

YMCA Michigan Youth in Government



**2016-17
Model Judiciary Program
Case Packet**

STATE OF MICHIGAN
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF INGHAM
Case No. 12-12345-CR

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN,

v.

Dakotah McDouglas
100 Washington Ave.
Sienna Heights, MI 48910

Defendant

THE GRAND JURY CHARGES ON October 17, 2016

On January 17, 2016, in Sienna Heights Michigan, county of Ingham, Dakotah McDouglas did commit the crimes of murder in the second degree against Candace McDouglas and Murder in the First Degree against Chance Cooper.

APPLICABLE STATUTORY LAW

750.316 First degree murder; penalty; definitions.

Sec. 316.

(1) A person who commits any of the following is guilty of first degree murder and shall be punished by imprisonment for life without eligibility for parole:

(a) Murder perpetrated by means of poison, lying in wait, or any other willful, deliberate, and premeditated killing.

(b) Murder committed in the perpetration of, or attempt to perpetrate, arson, criminal sexual conduct in the first, second, or third degree, child abuse in the first degree, a major controlled substance offense, robbery, carjacking, breaking and entering of a dwelling, home invasion in the first or second degree, larceny of any kind, extortion, kidnapping, vulnerable adult abuse in the first or second degree under section 145n, torture under section 85, aggravated stalking under section 411i, or unlawful imprisonment under section 349b.

(c) A murder of a peace officer or a corrections officer committed while the peace officer or corrections officer is lawfully engaged in the performance of any of his or her duties as a peace officer or corrections officer, knowing that the peace officer or corrections officer is a peace officer or corrections officer engaged in the performance of his or her duty as a peace officer or corrections officer.

750.317 Second degree murder; penalty.

Sec. 317.

Second degree murder—All other kinds of murder shall be murder of the second degree, and shall be punished by imprisonment in the state prison for life, or any term of years, in the discretion of the court trying the same.

STIPULATIONS

- 1) The Michigan Youth in Government Mock Trial rule packet is the only source of objections.
- 2) The charges brought forth in this Mock Trial Packet are the only charges able to be brought.
- 3) No prior case law may be cited.
- 4) The only evidence that may be produced is the evidence contained in this packet.
- 5) Each witness gave a deposition under oath and promised to give a full and complete description of all relevant matters and to correct any inaccuracies before signing the deposition.
- 6) All signatures and documents are authentic and original.
- 7) All witnesses have knowledge of the case and can testify according to their statements.
- 8) All witness names are gender-neutral and can be played by a male or female.

WITNESSES

The **Prosecution** must call the following 2 witnesses:

1. Taylor McDouglas, Primary Guardian
2. Jordan Spectrum, Officer with Sienna Heights Police Department

The **Defense** must call the following 2 witnesses:

1. Dakotah McDouglas, Defendant and Secondary Guardian
2. Charlie Allen, Sergeant with the Sienna Heights Police Department

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF INGHAM

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PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN,

v.

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100 Washington Ave.
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Defendant

GRAND JURY ORDER

NOW COME, the People for the State of Michigan, in the County of Ingham against the Defendant Dakotah McDouglas in the matter of a crime against Candace McDouglas and Chance Cooper. The People of the State of Michigan have presented the facts and evidence to date to this tribunal and we, the Grand Jury, find that there is sufficient evidence against Dakotah McDouglas that would warrant a trial of prosecution against the defendant.

Therefore, the defendant is bound over into the custody of the State of Michigan until trial. The defendant will stand trial for the crime of first and second degree murder.

It is so ordered.

This the 17th day of October 2016.

Judge Nathaniel Bussicio
Judge Jamie Smith
Judge John Lawless

Honorable Nathaniel Bussicio
Hon. Jamie Smith
Hon. John Lawless

**The People of the State of Michigan
V Dakota Douglas
Case No. 12-12345-CR**

Instructions to the Jury

I will now instruct you on the law you are to apply during the course of your deliberations.

This is a criminal case in which the defendant is accused of a crime.

A person accused of a crime is presumed to be innocent. This means that you must start with the presumption that the defendant is innocent. This presumption continues throughout the trial, and entitles the defendant to a verdict of not guilty unless and until you find from the evidence that he or she is guilty of the crime charged beyond a reasonable doubt.

The defendant is not required to prove his innocence or to do anything.

Every crime is made up of parts called elements. The prosecution must prove each and every element of the crime beyond a reasonable doubt.

In this case the defendant is charged with the crime of Murder.

Degrees of Murder

There are two degrees of murder, First Degree and Second Degree Murder. I will define them both. First-Degree Murder involves the premeditated murder of another, and the killing of another during the commission of a felony. Each of these contains separate elements, but both of them can constitute First Degree murder.

First Degree murder:

Premeditated Murder is perpetrated by means of poison, lying in wait, or any other willful, deliberate, and premeditated killing.

Felony murder is any death that is the result of, or takes place during the commission of certain felonies. Those felonies are arson, criminal sexual conduct in the first, second, or third degree, child abuse in the first degree, a major controlled substance offense, robbery, carjacking, breaking and entering of a dwelling, home invasion in the first or second degree, larceny of any kind, extortion, kidnapping, vulnerable adult abuse in the first and second degree, torture or aggravated stalking.

Second-degree murder:

All other kinds of murder are second-degree murder, and shall be punished by imprisonment in the state prison for life, or any term of years.

Malice:

In order to prove either First Degree or second-degree murder the prosecutor must establish that the defendant acted with malice. To establish "malice", the prosecutor must show that the defendant either: (1) intended to kill; (2) intended to commit great bodily harm; or (3) intended to create a very high risk of death or great bodily harm with the knowledge that death or great bodily harm is the probable result.

Elements of First-degree premeditated murder:

To prove first-degree premeditated murder the prosecutor must establish that: (1) a death took place, (2) that the death was caused by an act of the defendant, (3) that the defendant acted with malice, (4) that the defendant was without justification or excuse and (5) that the defendant planned to commit the crime of murder. This does not mean that the prosecutor needs to show that a murder was carefully thought out and planned as premeditation can take place in a matter of seconds.

Elements of Felony murder:

To prove first degree-degree felony murder, the prosecutor must establish that a death resulted from, or takes place during the commission of one of the specified felonies. The death did not have to be intentional. Malice is inferred from the commission of the specified felony.

Elements of second-degree murder:

To prove second-degree murder the prosecutor must establish that (1) a death took place, (2) that the death was caused by an act of the defendant, (3) that the defendant acted with malice, (4) that the defendant was without justification or excuse and (5) that the defendant planned to commit the crime of murder. This does not mean that the prosecutor needs to show that a murder was carefully thought out and planned as premeditation can take place in a matter of seconds.

The final element that the prosecution must prove in any of these charges is that the defendant's conduct must have occurred in Ingham County

In order to find the defendant guilty of the crime charged you must find each of the elements described above proven beyond a reasonable doubt. Should you find that the prosecution has not proven each of the elements beyond a reasonable doubt, and then you must find the defendant not guilty.

I will now define the term beyond a reasonable doubt. A reasonable doubt is a fair, honest doubt growing out of the evidence or the lack of evidence in the case. It is not an imaginary or a possible doubt. Instead, it is a doubt based upon reason, and common sense. It is such a doubt that would cause a reasonable person to hesitate to act upon it in matters of importance. It is a doubt, which is considered reasonable after a careful and considered examination of all the facts and circumstances in the case.

You are the sole and exclusive judges of the facts. You are to determine from the evidence what the facts are. You resolve any conflicts in the testimony, and you draw any reasonable inferences from the facts as you find them.

The evidence you are to consider is limited to the testimony of each witness, any exhibits that were admitted, any stipulations that were read, and any inferences that can reasonably be drawn from them.

You are the sole judges of the credibility of each witness and of the importance of his or her testimony. In assessing credibility, you should carefully scrutinize the testimony of each witness, the circumstances under which each witness testified, and any other circumstances which may help you to decide the truth and the importance of each witness' testimony.

A defendant has an absolute right not to testify. You could not consider the fact that he/she did not testify in any way. However, in this case the defendant did testify. Therefore, you should apply the same considerations just described in evaluating the credibility of defendant's testimony

Once you retire to the jury room, select a foreperson and begin your deliberations. Once you have arrived at a unanimous verdict on the charge notify the bailiff who will then bring you back to the courtroom to deliver your verdict.

AFFIDAVIT OF TAYLOR MCDOUGLAS

STATE OF MICHIGAN §
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COUNTY OF INGHAM §

BEFORE ME the undersigned authority personally appeared Taylor McDouglas, known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed hereto and upon his/her oath deposed and stated as follows:

My name is Taylor McDouglas and I am 30 years old. I have two daughters, Candace and Rebecca. We live in Sienna Heights, Michigan, not far from the fast food restaurant that I work at. I have worked at this job now for just about 10 years, and I am a manager. Since I live so close to where I work, I am often called in to cover extra shifts or when people call in sick. It makes it hard to find a sitter in those last minute moments. Because of this I invited Chance to move in with us about 6 in October of 2015.

Chance worked with me at the restaurant and we became pretty good friends. He was a few years younger than me and I think people believed it was a romantic relationship but it wasn't. I just recognized a lot of myself in Chance. He had a hard life growing up, and sometimes those things stick with you. Chance just needed someplace safe to be for a while and I was happy to provide that for him. In exchange he was available most of the time to stay with the girls if I was called in to work. It worked out really well for me.

On January 17th, 2016 I was stuck working a double. Chance was at home with the girls. The girls went out to dinner with Dakotah and then came home in time for bed. Dakotah, my ex, and Chance never really got along. I think Dakotah thought Chance and I were in a relationship as well. I told Dakotah on many occasions that it simply wasn't the case. Dakotah and I had actually split because of his/her crazy jealousy. He/She would get so angry all the time and it was really hard to deal with. I didn't want that sort of aggression in my life. Either way, the girls went to bed and Chance was there to watch them.

I received a call from Chance around 9:30 pm. Everything was fine but Candace had been up in the night and very sick. She had vomited a lot. As far as Chance could tell Rebecca slept through the entire sickness. I found it strange because she is usually such a light sleeper and they share a room. That afternoon when I had been home for lunch Candace appeared to have been just fine. I assumed it was something that she ate with Dakotah.

It wasn't until the next morning when I got home that I realized something was really wrong. I walked into my bedroom to change and I saw Candace lying on my bed with her eyes open. There was blood everywhere. I screamed and ran to her, dropping to my knees on the bed. I tried to shake her awake but she wasn't responsive. She was so cold. I still remember how cold she was. And there was so much blood. Everywhere. Up the walls, soaking the sheets. I could see the gashes in her throat and I knew that she was gone.

My thoughts raced to Rebecca and I ran into her room. She was lying in bed sleeping soundly as if nothing happened. I shook her awake, but I remember she was so difficult to wake up which really wasn't like her. I grabbed Rebecca and ran to the car and called the police from there. I wasn't sure if whoever did this was still in the house so I started driving towards my Mother's on the other side of the neighborhood. I didn't want Rebecca to see Candace like that.

The police came to get Rebecca and me and we headed back to the house. There were police already inside when we arrived. One officer stayed with Rebecca and I went back inside with the others. I was grateful they had covered Candace with a sheet but the image still haunted me. I was standing in the living room when I heard someone yelling from out back. One police officer stayed with me and the others headed out the back door. About 15 minutes later they came back inside and asked me to step outback and that is when I saw Chance. He was hanging from the tree. I didn't scream this time.

The police told me it was obviously a murder/ suicide and basically stopped looking around after that. Something about it just didn't feel right though. They told me Chance had a record and a history of mental illness. I knew all of this, but Chance had been on his medication and they had never seen him with the girls. He was great. It just didn't make sense to me at all. The person that Chance was on paper wasn't the man that had been staying with us.

I tried to tell the police this, but nobody believed me. Well, except for officer Jordan. He/She thought things were a little strange and told me that he/she would look into it. I am glad he/she did because I still don't believe Chance was capable of this. My mind immediately went to Dakotah, but I can't see him/her hurting Candace. I just knew how much he/she hated Chance and I was afraid he/she wouldn't let anything stand in his/her way if he was really as jealous as I thought. I can't see Chance hurting anyone, but I don't know what to believe anymore.

I swear this is a true and accurate account of my testimony as sworn to this day.

Signature _____

Date _____

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME on the _____ day of _____, 2016, to certify which witness my hand and seal of office.

Signature Notary Public

AFFIDAVIT OF JORDAN SPECTRUM

STATE OF MICHIGAN §
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COUNTY OF INGHAM §

BEFORE ME the undersigned authority personally appeared Jordan Spectrum, known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed hereto and upon his/her oath deposed and stated as follows:

My name is Jordan Spectrum and I am a police officer with the Sienna Heights police force. I am 24 years old and this is my first posting after I graduated from of the academy in December 2015. Prior to attending the academy, I received my undergraduate degree in Psychology, specializing in criminal psychology. I believe this degree has been helpful in working with people, which is a big part of my job as a police officer.

When I arrived at the Sienna Heights Police Department I could tell it was going to be a really great fit for me. The brothers and sisters on this police force really seem to have each other's back. I knew that once I had proved myself, I could be a strong and welcomed member to the team.

The setup was a lot like other police stations in small towns. The firefighters and police share a building and there is a lot of competitive rivalry and comradery between the two groups. In the high pressure situations that both of these groups are in, it is important to maintain this bond because literally your life could be in the hands of any one of your coworkers at any time.

On January 18th, myself and several other officers were called to the residence of Taylor McDouglas. The call had indicated to send an ambulance as well because there was an unresponsive female minor. I can tell you that nothing could prepare me for what I saw that day. When I arrived on the scene, I went into the house and I saw the body of Candace McDouglas in the bedroom. Candace was covered in blood and there was a knife lying beside the bed. I know the call had come in that there was an unresponsive minor, but there was nothing an EMT or even a doctor could have done for this girl.

Candace's throat had been slashed twice, as well as 23 stab wounds to the torso. There was definitely a lot of strong emotion attached to this crime based on the aggression of the attack. Upon further inspection, the knife belonged to a set of knives from the kitchen. When we received word that Taylor McDouglas was in route to the home, the investigators chose to cover Candace in order to prevent any more trauma to Ms. McDouglas.

When Mr./Ms. McDouglas approached the home I could see she/he was covered in blood. From the living room window I could see there was another younger girl with him/her. She didn't seem to want to let go of the other girl, but eventually came into the house, leaving the child in a police cruiser with an officer. His/Her face was white with shock as he/she walked in. I met him/her in the living room and it was then that we heard yelling from the backyard. I remained with Mr./Ms. McDouglas while some of my fellow officer proceeded out back. After several minutes, once it was determined that it was all clear, Mr./Ms. McDouglas and myself walked out the back door. There we saw, in a tree to the back of the property, there was a body hanging. Mr./Ms. McDouglas looked horrified but said nothing. It wasn't until photographs were taken and the body was lowered to the ground that Mr./Ms. McDouglas confirmed that the person in the tree was Chance, his/her roommate and babysitter.

What happened next was what was most confusing to me. As a new officer I don't have much authority at a crime scene, but I still notice things. I was told that this case looked pretty open and shut by Detective Charlie Allen. Nobody said anything but proceeded to just pack up. We were told it was clearly a murder suicide and that we were done there. I was confused because there were a lot of things that would suggest to me that this situation was anything but simple. For instance it was January and there was snow on the ground. There were two sets of footprints leading to the tree and only one set leading back. These footprints couldn't have belonged to a police officer. No police had gone back that far towards the trees. When I spoke up about this, my concerns were quickly dismissed with a harsh tone. I didn't feel right, but I snapped photos of the footprints in the snow anyway.

Mr./Ms. McDouglas looked really confused when we started leaving. She/He said that he/she didn't believe that Chance did this. I asked if anyone else had access to the home, because there were no signs of a forced entry and that is when he/she told me his/her former spouse, Dakotah McDouglas did. That he/she had keys and he/she hated Chance.

I recognized the name at once. Dakotah McDouglas is a firefighter and shares the same building as us. Every police officer there knew him/her. Since I was new, I didn't know him/her well, and I wondered if that bias might be a factor in why this investigation was wrapping up so quickly. I decided to look a little more into this situation and I promised Mr./Ms. McDouglas that I would do so.

A few days later an autopsy was performed on both bodies. The body of Chance revealed that there was some bruising on his knuckles indicative of some sort of a fight. Candace had almost no defensive markings which would typically indicate that she knew her attacker or didn't have time to fight back, whether it was Chance or someone else. Also Candace's autopsy revealed that she had trace amounts of Flunitrazepam, or Rohypnal, in her system. This is a drug that is used to sometimes treat severe insomnia, but

more often used as the common "date-rape drug." There were no signs of sexual misconduct on Candace's body, so I had to question how this drug came to be present in her system at all. Had her sickness that night caused her to wake up and witness something she was never intended to see?

The knife came back with fingerprints on it belonging to Chance. If Chance lived in the home though, this was hardly surprising. No other fingerprints were present on the knife, though it had been wiped clean.

Finally, I looked at the shoe prints. One set appeared to match Chance's shoe, but the other set was a few sizes larger. It was bigger than a shoe print that would have been left by anyone else in the house.

All I knew were the facts of this case. The first was that Mr./Ms. McDouglas was not fully convinced it was a murder suicide. Secondly, Mr./Ms. McDouglas also told me that Dakotah could be a very jealous person. Next, there were no defensive wounds on Candace. In addition the knife had been wiped clean. The footprints also did not add up as we could not identify the mysterious second pair found leaving the tree. The autopsy revealed drugs in Candace's system, which were unable to be located inside the house. And finally, it seemed strange to me that the investigation wrapped up so very quickly. I believed there to be enough evidence to warrant looking into Dakotah.

I took this theory to Detective Allen but he/she wouldn't hear any of it. He/She said that the case was closed and he/she wouldn't tell anyone I had concocted such vicious lies about Dakotah. I was told to drop it, but I couldn't. Too much about this investigation just didn't make sense. Since this all came out, I am no longer welcome on the police force. I am suffering complete alienation. Other officers and fire department members will barely speak a word to me. I am currently seeking to be transferred.

I swear this is a true and accurate account of my testimony as sworn to this day.

Signature _____

Date _____

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME on the _____ day of _____, 2016, to certify which witness my hand and seal of office.

Signature Notary Public

AFFIDAVIT OF DAKOTAH MCDOUGLAS

STATE OF MICHIGAN §
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COUNTY OF INGHAM §

BEFORE ME the undersigned authority personally appeared Dakotah McDouglas, known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed hereto and upon his/her oath deposed and stated as follows:

My name is Dakotah McDouglas and I am 35 years old. I am a firefighter for the Sienna Heights Fire Department and I have served there for 15 years. While serving I have tried very hard to remain a moral pillar to the community, working many school events and fire prevention exercises. I just want to keep everyone safe. Even through the recent and tragic loss of my daughter, I made sure to remain involved in my work because I am needed by my team in order to save lives. I cannot allow my emotions to get in the way of helping others.

I try really hard to be a good parent to my daughters. I try to make it to every event that they have, when I am not on a call, and I try to spend quality time with them whenever possible. Even after Taylor and I divorced 6 years ago, we always thought it was important that I spend time with the girls. We divorced because our work schedules kept us apart more than we liked and it caused a distance between us. I have never been jealous. I will admit I could have a bit of a temper though.

I used to spend a lot more time with the girls before Chance moved in with Taylor. I told Taylor that I didn't like that Chance was living there and that the guys down at the station told me he had a questionable history and was mentally unstable, but Taylor just brushed it off as me being jealous.

On January 17th, I took the girls to my apartment and made dinner for them. They were with me from about 2:00 pm to 7:00 pm before I took them back home and left them with Chance. Both girls seemed to be healthy and happy when I left them.

After I dropped the girls off I went grocery shopping then home to get a change of clothes and drop off the groceries. I don't think I was at home very long, since grocery shopping took a couple hours. I finally got to work around 1:00 am to relieve some of the other firefighters.

I remember being at the fire department when I heard the call come in the next morning around 5:30 am. I recognized my former address and I was

told to hang back. I was going crazy waiting to hear what had happened. I must have tried calling Taylor at least 20 times but she never picked up. When Sergeant Charlie Allen got back to the station he came right to me and brought me into his office and sat me down. He told me that it was Candace. Candace had been murdered in the house. I don't remember much of what happened after that. He asked me where I was the night before, and I think he asked if I had an alibi or told me I needed an alibi. I just nodded. My world was crumbling around me and I couldn't think clearly.

When I was running errands that evening I didn't have anyone with me. I knew that wasn't going to work as an alibi, but I didn't think anyone would even consider that I could hurt Candace. I loved my little girl so much and it is a struggle every single day to even function now that she is gone.

The folks at the department have had my back through everything. We watch out for each other. Charlie has been very supportive and a great friend to me and I don't know how I would have gotten through all of this without them.

The new officer Jordan couldn't understand because he/she hadn't been here long enough and he/she was fresh out of the academy. But the people on the department were the closest thing I have to family besides my girls and they know me well. They know that I couldn't do what it is I am being accused of.

If anyone should be in trouble here it should be Taylor for letting that monster into the house with my kids. He killed my daughter and then took his own life and yet I am the one on trial? I tried to warn Taylor. I told Taylor that Chance was bad news but he/she didn't listen to me at all. But even I didn't think he was capable of something this.

I swear this is a true and accurate account of my testimony as sworn to this day.

Signature _____

Date _____

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME on the _____ day of _____, 2016, to certify which witness my hand and seal of office.

Signature Notary Public

AFFIDAVIT OF CHARLIE ALLEN

STATE OF MICHIGAN §
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COUNTY OF INGHAM §

BEFORE ME the undersigned authority personally appeared Charlie Allen, known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed hereto and upon his/her oath deposed and stated as follows:

My name is Charlie Allen and I am the Sergeant of the Sienna Heights Police Department. I have been with this department for almost 18 years. As a Sergeant, it is my job to oversee multiple detectives. While this does mean I am often in the office doing more managerial work, I do still have the opportunity to get out in the field. Sienna Heights isn't a small town, but it isn't quite a city either. We have roughly 55,000 residents. It is my job to keep the community safe and healthy at any given time. Because of our lower population size we are able to share a building with the fire department as well. It is useful because it allows us to work on common goals.

Over the last 18 years I have definitely gotten close to a lot of the men and women who serve in the departments. We have to look out for each other because it is part of the job. If I am rushing into a dangerous situation, I need to make sure myself, my team and any civilians are safe. That means we know each other inside and out. The same can be said for the firefighters. Sharing a building, being on scene together, that is exactly what forms us into a band of brothers and sisters.

I have known Dakotah since he joined the fire department. He/she was the kind of guy/gal who signed on for all the right reasons. He/She wanted to give back to his/her community and try to keep it a safe place for everyone. He/She worked hard in the department too. Kept everything nice and tidy, but also was a great person to be around. Dakotah has this really upbeat attitude about most things.

When the call went out on January 18th, I have to admit that I didn't actually put two and two together about it being Dakotah's family's place, but when he/she came to me immediately I asked him to stay back. We had a few guys out for the holiday and a few more responding to a domestic violence call on the other side of town, so I took charge of the investigation and headed to the scene. I had about 4 officers with me including the newest officer Jordan Spectrum. Jordan has a good head on his/her shoulders. However, he/she is still lacking some important experience. A big part of

being a police officer is learning to read people, and that skill comes with time. Officer Spectrum just doesn't have the experience yet.

Arriving on scene was a horrible experience. You don't often see bodies of kids, and when you do it really sticks with you. I remember watching Candace play at the department and helping to wash the fire trucks with her Mom/Dad, so seeing her like this was very hard for me. It just seemed so much harder than other calls I had responded to. I was glad that Dakotah wasn't there.

I noted that there were no signs of forced entry. Everything seemed to be in order, not much sign of a struggle throughout the home. It seemed to me Candace wasn't alarmed when she saw whoever it was that did this to her either. I had my officers spread out and search the premises while I had a look around the bedroom.

Candace had multiple stab wounds to her chest and a couple slashes across her neck. To me, this said that there was a lot of aggression in the attack. Someone who had a heightened state of emotion. Upon further inspection I could see that the weapon, a knife, was from a set in the kitchen. This also demonstrated a weapon of convenience as opposed to premeditation. I had the knife dusted for fingerprints and placed into a bag as soon as possible in order to ensure the evidence was maintained properly.

It was soon after organizing the techs in the bedroom that Taylor McDouglas arrived. Of course I knew Taylor from when Taylor and Dakotah were married. There were lots of times I would see him/her at social events or down at the department. He/She was clearly in shock when he/she arrived, and who can blame him/her? He/She was covered in blood. I had him/her leave the other daughter, Rebecca, outside. No point in Rebecca seeing this too.

I asked Taylor to wait with one of my officers while I continued to look around the house. I saw that there was a lot of men's clothing in the extra bedroom. I remembered Dakotah mentioning that Chance was living there. Chance had more than one run-in with the police so I was all too familiar with what he was capable of. He had on record that included domestic violence charge where he had punched his own father square in the jaw several times. Seemed like there was some sort of temper there. I also had several run-ins with him as a minor, but those records are sealed so I can't really go into that, but let's just say Chance wasn't somebody I would want around my family.

I was heading to talk to Taylor about what had happened, and where Chance was when I heard my officers out back yell out. I unclipped my gun and headed towards the back yard. I knew right away it was Chance. He was

hanging from the tree and from what I could tell he was dead. I put my gun back into the holster.

With Chance having access to the house, and with there being no sign of forced entry at all, I had a pretty good idea of what had happened. I didn't need to drag this investigation out and put the McDouglas family through any more heartache. Chance was unstable and he obviously lost his temper or snapped. He grabbed a knife from the kitchen and killed Candace. When he realized what he had done, he felt guilty, or was afraid, so he took his own life. It is a pretty general pattern for murder suicides.

There were no witnesses really, besides Taylor, to take statements from so I wrapped the investigation up the next day. Was it faster than average? Absolutely. Does that mean that I did a poor job? Absolutely not.

When I got back to the station, I had to talk to Dakotah. I couldn't leave him/her without answers when he/she was obviously worried. I told him that it was an open and shut case but people would probably want to know where he was all the same. He was heart broken.

A couple of days later Officer Spectrum came in and had results from the toxicology reports. He/She had this entire theory about how it was a staged suicide and that he/she thought it warranted further investigation. He/She even mentioned that Dakotah should be interviewed. I told him/her that he/she was crazy and to drop it. The investigation was wrapped up in my mind but somehow Officer Spectrum went over my head. It gave me no pleasure to issue the warrant for Dakotah.

This case is open and closed in my opinion. There is no way Dakotah was capable of that crime.

I swear this is a true and accurate account of my testimony as sworn to this day.

Signature _____

Date _____

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME on the _____ day of _____, 2016, to certify which witness my hand and seal of office.

Signature Notary Public