

1 **TAPED TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDED TELEPHONE**
2 **CONVERSATION BETWEEN MRS. MELISSA EARNEST**
3 **AND CORPORAL WILLIAM "ERIC" EDWARDS**

4 **CASE AGENT: CORPORAL YURI MELICH**

5 **CASE NUMBER – 08-074777**

6 **RECORDED ON AUGUST 20, 2008**

7 **EE– CORPORAL WILLIAM EDWARDS**

8 **ME – MRS. MELISSA EARNEST**

9 **ME:** And he added us. And My Space has a new feature now where if somebody's
10 on line you can click down at the bottom and talk to them. So me and Becky
11 started to this Zenaida. And she started saying like some really uhm,
12 incriminating things. You know either she was going on-line, reading this and
13 playing with our heads, or something, or she was really being truthful about it.
14 But uhm, she told us that uh, she, she told me partially that she told me partially
15 that she had family in New York. She told me that she has family in Jacksonville,
16 in Kissimmee, and uh, I caught her lying a couple times. She told me that she
17 had been to Orlando. And then she told me she hadn't been. But the thing that
18 got me the most, she told me that she was a nanny at a daycare. Uhm, and I
19 c...l...as soon as this, as soon as she told me this stuff (clears throat) I contacted
20 Cindy. And uh....

21 **EE:** What month was this?

22 **ME:** This was about a month and a half ago. Maybe a month to a month and a half
23 ago. And I let uh, I called and left a message. I said, "Cindy, I don't know if this
24 is your same number or not." I said, "But I have some information on that
25

1 Zenaida Fernandez that I had spoke to you about last October. I don't know if
2 you remember me, but please call me back so I can give you this information."

3 **EE:** Okay.

4 **ME:** Well she called me right back. And uhm....

5 **EE:** Cindy Anthony?

6 **ME:** Yeah (affirmative), Cindy Anthony.

7 **EE:** Okay.

8 **ME:** And uhm, ever since then uhm, you know, I've been on good terms with her and
9 everything, you know. But uhm, I've talked to her probably a total of three to four
10 times since then. I spoke to her the night before last even. Because every time
11 I talk to Cindy she wants me to pry more information out of this woman. And the
12 other night when I spoke to her on-line it went from me talking to Zenaida to
13 supposedly talking to Zenaida's husband. And the thing about it is, she said, he
14 said, "Oh, I'm her husband." Uh, and then he said something like, it's really hard
15 to understand what they're saying because they'll go from speaking Puerto....you
16 know, hi...hi...uh, Spanish, to speaking English. And uhm, he said, "I'm the
17 translator. Ha, ha, ha." So (clears throat), anyway, the thing about it was uhm,
18 Zenaida told me that the little girl in that picture was her daughter originally. And
19 then she went from telling me that it was her daughter to her niece. And then
20 that uhm, her, her sister lives in Connecticut and it's her niece. And he, she told
21 me that the girl was three years old. Well, now, I mean Cindy's been telling me
22 even, because they've been looking into, and I'm starting to get really scared
23 because the night before last this quote, husband of Zenaida is telling me, "You
24 got to remember, I'm Puerto Rican." Like it came out, across as almost a threat.
25 And I'm getting scared. But see, I feel like I, I, I, I mean I thought I....

1 **EE:** What's Cindy been telling you then so I can, what's Cindy....

2 **ME:** Okay (clears throat).

3 **EE:** ...been saying they've been doing?

4 **ME:** She told me, alright in this, on this Zenaida's My Space there is a black guy in
5 these pictures. It's a picture of Zenaida at a baby shower. And there's a picture
6 of this black guy with her standing behind this child with some gifts and
7 decorations and stuff like that.

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

9 **ME:** Uhm, she told me, I said, "You know Cindy, I don't mean to sound racist or
10 anything." I said, "But I find it very," now the, the husband that I was speaking to
11 told me that it was not her uncle that lived in New York. It was his uncle that
12 lived in New York. It was his uncle that lived in New York. And I'm assuming
13 that this is the same black guy that's in these pictures because there's pictures of
14 him holding this baby, you know, that Zenaida just had. And I said, "You know,
15 Cindy, I don't mean to sound racist or anything, because I have black friends
16 myself." I said, "But I find it very odd that a black person, a full-fledged black
17 person, has uhm, you know, a Mexican last name. And this uh, this guy told me
18 that he has a uncle up in uhm, New York named Juan Tor...and uhm, excuse
19 me, Carlitos Torres." And she said, "Oh, really?" She's like, "Well I need you to
20 try to find out more about him because we're looking into a black guy by the last
21 name of Torres too." And she also told me that she wanted, this last time I talked
22 to her she wanted me to try to find out what daycare it was that Zenaida worked
23 at, because uhm, they were looking into a women's shelter down there in Puerto
24 Rico. And she wanted me to see if I could actually link them up.

25 **EE:** Does uh, what n...what number are you dealing with Cindy over, do you know?

1 **ME:** And I'm sorry?

2 **EE:** What phone number is it that you deal with Cindy over? What did, what number
3 do you usually call?

4 **ME:** Uh, it's her cell phone.

5 **EE:** And that...

6 **ME:** I have it. Hang on just a second. Uhm, I'll make sure. Hang on.

7 **EE:** Okay.

8 **ME:** Are you there?

9 **EE:** Yup (affirmative).

10 **ME:** Okay. My phone's (unintelligible). That's why (unintelligible). It's uhm,
11 (inaudible), it's uh, 407-808.....

12 **EE:** Okay.

13 **ME:** ...4731. And uhm, she, uh, hang on just a second. I've got to get to
14 (unintelligible) my charger. She is, also like uhm, in that past I asked her uhm,
15 you know, I thought about writing Casey a letter. Just you know, and I'm thinking
16 about you. I didn't say you know, you know I think you did it or anything like that.
17 I just told her I was praying for her. Oh, and I sent her a poem that I wrote for
18 Caylee back last February, this past February. And uhm, I said just, after I sent
19 the letter I, I texted Cindy and I said, "How long will it take her to get it?" And she
20 said it would take uh, hang on. I'm trying to get the phone charged before it dies
21 on me. There we go. I asked her, I said, "Does, does Casey have a bible?" You
22 know because I was (inaudible) bible. And she said, "Don't do that." I've got all
23 this stuff saved to my (unintelligible). She said something to the effect of, uhm,
24 (sighs), she said the pastor brought her a bible a (unintelligible) or something like
25 that. They won't let her have her own bible from home. I've already tried. And I

1 said, "Well what's the reasoning behind that." She said, "Because they have to
2 be in charge. Do you actually think they care about that kind of stuff?"

3 **EE:** Yeah (affirmative).

4 **ME:** But I mean like I've got like some, I've sent her screen shots of this conversation
5 with Zenaida. I mean I've got like three or four conversations with her. And
6 every like thing I've sent to Cindy. And I also had contacted uh, I asked her if
7 she was going to tell Jose about this and uh, they never called me back. And so
8 I contacted uhm, let's see, it was Andrea Wine's office. I spoke to a girl named
9 Esther Kim. And I had been emailing her these screen shots too. But like this
10 Zenaida, I mean like she said that she you know, I mean she's this, okay, this is
11 something too. Before it had been released to the public, or made public record
12 or whatever, when I had first contacted her, when I first conta...contacted Cindy,
13 when I had found this picture of this little girl, she said, "Does it say," Cindy said,
14 "Does it say how old she is on there?" And I said, "It says she's twenty-five."
15 She's like, "Oh, good. Good. Because that's how old Casey said this girl was."

16 **EE:** Do you uh, do you still have those photos from the uhm, from the e-mails and all?

17 **ME:** Yeah (affirmative), I still have the...

18 **EE:** Can....

19 **ME:** ...screen shots.

20 **EE:** Can you write down my e-mail address and send them to me while I'm talking to
21 you on the phone or no?

22 **ME:** Uh, yes sir. Hang on just a second. I can send them to you in a forward that I
23 mean I've got, hang on just a second. I can forward you the ones that
24 (unintelligible) take (unintelligible).

25 **EE:** Okay.

1 **ME:** Let me get a pen.

2 **EE:** And who does Esther Kim work for again?

3 **ME:** I'm sorry?

4 **EE:** Who does Esther Kim work for again? What attorney?

5 **ME:** She works for Andrea Wine's office at the uhm, law school or whatever.

6 **EE:** Uh-hum (affirmative).

7 **ME:** Okay, I'm ready.

8 **EE:** It's William, W-I-L-L-I-A-M...

9 **ME:** Uh-hum (affirmative).

10 **EE:** ...dot Edwards, E-D-W-A-R-D-S.

11 **ME:** Yes sir.

12 **EE:** ...at O-C-F-L...

13 **ME:** Uh-hum (affirmative).

14 **EE:** ...dot net.

15 **ME:** Okay.

16 **EE:** Now do you have a picture of the uh, little girl that you're talking about as well
17 that you can e-mail me?

18 **ME:** Uh, yes sir. Actually the, the, the My Space profile that Zenaida does not have
19 set to private. There is a picture of the little girl on there.

20 **EE:** Okay.

21 **ME:** And I have a friend that's a photographer and he didn't know anything about the
22 Caylee Anthony case.

23 **EE:** Uh-hum (affirmative).

24 **ME:** And I had, he's been, been a photographer for like over twenty years. And I
25 asked him, I put a picture of Caylee side-by-side with that little girl and he said,

1 "Well to be really honest," he said, "Well to be really honest with you," he said,
2 "the picture on the left," talking about the one on Zenaida's profile, he said, "It
3 looks like a really bad Photo Shop job." He said, "But if those two girls are not
4 the same person they're siblings.

5 **EE:** Yeah (affirmative). Well, that's why I'd like to see them. What, what's your name
6 ma'am?

7 **ME:** My name is Melissa Earnest. But please don't tell Cindy...

8 **EE:** S...

9 **ME:** ...I've talked to you.

10 **EE:** Spell, oh, I won't. Spell for me? M-E?

11 **ME:** M-E-L-I-S-S-A.

12 **EE:** And your last name?

13 **ME:** Earnest. E-A-R-N-E-S-T. And see, the reason I'm talking to y'all now is because
14 my momma said that if I just like, uh, I don't know if my mom knows the law or
15 not, but she told me you know, if I quit talking to Cindy and do what Cindy wants I
16 could be ar...arrested for obstruction of justice.

17 **EE:** That's why....

18 **ME:** I'm, I'm (unintelligible)...

19 **EE:** ...I'm just trying to determine what's going on here. What's your date of birth
20 Melissa?

21 **ME:** It's 07/15/85.

22 **EE:** '85? Making you how old?

23 **ME:** I'm twenty-four.

24 **EE:** And what's your cell, what's your phone number there?

25 **ME:** It's 662.

1 **EE:** Uh-hum (affirmative).
2 **ME:** 588.
3 **EE:** 588.
4 **ME:** 9679.
5 **EE:** And do you have a cell phone?
6 **ME:** That is my cell phone.
7 **EE:** That's your cell? What's your home number?
8 **ME:** Oh, I don't have one.
9 **EE:** No home number?
10 **ME:** (Inaudible), no.
11 **EE:** What's your home address so I can just list it on my notes here.
12 **ME:** Okay. It's 406 Bishop Road, apartment G201, Cleveland, Mississippi, 38732.
13 And uh...
14 **EE:** And, and I'm sorry....
15 **ME:** ...when I have even....
16 **EE:** ...Cleveland, Mississippi. What's the zip/
17 **ME:** 38732.
18 **EE:** Okay.
19 **ME:** And when, and when I have emailed Cindy she's never emailed me back. I just
20 emailed her, her the (inaudible), her the information that I have so I always get a
21 call.
22 **EE:** But you talk to her frequently?
23 **ME:** Well I've talked to her over the phone probably three times I the last month. And
24 uhm, I have talked to her text, in text messages, yes.
25

1 **EE:** What's the phone number that you're with the people, this Zenaida and her, and
2 her husband?

3 **ME:** I have not talked to them over the phone. I have talked to them in like a My
4 Space chat. Like in the instant messenger thing.

5 **EE:** Do you have those were you can e-mail those to me?

6 **ME:** Yes sir.

7 **EE:** Go ahead and e...

8 **ME:** Ones from the, the night, either the ones the night, from the night before last
9 when I spoke to her. Uhm, my Internet explorer closed out. But I did give Cindy
10 all the information. She has that information.

11 **EE:** Okay.

12 **ME:** But I do have the others.

13 **EE:** And has anyone from Baez's office reached out to you?

14 **ME:** No. The only person that I've spoke to is uhm, the Andrea Wine's office. I've
15 spoke to Esther Kim.

16 **EE:** And have they, they have your number? Have they reached back out to you, or?

17 **ME:** Yes, I've spoke to them.

18 **EE:** Do they call you, or do you call them every time?

19 **ME:** Uhm, I had spoken to uhm, I had left a message for somebody over there and
20 then Esther Kim got back with me if I'm correct.

21 **EE:** Okay. And you've emailed hem all this stuff that you're going to email to me?

22 **ME:** Yes sir, that's correct.

23 **EE:** Okay. So you're going to cc (copy) me the same things?

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

25

1 **EE:** Okay. Alright. Now as far as, did, what, what did they tell you to do with that
2 information?

3 **ME:** They just said, "Can you send us a copy of it and we'll get I over to the
4 appropriate party. That's what I was told.

5 **EE:** To the appropriate authority? Is that what they said?

6 **ME:** The, the appropriate party.

7 **EE:** Party? Oh.

8 **ME:** That's what they told me.

9 **EE:** Alright. Alright, now as far as your conversations with Cindy, you say you had
10 several over the last month. What uh...

11 **ME:** (Inaudible.)

12 **EE:** ...she's instructed you to do what again? I'm, I'm trying to write this.

13 **ME:** Okay. (Clears throat.) The first time I talked to her over the phone, just, but see
14 another reason I'm talking to y'all is because Cindy's starting to change her story
15 with me. Uhm, there was one conversation that I had with Zenaida and she told
16 me that this uhm, I believe she told me it was her cousin. Well, no, she, first she
17 said it was her sister. She said her sister's name was Johanna and that she lived
18 in uh, Jacksonville. And then Johanna went, then you know, I'm still talking to
19 Zenaida here. She changed her story and just said that uh, Johanna went from
20 being her sister to her cousin, or something like that. I was, but either cousin or
21 aunt. And I said, "Oh, is her last name Fernandez?" She said, "No, it's Ortiz."
22 And when I told Cindy that Cindy about dropped, oh, and said, "You're kidding?"
23 like hat. And I said, "No ma'am, that's what she told me. She said because uhm,
24 she said Casey said that uh, uh Zenaida, you know, Zanny's half sister uhm, was
25 named Samantha, and her last name was Ortiz. And Cindy got like really, really

1 excited about that. Uhm, and then the night before last when I spoke to Cindy,
2 Cindy changed her story and that Samantha's last name was Fernandez.

3 **EE:** Okay.

4 **ME:** So. And oh, oh, this might be of interest to you too. Cindy wanted me to find out
5 you know, this was uhm, the conversation before last that I had with her. She
6 wanted me find out where she lived because she told me she was going over
7 there down there herself and find her.

8 **EE:** She what now?

9 **ME:** She told me, she wanted me to find out exactly where like uhm, Zenaida, This
10 Zenaida that I have been talking to, where Zenaida lived. Because she said she
11 herself was going to go down there and find her. She said she was going to go
12 to Puerto Rico and find her.

13 **EE:** And what date was this conversation on?

14 **ME:** Oh, gosh. It was probably (sighs) a week and a half to two weeks ago.

15 **EE:** Now does, have you been contacted by anyone else? Any of her private
16 investigations or anyone else? Or have you just talked...

17 **ME:** No sir. I've been....

18 **EE:** ...just Cindy?

19 **ME:** ...only dealing with Cindy and that Esther Kim lady.

20 **EE:** Alright. And have you shot that e-mail to me yet?

21 **ME:** Oh, no sir. Hang on. I have my laptop in the living room and I'm having to talk to
22 in the bedroom so, so the kids won't be hollering. My husband's watching them.
23 Hang on just a second.

24 **EE:** Alright.

25 **ME:** Let me go get the laptop. Hold on.

1 **EE:** It's uh, August 20th, (2009) approximately 11:55 a.m. at this time. Corporal Eric
2 Edwards fielding a phone call.

3 **ME:** You still there?

4 **EE:** Yup (affirmative).

5 **ME:** Okay, hang on one second. Maybe, or maybe not (inaudible). Alright.

6 **EE:** Melissa, can you do me a favor?

7 **ME:** Uh-hum (affirmative), yes sir.

8 **EE:** Can you get, can you get a notebook uh, when you get off the phone with me
9 and jot down as much as you can remember. And then any conversations that
10 go on between here and there can you just note them for me and what you're
11 specifically asked to do by Cindy?

12 **ME:** Yes, I can do that.

13 **EE:** Uh, and I'm going to give you, when, tell me when you have a pen. I'm going to
14 give you Yuri Melich's direct line. He's out of town until Monday.

15 **ME:** Okay.

16 **EE:** But I'm going to have you deal with him directly on these things. And if you need
17 to call me, I'll give you my number as well.

18 **ME:** Okay.

19 **EE:** Just let me know....

20 **ME:** Alright.

21 **EE:** ...when you can write.

22 **ME:** Okay, I, I can write now.

23 **EE:** Alright. Yuri's number to his desk...

24 **ME:** Hang on.

25 **EE:** ...is...I'm looking (laughing).

1 **ME:** (Laughing.)
2 **EE:** I don't know it off the top of my head. He sits right behind me....
3 **ME:** That's okay.
4 **EE:** ...but I don't know his....
5 **ME:** (Laughs.)
6 **EE:** It's, well you can call 407....
7 **ME:** Uh-hum (affirmative).
8 **EE:** ...254....
9 **ME:** Uh-hum (affirmative).
10 **EE:** ...7000.
11 **ME:** Uh-hum (affirmative).
12 **EE:** And then Yuri's extension is 70870.
13 **ME:** 70870?
14 **EE:** Yup (affirmative). And my extension is 70616.
15 **ME:** 70616.
16 **EE:** Yup (affirmative).
17 **ME:** (Inaudible.)
18 **EE:** And what we'd like to keep uh...
19 **ME:** Okay.
20 **EE:** I don't want to influence uhm....
21 **ME:** No.
22 **EE:** ...what you have going on with her. But if she asks you to do specific things, you
23 know, my, well I'm just waiting to see your e-mail if you have any. I want to
24 make....
25 **ME:** Okay.

1 **EE:** ...sure you're able to....

2 **ME:** Yeah (affirmative), I'm going to get (inaudible)....

3 **EE:** Yeah (affirmative).

4 **ME:** I'm going to forward them uh, right now.

5 **EE:** Now are you able to send me that e-mail account from Zenaida in Puerto Rico as
6 well? Am I going to be able to get that IP address?

7 **ME:** Uhm, I don't know. All I have is screen shots. She did give me her email
8 address though.

9 **EE:** Well go, do you have that where you can give it to me?

10 **ME:** Uh, hang on just a second. Yeah (affirmative), I'm going to send you, let me see,
11 where is that last, oh, oh, let me log in my old mail. Hang on. Okay, Cindy and
12 (inaudible) dot com. I'm going to start from the top and start sending you stuff.
13 Uhm, alright, forward. Okay. Oh, and something else you might want to know.
14 Uh...

15 **EE:** Uh-hum (affirmative).

16 **ME:** Cindy told me that that picture she thought looked like Caylee. She said it looks
17 like a heavier Caylee. That was her exact words. Hang on. Alright, there's one.
18 I just sent it. Uhm, let me (inaudible).

19 **EE:** Did uh, did she ever tell you to call law enforcement with this information?

20 **ME:** No, she did not.

21 **EE:** Okay, she just, did she in...did she instruct you to call Baez herself, or?

22 **ME:** No. I asked her in a text message, I said, "Should I call Mr. Baez?" And she told
23 me uh....

24 **(Interview stops and resumes.)**

25

1 **ME:** (Inaudible) Zenaida (inaudible) and I said that Zenaida was on line because she
2 was and I was going to try to talk to her. I said, "Is there anything that you want
3 me to ask her?" (Inaudible.) And then she says, "Has she lived there all of her
4 life and if not when did she move to Puerto Rico? What towns in Puerto Rico has
5 she lived at?" That was her text message.

6 **EE:** Okay. And this was the last, one of the last conversations over the phone this
7 last month?

8 **ME:** This was this past week. This wasn't no text message. I spoke to (unintelligible)
9 and, and Cindy the night before last is when I talked to her. And she asked me
10 to call, she told me, I told her that I had talked to Zenaida, I had texted her. And
11 she said she wouldn't be available for the next couple of hours so I can give her
12 the information. And then I said, "Is there a specific time you want me to call
13 you?" And she said she wanted me to call her at midnight her time. So about
14 uh, eleven ten my time I called her on the phone and talked to her for thirteen
15 minutes.

16 **EE:** Yeah (affirmative), from, from the number you gave me?

17 **ME:** Yes sir.

18 **EE:** And you called her number, the 407. You said 407-808-4731?

19 **ME:** Uh, let me make sure that's correct. Hang on just a second. Let me make sure I
20 gave you the correct (inaudible). (Inaudible.) 407-808-4731, yes.

21 **EE:** And you called her from your number?

22 **ME:** Uh-hum (affirmative).

23 **EE:** 62, 662....

24 **ME:** 588-9679.

25 **EE:** Okay, and that happened the night before last at midnight?

1 **ME:** Yes.

2 **EE:** On the 19th....

3 **ME:** Uh-hum (affirmative).

4 **EE:** ...into the 20th?

5 **ME:** Uh, yeah (affirmative).

6 **EE:** Or the 18th....

7 **ME:** Right.

8 **EE:** ...into the 19th?

9 **ME:** Hang on. Let me make sure. I'll get into Facebook and see when she told me
10 yes to call her. I want to make sure I get it right. Hang on. That was uhm,
11 August the 18th at 11:11 p.m. when she said yes, for me to call her.

12 **EE:** Now did she discuss any theories with you?

13 **ME:** No, she didn't. All she told me was, she said I, she said, this was like the last
14 time I spoke to her on the phone she said (clears throat), she mentioned
15 something about a black guy that they were trying to look into that that's last
16 name is Torres. And then she also just uh, she told me that uhm, she said, "I
17 wonder where Zenaida works as a nanny." She said, "Because we are looking
18 into a women's shelter down there." And she got, the, the black guy that she was
19 talking about, she said, "We have some suspicions about him." This was in an
20 actual verbal conversation with her over the phone.

21 **EE:** Okay. And when she says, "We're looking into," did she say who we is?

22 **ME:** No. She just said we.

23 **EE:** Alright. And never did she ask you to contact law enforcement?

24 **ME:** No, she never did.

25

1 **EE:** Okay. Alright Melissa, here's what I'm going to do. I'm going to, you, hang tight
2 by your phone because I've got to go get with our computer people and see if....

3 **ME:** (Unintelligible.)

4 **EE:** ...I can get to an account where you could actually e-mail me those things.
5 Because it's not coming through to my email address.

6 **ME:** Yes sir.

7 **EE:** So if you give me ten minutes I will call you back.

8 **ME:** Yes sir, okay.

9 **EE:** Thank you ma'am.

10 **ME:** Thank you. 'Bye-bye.

11 **EE:** 'Bye.

12 **EE:** Alright, my device turned off uh, unexpectedly on the first folder. It's uh, noon.
13 It's ten minutes after twelve on the 20th, 2009, August. And I just spoke with an
14 individual who contacted the Sheriff's Office. I'm going to attempt to get her to
15 email me information that she is wanting to provide.

16 **End of recorded statement.**

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

18 *Cpl Wm Edwards 0282 January 27 2010*
19
20 **CORPORAL WILLIAM E. EDWARDS, OCSO DEPUTY SHERIFF**

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8 ME – MRS. MELISSA EARNEST

9 **EE:** Hey, how are you?
10 **ME:** I'm back. Okay. I, I've looked at my emails and it says that it's coming back to
11 me.
12 **EE:** It's coming back to you?
13 **ME:** Mailer....
14 **EE:** How do you....
15 **ME:** Yes.
16 **EE:** William, just do it in all small case.
17 **ME:** I did.
18 **EE:** W-I-L-L-I-A-M?
19 **ME:** Uh-hum (affirmative).
20 **EE:** E-D-W-A-R-D-S?
21 **ME:** Okay, not a dot in the middle?
22 **EE:** At....
23 **ME:** (Inaudible.)
24 **EE:** Yeah (affirmative), you got to have a dot. William dot Edwards.
25 **ME:** Uh-hum (affirmative).

1 **EE:** At OCFL....

2 **ME:** Uh-hum (affirmative).

3 **EE:** ...dot net, N-E-T.

4 **ME:** That's where I'm sending it to.

5 **EE:** Just, just send test. Just send the word test. Let's see what happens there.

6 **ME:** Hang on. Let me just....

7 **EE:** What are you working over a aircard, or a hard line?

8 **ME:** I'm using my network. I have wireless. Uh, I have a laptop. Uh, let's see. Uhm,

9 alright. Okay, I just sent it.

10 **EE:** Alright. And let me see what happens there.

11 **ME:** I sent test in the subject line.

12 **EE:** No.

13 **ME:** (Inaudible). Alright. My kids are watching Elmo. Sorry.

14 **EE:** That's alright. What I'll probably do is have you call Yuri Monday...

15 **ME:** Okay.

16 **EE:** ...uhm, and follow up on most of this. I try to not get too deep in his case there.

17 **ME:** Okay.

18 **EE:** But uhm, I know he'll be, he's at a, he's out of town until Monday. So I'm....

19 **ME:** Okay.

20 **EE:** ...definitely going to have him call you. Are you available Monday?

21 **ME:** Yes sir, I'll be available.

22 **EE:** Alright.

23 **ME:** I always have my cell phone, so.

24 **EE:** I'm just waiting to see if it comes through.

25 **ME:** I sent it to W-I-L-L-I-M (sic) dot E-D-W-A-R-D-S at O-S-C, O-C-S-L dot net.

1 **EE:** O-C-F-L?

2 **ME:** Oh, O-C-F-L?

3 **EE:** Yeah (affirmative). Orange County, Florida is what it stands for. O-C-F-L.

4 **ME:** Oh, I've been sending to S-L. I thought you were saying S.

5 **EE:** F, F, F-L.

6 **ME:** And that's the problem.

7 **EE:** Florida.

8 **ME:** Okay. Now I'll start sending you stuff and....okay. F-L. F.

9 **EE:** F, F, yup (affirmative), Florida.

10 **ME:** Sorry.

11 **EE:** That's alright.

12 **ME:** O-C-F-L.

13 **EE:** Mississippi, huh?

14 **ME:** Yeah (affirmative), Mississippi. You can probably tell, huh.

15 **EE:** I had a roommate from Mississippi. Eunice he lived at. Eunice, Mississippi.

16 **ME:** (Unintelligible.) I live up in the Delta. Uhm, is it coming through?

17 **EE:** Not yet. Looking, looking, looking.

18 **ME:** (Speaking to small child in background.) Honey, I'm on the phone baby.

19 Just....what baby? Get some milk? Hold on. Okay, okay, okay. (Resumes

20 speaking with Corporal Edwards.) Sorry, my daughter wants some milk now.

21 **EE:** Now you're not, you don't want Cindy to know that you're talking to me at all

22 and....

23 **ME:** No, because I'm wanting out of it all together. Like, see she promised me that if I

24 talked to her I said, "I will try to help you." I said, "But I need you to promise me

25 that my name will be private and be protected." You know, because I don't want

1 to have to worry about my own family's safety, you know. Uhm, or media calling
2 me or anything like that. And she said, she says, in the text message she said,
3 "Don't worry, you'll be protected."
4 **EE:** That's in the text message?
5 **ME:** Yeah (affirmative).
6 **EE:** Alright, well something just came across my blackberry from you. So let me see
7 if....
8 **ME:** Alright.
9 **EE:** ...it came into my computer. Fifteen attachments you sent me?
10 **ME:** Yeah (affirmative), that's probably one of the (inaudible). (Speaking in
11 background to child.) Here you go baby girl. Who is that?
12 **EE:** Alright, I think I got it. Let me look here.
13 **ME:** (Resumes speaking with Corporal Edwards.) Okay.
14 **EE:** Now these are pictures that you found on that Zenaida's website?
15 **ME:** Yeah (affirmative).
16 **EE:** Okay.
17 **ME:** Now where's my charger (inaudible). Hang on. I got to go get my charger again.
18 It was here (inaudible).
19 **EE:** Alright.
20 **ME:** Where'd my charger go? I lost my charger.
21 **EE:** Alright, the first...
22 **ME:** If my phone dies, if my phone dies....
23 **EE:** What's that?
24 **ME:** ...I'm going to have to call you from my husband's phone. But...
25 **EE:** Okay.

1 **ME:** Hang on. Just can't find my charger. I don't know what's happened to it. Okay.
2 Now what were you asking? Sorry.

3 **EE:** Uhm, there's four pictures on this one. Do you have that picture of the, the one
4 with the female, the young baby girl in it?

5 **ME:** Uhm, I can give you the link. I don't think I actually, oh, I have an email in here
6 somewhere. Hang on.

7 **EE:** Can you forward me the email that you sent Cindy?

8 **ME:** Yes. Well I'm sending you all the ones right now that I've sent Cindy.

9 **EE:** Okay.

10 **ME:** Hang on. Uhm, alright. And it shows up that, alright.

11 **EE:** Oh, okay. Now I see. You sent me one with a bunch of communication. These
12 little bubble boxes are back and forth....

13 **ME:** Uh-hum (affirmative), that's a chat.

14 **EE:** ...communication?

15 **ME:** Uh-hum (affirmative). That's a chat between me and Zenaida.

16 **EE:** Okay.

17 **ME:** That's all the stuff that I've sent Cindy. Alright, uhm...and when like I talk, I mean
18 like another thing too, on top of that guy saying that he's, you know, I'm Puerto
19 Rican, or whatever, it started kind of freaking me out. And last night when I saw
20 Cindy changing up words and stuff on me, I just, I'm to the point now where I'm
21 starting to like, not only fear for my family's safety, but I feel like she's telling me
22 stuff, you know, changing stuff the way, you know, she wants it to be told. And I
23 just, I don't want anything else to do with it.

24 **EE:** Right. Alright. Well how many, you're going to keep sending those to me? Well
25 you, well you have time there?

1 **ME:** Yes sir. I'm sending them now.

2 **EE:** Alright. And these are ones that you already 'cc'd to Cindy?

3 **ME:** Uh-hum (affirmative).

4 **EE:** Alright. Let's see if I, let's see if I've got that historical.

5 **ME:** And uhm, another thing too, (unintelligible) text message this was the, the day, I,
6 I think it was either it was the eve...the evening of, no, it was the next day after I
7 had talked to her about the whole uhm, Ortiz. Like she said that Samantha's,
8 she like about dropped the phone and said, "You're kidding?" And she said,
9 "Samantha's last name was Ortiz." And I said, "Well when I talk to Esther Kim do
10 you want me to tell her that part?" And she said, "Yes, tell her everything." I
11 said, "Okay. I just wanted to make sure you know, that I, I want to be respectful
12 and make sure it was okay with you first." But she told me to tell them
13 everything. And I have not talked to Esther Kim in a couple weeks. Because the
14 last time I sent her a chat, she usually writes back and says, "Oh, thank you," you
15 know, or whatever, or we got it, or whatever. Thank you so much for your help.
16 And I would uh, then go into my My Space so they could see uh, Zenaida's uhm,
17 My Space. And she took uh, the picture of Caylee out and what, whatever else
18 she said she needed. But uhm, Esther has not gotten back with me. So I've just
19 haven't been sending some of these to her.

20 **EE:** Oh, Esther Kim went into your my Space....

21 **ME:** Yeah (affirmative).

22 **EE:** ...and collected that?

23 **ME:** Yes. And if y'all want to y'all can too. I don't care.

24 **EE:** Well yup (affirmative). That's pr...that's something I'd like to coordinate through
25 Yuri when he gets back Monday.

1 **ME:** Okay.

2 **EE:** Yeah (affirmative), cool. Okay, uhm, I'm going to keep looking at these as you
3 send them today. If something comes up I'll give you a call. But definitely for me
4 please contact uh, now you swear everything you're saying today is true, and,
5 and I can you know, pass that onto Yuri, correct?

6 **ME:** Yes sir, I promise you everything I'm telling you is true. Do you want me to
7 forward these text messages too?

8 **EE:** Yes, please, if you don't mind. That would be awesome.

9 **ME:** No, I don't mind.

10 **EE:** Who's your phone carrier?

11 **ME:** Uh, Cellular South.

12 **EE:** Cellular South?

13 **ME:** Yes sir. Uhm, my, our phones are under my father-in-laws name. But uh, but
14 they're me and my husband's phones. He's never spoken to Cindy. It's just me.

15 **EE:** What's your father-in-law's name?

16 **ME:** Ralph Earnest, Junior.

17 **EE:** Earnest, Junior? Okay.

18 **ME:** Uh-hum (affirmative). Can I ask you a question real quick? Is this stuff going to
19 like be used as like evidence where I'm going to have to worry about it like
20 (inaudible)?

21 **EE:** Uh, I don't know. I, my only concern is is if there's anything underhanded going
22 on, or you know, trying to generate something that creates a unfounded
23 reasonable doubt. You know, I mean...

24 **ME:** Right.

25

1 **EE:** ...we just got be guarded. Because we've, we've try to work diligently on this
2 case. And you know, we just look at....

3 **ME:** Yes sir.

4 **EE:** I, I'm not going to, I can't say one way or another Melissa.

5 **ME:** Yes sir.

6 **EE:** But I do appreciate you stepping up to the plate.

7 **ME:** Yes sir. I just, I just decided that it was best to bring y'all in. I just, I just want out
8 of it. I don't want to talk to Cindy anymore because after hearing, you know, her
9 changing the last name, and you know, (inaudible) continue to find out stuff. Like
10 this time she wanted me to find out where she worked and all this kind of stuff.
11 And the whole thing about the black guy, last name Torres, and all this stuff. I'm
12 just, I'm, I'm getting scared and I want out of it.

13 **EE:** So she changed the last name of, when you, when you had told her that
14 Zenaida's sister's name was, or cousin's name was...

15 **ME:** Uh-hum (affirmative).

16 **EE:** Let me, let me write that, let me get all that written down.

17 **ME:** Okay.

18 **EE:** So you told Cindy...

19 **ME:** Uh-hum (affirmative).

20 **EE:** Go ahead with it. I'm listening.

21 **ME:** Oh, sorry. Alright, when I spoke to her in one occasion I told her that uhm, she
22 had told me that she had a sister I believe it was, changed her, uh, Johanna.
23 Zenaida's changed her story so many times. She lies a lot. She told me that
24 Johanna was her sister and she had a brother named Juan Carlos. And then
25 she told me that Johanna lived in Jacksonville. And she told me that she uhm,

1 she changed it (unintelligible) a cousin or something. She told me he last name.
2 I said, "Fernandez?" She said, "No, Ortiz." And when I told Cindy that Cindy
3 said, "You're kidding!" Like about to drop the phone. And she said because, she
4 said uh, Casey said that Samantha's sister, uh, the last name of Saman...her
5 name was Samantha Ortiz. And then right about uhm, the night before last when
6 I spoke to Cindy on the phone she told me that Samantha's last name was
7 Fernandez. And that Samantha was uh, Zanny's half-sister.

8 **EE:** Now, Fernandez, half-sister?

9 **ME:** Uh-hum (affirmative), yeah (affirmative).

10 **EE:** Okay. The Zenaida that she said numerous she doesn't believe exists?

11 **ME:** Right. Yeah (affirmative).

12 **EE:** But now exists? Okay. Alright. I appreciate that Melissa. And I'll just keep
13 looking for your emails here. And then uhm, I'll tell, I'm going to email Yuri right
14 now uhm, to let him know that you're going to be calling him Monday. About
15 what time do you think?

16 **ME:** Uhm, it will probably be uhm, I don't, I don't know. Probably like uhm, in the
17 morning sometime.

18 **EE:** Okay.

19 **ME:** (Inaudible.)

20 **EE:** Yeah (affirmative), he's usually in here about seven, eight o'clock. So anytime...

21 **ME:** Okay.

22 **EE:** ...in the morning there is good.

23 **ME:** Is there like a number where I can, like a phone number where I can forward
24 these text messages to you?

25

1 EE: Uhm, yeah (affirmative), I guess I can probably, you can't send them over email,
2 huh?
3 ME: I, I can send them to your email I guess, yeah (affirmative).
4 EE: Yeah (affirmative), if you don't mind doing that.
5 ME: Just send it to that (inaudible)?
6 EE: Yup (affirmative).
7 ME: Yes sir. Okay, it might...
8 EE: That'd be....
9 ME: ...take a while because there's quite a few of them. There's probably about
10 twenty in my phone, huh.
11 EE: That's fine. If you don't mind, just, just do that, uh, for, for consistency purposes.
12 ME: Yes sir. Okay, I'll do that.
13 EE: Thank you ma'am.
14 ME: Thank you so much. Take care.
15 EE: You too. 'Bye-bye.
16 ME: 'Bye.
17 EE: Alright, 12:30 p.m., the same date, uh, the third recording, or fourth recording
18 rather.

19

20 **End of recorded statement.**

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

22

23

24

25

 *WED* January 22 2010
CORPORAL WILLIAM E. EDWARDS, OCSO DEPUTY SHERIFF

1 TAPED TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDED TELEPHONE
2 MESSAGE BY CORPORAL WILLIAM "ERIC" EDWARDS

3 FOR MRS. MELISSA EARNEST

4 CASE AGENT: CORPORAL YURI MELICH

5 CASE NUMBER – 08-074777

6 RECORDED ON AUGUST 20, 2008

7 EE– CORPORAL WILLIAM EDWARDS

8 VM – MRS. MELISSA EARNEST'S CELL PHONE VOICEMAIL MESSAGE

9 VR – OPERATOR RECORDING ON MRS. EARNEST'S CELL PHONE VOICE MAIL

10
11 **EE:** Alright, 1216. I'm going to call this Melissa back and hook her up with Yuri.
12 Same date, August 20th (2009). (Sound of telephone buttons being depressed.)

13 **VM:** Voicemail message greeting – Hi, you've reached Melissa Earnest. Please leave
14 your name, number, and a short message and I'll return your call as soon as
15 possible. Thank you so much. Have a wonderful day, and God bless.

16 **VR:** To record a message press one, or stay on the line. To send a number, press
17 two. At the tone, please record your message.

18 **EE:** Hey Melissa, it's Eric Edwards. Just give me a call back at uh, 407-254-7000,
19 extension 70616. Thank you ma'am.

20
21 **End of recorded statement.**

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

23
24  0282
25 CORPORAL WILLIAM E. EDWARDS, OCSO DEPUTY SHERIFF

January 22 2010