that was the guy you had driven the night before?

2 A Because once they said that it was down by the  
3 post office, I mean, I remember, basically, all my  
4 customers that get in the car and where they're going,  
5 their route trips, you know, stuff like that. And like I  
6 had picked him up when he was going to work and stuff.  
7 So, I knew it was just a few places he rather go. He  
8 didn't travel all through Newberry and stuff like that.  
9 If it wasn't him being with his kids or being at his  
10 family members' house, then he was in Prosperity. You  
11 know, I was picking him up for one of those trips.

12 Q Okay. Tell me, the walking track right there in  
13 Prosperity, you know, kind of near the church, it's a big  
14 walking loop. I remember you telling me something. What  
15 was going on when you and this guy were passing the  
16 walking loop heading towards where you were going to drop  
17 him off? What was he doing? What was his behavior?

18 A Like I said, it wasn't really a conversation.  
19 He was mostly quiet that morning. He mostly just kept  
20 looking out the window, I mean.

21 Q That's what I'm asking about, describe that. He  
22 was looking out the window. What do you mean?

23 A Like, he looked like he might have just been --  
24 when a person just stay to they self, you know, don't want  
25 to conversate, don't want to be bothered. He was mostly

VANISSIA WRIGHT-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 just -- he wasn't looking at me or, you know, how we  
2 normally be in the cab. It was some quietness. He just  
3 look around, you know, stuff like that.

4 Q Okay. Maybe I misunderstood. Was he looking  
5 out the back of the window and looking all around or just  
6 kind of gazing out of his window?

7 A He gaze out of his window. He probably looked  
8 back a few times, you know. I mean, but he mostly wasn't  
9 like -- it was like I wasn't even there, basically.

10 Q Okay. It was just not how it normally was when  
11 you dropped him off?

12 A Yes.

13 Q All right. Okay.

14 MR. SCOTT: Your Honor, I would offer her  
15 statement as well into evidence. That's State's No.  
16 73.

17 MR. VERNER: Your Honor, the statement is not  
18 admissible unless used to impeach her or --

19 THE COURT: Sounds like she testified  
20 consistently with the statement, so I don't see any  
21 reason for it to come into evidence.

22 MR. SCOTT: Yeah, just so the jury would recall  
23 what she testified to, but they can rely on their  
24 memory, certainly.

25 Answer any questions Mr.~Verner has for you.

VANISSIA WRIGHT-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

CROSS-EXAMINATION

1

2

BY MR. VERNER:

3

Q Just so I get it right, you pronounce your first

4

Vanissia?

5

A Vanissia.

6

Q Vanissia. Are you from Newberry?

7

A Yes, sir.

8

Q Okay. I don't want to be presumptuous, but

9

could I ask how old you are?

10

A Twenty-nine.

11

Q Twenty-nine? Still in your 20's, good. How

12

long you been driving a taxi?

13

A I been driving taxi cabs from 2015 to 2017.

14

Q So, you drove -- you don't do that anymore?

15

A No.

16

Q Okay. But you did that about two years, give or

17

take?

18

A Yes, sir.

19

Q And for what company?

20

A Blue Cabs.

21

Q Blue Cabs?

22

A Yes, sir.

23

Q Where are they in Newberry? Where is their main

24

hub?

25

A We was downtown beside the library, then we

## VANISSIA WRIGHT-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 transferred to First Street and at his mother's house. He  
2 was running, basically, a cab business from there.

3 Q Does he supply the cars?

4 A Yes, he supply the cars.

5 Q Okay. So, First Street is out towards Oakland  
6 Mill?

7 A Yes, sir.

8 Q Okay. That's where he dispatches from, I  
9 guess --

10 A Yes, sir.

11 Q -- or take the calls from?

12 A We dispatch ourself.

13 Q Okay. Does Blue Cabs have a phone number?

14 A Yes, sir.

15 Q What's that phone number?

16 A (803)276-0699. And then we have 2394.

17 Q Okay. 276-0699 would be like the yellow page  
18 phone?

19 A Um --

20 Q Or advertised -- is there a phone number on the  
21 side of the cabs?

22 A Yes.

23 Q What number would that be?

24 A 276-0699.

25 Q Okay. And that's kind of the main number?

## VANISSIA WRIGHT-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1           A     It used to be, yes, sir.

2           MR. VERNER:   May I approach, Your Honor?

3           THE COURT:    Sure.

4   BY MR. VERNER:

5           Q     What's this phone number right here?

6           A     276-0699.

7           Q     Okay.   Does it appear to be a telephone number  
8   right here?

9           A     Yes.

10          Q     What's that phone number?

11          A     924-6991?

12          Q     Okay.   So, can you tell me what time of the  
13   morning it appears the phone call was made?

14          A     At 4:57.

15          Q     Okay.   So, assuming this is a telephone record,  
16   the call came from the 6991 number to the taxi cab number  
17   about 4:57 in morning?

18          A     (The witness nods.)

19          Q     Okay.   If could I ask you -- okay, so if I want  
20   a taxi cab, I call 0699?

21          A     Yes, sir.

22          Q     Then he radios or calls you or texts you if  
23   you're on duty and tells you where to go to pick up the  
24   fare?

25          A     Like I said, we normally have to phone ourself,

## VANISSIA WRIGHT-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1     dispatch yourself.

2           Q     So, I mean, does the call at 0699, it transfers  
3     over to whoever's driving?

4           A     Uh-huh.

5           Q     So, if I called 0699 on May 3rd while you were  
6     on shift, it would have been transferred straight to your  
7     cell phone?

8           A     To the cab's cell phone. They have two cell  
9     phones that we have to use.

10          Q     So, you used more than one cell phone when you  
11     were in the cab?

12          A     Yes, sir.

13          Q     Okay. How unusual. Then -- do you -- but if he  
14     called the number, it actually dispatches to the cell  
15     phone in that particular cab, not to your personal cell  
16     phone?

17          A     No, not to my personal cell phone.

18          Q     Then you speak to them and get the information  
19     on where to pick them up?

20          A     Yes, sir.

21          Q     Do you ever have occasion to call them back on  
22     your cell phone to say, you know, I'm running late or I'm  
23     picking up so and so there?

24          A     Yes. If they not outside when we get there, we  
25     can call their phone back and say hey, you called a cab,

## VANISSIA WRIGHT-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 we outside, stuff like that.

2 Q If they're not where they're supposed to be, I  
3 can call them up and say where are you?

4 A Yeah, or see sometimes -- most the time, we have  
5 a no call, no show, like they call and not be there  
6 anymore. So, then we have to try to keep calling them to  
7 let them know that owe us money for coming out.

8 Q Okay. And sometimes, you might be taking other  
9 people at that time --

10 A Yeah, have to let them know we probably be 10  
11 minutes late or, you know, we backed up, something like  
12 that.

13 Q Okay. Do you know what your cell phone number  
14 was -- or do you recognize the cell phone number 271-4668,  
15 is that a familiar cell phone number?

16 A It might have been. I change numbers a lot.

17 Q Okay. Just over the past few years, you've had  
18 different phones and different numbers?

19 A Yes.

20 Q That's pretty common, isn't it?

21 A Yes.

22 Q I think you indicated -- well, do you remember  
23 how long it took after you got the call -- you know  
24 Clifton Boozer?

25 A I mean, I never knew his name, but.



## VANISSIA WRIGHT-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 Q You knew him as a regular customer?

2 A Yes.

3 Q And I think you testified you'd been picking him  
4 up either from home or to work or various for about since  
5 2015?

6 A Yes.

7 Q So, you've known this customer for about two  
8 years?

9 A Off and on, yes, sir.

10 Q Did you know Ms. Clatie Stribble?

11 A No.

12 Q Do you know if you ever picked them up and  
13 driven them both anywhere? Or do you remember picking up  
14 Clifton and his girlfriend?

15 A I never picked up his girlfriend. I don't think  
16 so.

17 Q Ms. Clatie. You don't recall ever picking her  
18 up?

19 A No, I picked up the kids before with him.

20 Q Okay.

21 MR. VERNER: Mr. Bentley, are you behind the --  
22 would you put up number three?

23 Q If I were to show you the front of the house --  
24 I just want to make sure we're all -- can you step down  
25 for a second? Is this the house you're talking about?

## VANISSIA WRIGHT-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1           A     Yes, sir, the blue house right here.

2           Q     Okay. The driveway we're talking about would be  
3 where?

4           A     This is the driveway right here facing this way.

5           Q     So, this picture is taken from somebody standing  
6 in the road?

7           A     Yes, sir.

8           Q     Okay. Thank you. You can step back. Now,  
9 Conifer, do you remember Conifer Drive, the road where  
10 this house is?

11          A     Yes, sir, I remember how to get there.

12          Q     Is that a paved road or is it kind of gravel or  
13 is it rough or what's the -- dirt?

14          A     It was dirt like.

15          Q     It's a dirt road?

16          A     Yes.

17          Q     Is it kind of a wooded area?

18          A     A lot of trees.

19          Q     Are there street lights there?

20          A     Not really, no. In the yards maybe.

21          Q     Okay. Individual houses might have lights on in  
22 the house or outside, but it's not a really lit road?

23          A     No.

24          Q     Okay. Is that the property that you've been  
25 taking Clifton Boozer to for the last two years?

## VANISSIA WRIGHT-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1           A     Not the whole time I've been working at Blue  
2     Cabs, no.

3           Q     Okay. How often would you take Clifton to that  
4     house?

5           A     I started back picking him up from off of that  
6     road, it was probably 2016, the end of 2016.

7           Q     Okay.

8           A     My other cab driver that was working for me, he  
9     was making payments or whatever for him to get back and  
10    forth to Louis Rich at that time, the moment. I picked  
11    him up from down there when he was working two times.

12          Q     So, it wasn't just you who was picking up  
13    Clifton there, there was also another taxi driver who  
14    would make trips to that house, too?

15          A     Yeah. If he had to go to work or come to work,  
16    I wouldn't be working in the morning all the time.

17          Q     Would you say that y'all covered it about equal  
18    or you did slightly more or he did more?

19          A     They probably did more than I did.

20          Q     Okay. As for you, how often would you take  
21    Clifton Boozer from that house or to that house?

22          A     I picked him up one time from work and took him  
23    home. And I picked him up maybe three or four times at  
24    night and probably took him to Newberry or took him back  
25    down there.

## VANISSIA WRIGHT-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 Q Okay. Do you remember how long it had been  
2 before May 3rd that you had made that commute?

3 A Last time I saw him was that morning when I took  
4 him from work back to Prosperity.

5 Q When you say that morning, what morning are you  
6 talking about?

7 A I don't remember actually what day it was, but I  
8 remember he was just getting off of work. It was probably  
9 8:00, 9 o'clock that morning. He was getting off from  
10 Louis Rich and I took him to Prosperity to that location.

11 Q Do you know roughly how long that was before May  
12 3rd, the day the police officer --

13 A It was probably 2000 -- it had to be to end of  
14 2016 or the beginning of 2017 when he was working at Louis  
15 Rich.

16 Q Okay. Have you ever had to testify as a witness  
17 in court before?

18 A No, sir.

19 Q So, little bit nerve racking?

20 A Yes.

21 Q If you want any water or anything, let me know,  
22 but it won't be much longer. Which seat was Clifton --  
23 when you picked him up, you picked him up again from  
24 Newberry Arms?

25 A Uh-huh.

## VANISSIA WRIGHT-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1           Q     Was it unusual for you to pick him up early in  
2 the morning?

3           A     When I picked him up early in the morning, it  
4 was from Louis Rich. When I picked him up from Newberry  
5 Arms, it was mostly at night.

6           Q     Okay. Which seat was Clifton in when you picked  
7 him up and took him to that house?

8           A     He was in the driver's seat -- I mean, not the  
9 driver's seat, in the passenger seat.

10          Q     Up front?

11          A     Yes, up front with me.

12          Q     And I believe you testified you remember it  
13 being chilly that early morning?

14          A     Uh-huh.

15          Q     Again, how many times you think you seen this  
16 house in the picture? How many times you think you been  
17 there?

18          A     I been there more than -- maybe more than five  
19 times.

20          Q     Okay. Both dropping off and picking up?

21          A     Yes.

22          Q     Then you also had a partner or a coworker who  
23 was also familiar with that location?

24          A     Yes. I mean, you have seven different people  
25 day shift and night shift. He call and they go pick him

## VANISSIA WRIGHT-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 up.

2 Q Was Cliff kind of considered by you like a  
3 regular customer?

4 A To me, he was a regular customer.

5 Q Okay. When I think of somebody -- when I used  
6 the expression I had words with that lady or I had words  
7 with somebody, I, typically, think of it wasn't  
8 necessarily pleasant. When you said you had words with  
9 Ms. Clatie before, you mean you had arguments with her or  
10 problems or --

11 A She -- I mean, she was upset with me. I had  
12 just started driving Blue Cabs in 2015. And I go pick him  
13 up from her residence. They wasn't staying in that house  
14 then, they was staying in a trailer.

15 Q Well, stop there for a second. So, when they  
16 were living in the trailer, did you make stops at that  
17 other house, too, had pick ups or deliveries?

18 A I used to go pick him up -- that's where I found  
19 him with the kids, when I picked him up from the other  
20 house.

21 Q So, prior to this house, there had been another  
22 location they had been living in that you had picked him  
23 off and dropped him off from?

24 A Yes, sir.

25 Q Was taxi the way he got to Louis Rich?

## VANISSIA WRIGHT-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 A Yes, sir.

2 Q Or from, back home?

3 A Yes, sir.

4 Q Okay. And a lot of people get to work that way  
5 at Louis Rich, right?

6 A Yes, sir.

7 Q Okay. I apologize, I interrupted you now. You  
8 said something in 2016 or so that you had words with  
9 Ms. Stribble?

10 A 2015.

11 Q Okay.

12 A We just had a disagreement about me picking him  
13 up. And she didn't want people to come pick him up and  
14 stuff like that in cabs and take him around.

15 Q Was there more to it than that or just she  
16 didn't like the cabs or she didn't like who he was with  
17 or?

18 A I guess she didn't like for him to come to  
19 Newberry and, I mean.

20 Q Did you take it just as kind of a girlfriend  
21 being jealous type situation?

22 A No. I mean, I took it as woman being concerned  
23 and trying to be, you know, protective of her family at  
24 the time, the moment, you know.

25 Q Okay. But all you were involved in is I'm just

## VANISSIA WRIGHT-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 a taxi driver called out for a fare?

2 A I couldn't say what I -- I can drop him off. I  
3 couldn't tell him he couldn't get in the cab or nothing  
4 like that, so. I mean, she made a complaint about it and  
5 I wasn't allowed to go pick him up if it was going to be  
6 an altercation. Once I saw him again, I let him know that  
7 she had contacted the cab company and said something about  
8 me picking him up, you know, he told me he had done talked  
9 to her, you know, and stuff like that and it was okay.

10 Q Was it just you personally she was angry with or  
11 just the whole taxi, she didn't want anybody?

12 A She didn't want really anybody to, you know,  
13 pick him up. She didn't want me to pick him up and take  
14 him around and stuff. Basically, it was about she didn't  
15 want him to spend his money I guess up in the cabs riding  
16 this place and that place.

17 Q Okay. Now, I'm a little bit confused. When the  
18 prosecutor -- I'm asking you, do you still have a pretty  
19 good recollection of picking up Cliff on May 3rd and  
20 dropping him off at that house early in the morning?

21 A Yes.

22 Q It's still -- you've got a memory, some memory  
23 of it?

24 A Yes.

25 Q Okay. So, I'm not asking you to use notes or



## VANISSIA WRIGHT-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 anything else like that. I'm asking you to recall as best  
2 you can remember. You initially indicated to the  
3 prosecutor that at first Cliff was talking to you and you  
4 were both laughing together on the ride over?

5 A That's what we normally do. We normally talking  
6 and laughing when he get in the vehicle. That specific  
7 night, we had something like a conversation. I was  
8 fussing about how I couldn't make no money in the cabs and  
9 stuff like that. He replied back. Then after a while, by  
10 the time we got to Prosperity, we was both quiet. I mean,  
11 we wasn't talking no more.

12 Q Okay. I believe he indicated to you don't pull  
13 in the driveway and you knew that they were doing yard  
14 work, right?

15 A No, he stated they was doing yard work.

16 Q Okay. But that's not the first time he asked  
17 you not to pull in the driveway, right?

18 A Um.

19 Q Do you remember when you first met with  
20 Lieutenant Bodiford of the Prosperity Police Department?

21 A Yes.

22 Q Is Lieutenant Bodiford in court? Do you see him  
23 in court?

24 A Yes.

25 Q Where is he?

## VANISSIA WRIGHT-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1           A     (The witness points.)

2           Q     He's the officer sitting to the far left end of  
3 the table?

4           A     Yes, sir.

5           Q     That's the officer you remember talking to on  
6 May 3rd?

7           A     Yes, sir.

8           Q     And he asked you -- would you like some water?

9           A     No, I'm just -- I was just --

10          Q     Okay. I know it's a little bit stressful, but  
11 you know you're just a witness, right?

12          A     Uh-huh.

13          Q     You met with Lieutenant Bodiford on May 3rd at  
14 the Prosperity Police Department, right?

15          A     Yes.

16          Q     That was late in the afternoon or late that day?

17          A     Later that afternoon?

18          Q     Uh-huh. You told Lieutenant Bodiford you  
19 usually took Cliff to that house about two times a week.  
20 Is that consistent with your recollection?

21          A     Yes, from work and then probably pick him up  
22 that night.

23          Q     Okay. And you always dropped him off at the  
24 same spot where you dropped him off on May 3rd because he  
25 always give you a reason not to pull into the yard. Is

## VANISSIA WRIGHT-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 that what you told Lieutenant Bodiford on May 3rd?

2 A It been a few times he say pull up that way.  
3 So, I mean, you know, when we pull up, it's like his  
4 driveway was too small, I guess, to turn the vehicle  
5 around in so then you have to turn around into another  
6 yard, back up, then go back out. Been a few times I could  
7 just pull to the side of his trailer, let him out, then  
8 you still have to turn around and stuff like that.

9 Q Yes, ma'am, I understand. But you told  
10 Lieutenant Bodiford on May 3rd, I drop him off at the same  
11 spot on Conifer Drive every time due to Boozer always  
12 making a different excuse not to pull into the yard. So,  
13 where you dropped him off on May 3rd is where you usually  
14 drop him off?

15 A Yes.

16 Q If I'm putting words in your mouth, you can  
17 correct me, but that's what you told Lieutenant Bodiford  
18 on May 3rd, right?

19 A Yes.

20 Q That I dropped him off where I usually drop him  
21 off?

22 A Drop him off, yes.

23 Q Okay. Do you know where Cliff had been at  
24 Newberry Arms prior to you picking him up?

25 A Who house it was or apartment? No. I don't

VANISSIA WRIGHT-REDIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 know who stays out that way.

2 Q That's fine. Ordinarily when he went to see  
3 Ms. Clatie early in the morning, I think you indicated to  
4 the prosecutor that she would turn the lights on for him?

5 A Yeah, the lights would be on.

6 Q Okay. Was that always the case or was that  
7 usually the case?

8 A Most of time, the light on.

9 Q Okay.

10 MR. VERNER: Ms. Wright, I understand it's been  
11 tough, but I appreciate the testimony unless the  
12 prosecutor has any follow up.

13 THE COURT: Any additional questions?

14 MR. SCOTT: I do, Your Honor. I do.

15 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

16 BY MR. SCOTT:

17 Q So, if a call came in at 4:57 to get picked up,  
18 how long does it take, to your recollection, to get from  
19 Newberry Arms to the Conifer Drive house?

20 A I came from 34, it's Bill White trailer park, I  
21 came from down that way. It took me probably about, I say  
22 10 minutes to get to Newberry Arms from Bill White. Then  
23 from Newberry Arms to Prosperity, I say about maybe 10  
24 minutes, somewhere up there, 10, 20 minutes to get down  
25 there.

## VANISSIA WRIGHT-REDIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 Q Okay. 10 to 15 or 10 to 20?

2 A 10 to 20, I say.

3 Q So, if we say at the very most, it's 20 minutes  
4 from Newberry Arms to Prosperity and you tack on another  
5 10 minutes, we're looking at 30 minutes, so you would  
6 call -- would it be possible you got there around 5:30  
7 a.m. if the call came in at 4:57?

8 A Yes, sir.

9 Q So, a number of things you talked about that  
10 were different that night. Normally, when you dropped him  
11 off, the light was on the porch. You said that.  
12 Normally, y'all joked around and laughed when you drove  
13 there, that was different this time. You said normally  
14 when he asked you to pick him up from Newberry Arms, that  
15 was at night. Then if he was going from Louis Rich, that  
16 would be a morning pick up?

17 A Morning thing, uh-huh.

18 Q I'm not saying he put words into your mouth, but  
19 your testimony earlier was that it was unusual that he  
20 made you drop him off at that neighbor's house?

21 A Yeah, I never dropped him off in front of  
22 somebody else driveway. You know, I normally drop him off  
23 in front of his house, go up, turn around, come back out,  
24 then -- I mean, I never dropped him off at somebody else  
25 house.

VANISSIA WRIGHT-REDIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1           Q     Just as a taxi driver, is it -- what you  
2 normally experience is somebody, if they ask for you to  
3 take them to their residence, you drop them off in front  
4 of their residence?

5           A     Yes.

6           Q     Did you see any yard work that would keep you  
7 from dropping him off at that house that night?

8           A     That night, when I pulled to the left and pulled  
9 right there in front of the mailbox, I was already in the  
10 position facing this way, like I was able to back up and  
11 turn back in towards his house like and just go back out.  
12 I never went all the way up to his yard or, you know, you  
13 drove past his yard to turn around or nothing.

14          Q     But you didn't see any tractors or lawn  
15 equipment that was that noticeable in his yard or anything  
16 like that?

17          A     I mean, from where I was and how dark the road  
18 was, I couldn't see if it was yard work did in there or  
19 not.

20          Q     And then he was kind of gone pretty quickly  
21 after he got out of the car, is that what your testimony  
22 was?

23          A     Yes, sir. By the time I started backing up, he  
24 wasn't in the way and he wasn't on the side of the car.  
25 Because I was trying to make sure I didn't hit him.

VANISSIA WRIGHT-REDIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 Q Okay.

2 MR. SCOTT: Okay. Thank you, that's all.

3 THE COURT: All right, ma'am, you can step down.  
4 Thank you very much for coming, you're free to go.

5 Ladies and gentlemen, I apologize for the late  
6 break for lunch. I was under the impression that was  
7 going to be the last witness and I was going to be  
8 finished with that one. We're going to go ahead and  
9 take our lunch break at this particular point in  
10 time. If you would, be back in the jury room in  
11 about an hour and five minutes, so about quarter till  
12 3:00 if you could. At that point in time, we'll  
13 proceed with further testimony on this case. Again,  
14 don't talk about the case during the lunch break.  
15 See you back at quarter till 3:00. Again, sorry it's  
16 so late taking a break. Sorry. See y'all in a bit.

17 (WHEREUPON, the jury left open court at  
18 approximately 1:38 p.m.)

19 THE COURT: All right, we'll be a ease.

20 (WHEREUPON, a lunch break was taken.)

21 THE COURT: All right, we're back on the record.  
22 I'm told that the jury is here. Just so that y'all  
23 are aware, the court needs to break today at 5:15, so  
24 we're going to shoot for that. I realize the State  
25 will go into tomorrow in their case, but I'd like to

1 try to break around 5:15.

2 Let's have the jury, please.

3 (WHEREUPON, the jury came into open court at  
4 approximately 3:00 p.m.)

5 THE COURT: All right, the record will reflect  
6 the jury is back and seated.

7 Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, I tell you  
8 what I just told the court personnel out here, we're  
9 going to break today around 5:15. I've got something  
10 I need to try to get squared away this evening in  
11 Greenwood. So, that's going to be your target time.

12 Solicitor, if you would call your next witness,  
13 please.

14 MR. SCOTT: The State calls Dr. Janice Ross.

15 THE CLERK: Raise your right hand, place your  
16 left hand on the Bible.

17 JANICE ROSS, M.D., after being duly sworn,  
18 testified as follows:

19 THE CLERK: Have a seat, state your name for the  
20 record.

21 THE WITNESS: Janice Edwards Ross, R-O-S-S.

22 DIRECT EXAMINATION

23 BY MR. SCOTT:

24 Q Dr. Ross, you are a forensic pathologist?

25 A Yes.



JANICE ROSS-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 Q And your office is here in Newberry, correct?

2 A Yes.

3 Q Just for the jury's education, describe what  
4 forensic pathology is.

5 A Yes. To become a forensic pathologist, you have  
6 to go through college for four years. I have a Bachelor's  
7 Degree in biology from the University of South Carolina.  
8 And I got my MD from Syracuse, New York Upstate. That's  
9 where I did further training in the field of pathology.  
10 Pathology, as oppose to surgery or pediatrics, is a field  
11 where we learn how to identify diseases by looking at  
12 tissue under a microscope or using the laboratory to  
13 identify diseases, kidney failure, for instance.

14 I further did training in a medical  
15 examiner's office in Syracuse, New York where I learned  
16 forensic pathology. The word forensic means legal, so we  
17 use our pathology knowledge in legal matters, such as  
18 homicides, suicides, accidents, rape cases. We learn how  
19 to do an autopsy to document the cause of death and the  
20 manner of death, document injuries and identify patterns  
21 of injuries. I've been board certified for three years in  
22 pathology.

23 Q Then on May 4th of last year, did you have  
24 occasion to perform an autopsy on Clatie Stribble?

25 A Yes.

JANICE ROSS-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 Q Okay. I've got your report listed as FA17389?

2 A That is correct.

3 Q Okay.

4 MR. SCOTT: Your Honor, I would -- and I think  
5 Mr. Verner is familiar with Dr. Ross' qualifications.  
6 I would offer her as an expert in the field of  
7 forensic pathology.

8 MR. VERNER: No objection.

9 THE COURT: Ladies and gentlemen, the Court  
10 agrees that Dr. Ross is an expert in the field of  
11 forensic pathology. As I explained earlier, she can  
12 give opinion testimony in that area.

13 MR. SCOTT: Thank you, Your Honor.

14 BY MR. SCOTT:

15 Q And just really to back up a minute, how many  
16 autopsies do you think you've performed in the last year  
17 probably?

18 A In this last year, about a thousand. Overall,  
19 about 12,000.

20 Q And you've testified in this particular court a  
21 number of times, have you not?

22 A A few times. In the State of South Carolina,  
23 about 200 times.

24 Q So, you had the occasion to perform the autopsy  
25 on the date of May 4th, 2017. According to your notes, on

JANICE ROSS-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 what day did Ms. Stribble die?

2 A On May 3, 2017.

3 Q Okay. And so, May 4th at 8:30 a.m. is when you  
4 did the autopsy?

5 A Yes.

6 Q Okay. First, before you did any of the, I  
7 guess, dissection, what were your observations of --  
8 externally on Ms. Stribble?

9 A First of all, when we do an autopsy, they come  
10 to us in the morgue at Newberry County Memorial Hospital.  
11 We will take photographs externally before we do any kind  
12 of internal work. And we found several types of injuries.  
13 We found sharp force injuries, blunt force injuries and  
14 evidence of strangulation.

15 Q Okay. Is it easier if we break down the  
16 injuries category by category that you just described?

17 A Yes.

18 Q Okay. Blunt force -- can I start with the blunt  
19 force injuries?

20 A Yes.

21 Q Where did you -- and describe the blunt force  
22 injuries you observed?

23 A Blunt force injuries occur when you're hit by a  
24 blunt force, like a baseball bat or a rod or something.

25 Q What about a fist?

JANICE ROSS-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1           A     Or a fist or if you fall. So, the blunt force  
2 injuries include bruises, which are called contusions.  
3 Abrasions, which are just surface abraded areas of the  
4 skin. And lacerations, which are the splitting of the  
5 skin when you're hit by an instrument.

6           Q     Okay. Specifically on Ms. Stribble, what blunt  
7 force injuries did you observe?

8           A     She had a bruise on the right side of her jaw,  
9 mandible.

10          Q     Okay. Let me show you State's No. 52.

11               MR. VERNER: Exhibit what?

12               MR. SCOTT: Fifty-two.

13               THE WITNESS: Yes, that shows the bruise.

14 BY MR. SCOTT:

15          Q     And this is a photograph that you would have  
16 taken?

17          A     Yes.

18          Q     All right.

19               MR. SCOTT: Just to prepare the jury, I've got a  
20 picture here that Dr. Ross has taken of Ms. Stribble.

21               MR. VERNER: Without objection.

22               You're entering it?

23               MR. SCOTT: Yes, the State offers 52 for  
24 admission into evidence.

25               THE COURT: In evidence without objection.

JANICE ROSS-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibit No. 52 was admitted  
2 into evidence.)

3 MR. SCOTT: Walter, while you do that, I'm going  
4 to continue on.

5 BY MR. SCOTT:

6 Q So, first of all, blunt force to the right chin,  
7 cheek area is what you described?

8 A Yes. And there was an abrasion under the bridge  
9 of the nose.

10 Q Okay. Let me show you State's No. 51, do you  
11 recognize that?

12 A Yes.

13 Q Okay. That was another blunt force injury you  
14 observed?

15 A Correct.

16 MR. SCOTT: All right. State's offers State's  
17 51 for admission into evidence.

18 THE COURT: Without objection, it's in evidence.

19 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibit No. 51 was admitted  
20 into evidence.)

21 BY MR. SCOTT:

22 Q Continue with the blunt force injuries.

23 A She had abrasions around her neck, right and  
24 left side, sort of horizontally oriented.

25 MR. VERNER: Did you offer 51 into evidence?

JANICE ROSS-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 MR. SCOTT: I did.

2 MR. VERNER: Without objection.

3 BY MR. SCOTT:

4 Q Okay. The neck blunt force injuries, how would  
5 you describe those? Can you describe them in more detail?  
6 Was it bruising?

7 A Bruising. Yes, bruising.

8 Q Okay. And that bruising, was that indicative of  
9 any action you've seen before?

10 A No specific pattern, but it is indicative of  
11 possible strangulation.

12 Q Okay. And you said it covered both sides of the  
13 neck?

14 A Yes.

15 Q In fact, do you see any of that in State's No.  
16 52, what you're describing?

17 A Yes.

18 Q Okay. We've got the cheek, the bridge of the  
19 nose, then the neck. What other blunt force injury did  
20 you observe?

21 A I forgot the head. There was a bruise on the  
22 inside of the left upper lip and an abrasion on the left  
23 lower lip.

24 Q Okay. That's State's No. 50, is that what  
25 you're describing?

JANICE ROSS-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 A Yes.

2 Q Okay.

3 MR. SCOTT: The State offers 50 for admission  
4 into evidence.

5 THE WITNESS: Just to the right side of the  
6 larynx.

7 MR. VERNER: No objection.

8 THE COURT: No objection, State's 50 is in.

9 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibit No. 50 was admitted  
10 into evidence.)

11 BY MR. SCOTT:

12 Q Externally, was that the extent of the blunt  
13 force injuries or were there more?

14 A There were a couple of bruises on the right leg.

15 Q On her leg?

16 A Yes.

17 Q Okay. Were you later on -- as part of the  
18 internal examination, were you able to locate other signs  
19 of blunt force trauma?

20 A No.

21 Q I've had cases before I think where you were  
22 able to, once dissecting, sometimes some of the bruises  
23 show up under the skin that aren't readily observable on  
24 the outside?

25 A Correct.

JANICE ROSS-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1           Q     I don't have the picture printed up. I think I  
2 saw it in your notes earlier. Okay. Well, let me --

3                     Can we get those pictures up, Walter?  
4 Start with just the order we testified.

5                     State's 53. Okay, you talked earlier about  
6 the bruise on the right jaw kind of area?

7           A     Yes.

8           Q     Are you able to see it in this picture? In this  
9 same picture, you can see the mark on the upper lip you're  
10 describing?

11          A     Yes.

12          Q     Okay. The blunt force we see in this picture,  
13 the bruise on the chin, the bruise on a upper lip in this  
14 picture and then you're seeing some of the bruising around  
15 the neck.

16          A     Correct.

17          Q     Let me -- State's No. 50, this is -- if you look  
18 on the inside of the mouth, this is just another view of  
19 the mark on the upper lip, then the bruise on the lower  
20 lip?

21          A     Correct. Our numbers are placed such that the  
22 top of the head is above the number.

23          Q     Right, we're looking down from the top of the  
24 head towards the feet?

25          A     Correct.



JANICE ROSS-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1           Q     State's 51. Okay, that would be what you would  
2 characterize as blunt force trauma to the bridge of the  
3 nose?

4           A     Yes.

5           Q     That resulted in that split that we're seeing  
6 there?

7           A     Yes.

8           Q     Let's go over the --

9                 MR. VERNER: Your Honor, do you need me to move  
10 so you can see?

11                THE COURT: I'm good. Thank you.

12 BY MR. SCOTT:

13           Q     What was the next category involving sharp --

14           A     Sharp force injury -- sharp force injuries, of  
15 course, are caused by sharp instruments like a knife or  
16 piece of glass, anything sharp. There are two categories,  
17 a stab wound, which is defined as longer than it is wide,  
18 and there are incised wounds, which are just superficial  
19 cuts, basically.

20           Q     Did you observe stab wounds?

21           A     Yes.

22                 MR. SCOTT: Let me go back, Walter, to that last  
23 one. I'm sorry, I can't remember the number, but it  
24 is State's 52.

25           Q     Okay. How many overall stab wounds did you

JANICE ROSS-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 note?

2 A Two.

3 Q State's 52, do we see one of the stab wounds in  
4 this picture?

5 A Yes, that's on the right side of the neck.

6 Q Okay. Okay. Then where was the other one?

7 A On the left chest.

8 Q Let me show you State's No. 49, do you recognize  
9 that?

10 A Yes.

11 Q Is that a photo of the other stab wound?

12 A Correct, yes.

13 MR. SCOTT: Your Honor, the State does offer 49  
14 for admission into evidence.

15 MR. VERNER: No objection.

16 THE COURT: It's in evidence.

17 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibit No. 49 was admitted  
18 into evidence.)

19 BY MR. SCOTT:

20 Q Okay. So, the first one that we just saw, that  
21 would have been right here; is that correct?

22 A Yes.

23 Q And this one, point me where that would be?

24 A It would be the left chest just left to the  
25 midline, to the left of breast area.

JANICE ROSS-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 Q Where my hands are, does that reflect where  
2 these wounds were?

3 A Correct.

4 Q So, those were the two stab wounds. You noted  
5 that was -- what was the other sharp force injury?

6 A Incised wounds. Those are just superficial  
7 wounds made by a sharp instrument.

8 Q Okay. Fifty-three, State's 53, would that be  
9 indicative of an incised wound?

10 A Yes, an incised wound to the back of the right  
11 hand.

12 MR. SCOTT: State's offer State's 53 for  
13 admission.

14 MR. VERNER: Without objection.

15 THE COURT: Without objection, it's in evidence.

16 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibit No. 53 was admitted  
17 into evidence.)

18 BY MR. SCOTT:

19 Q So the stab wounds and this would be an incised  
20 wound. Any other incise-type wounds?

21 A Two small nicks. One was to the left cheek and  
22 one was in the left chest.

23 Q Okay. Does that cover all the categories of  
24 injuries that you noted?

25 A There's evidence of strangulation.

JANICE ROSS-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1           Q     Right. Okay. And we kind of covered that. Let  
2 me go back to State's 52. Okay. Would you mind,  
3 Dr. Ross, stepping up to the TV and show the jury kind of  
4 what they need to focus on in strangulation?

5           A     These wounds here and here, something had some  
6 pressure on the neck, front of neck.

7           Q     Then before you take your seat, there's a lot of  
8 kind of red pinpoint type specs on Ms. Stribble's face,  
9 can you point them out for the jury?

10          A     Those are petechiae. Petechiae is caused when  
11 you have pressure against your neck, you collapse the  
12 veins that bring blood down from the head down towards the  
13 heart as opposed to the arteries that take blood up to the  
14 to brain from the heart. So, when you have pressure on  
15 the veins, blood cannot come down to the heart and  
16 pressure builds up little red blood cells, go out of  
17 capillaries that cause these little red dots.

18          Q     Is this correct, if you strangle somebody, it's  
19 not necessarily that they're dying from the lack of  
20 oxygen, it's that the blood that's up in their head has no  
21 way to escape? Is that kind of a fair --

22          A     Correct. The brain is in a closed space, closed  
23 pouch, so to speak, inside the skull. So, any kind of  
24 extra volume in there causes the brain to stop working.  
25 So, when you can't get blood down from your brain and

JANICE ROSS-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 there's some swelling, it is a known fact that you go  
2 unconscious within seconds. But it takes continuous  
3 pressure on your neck for you to be complete brain dead.

4 Q Let me show you again State's 51 if we can get  
5 that on the TV, too. Do you see evidence of petechiae in  
6 this photo as well?

7 A Yes.

8 Q Okay. A lot of times in these kinds of cases,  
9 we'll see it in the eyes. I don't think that I have a  
10 good picture of the eyes. Did you observe any petechiae  
11 in the eyes?

12 A A few fine ones.

13 Q Okay. But primarily on the face and the  
14 forehead?

15 A Correct.

16 Q Cheek and forehead. Let me show you -- did I  
17 put 48 into evidence? Let me show you State's No. 48.  
18 What do you see in this picture?

19 A That interior neck, including the stab wound  
20 with some abrasions and contusions on the neck.

21 MR. VERNER: I would ask that she speak up just  
22 a little bit. I can't hear her.

23 THE WITNESS: I'm sorry.

24 That shows the stab wound of the neck and the  
25 abrasions and contusions around the front of the

JANICE ROSS-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 neck.

2 BY MR. SCOTT:

3 Q Okay.

4 The State would offer State's No. 48.

5 MR. VERNER: Without objection.

6 THE COURT: All right, it's in evidence.

7 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibit No. 48 was admitted  
8 into evidence.)

9 BY MR. SCOTT:

10 Q That is the stab wound to the right neck area?

11 A Yes.

12 Q Then what else are we seeing in this picture?

13 A Well, these are abrasions, couple small nick  
14 wounds, that's abrasions on contusions, abrasions on  
15 bruises.

16 Q Are we seeing some signs of petechiae in this as  
17 well and bruising on the neck?

18 A Yes. Again, the number shows the top of the  
19 head is upward.

20 Q If I could have you -- this is State's No. 54.  
21 This is your report that list your findings?

22 A Yes, it is.

23 Q Okay. And at the very end, there's a diagram  
24 where it looks like you kind of list all the specific  
25 injuries you observed on Ms. Stribble?

JANICE ROSS-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 A Yes.

2 Q Okay. If I publish that, would you be able to  
3 walk the jury through each one of those injuries on the  
4 screen?

5 A Yes.

6 MR. SCOTT: Your Honor, this is Dr. Ross' report  
7 that I'm going to offer into evidence, but attached  
8 to it is a diagram.

9 MR. VERNER: Judge, for all concerned, I don't  
10 really have -- I've got my book -- are these the  
11 doctor's contemporaneous notes at the autopsy?

12 MR. SCOTT: I'll ask her.

13 BY MR. SCOTT:

14 Q Did you take these as you're observing  
15 Ms. Stribble?

16 A Yes.

17 MR. VERNER: The only problem I have is that the  
18 handwriting she's using seems to be kind of --

19 THE WITNESS: That's my handwriting.

20 MR. VERNER: Oh, I understand that, but it's not  
21 the most legible.

22 MR. SCOTT: She's a doctor.

23 THE COURT: Dr. Ross and I have something in  
24 common then. I can imagine that she can explain it  
25 as she walks through it.

JANICE ROSS-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 MR. VERNER: She would have to, but it's  
2 prescription handwritten.

3 THE COURT: If that's the only concern, then,  
4 obviously, State's 54 in evidence.

5 MR. SCOTT: Thank you, Your Honor.

6 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibit No. 54 was admitted  
7 into evidence.)

8 BY MR. SCOTT:

9 Q Okay.

10 A This is a diagram that I use when we're looking  
11 at the outside of the body before we start the autopsy.  
12 Of course, it is my handwriting. Brown hair, brown eyes,  
13 some petechia, mouth full of teeth. There's bruising on  
14 the inner lip. The face with petechiae. This shows the  
15 abrasion, this mark. This shows the contusion or bruise  
16 on the right chin, right manifold. This is a stab wound  
17 and this the measurement where it is from the top of the  
18 head and from the middle of the body. A couple of  
19 abrasions and nick wounds, abrasions here. This is the  
20 other stab wounds. These concern tattoos, tattoos,  
21 tattoos and a bruise here, a small abrasion here. Tattoo  
22 on the right side of the calf.

23 Q Okay.

24 A Then these have to do with tattoos.

25 Q Then it looks like on that little nick on her



JANICE ROSS-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 right hand is indicated as well?

2 A That's an incised wound on the back of her right  
3 hand, yeah.

4 Q Okay. Thank you. The whole report, so attached  
5 to the front of State's 54, that's your findings?

6 A Yes.

7 Q And 54, that is your documentation of your  
8 findings that you -- when you performed autopsy May 4th of  
9 last year?

10 A Yes.

11 Q Okay. And ultimately, did you make an opinion  
12 on what caused Ms. Clatie Stribble's death?

13 A Yes. First off, when I do my report, I use this  
14 diagram and go back to photographs to add or retract. I  
15 found that the cause of death was asphyxia, which means  
16 the brain lacks oxygen or lacks circulation due to  
17 strangulation with a constitution of the stab wound to the  
18 neck.

19 Q So, the stab wound -- and specifically, it was  
20 only one stab wound you felt was potentially fatal; is  
21 that correct?

22 A Correct.

23 Q Was it not the one on the right lower neck?

24 A Correct.

25 Q Okay. But was it your opinion the stab wound

JANICE ROSS-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 was what killed her?

2 A It contributed, but by itself, it was  
3 potentially fatal. It went down into the neck and towards  
4 the middle of the neck and cut some small vessels in the  
5 neck, but not the main vessels. So there was some  
6 bleeding there, but not a tremendous amount.

7 Q At the end, was it not your professional expert  
8 opinion that asphyxiation by strangulation is what killed  
9 Ms. Stribble?

10 A Yes.

11 Q And, in fact, this petechiae, those are very  
12 relevant when you're dealing with a strangulation case,  
13 are they not?

14 A Yes.

15 Q And would you expect -- let's say you had  
16 somebody who had died from a stab wound, they bled to  
17 death, then you attempted to strangle -- you attempted to  
18 squeeze their neck, would you expect to see petechiae if  
19 their heart wasn't beating anymore?

20 A No.

21 Q Okay. So, if the argument was made that she  
22 died from the stab wound and then she was choked, there  
23 really wouldn't be an explanation for the petechiae all  
24 over her face and her eyes and on her cheeks and on her  
25 forehead?

JANICE ROSS-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 A No, sir.

2 Q Okay. So, it's your expert opinion that  
3 strangulation is what killed her?

4 A Yes.

5 Q Let me ask you this, have you ever seen somebody  
6 kill themselves by hanging themselves?

7 A Yes.

8 Q I know the answer, but explain to the jury how  
9 you've come to see that.

10 A I saw a video of someone who set up a camera and  
11 filmed himself hanging. And you could tell that he wasn't  
12 conscious within seven seconds, very quickly because of  
13 that swelling to the brain. But it took him several  
14 minutes to actually fully die.

15 Q I think what you're describing is some -- people  
16 do weird things, don't they, but what I recall you telling  
17 me was somebody filmed their suicide or something like  
18 that?

19 A Yes, sir.

20 Q Obviously, completely unrelated to this case,  
21 but you had studied it for medical purpose, I guess?

22 A Correct.

23 Q Are there not other medical records of how long  
24 it takes to strangle somebody, how long it takes to kill  
25 somebody through strangulation?

JANICE ROSS-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1           A     Yes.

2           Q     And so you say seconds until they're rendered  
3     unconscious?

4           A     Yes, sir.

5           Q     But, ultimately, how long do you need to apply  
6     pressure to somebody's neck, whether it be a ligature or  
7     whether it be manual strangulation, how long do you have  
8     to apply that pressure before they are killed?

9           A     Several minutes. Maybe three to four.

10          Q     Three to four minutes?

11          A     Yes.

12          Q     Okay. So, would it be your opinion that there  
13     would have had to have been pressure around Ms. Stribble's  
14     neck three to four minutes to produce her death?

15          A     Yes. The loss of blood could have added to it.

16          Q     That could have expedited it potentially is what  
17     you're saying?

18          A     Correct.

19                 MR. SCOTT: Your Honor, that's all. I just want  
20     to double check that State's 54 has been admitted and  
21     then I intended to admit State's 48 through State's  
22     53 for admission into evidence.

23                 THE COURT: I've got 53, I've got 52, 51, 70, 49  
24     and 48.

25                 MR. SCOTT: And then State's 54 for admission?

## JANICE ROSS-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 THE COURT: Yes.

2 MR. SCOTT: Thank you, Dr. Ross. Answer any  
3 questions Mr.~Verner has for you.

4 THE COURT: Mr.~Verner.

5 MR. VERNER: Now, just housekeeping, you've got  
6 the diagram as 55?

7 MR. SCOTT: No, that's an attachment.

8 THE COURT: That's part of the autopsy report.

9 CROSS-EXAMINATION

10 BY MR. VERNER:

11 Q My understanding, Doctor, is that you missed the  
12 morning hearings because you were doing autopsies the  
13 morning, is that?

14 A Correct.

15 Q So, that's a fairly full time approach,  
16 business?

17 A Absolutely.

18 Q Just so I can clarify, I'm handing you the chart  
19 that you did for Ms. Clatie, can you look back over your  
20 own -- I just don't want to be confused. Can you  
21 highlight in yellow the marks that you have on her body  
22 that are not injuries, such as tattoos?

23 A That are not injuries?

24 Q With that many marks, I don't want to be  
25 confusing about what's --

## JANICE ROSS-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1           A     I understand.

2           Q     You think you've got it?

3           A     I believe so.

4           Q     Okay. So, my opinion is most of these marks  
5 that you have on her body would not be injuries?

6           A     Correct, mostly referring to tattoos.

7           Q     Okay. Ms. Clatie had several tattoos?

8           A     Yes, sir.

9           Q     In fact, she had the name Cliff tattooed on her  
10 arm?

11          A     Yes, sir.

12               MR. VERNER: Defendant's 4.

13               (WHEREUPON, Defendant's Exhibit No. 4 was marked  
14 for identification only.)

15 BY MR. VERNER:

16          Q     And just to restate it, what you highlighted in  
17 yellow would not be injuries, that would not be connected  
18 to this case?

19          A     Correct.

20          Q     Okay. How large was Ms. Clatie Stribble in  
21 weight, or size and weight?

22          A     We measured her at 65 and a half inches, 5 feet  
23 five and a half inches tall. We don't have a scale in the  
24 morgue, so I estimated her weight as 160-pounds.

25          Q     Is it possible that she was slightly bigger,

## JANICE ROSS-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 somewhat bigger than 160?

2 A Yes.

3 Q And she was how old?

4 A Thirty-five.

5 Q Thirty-five. And not obese, but fairly large  
6 body mass?

7 A Yes.

8 Q Okay. Were you able to identify -- there were  
9 two stab wounds on Ms. Clatie?

10 A Yes.

11 Q Were you able to identify what made those?

12 A No, it looked like a single-edged knife, but.

13 Q They were clean enough, I guess is one way to  
14 call it, that it appeared to be a sharp -- a knife?

15 A Correct.

16 Q Could it have been scissors?

17 A If they were the -- scissors have a wide blade.

18 Q In your opinion, more consistent with a knife?

19 A Correct.

20 Q Now, we know there's all kinds of knives, right?

21 A Yes.

22 Q A buck -- what I call a buck knife, it's kind of  
23 a shorter blade, but wider blade?

24 A Yes.

25 Q And a steak knife would be a longer blade, but

## JANICE ROSS-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 less -- more narrow?

2 A Correct.

3 Q And some knives are serrated and some knives are  
4 just clean edge?

5 A Yes.

6 Q Could you tell whether it was a serrated knife  
7 or a clean-edge knife or is that possible?

8 A It not always possible, sometimes it is.

9 Q In this case, was it?

10 A No.

11 Q Okay. Were the wounds -- were you able to  
12 measure the size of the stab wound?

13 A The length?

14 Q The length and the width?

15 A No, tissue is elastic, so it's hard to say  
16 exactly how long. But the one in the neck was probably  
17 about two inches long. The one in the chest just went and  
18 hit the breastplate and stopped. So, it was about one and  
19 a half inches long.

20 Q Are we talking about deep or the size of the  
21 blade?

22 A Deep.

23 Q Okay, deep. What about the size of the knife  
24 blade?

25 A .7-inches.



## JANICE ROSS-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 Q Okay. So, about a little over half an inch?

2 A Yes, sir.

3 Q Okay. Is that consistent with a steak knife or  
4 a kitchen knife?

5 A There's all varieties. Could be, yes.

6 Q But that wouldn't be like a buck knife, that  
7 would be smaller than a buck knife type?

8 A As I understand it, yes.

9 Q All right. But it could be a pocketknife size,  
10 kind of a little small blade. But it is just in the  
11 ballpark of a steak knife size?

12 A Yes, sir.

13 Q Okay. Commonly found in the kitchen?

14 A Yes.

15 Q Okay. Did they give you any knives or anything  
16 to try to make a determination of which object was used?

17 A No, they did not.

18 Q Okay.

19 Walter, may we have No. 48? Are you able,  
20 Walter, to rotate that so the numbers are up and down?

21 Q Can you see that adequately, Doctor?

22 A Yes.

23 Q The top of that, I'm assuming, would be  
24 Ms. Clatie's neck?

25 A Yes.

## JANICE ROSS-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 Q And there's a tattoo on her upper chest?

2 A Correct.

3 Q I'm a layman, but it appears that that knife  
4 angle is more -- is that right to left or left to right?

5 THE WITNESS: May I approach?

6 THE COURT: You may.

7 BY MR. VERNER:

8 Q And if you're not able to do it, what would be  
9 the sharp side of the knife and what would be the blunt  
10 side of the knife?

11 A Okay. Here's the midline. This is the sharp  
12 edge and this is the blunt edge. The direction is  
13 downward, slightly backward and towards the midline.

14 Q So, it's coming at her from -- I don't mean to  
15 be intrusive, but point to yourself where would be?

16 A Be down that way.

17 Q Just use the tip of your pen to show where  
18 basically the injury is to the neck.

19 A (The witness complies.)

20 Q In your opinion, the blow is coming left to  
21 right?

22 A Yes.

23 Q I thought you said --

24 A Right to left.

25 Q Right to left. So, it would be kind of going --

## JANICE ROSS-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1           A     It would be going from right downward --

2           Q     Your right?

3           A     The patient's right downward and toward the  
4     midline.

5           Q     But the blade would be -- the sharp end of the  
6     blade would be on the left-hand side?

7           A     Yes.

8           Q     My left-hand side, your right-hand side?

9           A     Well -- that's right.

10          Q     That's her --

11          A     It's her right, your left.

12          Q     This is the midline of her neck?

13          A     Correct.

14          Q     This is the edge of her neck?

15          A     It's the right side of her neck.

16          Q     Right side of her neck. And the blade is  
17     pointing this way, the sharp edge is going towards the  
18     right side of her neck, correct?

19          A     Well, this is -- it's coming in this way, the  
20     sharp edge towards the side.

21          Q     It's the sharp edge in the back of your hand and  
22     the blunter edge of the knife is going this way?

23          A     Yes.

24          Q     And it's already on the right hand side of her  
25     neck?

## JANICE ROSS-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1           A     So it turned around.

2           THE COURT: I think you're miscommunicating.

3           MR. VERNER: We are.

4           THE COURT: She's always talking in terms of the  
5 patient.

6           MR. VERNER: Right.

7           THE COURT: When she says right, she means the  
8 patient's right. When she says left, she means the  
9 patient's left. That's usually how you do it.

10          THE WITNESS: Thank you. The sharp edge is over  
11 here. The blunt edge is here.

12 BY MR. VERNER:

13          Q     That's my question. This is the sharp edge of  
14 the knife?

15          A     Yes, sir.

16          Q     This is the midline of the neck?

17          A     Correct.

18          Q     So -- and you're testifying that the knife is  
19 going into the body that way?

20          A     Correct.

21          Q     But still that's with the sharper edge on the  
22 outside?

23          A     On the outside.

24          Q     Which would be a little bit more unusual strike  
25 on the neck, right?

## JANICE ROSS-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1           A     You can hold a knife a lot of different ways.

2           Q     Either way?

3           A     Yes.

4           Q     Okay. But ordinarily, you would use the sharper  
5 edge to lead the knife in. But if it's an icepick, it can  
6 go either way, right?

7           A     Correct.

8           Q     But ordinarily, if you cut something, you would  
9 use the sharper edge first?

10          A     Yes.

11          Q     Are you able to determine whether Ms. Stribble  
12 was right-handed or left-handed?

13          A     No, sir.

14          Q     The wound in the neck would have bled, but not  
15 substantially?

16          A     I don't believe so.

17          Q     Okay. It strikes me that if ordinarily I  
18 were -- can you tell if Ms. Stribble was standing or  
19 reclined when the wound was caused?

20          A     No, I cannot.

21          Q     Are you able from your experience to determine  
22 whether it was kind of an overhand? I would assume if  
23 something starts up here and ends up going down, it would  
24 either be an overhead or --

25          A     I can't put two people in a position. It could

## JANICE ROSS-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 be -- if they were face to face, it would be going like  
2 so, downward from the right to the left. If the person  
3 stabbing were behind her, you can reach around and do it.

4 Q But, typically, if I'm going to stab somebody  
5 and I've got the knife like this, and the injury's in the  
6 neck, it would be an upward strike?

7 A It could be either way. I don't know what's --

8 Q It's a lot harder to go down with a knife  
9 pointing a knife like this, right, in the neck?

10 A It would seem so, yes.

11 Q But if I were holding the knife like this, it's  
12 a more logically downward strike?

13 A Yes, sir.

14 Q Okay. What if you were fighting over a knife,  
15 could you pull it back that way?

16 A Yes.

17 Q Is it significant to you at all that the knife  
18 appears -- the wound appears to be going right to left as  
19 opposed to straight down?

20 A No, sir.

21 Q Okay. We've heard the solicitor talk a little  
22 bit that there was a telephone cord found on the floor of  
23 the room that Ms. Clatie was killed in, were the wounds  
24 that Ms. Clatie had at all consistent with ligature marks  
25 or strangulation by a wire or a chord?

## JANICE ROSS-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1           A     I could be, but there was a skipped space. So,  
2     there was linear wounds on each side of the neck, in  
3     between, it was skipped.

4           Q     So, if I were the using the garret or the cord  
5     to strangle somebody, you would think that would cause  
6     injuries more specific than one single location?

7           A     Correct.

8           Q     So, in your opinion as a pathologist, is it more  
9     consistent with hands on her neck?

10          A     Yes.

11          Q     Are you familiar -- the police sometimes use the  
12     phrase called pain compliance. Are you familiar with that  
13     term or concept?

14          A     No, sir.

15          Q     That is if somebody is fighting you or not  
16     putting their hands behind their back or some kind of  
17     physical defiance that you can put them in a submission  
18     hold or painful position to get them to stop whatever  
19     they're doing physically?

20          A     Yes, sir.

21          Q     Is that -- do you encounter that sometimes as a  
22     pathologist?

23          A     Are you talking about like a choke hold?

24          Q     Well, we know that there's the New York City  
25     choke hold, which I would consider as sort of a pain

## JANICE ROSS-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 compliance maneuver?

2 A Yes.

3 Q Which is if somebody is being physically  
4 aggressive towards you and you don't want to kill them,  
5 you can put them in a painful hold until they stop?

6 A Yes, sir.

7 Q And that is normal at some point the pain will  
8 overcome and you'll give up, right?

9 A Yes, sir.

10 Q That's how some fights end, just the dominant  
11 person will physically subdue the subordinate person?

12 A Yes.

13 Q Did you examine any of the injuries or marks or  
14 Mr.~Boozer's body?

15 A No, I did not.

16 Q Now, I think you testified that if somebody were  
17 being strangled or choked in a forceful way, they would  
18 lose consciousness possibly as soon as seven seconds?

19 A Yes.

20 Q Now, you would agree with me that hanging from a  
21 rope would cause considerably more pressure than manual  
22 strangulation?

23 A It could, yes.

24 Q Okay. So that's kind of the baseline number for  
25 the quickest that you could lose consciousness, perhaps?



## JANICE ROSS-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1           A     Well, the veins are very paper thin, which makes  
2     it very easy to include them so it doesn't take a lot of  
3     pressure to cause a blockage of the veins.

4           Q     Now, you testified that if I was being choked by  
5     somebody or strangled by somebody, it would take as long  
6     as three or four -- it would ordinarily take as long as  
7     three or four minutes to kill them?

8           A     For them to be completely and irreversibly dead.

9           Q     But they would have passed out before then?

10          A     Correct.

11          Q     Okay. Now, what if it's kind of staggered  
12     pressure? If you and I are fighting and I am choking you,  
13     but you are fighting back, so it's not continuous  
14     pressure, at times, you know, as your body moves or you  
15     turn your neck around or you lash out?

16          A     If that -- I'm sorry if that pressure is  
17     released before you have complete brain death, then you  
18     can -- well, you can wake up. Jeffrey Dahmer would do  
19     that to his victims. He would choke them until they  
20     passed out, then release the pressure so they would wake  
21     up.

22          Q     Okay. And ordinarily, you would presume that  
23     somebody who's being choked would be physically -- if I'm  
24     hanging from the neck from a rope, there's no way I can  
25     really physically resist that rope. I guess I could hold

## JANICE ROSS-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 it and relieve the pressure, but there's no way to stop  
2 the ligature to the neck, right?

3 A Correct.

4 Q But ordinarily, somebody who's being choked  
5 that's fighting back, they are turning their neck and they  
6 are physically moving their body as much as possible to  
7 avoid that?

8 A Yes. I must say the bruises on the lip and nose  
9 could suggest some coverage of the mouth and those would  
10 also contribute to it.

11 Q Okay.

12 MR. VERNER: One second, Your Honor.

13 BY MR. VERNER:

14 Q And again, I've asked this before, but a  
15 homicide does not necessarily mean an unjustified or an  
16 unlawful killing, it just means that a man or a woman was  
17 the instrument that caused the injury that caused the  
18 death?

19 A It's the death of a person at the action or  
20 inaction of another.

21 Q Okay. Sometimes, it can be accidental?

22 A Yes.

23 Q Sometimes, it can be intentional?

24 A Yes.

25 Q I'm going to close up by saying the -- you are a

## JANICE ROSS-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 medical doctor?

2 A Yes.

3 Q You're a trained pathologist?

4 A Yes.

5 Q And you've done roughly 12,000 autopsies?

6 A Yes.

7 Q A lot of times, the time of death is not really  
8 that important. The vast majority of cases, whether  
9 somebody died at midnight or 2:00 in the morning doesn't  
10 really matter. But in a criminal case, it can become more  
11 important?

12 A Correct.

13 Q Were you able to determine the time of death of  
14 Ms. Clatie Stribble?

15 A No. That's nearly impossible unless you have a  
16 witness or video going. You're talking between hours or  
17 minutes.

18 Q If we know in this case that Mr.~Boozer didn't  
19 meet Ms. Stribble until, at least, 6:30 in the morning,  
20 and we know that he called 911, who responded within  
21 minutes about 8:36 -- or 8:26, so 8:30 in the morning, if  
22 I were to choose a particular time between 6:30 and 8:30  
23 as the time of death in this kind of case, that's just  
24 purely speculation, isn't it?

25 A It is.

JANICE ROSS-REDIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 Q Okay. Whether -- unless you have an actual  
2 witness and a clock or some other scientific evidence for  
3 a coroner or for a police officer to say that she died at  
4 that particular moment, they have no more ability to do  
5 that than I do standing here?

6 A Correct.

7 MR. VERNER: Thank you, Doctor.

8 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

9 BY MR. SCOTT:

10 Q But isn't that common for the coroner to list a  
11 time of death?

12 A Well, the death certificate ask for time of  
13 death, so it's an estimation.

14 Q Right. I mean, that's what they write on the  
15 death certificate, that's commonplace, if not required. I  
16 don't know if it -- is it required for the coroner to put  
17 that on there?

18 A Yes. Used to -- sometimes you can put a.m. or  
19 p.m., but sometimes it gets turned back and the health  
20 department wants you to put something more specific.

21 Q And that's all it is, simply just kind of an  
22 estimate about what time?

23 A Based on fact, yes.

24 Q You were just asked did you get to observe any  
25 injuries on Mr.~Boozer and you said no?

## JANICE ROSS-REDIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1           A     That's correct.

2           Q     What if I told you he had a little nick on his  
3 finger? Comparing that, you said Stribble had busted lip,  
4 lower lip, upper lip, laceration across the bridge of her  
5 nose, of course, the strangulation marks, two stab wounds,  
6 various bruises on the legs, scratches on the legs is my  
7 recollection?

8           A     Bruises on the legs.

9           Q     Medically speaking, who got the worst of that  
10 confrontation?

11          A     If that's all Mr.~Boozer had?

12          Q     If that's what the testimony was, he had a small  
13 nick on his finger?

14          A     Then the victim had more injuries.

15          Q     And you said the bruising was consistent with  
16 manual strangulation?

17          A     Yes.

18          Q     And it was interesting the defense was asking  
19 the question, and you mentioned an example you knew of,  
20 but it could have gone on even longer than three or four  
21 minutes if he's releasing the pressure and then reapplying  
22 it and then releasing it. I mean, this could have gone on  
23 10, 15 minutes, could it not?

24          A     It could be some combination. If you put a lot  
25 of weight -- for instance, if she was on the floor and the

JANICE ROSS-REDIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 Defendant was on top of her, then that would cause her  
2 chest not to -- so it's a combination, so that is  
3 possible.

4 Q Can you envision a scene where she's lying on  
5 the ground between a wall and bed, him straddling her with  
6 his knees on her arms to hold them down and he's choking  
7 the life out of her? Can you envision that?

8 A Yes.

9 Q Is that a possibility of how Ms. Stribble died?

10 A That's one possibility.

11 Q I'm not going to -- pain compliance, he asked  
12 you about pain compliance and different law enforcement  
13 techniques. And they're envisioning where she's fighting  
14 back, she's fighting back, but if he's applying that  
15 pressure to the neck in some steady manner, we expect her  
16 to lose consciousness within a matter of seven to ten  
17 seconds, something like that?

18 A Yes, sir.

19 Q So, really, there's no real need for pain  
20 compliance at that point. She should have stopped  
21 resisting when she lost consciousness, right?

22 A Yes.

23 Q I know there's a bunch of different factors. I  
24 understand that. Are you right-handed or left-handed?

25 A Right-handed.

## JANICE ROSS-REDIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1           Q     Patient's right, which would be potentially  
2     fatal. Use your right hand and show -- demonstrate a way  
3     in which you could inflict that wound on me.

4           A     This way.

5           Q     If you're right-handed, could you not have held  
6     the knife that way and just jabbed it down and produce  
7     that trajectory you said?

8           A     Yes.

9           Q     And if you're left-handed, show me how you could  
10    have killed me or how you could have inflicted that injury  
11    with the knife?

12          A     Like so.

13          Q     So, either way would be plausible. Even more  
14    so, if Mr.~Boozer or somebody is on top of Ms. Stribble  
15    inflicting that wound on her. You did not note that she  
16    bled to death?

17          A     Correct.

18          Q     And you even, I think, stated just a minute ago  
19    if I'm correct that you would not have expected a  
20    substantial amount of blood from that injury; is that  
21    correct?

22          A     There could be, but I didn't see a lot. When we  
23    looked under the skin, there was some blood, but not a  
24    lot. But I wasn't at the scene, so I don't know if there  
25    was a lot of blood at the scene.

## JANICE ROSS-RECROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 Q But you did not -- it's not your opinion that  
2 she bled to death?

3 A No, sir. Yes, it is my opinion.

4 Q That she did not bleed to death?

5 A Correct.

6 Q Ultimately, just once again, it is your expert  
7 opinion that she died of strangulation and there's  
8 petechiae -- her heart would have been pumping when those  
9 petechiae were produced, correct?

10 A Correct.

11 MR. SCOTT: Thank you, that's all.

12 MR. VERNER: Your Honor, I do have one.

13 May I ask the Defendant to stand up for a  
14 second?

15 THE COURT: The Defendant?

16 MR. VERNER: Yes, sir.

17 THE COURT: Sure.

18 (Defendant stands.)

19 RECROSS-EXAMINATION

20 BY MR. VERNER:

21 Q Doctor, can I ask you to step down for a second?

22 A (The witness complies.)

23 MR. VERNER: Come over here and pull up your  
24 sleeve.

25



## JANICE ROSS-RECROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 BY MR. VERNER:

2 Q Doctor, Cliff's pulling up his left arm sleeve,  
3 it's a little bit tight. Do you see the injury to his  
4 upper arm?

5 A Looks like a scar, yes, a linear scar.

6 Q What do you mean by linear scar?

7 A Like a line.

8 Q Like a knife could cause?

9 A Yes.

10 Q Is it possible -- I'm not asking you -- that's  
11 obviously an old wound, right?

12 A Correct.

13 Q And how long can you keep a scar on your body if  
14 you got cut, for instance?

15 A Probably the rest of your life.

16 Q If it's bad enough and deep enough, it's for the  
17 rest of your life?

18 A Yes.

19 Q I'm not asking you what it is, but is that  
20 consistent with being stabbed with a knife?

21 A It's consistent.

22 MR. VERNER: Thank you, Your Honor. That's all  
23 I have.

24 THE COURT: Thank you, Doctor, very much for  
25 coming. I know you had a busy day. You're free to

## JANICE ROSS-RECROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 go.

2 I think the next witness is about 55 minutes,  
3 correct? Is that the next one?

4 MR. VERNER: Yeah, I think we have one, Your  
5 Honor, under that. We're calling them out of order.

6 THE COURT: All right, ladies and gentlemen, go  
7 ahead and adjourn to the back. We'll take a brief  
8 break. And don't talk about the case. We'll be back  
9 on the record in five minutes.

10 (WHEREUPON, the jury left open court at  
11 approximately 3:57 p.m.)

12 (WHEREUPON, a short break was taken.)

13 THE COURT: All right, let's go ahead and get  
14 the jury in, please.

15 (WHEREUPON, the jury came into open court at  
16 approximately 4:10 p.m.)

17 THE COURT: All right, the jury is back seated.  
18 Solicitor, call your next witness, please.

19 MR. DANIEL: Your Honor, the State calls  
20 Jennifer Brokob.

21 THE CLERK: Raise your right hand, place your  
22 left hand on the Bible.

23 JENNIFER BROKOB, after being duly sworn,  
24 testified as follows:

25 THE CLERK: State your name for the record.

JENNIFER BROKOB-DIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 THE WITNESS: My name is Jennifer Brokob.

2 DIRECT EXAMINATION

3 BY MR. DANIEL:

4 Q Ms. Brokob, are you from Newberry?

5 A I'm an Army brat. I've been living here for a  
6 while.

7 Q Okay. So, you've been living in Newberry for  
8 how long?

9 A Since about 2007.

10 Q Okay. 2007, you come to Newberry and do you  
11 know or did you know Clatie Stribble?

12 A Not when I first moved here, no.

13 Q When did you first meet Clatie Stribble?

14 A In 2013.

15 MR. VERNER: Your Honor, I apologize, I'm  
16 struggling to hear her.

17 THE WITNESS: 2013.

18 BY MR. DANIEL:

19 Q Yes, make sure you speak into the mic if you  
20 have to. All right. So, you first meet Clatie Stribble  
21 in 2013?

22 A Yes.

23 Q Okay. And how did you meet Clatie?

24 A She was my son's dad's roommate.

25 Q She was your son's dad's roommate.

JENNIFER BROKOB-DIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 A Yes.

2 Q And that was in 2013. Where was Clatie living  
3 in 2013?

4 A [REDACTED] Pine Hills Road in Prosperity.

5 Q And was Clatie -- at that time in 2013, did  
6 Clatie -- was she living with her daughters?

7 A No.

8 Q Okay. Eventually, did you and Clatie become  
9 really good friends?

10 A Yes, we did.

11 Q All right. Eventually, did y'all become  
12 roommates, you and Clatie?

13 A Yeah, after Jacob passed away, we became  
14 roommates.

15 Q And who's Jacob?

16 A Landon's father, my son's father.

17 Q Your son's biological father passed away. Then  
18 you and Clatie decide to move in together after that?

19 A Yes.

20 Q When would that have been?

21 A April of 2014.

22 Q Roughly?

23 A Yes.

24 Q So, it was you and Clatie. And who else was  
25 living there?

JENNIFER BROKOB-DIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1           A     My son and then the girls.

2           Q     Clatie's three daughters?

3           A     Yes.

4           Q     What are their names?

5           A     Isis, Niyla and Eve.

6           Q     Okay. So, you're thinking it's spring 2014

7 y'all decide to move in together?

8           A     Yes.

9           Q     Were y'all renting, did y'all buy a house or how  
10 did that work?

11          A     In April, we were still living in Prosperity,  
12 then we moved into Newberry on Jolley Street, ■ Feather  
13 Run.

14          Q     So, it was the Feather Run address?

15          A     Uh-huh.

16          Q     Is that yes?

17          A     Yes.

18          Q     And did you know Clifton Boozer?

19          A     I've met him, yes.

20          Q     Does he go by Cliff?

21          A     Yes.

22          Q     When did you first meet Cliff?

23          A     I had seen them in 2103, but we didn't really  
24 communicate. Me and Clatie weren't really friends at that  
25 point.

JENNIFER BROKOB-DIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 Q Did you know Clifton and Clatie to be boyfriend  
2 and girlfriend?

3 A When we moved to Feather Run, yes.

4 Q And that address, was that [REDACTED] Feather Run Road?

5 A Yes.

6 Q Was that in the city of Newberry?

7 A Yes, like on the outskirts.

8 Q Okay. Was that a house?

9 A A trailer.

10 Q Trailer. Okay. But it was you and Clatie and  
11 the kids living with y'all at the [REDACTED] Feather Run  
12 address?

13 A Yes.

14 Q So, that's when you first meet Cliff when you  
15 move into that Feather Run address?

16 A When I got to know him, yes.

17 Q Okay, when you got to know him, I guess. Would  
18 he come around a lot?

19 A Yes.

20 Q Would he spend the night?

21 A Yeah, he would.

22 Q Okay. So, they -- were they boyfriend and  
23 girlfriend?

24 A At that time, they were trying to work on  
25 things.

JENNIFER BROKOB-DIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 Q Okay. They were trying to work on things? Do  
2 you know if they would break up, get back together, that  
3 kind of thing, back and forth?

4 A It was a very toxic relationship, so yes.

5 Q So, you would describe their relationship as  
6 being toxic?

7 A Yeah.

8 Q So, they weren't necessarily always together, is  
9 that what you're kind of -- is that your testimony?

10 A I mean, he would come and go. They would get  
11 along for a while, then they'd get into it and she'd have  
12 him leave or he'd just leave on his own.

13 Q So, he wouldn't consistently stay there at the  
14 Feather Run address?

15 A No.

16 Q So, he kind of popped in and out?

17 A Yes.

18 Q Okay. And you describe it as a toxic  
19 relationship?

20 A Yes.

21 Q How long did you all live at this Feather Run  
22 address together?

23 A Less than a year, about 10 months.

24 Q So, spring of 2014 up until when?

25 A February 15th of 2015.

JENNIFER BROKOB-DIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 Q Okay. So, just shy of a year. Ten months is  
2 what you said?

3 A That we were leaving together, yes.

4 Q So, what happened, you moved out? Who moved  
5 out? Who stayed out, who moved out?

6 A I moved out. I was pregnant and three days  
7 later, I had my child so I moved out.

8 Q You were the first to move out?

9 A I had to get a bigger house, yes.

10 Q So, Clatie and the kids remained at Feather Run  
11 after you moved out?

12 A Yes.

13 Q Do you know if Cliff would continue to go over  
14 there after you moved out?

15 A We talked here and there. I mean, they were  
16 together whenever we first moved out, but I think they hit  
17 another rough patch.

18 Q Okay. All right. I want to fast forward to --  
19 do you remember when Clatie died?

20 A Yes.

21 Q All right. May 3rd of last year?

22 A Yes.

23 Q Is that correct?

24 A That's correct.

25 Q All right. Did you and Clatie remain close even



JENNIFER BROKOB-DIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 after y'all stop living together at Feather Run?

2 A Yes, we did.

3 Q And do you know whether Clatie continued to  
4 maintain a relationship with Cliff after she -- or after  
5 you moved out of Feather Run?

6 A After I moved out of Feather Run, yes, she did,  
7 but when she moved into the new house, I'm not really --  
8 that was really -- it was hit or miss. I saw him there  
9 one time the whole time she lived there.

10 Q When she moved into the new house?

11 A On Conifer, yes.

12 Q Which house on Conifer?

13 A I don't know the exact address. It was a house.

14 Q What color house?

15 A It was blue.

16 Q It was a blue house on Conifer?

17 A Hers was either the blue on or the next one to  
18 it. They both looked a like.

19 Q Okay. When is the last time you talked to  
20 Clatie that you recall?

21 A Probably two weeks before she passed.

22 Q Did you talk to her on the phone or did you talk  
23 to her in person?

24 A I talked to her on the phone.

25 Q And you're thinking it was about two weeks

JENNIFER BROKOB-DIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 before she passed y'all talked on the phone?

2 A Yes, sir.

3 Q And do you recall the conversation kind of in  
4 vivid detail?

5 MR. VERNER: Your Honor, I'm not sure that that  
6 is admissible.

7 MR. DANIEL: I'm not asking what she said, what  
8 the victim is saying.

9 MR. VERNER: I think he asked, Well, do you  
10 remember the conversation? So, that's --

11 MS. DANIEL: Yes or no, not what she said.

12 THE COURT: Okay. So far so good. No line has  
13 been crossed. If she can answer, then fine.

14 MR. DANIEL: Thank you, Your Honor.

15 BY MR. DANIEL:

16 Q Ms. Brokob, the last time you talked to Clatie,  
17 you said it was about two weeks before she died. Do you  
18 recall the details of that conversation?

19 A Yes.

20 Q Okay. Can you describe Clatie's state of mind  
21 when you last talked to her?

22 MR. VERNER: I object to that, Your Honor.

23 MR. DANIEL: Your Honor, that's a clear hearsay  
24 exception, 803 Subsection 3.

25 MR. VERNER: No, clear hearsay exception is a

JENNIFER BROKOB-DIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 statement.

2 THE COURT: State of mind calls for conjecture.

3 MR. VERNER: While under the --

4 THE COURT: Y'all approach.

5 (WHEREUPON, a bench conference was held in the  
6 presence of the jury but out of the hearing of the  
7 jury.)

8 THE COURT: Ma'am, the attorneys has told me at  
9 the sidebar they're going to withdraw you as a  
10 witness at this particular point in time. You'll  
11 testify at some point later. So, I think you're  
12 testifying prematurely.

13 I do think you have that gentleman from SLED, is  
14 he here or is he not here?

15 MR. DANIEL: Yes, he's here.

16 THE COURT: Let's go ahead and take him. We can  
17 deal with her -- take her testimony tomorrow.

18 Just don't talk to anyone about your testimony  
19 tonight, okay, ma'am? You're free to go for the day.

20 THE WITNESS: Okay.

21 THE COURT: Be back tomorrow morning sometime  
22 around 9:30.

23 Call your next witness.

24 MR. DANIEL: Your Honor, the State calls Chris  
25 Johnson.

CHRIS JOHNSON-DIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 THE CLERK: Raise your right hand and place your  
2 left hand on the Bible.

3 CHRIS JOHNSON, after being duly sworn, testified  
4 as follows:

5 THE CLERK: Have a seat and state your name for  
6 the record.

7 THE WITNESS: Christopher Lawrence Johnson.

8 DIRECT EXAMINATION

9 BY MR. DANIEL:

10 Q Mr. Johnson, you work for the South Carolina Law  
11 Enforcement Division, SLED, right?

12 A Yes, sir.

13 Q What's your job at SLED?

14 A I'm a supervising special agent over one of  
15 intelligence units.

16 Q Really, what does that entail you doing?

17 A We do a lot of fugitive apprehension work, so a  
18 part of that, we also conduct phone analysis on phone  
19 records, call location information.

20 Q Isn't the bulk of your duty centered around  
21 analyzing and obtaining phone records?

22 A Yes, sir.

23 Q Specifically, in this day and age, cell phone  
24 record, correct?

25 A Yes, sir.

CHRIS JOHNSON-DIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 Q So, you work closely or you have a lot of  
2 knowledge about the telecommunication industry?

3 A Yes, sir.

4 Q And you know how to make records request and  
5 analyze data that's been given to you by the cell phone  
6 carriers?

7 A Yes, sir.

8 Q Give us an example of what kind of data these  
9 cell phone companies provide that you analyze.

10 A Most times, they provide you with the numbers  
11 that the phone has called or has received calls from, the  
12 date and time of those calls and what tower or what facial  
13 cell phone tower the phone utilized in making or receiving  
14 that cell phone call.

15 Q All right. And what can information about what  
16 telephone tower -- what does that help us understand?

17 A It provides us with the ability to see a pattern  
18 of movement, general locations of the device while we're  
19 trying to look at where a person may be, where they may  
20 not be. It just gives us an overall general location of  
21 their whereabouts.

22 Q So, there are a lot of cell phone towers  
23 throughout the state and across the country, correct?

24 A Probably millions, yes, sir.

25 Q So, by what tower your cell phone is using -- or

CHRIS JOHNSON-DIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 what cell phone tower is servicing your phone, you can  
2 pretty much geographically tell where a person is?

3 A Yeah, within a general means, yes, sir.

4 Q So, a company like Verizon, a very big cell  
5 phone company, if you give them a number that you want  
6 records on, they can provide you cell tower information?

7 A As long as we got the proper call search  
8 warrant, yes, sir.

9 Q All right. And now, have you been qualified as  
10 an expert in the criminal courts of this state?

11 A Yes, sir, several times.

12 Q In what particular field?

13 A In phone analysis, call analysis, cell phone  
14 records.

15 Q This is highly technical kind of stuff to  
16 analysis and interpret, correct?

17 A It is to an extent, yes, sir.

18 MR. DANIEL: Your Honor, at this time, I would  
19 offer Agent Johnson as an expert in the field of cell  
20 phone record interpretations.

21 THE COURT: Any objection?

22 MR. VERNER: I do, Your Honor, only because --  
23 not for his qualifications necessarily, but the --  
24 well, voir dire.

25 THE COURT: Go ahead.

CHRIS JOHNSON-VOIR DIRE BY MR. VERNER

VOIR DIRE EXAMINATION

1  
2 BY MR. VERNER:

3 Q Agent Johnson, what you're doing is you're using  
4 the cell phone records from the companies?

5 A Yes, sir.

6 Q And you're -- all the information you use is  
7 provided by the cell phone companies as far as what towers  
8 and phone numbers and that?

9 A Yes, sir.

10 Q What you're doing is using their information,  
11 mapping ranges of where the cell phone may have been?

12 A Where the towers are located, what tower that  
13 cell phone, device may have accessed.

14 Q Basically, what direction the signal is coming  
15 to the tower?

16 A Yes, sir.

17 Q Okay.

18 MR. VERNER: Your Honor, I don't know at this  
19 point -- if there comes a question that they need  
20 opinion type, then that may necessitate it, but  
21 largely, his testimony would be just the towers are  
22 here. He's got the information. I don't know that  
23 he would need to give qualified expert testimony in,  
24 you know, these were the towers that were hit. This  
25 is the direction of the signal. I don't know that

CHRIS JOHNSON-VOIR DIRE BY MR. VERNER

1       that type testimony would confuse the jury that a  
2       telephone is coming from this direction, therefore,  
3       the phone is over there.

4               THE COURT: Do you intend to ask him opinion  
5       testimony or are you simply going to ask him  
6       questions relating to proximity of the Defendant's  
7       cell phone to tower A, B, C, D, that kind of thing?

8               MR. DANIEL: Well, Your Honor, to understand  
9       these cell phone records, it takes an expertise in  
10      this field. Otherwise, you're just looking at a  
11      bunch of numbers. And he's the one who analyzes  
12      that, so it does take expertise as to how he reaches  
13      his result.

14              MR. VERNER: That's not the test to become a  
15      expert witness. The test is can the -- the lay  
16      witness can understand a lot of things that a jury  
17      would not understand, but the issue for an expert  
18      witness is then they're using conjecture and opinion  
19      and the scientific basis that goes beyond the  
20      knowledge of the jury.

21              THE COURT: Mr. Johnson, have you previously  
22      been qualified in the courts of the state as an  
23      expert in the field of cell phone interpretation?

24              THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

25              THE COURT: How many times?



CHRIS JOHNSON-VOIR DIRE BY MR. VERNER

1 THE WITNESS: At least three.

2 THE COURT: Three, okay. Was the testimony  
3 similar to the kind that you're offering here today?

4 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

5 THE COURT: All right, the objection is noted.  
6 The Court will admit Mr. Johnson as an expert in the  
7 field of cell phone interpretation to the extent that  
8 he may need to.

9 I understand your point, Mr. Verner. That's,  
10 perhaps, something that's within common knowledge,  
11 but to the extent that maybe he needs to opine on  
12 some particular issue, the Court will accept that  
13 he's expert.

14 You may continue.

15 MR. DANIEL: Thank you, Your Honor.

16 BY MR. DANIEL:

17 Q Briefly, Agent Johnson, do you have any  
18 particular certifications or classes or anything you do to  
19 maintain knowledge of this particular field?

20 A Yes, sir. I've attended the FBI [indiscernible]  
21 program, which is magnet solution that we use to help sort  
22 our phone records. I've been to several advanced schools  
23 and administrator schools through a company called  
24 Penlink, and several other narcotic schools that utilize  
25 the same technology.

CHRIS JOHNSON-VOIR DIRE BY MR. VERNER

1           Q     All right. Me, as a layperson, if I were  
2 provided records from Verizon, would it be easy for me to  
3 determine just based on looking at those records what cell  
4 phone tower my phone was using?

5           A     You would know the tower number, but without  
6 having the spread sheets with the tower locations and  
7 knowing how to map them and how to determine what the  
8 faces are and what they call the beam width is for that  
9 tower, you wouldn't know necessarily what the directions  
10 are.

11          Q     Okay. So, it would be difficult to map and plot  
12 locations without that special knowledge?

13          A     Yes.

14          Q     So, just for instance, I'm picking up my phone,  
15 I'm calling somebody, I'm at the Newberry courthouse.  
16 Then if you wanted to know where I was at that particular  
17 day, would it be accurate to say that one way you could do  
18 that is get my phone records from Verizon, see what time I  
19 made that particular call, and then you would then look  
20 the nearest cell phone tower to the courthouse?

21          A     Yes, sir. Well, we don't normally look at the  
22 tower closest to the courthouse, but I would look at your  
23 call records and map those locations that you accessed  
24 when initiating a call or when your call is initiated when  
25 receiving a call, that first tower that's accessed. From

CHRIS JOHNSON-VOIR DIRE BY MR. VERNER

1 that point, we would look and see what are in those areas,  
2 then knowing your background and knowing, you know, what  
3 we're looking for, then we would be able to determine  
4 potential points of location that you were at.

5 Q Also, not just me making the call, but receiving  
6 a call as well?

7 A Yes, sir.

8 Q I'm utilizing the tower?

9 A Yes, sir.

10 Q So, that's one way you can prove that I was in  
11 Newberry on a particular day?

12 A Yes, sir.

13 Q All right. So, in this particular case, were  
14 you asked to analyze some phone records associated with  
15 the Defendant, Clifton Boozer?

16 A Yes, sir.

17 Q Approximately when were you asked to do an  
18 analysis of his phone records?

19 A Probably mid to early June.

20 Q Okay. Of this year?

21 A Yes, sir.

22 Q All right. I'm going to hand you what's been  
23 marked for ID purposes as State's 64. Do you recognize  
24 this disk?

25 A Yes, sir.

CHRIS JOHNSON-VOIR DIRE BY MR. VERNER

1 Q Does it have your initials on it?

2 A It does.

3 Q What is that disk? What does it contain?

4 A It contains the case file and the call records  
5 that Verizon sent in regards to a search warrant, I  
6 believe sent to them.

7 Q Is that pertaining to the phone records  
8 associated with Clifton Boozer?

9 A Those are the ones that I looked at, yes, sir.

10 Q These are the records you analyzed to determine  
11 tower location?

12 A Yes, sir.

13 MR. DANIEL: Okay. Your Honor, I'd offer  
14 State's 64 for admission into evidence.

15 THE COURT: Is that the one that was offered  
16 earlier?

17 MR. DANIEL: Yes, sir.

18 MR. VERNER: Still a little bit of foundation  
19 and substance issue with them, Your Honor, but if  
20 he's going to use them as basis -- I'd prefer him  
21 wait and testify how he uses the information prior to  
22 him introducing the information.

23 THE COURT: All right. Your objection is noted  
24 overruled.

25 64 is in evidence.

CHRIS JOHNSON-VOIR DIRE BY MR. VERNER

1 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibit No. 64 was admitted  
2 into evidence.)

3 BY MR. DANIEL:

4 Q Agent Johnson, what phone number was associated  
5 with these records? What was the actual number?

6 A I'd have to look back at my report that I  
7 generated.

8 Q All right. Your report that you -- you  
9 generated a report after analyzing and reviewing these  
10 records, correct?

11 A Yes, sir.

12 Q I'm going to hand you State Exhibit 68, do you  
13 recognize this?

14 A Yes, sir.

15 Q What is that?

16 A That is our report format that we utilize and it  
17 is the one for this case.

18 Q All right. And these are your conclusions based  
19 on Clifton Boozer's cell phone records, tower location  
20 information?

21 A Yes, sir.

22 MR. DANIEL: Your Honor, I offer State's 68 for  
23 admission into evidence.

24 THE COURT: Subject to the same objections?

25 MR. VERNER: Number one, Your Honor, the police

CHRIS JOHNSON-VOIR DIRE BY MR. VERNER

1 reports are typically excluded from evidence. Two,  
2 we're introducing the report without saying what it  
3 is for the jury.

4 THE COURT: Let me see the report.

5 MR. VERNER: So, at this point, the State can  
6 just rest with the report in there that there's no  
7 basis to.

8 MS. DANIEL: Your Honor, I believe it can come  
9 in under the voluminous records exception. It's a  
10 breakdown of the actual records into a more easier  
11 format.

12 MR. VERNER: But it's not, it's maps and  
13 pictures.

14 THE COURT: Do you intend to use this primarily  
15 as a demonstrative exhibit?

16 MR. DANIEL: Yes, sir, it's --

17 THE COURT: You're going to let this witness  
18 walk you through as this Defendant plays it on the --

19 MR. DANIEL: Yes, sir.

20 THE COURT: So, you not need to introduce this  
21 then. Mark it for identification, but it doesn't  
22 need to come into evidence.

23 MR. DANIEL: And it can still be published to  
24 the jury?

25 THE COURT: Yeah, sure. You can use it as a

CHRIS JOHNSON-VOIR DIRE BY MR. VERNER

1 demonstrative exhibit as opposed to being entered.

2 BY MR. DANIEL:

3 Q Agent Johnson, I'm going to walk you through  
4 State's 68. All right. Tell us here the phone record,  
5 the number for the phone record you analyzed.

6 A Yes, sir. It's (803)924-6991.

7 Q Okay. All right. Now, walk us through -- were  
8 you made aware of the crime scene, the location of the  
9 crime scene in this case?

10 A Yes, sir.

11 Q What was the location of the crime scene in this  
12 case?

13 A The address provided was [REDACTED] Conifer Drive in  
14 Prosperity, South Carolina.

15 Q All right. And what was the scope of the  
16 records you received? What dates?

17 A I believe they were from May 2nd through May  
18 4th. I only analyzed the morning of May 3rd from like  
19 midnight until mid-morning that day.

20 Q All right. Tell us, when do you first see that  
21 phone number utilizing a tower in the proximity, close  
22 proximity to the [REDACTED] Conifer Drive address?

23 A Yes, sir. The first call that was noted was at  
24 5:45 a.m. on May 3, 2017.

25 Q All right. You did produce a map for us?

CHRIS JOHNSON-VOIR DIRE BY MR. VERNER

1           A     Yes, sir.

2           Q     Agent Johnson, if you could, step down and  
3 explain this map to us.

4           A     Okay. So, this particular call access tower 18,  
5 it indicated it was on sector two of the tower. As is  
6 indicated on one of the earlier slides, a cell phone tower  
7 is typically made up of three sectors, normally numbering  
8 one, two, three. Some of your newer towers with the LTE  
9 markets go into usually four, five, six, seven, eight,  
10 nine, but it's always in the three-side conjunction.

11                     Again, this tower was tower 18, sector two.  
12 We are always taught that we map based off of GPS  
13 coordinates of the tower and not an address because  
14 addresses, as you can, if you've ever used a GPS, are not  
15 always exact; however, the GPS coordinates are. So, we're  
16 able to do that as well as utilizing GO mapping. We can  
17 zoom into the map and actually see the tower as it sits on  
18 the ground, so we are able to confirm its location based  
19 on that.

20                     Again, looking at the tower list for  
21 Verizon, I note that sector two produced a, what they call  
22 the azimuth, which is the -- degrees on a compass is  
23 180-degrees and that's what Verizon defines as the center  
24 point for sector two. So, from that, we add 60 degrees,  
25 one side of 180 degree and 60 degrees to the other side of



CHRIS JOHNSON-VOIR DIRE BY MR. VERNER

1 180 degrees. And that gives us the beam width, which is  
2 indicated here by the cone that you see in blue.

3 Q Okay. Where is the incident location, the [REDACTED]  
4 Conifer Drive in relation to the tower?

5 A Right there where that house is located.

6 Q Point exactly where the tower would be if it was  
7 on a map.

8 A Right here. That cone, sector two is facing  
9 back toward Prosperity.

10 Q So, if you are receiving a call, for instance,  
11 and you're at or near the [REDACTED] Conifer Drive address, that  
12 is the tower that would be servicing your phone if you're  
13 in that location?

14 A Most likely, yes, sir. As you'll see, there's  
15 another tower that services that area as well from a  
16 different direction. It's not quite as close as tower 18,  
17 but because it's that far out, it develops what is called  
18 a hand-off zone and that is what makes a phone waffle  
19 between towers. And you'll see that in another slide in a  
20 minute.

21 Q Essentially, your phone is acting in a way as  
22 kind of a GPS tracker in a sense?

23 A It is to a sense other than the way this  
24 functions. It bases off of the phone of that tower, not  
25 necessarily a GPS point, but it is the cone of that tower

CHRIS JOHNSON-VOIR DIRE BY MR. VERNER

1 it's located on.

2 Q The phone records you analyzed, as you stated,  
3 shows Mr.~Boozer's phone first hitting off this tower at  
4 5:45 a.m. on May 3rd?

5 A Yes, sir.

6 Q And is that based on Mr.~Boozer making the call  
7 or receiving the call?

8 A 5:45, he received a phone call on that.

9 Q So, 5:45 a.m., that doesn't necessarily mean  
10 when he first got to the area?

11 A No, sir. That's just the first time that phone  
12 registered with the network on that tower, the first time  
13 it had activity. Everything that I mapped in this case  
14 was based off voice activity. It wasn't based off of text  
15 messages or data plans.

16 Q Okay. Were text messages and data provided to  
17 you?

18 A Text messages are, but Verizon does not capture  
19 the cell phone towers and report those with text messages.

20 Q So, you couldn't analyze location based on  
21 texts?

22 A No, sir, they don't provide a location for that.  
23 The only provide location based off of voice. They will  
24 provide it on data, but that was not requested on this  
25 particular case.

CHRIS JOHNSON-VOIR DIRE BY MR. VERNER

1 Q All right. So, you could easily say someone  
2 could be in the area earlier, but that's just necessary  
3 when the call was received?

4 A Yes, sir, that's the only activity Verizon  
5 reported.

6 Q So, at a minimum, that could put them in the  
7 area at 5:45?

8 A Yes, sir.

9 Q But they could have been there prior to 5:45?

10 A Yes, sir.

11 Q That's just when the call -- in this particular  
12 case, that's when Mr.~Boozer's number received a call is  
13 what you're saying?

14 A Yes, sir.

15 Q He didn't make the call?

16 MR. VERNER: Ask and answered about three times,  
17 Your Honor.

18 MR. DANIEL: Beg the Court's indulgence.

19 BY MR. DANIEL:

20 Q And also on there, it looks like you have 5:45  
21 a.m., you have 8:23 as well?

22 A Yes, sir. There was another call at 8:23 on  
23 this particular tower and then it hands off to another  
24 tower and then comes to that 18 tower again.

25 Q And did that 8:23 time come from making a call

## CHRIS JOHNSON-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 or receiving a call?

2 A That was making a call.

3 Q Making a call?

4 A Yes, sir.

5 Q Okay. And any time between 5:45 and 8:23 do you  
6 see any phone activity in terms of calls?

7 A No, sir, there's a gap between those times.

8 Q In other words, it's kind of radio silence  
9 between 5:45 and 8:23?

10 A As far as his phone records are concerned, yes,  
11 sir.

12 MR. DANIEL: Please answer any questions

13 Mr.~Verner has.

14 THE COURT: Mr.~Verner.

15 CROSS-EXAMINATION

16 BY MR. VERNER:

17 Q A multiple-page report, but this is really the  
18 only one that you did for this case or?

19 A No, there are other towers on there, yes, sir.

20 Q But the yellow house icon, that's where  
21 Ms. Clatie Scribble lived on Conifer?

22 A Yes, sir.

23 Q Assuming that's where Ms. Clatie lived. The  
24 cell phone tower -- what is the yellow road?

25 A That is, I believe, Highway 76.

## CHRIS JOHNSON-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 Q That is from Newberry to Prosperity?

2 A Yes, sir.

3 Q Okay. The CR Coon Highway or 76?

4 A Yes, sir.

5 Q How many -- this is the downtown where it splits  
6 up, downtown Prosperity?

7 A Yes, sir.

8 Q How many miles is that tower from downtown  
9 Prosperity?

10 A That should be approximately --

11 Q Is there a scale?

12 A It is not. It should be about two, two and a  
13 half miles from downtown Prosperity. That tower should be  
14 reaching out about right at a mile, mile and a half.

15 Q So, what this shows us is that this tower  
16 received a phone call message from that 6991 cell phone  
17 coming from the bottom of the screen up?

18 A It received a request to send a phone call to  
19 the target telephone number and it found that phone number  
20 on that sector and tower, yes, sir.

21 Q Okay. The point of these long blue lines on the  
22 left and the right, the cone, is that the signal was  
23 somewhere between those two lines?

24 A Most likely, as Verizon is able to report it to  
25 us, yes, sir.

## CHRIS JOHNSON-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 Q I'm assuming if a cell tower has three sides,  
2 it's kind of in the shape of a triangle?

3 A It is. It's in a pie shape, a three-sided pie.

4 Q So, phone calls from Newberry would -- the top  
5 line would be pointing in that direction?

6 A Yes, sir, there would be another line going up,  
7 probably zero degrees. You would have sector one to your  
8 right and sector three to your left.

9 Q Okay. The solidly semi-circle area, the shaded  
10 area?

11 A Yes, sir.

12 Q Does that have any significance?

13 A No, sir, it doesn't. All that indicates is that  
14 that signal from that tower starts from the point where  
15 you see the tower and goes out in that direction.

16 Q So, that's more just to kind of show --

17 A Yes, sir, it's just showing that's the direction  
18 of the signal.

19 Q Okay. Is it possible the call could have been  
20 on the highway going from -- all you're really sure is  
21 that at 5:45, if Cliff had that phone or whoever was using  
22 that phone, it was somewhere between the cell phone tower  
23 and in the Prosperity direction?

24 A Yes, sir.

25 Q And that certainly includes Ms. Clatie

## CHRIS JOHNSON-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 Stribble's home?

2 A That's true.

3 Q Okay. And you don't know who those calls went  
4 out to or --

5 A No, sir.

6 Q Is that the extent? Okay. Thank you, Agent.

7 THE WITNESS: Thank you, sir.

8 THE COURT: All right, sir, you can step down.

9 Solicitor, any other additional witnesses for  
10 today?

11 MR. SCOTT: None, Your Honor.

12 THE COURT: Okay. All right, ladies and  
13 gentlemen of the jury, that concludes the testimony  
14 that we're going to take for today. I'm going to ask  
15 that you be back in the jury room tomorrow morning at  
16 9:15. And we'll resume with the trial of this case  
17 at that particular time. So again, please be back in  
18 the jury room at 9:15.

19 As things currently stand, as I mentioned  
20 yesterday, I still have tomorrow afternoon -- I've  
21 got drug court back in Greenwood, so when we break  
22 for lunch, that will do it for the day. That likely  
23 means that this case will be going into Thursday and  
24 we'll submit to you hopefully sometime on Thursday.  
25 Okay.

HARRY BODIFORD-FURTHER REDIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

FURTHER REDIRECT EXAMINATION

1

2 BY MR. DANIEL:

3 Q Good morning, Lieutenant Bodiford.

4 A Good morning.

5 Q So, you testified Monday afternoon and where we  
6 left off, you were the first responding officer in this  
7 case, correct?

8 A That's correct.

9 Q And the Town of Prosperity Police Department,  
10 that's a small agency, correct?

11 A That's correct.

12 Q So, not only were you the responding officer,  
13 you were also the lead investigator?

14 A That's correct.

15 Q And where we last left off, you responded to the  
16 911 call in this case and it took you about five minutes  
17 to respond to that call?

18 A A little bit less than five minutes.

19 Q You arrived on scene about 8:31 a.m.?

20 A I believe that's correct.

21 Q And you had reports that there was a homicide,  
22 correct?

23 A That's correct.

24 Q So, you had your weapon drawn in these type of  
25 cases?



## HARRY BODIFORD-FURTHER REDIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 A That's correct.

2 Q Is that training?

3 A It's more of an officer safety issue. At that  
4 time, I didn't know what the weapon was that was involved  
5 in the homicide. Didn't know whether there was a gun or  
6 knife or bare hands. So at which point, I did draw my  
7 weapon for officer safety.

8 Q So, you have your weapon drawn as you pull into  
9 ■■■ Conifer Drive?

10 A That's correct.

11 Q And you see Mr. Boozer, I believe you stated  
12 earlier that he was coming out of the entrance?

13 A He was walking out of the only entrance and exit  
14 way.

15 Q And at that point, you ordered him to put his  
16 hands up, get on the ground?

17 A That's correct.

18 Q And you had your weapon drawn?

19 A That's correct.

20 Q I believe you stated that Mr. Boozer, without  
21 you asking him any questions, made the statement?

22 A That's correct.

23 Q And what was his first statement to you?

24 A That statement was, Things went too far.

25 Q At that point -- you eventually place him into

## HARRY BODIFORD-FURTHER REDIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 custody?

2 A That's correct.

3 Q And other officers arrive on scene?

4 A That's correct.

5 Q All right. Now, at that point on scene with  
6 Mr. Boozer, you don't have any further interaction with  
7 him, essentially?

8 A At that time, I Mirandized him with -- I pulled  
9 my Miranda card out my wallet and Mirandized him at that  
10 point.

11 Q Okay. But sheriff's office arrives, EMS,  
12 coroner; is that correct?

13 A That's correct.

14 Q Okay. Then you call in SLED crime scene to  
15 assist?

16 A That's correct.

17 Q That was that James Tallon from SLED who  
18 testified Monday afternoon, right?

19 A Yes, sir, Special Agent James Tallon and Special  
20 Agent Margaret Pawley.

21 Q So, they're, essentially, processing the crime  
22 scene, assisting you?

23 A That's correct.

24 Q So, they're taking photos?

25 A That's correct.

## HARRY BODIFORD-FURTHER REDIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 Q But you go through the scene as well?

2 A That's correct.

3 Q All right. So, I'm not going to be redundant  
4 right now with what James Tallon already testified to.  
5 So, tell us what you're doing while SLED is processing the  
6 crime scene?

7 A I'm just following them along through the house,  
8 noting the evidence that -- they are, of course, taking  
9 pictures at the time. Basically, trying to get my view of  
10 the crime scene and where our evidence is and maybe what  
11 exactly transpired that morning.

12 Q All right. Now, at some point, Mr. Boozer is  
13 transported to the Newberry jail, correct?

14 A That's correct.

15 Q About how long did he stay on scene before he  
16 was taken off to the jail?

17 A I would say approximately an hour and a half to  
18 two hours. It was long enough for the coroner to get on  
19 to scene, SLED to arrive on the scene, for me to obtain  
20 the search warrant and for them to be able to take  
21 photographs of Mr. Boozer prior to him being transported.

22 Q Who transported -- what officer transported  
23 Mr. Boozer to the jail?

24 A One of my officers, Officer Cory Jones.

25 Q All right. Now, to your knowledge, did

## HARRY BODIFORD-FURTHER REDIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 Mr. Boozer request to speak to police while being  
2 transported to the jail?

3 A Well, when Officer Cory Jones transported  
4 Mr. Boozer to the jail, there was normal chitchat about, I  
5 guess, the weather or whatever they were talking about in  
6 this car. And I know that when Officer Jones came back to  
7 the scene to assist us in processing, he did mention to me  
8 that Mr. Boozer made a statement to him.

9 Q Just yes or no, did he request to speak to law  
10 enforcement, essentially, Mr. Boozer?

11 A Yes.

12 Q Okay. All right. And so, that would imply he  
13 wanted to speak to the investigator on the case?

14 A That's correct.

15 Q And that would be you?

16 A That's correct.

17 Q But you were out helping SLED process the crime  
18 scene at that point, correct?

19 A That's correct.

20 Q All right. So when, if any, did you get around  
21 to actually interviewing Mr. Boozer?

22 A I think we finally finished processing the crime  
23 scene around 3:30 in the evening, 3:30, 4:00 in the  
24 evening that day on the 3rd.

25 Q Okay. Now, I showed you photos of Mr. Boozer's

## HARRY BODIFORD-FURTHER REDIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 person Monday afternoon, did you -- and he had on a  
2 jacket, correct, long sleeves?

3 A That's correct.

4 Q And at that point, you didn't note any injuries  
5 to Mr. Boozer, did you?

6 A No, I did not.

7 Q Did he keep the jacket on the entire time he was  
8 on scene, Mr. Boozer?

9 A While he was on scene, that's correct.

10 Q Okay. All right. So, then later on, you're  
11 able to interview Mr. Boozer that same day, May 3rd?

12 A That's correct.

13 Q Approximately what time and where did the  
14 interview take place?

15 A I believe from my Miranda form, I believe the  
16 time that we interviewed him was 1640 hours, which is 4:40  
17 p.m. And we interviewed him at our police department at  
18 250 School Drive.

19 Q All right. So, I guess Mr. Boozer had to be  
20 picked up from the jail and then transported to the  
21 Prosperity Police Department?

22 A That's correct.

23 Q Who picked him up from the jail?

24 A That would be Officer Cory Jones.

25 Q So, by the time Officer Jones got there with

## HARRY BODIFORD-FURTHER REDIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 Mr. Boozer to the police department, it was about 4:40  
2 p.m.?

3 A That's correct.

4 Q So, that is about -- what time did the 911 call  
5 come in?

6 A That morning, the 911 call come in at, I believe  
7 it was 8:26.

8 Q All right. So roughly, what is that, about  
9 eight hours had passed between the 911 call and then when  
10 you got to sit down and interview Mr. Boozer?

11 A Roughly.

12 Q So, Mr. Boozer had eight hours between the  
13 initial arrest and his interview with you?

14 A That's correct.

15 Q And he was at the jail the entire eight hours to  
16 your knowledge?

17 A That's correct.

18 Q All right. So, at that point when Mr. Boozer  
19 arrives at the police department for the interview, is he  
20 wearing the same attire that he had on at the crime scene?

21 A No, he was actually wearing a Newberry County  
22 Detention Center uniform or jumpsuit, whatever you would  
23 call it.

24 Q Standard jumpsuit for everybody who's booked in  
25 the jail?

## HARRY BODIFORD-FURTHER REDIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 A That's correct.

2 Q Okay. And were you able -- is short sleeves,  
3 long sleeves?

4 A It is short sleeves.

5 Q Okay. So, you can see a good portion of the  
6 arms?

7 A Yes, sir.

8 Q And at that time, May 3rd, about 4:40 when the  
9 interview takes place, did you observe any fresh injuries  
10 to Mr. Boozer's arms?

11 A There were no fresh injuries, there were no  
12 bandages to his arm at the time.

13 Q And no indications from Mr. Boozer of any  
14 injuries?

15 A No, sir.

16 Q So, the interview commences at 4:40 p.m. Did  
17 you Mirandize Mr. Boozer at that point?

18 A Yes, sir, I did.

19 Q Miranda warnings are just stuff we see on TV,  
20 you have the right to remain silent, all that stuff?

21 A Yes, sir.

22 Q Okay. And you said you -- there's a Miranda  
23 form; is that correct?

24 A That's correct.

25 Q Okay. And what does a Miranda form consist of?

HARRY BODIFORD-FURTHER REDIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1           A     It's the entire Miranda warning and it's also  
2 the waiver of his rights at the time.

3           Q     Does it include information about his name,  
4 address, case number, that kind of stuff?

5           A     Yes.

6           Q     Phone numbers?

7           A     That's correct.

8           Q     All right. So he would -- Mr. Boozer would have  
9 had to provide that information to you?

10          A     That's correct.

11          Q     Okay. All right. I'm going to hand you what's  
12 been marked as -- for ID purposes State's No 59, do you  
13 recognize?

14          A     That's correct. That is the Miranda warning  
15 form from May 3rd, 2017.

16          Q     Okay.

17               MR. DANIEL: Your Honor, I would offer State's  
18 59 for admission into evidence.

19               MR. VERNER: Subject to my previous --

20               May I see the form for a second?

21               Just subject to my issue earlier, Your Honor.

22               THE COURT: Let me see that. Let me make sure  
23 I'm thinking the same.

24               MR. DANIEL: And there is an attachment, Your  
25 Honor.



HARRY BODIFORD-FURTHER REDIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 THE COURT: Okay. Subject to the earlier  
2 objection and all prior motions, State's 59 is in  
3 evidence.

4 MR. DANIEL: Thank you, Your Honor.

5 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibit No. 59 was admitted  
6 into evidence.)

7 BY MR. DANIEL:

8 Q All right. Officer Bodiford, now it's publish  
9 for the jury on the TV here. So, at the top -- actually,  
10 at the top, it tells where the interview takes place,  
11 correct?

12 A That's correct.

13 Q 250 School Drive, that's where the police  
14 department is?

15 A That's correct.

16 Q Got the case number and also the time. That  
17 would be the time the interview first starts?

18 A That's correct.

19 Q 4:40 p.m.?

20 A That's correct.

21 Q That's in military time. May 3rd. These are  
22 the Miranda warnings that you just talked about?

23 A That's correct.

24 Q Okay. As we see on the TV, CB, CB is Clifton  
25 Boozer, correct?

## HARRY BODIFORD-FURTHER REDIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 A That's actually his initials, yes.

2 Q So, he's initialing it after you read each line?

3 A That's correct.

4 Q All right. And he elected to waive his rights  
5 and speak to you?

6 A That's correct. He signed down at the bottom.

7 Q And he elected to do this freely and  
8 voluntarily?

9 A That's correct.

10 Q Did Mr. Boozer appear under the influence of  
11 anything?

12 A No, he did not.

13 Q Did he appear to understand his rights?

14 A Yes, sir.

15 Q Did you threaten him in any way to give a  
16 statement or coerce him, anything to that effect?

17 A No, sir.

18 Q Is it truly a freely and voluntarily statement?

19 A That's correct.

20 Q All right.

21 Scroll down one more, please.

22 So, you get him to sign it, correct?

23 A That's correct.

24 Q Then at the bottom, this is the address he put?

25 A I actually try to get the address and

## HARRY BODIFORD-FURTHER REDIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 everything, try to get personal information prior to  
2 starting the interview. And that was the address he  
3 provided to me on the interview and phone number.

4 Q So, that's the address he provided you where he  
5 living?

6 A That's correct.

7 Q [REDACTED] Feather Run Road in Newberry. All right.  
8 Also, did you ask him for his phone number?

9 A I did.

10 Q That is (803)924-9661?

11 A That's correct.

12 Q And he provided that?

13 A That's correct.

14 Q All right. And he indicates he can read and  
15 write. He attended high school, completed the ninth  
16 grade. All right. Now, is this being recorded?

17 A It is.

18 Q Audio recorded.

19 A Just audio recorded.

20 Q I should have ask you this earlier, were you  
21 equipped with body cam at the time of this incident?

22 A We were actually in trial phase. We were  
23 waiting on the body cams to come in. We had a  
24 solicitation grant from the state and we were waiting for  
25 them to arrive.

HARRY BODIFORD-FURTHER REDIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 Q Okay. So, that's why we don't see footage of  
2 you actually being the first responding officer?

3 A That's correct.

4 Q You had no body cam?

5 A That's correct.

6 Q But now you do?

7 A Yes, sir.

8 Q So, it was just kind of a funding issue in  
9 getting them used at that time?

10 A That's correct.

11 Q But you did have an audio tape recorder for the  
12 interview?

13 A I did.

14 Q All right. And you made a recording of this  
15 interview, correct?

16 A That's correct.

17 Q All right. And have you had a chance to listen  
18 to it?

19 A I have.

20 Q Okay. And is the audio recording a fair and  
21 accurate depiction of your interview with Mr. Boozer on  
22 May 3rd?

23 A That's correct.

24 Q I'm going to hand you what's been marked for ID  
25 purpose as State's 60. Do you recognize that?

## HARRY BODIFORD-FURTHER REDIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1           A     That is the interview from May 3rd.

2           Q     Okay.

3                 MR. DANIEL: Your Honor, I offer State's No. 60  
4     for admission.

5                 MR. VERNER: Subject to my concerns.

6                 THE COURT: Subject to earlier concerns, 60 is  
7     in evidence.

8                 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibit No. 60 was admitted  
9     into evidence.)

10    BY MR. DANIEL:

11           Q     About how long is this interview?

12           A     I believe it's roughly about 55 to 56 minutes.

13           Q     Who is present during the interview?

14           A     It's myself and Officer Cory Jones.

15           Q     And Mr. Boozer?

16           A     Yes, sorry. That's correct.

17           Q     Just the three of you in there?

18                 MR. DANIEL: All right. Your Honor, at this  
19     time, I would ask for permission to play the  
20     interview for the jury?

21                 THE COURT: You can proceed.

22                 MR. DANIEL: Thank you, Your Honor. If any of  
23     the jurors can't hear, just raise their hands and we  
24     can adjust the volume.

25                 THE COURT: Sure.

HARRY BODIFORD-FURTHER REDIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1           It's my understanding, ladies and gentlemen,  
2           this is about a 55-minute interview. At any point in  
3           time, it's easy just to stop this, so if you need a  
4           break at any point in time, raise your hand. And if  
5           you can't hear it, don't be shy about shouting out,  
6           okay. Go ahead.

7           While this is playing you can step down. You'll  
8           be more comfortable over there. Okay.

9           THE WITNESS: Thank you, sir.

10          MR. VERNER: This is 55?

11          THE COURT: Sixty.

12          MR. VERNER: Sixty, I'm sorry.

13          (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibit No. 60 was  
14          published.)

15          MR. DANIEL: Your Honor, that's the end of the  
16          statement.

17          MR. SCOTT: Your Honor, may we approach briefly?

18          THE COURT: Sure, come on up.

19          (WHEREUPON, a bench conference was held in the  
20          presence of the jury but out of the hearing of  
21          the jury.)

22          THE COURT: Ladies and gentlemen, the parties --  
23          the attorneys feel like, perhaps, a break right now  
24          would be a good idea because we've been here for more  
25          than an hour and it's going to take some additional

HARRY BODIFORD-FURTHER REDIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 testimony from this witness. So, we'll take a brief  
2 10 minute break or so. Don't discuss the case yet.

3 Officer, you can step down, don't talk about  
4 your testimony while we're on break.

5 We'll be at ease for about 10 minutes. Thank  
6 you.

7 (WHEREUPON, the jury left open court at  
8 approximately 10:41 a.m.)

9 (WHEREUPON, a short break was taken.)

10 THE COURT: All right. Let's have the jury back  
11 out, please.

12 (WHEREUPON, the jury came into open court at  
13 approximately 11:03 a.m.)

14 THE COURT: All right. The jury is back and  
15 seated.

16 Solicitor, you may continue, sir.

17 MR. DANIEL: Thank you, Your Honor.

18 BY MR. DANIEL:

19 Q All right. Lieutenant Bodiford, that was about  
20 a 55 minute interview, correct?

21 A That's correct.

22 Q All right. And I could hear you fairly clearly,  
23 but Mr. Boozer, it was a little bit muffled at times. I  
24 don't know if you were closer to the recording device.  
25 So, I'm going to go through some of the things that were

## HARRY BODIFORD-FURTHER REDIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 said just so we're all clear.

2 A Yes, sir.

3 Q And also when you're interviewing Mr. Boozer, is  
4 he demonstrating certain things, using gestures with his  
5 hands, that kind of thing?

6 A He is.

7 Q So, you would have to describe that. The audio,  
8 of course, cannot capture that.

9 A Of course.

10 Q So, I'll kind of go through it kind of in  
11 sequence of the interview. You tell me if I'm correct or  
12 not on what I heard exactly. At the beginning, you  
13 Mirandized Mr. Boozer, correct?

14 A That's correct.

15 Q And he did provide the phone number?

16 A That's correct.

17 Q Okay. And he said out of his own mouth  
18 (803)924-6991?

19 A I believe the number he actually gave me was  
20 9661.

21 Q 9661?

22 A 9661, yes, sir.

23 Q Okay, 9661. And we saw that earlier on the  
24 Miranda form?

25 A Yes, sir.



HARRY BODIFORD-FURTHER REDIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 Q He was clear on 9661?

2 A That's correct.

3 Q All right. Beginning of the interview, does he  
4 talk about getting married to Clatie Stribble?

5 A That's correct.

6 MR. VERNER: Your Honor, I object. One, they're  
7 leading questions. Two, the jury's heard the entire  
8 interview so we're just getting into asked and  
9 answered for the prosecutor to comment on that. He's  
10 got closing arguments to comment on the statement.

11 THE COURT: All right.

12 Solicitor, I understand that there were portions  
13 of that recording which were muffled. If you have  
14 some specific concerns about what was said or any  
15 stipulation or any hand motions or anything that the  
16 Defendant demonstrated in the interview, feel free to  
17 focus on those.

18 MR. DANIEL: Yes, Your Honor. I can narrow it  
19 down, Your Honor.

20 THE COURT: Go ahead.

21 BY MR. DANIEL:

22 Q All right. The 911, you indicated, came in at  
23 8:26 a.m.?

24 A That's correct.

25 MR. VERNER: Asked and answer many times.

HARRY BODIFORD-FURTHER REDIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 THE COURT: Overruled.

2 Lay the foundation, go ahead.

3 BY MR. DANIEL:

4 Q All right. And Mr. Boozer, making sure I heard  
5 this correctly, he indicated that he first arrived at  
6 Clatie's house at 8:00 a.m.?

7 A That's correct.

8 Q All right. And this -- you were present in the  
9 courtroom when Vanissia Wright testified yesterday?

10 A That's correct.

11 MR. VERNER: Again, Your Honor, it's improper to  
12 have one witness testify about the testimony of  
13 another witness.

14 MR. DANIEL: I'm not asking about her testimony,  
15 I'm asking whether she did testify.

16 THE COURT: We're not there yet.

17 Go ahead.

18 BY MR. DANIEL:

19 Q All right. She testified yesterday. You were  
20 in the courtroom?

21 A That's correct.

22 Q Okay. She was the Blue Cab driver?

23 A That's correct.

24 Q How did you first learn that she was the cab  
25 driver in this particular case?

## HARRY BODIFORD-FURTHER REDIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1           A     From my interview on May 3rd, 2017 at our police  
2 department.

3           Q     All right. So, Mr. Boozer told you that about  
4 the cab driver?

5           A     That's correct.

6           Q     That's the only way you learned about that  
7 initially?

8           A     That's correct.

9           Q     Okay. All right. And he -- or Mr. Boozer  
10 indicated that he was taken there by Blue Cab company from  
11 Newberry Arms?

12          A     That's correct.

13          Q     So, he was picked up by the cab company at  
14 Newberry Arms?

15          A     That's correct.

16          Q     Where is Newberry Arms?

17          A     It's in the City of Newberry, I believe.

18          Q     That's an apartment complex?

19          A     That's correct.

20          Q     All right. And at that point, y'all began to  
21 talk about what happened once he arrived?

22          A     That's correct.

23          Q     All right. All right. I understand there's  
24 some what was leading up to to some of the questions about  
25 the confrontation. He indicated he got into a heated

## HARRY BODIFORD-FURTHER REDIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 argument with Ms. Stribble?

2 A That's correct.

3 Q All right. And at that point, is he  
4 demonstrating anything, using gestures about how the  
5 physical confrontation played out? Is he using his hands  
6 motioning?

7 A He's moving his hands back and forth as he's  
8 talking and he also demonstrated the strangulation.

9 Q All right. Yeah, I want to talk about that.  
10 All right, I believe -- I'm trying to find my notes the  
11 portion of the interview you're asking him how did you  
12 strangle Clatie? I think it's probably around the 22  
13 minute mark or so, according to my notes, is that correct?

14 A That sounds about right, yeah.

15 Q All right. And I believe he had just stated  
16 Clatie had kind of been inadvertently stabbed?

17 A That's correct.

18 Q Okay. That he said she was looking for another  
19 knife?

20 A That's correct.

21 Q Then that's when the question was posed about  
22 how did you strangle Clatie; is that right?

23 A That's correct.

24 Q And then he didn't necessarily verbally answer,  
25 but he demonstrated how he choked her; is that right?

## HARRY BODIFORD-FURTHER REDIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1           A     Yes.  He held up his hands.

2                   MR. VERNER:  That's a leading question, Your  
3     Honor.  I mean, the interview is the interview.  It  
4     was played.

5                   THE COURT:  I understand.

6                   If you want to ask the witness about the --  
7     simple ask the witness about how the Defendant  
8     demonstrated the strangulation.

9     BY MR. DANIEL:

10           Q     All right.  Officer Bodiford, how did  
11     demonstrate strangling Ms. Stribble?

12           A     With two hands.

13           Q     With two hands?

14           A     That's correct.

15           Q     All right.  And I believe, did you ask something  
16     about chokehold, that kind of thing?

17           A     I did.

18           Q     What's your definition of a chokehold?

19           A     A chokehold, I mean, we all had a brother or  
20     sister that we've gotten into a fight with before as  
21     little kids, you put your brother or sister in a  
22     chokehold, basically, give them a noogie or whatever you  
23     call it, rub their head.

24           Q     Well, I guess, using kind of maybe the water  
25     bottle, I guess, or some kind of object -- is that the

## HARRY BODIFORD-FURTHER REDIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 headlock?

2 A Something like that, yeah.

3 Q That's what you consider a chokehold?

4 A Yes.

5 Q Headlock?

6 A Yes.

7 Q But Mr. Boozer demonstrated with his hands that  
8 he -- show that again.

9 A (The witness complies.)

10 Q That's how he indicated he choked Clatie?

11 A That's correct.

12 Q With his hands. And not around the arm as in a  
13 chokehold or headlock?

14 A That's correct.

15 Q Now, just to make sure I heard Mr. Boozer  
16 correctly, where did he say they fell onto the knife, he  
17 and Clatie fell onto the knife?

18 A As you come into the master bedroom, there was a  
19 couch that was up against the right side of the wall. And  
20 apparently, they had fell onto the arm of couch. The  
21 couch -- in between the couch and the bed, there's maybe a  
22 foot or less of space in between there.

23 Q All right.

24 Walter, pull up State's 17. This is  
25 already in evidence.

## HARRY BODIFORD-FURTHER REDIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1                   Officer Bodiford, if you could step down.

2           A       (The witness complies.)

3           Q       All right. Now, you came to this crime scene  
4 and you're familiar with this bedroom?

5           A       That's correct.

6           Q       All right. Now, based on your interview with  
7 Mr. Boozer, where is the couch in the bedroom?

8           A       It's actually up under this comforter right  
9 here. But that's the arm of the couch and you can see a  
10 little bit, it's like a blue suede or microfiber-type  
11 couch that ran along this wall.

12          Q       So, that's the couch Mr. Boozer is describing  
13 where he and Clatie are struggling over the knife?

14          A       That's correct.

15          Q       All right. And then also, did Mr. Boozer --  
16 where did Mr. Boozer -- if you recall, where did he say  
17 the strangling took place in the bedroom?

18          A       The strangling took place on this side of the  
19 bed in between the bed and the window.

20          Q       Okay. As you're walking in the bedroom, he's  
21 saying the strangulation would have occurred left side of  
22 the bedroom near the window?

23          A       That's correct.

24          Q       All right. But he's saying the stabbing or she  
25 was cut during the struggle, that first occurred right

HARRY BODIFORD-FURTHER REDIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 side of the room near the couch?

2 A That's correct right here.

3 Q Then he said later on, the strangulation took  
4 place on the left side of the bedroom near the window?

5 A That's correct.

6 Q And you just identified that. All right. All  
7 right.

8 Walter, State's 22, please.

9 Is that the area where Clatie's body was  
10 ultimately discovered?

11 A That's correct. Her feet were roughly where  
12 this piece of tape would be and her head was back this  
13 way.

14 Q Okay. And -- let's see. And do you recall  
15 where exactly blood was -- suspected blood was found in  
16 the bedroom, what all areas?

17 A I know that we noted there was blood on the arm  
18 of the couch, also, on the comforter that was sitting on  
19 top of the couch.

20 Q Let me stop you.

21 State's 29, Walter.

22 Is that the comforter you're referring to?

23 A That's correct.

24 Q That was on the couch?

25 A That's correct.



## HARRY BODIFORD-FURTHER REDIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 Q Where else did you say there was blood?

2 A There was blood on the floor at the footboard of  
3 the bed around the couch. There was also blood on the  
4 opposite side of the bed where in between the window and  
5 the wall, there was blood on the wall. There was also  
6 blood on a memory foam type mattress top that was sitting  
7 on top of the bed as well.

8 MR. DANIEL: All right. State's 23, Walter.

9 Q All right. Now, that's where you're indicating  
10 blood was on the wall?

11 A That's correct.

12 Q All right. And bottom left of that photo, that  
13 is where Ms. Clatie arm would be?

14 A That's correct.

15 Q All right.

16 A We also observed that there might be blood  
17 droplets that were on the light bulbs above the bed as  
18 well.

19 MR. DANIEL: State's 30, Walter.

20 Q And that's a picture of the wall again?

21 A That's correct.

22 Q Is there blood?

23 A Seems to be blood there and definitely down here  
24 at the baseboard.

25 Q So, you've got blood at the baseboard and you've

## HARRY BODIFORD-FURTHER REDIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 got blood higher up?

2 A That's correct.

3 Q Okay. At least, how up would you estimate that  
4 to be?

5 A In between four and five feet?

6 Q About how tall was Clatie?

7 A I believe she was 5-foot-four.

8 Q Okay. And then did you say there was blood on  
9 the bed as well?

10 A Yes, that's correct.

11 Q Where exactly on the bed?

12 A There was a mattress top that was on top of  
13 there, memory foam. It was kind of balled up. There was  
14 blood on top of it.

15 MR. DANIEL: All right. State's 25, Walter.

16 THE WITNESS: That would be indicated right  
17 here.

18 BY MR. DANIEL:

19 Q So, that's just a memory foam to supplement the  
20 mattress being more comfortable?

21 A That's correct.

22 Q All right. There's blood on that. All right.  
23 Now, Mr. Boozer, I know kind of towards the end of the  
24 interview, did he indicate where Ms. Clatie's phone would  
25 be?

## HARRY BODIFORD-FURTHER REDIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1           A     He stated to me that she would usually hide it  
2 when he came over. He did not tell us exactly where he  
3 knew her to hide the phone or anything of the sort.

4           MR. VERNER: Your Honor, does he still need the  
5 witness off the stand?

6           MR. DANIEL: I have a few more pictures, Your  
7 Honor.

8 BY MS. DANIEL:

9           Q     So, you never recovered Ms. Clatie's cell phone  
10 at the crime scene?

11          A     No, sir.

12          Q     Okay.

13          MR. DANIEL: State's 21, Walter.

14          Q     What are we looking at there?

15          A     That would be a phone charger. I believe it was  
16 a micro USB phone charger for maybe an Android device or  
17 something of the sort. It wasn't an Iphone.

18          Q     All right. And that's how you found the phone  
19 charger?

20          A     That's correct. Well, it was actually up under  
21 Ms. Stribble's body.

22          Q     Is there an outlet nearby?

23          A     That's correct. I believe there's an outlet  
24 right above the air conditioner vent.

25          Q     So, you find a cell phone charger, but no cell

HARRY BODIFORD-FURTHER REDIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 phone in the room?

2 A That's correct.

3 Q Or anyone else on the premises?

4 A That's correct.

5 Q Okay. But Mr. Boozer indicates that Clatie  
6 typically would hide her phone from him?

7 A That's correct.

8 Q All right.

9 MR. DANIEL: Walter, State's 18, please.

10 Q All right. Now, those appear to be black  
11 curtains on the wall?

12 A That's correct.

13 Q Is that how you found them in the bedroom?

14 A Yes, sir.

15 Q So, the curtain rod appears to be kind of torn  
16 off the wall?

17 A That's correct.

18 Q All right.

19 A You can also observe the outlet for the phone.

20 Q Okay.

21 MR. DANIEL: Nineteen, Walter, please.

22 Q Just another close-up. All right. So, would  
23 you consider this signs of a struggle, seeing a bedroom  
24 like this?

25 A Yes, sir. Seeing the -- usually an individual

HARRY BODIFORD-FURTHER REDIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 would not have their curtains ripped off the wall like  
2 that. Whenever we respond to a domestic violence, it is  
3 common for --

4 MR. VERNER: Your Honor, I object. He's going  
5 beyond just a factual question into prior experiences  
6 of --

7 THE COURT: All right. Sustained.

8 BY MR. DANIEL:

9 Q Officer Bodiford, I believe -- did Mr. Boozer --  
10 make sure I understood him correctly, did he indicate that  
11 he had a key to Clatie's house?

12 A He indicated that he did.

13 Q All right. And if I could show you State's 14.  
14 What are we looking at there?

15 A That would be the only entry/exit way into the  
16 home. And the door jam, as you can see, has been removed.

17 Q Okay. Does it appear to be intact or damaged or  
18 what?

19 A It seems like it is -- it was functional, but at  
20 that time, the door jam -- the strip around the door had  
21 been removed from what seems by force.

22 MR. DANIEL: Okay, State's 19, Walter.

23 Q All right. That's just a closer-up of the door  
24 jam. Is the wood -- is it solid or is it split?

25 A You can see right here it is split. There's

## HARRY BODIFORD-FURTHER REDIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 also some nails that looks like it's kind of poking  
2 through from the sheetrock from where the trim was being  
3 held up.

4 Q Why was that significant to document in this  
5 investigation?

6 A Because usually in cases like this, it could  
7 suggests forced entry.

8 Q This is signs of forcible entry?

9 A That's correct.

10 Q Mr. Boozer is explaining to you that he had a  
11 key?

12 A That's correct.

13 Q All right. Did you see any other signs that  
14 there was a struggle in any other rooms in the house?

15 A As you come into the doorway, there was a pink  
16 spaghetti strap top that was laying on the floor in front  
17 of the doorway. It seemed to be ripped.

18 MR. DANIEL: State's 13, Walter.

19 Q Is that the pink shirt you're referring to?

20 A That's correct.

21 Q And do you remember what exactly -- did you ask  
22 Mr. Boozer about that pink shirt is the interview?

23 A I did. I can't remember exactly what I asked  
24 him, but I believe I explained to him that I believed that  
25 she was wearing that and he ripped it off of her.

## HARRY BODIFORD-FURTHER REDIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1           Q     All right. I want to go to -- all right, when  
2     you -- so you were also the responding officer -- and you  
3     can have a seat, Officer Bodiford. Thank you. I  
4     appreciate that.

5           A     (The witness returns to witness stand.)

6           Q     I might ask you to stand up again, but for right  
7     now, you can sit back down. On scene, you're the first  
8     responding officer on the scene, do you search  
9     Mr. Boozer's person after you arrest him while on the  
10    scene?

11          A     Just to make sure he didn't have any weapons or  
12    anything on him.

13          Q     What property -- did Mr. Boozer have a cell  
14    phone on him?

15          A     He did have a cell phone on him.

16                MR. VERNER: I didn't hear the answer.

17                THE COURT: He had a cell phone.

18                MR. VERNER: He did.

19                THE COURT: Yes.

20    BY MR. DANIEL:

21          Q     Where was that cell phone? Was it on  
22    Mr. Boozer's person, in his pocket?

23          A     The cell phone was actually in his arm's reach.  
24    Whenever I arrived on scene, I got him to put his hands  
25    above his hands and lower himself to the ground. It was

HARRY BODIFORD-FURTHER REDIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 actually within his reach. He set it down on the ground.

2 Q All right. State's 61, do you recognize that?

3 A That's correct. It's a Tracphone that we  
4 recovered from him.

5 Q That is Mr. Boozer's phone is your testimony?

6 A That's correct.

7 MR. DANIEL: Your Honor, I would offer State's  
8 61 for admission into evidence.

9 MR. VERNER: No objection.

10 THE COURT: All right, State's 61 in evidence.

11 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibit No. 61 was admitted  
12 into evidence.)

13 BY MR. DANIEL:

14 Q Did you get a search warrant to access that  
15 phone?

16 A I did.

17 Q Okay. To actually access the physical -- the  
18 digital content that's on that phone?

19 A That's correct.

20 Q So, that doesn't involve going through the cell  
21 phone company?

22 A No, it does not.

23 Q What kind of cell phone is that? What brand?

24 A I believe it's Alcatel One Touch phone. I  
25 believe it's Android based.



## HARRY BODIFORD-FURTHER REDIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 Q Could you get into that phone or anybody from  
2 law enforcement get into that phone?

3 A It actually had a pin code or password to get  
4 into the phone.

5 Q All right. Were y'all able to get in the phone?

6 A I submitted the phone to SLED with the search  
7 warrant. SLED did all they could to get into it, but they  
8 were unable to.

9 Q Okay. So, even the SLED tech people couldn't  
10 get in the phone?

11 A That's correct.

12 Q Did Mr. Boozer provide the password or a pin  
13 code to the phone?

14 A No, he did not.

15 Q Okay. So, we don't know what's on that phone?

16 A We do not.

17 Q And did you obtain a search warrant for the cell  
18 phone records for Mr. Boozer?

19 A I did.

20 Q Does the cell phone company maintain records of  
21 text messages, conversations, the actual content?

22 A They do not.

23 Q All they can tell you is whether a text message  
24 has been sent?

25 A Yes, essentially.

## HARRY BODIFORD-FURTHER REDIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 Q And whether a phone call has been made?

2 A That's correct.

3 Q That was Chris Johnson's department yesterday,  
4 correct?

5 A That's correct.

6 Q But you did have a chance to review those cell  
7 phone records as well, though?

8 A That's correct.

9 Q That Investigator Bentley testified to?

10 A That's correct.

11 Q Approximately when did you receive those  
12 records?

13 A I'm not sure on the exact date. Can I refer to  
14 my notes?

15 Q You can give a rough -- it doesn't have to be  
16 exact. If you can just give a rough estimation.

17 A I originally did the search warrant for the  
18 records for the number that was provided on the Miranda.

19 Q Okay. That number again was -- tell us that  
20 number that was on the Miranda form that he provided?

21 A It's (803) 924-9661.

22 Q All right. So, you get a search warrant and you  
23 figure out what cell phone company that is?

24 A Yes, I believe it was T-Mobile.

25 Q And you send T-Mobile a search warrant saying I

## HARRY BODIFORD-FURTHER REDIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 want records for this number; is that right?

2 A That's correct.

3 Q Did you receive cell phone records for that  
4 number that Mr. Boozer provided you?

5 A Within 24 hours, I received an email back that  
6 that account was not opened. It did not belong to him.

7 Q So, that wasn't an active cell phone account?

8 A No, it was not.

9 Q So, that's not an active number?

10 A No, it was not.

11 Q Well, how did you determine what Mr. Boozer's  
12 true phone number was?

13 A Through using social media searches as well as  
14 investigative software [indiscernible]. And also using  
15 SLED analyst, I was able to corroborate from the CAD  
16 report that -- the CAD report would be the record that was  
17 generated by dispatch as (803)924-6991.

18 Q So, the best way we can confirm that was his  
19 true number is that's the number he called 911 from?

20 A That's correct.

21 Q That is --

22 MR. DANIEL: Walter, if you could, that CAD  
23 report, that State's No. 1.

24 Q All right. So, I believe at the top right?

25 A That's correct.

HARRY BODIFORD-FURTHER REDIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 Q Okay. That indicates the number he called 911  
2 from?

3 A That's correct.

4 Q And that was 6991?

5 A That's correct.

6 MR. VERNER: Your Honor, this has already been  
7 put in evidence. It's not a report this officer  
8 created himself. He's just reading what somebody  
9 else has already testified to many times before and  
10 somebody else created.

11 THE COURT: I understand. They're making a  
12 point specific with this witness. So overruled.

13 Go ahead.

14 MR. DANIEL: Thank you, Your Honor.

15 BY MR. DANIEL:

16 Q All right. Once you were learned that this was  
17 his number, the 6991, did you get a new search warrant for  
18 the phone records associated with that?

19 A That's correct.

20 Q What cell phone company was that?

21 A That would be Verizon Wireless.

22 Q Did Verizon Wireless have records for that  
23 number?

24 A They did.

25 Q So, that was an active number?

## HARRY BODIFORD-FURTHER REDIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 A That's correct.

2 Q All right.

3 MR. DANIEL: Walter, if you could put up State's  
4 59. Scroll down to the bottom of it. Up to the  
5 first page, sorry.

6 Q All right. Up top, he very clearly says his  
7 number is 9661?

8 A That's correct.

9 Q Okay. I want to ask you something, did you have  
10 any other occasion to interview Mr. Boozer besides May  
11 3rd?

12 A I did. May 5th of 2017 at the Newberry County  
13 Detention Center.

14 Q So, two days later, you have another interview  
15 with Mr. Boozer?

16 A That's correct.

17 Q All right. And how did that come about?

18 A I had attended the autopsy on May 4th, 2017, and  
19 also had an opportunity to gather a little bit more  
20 information. So, at that time, I wanted to clarify some  
21 information with Mr. Boozer.

22 Q So, this time the interview took place May 5th,  
23 two days later at the detention center?

24 And Walter, go to the second page of that  
25 Miranda form.

HARRY BODIFORD-FURTHER REDIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1                   Now, the second page on this Miranda form,  
2 does that relate to the May 5th interview?

3           A     That's correct.

4           Q     Again, it's almost identical to the May 3rd  
5 interview form?

6           A     That's correct.

7           MR. DANIEL: Walter, scroll down to the bottom  
8 of that second page.

9           Q     And again, does Mr. Boozer provide his phone  
10 number the second time?

11          A     That's correct. He actually handwrote it this  
12 time. I did not write that for him. And it was the  
13 924-9661 number.

14          Q     So 9661?

15          A     Yes, sir.

16          Q     He provides it a second time?

17          A     Yes, sir.

18          Q     But again, he called from the 69 number.

19          A     That's correct.

20          Q     All right. That May 5th interview, that takes  
21 place at the jail. What kind of clothing was he wearing  
22 when you interviewed him May 5th at the jail?

23          A     Mr. Boozer was actually -- I would explain it as  
24 like a moving blanket material, but it was like a hospital  
25 gown. He was placed on suicide watch. That it only

## HARRY BODIFORD-FURTHER REDIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 encompassed the front part of his body and it velcroed in  
2 the back. His arms were completely exposed and I believe  
3 from right below his knees all the way to his feet was  
4 exposed, beside his head.

5 Q So, May 3rd on the crime scene, you don't see  
6 his arms because they're covered with a jacket, right?

7 A That's correct.

8 Q But then eight hours later, on May 3rd, you see  
9 a good portion of his arms?

10 A That's correct.

11 Q When he's in the regular jail jumpsuit?

12 A That's correct. All the way up, roughly about  
13 from here to the shoulder.

14 Q But May 5th, he's in a different type of jail  
15 attire, is that what you're saying, on May 5th?

16 A That's correct.

17 Q And that just exposes more of his arms?

18 A That's correct.

19 Q Did you see any fresh injuries to Mr. Boozer's  
20 arms?

21 A There was no fresh injuries, no bandages.

22 Q And on May 5th, did Mr. Boozer inform you of any  
23 fresh injuries to his arms?

24 A No, he did not.

25 Q At any time, May 3rd or May 5th, did Mr. Boozer

HARRY BODIFORD-FURTHER REDIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 say he had any type of injuries whatsoever?

2 A No, he did not.

3 Q Okay. All right. And did you continue with the  
4 interview on May 5th?

5 A No, we did not. Mr. Boozer elected at that time  
6 not to speak with law enforcement.

7 Q So, at that time, the interview is ended at that  
8 point?

9 A That's correct.

10 Q Okay. And did Mr. Boozer, was he a cigarette  
11 smoker, do you know?

12 A I would assume so. He was walking out of the  
13 house with a pack of Pall Mall's in his hoodie whenever I  
14 arrived on scene. And also from a DNA report, his DNA was  
15 on a cigarette butt that we received.

16 Q So, you had a DNA report about a cigarette butt.  
17 Walter, State's 39.

18 What's that marker two?

19 A Marker two is actually the cigarette butt found  
20 on the side of house.

21 Q All right. What room are those windows to?  
22 Tell us what room is that window on the far left to?

23 A The far left window is actually going to be the  
24 bedroom window for Ms. Clatie Stribble.

25 Q Okay. And the other window on the right side?



## HARRY BODIFORD-FURTHER REDIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1           A     The one on the right side would be the window to  
2 the living room or common area.

3           Q     Okay. And that cigarette butt, did you look at  
4 that cigarette butt?

5           A     I did.

6           Q     Was it the same brand of cigarettes as the ones  
7 you found on Mr. Boozer's person or near him?

8           A     It looked -- it appeared to be the same brand,  
9 yes.

10          Q     Okay. All right. You've been in law  
11 enforcement for how long?

12          A     I've been in law enforcement for nine years as  
13 of this Friday.

14          Q     All right. Yesterday, Dr. Ross testified, I  
15 believe Mr. Verner asked her about pain compliance?

16          A     That's correct.

17          Q     Did they teach you in the academy, law  
18 enforcement academy about pain compliance?

19          A     They taught us about pain compliance. It was  
20 used through the use of pressure point control techniques.

21          Q     Pressure point control techniques?

22          A     That's correct.

23          Q     All right. What part of the body does that  
24 involve?

25          A     It encompasses the entire body. The entire body

HARRY BODIFORD-FURTHER REDIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 has multiple pressure points. Manipulating your pressure  
2 points would be a form of pain compliance.

3 Q Is there any pressure points they teach you in  
4 the academy around the neck?

5 MR. VERNER: Your Honor, I would argue upon  
6 several different -- I don't see the relevance of  
7 what the law enforcement academy teaches on subduing.  
8 It's commenting on another witness. But just  
9 primally relevance of what the law enforcement  
10 academy --

11 MR. DANIEL: Your Honor, he made it relevant  
12 yesterday.

13 MR. VERNER: Well, in general, I understand  
14 that, but now we're going over what the law  
15 enforcement academy teaches police officers on how to  
16 --

17 THE COURT: I believe it was raised by the  
18 defense. I will allow him to explore this. If we  
19 get too far afield, though, I think he does have  
20 somewhat of a point. I don't think the State's  
21 contending that the Defendant has had any law  
22 enforcement training, so. You can touch on this, but  
23 do not go into too much detail.

24 MR. DANIEL: Yes, sir. I'll be brief, Your  
25 Honor.

## HARRY BODIFORD-FURTHER REDIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 BY MR. DANIEL:

2 Q They teach pain compliance techniques at the  
3 academy you stated and there's pressure points in the neck  
4 they teach you about, correct?

5 A That's correct.

6 Q And what does that involve doing?

7 A Striking the -- it's call brachial plexus  
8 origin. It's placed on both sides of the neck and it  
9 would actually be a strike that you would do to the neck.

10 Q What happened what we referred to earlier as a  
11 chokehold or headlock, do they teach you to do that in the  
12 academy?

13 A You're not taught any chokeholds.

14 Q Okay. So, even to subdue a very combative  
15 subject, they still tell you do not do chokeholds?

16 A That's correct.

17 Q Do they teach you to do manual strangulation  
18 with your hands?

19 A They do not.

20 Q Even if somebody is being very combative?

21 A They do not. That would be a deadly force  
22 situation.

23 Q All right. And did you do a search warrant for  
24 Ms. Clatie's cell phone?

25 A I did.

HARRY BODIFORD-FURTHER REDIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 Q Or cell phone records?

2 A I did.

3 Q What number did you have associated with  
4 Ms. Clatie?

5 A Let me refer to my notes. I apologize. I've  
6 got a lot of files in here.

7 Q That's all right. Now, if I represent to you  
8 (803)597-0624, does that sound accurate?

9 A That's correct. That's actually what I have  
10 right here.

11 Q What was the cell phone carrier?

12 A That would be T-Mobile MetroPCS.

13 Q And did you send a search warrant and receive  
14 records from T-Mobile?

15 A That's correct?

16 Q I'm going to hand you what's been marked as  
17 State's 64, do you recognize that?

18 A I do.

19 Q All right. Is that Ms. Stribble's cell phone  
20 records from T-Mobile?

21 A That's correct.

22 MR. DANIEL: Your Honor, I would offer State's  
23 64 for admission into evidence.

24 MR. VERNER: No objection.

25 THE COURT: Excuse me, I think that's 63.

## HARRY BODIFORD-FURTHER REDIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 MR. VERNER: It would have to be.

2 MR. DANIEL: State's 63, my apologies.

3 THE COURT: Sixty-three in evidence.

4 (WHEREUPON, State's Exhibit No. 63 was admitted  
5 into evidence.)

6 BY MR. DANIEL:

7 Q All right. And I want to go back to the cab  
8 drive briefly. Once you interviewed Mr. Boozer, you  
9 discovered who the cab driver was in this case?

10 A That's correct.

11 Q Did you have occasion to interview this cab  
12 driver?

13 A I did. I met her at the cab stand on First  
14 Street in Newberry.

15 Q And that was -- was it Vanissia Wright who  
16 testified yesterday?

17 A That's correct.

18 Q All right. And did you get her to identify her  
19 fare that morning?

20 A That's correct. I submitted to SLED for a six  
21 person photo array to be made up for us. SLED uses it off  
22 of facial recognition, things of that sort.

23 Q So, you compiled a photo lineup for Ms. Wright  
24 to identify the individual who rode in her cab that  
25 morning?

HARRY BODIFORD-FURTHER REDIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1           A     That's correct.

2           Q     Okay. And she gives you a physical description  
3 first?

4           A     That's correct.

5           Q     All right. And how do you -- how does this  
6 photo lineup come about? Is it based off DMV records or  
7 license records?

8           A     I'm not 100 percent how SLED compiles the photo  
9 arrays. I know they're able to pull those from DMV, jail  
10 photos, any other data -- government database.

11          Q     All right. And so, it's basically individuals  
12 who look similar to Mr. Boozer, who have the same race,  
13 build --

14               MR. VERNER: We're not even contesting the photo  
15 lineup.

16               THE COURT: The lineup is not being contested.  
17 We need to move along. So let's focus on -- let's  
18 focus on what she testified to. That's not really an  
19 issue. Let's get to the heart of the matter.

20               MR. DANIEL: All right.

21 BY MR. DANIEL:

22          Q     She did identify number two in the lineup?

23          A     Yes, sir.

24               MR. DANIEL: That's my fault, Your Honor. I  
25 apologize. I'm being long winded.

## HARRY BODIFORD-FURTHER REDIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 All right. Beg the Court's indulgence.

2 Walter, State's 58.

3 Q All right. This is in evidence. This is an  
4 aerial. Do you recognize all this? You can step down if  
5 you need to.

6 A Yes, I do.

7 Q All right. That red pin drop, what is that?

8 A That is actually Conifer Drive right here.

9 Q And the yellow pin drop is what?

10 A That would be [REDACTED] Conifer Drive, which is Clatie  
11 Stribble's house.

12 Q All right. And that's a pretty heavily wooded  
13 area, correct?

14 A That's correct.

15 Q As you're facing Clatie's house, what's to the  
16 left of that?

17 A You're referring back over here?

18 Q No, no. Is there another house beside Clatie's  
19 house as you're facing it to the left?

20 A That's correct. That's a -- I believe it's a  
21 disability home right next to it.

22 Q It's a group home?

23 A That's correct.

24 Q And there's another house to the right of  
25 Clatie's house, too, as well?

## HARRY BODIFORD-FURTHER REDIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1           A     That's correct. It's a blue duplex.

2           Q     All right. In the interview, correct me if I'm  
3 wrong, you ask about the bed sheets?

4           A     That's correct.

5           Q     And it was kind of muffled on my end, but what  
6 did Mr. Boozer say about the bed sheets, why there were no  
7 bed sheets on Clatie's bed?

8           A     He explained to me that he didn't want to talk  
9 about it. At the time, he placed his head down and was  
10 basically talking at that time to the floor at that point.

11          Q     Okay. Did his body language change when you  
12 mentioned the sheets?

13          A     At that point, he seemed to get a little bit  
14 more anxious or nervous during the interview.

15          Q     All right. So, you can't account for where the  
16 sheets are?

17          A     I cannot.

18          Q     Okay. Did Mr. Boozer refuse to answer that  
19 question?

20          A     That's correct.

21          Q     He described a black-handled steak knife as  
22 well?

23          A     That's correct.

24          Q     In the interview with him, did he indicate where  
25 it was, where it would be?



## HARRY BODIFORD-FURTHER REDIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1           A     He explained that it was in the room, in the  
2 bedroom.

3           Q     Did you find it in the bedroom?

4           A     We did not.

5           Q     And he's indicating that's the knife that Clatie  
6 attacked him with?

7           A     That's correct.

8           Q     All right. What about -- and then, of course,  
9 the cell phone, could you find Clatie's cell phone?

10          A     I could not.

11          Q     So, those are three items that were unaccounted  
12 for when you processed the crime scene?

13          A     That's correct.

14          Q     Bedsheets, cell phone and the black-handled  
15 steak knife?

16          A     That's correct.

17          Q     Did you do a thorough search of the area?

18          A     We did. We actually enlisted the Prosperity  
19 rescue squad so we would have the manpower as well as  
20 everybody with our department came out to search the area.  
21 During this canvas -- this is where the home is. Back  
22 behind it, there is a -- there's a sewer easement road  
23 that leads to a sewage pond over here to the left of the  
24 screen. We pushed to that sewer easement and we also  
25 pushed to that side of the Williams Wood community.

## HARRY BODIFORD-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 Pushed all the way down toward Cedar Lane, which is right  
2 down here. We also pushed up to the backside of all these  
3 house checking all the trash cans on Conifer Drive as well  
4 as check the wood line or check the woods themselves.

5 Q Heavily wooded area and there's a sewage pump  
6 station not too far from the house?

7 A That's correct.

8 Q What about trash cans?

9 A There were trash cans. I believe Mondays are  
10 trash days. A lot of people don't usually pull their  
11 trash cans in like they're supposed to, but we checked all  
12 the trash cans that were out to the road at the time.

13 Q Okay. What about the crawlspace underneath the  
14 house?

15 A We did. I actually sent one of my officers into  
16 the crawlspace and we also checked the attic of the house  
17 as well.

18 Q What about prescription medication? Did you  
19 find any prescription medication for Clatie Stribble in  
20 the house?

21 A I did not see any prescription medication.

22 MR. DANIEL: Please answer any questions

23 Mr. Verner has Officer Bodiford. Thank you.

24 THE COURT: Mr. Verner.

25 CROSS-EXAMINATION

## HARRY BODIFORD-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 BY MR. VERNER:

2 Q Mr. Bodiford, you're the active chief of the  
3 Propriety Police Department?

4 A Interim, yes, sir.

5 Q Okay. The -- would it insult you if I ask  
6 you -- call you Chief Bodiford while I ask you questions?

7 A No, sir, that's fine.

8 Q Assuming just for instance that you had bed  
9 sheets in evidence, what value to the jury would that  
10 offer more than what you've already got? You've already  
11 got the mattress cover with blood on it, right?

12 A That's correct.

13 Q You've got a comforter with blood on it on the  
14 couch?

15 A That's correct.

16 Q You've got the pillows?

17 A That's correct.

18 Q You've got blood on the carpet around the bed?

19 A That's correct.

20 Q Just if there were bed sheets -- are you a  
21 hundred percent sure there are bed sheets or you just  
22 think more likely than not there are probably bed sheets?

23 A More likely than not, there are bed sheets.

24 Q It's possible there may not have been bed  
25 sheets, right?

## HARRY BODIFORD-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1           A     It is possible.

2           Q     Sometimes even with bed sheets, I'll sleep on  
3 top of the bed or just under a comforter. That's fairly  
4 common for people to do that, right?

5           A     I wouldn't exactly say it's common.

6           Q     But you don't see a lot of college students or  
7 lower income people who just sleep on a comforter or  
8 blankets?

9           A     I see it. I wouldn't exactly say it's common,  
10 though.

11          Q     I saw what's depicted of the house, there were  
12 like couches with blankets on them that somebody was  
13 clearly sleeping on?

14          A     That's correct.

15          Q     Okay. But just for the sake of argument, if we  
16 had bed sheets here for the jury to examine, what further  
17 evidence or what would that solve for them that we don't  
18 already have as evidence?

19          A     The bed sheets would actually be the barrier in  
20 between the comforter and the memory foam pillow top  
21 mattress that you have there. It would probably be a  
22 little bit more saturated with blood than what the memory  
23 foam would be or the mattress.

24          Q     Okay. So, you would have another bed clothing  
25 article with blood on it?

## HARRY BODIFORD-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 A That's correct.

2 Q But there was already blood on the bed?

3 A That's correct.

4 Q Is there any reason to think that where you  
5 found the blood on the egg crate would not be the location  
6 where she bled?

7 A Anytime I respond to a crime scene, I would like  
8 to try to get as much evidence as possible while I'm  
9 there.

10 Q It's another piece of the puzzle, but in the  
11 grand scheme of things, it's probably not the lynch pin of  
12 the case?

13 A I would agree with you.

14 Q Okay. On the issue of Mr. Boozer's cell phone,  
15 you've had the phone in your custody since May 3rd of  
16 2017, right?

17 A That's correct.

18 Q Okay. He clearly handed you the phone on that  
19 date?

20 A The phone was actually left on the ground.

21 Q Or he put it down when you came up?

22 A That's correct.

23 Q Okay. The same phone he used to call 911?

24 A That's correct.

25 Q Is it fair to say if I hand you a phone that I

## HARRY BODIFORD-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 would assume that you know the phone number? If you got  
2 my phone, I would assume you got my phone numbers and you  
3 can access the phone?

4 A The phone was not handed to me. It was left in  
5 the driveway whenever he was placed in custody.

6 Q When you were approaching him and he was getting  
7 down on the ground for you to arrest him?

8 A Yes, but he never handed me the phone. He laid  
9 the phone down in the driveway.

10 Q Okay. And you say that you haven't been able to  
11 get inside the phone to actually read the texts and  
12 whatnot?

13 A That's correct.

14 Q You know, there's the statement in the Koran if  
15 Mohammed won't come to the mountain, the mountain has to  
16 come to Mohammed --

17 MR. DANIEL: Your Honor, objection.

18 BY MR. VERNER:

19 Q Is there any reason you couldn't have -- did you  
20 ever like walk next door to the prosecutor's office and  
21 ask us for the pin code?

22 A I did not. At that time, I had no clue that he  
23 was being represented by Mr. Verner.

24 Q Did you ever ask anybody for the phone pin code?

25 A I did not.

## HARRY BODIFORD-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 Q Do you know of anybody else who would have like  
2 asked us or emailed us or said hey, do y'all want to see  
3 what's in the phone?

4 A As I previously stated, I had no clue he had a  
5 public defender until about a month before trial.

6 Q Okay. Now, it's clear that Clifton, in his  
7 statement, testified he was out there about 8:00 o'clock?

8 A That's correct, in his statement.

9 Q But he also said it could have been earlier and  
10 I came there by the blue taxi?

11 A That's correct.

12 Q That's true, isn't it?

13 A That's correct.

14 Q So, he's on foot. Was there evidence that there  
15 was another car that he could have left the scene in?

16 A It's a gravel road. There's a lot of ruts on  
17 the road.

18 Q But, I mean, did you see a car in the driveway  
19 that he could have used to run errands in?

20 A Not at Ms. Stribble's house, but the house that  
21 was located less than 20-yards away, there was a Chevy  
22 Colorado pickup.

23 Q Theoretically, he could have stolen the  
24 neighbor's car?

25 A I guess you could say that.

## HARRY BODIFORD-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1           Q     Was there any evidence that he stole the  
2 neighbor's car?

3           A     There was not.

4           Q     So, that's probably unlikely that he stole the  
5 neighbor's car?

6           A     That's correct.

7           Q     Okay. Did y'all call out the blood hounds?  
8 Newberry County Sheriff's Department has blood hounds,  
9 don't they?

10          A     They do.

11          Q     And they are extremely good at what they do of  
12 tracking people on foot?

13          A     I would assume so.

14          Q     Okay. You ever used the bloodhounds?

15          A     I have with previous agencies, but not  
16 Prosperity.

17          Q     Okay. But Newberry Sheriff's Department was  
18 coordinating, I assume, this investigation with  
19 Prosperity?

20          A     They actually just assisted us on scene. And  
21 then as of, I would say, probably about 10:00 a.m. on May  
22 3rd, it was completely in the Town of Prosperity's hands.

23          Q     Okay. Now, when the prosecutor was asking you  
24 all these questions about the statement that was already  
25 played into evidence and he asked you that you talked



## HARRY BODIFORD-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 about the pink shirt and you said, I think I did. But  
2 that's not accurate, is it?

3 A What, about talking about the pink shirt?

4 Q The prosecutor was just asking you questions  
5 about did you do this and you just said yes. But there's  
6 nowhere on that audio that you said why was that pink  
7 shirt on the kitchen floor?

8 A I didn't ask about the pink shirt. I did ask --  
9 well, I did speculate about the shirt being on the floor  
10 and been ripped off.

11 Q You did say that you thought that there were  
12 clothes in the kitchen or clothes that had been taken off,  
13 but you didn't say anything about a pink shirt being found  
14 in the kitchen?

15 A I do not believe I said pink.

16 Q Okay. And I think you indicated when we were  
17 talking about this -- what law enforcement calls pain  
18 compliance, but, you know, a lot of other people just call  
19 submission holds, the -- you're trained not to use the  
20 chokehold on somebody as a police officer?

21 A That's correct.

22 Q And I would assume that's because even  
23 unintentionally that could lead to more serious harm than  
24 you intended to cause somebody?

25 A That's correct.

## HARRY BODIFORD-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1           Q     But you would agree with me that the neck is a  
2     vulnerable area on a person's body?

3           A     Yes, there are a lot of arteries that carry  
4     blood to the brain.

5           Q     In fact, law enforcement teaches you to  
6     strike -- you can strike the side of neck would be a  
7     pressure point for somebody?

8           A     That's correct. It would be with an opened  
9     palm.

10          Q     Right. But not to choke or apply pressure?

11          A     That's correct.

12          Q     And you would agree with me that that's good law  
13     enforcement training?

14          A     That's correct.

15          Q     If you're trying to subdue somebody, you want to  
16     use enough force to stop them from fighting you, but not  
17     so much that you cause irreparable damage?

18          A     The minimal amount of force necessary to bring  
19     an unlawful situation under control, correct.

20          Q     Would you agree with me, though, sometimes the  
21     rules go out the window -- the tougher the fight is  
22     sometimes, the rules go out the window?

23          A     From a law enforcement standpoint, I would say  
24     no. We have a one plus one method that we actually  
25     follow.

## HARRY BODIFORD-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1           Q     I understand that it's not your watch and this  
2 didn't happen under your watch or your jurisdiction, but  
3 didn't I see in New York where the police officer used a  
4 chokehold on Eric Garner?

5           MR. DANIEL: Your Honor, I object. This is not  
6 relevant.

7           MR. VERNER: Well, he's saying that law  
8 enforcement doesn't use a chokehold.

9           THE COURT: I think we agreed that South  
10 Carolina law enforcement they're trained not to use  
11 chokeholds.

12          MR. VERNER: Right.

13 BY MR. VERNER:

14          Q     I mean, that Garner situation, perhaps, that's  
15 the reason they don't, so. Well, that's the point, the  
16 rules go out to window sometimes in a fight?

17          A     I can't speak to what New York State teaches at  
18 their academies.

19          Q     And -- well, I'm talking about just average --  
20 I'm not talking about a trained law enforcement officer,  
21 I'm talking about just Joe blow on the streets, in a dirty  
22 fight or in a hard fight, sometimes --

23          A     You would see a chokehold in those dirty fights  
24 like that, especially in mixed marital arts type venues as  
25 well as you see -- those type, if it's a little bit more

## HARRY BODIFORD-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 brutal.

2 Q It's not a law instructed authorized or approved  
3 way, but in a fight, a chokehold is sometimes a way that  
4 somebody uses to end a fight? It's a pain compliance  
5 or -- it ends a fight?

6 A In law enforcement, from the law enforcement  
7 perspective, no, unless deadly force is justified.

8 Q I'm not talking about in law enforcement. I'm  
9 talking about when you -- I assume you've examined or  
10 you've investigated or arrested people for fights  
11 routinely throughout nine years as a police officer?

12 A That's correct.

13 Q And chokehold is not a fairly -- I'm not saying  
14 in every fight, but it's not a fairly common event?

15 A I would say for the regular Joe Blow, it could  
16 be fairly common.

17 Q Okay. I'm not talking about with a police  
18 officer, but just when a lay person gets in a fight, if  
19 they use a chokehold, it's fair to say that they're either  
20 using it to kill somebody or seriously hurt somebody or  
21 they're using it to win the fight, is that fair to say?

22 A It could be.

23 Q Okay. And, in fact, I think you kind of alluded  
24 to that when you talked everybody who had a little brother  
25 or sister that they've been in a fight with and you were

## HARRY BODIFORD-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 talking about you put them in a headlock chokehold?

2 A That's correct.

3 Q And that's the same general idea, isn't it?

4 A That's correct.

5 Q You got control of the person that you're  
6 choking?

7 A That's correct.

8 Q Okay. Now, you've had Clifton Boozer's clothing  
9 and all his personal effects since he was arrested on  
10 May 3rd of 2017, right?

11 A I haven't physically had them. SLED actually  
12 took all of that off the scene and they actually tagged it  
13 in their evidence locker, so we received it back a few  
14 months prior to trial.

15 Q But by you, I mean you, the police, law  
16 enforcement?

17 A Law enforcement has had it, yes.

18 Q Okay. Have y'all looked at his keys to see if  
19 any of them match Ms. Clatie's door?

20 A There was one key and by the time we were able  
21 to get that back, there was already another tenant in the  
22 house and the locks had been changed.

23 Q So, you weren't able to confirm or deny whether  
24 that's the key or not?

25 A Correct.

## HARRY BODIFORD-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1           Q     But you did see some damage to the door frame to  
2     Ms. Clatie's only door to her house?

3           A     That's correct.

4           Q     Did you see -- I'm not a police officer, but  
5     just out of common sense and prior trials, if you see a  
6     door kicked in and the door frame is shattered open, you  
7     will typically find paint or broken chards of wood,  
8     splinters of wood in the kitchen area behind the door.  
9     Did you find any of that?

10          A     Not all the time, especially if you've had a  
11     little bit of time to tidy things up a little bit.

12          Q     Did it look anybody was tidying that house?

13          A     The bed sheets were missing at the time.

14          Q     Still, that would be -- assuming your theory is  
15     correct that somebody takes the time to vacuum or sweep up  
16     the door, but leaves a shirt in the middle of the kitchen?

17          A     That's correct.

18          Q     Okay. Again, my question is did you observe any  
19     shards or wood splinters or paint chips that were  
20     immediately behind the door?

21          A     Along the side of the wall, yes.

22          Q     On the floor?

23          A     No, on the side of the wall.

24          Q     Again, my question is on the floor?

25          A     Not on the floor, no.

## HARRY BODIFORD-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 Q Is that something if it was there, you think you  
2 probably would have noticed it?

3 A We would have noticed it if it was there.

4 Q Certainly, all the officers who were on the  
5 scene, that's a pretty common thing to look for when  
6 you've got a possible question about how somebody got in  
7 this house?

8 A That's correct.

9 Q Okay. The sheers, you call them curtains, but  
10 they're really more like sheers that were on that window?

11 A That's correct.

12 Q And it appear to me to be a really light weight  
13 fabric?

14 A That's correct.

15 Q From the photograph, it looked like it was --  
16 the bottom end of it was slightly under Ms. Clatie's body?  
17 I'm not sure which end. But did it appear like the bottom  
18 part of it was underneath or touching Ms. Clatie?

19 A Yes, it was touching.

20 Q And the pole that it was -- or the rod that it  
21 was on the wall on appeared to me to be a fairly thin,  
22 light piece of metal?

23 A That's correct.

24 Q Is it possible if Ms. Clatie's fell or was  
25 pushed off the bed that that could have been the cause of

## HARRY BODIFORD-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 the sheer coming down?

2 A It's possible. Not only was the rod down, but  
3 it was actually -- you could tell where it was secured  
4 into the wall, the right-hand side at the top, and that  
5 was actually ripped out as well.

6 Q But it's a light rod, so it would have been  
7 secured by small tacks or nails?

8 A I would assume so. I'm a police officer, not a  
9 builder.

10 Q And only one end of it came down, the end that  
11 was touching Ms. Clatie body?

12 A That's correct, the right side.

13 Q The fact that you found -- was it voluminous  
14 blood or just kind of clear blood splotches or splatter --  
15 I won't say splatter, but droppings or blood smudges in  
16 several areas of the room?

17 A It was a mixture of all. I mean, you had large  
18 droplets of blood everywhere. You had small droplets.  
19 You actually had smearing of blood on the wall. So, it  
20 would basically cover everything.

21 Q Okay. And the fact that you found several  
22 different locations of the blood, the -- on the floor and  
23 on the furniture and on the wall, would that indicate to  
24 you -- what does that indicate to you?

25 A That indicates to me that Ms. Stribble moved to



## HARRY BODIFORD-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 different places throughout the room.

2 Q There was a violent struggle?

3 A That's correct.

4 Q It would be kind of inconsistent with jumping on  
5 somebody on a bed and killing her on the bed?

6 A I don't believe he said that he killed her on  
7 the bed. I think he said he strangled her on the floor in  
8 between the bed and the wall.

9 Q Well, that's another question I've got. The  
10 prosecutor asked you which side of the bed he was sitting  
11 on when he choked her. He didn't say that. He just said  
12 we were on the bed. You pointed out and said he did it  
13 between the wall and the bed and that's not at all on his  
14 audio confession, is it?

15 A On the audio confession, if I recall, she sat  
16 back on the bed after she had stabbed herself. And then,  
17 ultimately, she was strangled on the floor in between the  
18 bed and the wall.

19 Q He didn't say she stabbed herself, did he? He  
20 said we were fighting over the knife that we had together  
21 and that's how she got stabbed and we both fell on the  
22 couch?

23 A That's correct. But it would --

24 Q I understand that's different than saying I  
25 stabbed her, but he didn't say she just grabbed the knife

## HARRY BODIFORD-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 and stabbed herself?

2 A That's correct.

3 Q He said we were fighting over a knife and that's  
4 when she got stabbed?

5 A That's correct.

6 Q When we landed on the couch. And he was  
7 cooperating -- did he cooperate with you when you first  
8 arrested him?

9 A Yes.

10 Q In terms of surrender to you peacefully?

11 A He did, yes.

12 Q He's actually the one who called the police in  
13 the first place?

14 A That's correct.

15 Q And he cooperated with the SLED agents as they  
16 took photographs of him?

17 A That's correct.

18 Q Okay. And then on the same day, he agreed to  
19 meet you and be interviewed by you?

20 A That's correct.

21 Q Okay. And I understand in your statement that  
22 you indicate to him that you don't necessarily believe  
23 everything he's telling you?

24 A That's correct.

25 Q Okay. And also on the same day that Ms. Clatie

## HARRY BODIFORD-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 was killed, I believe you spoke to Vanissia Wright?

2 A Let me look back. Vanissia Wright?

3 Q Yep.

4 A I believe it may have been the very next day.

5 Q Or May 4th, perhaps?

6 A Let me check my notes real quick.

7 Q Well, I'll hand you the note.

8 A That would be May 4th.

9 Q Right. As part of your duties as an  
10 investigator, you're required to make fairly  
11 contemporaneous reports when you investigate crimes?

12 A That's correct.

13 Q Okay. Part of that is to refresh your  
14 recollection if you have to go down the line and look back  
15 at something?

16 A That's correct.

17 Q Do you try to be accurate when you record what  
18 people tell you?

19 A Yes, sir.

20 Q That's important, isn't it?

21 A That's correct.

22 Q And you make your notes fairly close in time?  
23 You don't go back six months later and try to put together  
24 a case, you make them fairly close to the date that the  
25 events happen?

## HARRY BODIFORD-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1           A     That's correct.

2           Q     Okay.  Vanissia Wright was the taxi driver?

3           A     That's correct.

4           Q     That Clifton told you about, that's how he got  
5 there?

6           A     He told me about Blue Cab.

7           Q     It was fairly easy to contact Blue Cab and ask  
8 who was on duty?

9           A     That's correct.

10          Q     And she met with you?

11          A     That's correct.

12          Q     She told you where she dropped him off on  
13 May 3rd was where she dropped him off every time?

14          A     That's correct.

15          Q     Okay.  So, the question about whether she went  
16 into the driveway or not, she says I usually don't go into  
17 the driveway?

18          A     I believe what she said was every time -- she  
19 would drop him off at the same spot every time, on Conifer  
20 Drive every time due to Boozer always making a different  
21 excuse not to pull into the yard.

22          Q     Right.  Okay.  And that's what she told you on  
23 May 4th of last year?

24          A     That's correct.

25          Q     Okay.  Did Ms. Wright appear to have any kind of

## HARRY BODIFORD-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 biases in favor of trying to protect anybody in your  
2 opinion?

3 A No, she did not. She was actually worried that  
4 she was going to be an accessory to this homicide.

5 Q Well, that's right. When you've got a situation  
6 like this, it causes stress on a lot of people. Not just  
7 people who get arrested, but everybody, right?

8 A That's correct.

9 Q And meeting with you, I would assume would be  
10 stressful. You understand that when you meet people who  
11 are in jail that that's a stressful situation for them?

12 A I can see where it can be.

13 Q And particularly, when you got a person's death  
14 and you're the suspect in it, the lead suspect?

15 A That's correct.

16 Q Okay. Were you familiar with Clatie -- let me  
17 go -- the prior address that Clifton Boozer gave you was  
18 that he lived on Feather Run address?

19 A That's correct.

20 Q Are you familiar with whether that's also Clatie  
21 Stribble's prior address?

22 A I got her DMV records. I can tell you what her  
23 --

24 Q I'm only asking you if you know from personal  
25 knowledge?

HARRY BODIFORD-REDIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 A Just from what I heard yesterday.

2 Q Okay.

3 A I believe her previous address was going to be

4 ■ Gilbert Street.

5 Q Do you know whether Clatie Stribble smoked  
6 cigarettes?

7 A I do not.

8 Q And the fact that Clifton was in a suicide gown,  
9 you don't know whether that's just jail policy when  
10 somebody gets a murder charge whether they automatically  
11 go under observation for a period of time?

12 A I'm not sure of that. That would have to be a  
13 question for Newberry County Detention Center.

14 Q Okay. But my question, whether that's just an  
15 automatic jail policy or whether Clifton Boozer was  
16 actually suicidal?

17 A It could be their standard operating procedure.

18 Q Okay. All right. Just out of curiosity --

19 MR. VERNER: Well, I think I'll close up. Thank  
20 you. See if the prosecutor has anything.

21 THE COURT: Redirect?

22 MR. DANIEL: Very briefly.

23 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

24 BY MR. DANIEL:

25 Q Mr. Verner asked you about the 8:00 a.m. arrival

## HARRY BODIFORD-REDIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 time that Mr. Boozer stated in his interview.

2 A That's correct.

3 Q At the Conifer address. He said -- now,  
4 Mr. Verner seemed to suggest that 8:00 a.m. was an  
5 approximation, it could have been earlier?

6 A That is correct.

7 Q All right. You reviewed Mr. Boozer's phone  
8 records, correct?

9 A That's correct.

10 Q What time does his phone records indicate he  
11 called the Blue Cab number?

12 A I believe in my notes he notified Blue Cab at  
13 0457, which is 4:57 in the a.m.

14 Q All right. Would you agree that the difference  
15 between 4:57 a.m. and approximately 8:00 a.m. is a big  
16 difference?

17 A It's about three hours.

18 Q Okay. All right. Mr. Verner asked you about  
19 what's the significance of not finding the bed sheets. Is  
20 getting rid of evidence at a crime scene, is that --  
21 that's a crime in and of itself, too, isn't it?

22 A It is.

23 Q So. Would that be significant to you?

24 A Yes, sir.

25 Q And, in fact, tell me if this is correct,

HARRY BODIFORD-REDIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 between 32 and 33 minutes into the interview is when  
2 Mr. Boozer discusses the bed sheets?

3 A That's correct.

4 Q And correct me if I'm wrong, did Mr. Boozer say  
5 I got rid of the sheets?

6 A That's correct.

7 Q And then you said his demeanor changed at that  
8 point?

9 A That's correct.

10 Q Did he elaborate any further?

11 A He did not.

12 Q Okay. Mr. Verner asked you about MMA  
13 chokeholds, things of that nature, what happens -- do you  
14 watch MMA or familiar with it?

15 A Off and on.

16 Q What happens when --

17 MR. VERNER: Your Honor, this is recross. I  
18 never said anything about MMA or anything, I said  
19 just a fight.

20 THE COURT: What is MMA?

21 MR. VERNER: That's the mix where they fight  
22 without the boxing gloves I assume is what the  
23 prosecutor --

24 MR. DANIEL: Your Honor, he said mixed martial  
25 arts, MMA is the acronym.



HARRY BODIFORD-REDIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 MR. VERNER: I never mentioned MMA, but I did  
2 say a fight.

3 THE COURT: I'm going to sustain that. We've  
4 had enough about that kind of thing, okay.

5 MR. DANIEL: Yes, sir.

6 BY MR. DANIEL:

7 Q All right. Lieutenant Bodiford -- all right,  
8 between 36 to 38 minutes roughly you asked Mr. Boozer  
9 where did you strangle Clatie, right?

10 A That's correct.

11 Q And I'm kind of unclear where exactly did  
12 Mr. Boozer indicate she was strangled?

13 A I believe it was in the recording that it was on  
14 the floor in between the bed and the wall.

15 Q Okay. All right. But they initially fell on  
16 the knife -- or Clatie fell on the knife opposite side  
17 near the couch?

18 A The opposite side of the room, yes.

19 Q Okay. And according to Mr. Boozer, which came  
20 first?

21 A The struggle over the knife.

22 Q Okay. And you said -- Mr. Verner asked you  
23 about Mr. Boozer's level of cooperation, you indicated he  
24 cooperated?

25 A That's correct.

## HARRY BODIFORD-RE CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 Q What were Mr. Boozer's first words to you when  
2 you arrived on the scene?

3 A Things went too far.

4 Q Did he mention at that point in time Clatie  
5 attacked me with a knife?

6 A He did not.

7 Q Okay.

8 MR. DANIEL: Thank you.

9 THE COURT: Any recross?

10 MR. VERNER: Your Honor, just one question.

11 RE CROSS-EXAMINATION

12 BY MR. VERNER:

13 Q Two questions. One, what you heard Clifton  
14 Boozer say to you was the same thing that was played for  
15 the jury?

16 A That's correct.

17 Q They can hear exactly what you could hear from  
18 it, right?

19 A That's correct.

20 Q Okay. So, your recollection of what he said is  
21 not necessarily better than what we just heard when that  
22 hour long interview was played for us?

23 A I guess we're hearing all the same thing.

24 Q Okay. And he clearly told you in the interview,  
25 I don't know when I came, it was after the kids went to

## HARRY BODIFORD-RECROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 school. You didn't hear him saying I got there after the  
2 kids went to school?

3 A I believe he said something to the effect that  
4 the kids were already on the bus.

5 Q Okay. But whatever he said is clearly on the  
6 tape and we all heard it?

7 A Yes.

8 MR. VERNER: Okay.

9 THE COURT: All right sir, you can step down,  
10 please. Thank you very much.

11 Let me meet over here to the side with the  
12 attorneys, please.

13 (WHEREUPON, a bench conference was held in the  
14 presence of the jury but out of the hearing of  
15 the jury.)

16 THE COURT: Ladies and gentlemen of the jury,  
17 we'll take a brief break. We're going to be finished  
18 with this case at the latest at 1:00 today. I got  
19 drug court this afternoon and I'm trying to get to a  
20 visitation for a member of my church. But adjourn to  
21 the back for a few minutes, let's see what else I can  
22 squeeze in today, okay. Don't talk about the case.

23 (WHEREUPON, the jury left open court at  
24 approximately 12:13 p.m.)

25 (WHEREUPON, a short break was taken.)

JENNIFER BROKOB-DIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 she expressed a mere two weeks prior to this  
2 incident, the probative value with that information  
3 outweighs any unfair prejudicial. That will be the  
4 ruling of the Court under Weston under 803.

5 Let's have the jury, please.

6 This will probably be your last witness, I would  
7 assume?

8 (WHEREUPON, the jury came into open court at  
9 approximately 12:39 p.m.)

10 THE COURT: All right, the jury is back and  
11 seated.

12 Solicitor, you want to recall a witness from  
13 yesterday?

14 MR. DANIEL: Yes, sir, Jennifer Brokob.

15 THE COURT: Ma'am, you're still under oath from  
16 yesterday, of course.

17 Go ahead, Solicitor.

18 MR. DANIEL: Thank you, Your Honor.

19 DIRECT EXAMINATION

20 BY MR. DANIEL:

21 Q Ms. Brokob, so you met Clatie, you testified to  
22 yesterday, I think you said 2013; is that correct?

23 A Yes.

24 Q Okay. And you met her through -- how did you  
25 met her again?

JENNIFER BROKOB-DIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 A My son's father was her roommate.

2 Q You met her through your son's father, who was  
3 Clatie's roommate at the time. And y'all became friends  
4 after that, correct?

5 A Yes, sir, when we started working together.

6 Q Then eventually, didn't y'all move in together,  
7 you testified to?

8 A Yes.

9 Q Where did y'all move into?

10 A We lived [REDACTED] Pine Hills, then moved to Feather  
11 Run.

12 Q What address exactly, Feather Run?

13 A [REDACTED] Feather Run.

14 Q Approximately when did you move in with Clatie  
15 at Feather Run?

16 A We moved from Pine Hills in July.

17 Q What year?

18 A 2014.

19 Q And you testified to yesterday that you knew  
20 Clatie and Clifton, you knew him as Cliff, to be dating  
21 during that time?

22 A On and off, yes.

23 Q And on and off, do you mean they would stay  
24 together for weeks and then you wouldn't see them or what  
25 do you mean?

## JENNIFER BROKOB-DIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1           A     Sometimes just days, sometimes weeks, sometimes  
2     days.

3           Q     Okay.

4           A     He came and went.

5           Q     But he would often stay the night with you guys  
6     at Feather Run?

7           A     Yes.

8           Q     And both of y'all had your kids there, you and  
9     Clatie, at Feather Run?

10          A     Yes.

11          Q     All right. And how would you describe their  
12     relationship? Was it a healthy relationship, a good  
13     relationship?

14          A     No, it was definitely toxic.

15          Q     And it was on and off again, correct?

16          A     Yes.

17          Q     All right. So, how long did y'all stay at  
18     Feather Run together? How long did you live there with  
19     Clatie?

20          A     About ten months.

21          Q     So, early 2015, you move out first?

22          A     Yes.

23          Q     Okay. And Clatie and the kids stay there?

24          A     Yes.

25          Q     Do you know if she continued to see Cliff after

JENNIFER BROKOB-DIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 that?

2 A Yes.

3 Q She did. All right. And did you maintain close  
4 contact with Clatie even after you moved out of Feather  
5 Run?

6 A We had a little bit of a rough patch right when  
7 I moved out, but then we reconnected.

8 Q From the time you moved out of Feather Run up  
9 until she was killed, May 3rd of last year, were you  
10 pretty much still in contact with her?

11 A Yes.

12 Q Continuously would you say?

13 A Yes.

14 Q Do you know her still to be seeing Cliff during  
15 this period?

16 A Like I said, I saw him one time and that was  
17 almost two months prior to this incident.

18 Q You saw --

19 A I saw Cliff one time over at her house. But  
20 they weren't together to my knowledge.

21 Q Okay. All right. When's the last time you saw  
22 Clatie before she died?

23 A It was a month prior that I saw her, set eyes on  
24 her.

25 Q April of 2017?

JENNIFER BROKOB-DIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 A Yes.

2 Q Okay. Did Clatie discuss anything about her  
3 relationship with Cliff with you?

4 A A lot of stuff, yes.

5 Q Would she go into great detail?

6 A Yes.

7 Q So, you knew the dynamics about the  
8 relationship?

9 A Yeah.

10 Q All right. So, the last time you saw her was in  
11 April. Did y'all have a conversation in person in April  
12 about Cliff?

13 A Yes.

14 Q Okay. At that time, did Clatie express what was  
15 her state of mind regarding Cliff?

16 A She always just said she was done. She was done  
17 with the relationship.

18 Q Did she express --

19 MR. VERNER: Your Honor, that's -- I object.

20 That's not what we talked about prior and that's not  
21 the point of this witness.

22 THE COURT: Y'all approach over here.

23 (WHEREUPON, a bench conference was held in the  
24 presence of the jury but out of the hearing of the  
25 jury.)



JENNIFER BROKOB-DIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 THE COURT: Ladies and gentlemen of the jury,  
2 please disregard that last answer from the witness.  
3 It wasn't responsive to the question that the  
4 solicitor was asking through no one's fault.

5 I understand you do object the next question,  
6 the reasons we have already been over with.

7 Ask the next question.

8 MR. DANIEL: Thank you, Your Honor.

9 BY MR. DANIEL:

10 Q All right, Ms. Brokob, you last saw her in  
11 April of 2017, at that time, did Clatie express to you any  
12 fear of Mr. Boozer?

13 A Yes.

14 Q In other words, she's expressing that she was  
15 afraid of Clifton Boozer at that time?

16 MR. VERNER: Your Honor, asked and answered.

17 THE COURT: Sustained. She answered pretty  
18 clearly.

19 BY MR. DANIEL:

20 Q Ms. Brokob, that was the last time you saw her  
21 in person. When was the last time you talked to her,  
22 either by phone, text message, social media, whatever?

23 A Over the phone.

24 Q When was that?

25 A Two weeks prior.

JENNIFER BROKOB-DIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1           Q     Two weeks prior to Clatie's death, you talked to  
2 her on the phone?

3           A     Yes.

4           Q     At that time on the phone to Clatie, did she  
5 express she was afraid of Mr. Boozer?

6           MR. VERNER: Asked and answered for the third  
7 time.

8           MR. DANIEL: This is a different question.

9           MR. VERNER: Was it the same incident or same  
10 conversation or different?

11          MR. DANIEL: On the phone, it's a different  
12 time.

13          MR. VERNER: I think that exceeds the Court's  
14 ruling, but.

15          THE COURT: It does.

16          Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, the last  
17 discussion about the in-person meeting in October,  
18 disregard that, please. Adjourn to the back for just  
19 a few moments. Don't talk about the case. I need to  
20 have a discussion with the attorneys, okay. Go back  
21 there. Okay. Thank you.

22          (WHEREUPON, the jury left open court at  
23 approximately 12:47 p.m.)

24          THE COURT: All right. Maybe we should have  
25 proffered this testimony earlier. Mr. Daniel, the

## JENNIFER BROKOB-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 MR. DANIEL: Yes, sir, Your Honor. Thank you.

2 BY MR. DANIEL:

3 Q I'm sorry, I asked you a question yesterday and  
4 I may have gotten my questions confused. When was the  
5 last time you spoke to Clatie Stribble?

6 A Two weeks prior to the murder.

7 Q And at that time two weeks prior to Clatie's  
8 death, that would be in the month of April?

9 A Yes.

10 Q She was killed on May 3rd, two weeks prior to  
11 that would be in the month April?

12 A Yes.

13 Q At that in April, sometime in April -- you don't  
14 know the exact date, do you?

15 A No.

16 Q Did she express that she was afraid of Clifton  
17 Boozer?

18 A Yes.

19 MR. DANIEL: Okay, thank you.

20 THE COURT: Mr. Verner.

21 CROSS-EXAMINATION

22 BY MR. VERNER:

23 Q Good afternoon, Ms. Brokob. Do you still live  
24 in Newberry?

25 A Prosperity.

## JENNIFER BROKOB-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 Q Newberry County?

2 A Yes.

3 Q Okay. And my understanding -- I believe you  
4 testified briefly yesterday?

5 A Yes.

6 Q That you met Ms. Clatie Stribble around 2013?

7 A Yes.

8 Q Through your son's father?

9 A Yes.

10 Q Okay. And that y'all moved in together to the  
11 Feather Run address?

12 A Yes.

13 Q Were you pregnant at that time?

14 A In 2014, yes.

15 Q When you moved in together?

16 A Yes.

17 Q The son's father was -- you mention a man named  
18 Jake who was killed, is that the man you're talking about?

19 A Motorcycle wreck, yes, sir.

20 Q Was it Mark Stribble who was killed?

21 A Mark Stribble was my son that I was pregnant  
22 with father.

23 Q And he's not the one that introduced you to  
24 Clatie?

25 A No.

## JENNIFER BROKOB-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 Q But he was a Stribble, wasn't he?

2 A There are different lines. Clatie is adopted  
3 and he's adopted.

4 Q Same general family, but they were both adopted  
5 into it?

6 A Yes.

7 Q Were they friends or close?

8 A Not really.

9 Q But it was actually the Jake who was killed  
10 early who actually introduced you?

11 A Yes.

12 Q So, it was you, Clatie and your son who were  
13 living together?

14 A Yes.

15 Q Were Clatie's daughters living with you?

16 A Yes.

17 Q The whole time?

18 A When we moved.

19 Q Okay. Did Clifton ever stay there, too?

20 A Sometimes.

21 Q Okay. And did Mark ever move in with you there,  
22 too?

23 A Yes.

24 Q Okay. And you had a good friendship with Clatie  
25 while you were living with her?

## JENNIFER BROKOB-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1           A     Yes.

2           Q     And I don't need the details of it, but you  
3 indicated to the jury just a few minutes ago that you  
4 left -- you had a rough patch with Clatie and you left?

5           A     We had a rough patch after I left.

6           Q     After you left. I don't need the details, but  
7 what was the rough patch?

8           A     Financial.

9           Q     Okay. Did Ms. Clatie take any kind of  
10 medication while you lived with her?

11          A     Not that I'm aware of.

12          Q     Did you know her well?

13          A     Pretty well, yes.

14          Q     Okay. Did you know her in 2011 or 2012?

15          A     No.

16          Q     Okay. You don't know if she took any medicine  
17 for bipolar mental illness?

18          A     Not that she ever expressed to me.

19          Q     Okay. What about depression, did she take any  
20 medicine for depression?

21          A     No prescription drugs that I'm aware of.

22          Q     I know you're not a psychiatrist, but did she  
23 ever exhibit mood swings or evidence of being depressed?

24          A     I mean, we're women, so yeah, we all have mood  
25 swings.

## JENNIFER BROKOB-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 Q I understand we y'all grow up with family and  
2 have girlfriends and different people react differently,  
3 but did she ever exhibit uncharacteristic mood swings?

4 A Not that I would say, no.

5 Q Okay. And you knew Clatie intimately for about  
6 ten month.

7 A Living together, yeah.

8 Q Were she and Cliff exclusively seeing each other  
9 during that time?

10 A No.

11 Q Did anybody else come and live with you during  
12 that time?

13 A No.

14 Q Okay. Clatie was about your size, height?

15 A A little shorter.

16 Q A little shorter. It is fair to say she wasn't  
17 small, was she? Not by height, I'm talking about she was  
18 not skinny and small?

19 A She was thick. She wasn't skinny, no.

20 Q Do you know if she was strong?

21 A In what context?

22 Q Just as a physical person, you know?

23 A She was emotionally and mentally strong.

24 Q Okay. Did she exhibit any jealousy of Clifton  
25 Boozer seeing other women?

## JENNIFER BROKOB-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1           A     Not to me, no.

2           Q     The last time you had physically seen Clatie was  
3 about a month prior to her death?

4           A     Yes.

5           Q     Okay. Was that about how often you would see  
6 her, once or month, give or take?

7           A     No. My nurse went out -- my son's nurse went  
8 out because she had surgery, so that's why I hadn't seen  
9 her the month prior.

10          Q     Okay. Prior to that date, how often would you  
11 see her?

12          A     At least once a week, if not more.

13          Q     At her home or?

14          A     Yes.

15          Q     Okay. Did you and Cliff have a good  
16 relationship?

17          A     I would have never called it good, no.

18          Q     Okay. I mean, if you went over to her house --  
19 I know you testified you saw him on Conifer, I think you  
20 said?

21          A     One time.

22          Q     I think you said about two months prior to  
23 Clatie's death?

24          A     It was two months prior to me last seeing her.

25          Q     Okay. But y'all weren't close enough friends



## JENNIFER BROKOB-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 where y'all would hang out and drink with each other,  
2 socializing, would you?

3 A Not by choice, no.

4 MR. VERNER: Let me double check, but I think  
5 that's it. Let me check. All right. Thank you,  
6 Ms. Brokob.

7 THE COURT: Any redirect?

8 MR. DANIEL: No, sir, Your Honor.

9 THE COURT: Ma'am, thank you very much. You can  
10 step down, you're free to go.

11 Ladies and gentlemen, we're going to go ahead  
12 and break for the day. Let me speak to the attorneys  
13 over here to the side before I tell you what time to  
14 be back.

15 (WHEREUPON, a bench conference was held in the  
16 presence of the jury but out of the hearing of  
17 the jury.)

18 THE COURT: Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, it  
19 had been my hope to finish the State's case in chief  
20 by this morning. There's still just a few additional  
21 witnesses, but I anticipate finishing the State's  
22 case sometime tomorrow morning. If you would, please  
23 be back in the jury room -- well, let's do this.  
24 I've got one hearing at 9 o'clock, it shouldn't take  
25 long. Report to the grand jury room downstairs, if

1 THE CLERK: Raise your right hand, place your  
2 left hand on the Bible.

3 BRANDY COUNTS, after being duly sworn, testified  
4 as follows:

5 THE CLERK: Have a seat, state your name for the  
6 record.

7 THE WITNESS: My name is Brandy Counts.

8 DIRECT EXAMINATION

9 BY MR. SCOTT:

10 Q Brandy, Clatie Stribble, how did you know her?

11 A Me and Clatie were friends.

12 Q How long had you known her?

13 A I've known Clatie for 17 years, but we have been  
14 close friends for nine years.

15 Q Okay. And y'all were social acquaintances,  
16 close friends or what?

17 A Yes, sir.

18 Q But y'all were also co-workers?

19 A Yes, sir, we worked at Sonic together.

20 Q The one in Chapin?

21 A The one in Chapin, yes, sir.

22 Q Did you know her pretty well over those nine  
23 years?

24 A Yes, sir.

25 Q Y'all were close friends, is what you're saying?

## BRANDY COUNTS-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 A Yes, sir.

2 Q Had you been to her home many times?

3 A Yes, sir.

4 Q Okay. And over those nine years of being close  
5 friends, did you get to know Mr. Clifton Boozer?

6 A Yes, sir.

7 Q Do you see Mr. Boozer here?

8 A Yes.

9 Q Where is he?

10 A He's sitting right here, sir.

11 Q Were you aware -- what was the relationship  
12 between Mr. Boozer and Ms. Stribble?

13 A On again, off again.

14 Q Okay. How would you characterize their on  
15 again, off again relationship?

16 A Honestly, toxic.

17 Q Okay. Let's just -- I want to get, I guess, to  
18 the night of the incident. Let's go to May 3rd, 2017. Do  
19 you remember that date?

20 A Yes, sir.

21 Q Okay. Did you two work at the Sonic that day?

22 A Yes, sir.

23 Q Okay. And that was probably around the time the  
24 Sonic opened, was it not?

25 A Yes, roughly a month.

## BRANDY COUNTS-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 Q So, it was -- what was Ms. Stribble's job there?

2 A She was an assistant manager.

3 Q What were you?

4 A I was just a crew member. It was a part time  
5 job.

6 Q Okay. Do you remember -- well, let me ask you  
7 this, how did she get to work on May 3rd, 2017?

8 A I think one of the coworkers picked her up  
9 because her car was broke down.

10 Q You knew she was without a car on that day?

11 A Yes, sir.

12 Q Do you remember what time you two got off?

13 A It was between 1:30 and 1:45.

14 Q Okay. And how was Ms. Stribble planning on  
15 getting home that night?

16 A Through me.

17 Q We're talking about 1:45 a.m?

18 A Yes, sir.

19 Q So, you were going to drive her home. Where was  
20 she living at that time?

21 A She was living at [REDACTED] Conifer drive in  
22 Prosperity.

23 Q Okay. So, did y'all go straight from Chapin to  
24 Prosperity?

25 A We stopped at the gas station.

## BRANDY COUNTS-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 Q To get cigarettes and stuff?

2 A Yes, sir.

3 Q Do you know how long y'all were there?

4 A Maybe five minutes.

5 Q Okay. Then about how long would it take you to  
6 get from Chapin to her home on Conifer?

7 A I would say anywhere from 15 to 20 minutes.

8 Q So, do you know about what time y'all got to the  
9 house?

10 A I was going to say it was like between 2:00 and  
11 2:15, something like that.

12 Q Okay. 2:00 to 2:15 a.m. Do you remember, was  
13 the door locked when you got there?

14 A Yes. She opened it with a key.

15 Q Okay. Did you go inside with her?

16 A Yes, I did. I had to use the restroom.

17 Q Who did you observe in the house when you got  
18 there?

19 A When I walked in, Evelyn was laying on the  
20 couch.

21 Q Evelyn, I call her Eve?

22 A Yes.

23 Q She's the older girl. She was asleep on the  
24 couch?

25 A Yes, and she woke up when we came through the

## BRANDY COUNTS-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 door.

2 Q Okay. What, if anything, did Clatie bring home  
3 to Eve?

4 A She brought home food from Sonic.

5 Q Okay. So, you went in to use the restroom.  
6 About how long were you there?

7 A Maybe 10 to 15 minutes.

8 Q Okay. Did you go back to Ms. Stribble's room  
9 with her at any time?

10 A When I came out of the restroom, I walked to her  
11 bedroom door just to kind of tell her bye and she was  
12 sitting on her bed.

13 Q Did she have her phone with her?

14 A Yes, sir, she did.

15 Q Are you sure of that?

16 A I'm positive.

17 Q Okay. And was it on the charger, was it in her  
18 hand or where was it?

19 A It was laying on the bed and it was hooked to  
20 the charger.

21 Q Where was the charger?

22 A If you walked into her bedroom, it was on the  
23 far wall. And there was a socket right -- I think it was  
24 a little bit diagonal to the window.

25 Q So, it would be right up under the window in her

## BRANDY COUNTS-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 bedroom?

2 A Yes, sir.

3 Q Let me show you State's 21. What's that?

4 A That's her charger.

5 Q And what is that black thing you kind of see  
6 over the charger there?

7 A That looks like a curtain that was over her  
8 window.

9 Q Okay. Let me show you State's 19, do you  
10 recognize what you're looking at there?

11 A That's her window in her bedroom.

12 Q Okay.

13 MR. VERNER: That last exhibit was 19?

14 MR. SCOTT: This one she's looking at now is 19.

15 MR. VERNER: Okay.

16 MR. SCOTT: The one before would have been 21.

17 MR. VERNER: Thanks.

18 BY MR. SCOTT:

19 Q What are we looking at there?

20 A That's the window to her bedroom.

21 Q Okay. What's that black thing?

22 A That's the curtain.

23 Q Was it like that when you were there?

24 A No.

25 Q So, the charger -- where in relation to picture

## BRANDY COUNTS-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 was the outlet that the charger is plugged into?

2 A Can I hold this up?

3 Q Yeah, we've got it up here, too.

4 A So, it's like right over in this area.

5 Q Can you see the TV? Talking about down here on  
6 the wall?

7 A Yes, sir. Yes, sir.

8 Q So, that's where the phone was plugged in and  
9 then it was on the bed charging when you left?

10 A Yes, sir.

11 Q All right. Then those curtains were not like  
12 that?

13 A No.

14 Q Was the house in disarray?

15 A Absolutely not.

16 Q Okay. Let me ask you to look at State's No. 17,  
17 do you recognize that?

18 A That's her bed.

19 Q Is that how it appeared when you were there  
20 May 3rd?

21 A No, sir.

22 Q How is that different from how it appeared when  
23 you were there?

24 A Her room was completely clean. The curtains  
25 were in place and the bed was fully made.



## BRANDY COUNTS-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 Q So, what does it mean for a bed to be fully  
2 made?

3 A There were sheets, there was a comforter, there  
4 pillow cases and pillows.

5 Q Okay. If we're looking at this picture, to the  
6 right of the bed, if you're looking at it from that angle,  
7 to the right of the bed, what's over there?

8 A There was a couch there.

9 Q Okay. Let me show you State's No. 28. What's  
10 that?

11 A That's a picture of the couch.

12 Q Is that how it appeared when you were there?

13 A No, sir.

14 Q What's different about it?

15 A The stuff that's thrown on top of the couch.

16 Q All that stuff that's piled up was not there?

17 A That was not there, no, sir.

18 Q Okay.

19 MR. VERNER: What number is that again?

20 MR. SCOTT: Twenty-eight.

21 BY MR. SCOTT:

22 Q Okay, I want to show you show you State's No.  
23 15. What's that, Brandy?

24 A That's the door to the home.

25 Q Is that how the door appeared when you were

## BRANDY COUNTS-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1     there?

2             A     No, sir.

3             Q     Can you explain to the jury how that's different  
4     from what you observed?

5             A     The wood was not broken off in the center area.

6             Q     Point to -- do you mind stepping down just to  
7     show them on the TV? Speak up so the court reporter can  
8     hear you.

9             A     This area right here was not like this. It had  
10    like the, I guess, what you would call a full casing over  
11    it. I don't recall the light switch ever being broken and  
12    this piece right here was not damaged.

13            Q     So, that was not how it appeared when you left  
14    at, what did you say, 2:30 a.m. that night?

15            A     Correct.

16            Q     Okay. And so -- okay, winding down here. But  
17    as you were leaving, you poked your head in the room?

18            A     Yes, sir.

19            Q     And you said she was sitting on the bed?

20            A     Yes, sir.

21            Q     Let me ask you one more thing, I want to cover  
22    that. Did you -- if you remember, this is State's 13, do  
23    you recall walking in and that pink thing being --

24            A     No, that was not on the floor. The house was  
25    spotless.

## BRANDY COUNTS-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 Q Okay. So, this pink thing on the floor right  
2 here, do you even know what that is?

3 A I do not, sir.

4 Q But that was not there? You don't remember  
5 stepping over that to get through the house?

6 A No, sir.

7 Q All right. So, let me go back to what I was  
8 mentioning. She was on the bed. How was she sitting?

9 A She was sitting Indian style.

10 Q All right. We already talked about the phone  
11 was there. You're a 100 percent positive?

12 A I'm positive.

13 Q Okay. And you're 100 percent positive the bed  
14 was made with sheets on it?

15 A Yes, sir.

16 Q And you've known this woman for nine years as a  
17 close friend?

18 A Yes, sir.

19 Q Describe her behavior at that point.

20 A The night of?

21 Q All right. Let's be clear.

22 A Okay.

23 Q You go to the bathroom, you're in the house.  
24 You walk to her room after using the bathroom. She's  
25 sitting on the bed Indian style. What was her mood at

## BRANDY COUNTS-DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 that time?

2 A She just seemed worried.

3 Q Okay. And did you ask her about being worried?

4 A I did.

5 Q Okay. Did she say she was in fear of Clifton  
6 Boozer at that point?

7 A Yes, sir, she did.

8 Q Okay. Did you have some more conversation after  
9 that?

10 A Yes.

11 MR. VERNER: Subject -- that last question,  
12 subject to my prior -- subject to our objection.

13 THE COURT: Subject to prior objection, yes,  
14 sir.

15 BY MR. SCOTT:

16 Q Did you have some more conversation after that?

17 A Yes, sir.

18 Q Then did you leave shortly after that?

19 A Yes, sir.

20 Q Okay. Do you remember locking the door or her  
21 getting up to lock the door?

22 A She got up and locked the door and cut on the  
23 light for me.

24 Q She cut the light on for you?

25 A Yes, sir.

## BRANDY COUNTS-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 Q Was that something that was routine for her to  
2 do when you would come ever late at night?

3 A Not normally.

4 Q Did she cut the light off after you left?

5 A Once I got in the car and I backed out the  
6 driveway, yes, sir.

7 Q Okay. And that was just to have you see your  
8 way to the car, I guess.

9 A Yes, sir.

10 Q Was that the last time you saw Clatie Stribble  
11 alive?

12 A Yes.

13 MR. SCOTT: Answer any questions Mr. Verner has,  
14 please.

15 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

16 CROSS-EXAMINATION

17 BY MR. VERNER:

18 Q Good morning, Ms. Counts.

19 A Good morning.

20 Q I assume you're talking about the light she cut  
21 on for you would be like an outdoor --

22 A Porch light.

23 Q -- porch light?

24 A Yes, sir.

25 Q Do you recall whether that light was on when you

## BRANDY COUNTS-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1     drove her home?

2             A     No, it was not.

3             Q     And Ms. Clatie had the three daughters who were  
4     staying with her at that time, right?

5             A     Yes, sir.

6             Q     You came home about 2:00, 2:30 in the morning?

7             A     Yes, sir.

8             Q     Were the lights on in the home?

9             A     No, they were not.

10            Q     Were any of the lights on?

11            A     No, sir.

12            Q     And the children were long since asleep?

13            A     Yes.

14            Q     Okay. And Eve was sleeping on the couch?

15            A     Yes.

16            Q     I would assume -- when I come home late in my  
17     own person life and people are asleep, I don't typically  
18     turn on the lights in the home. Do you recall turning on  
19     the lights?

20            A     She turned on a lamp that was in the living  
21     room.

22            Q     Okay. Which would be kind of not as quite as  
23     bright as putting on the living room lights?

24            A     Right.

25            Q     What you're calling a curtain, I would call a

## BRANDY COUNTS-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 sheer, it's really more of a lightweight sheer, isn't it?

2 A Yes, sir.

3 Q It's transparent? It's not as thick or --

4 A Thin curtain, yes.

5 Q And pretty lightweight?

6 A I would assume so, yeah.

7 Q And that would have been pulled over the window?

8 A Yes, sir.

9 Q Okay. And the blinds would have also been  
10 closed?

11 A Yes, sir.

12 Q Okay. And she and -- Ms. Clatie and Cliff had  
13 been in a sexual relationship for nine years or the bulk  
14 of the time that you had known her as a friend?

15 A Yes.

16 Q Okay. Okay.

17 MR. VERNER: Walter, may we have -- Mr. Bentley,  
18 sorry, I think it was 21, perhaps, the picture of the  
19 couch? I don't know if you still have those. No, it  
20 must have been 19. That might be the sheer.

21 THE WITNESS: Twenty-eight.

22 BY MR. VERNER:

23 Q Do you have a picture of the couch?

24 A Yes, it's No. 28.

25 MR. VERNER: Twenty-eight, I'm sorry,

## BRANDY COUNTS-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 Mr. Bentley.

2 BY MR. VERNER:

3 Q Have you got the picture in front of you?

4 A Yes, sir.

5 Q Just what is the -- do you recognize those items  
6 from Clatie's -- Ms. Stribble's bed? Would those have  
7 been her bed clothes for the bed?

8 A That may be the comforter --

9 Q What are you talking -- what are you talking  
10 about that?

11 A The black.

12 Q On the top, very top?

13 A Yeah, that might be the comforter and this was a  
14 pillow that was on the bed.

15 Q What are you talking -- we don't have the  
16 pictures, so we don't know.

17 A Okay. This pillow and this comforter right  
18 here.

19 Q When you're saying pillow, you're talk about the  
20 thing on the far left?

21 A This little blue gray and white --

22 Q Okay. On the far left with kind of the  
23 triangle?

24 A Yes.

25 Q Okay.



## BRANDY COUNTS-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1           A     And it looks like wrapped up in the black thing,  
2     this thing right here, that was the pillow that was on the  
3     bed.

4           Q     Okay, the white in between the comforter?

5           A     Yes, sir.

6           Q     What is the black thing on top of the comforter?  
7     The comforter itself it a dark color, but then there's a  
8     darker black with kind of leopard print around it?

9           A     It may have been like a little shawl or  
10    something.

11          Q     That was more like an article of clothing?

12          A     Yeah, that's what it looks like to me.

13          Q     Okay. But you don't recognize it necessarily?

14          A     Not particularly. I mean, it may be something  
15    she wore.

16          Q     Okay. Was the couch itself, the leopard that  
17    we're looking at, is that the --

18          A     No, that was just something she tucked over the  
19    couch.

20          Q     But that would be something that stayed on the  
21    couch?

22          A     Yes, sir.

23          Q     Okay. And then on the far right, we see kind of  
24    a diamond pattern on a white fabric?

25          A     I'm not sure what that is.

## BRANDY COUNTS-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 Q The couch is kind of a bluish color?

2 A It's like more of a green.

3 Q Then there's kind of a bluish, light blue thing  
4 on the very top right hand of the couch?

5 A I can't really tell what it is because it's  
6 balled up.

7 Q You don't recognize whether that's bed clothing  
8 or actual clothing?

9 A No. I mean, it looks like maybe a hoodie.

10 Q Okay. And likewise, there's kind of a pink item  
11 sticking out?

12 A I see what you're talk about, but I can't  
13 identify what it is.

14 Q Okay. Do you recall what Ms. Clatie was wearing  
15 on the evening that you were working with her?

16 A We had to wear black pants and she had on her  
17 purple Sonic shirt.

18 Q She would have been wearing a work uniform?

19 A Yes, sir.

20 Q And Clatie typically slept naked, didn't she?

21 A I can't answer to that.

22 Q Okay. Did Ms. Clatie smoke cigarettes?

23 A Yes, she did, sir.

24 Q What was her preferred brand?

25 A Pall Mall Blacks.

## BRANDY COUNTS-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 Q Okay. Did Ms. Stribble keep any kind of weapons  
2 in her bedroom?

3 A Yes, sir.

4 Q What did she keep in her bedroom?

5 A A knife.

6 Q Just one?

7 A It was two to my knowledge.

8 Q Where did she keep her knives?

9 A She kept one under her pillow and one on her  
10 dresser?

11 Q Did you ever see them?

12 A Yes, sir.

13 Q Describe the knives that she kept in her  
14 bedroom.

15 A I believe the one -- if recall correctly, the  
16 one that was on the dresser was like just like a small  
17 steak knife type thing.

18 Q Right. Just a regular kitchen knife?

19 A Just like a regular kitchen knife.

20 Q Not like a chef's knife, but the knife that I  
21 would eat --

22 A Correct.

23 Q Okay.

24 A But the one that was either on her nightstand or  
25 under her pillow was a larger knife. Like one that --

## BRANDY COUNTS-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 like if you were preparing dinner and needed to cut up  
2 meat, it was like that size.

3 Q All right. Bigger than I would eat typically at  
4 dinner if I had meat, but -- do you know what color handle  
5 it could have had?

6 A I don't recall.

7 Q But the two knives, they were typically kitchen  
8 knives?

9 A Yes.

10 Q Okay. How long had Ms. Stribble been working at  
11 Sonic?

12 A Roughly, a month.

13 Q Okay. She had already become an assistant  
14 manager?

15 A Yes.

16 Q Did she help you get that job or you helped her  
17 get that job or you just coincidentally ended up at the --

18 A She got the job first and I was looking for part  
19 time work.

20 Q Okay. Do you know where Ms -- how long  
21 Ms. Stribble had had her car? Do you know when she bought  
22 her car?

23 A Since February, if I'm not mistaken.

24 Q So, she had that car about three or four months  
25 prior?

## BRANDY COUNTS-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1           A     Yes.

2           Q     Do you know where that car was on May 2nd?

3           A     I just know that it was in Newberry. I'm not  
4     sure of the location.

5           Q     You don't know whether -- well, let me ask you  
6     about the -- was Ms. Stribble protective of her telephone?

7           A     I mean, she kept it with her.

8           Q     Okay. We're all sort of protective of our cell  
9     phones, aren't we?

10          A     Yes.

11          Q     Was she concerned that Cliff might go through  
12     her cell phone?

13          A     Not to my knowledge.

14          Q     Okay. You've known Ms. Clatie for about nine  
15     years?

16          A     Yes, sir.

17          Q     But would it be possible that she would have not  
18     wanted Cliff to go through her cell phone?

19          A     Not to my knowledge at the time, no, sir.

20          Q     Okay. So, whether she would have hidden the  
21     phone from Cliff, you don't --

22          A     I can't answer to that.

23          Q     You just don't know?

24          A     Uh-huh. Because if she --

25          Q     Okay. And the house was kept up, right?

## BRANDY COUNTS-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1           A     Yes.

2           Q     But I mean, there were clothes lying around the  
3 bed?

4           A     I mean, there possibly could have been. I mean,  
5 there were four women in the house.

6           Q     Four women in the house, teenagers and younger  
7 kids --

8           A     Yeah.

9           Q     -- so, I mean, it was kept up, it wasn't  
10 clothing throughout the house?

11          A     No, not to my knowledge.

12          Q     I wouldn't call it a mess, but I would still see  
13 signs of people were -- young girls?

14          A     Yes, absolutely.

15          Q     Do you wear -- when you go to work at Sonic,  
16 they make you wear your own black pants?

17          A     Yes, sir.

18          Q     And those are just personal clothing?

19          A     Yes, sir.

20          Q     And then they provide you a work shirt?

21          A     Yes, sir.

22          Q     Okay. Is it kind of a polo shirt or is it a  
23 button-up shirt?

24          A     It was -- the style that she wore was an actual  
25 like polo shirt.

## BRANDY COUNTS-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 Q Okay. Do you wear that to work or do they  
2 supply it to you at the job?

3 A You wear it to work.

4 Q Okay. Do you wear clothing under that shirt or  
5 is that just basically -- again, I apologize, was it a  
6 polo shirt or a button-up shirt?

7 A It was just a polo shirt, like there was no  
8 buttons on it.

9 Q Short-sleeved?

10 A Yes, sir.

11 Q Okay. So, not the type of a frock or heavy  
12 clothing that you would typically wear your own clothing  
13 underneath and then put like the work clothing on top of  
14 it when you got there?

15 A No.

16 Q Okay.

17 MR. VERNER: I think that's it, but may I just  
18 double check, Your Honor?

19 THE COURT: Yes.

20 BY MR. VERNER:

21 Q And this is just my last questions. You saw Eve  
22 that night because she was sleeping on the couch and she  
23 woke up when you --

24 A Yes, sir.

25 Q Did you see the other girls?

## BRANDY COUNTS-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1           A     No, they were in the bedroom.

2           Q     Okay. And they were all school age, so they  
3 would have gotten up the next morning to go to school?  
4 This was a weekday?

5           A     Yes, sir.

6           Q     Okay. Now, the road, Conifer Drive, what kind  
7 of road is that?

8           A     It's a dirt road and it has a bend right before  
9 you get to Clatie's home.

10          Q     Okay. Are there a lot of -- is it constantly  
11 houses or is it a more wooded area?

12          A     When you first enter, it's kind of a wooded  
13 area, then you start to approach several houses.

14               MR. VERNER: All right. Unless the prosecutor  
15 has follow-up questions, I appreciate your testimony.  
16 Thank you.

17               THE COURT: Ma'am, thank you, you can step down.  
18 You're free to go.

19               Solicitor, call your next witness, please.

20               MR. DANIEL: Your Honor, the State calls Heather  
21 Hobby.

22               THE CLERK: Raise your right hand, place your  
23 left hand on the Bible.

24               HEATHER HOBBY, after being duly sworn, testified  
25 as follows:



HEATHER HOBBY-DIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 THE CLERK: Please state your name.

2 THE WITNESS: Heather Hobby.

3 DIRECT EXAMINATION

4 BY MR. DANIEL:

5 Q All right, Ms. Hobby, make sure you speak into  
6 the mic clearly so we can all hear you. Ms. Hobby, did  
7 you know Clatie Stribble?

8 A Yes, sir.

9 Q Speak up a little bit.

10 A Yes, sir.

11 Q And was she a friend of yours?

12 A She was my best friend.

13 Q So, y'all were best friends?

14 A Yes.

15 Q You're from Newberry?

16 A Little Mountain.

17 Q Little Mountain, okay. When did you first meet  
18 Clatie?

19 A At the skating rink when we were 14 years old.

20 Q Y'all are the same age?

21 A Yes.

22 Q Okay. And did y'all become best friends pretty  
23 much right off the bat?

24 A Not right away. But we were high school range,  
25 we became best friends 16, 17.

HEATHER HOBBY-DIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 Q And so, y'all have been best friends since y'all  
2 were teenagers?

3 A Yes.

4 Q Okay. Were y'all ever roommates or anything  
5 like that?

6 A Yes, we lived together.

7 Q How long did y'all live together?

8 A On and off again for about ten years.

9 Q Okay. Did you remain best friends with Clatie  
10 until the day she died?

11 A I did.

12 Q Do you know Clifton Boozer?

13 A Yes.

14 Q Do you know him as Cliff?

15 A Yes.

16 Q All right. How did you first meet Cliff -- or  
17 how and when did you first meet Cliff?

18 A It was about 2010, '11, somewhere around there,  
19 October of that year.

20 Q Okay. How did you meet him?

21 A I met him through Clatie.

22 Q Okay. And did Clatie and Cliff start dating  
23 around that time, 2010, 2011?

24 A Yes, they did.

25 Q So, would you hang out with Cliff and Clatie?

HEATHER HOBBY-DIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 A I did.

2 Q How would you describe or how would you  
3 characterize their relationship?

4 A On again, off again.

5 Q Okay. Was it a healthy relationship, toxic  
6 relationship?

7 A Tumultuous.

8 Q Tumultuous?

9 A Yes.

10 Q Okay. I want to fast forward to 2017, the weeks  
11 and months leading up to Clatie's death. Where did Clatie  
12 live right before she died?

13 A She lived on Conifer Drive.

14 Q [REDACTED] Conifer Drive?

15 A Yes, sir.

16 Q Would you go over there and visit?

17 A I went there one time. She hadn't lived there  
18 long.

19 Q Okay. And I guess in 2017, do you recall ever  
20 being at Conifer Drive and Cliff and Clatie were there as  
21 well?

22 A Yes.

23 Q All right. And why were you -- why was everyone  
24 over there at Conifer Drive?

25 A We just got together just to hang out one night,

HEATHER HOBBY-DIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 cook out.

2 Q All right. Again, when was this -- and this was  
3 one time y'all were hanging out at Conifer Drive?

4 A She hadn't lived there long and she invited me  
5 over. Me and my boyfriend went over. It was March 27th.

6 Q March 27 of 2017?

7 A Yes.

8 Q So, a little over a month before she died?

9 A Yes.

10 Q And your boyfriend was there, too?

11 A Yes, sir.

12 Q So, it was just kind of a social gathering?

13 A Uh-huh.

14 Q Do you recall if Cliff and Clatie got into any  
15 kind of argument on that particular get-together?

16 A Yes.

17 Q Okay. Do you recall it getting pretty heated?

18 A It did.

19 Q Do you remember Cliff making any type of threats  
20 against Clatie at that time?

21 A He did.

22 Q What were some of threatening things he said?

23 MR. VERNER: Subject to my --

24 THE COURT: Subject to your earlier objection.

25 You may continue.

HEATHER HOBBY-DIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 THE WITNESS: He said that if he ever saw her  
2 with someone else, he would shoot them both. He made  
3 the statement that he would slit her throat and beat  
4 the blood out of her. He made the statements -- they  
5 were arguing back and forth and just escalated to  
6 those statements being made.

7 BY MR. DANIEL:

8 Q So, you recall, I guess, three different threats  
9 that Cliff made against Clatie that night -- or was it at  
10 night?

11 A It was at night.

12 Q Okay. It was one being, if I ever catch you  
13 with someone else, I'll shoot you?

14 A Shoot you both.

15 Q Shoot you both. And I'll slit your throat?

16 A (The witness nods.)

17 MR. VERNER: Your Honor, I'll object. It's  
18 asked and answered and now he's commenting on the  
19 witness's testimony as opposed to asking her  
20 questions.

21 THE COURT: Let's stick with questions, please.

22 BY MR. DANIEL:

23 Q All right. But it's three specific threats you  
24 recall him making?

25 A Yes.

HEATHER HOBBY-DIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 Q Okay. And did you find this exchange  
2 disturbing?

3 A We left right after that, yes, I did.

4 Q So, you found it disturbing?

5 A Yes.

6 Q So, let's be clear, this wasn't in jest or  
7 joking?

8 A No, not at all.

9 Q That caused y'all to leave the social gathering?

10 A I did, yes.

11 Q How are you so sure this was March 27th?

12 A Well, I have text messages that correlate  
13 between the two of us that day.

14 Q So, that's how you know that occurred on that  
15 particular day?

16 A Yes, yes.

17 Q So, that's a little over a month before she  
18 died, again. All right. When was the last time you saw  
19 Clatie alive?

20 A It was Saturday before she died. She was at  
21 work.

22 Q All right. Saturday before she died, so I  
23 looked at a calendar, last year's calendar, would that be  
24 April 29th?

25 A Yes, it was.

## HEATHER HOBBY-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 Q Saturday before she died. And where did you see  
2 Clatie?

3 A She was at work at Sonic.

4 Q Work at Sonic. All right. At that time, did  
5 Clatie express any fear in regards to Cliff?

6 A She did.

7 Q All right.

8 A She said she was scared.

9 Q All right.

10 MR. VERNER: Your Honor, also, subject to my  
11 objection earlier.

12 THE COURT: Subject to earlier objection,  
13 overruled.

14 BY MR. DANIEL:

15 Q That was the last time you ever saw her?

16 A That was the last time I saw her.

17 Q Was that the last time you ever talked to her?

18 A That was the last time I talked to her, too.

19 Q Last time you talk to her as well, okay.

20 A Yes.

21 MR. DANIEL: Thank you. Please answer any  
22 questions Mr. Verner has.

23 CROSS-EXAMINATION

24 BY MR. VERNER:

25 Q Good morning, Ms. Hobby.

## HEATHER HOBBY-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1           A     Good morning.

2           Q     You had lived with Clatie Stribble not  
3 continuously is my understanding, but on again, off again  
4 since 2006? Is that when you said you first moved in,  
5 2007, 2006?

6           A     Yes.

7           Q     Okay. And you lived together for the better  
8 part of 10 years?

9           A     I would say on and off again for 10 years.

10          Q     Okay. That was not continuously, but that was  
11 pretty -- the bulk of those years?

12          A     Yes.

13          Q     There may be times when she moved out or you  
14 moved out, but you ended up back together?

15          A     Yes, sir.

16          Q     Okay. What was the year that you and Ms. Clatie  
17 Stribble stopped living together? The final year that you  
18 lived together?

19          A     Probably 2016.

20          Q     Okay. Of those years, did Clifton Boozer ever  
21 live with you?

22          A     He would stay over occasionally.

23          Q     How many over --

24          A     Often.

25          Q     Often?



## HEATHER HOBBY-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 A Often.

2 Q Over a period of how many years?

3 A Eight.

4 Q Okay. Eight of those ten years, Clifton was  
5 often staying over there, too?

6 A Yes.

7 Q In a sexual relationship with Ms. Clatie?

8 A Never saw them have sex?

9 Q But as a roommate, at least?

10 A Yeah. In a relationship, yes.

11 Q On occasion, did you also live with your  
12 boyfriend there?

13 A On occasion, yes.

14 Q And I believe the statements you were talking  
15 about with the solicitor, they were in March of this year?

16 A Yes.

17 Q Okay. And you characterize that as a mutual  
18 argument that got louder and louder?

19 A It was --

20 Q You told the solicitor that?

21 A I said they had an argument, yes.

22 Q Or a confrontation, but they were both going at  
23 it pretty emotionally?

24 A I don't think it was both of them.

25 Q I couldn't hear you.

## HEATHER HOBBY-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1           A     I don't think it was both of them.

2           Q     Well, you said it was a mutual argument?

3           A     I said an argument, it escalated.

4           Q     Okay. The one time that you went to Conifer  
5 Drive, was Cliff there?

6           A     Yes.

7           Q     Okay. And how long had Ms. Clatie lived on  
8 Conifer?

9           A     I'm not exactly sure person when she lived into  
10 Conifer exactly.

11          Q     Okay. When was that that you had gone to Confer  
12 Drive?

13          A     March 27th.

14          Q     Okay. The last you had been to Conifer, the one  
15 and only time?

16          A     Yes.

17          Q     Had you -- prior to that, where was Ms. Stribble  
18 living?

19          A     Feather Run Trail, I think.

20          Q     Who was she living with there?

21          A     She lived with Jennifer Brokob.

22          Q     Did Cliff ever stay there?

23          A     He was there when I went there.

24          Q     Okay. Did he --

25          A     But there were also times I went there and he

## HEATHER HOBBY-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 wasn't there.

2 Q Okay. I don't want to step on toes, but is it  
3 accurate to say that you were convicted of possession of  
4 meth this year?

5 A That's true.

6 Q You're in a program to work through that, but  
7 you were convicted?

8 A Convicted, no. I haven't been convicted.

9 Q You pled guilty or were found guilty?

10 A I'm on probation for conditional discharge.

11 Q You're in a program with the solicitor's office  
12 and probation to get it off your record?

13 A That's right.

14 Q But you did have to plead guilty to go into that  
15 program?

16 A Yes, that's right.

17 Q Okay. Is it fair to say that Ms. Stribble often  
18 slept in the nude?

19 A I didn't sleep with her.

20 Q You didn't sleep with her?

21 A I didn't sleep with her, so I don't know.

22 Q You don't know or you're not aware?

23 A I never saw her sleeping nude.

24 Q You never saw in the bedroom?

25 A Uh-huh.

## HEATHER HOBBY-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 Q Do you know when Ms. Stribble got the tattoo  
2 with Cliff's name on it?

3 A Do I know when?

4 Q When?

5 A I don't know exactly when.

6 Q Okay. Did you know Ms. Stribble in 2011?

7 A Yes.

8 Q Were you living with her at that time?

9 A Yes. Yes.

10 Q You were living with her?

11 A Yes.

12 Q That would have been the period you were living  
13 with her?

14 A I think that's when we were staying at a  
15 friend's house. Both of us were staying at a friend's  
16 house.

17 Q Did Ms. Stribble attempt to kill herself when  
18 you were there by overdosing of pills?

19 A I'm aware of that, yes.

20 Q Were you present when that happened or living  
21 with her at the time?

22 A No, I was not present, no.

23 Q Do you know if Ms. Stribble was ever on any  
24 treatment for mental health issues?

25 A Not treatment, no.

## HEATHER HOBBY-CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 Q I apologize?

2 A Not treatment, no.

3 Q I understand -- you haven't testified in the  
4 court before, have you?

5 A No.

6 Q Okay. But just these are the people who need to  
7 hear, so I'm going to speak to you from over here just so  
8 we're clear.

9 A Okay.

10 Q You're aware of the time Ms. Stribble overdosed  
11 in 2011?

12 A Yes.

13 Q My question is were y'all living together at  
14 that time?

15 A No, we were not living together then, no.

16 Q But you were still seeing her regularly at that  
17 time?

18 A Absolutely, yes.

19 Q Did you live with her -- come back to live with  
20 her after that time?

21 A Yes.

22 Q Do you recall how shortly after that they  
23 started living together with her again?

24 A I want to say it was about six months.

25 Q So, just a matter of months?

HEATHER HOBBY-REDIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 A Uh-huh.

2 Q Are you aware of whether Ms. Stribble was taking  
3 medication for bipolar condition?

4 A No.

5 Q What about depression?

6 A No, I don't know.

7 Q If she was, you just don't know? That was her  
8 private?

9 A Right.

10 Q Okay.

11 MR. VERNER: Thank you, Ms. Hobby. If the  
12 prosecutors have any follow up.

13 MR. DANIEL: Briefly, Your Honor.

14 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

15 BY MR. DANIEL:

16 Q That March 27th of last year argument where  
17 Cliff made these threats, I think Mr. Verner was asking  
18 you were they both going at it pretty good kind of thing;  
19 is that correct, he asked you that?

20 A Right.

21 Q Did you say it was kind of one-sided?

22 A It was one-sided.

23 Q What do you mean by that?

24 A He did most of the talking.

25 Q Okay. Did Clatie issue any threats against

HEATHER HOBBY-REDIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1 Cliff?

2 A No.

3 Q So, it was Cliff just threatening her?

4 A She would say things back like you're being a  
5 jerk --

6 MR. VERNER: Your Honor --

7 BY MR. DANIEL:

8 Q Just yes or no, did Cliff -- was it just Cliff  
9 saying -- making threats to Clatie?

10 A Yes.

11 Q Did Clatie make any threats in return?

12 MR. VERNER: Again, that's the same as before.  
13 We're getting beyond the purpose of what the State's  
14 allowed to do.

15 THE COURT: I really think we're good if you  
16 want to address anything specific Mr. Verner raised?

17 MR. DANIEL: Yes, sir.

18 BY MR. DANIEL:

19 Q And the suicide or overdose attempt, you were  
20 aware of that?

21 A Yes.

22 Q And that was in 2011?

23 A I'm not sure about the exact date, but I do  
24 remember the event.

25 Q Was that before or after she met Cliff?

HEATHER HOBBY-REDIRECT BY MR. DANIEL

1           A     After.

2           Q     Had she ever attempted suicide before she met  
3     Cliff?

4           A     No.

5           Q     So, only after she met Cliff, she attempted  
6     suicide?

7           A     Right.

8                 MR. DANIEL: Thank you.

9                 THE COURT: All right. All right, ma'am, you  
10     can step down.

11                Solicitor, do you have a brief witness before  
12     break?

13                MR. SCOTT: Probably might be a good time for a  
14     break.

15                THE COURT: Ladies and gentlemen, we're going to  
16     take a few minutes. I know y'all have only been out  
17     here about 40 minutes, but we've been out here  
18     longer. Be at ease for a few moments. Adjourn to  
19     the back, don't discuss the case. I'll be right back  
20     with you, okay. Thank you.

21                (WHEREUPON, the jury left open court at  
22     approximately 11:05 a.m.)

23                (WHEREUPON, a short break was taken.)

24                THE COURT: We will go back on the record.

25                Let's have the jury, please.



1 (WHEREUPON, the jury came into open court at  
2 approximately 11:24 a.m.)

3 THE COURT: All right, let the record reflect  
4 the jury is back and seated.

5 Solicitor, you may call your next witness.

6 MR. SCOTT: The State calls Niyla W [REDACTED].

7 THE CLERK: Raise your right hand, place your  
8 left hand on the Bible..

9 NIYLA W [REDACTED], after being duly sworn,  
10 testified as follows:

11 THE CLERK: State your name for the record.

12 THE WITNESS: Niyla W [REDACTED].

13 DIRECT EXAMINATION

14 BY MR. SCOTT:

15 Q Niyla, how old are you?

16 A I'm 12.

17 Q Tell me who your sisters are.

18 A Eve W [REDACTED] and Isis W [REDACTED].

19 Q You're the youngest?

20 A Yes, sir.

21 Q Am I right, Eve's the oldest and then Isis is  
22 the middle girl, and then you're the youngest?

23 A Yes, sir.

24 Q What did you say, you're still 12 or you turn 13  
25 pretty soon?

NIYLA W [REDACTED] -DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 A I turn 13 this Thursday.

2 Q This Thursday?

3 A Like the one that's coming up.

4 Q Okay. You excited about that?

5 A Kind of.

6 Q Going to be an teenager?

7 A (The witness nods.)

8 THE COURT: That's yes.

9 BY MR. SCOTT:

10 Q All right. So, where are you, are you at  
11 MidCarolina Middle School?

12 A Middle school.

13 Q Okay. Very good. And who do you live with now?

14 A Christy and Dale Ignor.

15 Q Christy Ignor. All right, Eve right there to  
16 the far right, that's your older sister. And I don't know  
17 who that is, but then that's Christy Ignor, who you live  
18 with. This is Isis right here. That's who we're talking  
19 about?

20 A Uh-huh.

21 Q And who's your father?

22 A My real father?

23 Q Yes.

24 A Scott Williams.

25 Q Okay. And then your mother was who?

NIYLA W [REDACTED] -DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 A Clatie Stribble.

2 Q Okay. And you know why we're here today and why  
3 we've been here all week. So, we're going to be talking a  
4 lot about that time. Who is Clifton Boozer?

5 A The man who killed my mom.

6 Q Well, how did you know him?

7 A Through my mom.

8 Q Through your mom. And hey, girl, can you speak  
9 up just a little bit more? I know it's not something you  
10 want to talk loudly about, but so everybody can hear what  
11 you're saying. How -- what was your mother's relationship  
12 with Clifton?

13 A They were on and off girlfriend and boyfriend.

14 Q Okay. And what was your relationship with  
15 Mr. Boozer?

16 A (The witness shrugs shoulders.)

17 Q Let me put it this way, did you hear his  
18 interview yesterday when we played it on the TV?

19 A Uh-huh.

20 Q Remember how he said you were his everything in  
21 his world?

22 A Yeah, I wasn't.

23 MR. VERNER: Your Honor, again, when you have a  
24 witness -- and I understand that statement's not  
25 testimony, the statement, but it's typically improper

NIYLA W [REDACTED] -DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 for one witness to testify about the words of another  
2 witness.

3 THE COURT: All right. I think I understand  
4 what you're getting at.

5 Solicitor, obviously, under the circumstances,  
6 you will be allowed to a certain amount of leading,  
7 but, perhaps, it's best to focus on what she actually  
8 observed.

9 MR. SCOTT: Yes, sir.

10 BY MR. SCOTT:

11 Q Okay. Clifton Boozer, did he ever permanently  
12 live with you at your house in Feather Run?

13 A He was there sometimes, but sometimes he wasn't.

14 Q He was there -- speak up.

15 A He was there sometimes, but sometimes he wasn't.

16 Q Pull that microphone closer to you. Is that  
17 better? Lean into it. He was there sometimes and  
18 sometimes he wasn't at the Feather Run house?

19 A Uh-huh.

20 Q Was there ever a time when he wasn't supposed to  
21 be there anymore?

22 A At Feather Run?

23 Q Yes.

24 A One time, my momma had kicked him out, yes.

25 Q Okay. And do you remember when you guys moved

NIYLA W [REDACTED] -DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 to the Conifer drive house in Prosperity?

2 A (The witness nods.)

3 Q You remember moving there?

4 A Uh-huh.

5 Q Now, say yes or no, too. You can't nod your  
6 head. See her typing everything you're saying.

7 A Yes.

8 Q So -- you do, okay. Then who moved from the  
9 Feather Run house to the Conifer Drive house?

10 A My mom, me and my sisters.

11 Q Okay. You, Eve, Niyla and your mom?

12 A Me, Eve, Isis and my mom.

13 Q Oh, I'm sorry, okay. Sorry. Did Mr. Boozer get  
14 to move in there with y'all at first?

15 A No, sir.

16 Q At some point, did he start showing back up  
17 there again?

18 A Yes, sir.

19 Q Did he live there permanently?

20 A No, sir.

21 Q Okay. Well, did he -- did he kind of have all  
22 his stuff there? Did he live out of a bag? How was it  
23 that --

24 A He had like a bag of clothes there, but never  
25 really all his stuff.

NIYLA W [REDACTED] -DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 Q Okay. Tell me, what was the difference just in  
2 household when Cliff was there compared to when he wasn't  
3 there?

4 A My mom --

5 MR. VERNER: Your Honor, I object. I don't know  
6 the relevance of that question. And then are we  
7 getting into 404 issues?

8 THE COURT: Repeat the question again,  
9 Solicitor.

10 MR. SCOTT: I said what was the difference in  
11 the household compared when Cliff was there and when  
12 he was not there. The question is asked to show  
13 household dynamics.

14 THE COURT: All right, just be careful about it.

15 MR. SCOTT: Yes, sir.

16 BY MR. SCOTT:

17 Q So, you want me to ask the question again?

18 A Please.

19 Q Okay. You said Cliff would be there sometimes  
20 and sometimes, he wouldn't be?

21 A Yes, sir.

22 Q Could you -- was there a difference -- I don't  
23 want you to say what people would say, but was there a  
24 difference you can describe in your house between when  
25 Cliff was there and when he wasn't there?

NIYLA W [REDACTED] -DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1           A     Yes. My mom, when he wasn't there, she was  
2 always herself, she was always laughing, she was always  
3 smiling. But like when he came around, she would like --  
4 basically, she would shut us out. She would be in the  
5 room with him and she would never come out.

6           Q     So, you feel like you didn't get as much  
7 attention from your mom when he was there?

8           A     Yes, sir.

9           Q     And you're just saying they would kind of  
10 retreat to another room?

11          A     Yes, sir.

12          Q     Okay. But when he wasn't there, she was more  
13 outgoing with you guys?

14          A     Yes, sir.

15          Q     Let me see what I want to ask you. All right.  
16 You remember the day your mom passed away?

17          A     Yes, sir.

18          Q     That was a Wednesday?

19          A     Yes, sir.

20          Q     Do you remember the Monday before that, two days  
21 before?

22          A     Yes, sir.

23          Q     Okay. And your mom was having some car trouble  
24 that day, right?

25          A     Yes, sir.

NIYLA W [REDACTED] -DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 Q And something about the battery kept dying, do  
2 you remember that?

3 A Yes, sir.

4 Q May of last year, what kind of sports were you  
5 involved in at school?

6 A Cheerleading.

7 Q Then you remember that Monday because what did  
8 you have to do in regards to your cheerleading?

9 A I had to get a physical.

10 Q Okay. Where was that?

11 A At Doctors Care.

12 Q Talking about that Doctors Care that's up Wilson  
13 Road towards Clinton? Do you know where it is? If you  
14 don't know, that's okay.

15 A Uh-huh.

16 Q Was it the Doctors Care in Newberry?

17 A Yes, sir.

18 Q Okay. Tell me what you remember about when you  
19 left the Doctors Care and you were heading back towards  
20 Prosperity?

21 A I remember we broke down like at a red light.

22 Q Uh-huh.

23 A And we kind of coasted in to Cliff's sister's  
24 house because that was the closest place we could leave  
25 the car.



NIYLA W [REDACTED] -DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 Q Was your mom -- were you all excited to be at  
2 Clifton's sister's house or was -- you're saying that was  
3 just the closest place?

4 A Yes, sir. I wasn't excited. No reason to be.

5 Q Was -- did you talk with Clifton Boozer's  
6 sister?

7 A No, sir.

8 Q Okay. Do you know her name?

9 A I don't remember.

10 Q Okay. Natasha, is that what her name is?

11 A Something like that.

12 Q Okay. Well, did you see her that day?

13 A No, sir.

14 Q Okay. Did y'all leave your car at her house,  
15 though?

16 A Yes, sir.

17 Q Do you remember seeing Clifton Boozer there?

18 A Yes, sir.

19 Q How was he acting?

20 A He was drunk.

21 Q Well, did your mom and he talk with one another?

22 A Yes, sir.

23 Q Was it a happy conversation or not happy  
24 conversation?

25 A No, it wasn't happy.

NIYLA W [REDACTED] -DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 Q Okay. Did he -- so the car had to get left  
2 there, so how did y'all get home?

3 A My mom called a cab.

4 Q Okay. Did Clifton get in the cab with you guys?

5 A No, sir.

6 Q Who was with you that day?

7 A It was me, my mom and Eve.

8 Q Okay. Where was Isis?

9 A She was at home.

10 Q Okay. So, y'all took a cab from Newberry,  
11 Clifton's sister's house, on back to Prosperity?

12 A Yes, sir.

13 Q Okay. I want to ask you, do you remember  
14 earlier that morning something happening at the house,  
15 Monday morning?

16 A Yes, sir.

17 Q Okay. But you were asleep through a lot of  
18 that?

19 A Yes, sir.

20 Q Okay. All right. Let me ask you about that  
21 Wednesday morning, okay, when everything happened. The  
22 night before, so Tuesday night going into Wednesday  
23 morning. Are you a heavy sleeper or light sleeper?

24 A I'm light.

25 Q Light?

NIYLA W [REDACTED] -DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 A Yes, sir.

2 Q Do you remember something that night waking you  
3 up or something like that?

4 A Yes, sir. It was like a loud noise that woke me  
5 up.

6 MR. VERNER: Your Honor, just can I briefly be  
7 heard, possibly sidebar?

8 THE COURT: Come on up.

9 (WHEREUPON, a bench conference was held in the  
10 presence of the jury but out of the hearing of  
11 the jury.)

12 MR. VERNER: I apologize, Your Honor.

13 THE COURT: Solicitor, please continue.

14 BY MR. SCOTT:

15 Q Okay. I know what I was asking you, Tuesday,  
16 the night before. You said you were a pretty light  
17 sleeper. Tell me what happened. You said something woke  
18 you up?

19 A I woke up around 5:30, 5:45 because I heard a  
20 loud noise.

21 Q Do you know what it was?

22 A No, sir.

23 Q What did you do after you heard that loud noise?

24 A I woke up. I looked around the house. I looked  
25 in my mom's room to see if she was in there and she was,

NIYLA W [REDACTED] -DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 she was asleep.

2 Q Well, let's get this out of the way. Your mom  
3 slept in the nude sometimes?

4 A Yes, sir.

5 Q So, that was not unusual for her to sleep like  
6 that?

7 A No, sir.

8 Q Well, let me ask you this, when you went in  
9 there, did she have sheets on her bed?

10 A Yes, sir.

11 Q Did you ever figure out what that noise was that  
12 you heard?

13 A No, sir.

14 Q Okay. Could you tell where it came from?

15 A Outside.

16 Q Okay. Did you go outside?

17 A No, sir.

18 Q I don't blame you. Okay. And then you said  
19 that was 5:50, 5:45. What time do y'all typically wake  
20 up -- do you ride the bus or how do you get to school?

21 A I rode the bus.

22 Q Okay. What time did the bus typically pick up?

23 A Around 6:45.

24 Q You probably didn't go back to sleep after  
25 hearing the noise if that was about an hour before the

NIYLA W [REDACTED] -DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 bus?

2 A I don't remember going back to sleep, no.

3 Q Well, tell me what -- the rest of that morning,  
4 you're getting ready, I guess, for school. And was Eve  
5 awake?

6 A Yes, sir.

7 Q Okay. Did Isis wake up, too?

8 A Yes, sir.

9 Q Did your mom just stay in the bed?

10 A Yes, sir.

11 Q What time -- if the bus picks up about 6:45 --  
12 your bus stop's up by Laura Kneece's house?

13 A Yes, sir.

14 Q I think she said that's the corner of Brown and  
15 Conifer, is that what you remember?

16 A Yes, sir.

17 Q How long did it take you to walk up to the  
18 school bus?

19 A Probably about five minutes.

20 Q Five minutes. Were you typically waiting at the  
21 bus stop for a while for the bus to get there or were  
22 y'all kind of chasing after it before --

23 A Most of the time, we were just sitting and  
24 waiting.

25 Q Okay. Do you remember about what time you would

NIYLA W [REDACTED] -DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 have let the house to catch that 6:45 bus?

2 A I don't remember.

3 Q Okay. Do you remember if you had to wait that  
4 day or you got there around the time it was arriving?

5 A Yes, sir.

6 Q What was it?

7 A I got there around the time it was arriving.

8 Q Okay. And you said it was about five minutes,  
9 so you think you left the house around 6:40 maybe,  
10 somewhere in that time?

11 A (There was no response.)

12 Q It's not a trick question. If the bus got  
13 picked up 6:45, what time do you think you left your  
14 house? If you don't know, you don't know.

15 A I don't know.

16 Q Okay. That's fine. Before you left, did you go  
17 say good-bye to your mother?

18 A Yes, sir.

19 Q Okay. And what did you see in her room?

20 A Well, I walked in there and I seen her. She was  
21 asleep and she was laying on like the side towards the  
22 couch.

23 Q Uh-huh.

24 A She was laying on that side of the bed.

25 Q Okay. Did she have a comforter on the bed?

NIYLA W [REDACTED] -DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

- 1           A     Yes, sir.
- 2           Q     What did that look like?
- 3           A     It was black and white.
- 4           Q     Okay. And did she have sheets on the bed?
- 5           A     Yes, sir.
- 6           Q     Did your mom sleep with sheets on her bed?
- 7           A     Yes, sir.
- 8           Q     Okay. What about what kind of curtains did she
- 9 have in that room?
- 10          A     She had like a black curtain.
- 11          Q     Black curtain?
- 12          A     Uh-huh.
- 13          Q     How did that look to you? Did it look like it
- 14 normally did or was there anything different about it?
- 15          A     When I walked in, it was usually how it was.
- 16          Q     It was how it usually was?
- 17          A     Yes, sir.
- 18          Q     So, it was hanging up like a normal curtain?
- 19          A     Yes, sir.
- 20          Q     Okay. Tell me -- all right, so did you talk to
- 21 your mom, though?
- 22          A     Yes, sir.
- 23          Q     Did you tell her good-bye for the day?
- 24          A     I walked in there, I said, Good-bye, momma, I'm
- 25 fixing to go.

NIYLA W [REDACTED] -DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1                   She said, I love you.

2                   I said, I love you, too.

3                   She said, It's the second day of try-outs,  
4 do good.

5                   And I said, I love you.

6                   And she said, I love you, too.

7                   And then I walked out the door.

8           Q     All right. You told her you loved her and she  
9 said she loved you, right?

10          A     (The witness nods.)

11          Q     You need a break?

12          A     No, sir.

13          Q     Okay. All right. So, then you got to get out  
14 of the house pretty quick to catch the bus. Tell me about  
15 locking -- do you remember whether y'all locked the door  
16 that morning?

17          A     No, sir.

18          Q     Was that something that y'all were in the habit  
19 of doing, though?

20          A     Yes, sir.

21          Q     Okay. So, it's kind of like I'm in the habit of  
22 locking my car door. I don't always remember doing it,  
23 but it's just kind of -- was that habit for y'all, though?

24          A     Yes, sir.

25          Q     Okay. Let me show you something, this is



NIYLA W [REDACTED] -DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 State's No. 15.

2 A Okay.

3 Q What's that look like, Niyla?

4 A A part of the door, like the door.

5 Q Speak up so the Judge can hear you and speak up  
6 so the court reporter can hear you.

7 A A part of the door.

8 Q A part of your door?

9 A Yes, sir.

10 Q And we talked about this with some other people,  
11 but many doors were in that house?

12 A One.

13 Q Okay. So, you said that's a that part of a  
14 door, that's a part of whose door?

15 A Mine.

16 Q Okay. Is that how it looked when you left the  
17 morning of May 3rd?

18 A No, sir.

19 Q Okay. Can you show -- do you mind stepping  
20 down?

21 A (The witness complies.)

22 Q All right, show me what's different because --  
23 I'm going to call it casing of the door. Do you recognize  
24 what this part is right here around the door, the frame,  
25 the casing around it?

NIYLA W [REDACTED] -DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 A (The witness nods.)

2 Q Was the casing on it when you left or off of it?

3 A It was off.

4 Q It was off. I mean, that was already off the  
5 door?

6 A Yes, sir.

7 Q But there's a difference with how it looked --  
8 show me what was different about it?

9 A This was broke right here. This wood --

10 Q Yell at me like I'm over here.

11 A The wood right here was not like that.

12 Q What's different about it?

13 A It wasn't like -- it wasn't out, like I couldn't  
14 see the actual wood itself.

15 Q Was it split like it is in that picture? Or you  
16 just couldn't see that wood is what you're saying?

17 A I couldn't see the wood, like, period.

18 Q All right. Was it covered with paint or  
19 sheetrock or do you remember?

20 A (The witness shook her head.)

21 Q It just looked different, that part right there  
22 with the exposed wood was different. Show me what else is  
23 different.

24 A This right here and that.

25 Q Okay. That light switch, the plastic part

NIYLA W [REDACTED] -DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 busted out and then that area around the light switch was  
2 not like that?

3 A No, sir.

4 Q Anything else look different?

5 A No, sir.

6 Q Okay. You can sit back down.

7 A (The witness complies.)

8 Q I want to show you, this is State's 42 and 38.

9 A Okay.

10 Q Have you ever seen those before?

11 A No, sir.

12 MR. SCOTT: Walter, go ahead, let me have either  
13 one.

14 Q All right. What's on the screen, that State's  
15 42. What is that?

16 A A knife.

17 Q A knife?

18 A (The witness nods.)

19 Q You say you've never seen that knife before?

20 A I haven't, no, sir.

21 Q Would you know how it got to be in your  
22 backyard?

23 A No, sir.

24 Q Let me show you State's 38. Do you recognize  
25 that?

NIYLA W [REDACTED] -DIRECT BY MR. SCOTT

1 A No, sir.

2 Q Have you ever seen it?

3 A No, sir.

4 Q Do you know how that got to be in your yard?

5 A No, sir.

6 Q All right. What kind of phone did your mom  
7 have?

8 A She had a Galaxy.

9 Q Do you remember seeing it that morning when you  
10 talked to your mom?

11 A No, sir, I don't remember.

12 Q You don't remember, okay. That pink -- you  
13 remember that pink shirt we were looking at earlier on  
14 State's No. 13?

15 A Uh-huh.

16 Q Was that on the floor when you left?

17 A No, sir.

18 Q Okay.

19 MR. VERNER: What number exhibit is that?

20 MR. SCOTT: I think I said 14.

21 BY MR. SCOTT:

22 Q Did Cliff have any clothes over at the house?

23 A That morning, no.

24 Q No?

25 A Uh-huh.

NIYLA W [REDACTED] -CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 Q Okay. Was he supposed to be at your house on  
2 May 3rd?

3 A No, sir.

4 Q Okay. Okay. Was he allowed to be over there  
5 that time around May of 2017?

6 A No, sir.

7 Q I'm looking for it, but picture of the TV we  
8 were looking at earlier. You remember that picture of  
9 your mom's TV in her bedroom?

10 A Yes, sir.

11 Q This is State's No. 31. Have you ever seen that  
12 writing on that TV before?

13 A No, sir.

14 Q So, you don't know how that got there?

15 A No, sir.

16 MR. SCOTT: Hold on one second. I think I'm  
17 just about done here.

18 Okay. Thank you, Niyla. Answer any questions  
19 Mr.Verner has for you.

20 THE COURT: Mr. Verner.

21 CROSS-EXAMINATION

22 BY MR. VERNER:

23 Q Well, since it's up, where did the TV set in  
24 your mother's room come from?

25 A I'm not sure.

NIYLA W [REDACTED] -CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 Q Did you have it when you were living at the  
2 house on -- did you live with your mother on Feather Run?

3 A Yes, sir.

4 Q Okay. Just so I know, how long did you live in  
5 this new house in Prosperity?

6 A How long did I live there?

7 Q How long had it been since you moved to the  
8 house on Conifer?

9 A I'm not sure.

10 Q A few months or you been there for a few years?

11 A A few months.

12 MR. VERNER: Thank you, Walter, I'm through.

13 Q Did the TV set come from the house on Feather  
14 Run or was it new for the house you just moved into, in  
15 your mother's bedroom?

16 A I'm not sure.

17 Q Okay. You don't know how long she had that TV  
18 set?

19 A No, sir.

20 Q Was it an old TV or new TV?

21 A I don't know.

22 Q Do you remember her buying it?

23 A No.

24 Q Okay. Now, I'm -- you told the prosecutor Cliff  
25 kept a bag at the house of his clothing articles and

NIYLA W [REDACTED] -CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 personal effects?

2 A Can you repeat your question?

3 Q You said he didn't use a closet, but he kept his  
4 stuff in a -- like a suitcase, I take it, or a bag in the  
5 home?

6 A Just a regular bag.

7 Q Okay. Were there clothes in the bag?

8 A Some.

9 Q Okay. The knives that you looked out for the  
10 prosecutor just a second ago on those pictures, were those  
11 the knives that your mother kept in her bedroom?

12 A No, sir.

13 Q Did she keep knives in her bedroom?

14 A Yes, sir.

15 Q Okay. Could they have been old kitchen knives  
16 from your house?

17 A No, sir.

18 Q Okay. When you woke up about 5:30, 5:40 that  
19 morning, is it possible you heard a taxi or a car driving  
20 down that gravel road?

21 A No, sir.

22 Q It wasn't a car sound?

23 A No, sir.

24 Q Okay. Are you the middle sister or the younger  
25 sister?

NIYLA W [REDACTED] -CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 A I'm the baby.

2 Q You're the baby?

3 A Yes, sir.

4 Q Usually, with my kids, the older child kind of  
5 takes the lead, particularly when the parents are not  
6 there, and say, you know, everybody, we need to get ready  
7 for school, you know, make sure everybody's fed and  
8 clothed. Who does that for you and your sisters?

9 A Eve.

10 Q Eve. When mom's not around, Eve's the one kind  
11 of saying hurry up and finish up breakfast and that type  
12 thing?

13 A Yes, sir.

14 Q Okay. Typically, with my kids, they look at the  
15 wall and, you know, it's 6:30, y'all need to be in the  
16 car, but there's a certain time where the mom says y'all  
17 need to be gone by X amount of time. Is there a certain  
18 time that y'all know you have to be out of the house by?

19 A There is, but I don't remember.

20 Q But usually, Eve would say, you know, it's 6:30  
21 or 6:35, we've got to be heading down towards the bus  
22 stop, right?

23 A Yes, sir.

24 Q So, I mean, you don't just go at a different  
25 time every morning, every morning one of the sisters looks



NIYLA W [REDACTED] -CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 at the clock on the wall and that's the time we got to be  
2 out of the house?

3 A Can you repeat your question?

4 Q Do you leave the house typically when the clock  
5 hits a certain number every morning?

6 A Yes, sir.

7 Q What time do you leave the home now to go to  
8 school -- you're in summer break right now, aren't you?

9 A Yes, sir.

10 Q And you had to get a physical last year so that  
11 you could try out for the cheerleading quad?

12 A Yes, sir.

13 Q Did you make the squad?

14 A Yes, sir.

15 Q Good. Where is Doctors care and what is -- I  
16 know you don't know the address probably, but what is that  
17 near? Was it near a grocery store or any kind of other --

18 A It's near the tractor place.

19 Q Okay. It's near the -- is that near the  
20 Wal-Mart?

21 A Yes, sir.

22 Q Or is it more towards the Food Lion and Bi-Lo  
23 area.

24 A The Wal-Mart.

25 Q Okay. Is it in the parking lot of the Wal-Mart

NIYLA W [REDACTED] -CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 or is it near the CVS and the Rite-Aid pharmacy?

2 A I don't know.

3 Q Okay. Do you know where the CVS is in Newberry?

4 A Yes, sir.

5 Q It's across the street from the Rite-Aid?

6 A Yes, sir.

7 Q Then there's that gas station kind of on the  
8 other corner?

9 A Yes, sir.

10 Q And the Wal-Mart behind there?

11 A Yes, sir.

12 Q If I was going to leave here right now and go to  
13 Doctors Care, where would if -- if I got to Wilson Road  
14 would I turn left? If I went straight towards Newberry  
15 High School and if I turned right towards Prosperity or I  
16 turned left towards the Food Lion, which way would I go at  
17 the intersection?

18 A I'm not sure.

19 Q Okay.

20 MR. VERNER: Thank you, Niyla.

21 THE COURT: You can step down.

22 Solicitor, call your next witness, please.

23 MR. SCOTT: The State calls Eve W [REDACTED].

24 EVE W [REDACTED], after being duly sworn, testified  
25 as follows:

EVE W [REDACTED] -CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1           You may continue, Solicitor.

2           MR. SCOTT: Thank you, Your Honor.

3 BY MR. SCOTT:

4           Q     Do you remember where we left off?

5           A     No.

6           Q     Let me -- okay. Do you remember the Feather Run  
7 house, y'all living there?

8           A     Yes, sir.

9           Q     Who all lived in the Feather Run house?

10          A     It was me, my sisters, Jennifer Brokob, her son  
11 and my mom.

12          Q     Okay. When Jennifer Brokob and her son left,  
13 who lived there?

14          A     It was my mom and my sisters.

15          Q     Just y'all?

16          A     Uh-huh.

17          Q     Tell me, who is Clifton Boozer?

18          A     The person that killed my mom.

19          Q     Well, do you see him?

20          A     Huh?

21          Q     Do you see Clifton Boozer today?

22          A     Yes.

23          Q     Point to him.

24          A     (The witness complies.)

25          Q     How did you know him?

EVE W [REDACTED] -CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1           A     He was in a relationship with my mom for like  
2 six years.

3           Q     How do you describe that relationship?

4           A     Very toxic.

5           Q     Okay. Did he stay with you guys at the Feather  
6 Run house?

7           A     For a little bit.

8           Q     Okay. So, what does that mean? Did he live  
9 there full time or was he --

10          A     On and off.

11          Q     Where else did he live?

12          A     His sister's house, I guess.

13          Q     Okay. Where else did you have knowledge of him  
14 living?

15          A     That's it.

16          Q     Okay.

17          A     And I remember like he was still living with his  
18 baby mother.

19          Q     Do you know her name?

20          A     Vonshella.

21          Q     Vonshella. Is she here?

22          A     Yes.

23          Q     Which one is she?

24          A     The one in the white shirt.

25          Q     On the second row, okay. That his -- mother of

EVE W [REDACTED] -CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 his children?

2 A Yes, sir.

3 Q And he's got grown children, right?

4 A Yes.

5 Q He's a grandfather?

6 A Yes, sir.

7 Q So sometimes, he's living with her, and then  
8 sometimes he's living with your mother. Is that how it  
9 was working back then?

10 A Yes, sir.

11 Q Okay. Did he bring over a bunch of stuff to  
12 move in with you guys or was it like your sister said, he  
13 just lived out of a bag?

14 MR. VERNER: Again, Your Honor, that's one  
15 witness commenting on the testimony of another. It's  
16 also -- I understand the statute, but leading as  
17 well.

18 THE COURT: Sustained.

19 You can ask how much material or how many  
20 clothes, how heavily he packed when he lived there.

21 MR. SCOTT: Yes, sir.

22 BY MR. SCOTT:

23 Q I think you know what I'm getting at. How  
24 was -- what was the living arrangement when Cliff was at  
25 y'all's house?

EVE W [REDACTED] -CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 A In Conifer?

2 Q Yeah -- well, no, no, on Feather Run. We're  
3 going to get to Conifer in a minute.

4 A Well, he had clothes there. They were in the  
5 closet and stuff.

6 Q Would he stay there every night?

7 A Mostly. Sometimes, not really.

8 Q Okay. Did there come a time where he didn't  
9 live there anymore?

10 A Yes.

11 Q Why did he move out?

12 A I'm not sure.

13 Q Okay.

14 A No, it was the last time because we were moving  
15 to Conifer.

16 Q Did y'all ask him to move in with y'all at  
17 Conifer?

18 A No, sir.

19 Q Do you remember moving to Conifer?

20 A Yes, sir.

21 Q That's from Newberry -- Feather Run was in  
22 Newberry and then y'all moved down to Prosperity?

23 A Yes, sir.

24 Q All right. Well, did he at some point move in  
25 over there?

EVE W [REDACTED] -CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1           A     I wouldn't say he moved in, but he would stay  
2 nights.

3           Q     Stay nights?

4           A     Yes, sir.

5           Q     Okay. How frequently would he stay over there?

6           A     I'm not sure.

7           Q     Okay. Well, did there come a time when he  
8 wasn't supposed to be over there anymore?

9           A     Yes.

10          Q     Do you remember when that happened?

11          A     It was prior to her death.

12          Q     Right. Do you remember how much prior before  
13 she passed away?

14          A     No, sir.

15          Q     Okay. All right. Then, when he's not there,  
16 supposed to be there anymore, it's you, Niyla, Isis and  
17 your mother?

18          A     Yes, sir.

19          Q     Okay. All right. So, May 3rd, that's the day  
20 your mother passed away, right?

21          A     Yes, sir.

22          Q     That was a Wednesday?

23          A     Yes, sir.

24          Q     Do you remember the Monday just prior to that?

25          A     Yes, sir.

EVE W [REDACTED] -CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 Q Tell me, do you remember that morning, that  
2 Monday morning?

3 A Yes, sir.

4 Q I guess that would have been May 1st?

5 A Monday morning, yes.

6 Q Was that a school day?

7 A Yes, sir.

8 Q All right. What was your mother up to that  
9 morning?

10 A She was headed to work.

11 Q Okay. Where was she working then?

12 A Sonic in Chapin.

13 Q And what time was she was supposed to be there,  
14 do you know?

15 A I don't remember. I think like 9:00 or 10:00.

16 Q Do you remember if she was on time or running  
17 late that morning.

18 A She was running late.

19 Q All right. And did y'all ride the bus that  
20 morning?

21 A No, because we didn't go to school.

22 Q So, she's running late. Where were you that  
23 morning when she was getting ready to leave the house?

24 A I was on the couch.

25 Q And do you remember when she was leaving, did



EVE W [REDACTED] -CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 she tell you to lock the door?

2 A Yes, sir.

3 Q Did you get up and lock it?

4 A No, sir.

5 Q Do you remember her leaving the driveway? Did  
6 you hear her car leave the driveway?

7 A Yes, sir.

8 Q What's the next thing you remember happening?

9 A I remember Cliff just walking in.

10 MR. VERNER: Subject to 404.

11 THE COURT: Subject to 404 ruling, overruled.

12 BY MR. SCOTT:

13 Q Were you expecting him?

14 A No, sir.

15 Q What did he do when he saw you?

16 A He stopped and was shocked to see me.

17 Q Because it was a school day, you normally would  
18 have been in school, right?

19 A Yes, sir.

20 Q Isn't it true that you didn't go because y'all  
21 missed the bus?

22 A Yes, sir.

23 Q And I think your mother said she was running  
24 late, so she said y'all just going to have to stay home  
25 today, is that how that worked?

EVE W [REDACTED] -CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 A Yes, sir.

2 Q So, he sees you, did he stop in his tracks or  
3 what?

4 A Yes, sir. He stopped right at the door.

5 Q Did he say anything to you?

6 A Not as soon as he came in.

7 Q Okay. What did he say to you?

8 A He said, I have to get my wallet.

9 Q Was his wallet there to your knowledge?

10 A No. And wasn't in my mom's either.

11 Q It wasn't what?

12 A In my mom's.

13 Q Okay. Well, what did seeing him in your house  
14 that morning cause you to do?

15 A I called my mom.

16 Q Okay. Because did it seem okay to you that he  
17 was in the house?

18 A Not really, because my mom had just left and he  
19 just walked in.

20 Q Okay. And so you said you called your mom.  
21 Where did you go while you were on the phone with your  
22 mom?

23 A He went to her room.

24 Q Okay. Without saying what she said, how did  
25 your mom react when you told her that he was in the house?

EVE W [REDACTED] -CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 A She was shocked.

2 Q Okay. What did -- after talking with your mom,  
3 what did you say to Cliff?

4 A Get out. You're not supposed to be here.

5 Q Then, did he begin to leave?

6 A Yes, sir.

7 Q Okay. Did your mom turn around from going to  
8 Chapin to come back to the house?

9 A Yes, sir.

10 Q Okay. Do you remember her coming back in the  
11 house?

12 A Yes, sir.

13 Q Okay. What was her -- do you know what demeanor  
14 is? Do you know what I mean by that?

15 A No.

16 Q What was her kind of -- you know, how was she  
17 reacting without saying exactly what she was saying? Was  
18 she sad, mad, excited, happy?

19 A She was mad.

20 Q Okay. Do you know where Cliff was at that time  
21 when she came in the house?

22 A He was standing up outside.

23 Q What was the first thing she did right when she  
24 walked in the house?

25 A She locked the door.

EVE W [REDACTED] -CROSS BY MR. VERNER

1 Q She locked the door. Did --

2 A And --

3 Q What?

4 A Never mind, I'm sorry.

5 Q Okay. Did she yell at Cliff through the window?

6 A Yes, sir.

7 Q Did you see Cliff again that morning?

8 A No, sir.

9 Q Okay. Did your mom eventually end up going back  
10 to work?

11 A Yes, sir.

12 Q That was the same day -- did you have to go get  
13 a physical later on that day?

14 A No, sir, it was Niyla.

15 Q Did you ride with your mother and Niyla to go  
16 get the physical?

17 A Yes, sir.

18 Q All right. Do you remember after -- was that a  
19 Doctors Care, is that what you remember?

20 A Yes, sir.

21 Q Do you know where Doctors Care is?

22 A It's by Pelicans.

23 Q Pelican's snowballs?

24 A Yes.

25 Q So, that would be -- if we go back up Main