

1 **TRANSCRIPT OF TAPED INTERVIEW OF CHARLES CRITTENDEN**

2 **CONDUCTED BY DETECTIVE YRI MELICH**

3 **CASE NUMBER 08-74777**

4 **November 24th , 2008**

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7 **The date right now is November 24th, 2008, the time right now is 1538 hours. I'm**
8 **Detective Melich with the Orange County Sheriff's Office, reference Orange**
9 **County Case number 08-74777. I'm located at Gentiva Home Health at 1375 South**
10 **Semoran Boulevard. I'm also here with Detective Bill Yamber with the Orange**
11 **County Sheriff's Office. And with Charles Crittenden?**

12 A Yes.

13 Q Did I pronounce that right?

14 A Right.

15 Q Okay. Charles would you please state your name and birthday for the record.

16 A Charles Crittenden um, 5/10/63.

17 Q And Charles, you're aware this is being recorded?

18 A Yes.

19 Q Any objection to that?

20 A No.

21 Q Okay. Just for the record we've already spoke to Gentiva legal attorney Kevin
22 Morazzo who stated Gentiva has no problem with us taping this conversation.
23 So, for the record I want to make sure that we're clear. We're here investigating
24 the case of Casey Anthony also the missing Caylee Anthony. And one of the
25 things that we wanted to talk to you about is I guess since Cindy works over here

1 at Gentiva you've had conversations with Cindy about Casey, about the
2 relationship and the dynamics at home. Ah, let me start recently May or June of
3 this year. What was the first indication to you... Well first off how would you
4 describe prior to this whole scenario of Caylee going missing. How would you
5 describe Cindy's relationship with Casey at home?

6 A As far as I knew everything was fine you know. She would come in and talk to us
7 about you know Casey would be here or working or whatever. Um, seemed like
8 the relationship was fine.

9 Q She ever mention to you any problems she was having with Casey as far as
10 stealing checks or any financial issues at home?

11 A No.

12 Q What about any problems with ah, what she believed Casey was as a parent in
13 regards to Caylee? Did she ever complain like, Casey's not responsible enough.
14 Casey shouldn't be doing.. should be doing this, but she's not?

15 A No I think pretty much she always thought that Casey was taking care of Caylee.

16 Q Did she say where ah, where Casey was working? You said ...

17 A Universal. That's always been pretty much the thing. The Kodak ...

18 Q Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

19 A ...you know she works supposedly for Kodak. And I think 'cause that wasn't part
20 of Universal, but it was part...

21 Q Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

22 A ... of that um, working there. Um, and then seem like there was something about
23 she went back to work for actual Universal at one time. Within the last couple of
24 years.

25

1 Q What about Sports Authority, you remember her working there at Sports
2 Authority?
3 A Yes I do remember. Yes she did work there for a short period of time my
4 understanding.
5 Q Did you ever.. what time do you normally work? What's your work schedule?
6 A Ah, usually 9 to 5:30.
7 Q Okay. Have you ever seen Casey come in maybe ...
8 A Uh-huh. (Affirmative)
9 Q ...wearing a name tag or business outfit?
10 A Yes.
11 Q Or uniform?
12 A I seen...
13 Q Or...
14 A I've seen her with a name tag.
15 Q Do you remember what the name tag from?
16 A Not really.
17 Q Okay.
18 A I just assumed it was Universal.
19 Q Okay. Did, in the times that you would see her here what, in what respect would
20 you see her? Would she just come to visit mom? Would she be dropping off
21 Caylee?
22 A A little bit of both. Sometimes she would come to visit ah...
23 Q Uh-huh. (Affirmative)
24 A ...visit her mom. Ah, there's been times that she was supposedly according to
25 Cindy going to work. So, she would drop Caylee off here and Caylee would stay

1 with Cindy for 30 minutes or whatever. And then she.. Caylee would leave with
2 Cindy.

3 Q June of this year, what was the first that you learned that ah, there was problems
4 at home?

5 A Um, I had heard through another employee not directly from Cindy, that.. about
6 the argument that happened I guess what Father's Day?

7 Q Who'd you hear that from, Debbie?

8 A Debbie.

9 Q Which Debbie?

10 A Debbie Bennett.

11 Q Okay.

12 A Um, that was the first I'd heard of it. Um, and then I guess it was what that
13 Tuesday.. of course I don't remember the dates whatever. But you know then
14 she went to get the car and that type thing. And when she came back I was here
15 when she came back.

16 Q Tell me a little bit more about the argument that you.. you heard. You said there
17 was an argument on Father's Day? Or...

18 A I believe that's, I believe that was the day that I'd heard that it was... that they
19 had got into an argument. But I didn't hear that directly like I say from Cindy.

20 Q But you heard it from Debbie not Cindy?

21 A Right, Debbie Bennett yeah.

22 Q Okay did Cindy ever tell you anything about it?

23 A No.

24 Q Did she ever ah, did Debbie ever tell you...

25 A I don't recall.

1 Q ...the reason for the argument?

2 A No I don't think, I don't think it was.. I ever heard that. I don't recall that.

3 Q Okay. So, the first thing that you...or the first time you notice there's something
4 wrong in the Anthony home was, was Debbie telling you...

5 A Yes.

6 Q ...about Cindy?

7 A Right.

8 Q And this was I guess right at the onset or when did you actually hear?

9 A (sigh) I'm thinking maybe it was hm, not sure I think it was like later in that week
10 before I heard that.

11 Q Okay so later the first week that Caylee went missing?

12 A Right. Right around the first week I think.

13 Q What did Cindy ever tell you specifically about Caylee when she wasn't at the
14 house. She went.. Caylee left around the 16th of June.

15 A Right.

16 Q What did Cindy specifically tell you or the conversations you may have had with
17 her?

18 A Well, Cindy was kind of.. you know she would come in and kind of say, you know
19 she's just been texting Casey, Casey hasn't really like been talking on the phone
20 much to her. But never would let her.. or when they would talk she would ask, I
21 want to talk to Caylee. And she would always make an excuse. And Cindy told
22 me she would always come up with excuse that Caylee's sleeping, Caylee's with
23 the baby sitter, she's not here or I'm at work or whatever. Always found an
24 excuse..

25 Q Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

1 A ...as to why she couldn't talk to Caylee. And you know I just mentioned to Cindy
2 once, I said, "That just doesn't sound right."
3 Q What was her response?
4 A Just kind of like "I know" but didn't really get involved. You know she didn't
5 really follow up with anything like that.
6 Q Did um, did Cindy seem alarmed or did Cindy find this odd or did she just kind of
7 shrug it off say, oh well.
8 A Um, I think she probably kind of felt it to be strange. But she didn't seem to be so
9 alarmed you know.
10 Q She upset or angry?
11 A No. Hm, she was I would say kind of angry that... 'cause she felt like Casey was
12 keeping her away from Caylee. Um, but as far as emotional upset no. I.. I didn't
13 see it.
14 Q Um, did she ever I guess before Casey was arrested and before this whole thing
15 blew up on the news. Did she ever mention to you or did she ever or I guess
16 confide in you what she thought may have happened or what she thought was
17 going on? Did she think that um, Casey was intentionally keeping Caylee from
18 her for a reason? Or did she you know ...
19 A She didn't really.. I mean I don't recall her saying...
20 Q 'Cause I mean as time, as time went on did she get more upset, did she get ore
21 concerned or did she kind of stay you know ...
22 A She just kind of stayed I think the same. I mean just didn't seem to be more
23 upset or anything. Um, just.. she would come in and again we would, you know
24 we would ask her sometimes we'd say you know, did you talk to Caylee, you
25

1 know where's Casey? Same excuse you know just nothing's changed. Still just
2 couldn't talk to Caylee.

3 Q Where did she tell you Casey was?

4 A Tampa. Casey told her that she was in Tampa. Um, and then about the car
5 accident, that Zenaida was I guess Zenaida was in I think it was. And you know
6 some of the bizarre stories sounded really bizarre to us. Um, that we just didn't
7 understand it you know.

8 Q How, how was Cindy taking it? Did it seem bizarre to her? Did she seem like she
9 was accepting this?

10 A Seem like she was accepting yeah. What Casey was telling her. And then at
11 one point there was a time when she went from Tampa then she did go to
12 Jacks... supposedly went to Jacksonville yes.

13 Q Did she say why or with who?

14 A She said she was with Jeff, Jeff Hopkins.

15 Q And this is the same Jeff Hopkins I guess with the Zackary the son name
16 Zackary?

17 A Right, Zack.

18 Q Did ah, did Cindy ever.. did.. prior to this year had you ever heard Cindy talk
19 about Jeff Hopkins or...

20 A All the time.

21 Q Really. How so?

22 A Um, that Casey had told Cindy about Jeff. Um, made Jeff you know seem to be
23 like he was really well off you know his wife supposedly died. Um, (clear throat)
24 Excuse me. And that um, sometimes they would supposedly ride to work
25 together. Um, 'cause he didn't want Casey you know driving by herself or

1 something whatever if they're gonna working late. Um, and so many times Cindy
2 was suppose to meet Jeff and like she was gonna make dinner or whatever and
3 Jeff and Zack were coming over. Or either they were gonna go out to dinner.
4 And a lot of times we would, you know we would ask her, again on Monday
5 morning we were like, did you get a chance to meet Jeff this weekend? No this
6 came up, it's gonna be next weekend. And then the next weekend we're like,
7 well did you finally meet Jeff? How is he blah.. blah.. blah. No something came
8 up, his mother got sick we never did meet him. So, it just.. it went on for like a
9 month, six weeks but there was always an excuse of why she never met Jeff
10 Hopkins.

11 Q When was this?

12 A I would say, I would say possibly I can't remember if it was the beginning of this
13 year like early, early part of this year. Or hm, actually maybe third quarter of last
14 year. I don't... couldn't remember the exact times.

15 Q So you know if Cindy ever met, ever got to meet Jeff?

16 A According to... she never told us if she had.

17 Q Okay. So, you don't know if she ever met him or not?

18 A As far as I know she...

19 Q Do you know if she's ever talked to Jeff on the phone?

20 A No, I don't know.

21 Q Okay so she never come up, hey he sounds nice but...

22 A No, never.. never got that.

23 Q Alright. What about um, Zani or Zenaida did she ever, did Cindy ever mention
24 Zani prior...

25 A She..

1 Q ..to this year?

2 A Yes, absolutely. She's talked about Zenaida um, went go by Zani for a couple of
3 years.

4 Q When was the first time you actually heard Zenaida mentioned?

5 A I guess Zenaida what I really heard about Zenaida was when all this came out.

6 Q Okay. So, prior to that it was just Zani?

7 A Zani. Zani.

8 Q Zani she was the nanny?

9 A Yes.

10 Q Ah, had Cindy said if she ever met Zani?

11 A No.

12 Q Do you know if Cindy said she ever talked to Zani or had her in her phone or..

13 A I.. I don't recall that no.

14 Q Okay. But to your knowledge have you ever met Zani? Has she ever come over
15 here to pickup Caylee..

16 A No.

17 Q Or ...

18 A No.

19 Q She ever showed up with Cindy?

20 A Never no.

21 Q Okay so you've never seen Zani so you couldn't point her out if you saw her?

22 A No sir.

23 Q So, this time frame that Caylee is now missing and Cindy says, Casey's not
24 letting her see her. Ah, did you hear anything about Casey's car being found in
25 town? Did Cindy tell you about that or about...

1 A Yes I was here that day that she explained to us about the letter, I guess the
2 registered letter or something. And um, and George went to pick the letter up
3 from the post office, I think it was on a Tuesday.

4 Q Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

5 A If I recall. And ah, she left here to go meet George to pick up the car.

6 Q She say anything about the car when she got in it or ...

7 A Yes when.. I recall when she got back.. 'cause a lot of us were standing right,
8 right here by the front door when she walked in. And she made the statement
9 about the smell in the car. She said it smelled like a dead body. And we told her
10 then, you need to call the police.

11 Q Did she come in just say that or did she say anything else about it? Did she see
12 anything in the car that maybe alarmed you guys?

13 A No she didn't say she just said, it smelled like a dead body.

14 Q Did she say why she even came back to work?

15 A That's what we said to her. We were like, you need to go home and take care of
16 this. And she's like, well you know I need to finish up some things and I'll go
17 home this evening. And you know she called Caylee, she said she called Casey,
18 I'm sorry. Called Casey and said, you know where are you we found the car
19 blah.. blah.. blah.

20 Q Did she say where Caylee... where Casey and Caylee were suppose to be that
21 weekend? Or that, that day or that week?

22 A Again we were still under the assumption that she was in Jacksonville with Jeff.

23 Q Did Cindy seem upset that maybe you know now she finally caught Casey in a
24 lie, Casey's saying she's in Jacksonville? She finds the car you know
25 abandoned here. What was her reaction about that?

1 A She seemed angry at Casey when she you know.. that.. the way she talked when
2 she called Casey. You know she said, I want to know what's going on.
3 According to what she told us. She just sounded angry she just didn't
4 understand what was going on and why Casey would be lying.

5 Q Did she, do you know if she spent the rest of the day at work or..

6 A I, I don't recall if she stayed. 'Cause she usually works till 5 or 5:30.

7 Q Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

8 A She and the other supervisor they rotate. I'm not sure I couldn't say if she stayed
9 the rest of the whole day or not.

10 Q Um, in June of this year is their work schedule 9 to 5 or 9 to 5:30, 9 to 6?

11 A Well between her and the other supervisor they rotate their times as whether
12 they come in 8 to 5 or 5:30.

13 Q What about your schedule?

14 A My schedule's pretty much the same 8 to.. 9 to 5:30.

15 Q Okay. So, specifically in June she came in with the car you don't recall if she
16 stayed I guess to 5 or if she left immediately after talking to you guys or she...

17 A I don't recall no.

18 Q Alright.

19 A Whether she stayed.

20 Q And again she didn't say anything else about the, about the car smell like a dead
21 body?

22 A Well she, you know she mentioned um, I think someone had asked her about the
23 car seat. She said the car seat was there. Um, you know some clothes I guess
24 of Casey.. Caylee's um, and some toys.

25 Q What about a doll or a stuffed animal?

1 A Yeah the doll, her doll, it was her favorite doll I think she said it was in the car.
2 Q And that didn't strike Cindy as odd at the time?
3 A Don't know why, but...
4 Q Um, obviously we know from there she went home, this blew up...
5 A Right.
6 Q .. and that's why we're here today. After um, after the.. after the 15th of July
7 when she came in here and had just picked up the car and left. Did you speak to
8 her or have an occasion to speak to Cindy about this at all?
9 A Um, one on one no I think it was like I said just group I don't think we really.. I
10 don't recall any discussion..
11 Q Did you ever go like to her house or did you ever help 'em hand out fliers
12 anything like that?
13 A Yes we ah, some of us from work we did go um, to her house um, was it that first
14 Saturday after all this happened? And picked up some fliers.
15 Q We being you, Debbie, Debbie...
16 A Debbie Bennett, Debbie Polisano and Nilsa.
17 Q Okay. And any conversation with Cindy or George when you guys went to meet
18 'em that day before you had put fliers or after?
19 A Yeah I mean we, we were there with.. and talked with them. Um, for a little while.
20 Um, she had.. you know there was an interview that she was doing. They were
21 packing up and all their stuff. But she plotted out a little time 'cause she knew we
22 were coming and told us what time to come to pickup the fliers. And she wanted
23 to spend a little time talking with us. Lee was there.
24
25

1 Q Uh-huh. (Affirmative) She mention anything about, did she seem upset, did she
2 seem worried, did she seem angry or what was.. was she... what was she like?
3 That first Saturday?

4 A She was um, she was calm. I mean ah, she didn't seem angry. Ah, Jesse
5 Grund showed up while, while we were there. Ah, you know she hugged his
6 neck and said, we got to bring this little girl home, we got to find her. Um, but
7 not.. not upset, not angry not emotional upset no.

8 Q Have you talked to he since that day that you went there?

9 A I have, we've talked a few times on the phone briefly. Um, and then also you
10 know she's.. she's been.. she came into the office I think once maybe twice,
11 maybe just once. But just briefly.

12 Q Uh-huh. (Affirmative) Did Cindy ever tell you.. forgive me if I've already asked
13 this. Did Cindy ever tell you anything about um, Casey taking money from her
14 mother, Shirley?

15 A No.

16 Q Over in Mt Dora.

17 A When I first heard that was on the news.

18 Q So, you don't know, you didn't hear anything about Casey stealing or taking
19 money from her family until it was on the news?

20 A Yes.

21 Q Never heard it from Cindy?

22 A No.

23 Q Did you know anything about Cindy going to counseling or having talked to a
24 counselor during the month of June or July because of the stuff going on at
25 home?

1 A Ah, no I ...

2 Q You started shaking your head yes and then..

3 A Well I wasn't aware at that time. I um, you know I've heard since then that ...

4 Q Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

5 A ...she did go see our, the person through here EAP is what they call it. But I

6 didn't know it at that time.

7 Q So, she never spoke to you about...

8 A No.

9 Q ... having seen a counselor or having talked to someone about this?

10 A She did not, no.

11 Q Did she ever make any comments to you or any statements to you about thinking

12 or believing that Casey wasn't being responsible enough as a mother. That

13 maybe she should take custody of Caylee?

14 A No. She never said anything to me like that.

15 Q Okay. Let's back up um, 2005, there was obviously there were some problems

16 or some concerns about Casey and her pregnancy. That a lot of people were

17 telling me, have told me that there was I guess an issue with her pregnancy her

18 hiding her pregnancy. Can you tell me in your own words about that?

19 A Yes I remember the day um, Casey came in. Um, at that time you'd have to

20 pass, pass my desk in order to get to Cindy's office, and Cindy was in a meeting

21 that day. And ah, Casey came in and she normally would stop by my desk or

22 you know and chat with me or whatever. Or say hello, but that day she

23 immediately just zoomed by my desk. Um, didn't say anything, but I you know I

24 hadn't seen her in a while. And the minute as she zoomed by I'm like, she is

25

1 pregnant you know. 'Cause I mean at that time I want to say that was probably
2 let's see Cay.. Caylee's birthday is what, August I think it is.

3 Q August 9th.

4 A Um, I would say it was about a month, six weeks prior to her.. Caylee's birthday.
5 So, she was you know she was pretty good size. And actually I went to the other
6 schedule that used to be here and ah, she's no longer here. And I said, go over
7 to Cindy's office and check, check Casey out. I said I think she's pregnant. And
8 sure enough she came back to me she said, she's got to be. But she had on this
9 big coat and was trying to cover it up. I felt then I couldn't understand why Cindy
10 and maybe she... well, according to Cindy she didn't know that she was
11 pregnant. But I didn't know how she could not see that.

12 Q Did she ever mention anything to you about Casey having female issues or
13 female problems before that?

14 A Before that um, I think it was after Caylee was born. I think when she had
15 mentioned that Casey was having some issues and having to go to the doctor.
16 But it was like I want to say it was the next year.

17 Q Uh-huh. (Affirmative) So, nothing, nothing before like after?

18 A Not that I recall no.

19 Q Did you ever, do you know or have you ever met Rick, Cindy's brother?

20 A No.

21 Q Okay. Do you know anything about um, when Cindy and Casey and George
22 went off to Rick's wedding, do you know anything ab out what may have
23 happened up there? Or about her you know her showing up pregnant nothing
24 like that?

25 A No. Huh-uh. (Negative)

1 Q Alright. That's about it. Bill?

2 **(DETECTIVE YAMBER)**

3 Q When John. Jeff Hopkins, did you know where he lived?

4 A No.

5 Q And you never saw him?

6 A No sir.

7 Q So, he.. he lived, we don't know where?

8 A Right.

9 Q Okay, thank you.

10 **(DETECTIVE MELICH)**

11 Q Is there anything else about um, about Casey in particular about Cindy and
12 Casey's relationship or even Caylee and Casey's relationship that you feel is
13 important that I haven't asked you about that you wanted to share with me?

14 A Um, I've often wondered about the story about, and it's always concerned me. Is
15 about Caylee's father you know. Um, of course you know I know the whole story
16 about first it was supposedly Jesse's and then it wasn't. Um, but then we were
17 told that it was a guy from Tennessee. And then later on he was involved in an
18 accident according to...

19 Q Who told you that?

20 A Cindy.

21 Q Okay. Did she ever mention a name?

22 A Um, I don't think she did.

23 Q Any other ah, particulars about has she ever met this man or has she ever met
24 the boy or anything like that?

25

1 A No she um, I don't recall her saying that she ever met them. She did say it was
2 just a friend of Casey's that if I recall correctly, that maybe they went to school
3 together or something. But I just always wondered why they didn't have a name
4 you know or something to go on or why they're not giving it to you guys you
5 know.

6 Q You're not the only one wondering.

7 A Oh okay.

8 Q Um, anything else about Cindy or Casey or Caylee that I haven't asked you
9 about? Any relationships? How.. how was.. did Cindy ever describe how
10 Casey's relationship was with George?

11 A Um, yes she did she had told me before that Casey and George were constantly
12 at each other.

13 Q Any reason why or idea why?

14 A Never said why. Um, she mentioned to me a couple of times you know that
15 about an incident where Casey yelled at George.. would yell at George this that
16 and the other and I'm like, I found that to be odd that Casey could talk to father
17 that way. Just you know...

18 Q Yeah.

19 A ...like an adult you know.

20 Q Well wait, what..

21 A She would just say something about she would yell at him. That Casey yells at
22 George just as much as she does.

23 Q Hm.

24 A So, I found that to be odd.

25 Q What about Casey's relationship with Lee? Any problems there?

1 A Not that I'm aware of. I've always heard that they were close you know.
2 Q And as far as Casey and Cindy? I mean the way she would explain it here prior
3 to this whole thing happening was that it was what?
4 A Great. I always thought they had a great relationship.
5 Q Okay. Would you raise your right hand for me Charles.
6 A Yes.
7 Q Do you swear and affirm everything you just told me is the truth?
8 A Yes.
9 Q Okay thank you.

10
11 **THIS TRANSCRIPT HAS BEEN REVIEWED FOR ACCURACY**

12
13 **Signed this 30th day of December, 2008.**

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17 **DETECTIVE YURI MELICH, OCSO DEPUTY SHERIFF**

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