

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA
CIRCUIT CRIMINAL NO. 15-00226CFANO

STATE OF FLORIDA,

vs.

JOHN N. JONCHUCK,

Defendant.

PLACE: HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY PUBLIC
DEFENDER'S OFFICE
700 East Twiggs Street, 5th Floor
Tampa, Florida 33602

DATE: April 25, 2017

TIME: 10:00 a.m. - 10:48 a.m.

REPORTED BY: Marcy K. Guincho
Registered Professional Reporter
Notary Public at Large

DEPOSITION OF JESSICA HALLBERG-CALEBRO

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APPEARANCES

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1 JESSICA HALLBERG-CALEBRO,
2 the deponent herein, being first duly sworn, was examined
3 and testified as follows:

4 DIRECT EXAMINATION

5 BY MS. McNEIL:

6 Q. Could you please state your name?

7 A. Deputy Jessica Hallberg-Calebro.

8 Q. Could you spell that please?

9 A. H-a-l-l-b-e-r-g hyphen C-a-l-e-b-r-o.

10 MS. McNEILL: And just to get started if we could
11 have everybody in the room put their name on the
12 record. Jane McNeill. Joining me in a moment will be
13 Jessica Manuele and Greg Williams.

14 MR. BOLAN: Paul Bolan with the Pinellas County
15 State Attorney's Office.

16 MR. ELLIS: Doug Ellis, State Attorney's Office.

17 MR. GORDILLO: Jason Gordillo with the Sheriff's
18 Office.

19 MR. ELLIS: Hillsborough?

20 MR. GORDILLO: Yes.

21 Q. Officer, right? Not deputy?

22 A. Deputy.

23 Q. Sorry. Just to start off have you gone by any
24 previous married or maiden names?

25 A. Maiden is Hallberg.

1 Q. Okay. Thank you. Any other names?

2 A. No.

3 Q. I have in my documentation from the
4 State Attorney's Office that you completed a report in
5 this case for Hillsborough County that is titled like a
6 mental illness evaluation or mental health evaluation?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Have you had a chance to review that report
9 before you came in today?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. Is there anything in that report that you would
12 change or modify at this time?

13 A. No.

14 Q. And did you author any other reports in
15 conjunction with this case or Mr. Jonchuck?

16 A. No.

17 Q. How long have you been with the Hillsborough
18 County Sheriff's Office?

19 A. Thirteen years.

20 Q. Do you have any law enforcement experience prior
21 to that?

22 A. No.

23 Q. What is your training or education as it relates
24 to becoming a deputy with the Sheriff's Office?

25 A. The police academy.

1 Q. And when did you go through the academy?

2 A. 2004.

3 Q. And do you have any sort of degrees from higher
4 education or anything?

5 A. I have a bachelor's in criminology and
6 psychology.

7 Q. Where did you obtain that degree?

8 A. University of South Florida.

9 (Greg Williams enters room.)

10 Q. And this might be an odd question since you're a
11 law enforcement officer, but do you have any sort of
12 criminal history in your record?

13 A. No.

14 Q. In your work with the Hillsborough County
15 Sheriff's Office, prior to your involvement in
16 Mr. Jonchuck's case, have you had the opportunity to go
17 on other calls where the reason for the callout was a
18 mental health evaluation?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Approximately how many times would you say you've
21 done that?

22 A. In 13 years?

23 Q. Yes.

24 A. I couldn't guess. At least once a week.

25 Q. So a lot?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Through your training at the academy or in any
3 other subsequent training have you received any sort of
4 training or education specifically in how to deal with
5 evaluating a person who is thought to be mentally ill or
6 unstable?

7 A. Prior to this case, no. But after the case, yes.

8 Q. So nothing specific in the academy about that
9 sort of situation?

10 A. No.

11 Q. What did you learn about after the fact?

12 A. They have a crisis intervention training class
13 and I had taken that in 2015.

14 Q. What did that class consist of?

15 A. It's a 40-hour class to deal with people that
16 have mental illness, autism, any kind of -- to know the
17 signs.

18 Q. Is that a required course now for all
19 Hillsborough County deputies?

20 A. Now it is.

21 Q. Did that come about after January of 2015?

22 A. I don't know when they changed the rule on that.

23 Q. Let me ask it differently. Prior to January of
24 2015 did the Sheriff's Office have an established policy
25 or protocol in what you were to do when you went on a

1 type of call like this?

2 A. I don't know.

3 (Jessica Manuele enters room.)

4 Q. Fair to say then if they did have one you didn't
5 know what it consisted of?

6 A. You have to ask the question again. I'm sorry.

7 Q. You said you did not know if your department, the
8 Sheriff's Office, had an established policy or protocol
9 in how to conduct an evaluation for a mentally ill or
10 unstable person.

11 A. Correct.

12 Q. Is it fair to say then since you did not know if
13 your department had such a policy or protocol that if
14 they had one you didn't know what the policy or protocol
15 was?

16 A. They have a protocol for the deputies that are
17 trained in mental illness but because I hadn't taken the
18 class at that time a deputy that is trained in that has
19 to be dispatched to those calls also. That's why
20 Deputy Rizzo was the second deputy that got dispatched.

21 Q. Deputy Rizzo had been trained in it?

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. Okay. I understand. Prior to this call on
24 January 7th Deputy Rizzo had had specific training in
25 what the Sheriff's Office policies were in dealing with

1 this type of situation?

2 A. Correct.

3 Q. But you had not?

4 A. Correct.

5 Q. That makes much more sense. Thank you. Prior to
6 January 7th of 2015 when you went out on one of these
7 calls for a mental health or illness evaluation, as a
8 result of your interaction with the person you were
9 evaluating did you ever have a case where prior to
10 making determination on whether the person would meet
11 criteria for a Baker Act did you ever consult a
12 supervisor?

13 A. You have to ask the question again.

14 Q. That was a long question, wasn't it?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. In the course before January 7, 2015 -- that's
17 where we're at, okay -- in doing a mental illness
18 evaluation had you ever consulted a supervisor prior to
19 making your decision on what your action was going to
20 be?

21 A. I would say yes, probably as a rookie being
22 unsure of what to do, but not that I can recall
23 specifically.

24 Q. In Mr. Jonchuck's case was any sort of contact
25 made with a supervisor prior to you and Deputy Rizzo

1 releasing Mr. Jonchuck?

2 A. Not by me.

3 Q. Because Deputy Rizzo was the one specifically
4 trained in this type of situation, this type of
5 evaluation would he have been the one potentially to
6 make that call on whether to reach out to a supervisor?

7 A. It's not required to reach out to a supervisor on
8 any particular call. It's if you have a question on
9 what you should do or should not do is when you make
10 contact with a supervisor.

11 Q. Okay. So in this case you personally did not
12 have any question then because you did not contact a
13 supervisor?

14 A. Correct.

15 Q. In the course of your evaluations throughout your
16 career doing these type of mental evaluations have any
17 of them resulted in somebody being Baker-acted?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Have you been the person to fill out that
20 paperwork to institute the Baker Act?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Turning to January 7th of 2015, how did you come
23 about being involved in the call?

24 A. I got dispatched to the call because it
25 originated in my district. The complainant was the

1 lawyer and her office is in my area.

2 Q. So what was your first course of action then?

3 A. I called the complainant, which I have to refer
4 to my report to remember her name. Genevieve Torres.
5 In the call it stated that Mr. Jonchuck was on his way
6 to the church so I advised her that I was on my way but
7 I was not gonna make contact with her due to him being
8 on his way to the church and that I would let her know
9 the outcome.

10 Q. So before you ever made contact with Mr. Jonchuck
11 you did have a conversation with Ms. Torres?

12 A. Correct.

13 Q. During the course of that conversation with
14 Ms. Torres prior to meeting with Mr. Jonchuck did she
15 relay to you any specific things about her concerns?

16 A. Yes, she said that she had met with him the day
17 before and when she spoke with him they had a normal
18 conversation and that the day of the call that he was
19 acting strange and she was worried about his daughter.

20 Q. In this first conversation with her did she give
21 you any specific example of what he was doing that she
22 thought was strange?

23 A. She said that he was acting strange and when I
24 asked for specific examples of what that strange
25 behavior was she just said that he had a Swedish Bible,

1 was asking her if she knew how to translate it for him
2 and that she just wasn't comfortable with him driving
3 around his daughter. So when I asked her, Do you feel
4 like he was under the influence of anything or why
5 specifically driving her around, and she just said she
6 couldn't give specific examples. She just said she was
7 worried.

8 Q. In your first contact with Ms. Torres prior to
9 meeting with Mr. Jonchuck did she say anything to you
10 about if he referred to himself in any certain way,
11 thought he was another person or anything to that
12 effect?

13 A. I have to refer to my report.

14 Q. Sure.

15 A. Can you repeat the question again?

16 Q. Sure. In that first conversation that you had
17 with Ms. Torres, this is prior to the meeting with
18 Mr. Jonchuck, did Ms. Torres tell you whether
19 Mr. Jonchuck had referred to himself by any name or any
20 other entity?

21 A. No.

22 Q. So nothing about he said he was God or the Pope?

23 A. No, she said that he called her God.

24 Q. He called her God?

25 A. Correct.

1 Q. Any other names that he called her?

2 A. No.

3 Q. So the first location that you went to then would
4 have been the church?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. That is St. Leo's, correct?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Prior to your involvement with this call on
9 January 7th had you had any prior contact with
10 Ms. Torres, the lawyer?

11 A. No.

12 Q. What about with the priest, Father Swerngos,
13 S-w-e-r-n-g-o-s?

14 A. No.

15 Q. I'm sorry. Correct the spelling.
16 S-w-e-n-g-e-r-s. You didn't have any contact with him?

17 A. No.

18 Q. There is a person referenced in the report on
19 this call about an unidentified church employee. Did
20 you ever get that church employee's name?

21 A. No.

22 Q. What about any prior contact with the defendant
23 Mr. Jonchuck?

24 A. No.

25 Q. Any of his family members?

