

**MAINE STATE POLICE  
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION I  
TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW**

**INCIDENT #:** 20-4-35897

**CASE:** Homicide  
(BORTNER, KASSIDY)

**NAME:** Robert Conley

**DOB:** [REDACTED]

**ADDRESS:**

**TELEPHONE:**

**EMPLOYMENT:** Repairs Airplanes

**OFFICER:** Det. Jeffrey Smith *Jeffrey S. Smith 03-01-01*

**I.D. #:** 4445

**DATE:** 11/09/00

**TIME START:** 2225 Hrs

**TIME END:** 2235 Hrs

**PLACE OF INTERVIEW:** Kittery Police Department

**Approved:** *MJS*

**RC** Robert Conley

**JS** Det. Jeffrey Smith, Maine State Police, CID I

- JS The speaker is Detective Jeffrey Smith, the time is 1025 hours, it's November 9th. We're at Kittery Police Department. Um, with me is Robert, your last name?
- RC Conley.
- JS Can you spell that? Would you spell it?
- RC C-O-N-L-E-Y.
- JS C-O-N-L-E-Y, Conley.
- RC Yeah.
- JS Okay. And Robert, you're ...
- RC JACQUELYN CONLEY's brother-in-law.
- JS Brother-in-law.
- RC AMANDA ...
- JS So, AMAN, so, um, JA, JACKIE, JACKIE's husband is your brother?
- RC Right.

Robert Conley  
11/09/00  
1025 hours

KC 20-4-35897  
DET. Jeffrey Smith  
Page 2

995

- JS Okay. I'm slow.
- RC I'm the uncle of AMANDA and JENNIFER.
- JS Okay. And you live?
- RC With JACKIE and my brother.
- JS In Buckfield?
- RC In Buckfield.
- JS And your date of birth, sir, is?
- RC That I don't like giving out.
- JS What's that?
- RC That I don't like giving out. Tells everybody how old I am.
- JS Okay. And I'm probably older than you.
- RC Maybe you are, maybe.
- JS Okay.
- RC But, 10/26/61.
- JS Okay. And, um, JACK, you told me ROBERT lived with them, she said, "BOB, UNCLE BOB." That's you? I didn't realize that you were one and the same. So. Have you, we're talk, talking to anyone who may have information about the physical condition of KASSIDY prior to tonight. Have you seen any injuries or bruises on KASSIDY?
- RC When she lived with us,
- JS You're going to have to speak up, because I can barely hear you and I'm sure that tape recorder won't pick you up. Your voice. When she lived with you, down in Springvale? Auburn?
- RC Auburn. When she lived with us in Auburn, she was a very happy child, active, energetic. She was learning to talk, learning to feed herself. Ah, there were no bruises on her. Very seldom did you see her fall down. She's very curious. Like she's trying to climb steps and she shouldn't then she tries to get herself back down again, but what she would do was sit on the step and work her way down. Without trying to take a step down.
- JS Yup.
- RC So, there are no bruises on her, physically, from falling down or anything like that. Ah, a few weeks ago, JACKIE was on a trip with my brother in the truck and, MANDY brought KASSIDY up and I noticed some marks on her, on her ankle area and MANDY said that, ah, I guess the babysitter had used a cigarette on her. When MANDY was late. Ah, MANDY took several

Robert Conley  
11/09/00  
1025 hours

KC 20-4-35897  
DET. Jeffrey Smith  
Page 3

996

vacations with her boyfriend leaving KASSIDY with the family which is JACKIE, my brother, myself and the rest of the members of the family.

JS Your family?

RC My brother's.

JS Yeah.

RC And she would do that at weeks at a time, but that was not a problem. Every time that she dropped her off, she was fine. Every time she picked her up, she was fine. These incidents or incident, now, is recent. And the last time I saw her which was just prior to her moving to Buckfield, she was still fine. She was still very active, energetic, curious, and everything else. There was no problem. Since she's been down here, that's when the problem starts. And we do happen to know that they came up on a visit and CHAD was telling her to take a time-out. To go stand in the corner. And for somebody that small, it's awful to stay in a cor, or put them in a corner. It's not very nice to them. Or put them in a room because they're crying. I've been around little kids for a long time and first time I saw that. Never saw that before. Never saw those burn marks before.

JS How do you think the burn marks? Did you ever inquire how the burn marks?

RC She said it was a cigarette.

JS From who?

RC MANDY said it was her boyfriend, not her boyfriend, her, ah, babysitter. Well, she was with her boyfriend, not the babysitter. MANDY's with her boyfriend, KASSIDY was with a babysitter.

JS Do you know who that babysitter was?

RC Nope.

JS Do you know what town?

RC Down in Rochester.

JS Okay. Can you give me a date? A month? How long ago did this happen?

RC Um, August.

JS How do you know it's August? Like, how do you, put me in, put me in that time frame. How do you know that?

RC I was, it's pretty simple. The last time we saw her was about mid-September, ah, JACKIE had gone into the hospital in September for a hysterectomy.

JS Yup.

RC And for that month, we couldn't do much of anything, but we were starting to move. So, prior to that, which was August, she had gone on a road trip with my brother.

Robert Conley

11/09/00

1025 hours

KC 20-4-35897

DET. Jeffrey Smith

Page 4

997

JS Um, hum.

RC And that's when we noticed that.

JS Okay. Did you notice **any** of the bruises on KASSIDY?

RC Um, hum.

JS Can you tell me, can you describe them and tell me where they were and when you saw them? Let's start from, start from the top of her head.

RC None around there, I **know** some around here.

JS You're pointing to your neck?

RC Right.

JS Lower neck.

RC Lower neck. It could have been that I don't know what it was, I noticed a bruise there.

JS Both sides of the neck? Okay, when was this?

RC After the burning incident.

JS So, after August.

RC It could have been in the **same** month.

JS A month ago.

RC Yeah, let's see after we **were**, JACKIE's hysterectomy, she couldn't do anything until the 6th of October and back then **we** were moved. So it was all around August time frame.

JS Okay. AMANDA came to visit up to Buckfield.

RC Yeah.

JS Would that have been the time? JACKIE was gone on the road trip? With your brother?

RC That would be a separate time.

JS Okay. So, the time you saw the bruises is before that, but after August.

RC Um, I noticed them as a result of bruises, MANDY said that she had fallen down and another time it was fell off the trampoline.

JS Okay.

RC That was afterward. That was in October. I'm not certain what time in October because, ah, I believe I was at work. Yeah, I was at work. She showed up, she picked up some of her stuff and

Robert Conley  
11/09/00  
1025 hours

KC 20-4-35897  
DET. Jeffrey Smith  
Page 5

995

we passed. She was going out, she was just leaving as I was coming in. And I noticed them then. And I also noticed that stuff in August, too.

JS You passed in traffic or you passed on the road or?

RC No, she was coming out of the house ...

JS And you were coming in. She was carrying the baby? Did you ever say anything to her about, about the bruises or you ever have any suspicions or curiosity?

RC I had curiosity. I knew something was strange. And I knew that I, ah, asked JACKIE about it. And told JACKIE about it and so did, ah, JOSHUA who noticed them real quick because JOSHUA and KASSIDY were very close.

JS Yeah.

RC And he noticed it and he noticed the change in KASSIDY. Because they'd been there long enough, well, MANDY was getting some of her stuff. That he was able to notice a change. And when I passed, I asked him and he said he didn't know, you know, how she got the bruises. He told his mother and I told his mother, as well. And his mother called down, spoke with CHAD and CHAD said that she fell off the trampoline.

JS Did he say where? Where this happened? When it happened?

RC The trampoline? That was in Rochester at his house.

JS Okay. And a week ago? A day ago?

RC Oh, I don't remember. It had to be a couple weeks, at least.

JS Okay. We,, um, what do you do for a living? I just have to put that in my report, employment.

RC Fix airplanes.

JS Okay.

RC I know from falling off the trampoline as a kid, I never got bruised like that.

JS Did, ah, JACKIE tells me that AMANDA calls almost every day, every couple days. Did she ever share any of this stuff with her mother about this?

RC Nope.

JS How about JENNIFER? How often does JENNIFER call? Call mom?

RC Oh, I'd say more often than MANDY did.

JS Okay.

RC They were, and still are, quite close.

JS Yup.

Robert Conley  
11/09/00  
1025 hours

KC 20-4-35897  
DET. Jeffrey Smith  
Page 6

999

- RC And MANDY would call, not as often. Maybe every couple days.
- JS Did AMANDA ever say what her and CHAD's intentions were?
- RC Yeah.
- JS What did AMANDA, MANDY ???
- RC MANDY said that once the divorce became final, then she was going to be able to live with CHAD and CHAD, they were talking marriage, but, then, CHAD wanted her to have her own place, but stay with him. Which really didn't make much sense.
- JS Um.
- RC She was going to get her own apartment somewhere in this area so she's got her own place, but she's close to him.
- JS Yeah.
- RC Which didn't make any sense. That's some that she said that, ah, her and CHAD talked about and one time she said CHAD wanted to marry her when the divorce became final. And, from what I know of CHAD, he's only been there at the house there in Auburn a couple of times. I don't recall him every going, he's never been to Buckfield. He has no idea where that place is.
- JS Um.
- RC JEFF does. JEN does. MANDY does. CHAD was never there.
- JS Okay.
- RC And even tonight, I could see the way he was acting. And, unfortunately, I know a little bit about people because that's what I used to do for a living. I think something kind of strange here.
- JS Um, hum.
- RC I don't know what, but just seems strange because every time I saw him, he's always, ah, making eye contact was difficult.
- JS Um, hum.
- RC If he made eye contact at all.
- JS Um, hum.
- RC And he's always, kind of on edge. Maybe it was nerves because he didn't really know too many people.
- JS How's he seem tonight? You've seen him.

Robert Conley  
11/09/00  
1025 hours

KC 20-4-35897  
DET. Jeffrey Smith  
Page 7

1000

- RC I saw him tonight and he still doesn't make eye contact. And, then, I saw him out with JACKIE and it sounded like he was crying and all that, but when he went by me, and I was on the opposite side of the room ...
- JS You see right through him?
- RC ... I could see something. It was like he was playing a game. And I, see I'm a former Marine NCO and I spent quite a few years as an NCO so they teach you a lot of that stuff.
- JS Human nature and reading people.
- RC You can see it. I don't know what it was, but as soon as he turned away from JACKIE and started walking back toward the door, he didn't make eye contact to me when he went by me the first time going to the bathroom and he didn't make eye contact again, I could see. You know what the hell? And I kind of looked at his face as he was going by and he wasn't crying. He was acting like he was crying, but he wasn't crying. And I just, something's not right.
- JS Um, hum.
- RC And all these problems with KASSIDY started when he came into the picture. There was no problems with her before. And with JACKIE, JOSH, my brother, myself, MANDY, I mean, we're all there around KASSIDY all the time until she left a, oh, a month and a half ago. And ever since then, it's been one heck of a change.
- JS Um.
- RC Totally different kid. And we had not seen CHAD since MANDY moved in, but we have seen MANDY and I've seen some marks on her. I'm like, you know I could ask if, um, when I'm curious about them, but I figured her mother would ask her. Because I have seen marks on her.
- JS On AMANDA? Where did you see marks on AMANDA?
- RC Face. And I didn't think it was my place to ask, her mother would ask. I don't know if her mother did ask, or not. But she would have made up something, because, I guess, she liked CHAD. You know, they had something pretty nice going at the time. You know you don't want to mess it all up. I've seen that before and someone I used to know and what they were doing was being accepting of the situation because they were getting something out of it.
- JS Um, hum.
- RC Even though physically and mentally and all that stuff they were getting hurt. And, then, when I've seen CHAD throw a wiffle ball, he played with SCOTT at Auburn. It would really take some doing to hit a wiffle ball to leave a bruise. A lot of doing. A wiffle ball, to anyone, it takes a lot to leave any kind of a mark.
- JS That's why they called it wiffle ball.
- RC Yeah. And if you're playing with a little kid, that little, something ain't right. You should not be playing ball with a kid who, he was saying, was not doing too good. You should not be playing ball near that little kid. Something's wrong with the kid. They should have been, you know, throwing something else. That's common sense.

Robert Conley  
11/09/00  
1025 hours

KC 20-4-35897  
DET. Jeffrey Smith \_\_\_\_\_ **1001**  
Page 8

- JS I think he's leaving now.
- RC Yeah, looked that way, but I think JACKIE wants to take MANDY back with us tonight. That's what she suggested to me.
- JS That might be a good idea. You are family.
- RC I think it would be best.
- JS I'm going to, ah, shut this off and end the interview.

(END OF INTERVIEW)