

Checkmate

Forensic Handwriting Examiners

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COURT QUALIFIED / APPOINTED FORENSIC HANDWRITING AND PROFILING EXPERTS

January 29, 2008

Chet Evans
71 Sullivan Street
Keene, NH 03431

Re: Amanda [REDACTED]

Dear Chet:

The following is a summation of my meeting with Chad, [REDACTED] and Amanda [REDACTED]

Chad Evans

On Thursday, December 27, 2007, a pleasant and productive meeting with Chad was finally accomplished.

Amanda [REDACTED] Concord, N.H.

On Friday, January 25, 2008, I met with Amanda (Bortner [REDACTED]) at her home in Concord, N.H.

The following is a summation of our meeting:

- Rice: "Alright, I have a couple of questions I want to ask you Amanda - do you recall the name of your friend that stated and then testified to some things that were not true ... ah .. Melissa Chick is alleged to have admitted to this friend certain statements that were not true. Do you have any idea as to what I am talking about?"
- Amanda: "About Melissa... about what she said on the stand? Ya."
- Rice: "Do you know who this person was?"
- Amanda: "Someone else that she talked too?"
- Rice: "Ya."
- Amanda: "I don't know.. let me think.. I'll have to think about that and let you know."
- Rice: "...O.k." .. What is your opinion on the best way to approach Melissa Chick if and when I able to locate her?
- Amanda: "um.. I don't think she will talk to you.. I don't know, she is a really nice girl.. she's ... just... been told by authorities not to talk... I think."
- Rice: "So, your saying Melissa Chick will not talk to me because she has been told by authorities not to do so?"
- Amanda: "I don't know for sure but I'm thinking that that's why."
- Rice: "Alright, do you have any recollection or is it true that Melissa Chick claimed .. regarding her claim that she did watch Kassidy overnight and did bath her on numerous occasions during the summer of 2000?"
- Amanda" "Um... she didn't bath her....maybe one time... but no... she didn't even watch her alot..I don't understand."
- Rice: "O.k."
- Amanda: "All her.. everything that she said was not true. Kassidy did not have all these bruises all over her face. A lie and I know that the cops manipulated her into saying that.. I just know because I know Melissa too and she's very easily .. swayed.. ____."
- Rice: "If I was able to locate Melissa Chick do you think that you and I together could probably meet with her?"

Amanda: "___ I think if I located her first as a friend I think that would work better."

Rice: "What I would do is .. if I do locate her... I'll pass that information on to you."

Amanda: "Ya."

Rice: "Then you and I can decide how to best handle it."

Amanda: "That will work."

Rice: "O.k. now I know this is a heavy question to ask you.. but do you have any pictures of Cassidy .. ah.. on the morning of her death or the 24 hour period before that?"

Amanda: "No, I don't think so."

Rice: "O.k., do you have any pictures of young Cassidy.....(Amanda: I got one a week before" (Rice) do you have that? (Amanda: Ya, right here on the ___ framed) (Rice) can I see that?"

Amanda: "**Ya, me and her.**" (Upon presenting the picture to me.) **She looks, that was about a week or a week and a half before she died.. does she look half beaten to you?"**

Comment: Amanda presented me with a beautiful framed color photograph of her and Cassidy alleged to have been taken a **week** before Cassidy's death. My examination of the photograph revealed a beautiful baby **WITHOUT** any noticeable bruises, cuts, bandages or other markings to suggest any form of physical abuse.

The picture also revealed a smiling, happy baby. I was given permission by Amanda to secure a digital photograph of the photograph, which was clear on the digital camera but blurry when uploaded onto my computer.

I will take the digital photograph to a professional photo shop to see if they can run off a clearer photo of Amanda and Cassidy.

Rice: "That's what I'm looking... that's the idea .. (Rice and Amanda simultaneously - NO!).. (AMANDA: I think it is ridiculous) Do you think anyone else has any pictures of Cassidy?"

Amanda: "Iv got lots of pictures of her."

Rice: "From..I'm talking about, say from October ...(Amanda: ya, thats when most of my pictures are) ya, but your mom had Cassidy up until the end of September... I believe of 2000."

Amanda: "_____?"

Rice: "Ya, that's what she say's.. that's what she testified to then she ...that (Amanda: Oh, I lived with my mom) ya..then you went with Chad and Cassidy went and lived with you during that period of time (Amanda: ya, my mom acted like she raised her.. let's not bring that up)."

Comment: I shut the recording off to secure the photo of Amanda and Cassidy.

Comment: The recording was then continued with Amanda's knowledge and permission.

Rice: ..."I just secured a picture of..this is you Amanda (Amanda: umm [yes]) and young Cassidy.. when was this taken?"

Amanda: "This was taken roughly about probably a week I believe before she died.. maybe a week and a half."

Rice: "Amanda did you have any private conversations with Melissa Chick the day that Chad was arrested?"

Amanda: "I don't believe so."

Rice: "Amanda, do you have any idea what the motivation was for Melissa Chick to have lied?"

Amanda: "Oh, maybe it's because she .. I don't know, I don't think so.. there's no motivation .. she went to a day care .. maybe she was.. maybe they were threatening her with her job or something because they did it to others.. you know what I mean?"

Rice: "O.k., ... that's ... do you have any recollection about any interactions you ever had with Jeff Marshall's friend William Pierce - ah, Pierce stated on several occasions he observed you guy's together and there was no.. and there was some degree of interaction, so this William Pierce guy, which I guess was Jeff Marshall's (Amanda: neighbor).. neighbor, whatever.. did you have any interaction with him?"

Amanda: "When?"

Rice: "At any time during the month of November?"

Amanda: "Probably."

Rice: "Pierce states during your trial not seeing all those bruises the day Amanda.. (Amanda: oh yes) ..do you remember that? (Amanda: umm [yes])"

Amanda: "...Ya, did, I don't remember, did he go back and change his.. umm.. statement after?"

Rice: "Umm."

Amanda: "He saw Cassidy all the time.. he's always outside when I drop her off .. he's always over there, you know what I mean?"

Rice: "Well he's umm."

Amanda: "He's an odd ball (Rice: o.k.) he'll probably talk to you."

Rice: "Umm, I was going to speak with him but Chad told me not to at this time because Pierce is a friend of Marshall and he didn't want Marshall to get umm.."

Amanda: "But Marshall doesn't live next door to him anymore."

Rice: "Oh, really, where is Marshall living now?"

Amanda: "He built a house in Kittery."

Rice: "Marshall?"

Amanda: "umm [yes]."

Rice: "O.k., and Pierce is still at the old location?"

Amanda: "Um [yes]... I think .."

Rice: "O.k."

Amanda: "I think you should."

Rice: "Oh I will, yup. Pierce also stated during ___ trial not seeing all those bruises on Cassidy the day Amanda dropped her off.. that's very important."

Amanda: "It is very important...."

Rice: "... Uhm, and of course this is my opinion..."

Amanda: "My sister said she didn't see any of that.. then she lied, came back and changed her story... (Rice; that she seen them) ya."

Rice: "O.k. do you think that Jen was.. um... feared Marshall that much that she would lie for him?"

Amanda: Um, I don't think it was fear of Marshall, I think .. I know that he abused her.. but.. umm.. I think it was just he had complete control over her... you know?

I mean financially he supported her ... kinda like she supported him actually... she worked so hard overtime every week.. and he'd give her a pay check.. here's a few dollars and she'd.....have to give him her pay check.. here's \$50.00 for the week like she had her own little allowance.. she had her own job_____."

Rice: "O.K., now it's on to the questions. Tell me about the interview that started with Detective Angela Blodgett at the Grey Maine State Police Barracks."

Amanda: "What do you mean about it.... ..it didn't go very well... um, Angela Blodgett was...just trying to...um ... trying to be my friend at fist... but...um..twist everything that I said."

Rice: "So it started out in one room"

Amanda: "It started of fine and then..."

Rice: "Didn't they move to another room?"

Amanda: "Ya."

Rice: "O.k."

Amanda: "All sorts of rooms!"

Rice: "O.K."

Amanda: "I wonder if they had people watching me like... you know."

Rice: "...well according to the record, Amanda started out in one room talking about being born in Alaska and also many facts about Jeff, yet, there is no record of that portion of interview anywhere."

Amanda: "Record of what portion?"

Rice: "In the second room I guess when you were talking about _____."

Amanda: "There missing it?" _____ ...oh my gosh...awsome."

- Rice: "Well this is what I have to find out from the jurors if .. did they see everything that was.... (Amanda: oh, and if they didn't then he gets a new trial right away?) Well.. oh ya, if there with holding..(Amanda: evidence, ya that's bad)..... Your friend Tracy Foley stated that you arrived at her house in an agitated, excited state and uttered at her door step "and you knew" approximately 30 minutes after Chad's arrest."
- Amanda: "You know what, I said alot of things like I remember being so much in distraught - I didn't know what was going on..... and why can't anyone understand that, you know, and I might have said 'you knew', I don't know, you know...I don't believe I did..but who knows... you know what I mean? exactly, my state of mind at that time was not all there."
- Rice: "Good. According to Foley you were referring to alleged abuse by Chad that you two had previousl discussed."
- Amanda: "No, definitely not!"
- Rice: "O.k. Apparently Foley's transcript..clearly outlines all these allegations."
- Amanda: "Ya, I remember."
- Rice: "Now can you explain your relationship with Tracy Foley?"
- Amanda: "um, it was actually, I was her baby sitter... for years.. she trusted me with her children, you know... and then she was my friend and..."
- Rice: "And then what happened Amanda - once again another friend.."
- Amanda: "...And then she turned on me."
- Rice: "Another friend double crossed you?"
- Amanda: "Yup, all these friends double crossed me."
- Rice: "The night she had a sleep over with you and Cassidy, where did she go that night and why didn't she return until the next day?"
- Amanda: "Who?"
- Rice: "Tracy Foley."
- Amanda: "I don't know..oh, she likes to go out and party."

Rice: " O.k. You have no idea where she went or why she didn't come back?"

Amanda: "No idea. Why is that relevant?"

Rice: "I don't know, thats what they want. A lot of things that are asked may not make sense to you and I but makes sense to Chad. Then he will get to me and tell me to explore this a little bit more....."

Amanda: "Where was Kassidy that night? Wait.... this could be big... umm. I didn't baby-sit her kids that night, I went out with Tracy that night. Chad doesn't know that."

Rice: "Where did you go?"

Amanda: "We went out, I don't remember... where we went."

Rice: "Did you meet any guy's or anything?"

Amanda: "No..... ... well her boyfriend was there. .. I know where we went. Her boyfriend played in a band..... Old Orchard Beach.... ... I think....ya, it was and her boyfriend was playing in a band... and Kassidy was and Tracy was....I was actually talking to Tracy a lot that month....I think...Melissa and Tracy.....Kassidy...Melissa didn't see Kassidy all the time but Tracy did .. and at the same time that Melissa baby-sat so Tracy would have seen something wrong with Kassidy and I don't think she said that... you know?"

Rice: "Where was Tracy Foley's kids?"

Amanda: "I don't know. ... maybe with the father they were separated."

Rice: "Can you think why Foley might lie or make a second statement to police that differed from the first statement she made a year earlier?"

Amanda: "Why she would lie? ... probably to...I don't know I think everyone is emotionally involved in this case..Kassidy died... they knew Kassidy - they wanted automatically they blamed Chad because that's what the cops were telling them. So..um...I don't know what I would do in that situation, you know, if this little..... so I don't know.

...was it my friends baby that I saw all the time that I loved, you know, and then the cops... I didn't know that cops lied like I do now - I might have done the same thing.I am going to help put this guy behind bars, you know, and I'm sure a lot of those girls did that."

Rice: "Jeff Marshall stated to the police that you told him Chad held Cassidy's face under a faucet and that was why he observed she was afraid of taking a bath at his house. Is that true or false?"

Amanda: "False."

Rice: "You never said anything like that?"

Amanda: "[no]"

Rice: "So this is another lie?"

Amanda: "[yes]"

Rice: "Did you ever witness Chad throw Cassidy into your bedroom walls?"

Amanda: "NO!"

Rice: "How did that ever come about?"

Amanda: "Oh my gosh - this... that's what pisses me off the most. Umm, basically, I was getting - umm, questioned once again - I remember it was in Concord, actually, it was here in this town, and it was ___ White picked me up at the airport.. and that's how it came out in that interview room - which they didn't tape record, it was all handwritten.

They didn't want to tape record it - I remember that. I remember going.... saying oh why aren't you tape recording this...___ so naive, you know, to why they weren't tape recording it , but ya, they actually, um, they tried twisting all my words and they got so frustrated, I remember ___ they wanted me to say throw, they wanted me to say... and I couldn't, you know. And then finally, I just agreed with them. DECKER (Will Duckert?) took a hold of his face like this and was getting frustrated... like arggg. Like I'm driving them nuts.

Because I'm not saying what they want me ... to say...exactly... you know, they made me feel like _____. So finally, I mean... I'm pretty sure thats when that happened."

Rice: "Did you ever observe...."

Amanda: "They distorted everything differently.... they actually had me use my purse to try to show them how...um... Chad would handle Cassidy. And I'm like...I feel like an idiot, I remember grabbing the purse and just like putting it right here like that... swear to God...like are you sure? .. are you _____

- Amanda (cont.) Ya! I'm sure, you know, I wasn't sure I'm going to stick up for Chad at all - I wasn't trying to do anything... I was just trying to say the truth...but.. apparently that wasn't good enough, you know?"
- Rice: "Did you ever observe Chad slam Cassidy's head into bedroom closet door?"
- Amanda: "No."
- Rice: "One of your statements mentioned that you witnessed Chad choking Cassidy in the kitchen. Is this true or false?"
- Amanda: "False."
- Rice: "How did that ever come about?"
- Amanda: "I don't know. I don't remember it."
- Rice: "Did you ever witness Chad throwing Cassidy into the corners of the house?"
- Amanda: ..."No." ... No, he never threw her, he never did that.. so scratch all this throwing stuff out, you know, that's there words not mine."
- Rice: "O.k. did you ever drop Kyle off at his school - Cross Roads Kinder garden?"
- Amanda: "Ya, the day that she died... that morning .. with Cassidy."
- Rice: "Were you aware that Chad spoke to the school director, trying to get them to allow Cassidy into the program early because he didn't like the situation with watching Cassidy?"
- Jeff
- Amanda: "Yes."
- Rice: "O.k. And her coming home with bruises?"
- Amanda: ".. yes."
- Rice: "If you were aware of the above can you really recall mentioning to anyone - I know you will need time to dig your memory banks. So, I repeat the question, if you were aware of the above can you recall mentioning this to anyone - about Chad not being happy with Jeff watching Cassidy and trying to get Cassidy into the program at the school?"

Amanda: "[yes]."

Rice: "Do you remember that? Do you remember telling anybody about that?"

Amanda: "About what .. I'm kinda confused as to what the question is."

Rice: "Were you aware that Chad spoke to the school director?"

Amanda: "Ya."

Rice: "O.k. And Chad was trying to get them to allow Kassidy into the program earlier because he wasn't happy with Jeff Marshall watching the baby and her coming home with bruises."

Amanda: "Ya."

Rice: "Did you ever tell anybody that?"

Amanda: "I don't think so. ... I don't know."

Rice: "Other than grabbing Kassidy's cheeks in a palming fashion, did you ever observe Chad disciplining Kassidy in a manner that you did not approve of, after you had asked him not to do so?"

Amanda: "No."

Rice: "What was Jennifer's reaction when you showed her the bruises on Kassidy's butt after Kassidy.....?"

Amanda: "Jen started crying with me and um, saying 'I can't believe that Jeff would do that, my gosh' - and then she screamed at Jeff when he walked through the door."

Rice: "And what did Jeff say?"

Amanda: "I didn't know I did it that hard... he looked like he really felt bad."

Rice: "Did Chad ever deny Kassidy medical treatment?"

Amanda: "No... not that I am aware of."

Rice: "Was there a time when Kassidy came back from Jeff's where Chad suggested that you take her to the doctors?"

Amanda: ".....ya."

Rice: "Was that more than once?"

Amanda: "It was a couple times, ya. And he.... I remember the reason why I didn't take her was because she was sick then she got better like she had a cold, you know."

Rice: "Can you elaborate on the time that Jeff brought Cassidy home dehydrated.... (Amanda: ya, thats what I was just talking about).... and she drank the milk from two bowls of cereal. What was Chad's reaction when he..... (Amanda: she drank the milk from what?) from the bowl.(Amanda: ya..um..) What was Chad's reaction when he came home that evening?"

Amanda: "I don't really remember. I think he told me to take her to the doctor's... he was mad... I think ___ mad at Jeff.. um... it just happened all so fast, you know, ___like a week or ...I don't know... a week before she died. "

Rice: "What prompted the conversation with Jen on the trampoline where you noticed bruising on her legs?"

Amanda: "What prompted it?"

Rice: "Ya, I think it reads in the transcript you and Jen were siting down and she raised her slacks or something and you saw bruises on her legs."

Amanda: "Ya I think... I don't know....we were jumping on the trampoline.... sitting on the trampoline while talking I don't know, I don't remember."

Rice: "Did you ever confide in Jen that Chad had also punched you during fights?"

Amanda: "No. Punched me? No."

Rice: "Had he?"

Amanda: "No."

Rice: "You were a little wild cat yourself....."

Amanda: "Ya."

Rice: "Chad stated that Cassidy had seemed afraid of him at times immediately after returning from being with Jeff. Can you think of any other time she seemed fearful of Chad?"

Amanda: "No."

Rice: "Do you believe that Chad cared for Cassidy's well being?"

Amanda: "Ya."

Rice: "Why?"

Amanda: "Because he did a lot for her."

Rice: "Did you ever observed Chad hit Cassidy in any fashion?"

Amanda: "No."

Rice: "He states that regretfully his form of physical punishment was to palm her face to get her to look in is eyes. Is that true?"

Amanda: "Ya."

Rice: "Did you observe Chad treat his son favorably or did he try to show love, attention, nurturing, and affection to both Cassidy and Kyle?"

Amanda: "He was good to both of them."

Rice: "Why did you tell the police so many things about Chad that you later and now state are not true?"

Amanda: "Because the police twisted my words and made me feel uncomfortable and I wanted to get the hell out of that room. Basically, in a nut shell thats about it. I was coerced into making a false confession and young and dumb and under a lot of stress obviously, I just lost my daughter, so, I don't know how that's credible ... evidence, you know what I mean?"

Rice: "Is it true that you twice observed fresh bruises on Cassidy's cheeks after she arrived home from Jeff's?"

Amanda: "Yes... another page... damn."

Rice: "Jeff stated his purpose for watching Cassidy was because you asked him to because of her bruising."

Amanda: "Ya, right (sarcastically)."

Rice: "That's not true?"

Amanda: "That's not true!"

Rice: "Yet you never hid Cassidy from numerous people the week of October 15 when you and Chad admit to making up the trampoline story. Does this make any sense to you?"

Amanda: "No."

Rice: "is your mother also aware of this obvious contradiction?"

Amanda: "I don't really know what your talking about" Say it again. Is my mother aware of what contradiction?"

Rice: "O.k. Let me read the question again. I know it's... Jeff stated his purpose for watching Cassidy was because you asked him too because of her bruising. Yet, you never hid Cassidy from numerous people the week of October 15. O.k., so what Jeff is saying is he was watching Cassidy because she was supposed to have had bruises. Yet.. you ... didn't seem to have any problem, you know, showing Cassidy around.. to other people. (Amanda: I brought her everywhere).

Ya, ...if she was loaded with bruises you would think that you would not want anybody to see her."

Amanda: "And, um, you need to write down this thing too - because she was running around Olympia Sports Two, like a couple of days before she died. Running around, she and Dawnya (sic). They didn't use her on the stand because she told the truth."

Rice: "Alright, running around Olympia..."

Amanda: "Olympia Sports, Sanford, ME. Ya, I was chasing her around the store.

Rice: "And who else was there?"

Amanda: "..... chasing her. Ahm, the girl - my friend who worked there, Shannon Gagne (26). Springfield, Sanford area... I haven't talked to her in years."

Rice: "..... "Alright, what's happening over here is that... this centers around this trampoline story where Cassidy is alleged to have bounced and Chad grabbed her or something. Why in hell did that come to pass. What motivated..., who thought up that story is that....?"

Amanda: "Honestly, I don't recall."

Rice: "After the week of the 15th, this is October 15, do you recall having a fight with Chad about him squeezing Cassidy's cheeks when he was trying to get her attention?"

Amanda: "After October 15?"

Rice: "Ya."

Amanda: "I don't remember those details anymore... you know?"

Rice: "According to the timeline, Kassidy falling out of Jeff's truck, her bruised buttocks from Jeff spanking her and the cereal incident where Kassidy arrives home from Jeff's dehydrated, all happened after October 15th weekend. From memory, can you recall a time after October 15 until the time of her passing that Chad disciplined Kassidy?"

Amanda: "No. ...You know what I'm wondering now.... if Melissa Chick saw... baby-sat Kassidy after Jeff did that ____thats where she got that. and maybe she didn't lie."

Rice: "How was Chad and Kassidy's relationship before Jeff started watching Kassidy in October?"

Amanda: "... it was good and it was getting a lot better.... she was just so... um.. she was a mommies girl.. if anyone came near me she would freak out. and It was like a guy thing, girls she was fine with.. but I think it was a guy thing. I thought she loved him.... they played together....'

Rice: "Do you think your mother realizes that she saw Kassidy a number of times over the summer and took pictures of a happy healthy baby on October 1st and that is when Jeff started becoming really involved in her child care?"

Amanda: "No... my mom is like ... doesn't realize.... ... she is in denial..... she is on antidepressants and anti-anxieties...."

Rice: "Do you know whether or not your mother is aware that all statements that Chad made to the police about the night prior to Kassidy's death were all verified by the police as being true?"

Amanda: "No, I don't know if my mom knows that.... my mom doesn't know half the facts of this case. Tried talking about it with her but she gets upset, you know, so."

Rice: "Kyle admitted to police as well as to Travis that he accidentally hit Kassidy with a ball."

Amanda: "ya."

Rice: "is that true?"

Amanda: "Ya."

Rice: "The behaviors Chad observed in Cassidy were consistent with a head injury likely inflicted hours before according to the medical examiner."

Amanda: "Oh really!"

Rice: "Does your mom have any idea that Jen and Jeff asserted that Cassidy arrived all beaten up and half dead."

Amanda: "Does my mother know what Jen said? Ya, ___ told her a million times."

Rice: "For this to be true Jen would have had to gone to work instead of helping her."

Amanda: "Ya."

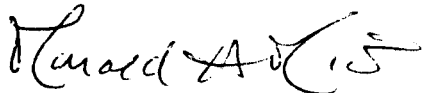
Rice: "Does Jen still have contact with Jeff?"

Amanda: "No. Nope, she doesn't talk to him at all."

Rice: "When was the last time, to the best of your knowledge, they had anything to do together?"

Amanda: "Two years_____."

Regards,



Ronald H. Rice

Attachments