

INTERVIEW

SUBJECT: Billy Wayne Cope
ADDRESS: 407 Rich St. RHSC

DOB: / / **SS #:** - - **RACE:** W **SEX:** M

TELEPHONE: () **HOME**327-6893
 () **WORK**328-9124

REFERENCE: Amanda Cope's Death Investigation

INCIDENT #:

DATE: 11-29-01 **TIME:** 12:40PM

TELEPHONE

PERSONS PRESENT: Lt. Herring/Det. Burris

SYNOPSIS: Mr. Cope had been asked to come to the police dept. reference the death of his 12 year old daughter, Amanda, that he found this date in her bed at the residence. Mr. Cope had been seated in the lobby of the dept. for a period of time before I could come in and talk with him. The interview was short, it lasted approx. 45 minutes and then he left with his wife as she had come to the dept. also and had been interviewed by Det. Blackwelder. The following is the interview with Mr. Cope:

Mr. Cope stated that Amanda had helped her 11 yr old sister, Jessica, with her homework until approx. 12:30 or 12:45AM the morning of Nov.29,2001. He stated that he was sitting on the foot of his bed with his notebook as he had started a new journal and he was writing in it and he was also studying his quiz team lesson from church. He heard Amanda figgiting around in her room and he called her to come into his room. He asked if they had finished up with the homework and she said yes. She told him that Jessica was in the bed but wasn't asleep yet. He told Amanda to go to bed and she could take a bath in the morning since it was so late. She kissed him and told him goodnight and he asked her to turn the light out as she left the room. He then put his breathing mask on and went to sleep. It usually takes a couple minutes before he goes to sleep. Mr. Cope said that he set the phone to wake him up at 1:00AM to make sure the girls were asleep and when the phone rang at 1:00, it might have woke Amanda up and that's when he heard her figgiting around and asked her to come into his room. He then reset the phone for 6:00AM and he gave it to Amanda and asked her to put it back in the phone charger as it was about to go out. She was finally able to find the charger on the dresser, then he asked her to turn out the light and she kissed him on the cheek and left the room.

Mr. Cope said the phone and the alarm went off at 6:00AM and he got up at 6:02AM. He called for Amanda and she never answered. He said that he always had to call her to "come here" or she would just lay there and not get up. When she didn't answer him after about 3 calls he thought that maybe the Rapture had taken place and she had been taken because he knew that she was a Christian. He got up and looked in on the other 2 kids as they sleep in the same room and then he went to Amanda's room. He couldn't get inside because the closet and bedroom door were opned against each other where the door knobs became hooked. He had to kick open the bedroom door and he found Amanda lying on her stomach and both of her hands were clutched around her neck, like she was praying, but her hands were made into fists. There was a green blanket that had a strip or hem

that had come unsewn and this strip was wrapped around her neck and the blanket was lying on the floor beside the bed. Her shirt was up around her neck and one of her breasts was exposed from under her bra. She was cold and he unwrapped the strip of blanket 4 or 5 times from around her neck using the strip end and not the blanket end. He then threw the blanket and held her. He said that the video game she always played was pressed against her mouth when he found her face down. He didn't think this was a suicide because she had laid her clothes out she was going to wear to school the next day.

I asked Mr. Cope what he thought happened to his daughter and he said that he thought it must have been an accident because he didn't hear anything during the night. He said that he always sleeps with 2 fans on along with the sleep mask he wears, but he couldn't believe he couldn't have heard his own daughter if there had been some kind of struggle or her choking accidentally.

Mr. Cope asked us several questions such as what did we think happened and if there had been any semen found. I informed him that after the autopsy we would have some additional information and as soon as we did we would be back in touch with him.