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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT  
OF THE SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
IN AND FOR PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA

CRIMINAL DIVISION

CASE NO.: 18-10885-CF

SPECIAL PROSECUTION

STATE OF FLORIDA,                    )  
  )  
                          Plaintiff,        )  
      vs.                                 )  
  )  
CHARISSE STINSON,                    )  
  )  
                          Defendant.     )  
-----/

DEPOSITION

OF

SERGEANT CHRISTOPHER M. WILKINS

TAKEN BY:        The Defendant  
DATE:             Wednesday, February 5, 2020  
TIME:             1:31 p.m. - 1:40 p.m.  
PLACE:            County Justice Center  
                    14250 49th Street North  
                    Clearwater, Florida 33762

Reported By:     Gina M. Manning  
                    Court Reporter, Notary Public  
                    State of Florida at Large

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A P P E A R A N C E S

APPEARING ON BEHALF OF THE PLAINTIFF:

PAUL BOLAN, ESQUIRE  
County Justice Center  
Office of the Public Defender  
14250 49th Street North  
Clearwater, Florida 33762  
Phone: 727-464-6516

APPEARING ON BEHALF OF THE DEFENDANT:

ALLISON MILLER, ESQUIRE  
LORI MAHIN, ESQUIRE  
County Justice Center  
Office of the State Attorney  
14250 49th Street North  
Clearwater, Florida 33762  
Phone: 727-464-6221

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I N D E X

WITNESS

SERGEANT CHRISTOPHER M. WILKINS

<u>DIRECT EXAMINATION</u>	<u>PAGES</u>
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By Ms. Miller	4-16
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<u>CROSS EXAMINATION</u>	<u>PAGES</u>
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No cross examination.

EXHIBITS

No exhibits.

## P R O C E E D I N G S

1  
2 Thereupon,

3 SERGEANT CHRISTOPHER M. WILKINS

4 was called as a witness by the DEFENDANT and having first  
5 been duly sworn by the court reporter was examined and  
6 testified on his oath as follows:

## D I R E C T E X A M I N A T I O N

7  
8 BY MS. MILLER:

9 Q. If you could please tell us your first and last  
10 name and spell your last name.

11 A. My name is Christopher Wilkins, W-I-L-K-I-N-S.

12 Q. Where are you employed, sir?

13 A. I work for the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office.

14 Q. In what capacity?

15 A. I'm a sergeant for the Sex Predator Offender  
16 Trafficking Unit.

17 Q. SPOT?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. We're here on State of Florida versus  
20 Charisse Stinson. Are you familiar with this case?

21 A. I am.

22 Q. Did you write any kind of supplemental police  
23 report about your involvement?

24 A. I did not.

25 Q. I have you referenced, along with several other

1 outside agency-type folks, as assisting with FDLE in  
2 Special Agent Brad Carrozza's report.

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Have you had an opportunity to review his report?

5 A. I have not.

6 Q. Would you like to?

7 A. Um...

8 Q. I mean it's up to you.

9 A. Probably not because I mean I'm pretty familiar  
10 with what our involvement was.

11 Q. Do you have a pretty clear recollection now as we  
12 sit here on February 5th, 2020 of what happened in September  
13 of 2018?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Tell me what your involvement was, please.

16 A. I got notified by Corporal Bisson on that Sunday,  
17 which I think was the 2nd maybe, that the CART Team was  
18 being activated, the "Child Abduction Response Team"; in the  
19 Sexual Predator Unit, we have several members that are part  
20 of it. He said that they're getting activated and that  
21 Largo is requesting their assistance for an area search for  
22 this missing child.

23 I was not in town until I came back to work on  
24 Tuesday but I was notified that it was activated Sunday,  
25 Monday, and then also Tuesday when I went out.

1 Q. What did you do on Tuesday?

2 A. We responded to Largo's police department and we  
3 were given instruction to go to like to like a garbage dump  
4 site off of Keene.

5 Corporal Bisson and Detective Turcotte told me that  
6 they had sorting through trash and things on Monday possibly  
7 trying to locate the child's body.

8 We got there. We were only there for a matter of  
9 probably 20, 30 minutes and then we got re-deployed to  
10 another area.

11 Q. When said "we responded to the garbage dump site  
12 off of Keene" who is the "we"?

13 A. Corporal Bisson and Detective Turcotte because they  
14 work for me. We went to the dump site.

15 Q. Was it just the three of you all from the  
16 sheriff's office?

17 A. There was two child abuse detectives,  
18 Gosia--I can't think of her last name--and another guy that  
19 was with her but I can't think of his name.

20 Q. But you were the only three--Bisson, Turcotte, and  
21 yourself--from the SPOT Unit?

22 A. Correct.

23 Q. And you were in charge?

24 A. I'm a sergeant.

25 Q. When you went to the dump site off of Keene, did

1 you actually go through any trash there?

2 A. Corporal Bisson and Turcotte raked through a couple  
3 piles, and then it was pretty quick that we got asked to go  
4 to another location.

5 Q. And you were not looking for evidence but,  
6 specifically, for the child's body at this point?

7 A. Correct.

8 Q. Who asked you to go to the other location?

9 A. It was one of the Largo people that were on-site;  
10 I didn't get his name. He was like, "Hey, can you all head  
11 up to the neighborhood off of Keene." I don't know the  
12 street but we just followed, basically, a parade of cars  
13 down the side road. It was one of the detectives,  
14 lieutenants, or sergeants with Largo who wanted us to start  
15 doing the neighborhood search in garbage cans and anyplace  
16 that looked suspicious.

17 Q. Was it the Imperial Palms apartment complex?

18 A. That came later on.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. This was just a neighborhood off to the east of the  
21 Imperial Palms.

22 Q. Oh, okay. And so did you go door-to-door in the  
23 actual neighborhood first?

24 A. Door-to-door, looking in garbage cans, looking next  
25 to houses and bushes. Anywhere that maybe we could have

1 found the child.

2 Q. Did you actually speak to any of the homeowners in  
3 that area?

4 A. No, I did not.

5 Q. Were there some people, like law enforcement  
6 officers, knocking on doors trying to talk to people?

7 A. There were some with Largo where Largo was doing  
8 their thing. We were just, basically, doing a canvas for  
9 the child.

10 Q. At this point, the assumption is made that the  
11 child may be dead?

12 A. Correct. Three days later.

13 Q. Did you find anything either at the dump site or in  
14 this neighborhood search of any kind of evidentiary  
15 relevance?

16 A. We did not.

17 Q. How long did you canvas that neighborhood?

18 A. I would say probably close to two hours.

19 It started to rain at one point pretty hard and we kind of  
20 had to hide under a patio but once it stopped, we got back  
21 into it and continued west.

22 Q. Is this the same group of folks, the three of you  
23 guys from the SPOT Unit, --

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. -- and the other agency-assist folks?



1 A. Correct.

2 Q. Then where did you go?

3 A. We went to Imperial Palms. There were some  
4 retention ponds. We walked the entire retention pond area  
5 looking in the water, looking in culverts, looking in  
6 bushes. Anywhere where there was a wooded area we looked.

7 Q. And, again, looking specifically for  
8 Jordan, Jr.'s body?

9 A. Correct.

10 We walked all the way through the complex.  
11 There's like a Largo rec center or -- it's like the  
12 Performing Arts Center that's back over there and  
13 Corporal Bisson and I--there's a big wooded lake--walked  
14 that entire lake two or three times looking in the water and  
15 in the bushes and stuff and we still didn't find him.

16 Q. Did you find anything of relevance?

17 A. Did not find anything.

18 Q. How long would you say you were doing that for?

19 A. It was probably another two hours.

20 Q. Then what did you do?

21 A. It was a short time later that one of the FDLE  
22 agents said to go to the park, I think it was off of Keene  
23 maybe. There's a football field and a baseball field to the  
24 north of a retirement community that's just to the west of  
25 the Cultural Arts Center and we heard over the radio that

1 they located him in the woods.

2 Q. Did you respond to the area where Jordan's body  
3 was found?

4 A. We went to the area but stayed in the parking lot.  
5 We saw them in the woods with the child. It's Largo's case  
6 so we kind of assisted with a perimeter, made sure nobody  
7 got in there, and kind of waited for them to see what else  
8 they needed us to do.

9 Q. Was there anything else they needed you  
10 all to do?

11 A. Carrozza requested that we do the entire  
12 Imperial Palms apartment complex, basically, a neighborhood  
13 canvass. So we broke it up into -- there are probably 12,  
14 13, 14 between St. Pete and us and canvassed the entire  
15 apartment complex.

16 Q. Is this when you're going door to door?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Did you actually speak to tenants of the  
19 apartment complex?

20 A. As many as we could that they were home.

21 Q. Did you speak with anybody that knew anything about  
22 Jordan or Charisse or anything about the case?

23 A. The numerous people that Corporal Bisson, Turcotte,  
24 and I spoke with, nobody saw anything.

25 Q. Were the three of you all going door-to-door

1 together?

2 A. We broke it up building: "I get this side upstairs  
3 and downstairs. You get this side upstairs and downstairs".  
4 When we got done, we'd say, "This building is done," and  
5 then we'd go onto the next one.

6 Q. Did you keep record of what buildings you went to?

7 A. Yeah. I sent an e-mail, with like an Excel  
8 spreadsheet of where we checked, to the Largo case agent.

9 Q. Is that Wheaten?

10 A. It started with a B for boy, a Hispanic guy maybe.

11 MR. BOLAN: Is it Mark Bruno?

12 THE DEPONENT: I think it was him. It might  
13 have been him.

14 MR. BOLAN: He's a sergeant.

15 THE DEPONENT: It may have been. I e-mailed  
16 him a list of everything that we checked and what  
17 the results were.

18 BY MS. MILLER:

19 Q. And did that also have the names of the folks you  
20 spoke with?

21 A. No.

22 Q. Just the buildings?

23 A. Correct. And we were told that if anybody saw  
24 anything, get their name and we can always go back and talk  
25 to the residents again, if anybody saw anything.

1 Q. So the Excel spreadsheet that you sent to the  
2 Largo officer had all the building units you we want to?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. And presumably, you knocked on every door in  
5 the unit?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. And for all of those units, everyone that you spoke  
8 to had no information?

9 A. Correct.

10 Q. Did you make note of the units that you went to  
11 where there was no one home?

12 A. Yes. We also documented if nobody was home.

13 Q. Because I assuming not everybody was home.

14 A. Correct.

15 Q. And so the units where the people weren't home,  
16 that would be in the spreadsheet as well?

17 A. Yeah. Whatever e-mail I sent to the detective had  
18 all that information.

19 Q. Was there any other information you documented?

20 A. No.

21 Q. Is there a reason why you didn't write any kind of  
22 supplemental report?

23 A. Corporal Bisson did the original supplement,  
24 and I thought he had everything in that that was supposed  
25 to be in there that we had done.

1 Q. So you just felt like it was all documented?

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. Anything after the neighborhood canvas at the  
4 Imperial Palms?

5 A. We were done.

6 Q. Did you have any other involvement in this  
7 investigation?

8 A. No.

9 Q. So all on September 4th?

10 A. Correct. As far as me, yes.

11 Q. Have you ever met Charisse Stinson?

12 A. I never have.

13 Q. How about the father of the child juror bell,  
14 Senior?

15 A. I don't believe I have.

16 MS. MILLER: Nothing further.

17 MR. BOLAN: No questions.

18 (The deposition concluded at 1:40 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE OF OATH

STATE OF FLORIDA )  
COUNTY OF PINELLAS )

I, Gina M. Manning, certify that  
SERGEANT CHRISTOPHER M. WILKINS personally appeared before  
me on Wednesday, February 5, 2020 and was duly sworn.

Signed this 22nd day of March 2020.

*Gina M. Manning*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
GINA M. MANNING  
Shorthand Reporter  
Notary Public - State of Florida  
My Commission Number: #GG250426  
Expires: September 5, 2022

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CERTIFICATE

STATE OF FLORIDA )  
COUNTY OF PINELLAS )

I, GINA M. MANNING, Shorthand Reporter  
and Notary Public, certify that I was authorized to and  
did stenographically report the deposition of  
SERGEANT CHRISTOPHER M. WILKINS, pages 1 through 16, that  
signatures and formalities were not waived; and that the  
transcript is a true and complete record of my  
stenographic notes.

I further certify that I am not a relative,  
employee, attorney, or counsel of any of the parties,  
nor am I a relative or employee of any of the parties'  
attorney or counsel connected with the action, nor am  
I financially interested in the action.

Dated this 27th day of March 2020.

*Gina M. Manning*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
GINA M. MANNING  
Shorthand Reporter  
Notary Public - State of Florida  
My Commission Number: #GG250426  
Expires: September 5, 2022

