

INTERVIEW WITH [REDACTED]
Q=Inv. Hicks
Q1=Det. Ryan Richardson
A=[REDACTED]

Recording: Pre-recording buffer now active. Camera recording started.

Q: Hi [REDACTED].

A: Hi.

Q: I'm Scott Hicks. I'm an investigator with the sheriff's office. I was hoping to get a chance to talk to you. I understand you're hungry. Um, do you want to talk to us while you eat or you want us to wait?

A: No, that's fine.

Q: Okay, let's go over here. We got a more private room we can talk in.

Q1: Right in here.

Q: [REDACTED], I'm Scott Hicks. I'm an investigator with the sheriff's office. This is Ryan Richardson.

A: Hi.

Q: He's a detective with the Fortuna Police Department.

A: Hi.

Q: We know you've been here a long time, we appreciate you sticking around. Um...

A: I know I didn't have much choice, but - but, um, I got - can you guys tell me how he's doing?

43
44 Q: Unfortunately, we can't at this point. Um, we're just here gathering facts.
45 There's a lot of moving pieces going on. Um, and you said you didn't have
46 much choice but to stick around.
47
48 A: Mm-hm.
49
50 Q: Um, we want to talk to you, but we only want to do so voluntarily. Um, so if
51 you don't want to talk to us, you can leave. You're free to go at any point. But
52 we feel like you have a lot of information that could be beneficial, and we
53 really want to get the whole story of everything, okay? With that being mind,
54 would you be willing to talk to us?
55
56 A: Yes.
57
58 Q: Okay. And if there's any questions you don't like or you want to stop the
59 interview, feel free.
60
61 A: Okay.
62
63 Q: Okay? Um...
64
65 Q1: And I'm going to record this too, is that okay?
66
67 A: Mm-hm.
68
69 Q1: Okay.
70
71 Q: Okay, so we're told your name is [REDACTED]
72
73 A: Mm-hm.
74
75 Q: What's your middle name, [REDACTED]?
76
77 A: [REDACTED]
78
79 Q: What's your date of birth?
80
81 A: [REDACTED]
82
83 Q: Where do you live at?
84

85 A: I live on [REDACTED]
86
87 Q1: And is it [REDACTED] or...
88
89 A: Yes, it is.
90
91 Q1: Okay.
92
93 Q: Is there an address up there or common household name that...
94
95 A: [REDACTED].
96
97 Q: [REDACTED]?
98
99 A: Mm-hm.
100
101 Q: Do you have a phone?
102
103 A: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. [REDACTED]?
104
105 Q: So, there's a lot of information, a lot of stuff going on, and we only know little
106 pieces.
107
108 A: Mm-hm.
109
110 Q: Um, and the way you're asking, [REDACTED]
111 [REDACTED]?
112
113 A: [REDACTED].
114
115 Q: Okay.
116
117 A: [REDACTED]
118 [REDACTED]
119 [REDACTED]
120 [REDACTED].
121
122 Q: Okay. So I can't give you an answer to that right now, but what I can do is
123 find out what the answer is at some point and make sure we get you an
124 answer. Um, I - I wish I could be more helpful, but a lot of stuff going on.
125 We're still early on in our investigation.
126

127 A: Yeah.

128

129 Q: Um, and so, when did all this start?

130

131 A: This morning. ([REDACTED]) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED].

133

134 Q: Okay.

135

136 A: And, um, ([REDACTED]) was at - at home with me, you know, what - because I was
137 home by myself, and she wanted to drive home, and I wasn't going to let him

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]. So, [REDACTED]

139 [REDACTED] and we're in ([REDACTED]) right now. And - and we were
140 both kind of, like, sleeping, 'cause we had just got - we had just left home.

141

142 Q: Mm-hm.

143

144 A: And he had just gotten [REDACTED]. And, um, we were going through town, just
145 right over here. And we passed, um, I think it - it - it - I think it was the
146 sheriff's vehicles or highway patrol was parked alongside of the, um, road
147 over across from the gas station. And, um, I don't even really know it - no, I -
148 'cause he turned - he'd - we were going through town and he turned down
149 towards um, ([REDACTED]), the back road, or road that goes down
150 towards the residence over - over here. And, um, I asked him what he was
151 doing, and he said that - that they pulled out behind me and I - and I - I - I just
152 didn't connect who or what 'cause I - I - it was early, it was 7:30 in the
153 morning. And all of a sudden, we get right by [REDACTED] residence, and I think he's
154 gonna stop, and he just gasses on, and he rips down through the - through
155 the field, between rocks, I mean, and when ([REDACTED]) woke up, sh- we were,
156 like - like, behind through this - the field, like, crossways, um, this moment
157 before he - they - he jumped out the car and ran.

158

159 Q1: (Unintelligible).

160

161 A: I have no idea why he ran. I think - I don't know - I don't know what
162 he done for, like, the last couple days with the car or where, or, you
163 know? But, um, I - I don't know why he ran like that, and - but he - but then
164 he just jumped out of the vehicle and it was still rolling, and he just - he took
165 off through the brush, through the brier patch right in front of [REDACTED]. And
166 went - um, I was still sitting in the car, I mean, like, it happened so fast, I
167 didn't even realize what was going on. And ([REDACTED]), poor thing, she was
168 asleep, in the back of the car. Um, but (Dave) Brooks, Officer Brooks, was on

169 - okay [REDACTED] - [REDACTED] is parked towards the briers, okay, he was parked on his
170 side. And I turned around, (Dave), David - Officer Brooks, told me, um, get
171 out of the car, so we got out of the car. I didn't even have any shoes on. Um,
172 and while we were - we - me and [REDACTED]) were standing in the back of the
173 car with Officer Brooks, I heard three gunshots. Like all the way off over
174 towards like the - like over by, um, what used to be ([REDACTED]), there's
175 a [REDACTED], it was in that general area. And that was -
176 then that was it. I mean, it all happened so fast, it was crazy. Um, he didn't
177 have to shoot him. I don't know what - what - what was going on or what he
178 did, but, you know, I don't believe that they - they - they had to shoot him, I
179 don't think he was armed. I didn't see anything, any kind of weapon on him.
180 Um, and yeah, well - and we've been - ([REDACTED]) and I have
181 been detained ever since.

182
183 Q: Okay.

184
185 A: I just wanna find out -'cause I need to go find out if he's okay.

186
187 Q: Okay, and you can go if you want. I was just - you - you've given us a glimpse
188 into a lot of important information, um, and I was wondering if you'd be
189 willing to stick around let us ask us some - some questions to get more
190 information from you?

191
192 A: What more - what more do you want to know? That's exactly what happened.
193 [REDACTED] - I mean, it was 7-something in the morning. And all this
194 happened so damn fast. I mean, and then that was it. I heard three gunshots,
195 and we were put back in the back of Officer Brook's vehicle until they brought
196 us over here.

197
198 Q: Well, some of the things that I'd like to get more information on is, you know,
199 you had talked about him not being armed.

200
201 A: When he got out of the car and ran, he didn't have anything on except for the
202 clothes he had on.

203
204 Q: Okay. Um, does he - is he know - do you know him to carry any weapons of
205 any type or anything like that?

206
207 A: He's got an old pistol that [REDACTED], fishing [REDACTED], 'cause...

208
209 Q: Mm-hm.
210

211 A: ...we fish right now (unintelligible) [REDACTED]. Um, the bears can -
212 bears (unintelligible) and he messes with it, but other than that, no he doesn't
213 have any guns. He's got an old - like - he's got, like, an old fashioned six
214 shooter pistol that he takes fishing with [REDACTED] but I don't know where that's at.
215

216 Q: So you had said a pistol twice. Is it one pistol or two pistols?
217

218 A: It's just one.
219

220 Q: Okay. And do you know where that's at right now? Okay. Um...
221

222 A:
223

[REDACTED] Q:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

229 Q: Okay. And then in the car, where was everybody seated?
230

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] A:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

249 [REDACTED]

250

251 Q:

252

How long have you known him?

253 A: I've known him only for about [REDACTED].
254
255 Q: Um, do you know if he has any problem with law enforcement or anything
256 like that?
257
258 A: Um, I think he had a - a (sightable) warrant, that's it.
259
260 Q: Okay.
261
262 A: Other than that, he doesn't - he's...
263
264 Q: Um, does he have any feelings about law enforcement officers in general or...?
265
266 A: No, that's why I don't - I just don't understand why he ran like he did. I mean,
[REDACTED] there was no cause for it. [REDACTED]
268 [REDACTED] I mean, I - I - I don't understand why he - why he ran like
269 he did.
270
271 Q: And that's kind of what we're trying to figure out, see if we can piece
272 everything together. Do you know if he had a license?
273
274 A: Um, no, he doesn't.
275
276 Q: Okay.
277
278 A: I don't even - um, I think the last license he had was out of Washington.
279
[REDACTED] Q: And since you're - [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
282 [REDACTED]
283
[REDACTED] A: [REDACTED]
285 [REDACTED]
286
[REDACTED] Q: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
292 [REDACTED]
293

294 Q: Yeah, and so the first time you got in the car was, and correct me if I get
295 anything wrong, okay? First time you got in the car was this morning...

296

297 A: This morning.

298

299 Q: [REDACTED] Um, did he appear to be
300 under the influence of anything?

301

302 A: Yeah. He looked like he did. He hadn't been asleep for a couple days.

303

304 Q: So what do you think he's been using?

305

306 A: I don't know. He's got a bad fentanyl habit. I know that.

307

308 Q: Okay.

309

310 A:

[REDACTED]

312

313 Q: And you - so you think he might have been under the influence?

314

315 A: Yeah.

316

317 Q1: And - and what did you - how did you see him, like, behaving that - that kind
318 of led you to that conclusion?

319

[REDACTED] A:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

325

326

327 Q: What kind of behaviors were you seeing that made you believe that?

328

[REDACTED] A:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

334

335

336 Q: And then he passed the officers and then...
337
338 A: He - he turned down towards ([REDACTED])'s and - but we passed - we - we've -
339 we've come across officers, like, previously, like, during the week. I mean
340 there was none - no - nothing for him to be - he - he didn't run from anybody
341 before. I don't know why he ran this morning like he did.
342
343 Q: And then did he say anything?
344
345 A: No, he just bailed out of the car, I mean, with it literally rolling. And went -
346 went through the briars in front of it. And, um, last thing I seen was, um, the
347 officer behind my car came - we're running past [REDACTED] car, chasing him. And
348 then by the time I got out, um, was speaking with Officer Brooks 'cause
349 he had asked us to get out of the car and stand in the back of it. It was - I was
350 standing there talking to him when I heard three gunshots.
351
352 Q: Okay, so you were behind the car when you heard gunshots. So, from the
353 time, and I know it's been early in the time everything happened so fast, do
354 you have any idea how much time had passed between the time ([REDACTED]) got
355 out of the car and the time you heard gunshots?
356
357 A: Not more than just a few minutes. I had enough time to get out of the vehicle
358 myself, and, um, ([REDACTED]) also, and we were, like, just walked around to the -
359 to the back of the car. And it wasn't more than just a few minutes.
360
361 Q: Okay. And have you heard gunshots before? Okay. Um, you said you heard
362 three. How certain are you that it was three?
363
364 A: Positive I heard three.
365
366 Q: Okay. And then you said you've heard gunshots before. I'm assuming you've
367 heard different types of gunshots...
368
369 A: (Unintelligible).
370
371 Q: ...from different types of guns, right?
372
373 A: Mm-hm.
374
375 Q: Um, did all three gunshots sound the same or did...
376
377 A: Mm-hm.

378
379 Q: ...some of 'em - okay. You didn't hear any difference in the gunshots? Okay.
380 Um, and how much time passed between the first shot and the second
381 shot and the third shot?
382
383 A: It went pow, pow, pow.
384
385 Q: Okay, so three shots really quick?
386
387 A: Yes, ver- like - like I already said, it went, like, pow, pow, pow.
388
389 Q: Okay.
390
391 Q1: Um, I think I already asked this, but, um, when the police officer, uh, pulled -
392 pulled behind you guys, did - what did he say when the officer pulled behind
393 him?
394
395 A: Um, so where he turned off and he just said that - well, he goes David pulled
396 up on me. And I - I looked at him, I go, what? I go who? And he said the, um,
397 cops are behind me. And I thought he was going to stop right by - by ([REDACTED])
398 - in - by ([REDACTED])'s driveway and I asked - well, I go - I tell him, I go,
[REDACTED] well, stop then, 'cause there - there was no reason for him to run like that. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
401 [REDACTED] Um, I don't know, I don't - I - I don't - I don't get it why he ran like he
402 did. I know he had a - a misdemeanor, (sightable) warrant, but that - that -
403 that wasn't all that big of a deal. I don't even think they would have booked,
404 but they probably would have went - (unintelligible) home. There was no - I
405 don't - I don't know. I - I don't understand it, but as far as I know there was no
406 reason for him to run like that. And he didn't say anything, he just gassed on,
407 went flying between these two, like big - or around two big old boulders,
408 down through the - the - that - there used to be little trailer park there. Um...
409
410 Q1: And you told him - you told him to stop?
411
412 A: Yeah.
413
414 Q1: Okay.
415
416 A: And (unintelligible) across the field and then - and then he bailed out and ran.
417
418 Q: And then where were you headed?
419

[REDACTED] A: Um, we're taking ([REDACTED]) home. She lives on ([REDACTED]e) [REDACTED]
421 [REDACTED]
422

423 Q: And so when you turn towards ([REDACTED])'s, that would - that would have
424 been...

425
426 A: We were off the highway, or off the road going through town.
427

428 Q: Okay.
429

430 A: He had turned down to ([REDACTED])'s and I asked - ([REDACTED]) was literally
431 sleeping in the back. And I was - I was - had just got me a cigarette out of
432 the glove box. And he didn't say anything except...

433

434

435 This transcript has been reviewed with the audio recording submitted and it is an accurate
436 transcription.

437 Signed _____