

1 **TAPED TRANSCRIPT OF MELINA CALABRESE**
2 **INTERVIEW CONDUCTED BY CORPORAL YURI MELICH**

3 **CASE NUMBER – 08-069208**

4 **OCTOBER 9, 2008**

5 **YM – CORPORAL YURI MELICH**

6 **MC – MS. MELINA CALABRESE**

7 **YM:** The date right now is October 9, 2008, and the time right now is 1208 hours. I'm
8 Detective Melich with the Orange County Sheriff's Office reference to Orange
9 County case number 08-69208. Uh, we're located at, at the Orange County
10 Sheriff's Office. Uh, we're in my office. I am with a Melina, is it Cabrese?

11 **MC:** It's Melina Calabrese.

12 **YM:** Sorry, Melina Calabrese.

13 **MC:** (Laughs.)

14 **YM:** And Melina, would you please state your name and your birthday for the record?

15 **MC:** Uh, Melina Calabrese. June 17, 1986.

16 **YM:** Uh, and you're aware this is being recorded?

17 **MC:** Yup (affirmative).

18 **YM:** Any objection?

19 **MC:** Nope (negative).

20 **YM:** Okay. We sat here uh, I actually got your name from uh, a couple people who
21 throughout this investigation I have uh, I guess people were saying that you were
22 one of Casey's closet friends growing up. And uh, I called you and asked you if
23 you'd be willing to come down here and talk to me, just kind of get an idea of
24 what, what Casey is like, what she was like, and then help us out with the case.
25 Uh, you agreed to come down. Uh, I've had the door open I guess for the past

1 hour. Uh, we were just talking about what we're going to go over and seeing if
2 there's anything you can help us with. I just closed it now so we could have
3 privacy, but obviously you can get up, walk out at any time.

4 **MC:** Right.

5 **YM:** Uh, I just want you to make sure you don't think you're trapped in here...

6 **MC:** (Laughs.)

7 **YM:** ...and you have to, you have to talk to me. Uhm, with that being said, we, we
8 spent here and talked some time about uhm, your relationship with Casey. And I
9 guess I want to ask you briefly, starting from when you guys first started hanging
10 out, you, you told me you guys were best friends from like seventh grade, on and
11 off, until recently. Tell me a little bit about how you started to becoming friends
12 and how she was like in high school.

13 **MC:** Uhm, we met in seventh grade. We had the same English and I believe math
14 class as well. Uh, we sat next to each other. And we started talking about boys
15 and our friendship began I guess. It's a beautiful, love story. And uhm, through
16 high school we hung out. We had a good time. We were always known uhm, to
17 go out and be social with everybody. But we never did anything crazy. Uhm,
18 and we've just been friends off and on since then.

19 **YM:** Uh, you said something about uh, having like a boy obsession or something in
20 high school. Uh, what, what do you mean by boy obsession in high school?
21 Uh....

22 **MC:** Oh, we bounced from boys, uh, having crushes on boys....

23 **YM:** Okay.

24 **MC:** ...uhm, a lot. We would talk about one boy in one class and the next boy in the
25 next classes. Uh, uh, as from what I feel is typical teenage years.

1 **YM:** Did uh, did you guys ever party in high school, or go out to parties? How, what,
2 what was that like?

3 **MC:** Uhm, our senior year we went to a few parties. Uhm, we just hung out really.
4 That was pretty much it. I didn't do a lot of partying. She, we just, if we were at
5 the same party we were there that was that nothing crazy ever happened.

6 **YM:** Did she do more partying than you as far as go to more parties and stuff?

7 **MC:** Oh, no. Uh, well not that I went to a lot of parties. But I don't think she would,
8 went to many parties at all.

9 **YM:** What about drinking and smoking, or using drugs at these parties?

10 **MC:** Never once uh, in high school did we ever. Uh, I mean if she, if she did then that
11 was her. But I never, uh, together we never did, no.

12 **YM:** Okay. Do you know of her using it, or did she ever tell you hey, I experimented;
13 hey, tried this; I liked it, I didn't like it; anything like that?

14 **MC:** No. She was very adamantly against cigarettes and pot.

15 **YM:** Uhm, up until I guess you guys, uh, you graduated high school back in 2004.

16 **MC:** Uh-hum (affirmative).

17 **YM:** And you spent the summer together on and off, st... still maintaining your
18 friendship and that you told me that you, I guess when you started going to
19 school you still saw her, but not as frequently. Is that correct?

20 **MC:** Uhm, yeah (affirmative), for, we saw each other a couple times the summer we
21 graduated, and then probably for the next year it was just randomly talking via
22 phone or Internet, whatnot.

23 **YM:** And while you were going to high school around this time did you work at
24 Universal Studios?

25 **MC:** Yes.

1 **YM:** And did she work at Universal Studios with you?
2 **MC:** Yes.
3 **YM:** And when did you leave Universal Studios?
4 **MC:** Uhm, I went from fulltime to seasonal January of 2006.
5 **YM:** Okay. And she worked there just a little bit...
6 **MC:** Aft....
7 **YM:** ... longer after you, but you don't know what happened after that?
8 **MC:** Correct.
9 **YM:** Okay. Uhm, you said that also you first met Caylee when?
10 **MC:** About six weeks after she was born.
11 **YM:** And had Casey ever told you that she was pregnant?
12 **MC:** No.
13 **YM:** And what, well how did you learn that she actually had a kid?
14 **MC:** When I saw pictures on My Space of her holding her baby, (chuckles).
15 **YM:** Okay. Well then you, did you reach out to her and...
16 **MC:** Uhm, yes. I wrote her and said congratulations. And from then on we decided to
17 meet up for lunch.
18 **YM:** What'd she tell you about the baby's father at first?
19 **MC:** That it was Jesse Grund and that they had been dating off and on for a year or
20 maybe, yeah (affirmative), it was about a year or so.
21 **YM:** And did that story change later on who the father was?
22 **MC:** Yes. It...
23 **YM:** And what did she tell you?
24 **MC:** Uhm, it was shortly after her and Jesse broke up in May of 2006. Uhm, and she
25 explained to me that it had been uhm, a gentleman named Josh.

1 **YM:** And she say where Josh was from, or how she met Josh, or what happened?
2 **MC:** Uhm, my story that she gave me was that she met him at Universal. He was
3 basically a one night stand and he was from Georgia.
4 **YM:** Did she ever mention what his last name was?
5 **MC:** Never.
6 **YM:** She just...
7 **MC:** No, no. Go ahead.
8 **YM:** Uhm, did she ever say like where this one night stand took place? Was it at his
9 place, her place, hotel...
10 **MC:** It was a Universal....
11 **YM:** ...a park?
12 **MC:** ...hotel. That's all I know.
13 **YM:** Did uhm, she ever add anything about Josh, uh, what happened to Josh? Well
14 back up. Did she say if Josh was going to be a part of Caylee's life or what was
15 the agreement? Or what did she tell you?
16 **MC:** Uhm, she told me that she wasn't going to tell Caylee herself about Josh until
17 Caylee started asking her own questions. That was her plan. And her and Josh
18 spoke randomly here, there at first.
19 **YM:** Okay. What, what else did she tell you about Josh uh, as far as did he have a
20 family, wife, kids, anything like that?
21 **MC:** Uhm, she did mention that he had a girlfriend who he was planning on marrying.
22 They had children together already. Uhm, that was probably the extent of
23 anything else I knew about Josh.
24 **YM:** Did she tell you how old he was?
25 **MC:** Actually, no.

1 **YM:** Did she describe him to you?

2 **MC:** Nope (negative). She said he was really hot.

3 **YM:** And did she say uh, what happened to Josh?

4 **MC:** Uhm, Josh passed away in a car accident shortly after Caylee's second birthday.

5 **YM:** And that would have been 2007. And did she say where uh, where the accident
6 was, or any details about the accident?

7 **MC:** It was somewhere in, in Georgia where he was from.

8 **YM:** She ever uh, show you a obituary, or ever show you a picture of Josh, or did she
9 have anything to say hey, this is Josh?

10 **MC:** She didn't. If she did I never saw it.

11 **YM:** Okay. Did, from I guess you guys, ever, ever since she was six, Caylee was six
12 weeks old you guys still maintained the, a friendship, on again, off again, best
13 friends, friends, separated. And you told me that one of the reasons that you
14 guys were kind of separated was because she would tell lies, or, or big lies and
15 that would kind of upset you. Is that right? Is that right?

16 **MC:** Yeah (affirmative), well...

17 **YM:** And uh, you gave me an example about uh, I guess a lie about Jesse. And
18 which one was that?

19 **MC:** Uhm, sh...or her, she went with Jesse being the father for the first probably eight
20 months. Yeah (affirmative), I guess about eight months of Caylee's life. And they
21 broke up and then I guess she just felt she needed to tell me that he wasn't the
22 father.

23 **YM:** She only told you this after they broke up.

24 **MC:** Right.

25 **YM:** But she knew before they broke up?

1 **MC:** Oh, yeah (affirmative). They had done the paternity test and everything right
2 after Caylee was born.

3 **YM:** She give you any reason for why she lied about that to you, to you, I guess one
4 of best friends at the time?

5 **MC:** Uhm, she just w... wanted to, in so many words it was, I think it, I think she was
6 just trying to maintain you know. And then she was worried that people were
7 going to judge her for being such a young mother.

8 **YM:** Uh-hum (affirmative).

9 **MC:** I think she just wanted to like look like she was in a stable relationship, which is
10 uh, understandable.

11 **YM:** You uhm, you also said something about her lying when things, when things got
12 tough. Give me an example of, of, uh, what do you mean by that?

13 **MC:** Uhm, oh, gosh, I can't even think of any right now. Uhm, she just you know, uh,
14 things would get, I think she would just start lying about where she was, and what
15 she was doing, and I don't know why. You know maybe it felt like she needed to
16 just put on a good show for people. I don't know what it was that she, what made
17 her do it.

18 **YM:** You mentioned a good show of. Before we got on tape you said something about
19 her. Like if you said uh, you were dating your boyfriend and you and your
20 boyfriend would go out to dinner, a couple of days later she would come back
21 and go, oh, me and my boyfriend are going to do this. And we kind of
22 determined she had a, a certain type of competitive nature. Is that correct?

23 **MC:** Oh...

24 **YM:** Or...

25

1 **MC:** ... she had a slight one when it came to that kind of stuff, yeah (affirmative), sure I
2 would use that word.

3 **YM:** Like she would want to one up you?

4 **MC:** Uhm, yeah (affirmative), I guess that would be a good way to put it.

5 **YM:** Uhm, you said something about putting bits of truth to make a lie. Uh, we, well
6 we talked about that. You, you, you said something along the lines of this, she
7 would put bits of truth together to, to make up a story and then she would start
8 believing her own story. Do you have any examples, or something that kind of
9 sticks out about that?

10 **MC:** I think...

11 **YM:** Or maybe about....

12 **MC:** ...things like Sports Authority, when she said she worked at Sports Authority. I
13 mean she would just go with it, saying you know, she was working late. She was
14 working early. She was doing this, this or that with it. And I think she just you
15 know, started telling so many people so many times, uh, I, it was almost as if she
16 believed it.

17 **YM:** Did you or any, anyone else, I guess Lauren Gibbs was also a good friend of
18 hers at the time and, and babysitted (sic) Caylee. That you said something about
19 Lauren Gibbs actually calling Sports Authority.

20 **MC:** Right.

21 **YM:** And uh, and what did they tell her about Casey?

22 **MC:** Uhm, they had never even heard of her let alone hired her.

23 **YM:** Uh, did, were you present when Lauren confronted Casey about this, or did, did
24 she tell you about what happened afterwards?
25

1 **MC:** Uhm, Lauren called me right after she called Sports Authority to tell me. And I'm
2 not one hundred percent sure, but I believe she was babysitting Caylee at the
3 time when she did this. I think that's what it was. She called to speak to Casey
4 and they said that they didn't even know who Casey was, let alone that she
5 worked there. So she called me and I, I just told her, I'm like, "You need to tell
6 her straight up you've already called the job," and you need to confront her about
7 it and see what she tells you.

8 **YM:** And did she?

9 **MC:** She stuck to it that she worked at Sports Authority.

10 **YM:** Even after Lauren says "I called the..."

11 **MC:** Uh-hum (affirmative).

12 **YM:** Did she give any explanation as to why they, they said that she didn't work
13 there?

14 **MC:** Did they give an, I'm sorry, can you say that question again?

15 **YM:** Did, did Sports Authority ever given any ex...or uh, Lauren calls Casey and
16 confronts her; hey I called Sports Authority and they're saying you don't work
17 there. Did Casey ever say well no, that's, that's not true? You know...

18 **MC:** Yes.

19 **YM:** ...did she give any ex... explanation as to why Sports Authority would say that?

20 **MC:** Uhm, no. She, she said she had an i...uhm, no, she just never. I mean she said
21 she had the i.d. (identification). She, she said I think uhm, uh, maybe, I don't
22 know. She said that because she was uhm, didn't have a home Sports Authority
23 that they maybe didn't know her...

24 **YM:** Did uhm, did Lauren....

25 **MC:** ...either.

1 **YM:** As far as babysitting Caylee, was that kind of what separated what kept Lauren
2 from babysitting Caylee anymore? Was it because of Casey going and doing her
3 own thing as opposed to actually working?
4 **MC:** Right.
5 **YM:** Uhm, you, you mentioned the last time you actually saw Casey, or that you
6 believe you saw Casey, was this year at her birthday, right? That was in March?
7 **MC:** Yup (affirmative).
8 **YM:** And she was supposed to show up at your birthday back on the 17th of June, and
9 she never showed?
10 **MC:** Correct.
11 **YM:** Did she ever, I mean you said she communicated with you, or what, what did she
12 tell you about why she didn't show up for your birthday?
13 **MC:** I'm not one hundred percent positive. I think it was on the lines of some, it was
14 being a hectic, some hectic time for her right now and she just didn't have time to
15 make it.
16 **YM:** Did she apologize at least?
17 **MC:** Oh, yeah (affirmative).
18 **YM:** Did she ever get you a birthday present afterwards or, or....
19 **MC:** Huh-huh (negative).
20 **YM:** ... send you a card or anything?
21 **MC:** No.
22 **YM:** Uhm, from that, June 17th to the day she was arrested and this whole thing blew
23 up on the news, have, have you guys communicated at all through Instant
24 Message, or My Space or AIM, or anything?
25

1 **MC:** Uh, just random comments on My Space. That was pretty much it. Uhm, maybe
2 a conversation or two on Instant Message. But I...

3 **YM:** What were the conversations about (inaudible).

4 **MC:** I don't, nothing....

5 **YM:** Just general...

6 **MC:** Yeah (affirmative), just how's it going? How are things? Uh...

7 **YM:** Did you actually go out with her anywhere?

8 **MC:** Uhm, I think there was one time in between that she wanted me to go to Fusion.
9 And I actually was going to go and then I decided at the last minute not to go.

10 **YM:** She ever make any mention that something was, something was wrong, or did
11 you get, get the impression that hey, are you okay Casey? Did you ever....

12 **MC:** Nope (negative). I never thought to ask her. I never...

13 **YM:** She...

14 **MC:** ...there was no indication that I needed to ask her. It just was...

15 **YM:** She ever....

16 **MC:** ...almost like life was normal.

17 **YM:** Did she ever mention her child was missing?

18 **MC:** No, (sigh)

19 **YM:** Uhm, uh, during that time frame do you remember any, any of her friends
20 mentioning to you that Casey told them that Caylee was missing?

21 **MC:** Never.

22 **YM:** So your group of friends that you know of, nobody had any idea that, that Caylee
23 was missing?

24 **MC:** No.

25 **YM:** And Casey's doing uh, whatever?

1 **MC:** No.

2 **YM:** The morning of the, the 16th, before she was arrested, you said that she reached
3 out to you. Now tell me about that.

4 **MC:** Uhm, I woke up that morning, and I'm addicted to My Space. So I went straight
5 to My Space when I woke up. And Casey's uhm, you can change how you feel
6 and all that kind of stuff. It said that Caylee was missing. If you have any
7 information, she put her cell phone number on there.

8 **YM:** Uh-hum (affirmative).

9 **MC:** And right away, Casey was on-line, Casey was on-line so I wrote her an Instant
10 Message, and I asked her what was going on and if this was like a serious thing,
11 or. And she explained to me that this is, you know, she told me about how she
12 left Caylee with a sitter. She waited around for a couple hours. The next thing
13 you know it's been a few weeks. And she, that was the ex...uhm, I was, I just sat
14 there for a second and uhm, that was pretty much the extent of our conversation.

15 **YM:** You mentioned that she mentioned the sitter that morning. Had she mentioned
16 the name Zenaida or Zanny to you before that morning?

17 **MC:** Never.

18 **YM:** Uh, what about a sitter in general before that morning?

19 **MC:** Uhm, she mentioned, I guess it had to be around the beginning of the year.
20 Ran...you know, I heard a couple, maybe I heard her like twice that Caylee was
21 with the sitter. I never heard it as a nanny. I never heard it Zenaida or whatever
22 else they, the nicknames or, I just, all I heard was a sitter. And it was during
23 normal work time so I never thought anything of it.

24

25

1 **YM:** Did uhm, uh, as far as sitters are concerned, as far as you know, who would
2 watch over Caylee though aside from Lauren Gibb and, and her mom Cindy?
3 Uh, any other of her friends that would watch over Caylee?
4 **MC:** Uhm...
5 **YM:** That you know of.
6 **MC:** Those are the only two that stick out in my head.
7 **YM:** Do you know a, a Juliet Lewis?
8 **MC:** Never heard of her.
9 **YM:** No one from high school? It doesn't, it doesn't ring a bell? What about a Jeff
10 Hopkins?
11 **MC:** I do know Jeff.
12 **YM:** Is it the Jeff from high school? You guys went to high school together?
13 **MC:** Yes.
14 **YM:** Do you know if Jeff has a child?
15 **MC:** I have never heard of that ever.
16 **YM:** Do you know if, if Jeff and Casey were every really close?
17 **MC:** Uhm, I know that were, I don't know if close was the right term. I know they hung
18 out a few times.
19 **YM:** Do you think uh, would, was Jeff ever closer to Casey than you were? I'm not
20 saying physically...
21 **MC:** I can only speak of....
22 **YM:** ...close. I'm just saying...
23 **MC:** No, no, no, I understand. Uhm, I can only, I don't, I would say no.
24 **YM:** Okay. So if, if she had something she wanted to confide in you...
25 **MC:** I would think...

1 **YM:** ... (unintelligible).

2 **MC:** ... she would come to me before Jeff, yes.

3 **YM:** Had, had she ever confided in you anything about uh, her relationship with her,
4 her brother, Lee, or her father, George? Anything negative about the relationship
5 between them?

6 **MC:** I never heard a negative thing about Lee between her, with, from Casey. Uhm, I
7 know she wasn't the biggest fan of her father.

8 **YM:** Okay. And she give a reason why?

9 **MC:** She just, they didn't see eye-to-eye in a lot. Again, it was almost like a, it just,
10 they just didn't see eye-to-eye on a lot of things.

11 **YM:** What about her relationship with her mom? Uhm, from high school to current uh,
12 how, did it get worse, did it get strained? Uh, how would you describe it?

13 **MC:** During high school I believe, I would say is your typical mother/daughter
14 relationship. You know, we thought our moms were too strict and didn't give us
15 enough leniency and freedom. Uhm, after high school uhm, I really didn't hear
16 much about her mom until after Caylee. And after Caylee it was, there were a
17 few times where she felt her mother was being incredibly ta, uh, I'm not quite
18 sure what the right word would be, but they did have, there was strain in, in their
19 relationship when it came.

20 **YM:** Could it be controlling or bossy?

21 **MC:** Overbearing almost pops into my head. Casey had felt like, I almost think Casey
22 felt like it was her daughter and she could choose how it was that she wanted to
23 raise her and discipline her and...

24 **YM:** Cindy felt like it was her daughter, her mom?

25

1 **MC:** Cindy felt like there were times that Casey wasn't doing motherly uhm, a proper
2 mother...

3 **YM:** Such as what? Give me an example. Give me an example of...

4 **MC:** I, I, I honestly don't have a, I don't have any examples. I just remember Casey
5 being upset that, I think it just came, you know, when Cas...uh, Ca... I know of
6 their fights were Casey would want to go out and either uhm, Cindy wouldn't let
7 her take Casey, or Caylee out with her, or you know, she would only watch
8 Caylee for so long, which it can be understandable in some terms. I think Casey
9 just doesn't like being told what to do (laughs).

10 **YM:** Did her mother ever make mention about being a better mother, or that she,
11 she's a better mother to Caylee than Casey is?

12 **MC:** Uhm, I don't know if those are the right words, but uhm, there were a couple she
13 implied that she was, can do a better job at it I guess.

14 **YM:** That uh...

15 **MC:** She just...

16 **YM:** ...Cindy could? Mom, grandma could?

17 **MC:** Yeah (affirmative).

18 **YM:** Did she ever uhm, tell Casey that she should be spending more time with Caylee
19 at home as opposed to going out all the time?

20 **MC:** Uhm, I never heard that myself, but I heard from Casey that that Cindy had
21 im...had said that she should be staying, spending more time at home with, uhm,
22 occupying herself with her daughter rather than.

23 **YM:** Casey ever tell you that uh, her mom put her hands on here, or that her mom,
24 you know, got, got physical with her because Casey may have not have been
25 listening or uh, uh, you know how it is when you grow up, if you turn away maybe

1 grab, your parents will grab you by the arm and spin you around? Did she ever
2 say anything about physical uhm, uh, her mom getting physical with her?

3 **MC:** Uhm, no. I think the extent that I ever heard was that they got in some pretty
4 extreme arguments.

5 **YM:** (Inaudible)...

6 **MC:** But I nev... I don't think I ever, I don't remember, I don't remember ever hearing.

7 **YM:** And the extreme arguments would be over...?

8 **MC:** Usually over Caylee, or, yeah (affirmative), usually over Caylee.

9 **YM:** Uhm, did she specifically tell you, or do you, do you remember her telling you
10 about any arguments that uh, they would have just before Caylee went missing?

11 **MC:** Huh-huh (negative). We weren't that close right then.

12 **YM:** Uh, what did she tell you about her last job? Uhm, this is actually what led us to
13 the, to the conversation about lying before. She said that she was working as
14 uh...

15 **MC:** Oh, she was working at event company somewhere in downtown. She gave me
16 the name of it. Honestly, I couldn't even re...tell you.

17 **YM:** Was it Event Image Solutions or something like that?

18 **MC:** No.

19 **YM:** Or Event Imaging?

20 **MC:** No. I think that, no. That sounds like something she did at Universal with the
21 photography and stuff there.

22 **YM:** Alright, okay.

23 **MC:** But uhm, no, I...

24 **YM:** What'd she tell you about, well what was she doing for them?

25 **MC:** At Universal?

1 **YM:** No, no, no, for this uh...

2 **MC:** Oh, at the event company?

3 **YM:** ...event company.

4 **MC:** She had just started. Uhm, she, it was downtown. She had her own office. I

5 was so jealous (laughs).

6 **YM:** When she said just started, when, when was this? When did she say she just

7 started?

8 **MC:** Uhm, it had to be, I want to say it was right before her birthday. So, closer to the

9 beginning of the year. February or March?

10 **YM:** Uh-hum (affirmative). And why'd you say you were jealous?

11 **MC:** Because it was everything I wanted (laughs).

12 **YM:** Is that what you're going to school for now...

13 **MC:** Yes...

14 **YM:** ...is to be an event coordinator?

15 **MC:** ...to be an event, yeah (affirmative). And she wasn't in school and she'd gotten

16 the job that I wanted. Even if it was just beginning. I, I remember it was, it was, it

17 was entry level job. Uhm, but that was how she got...

18 **YM:** (Inaudible).

19 **MC:** Her story for me was that's how she started at Fusion, the Fusion gigs.

20 **YM:** Was through this company? And that's what uh...

21 **MC:** They were sending her out there to help promote it. And then she would go out

22 there. Which is typical for an event coor...you know, event planner. Especially

23 when you're first going in...

24 **YM:** Uh-hum (affirmative).

25 **MC:** ...to your job to market as uhm, such as that.

1 **YM:** You mentioned uh, you mentioned Fusion. And obviously with the ton of pictures
2 out there for Fusion, you made a comment about the pictures, saying it was just
3 not her.

4 **MC:** Right.

5 **YM:** Tell me about that. Well why isn't...

6 **MC:** Uhm, you know Casey and I have had plenty of good times since high school.
7 And you know, even in high school, and since high school, neither of us were
8 really the club going out, at least as frequent as what her pictures appeared to be
9 like.

10 **YM:** Uh-hum (affirmative).

11 **MC:** You know, we went out every once in a while. You know, big deal. It seemed
12 like those pictures were just coming out all the time.

13 **YM:** What about her actions on the pictures?

14 **MC:** And that...

15 **YM:** Was that...

16 **MC:** Just you know, we have cute pictures, but I, I would look at my pictures and then
17 I would look at those pictures and I just didn't feel like the Casey that I knew.
18 Basically didn't look like the Casey I knew. It just looked, I don't know. She was
19 trying too hard to be someone she was not.

20 **YM:** Did her, like her grind, there's, there's obviously pictures of her up there on the
21 stage wearing a blue dress, grinding with another girl. Was that normal, the
22 Casey that you knew?

23 **MC:** Casey, uh, yeah (affirmative). I mean that's not.

24 **YM:** I'm not saying it's good or bad....

25 **MC:** Uh, yeah (affirmative).

1 **YM:** I'm just saying is that, is that...

2 **MC:** I'm just trying to figure out how to. That, that's, I don't know, that, those pictures
3 were, again, those were seeming, those seem like she was trying too hard to you
4 know, smile for this camera and do these poses. I'm not saying that I never seen
5 her do that elsewhere, but I don't know. I just, something about those pictures is
6 just not sitting with me right. And that....

7 **YM:** Uh, that's fair enough. Fair enough. Did uhm, did she ever mention uh, I brought
8 this up before. Growing up, there's always quest... it's always you know, curiosity
9 on, on what stuff that gets you high. You know if you go out there and you pick
10 'schrooms, or you, you, you sniff glue, or there's certain chemicals around the
11 household that you can sniff. Have, had you ever had a conversation with her, or
12 been in a conversation with her, or with her friends about chloroform? Uh....

13 **MC:** Never.

14 **YM:** When was the first time you heard about that?

15 **MC:** When this came, when they mentioned that with this case I went to my mom and
16 asked her about it because I really had no idea anything about it for any sort of
17 purpose. You know, even for what it's meant to do. I just really had honestly
18 never heard of it. And uhm, I definitely had never heard of it for recreational
19 purpose or, or for whatever.

20 **YM:** Had uhm, and describe her relationship well with, with guys recently. You, you
21 mentioned that she was, she had a certain (sighs), attitude I guess uh, when it
22 came to dating. Well, well how would you describe that?

23 **MC:** I guess this past year she was, she would try and do more relationships than just
24 dating. You know she, she was all, you know, she tried again with Jesse. She
25 met that Ricardo guy. And she met this Tony guy. And then I, you know, I heard

1 about her and you know, you know being interested in this guy and being
2 interested in that guy. Casey liked, almost it was like a game for her I think. You
3 know, and uh, uh, we used to do, it was kind of fun in high school. You would you
4 know, like a guy and then you would get his attention and hang out for a little bit.
5 And then you'd get bored and go to the next one. But she just, she's kept doing
6 it since then. Which is fine. You know, we're that, we're at that age you should
7 be able to date and do whatnot. It just, it, I almost think that was her attitude
8 towards it. It was that she would hang out with a guy long enough that would
9 keep her attention and, and then she'd want a new challenge.

10 **YM:** Uh-hum (affirmative).

11 **MC:** And she liked that.

12 **YM:** You ever had any problems or, or either before, either while you, while you guys
13 were friends from seventh grade on, uh, or after uhm, or actually up until today,
14 after she got arrested and maybe talking with her friends, any, any problems
15 with, with her stealing, or any hindsight like wow, you know, I never suspected
16 her of taking anything. Uh, you know, I lost a, you know, I lost something
17 sometime back, but now that this has come up she was at the house. Anything
18 like that ever come up about her stealing, anything about theft?

19 **MC:** I never once had a problem with her. I mean and she's been at my house plenty
20 of times. I've hung out with her plenty of times. I've never noticed anything
21 missing, or money missing, or me borrow, you know, lending her money. No,
22 nothing like that. And I've never heard. I mean honestly, the first time I've heard
23 about that again was when this case became public.

24 **YM:** Did uhm, prior to coming over here you said you had a conversation, or you,
25 you've been in contact with Lee obviously since this whole thing. He's been

1 reaching out to friends and such. Uh, you said you probably talked to him about
2 once a week or so and, and just to see how he's doing. You, you've helped
3 distribute fliers and then helped with the family. You've never gone to see
4 Casey, but you have talked to Lee, and was it Cindy?

5 **MC:** I've talking to both Cindy and George. Uhm, but both of those were more closer
6 to when this all first started happening. Uhm, and the flier distribution and it was
7 Annie and I's idea. And not that it wouldn't have happened to be anyways, but
8 Annie and I did start the involvement with the fliers. And Cindy was very, very
9 thankful for it. And that was, I've maybe spoken to her once since then. George,
10 I've seen, I've only spoken to once period. Uhm, and that....

11 **YM:** Have they said anything to you about uh, what happened to Caylee? Have they
12 told you hey, you know, Caylee's been taken by someone, or hey, we got people
13 following these, uh, have, have they given....

14 **MC:** Nope.

15 **YM:** ...said anything about that?

16 **MC:** No.

17 **YM:** What about Lee? Has he said anything about you know, what Casey might have
18 told him where Caylee is?

19 **MC:** No. I had, we definitely never heard anything about any indication of where.

20 **YM:** What did Lee, what did the, what did Lee say when you said you were going to
21 come here and talk to me today?

22 **MC:** He just told me good luck with everything. I was nervous.

23 **YM:** Okay. Uhm, we talked about the conversation, I guess the first phone call that
24 she made out of jail uh, when she got arrested back on the 16th of July. And I
25

1 asked you what your, your opinion of it. Because I don't know her, so I don't
2 know....

3 **MC:** Right.

4 **YM:** ...you know what her typical reaction would be. Uh, just tell me about what,
5 again, when you first heard it you heard it on the news, right? And you heard
6 that uh, I guess you heard that she was arrested on the news and you heard the
7 phone call uh, on TV. What, what, you said you got upset, you almost punched
8 the television. Why was that?

9 **MC:** It was, I can't imagine the last, can't remember the last time I was so angry. You
10 know, it just wasn't, it's not, it's not Casey. That's not the Casey I know. That's
11 not the Casey, and I, I just couldn't understand how she was so rude and, and so
12 uh, it just, it doesn't, it doesn't remind, it doesn't, I don't know, it just didn't sit well
13 with me and it really upset me that that was her con...way of talking to her
14 parents and her brother and whoever the, the girl was. Uhm, and then to ask for
15 Tony's phone number, I just didn't think that was, should have been her number
16 one priority, especially during whatever may have been going on.

17 **YM:** Did you get up...did you get upset because she hadn't reached out to you if she
18 had a problem? You, you'd think, hey, why, why, why didn't she reach out to her
19 friends about this?

20 **MC:** Uhm, yeah (affirmative). I mean I wasn't upset. I mean the first time I heard
21 Casey was, or Caylee was missing I'd also heard that it was five weeks. So the,
22 the first thing that went through my head wasn't oh, my gosh, why didn't she call
23 me? It was oh, my gosh, why didn't you call anybody? Five weeks? I mean I'm
24 one of your best friends. Sure, you could have called me. But I mean you've got
25 your parents. You've got, I mean you have the cops. You have your brother.

1 You have all these things. I just, and to this day I still can't comprehend why she
2 didn't call anybody. That...

3 **YM:** Did you....

4 **MC:** ...that doesn't sound like Casey to me at all.

5 **YM:** She made, she made comments that she was actually looking for Caylee during
6 this month. Did, do you, do you actually think that she was looking for Caylee
7 while going to Fusion, or....

8 **MC:** My heart hopes that she was somehow looking for her. Uhm, all the facts point
9 to the fact that she wasn't, but.

10 **YM:** Well you know Casey. And just based on what you know of her, and, and her
11 actions, is that the Casey that would have been looking for her daughter?

12 **MC:** That's hard for me to say because I keep thinking about what I would have done.
13 And, and....

14 **YM:** Well, well what would you have done?

15 **MC:** I would not have slept the first night I knew my daughter was missing. I would
16 have called the cops immediately. I would have definitely been on the phone
17 with some family member. And you know, even if, if, even if things were tough
18 with her family at that time for whatever reason, I would have definitely been on
19 the phone with a girlfriend, somebody. I mean there are plenty of people out
20 there who love her and Caylee. Somebody is going to help her, or, or at least
21 guided her to do the right thing, which would have been involve the police.

22 **YM:** Is uhm, is there anything else about, well is there anything else about Ca...well,
23 let me, let me back up. Casey's relationship with Caylee from the time that you
24 remember, how, how would you describe that mother/daughter relationship?

25

1 **MC:** I uh, I hoped for it to be mine. She and Caylee was adorable. I mean they would
2 call me on the phone and they would sing songs to me. She was, for being you
3 know, nineteen, twenty, twenty-one, uh, mother, she, she, I, I just, I, I'm, you
4 know, I didn't envy it, because obviously I'm not a mother. But I just, I, I almost
5 hoped for it, you know, because she was very good with Caylee. She gave
6 Caylee almost everything that a little girl could need or want. She was very good
7 with her when it, you know, when Caylee did get upset randomly. Uh, you know,
8 Casey was very good with her. Just never raised her voice. Always you know,
9 and never once ever saw her touch her in a, in a, in a negatory (sic) way. It, it's,
10 you know and to this day I, I, I hope my mother/daughter bond is going to be like
11 that. And it almost seemed easy.

12 **YM:** Hmm.

13 **MC:** Just easygoing, relaxed. Nothing too crazy. We always had a good time.

14 **YM:** Is there any uh, special place that she liked taking Caylee?

15 **MC:** We, well they went to Target a lot, and Chick-Fil-A.

16 **YM:** What about a park? Any, any place where she liked to go out and play?

17 **MC:** No. She had everything in her backyard she wanted (laughs). Uhm, I never, I
18 can't remember if they ever uh, mentioning a certain park they used to go to.
19 Uhm, maybe Blanchard Park once. I, I do recall that once. Uhm, but I don't
20 re...not even a theme park or anything comes to mind.

21 **YM:** Do you believe that Zanny, this uh, nanny exists, or do you think uh, it's her way
22 of saying, you know, she was just leaving Caylee with someone here, and then
23 someone here, and someone here?

24 **MC:** That's such a sketchy situation. Uhm....

25 **YM:** Knowing her and having...

1 **MC:** Knowing her....

2 **YM:** ...having grown up several years with her and then, and this, and knowing what
3 you know now.

4 **MC:** Uh, I could see her having a sitter for, for Caylee. Uhm, I, it's weird to say what I
5 think she would do and wouldn't do because everything I think that I thought that
6 Casey would do she's uh, obviously didn't do, uh. Uhm, I can see her having a
7 sitter. I don't know how, I guess she was having to steal from people. I don't
8 know how she was paying a sitter. But uhm, as far as the Zenaida Gonzalez, I
9 have never heard of her. I don't know if she exists, hmm.

10 **YM:** The, since, since she was arrested did you have conversations with, did Cindy
11 and George, or even Lee, open up to you and say how bad she's been stealing
12 from the family for the past...

13 **MC:** I've never discussed the, the money issue at all.

14 **YM:** So they never mentioned that to you, saying that...

15 **MC:** Huh-huh (negative).

16 **YM:** ...she had a problem or uh, she had some issues and anything like that?

17 **MC:** Nope (negative). The only thing concerning the money that I have ever heard is
18 when Amy did her and answered questions. I think it was on some police report I
19 might have read...

20 **YM:** Uh-hum (affirmative).

21 **MC:** ...or whatnot. That's the only, the only thing I've ever heard about her stealing.

22 **YM:** Okay. Is, is there anything else about Casey or, or Caylee that you know of that I
23 haven't asked you about that you feel is important that you wanted to tell me?

24 **MC:** No. I think we've done most of it...

25 **YM:** Okay.

1 **MC:** (Inaudible.)

2 **YM:** Uhm, you have my card. It's got my e-mail address on it. It's got my telephone
3 number on it. And obviously if anything comes up feel free to give me a call.
4 Would you raise your right hand for me? Do you swear and affirm everything you
5 just told me is the truth?

6 **MC:** I swear.

7 **End of recorded statement.**

8 **This transcript has been reviewed for accuracy.**

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CORPORAL YURI MELICH, OCSO DEPUTY SHERIFF

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