

On 11-29-01 at approximately 0604 hrs. I responded to 407 Rich st. along with Officer Kevin Jones. Upon arrival, I entered the house and observed two juvenile females setting on the couch in the living room {Jessica & Kyla Cope}. I also observed an adult male {Billy Cope} in the living room, who was apparently typing something on his computer. Mr. Cope noticed me and began telling me that his little girl was dead. I immediately went to the back bedroom where EMS and First Responders were looking over the deceased female {Amanda Cope}. Amanda was lying on her back on the bed, and had what appeared to be a bed sheet wrapped around her neck several times; her face was very discolored {lips blue/face purple}. EMS advised me that the victim {Amanda} had probably been dead for a few hours. At that time I went back into the living room where Billy Cope was still typing on his computer and talking on the phone. Mr. Cope noticed me, stopped what he was doing, and began telling me that he had told his daughter {Amanda} a few days ago that she needed to trim the frayed and torn parts of her bed spread/sheets because they could end up choking her while she was sleeping. At that time the two females on the couch began crying {Jessica & Kyla}, and Mr. Cope started telling them that ..."It is ok, Amanda is in a better place now...Amanda is with Jesus". Mr. Cope then started telling me how he found Amanda dead at about 0600 hrs. this morning. He stated that he got up and as he walked thru the hallway he called out Amandas name, when she did not respond, he stepped into the room and turned the light on; this is when he noticed the bedding wrapped around her neck, and that she was not breathing. Mr. Cope advised that this is when he called for help. At that time C-shift Investigator Officer Jordan, as well as A-shift Investigator Officer Johnson, were on the scene and they took over inside the residence. I then began writing down the names of the EMS and Fire Dept. members, and their times of arrival. I turned that info. over to Officer Quinn, who then took over the crime scene log.

POII R.J. Taylor 

ON 11-29-01 AT 0605 AM I INVESTIGATOR AW JORDAN RESPONDED TO A DEATH INVESTIGATION AT 407 RICH ST IN THE CITY OF ROCK HILL SC. UPON MY ARRIVAL OFFICER TAYLOR ADVISED ME THERE WAS A 12 YEAR OLD GIRL LYING IN HER BED WITH NO SIGNS OF LIFE. OFFICER K JONES WAS TALKING TO THE VICTIMS FATHER WHICH WAS SITTING AT HIS COMPUTER DESK WORKING ON THE COMPUTER. I SAW TWO YOUNGER GIRLS SITTING ON THE COUCH AND CRYING. I TALKED WITH EMS PERSONNAL WHO STATED THE CORONER WAS ON THE WAY TO THIS RESIDENCE. I FOUND A WHITE FEMALE, AMANDA COPE, LYING FACE UP, IN A BED WHICH WAS LYING FLAT ON THE FLOOR THAT LOOKED LIKE IT WAS KNOCKED OFF ITS RAILS, WITH HER HEAD TILTED TO THE LEFT SIDE AND A GREEN PEICE OF MATRIAL LYING ACROSS HER THROAT. I ALSO FOUND THE FEMALE WITH A WHITE SHIRT ON THAT WAS PULLED UP TO HER NECK AND BLACK JOGGING WIND-PANT ON. THE BEDROOM WAS RANSACKED ALONG WITH THE REST OF THE HOUSE. I TOOK A FEW DIGITAL CARMERA PITCURES OF THE VICTIM AND STARTED TALKING WITH THE DAD, MR BILLY COPE. MR COPE STATED THAT AMANDA AND HER SISTER WAS DOING SOME LONG DIVISION HOMEWORK AND HE TOLD THEM ITS WAS 1245 AM AND THEY NEEDED TO WRAP IT UP AND GO TO BED. HE SAID AMANDA TOLD HIM THEY WERE FINISHED AND WERE GOING TO BED AND THIS WAS ABOUT 100 AM. MR COPE TOLD ME THAT ABOUT 600 AM HE SHOOK AMANDA TO WAKE HER UP FOR SCHOOL AND NOTICED SHE WAS COLD. HE SAID HE THEN NOTICED THE GREEN LINING OF HER FAVORITE BLANKET WRAPED AROUND HER THROAT AND HE UNWRAPPED IT, WHICH TOOK ABOUT, 4 OR 5 TIMES TO GET THE BLACKET LINING FROM AROUND HER THROAT. BY THIS TIME INVESTIGATOR J JOHNSON ARRIVED ON SCENE AND I ADVISED HIM OF WHAT I HAD. I ALSO CALLED FOR A SUPERORVISIOR AND THE ON CALL DETECTIVE. I WENT BACK INTO THE BEDROOM AND WAITED UNTIL DETECTIVE GUYTON ARRIVAED ON SCENE. MYSELF AND J JOHNSON ADVISED DETECTIVE GUYTON WHAT WE HAD AND TURNED THE INVESTIGATION OVER TO HIM. AT 0700 AM DETECTIVE GUYTON ASKED ME TO TAKE MR COPE TO THE LAW CENTER. MR COPE TOLD ME THAT AMANDA HAD NO KIND OF MEDICAL PROBLEMS NOR HAD SHE EVER TALKED ABOUT SUICIDE. MR COPE KEPT STATED HE DIDNT UNDERSTAND WHAT WAS GOING ON.

AW Jordan 11-29-01

ON 11-29-01 AT 0605 AM I INVESTIGATOR AW JORDAN RESPONDED TO A DEATH INVESTIGATION AT 407 RICH ST IN THE CITY OF ROCK HILL SC. UPON MY ARRIVAL OFFICER TAYLOR ADVISED ME THERE WAS A 12 YEAR OLD GIRL LYING IN HER BED WITH NO SIGNS OF LIFE. OFFICER K JONES WAS TALKING TO THE VICTIMS FATHER WHICH WAS SITTING AT HIS COMPUTER DESK WORKING ON THE COMPUTER. I SAW TWO YOUNGER GIRLS SITTING ON THE COUCH AND CRYING. I TALKED WITH EMS PERSONNEL WHO STATED THE CORONER WAS ON THE WAY TO THIS RESIDENCE. I FOUND A WHITE FEMALE, AMANDA COPE, LYING FACE UP, IN A BED WHICH WAS LYING FLAT ON THE FLOOR THAT LOOKED LIKE IT WAS KNOCKED OFF ITS RAILS, WITH HER HEAD TILTED TO THE LEFT SIDE AND A GREEN PIECE OF MATERIAL LYING ACROSS HER THROAT. I ALSO FOUND THE FEMALE WITH A WHITE SHIRT ON THAT WAS PULLED UP TO HER NECK AND BLACK JOGGING WIND-PANT ON. THE BEDROOM WAS RANSACKED ALONG WITH THE REST OF THE HOUSE. I TOOK A FEW DIGITAL CAMERA PICTURES OF THE VICTIM AND STARTED TALKING WITH THE DAD, MR BILLY COPE. MR COPE STATED THAT AMANDA AND HER SISTER WAS DOING SOME LONG DIVISION HOMEWORK AND HE TOLD THEM ITS WAS 1245 AM AND THEY NEEDED TO WRAP IT UP AND GO TO BED. HE SAID AMANDA TOLD HIM THEY WERE FINISHED AND WERE GOING TO BED AND THIS WAS ABOUT 100 AM. MR COPE TOLD ME THAT ABOUT 600 AM HE SHOOK AMANDA TO WAKE HER UP FOR SCHOOL AND NOTICED SHE WAS COLD. HE SAID HE THEN NOTICED THE GREEN LINING OF HER FAVORITE BLANKET WRAPPED AROUND HER THROAT AND HE UNWRAPPED IT, WHICH TOOK ABOUT, 4 OR 5 TIMES TO GET THE BLANKET LINING FROM AROUND HER THROAT. BY THIS TIME INVESTIGATOR J JOHNSON ARRIVED ON SCENE AND I ADVISED HIM OF WHAT I HAD. I ALSO CALLED FOR A SUPERORVISIOR AND THE ON CALL DETECTIVE. I WENT BACK INTO THE BEDROOM AND WAITED UNTIL DETECTIVE GUYTON ARRIVED ON SCENE. MYSELF AND J JOHNSON ADVISED DETECTIVE GUYTON WHAT WE HAD AND TURNED THE INVESTIGATION OVER TO HIM. AT 0700 AM DETECTIVE GUYTON ASKED ME TO TAKE MR COPE TO THE LAW CENTER. MR COPE TOLD ME THAT AMANDA HAD NO KIND OF MEDICAL PROBLEMS NOR HAD SHE EVER TALKED ABOUT SUICIDE. MR COPE KEPT STATED HE DIDN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT WAS GOING ON.

AW Jordan
11-30-01

ON 11-29-01 AT APPROX. 1530hrs. I (OFFICER HEWITT) WAS DISPATCHED TO 950 LUCAS ST. TO MEET WITH DSS IN REFERENCE TO THE INCIDENT THAT OCCURED AT 410 RICH ST. DSS AGENTS WERE GOING TO INTERVIEW MR. BILLY WAYNE COPE FOR THEIR OWN INVESTIGATION. THE DSS AGENTS ASKED MR. COPE WHAT HIS STORY OF THE EVENTS THAT TOOK PLACE WERE. MR. COPE IN A CALM MANNER STATED THAT LAST NIGHT (11-28-01) HE AND HIS CHILDREN WERE PLAYING, HE GOT TIRED AND HIS DAUGHTER AMANDA WENT TO HELP HER SISTER WITH HOMEWORK. MR. COPE STATED THAT AFTER HIS WIFE LEFT FOR WORK AMANDA GOT HER VIOLIN AND WENT TO HER ROOM TO PRACTICE. DSS AGENTS ASKED MR. COPE WHAT TIME HE WENT TO BED AND HE STATED AFTER THE KIDS WERE IN BED, THE YOUNGEST AT 8:30, THE MIDDLE AT 9:30, AND AMANDA WENT TO BED AT 10:30. MR. COPE SAID HE WENT TO BED AFTER THAT AROUND 11:00 OR 11:30. MR. COPE STATED HE WOKE UP AT 6:00am, AND CALLED FOR AMANDA TWICE. AFTER CALLING HER THE THIRD TIME HE GOT OUT OF HIS BED AND WENT TO HER ROOM. MR. COPE SAID THAT AMANDA WAS LAYING ON HER STOMACH AND HE TOUCHED HER. MR. COPE SAID THAT SHE WAS COLD. MR. COPE, STATED THAT HE THEN ROLLED HER OVER AND HER ARMS WERE BENT UPWARDS TOWARDS HER NECK WITH HER HANDS TOUCHING HER NECK, HER SHIRT WAS PULLED OVER HER HEAD, AND HER BRA PULLED OVER HER RIGHT BREAST WITH HER BREAST EXPOSED. MR. COPE STATED THAT HIS OTHER TWO CHILDREN THEN CAME INTO THE DOOR WAY OF THE ROOM AND SAID "AMANDA IS DEAD ISN'T SHE?". MR. COPE STATED HE THEN TOLD THE TWO CHILDREN TO GO AND SIT ON THE COUCH AND PRAY. MR. COPE THEN STATED HE CALLED 911 AND NOTIFIED POLICE AND MEDICAL.

I, OFC JONES, RESPONDED TO 40/ RICH ST IN RESPONSE TO A STRANGULATION THAT HAD OCCURED SOMETIME DURING THE NIGHT TIME HOURS. ON SCENE, I WALKED IN THE FRONT DOOR AND MR COPE WAS SITTING AT HIS COMPUTER DESK IN THE LIVING ROOM. MR COPE'S OTHER TWO DAUGHTERS WERE SITTING ON A COUCH IN THE LIVING ROOM. I ASKED MR COPE WHAT HAD HAPPENED AND HE STATED HIS DAUGHTER AMANDA, HAD STRANGLED SOMETIME DURING THE NIGHT IN HER BED LINENS. MR COPE THEN STATED EVERYONE WAS IN THE BACK ROOM, HER BEDROOM. I WALKED INTO THE HALLWAY AND MISS COPE WAS LAYING ON THE BED, FACE UP. THE LINENS OF HER BED HAD WRAPPED AROUND HER NECK, WHAT I WOULD ESTIMATE AT FOUR OR FIVE TIMES. I, ALONG WITH OFC TAYLOR THEN WENT OUTSIDE TO LET THE EMS PERSONNEL FINISH. BEFORE I GOT OUTSIDE, MR COPE LOOKED AT ME AND ASKED "IS ANYTHING BAD GOING TO HAPPEN TO ME BECAUSE OF MY DAUGHTER BEING DEAD?" I THEN WENT OUTSIDE. AT THIS POINT, INV JORDAN ARRIVED ON SCENE AND MADE THE DETERMINATION TO CALL CRIME SCENE, ON DUTY DETECTIVES, AND SUPERVISOR IN CHARGE. SHORTLY THEREAFTER A-SHIFT ARRIVED ON SCENE. AT THIS POINT, I ASSISTED OFC QUINN IN RUNNING CRIME SCENE TAPE, AND STARTING A CRIME SCENE LOG. I WAS THEN RELIEVED ON SCENE BY A-SHIFT PERSONNEL;

K JONES PO1



On Thursday November 29, 2001 I responded to 407 Rich Street by the request of Officer Jordan in reference to a child being strangled. When I arrived, I met with Officer Jordan in the bedroom where the child was laying flat on her back. The child appeared to be dead. I observed that she had a greenish colored cloth coming from under her neck on the left side of her body running down to the side of the bed. Officer Jordan then advised me that the child was 12 years old and her father was in the living room. I did walk past him as I entered the house to speak to Officer Jordan. When I walked into the residence, Officer Jordan, Jones, Taylor and Mr. Cope were in the house. Mr. Cope was sitting in a chair in the living room when I entered. He had no shirt on or shoes and was only wearing a dark colored pair of jogging pants. I then went back into the living room to speak to Mr. Cope. I began to ask Mr. Cope about his name, date of birth, height and weight, hair color and eye color. I then asked him the same questions about his daughter. Then I began to ask him questions as to what happened. As he spoke I began to take notes. Mr. Cope said that his daughter Amanda (Victim) went to bed about 12:30am. He said he found her at 6:03am laying face down. He said he rolled her over after he shook her. He then said she had a green piece of polyester rapped around her neck about 4 to 5 times and he unwrapped it. He also said that before Amanda went to bed, she worked on some homework problems with her sister. During this time he would pause at times to compose himself and I was unclear as to which sister she helped. The whole time I talked to him he was very calm and did not shed a tear. Mr. Cope even stated that most people would not be this calm at a time like this but he has been praying. I then asked him if Amanda was on medication and questions about her mental state. He said she's not taking any medication, never threatened to kill herself, she sleeps in the room by herself and she suffers from no depression. I then began to get information about everyone that lived in the house and what they were doing the last time he saw them. He said that Kyla went to bed around 9:30 or 10:00pm. Jessica went to bed around the same time as Amanda did. He then said his wife Mary left to go to work earlier that night around 10:15pm. Mr. Cope stated that when he found his daughter Amanda dead, he called his father William Cope to pick up Jessica and Kyla to take them back to his home on Lucas St. Then advised Mr. Cope that I needed to step outside to speak to another Officer for a minute and I would be right back. Officer Jordan and Sgt. Hutchinson were left in the house with him. I stepped outside to give Officer Quinn information on the others in the home so he could put it down on the crime scene log. I then went back inside the home and advised Mr. Cope that there was a detective on the way and at this time, that was all the questions I needed to ask him. I then went back in the bedroom to look at the body because earlier in my conversation with Mr. Cope, he mentioned that Amanda likes to play with a hand held video game and when he found her laying face down, she was laying on top of the game. I never observed the game in the bedroom but noticed that her lips were swollen and had a purpleish tint to them. I also observed that she appeared to have some type of liquid or saliva around her lips. Her lips appeared to be closed. I also observed that her shirt was pulled up above her stomach but the right breast was covered and the left breast was partially exposed. I could see half the nipple on the left breast. Amanda had on a white Tee-shirt and black wind pants. Detective Guyton later arrived on scene and I advised him as to what was going on. Officer Gardener later arrived on scene and I also advised him as to what was going on. Shortly after Officer Gardener arrived, I asked Mr. Cope if he would sign a consent to search form and he said yeah, ya'll can search anything you want. I later left the scene.

to Baker

DATE OF INTERVIEW: 11-29-01

LOCATION OF INTERVIEW: 407 Rich St.

PERSON INTERVIEWED: Brian Smith

ADDRESS: 5742 Adicks Ct. York, SC TELEPHONE NUMBER 327-0175

RACE: W SEX: M AGE:

EMPLOYED BY: Piedmont Medical EMT

ADDRESS TELEPHONE NUMBER

INTERVIEWING OFFICER: Herring

DETAILS OF INTERVIEW: Smith is a paramedic with PMC. He advised they were dispatched at 6:04AM and that they arrived within 3 minutes. Upon his arrival Fire and Police were already on scene at 407 Rich St. When he observed the victim, Amanda Cope, she was lying on her back and it appeared that she had been rolled over. Smith went ahead and placed leads on victim's hand and foot, but it was obvious she was dead. He noticed that victim's shirt had been pulled up and he observed the victim's dad showing the firemen the hem of a blanket that was torn and he told the firemen that he had removed it from around her neck. While Smith was still inside the residence the phone rang and he overheard the victim father telling someone that she had been dead for 4 hours. There was an older man that came to the scene and picked up the 2 other children. Smith asked the father if the victim was handicapped or had any medical problems and he stated no. Smith notified the Coroner's Office.

On 11-29-01 at 6:04 A.M. Engine 1 was dispatched to 407 Rich Street for unconscious/not breathing. I rode to the call in the officer side jumpseat. As we stopped at the house I noticed the patients father standing in the doorway. Since the house was on my side of the Engine 1, I went directly to the house while other crew members gathered the medical equipment. As I entered the front door I asked the father what was going on. He replied "she's dead, my daughter is dead". I followed the father to the bedroom. I entered the bedroom and found the patient supine on the bed. There were not any covers on her. She had her shirt up around her chest. Her face was a shade of blue/purple. There were pictures spread out on the bed by her right side. As I approached the left side of the bed, I asked the father what happened. He told me that "She choked on her blanket". She was not breathing. As I checked for a radial pulse he told me that she had a history of rolling in her sleep. I asked how long she had been like this. He told me "4 hours". He then told me that he went to wake her up and found the blanket wrapped around her neck 4-5 times. A green strip of blanket trim was coming out from under her left shoulder. As I looked at the blanket trim the father told me that he had removed the blanket from her neck prior to are arrival. Based on the patient being breathless, pulseless, cool to the touch and the start of lividity on both side; I determined that nothing could be done. I determine that the patient did not need to be touched until EMS and or RHPD arrived. I turned to Capt. Simmons and told him the patients condition and that I needed RHPD. Capt Simmons informed me that they were entering the house. Also entering at that time was EMS. I gave my report to RHPD and Paramedic Brian. Due to the condition of the bedroom I decided to step out as EMS began putting the life pack 10 lead on the patient. At the door way leaving the bedroom I became face to face with FF Barnett. I was trying to remember all that I had been told by the father. I asked FF Barnett if I was correct in hearing the father tell me that he found her with her clothes off. FF Barnett told me that she had heard the same thing. I then went back into the room and told that statement to the police officer. I then stood by Paramedic Brian as they ran the to leads on the monitor. I left the room to go out side. As I walked through the front room I heard the father on the phone telling someone to come home because he did no how long he could handle this. Once outside the house I meet up with the rest of Engine 1. As we stood outside Paramedic Brian came up and told Capt. Simmons that RHPD needed all of our names.

Capt. Simmons asked me to go give our names to RHPD. I entered the house through the front and met a member of RHPD outside the bedroom and gave him our names. I then left the house and went back to Engine 1. I stood by Engine 1 until Capt. Simmons told us we were leaving. I got back in my seat and we returned to the station.

Firefighter II Jason C. Dillon

11-29-01

Jason C. Dillon

On 11/29/01 at 6:04 A. M. I responded, as officer on Engine#1 to 407 Rich St. to unconscious, not breathing. Upon arrival, I advised EOC we were on scene and exited fire apparatus. I entered the residence through the front door . I walked past the father in the living room area and he stated "she's dead." I proceeded to the room where the patient was located. Firefighter Dillon, who had already entered the residence and spoke to the father, advised me that lividity was apparent and that the father told him that the blanket trim was wrapped around the patient's neck approximately four to five times and that he (the father) removed it. The first police officer on scene was entering the residence at this time I met him in the hallway and asked him to come into the bedroom and receive a report from firefighter Dillon. EMS was arriving at this time. I exited the bedroom to allow EMS personnel room to assess patient. I stood by until were advised by Paramedic Wright that our services were no longer needed. I obtained patient's name and age from Wright. I exited residence with other Engine Company personnel. While in the yard , Paramedic "Brian" advised me that the police officers were wanting our names. I asked Firefighter Dillon to go back in and give them our names. I stood by apparatus until Dillon exited residence. All company members then boarded fire apparatus . I advised EOC we were cleared from scene at 6:26 A. M. and we returned to station.

Fire Capt. Mark Simmons 11/29/01.

Fire Capt. Mark Simmons 11/29/01

On 11-29-01 at 6:04 A.M. Engine 1 was dispatched to 407 Rich St for unconscious/not breathing. I rode to the call in the driver side jump seat. As we arrived on scene Firefighter Dillon advised me the house was on his side, and asked me to gather the medical equipment. After exiting the fire apparatus, I got the oxygen bag as well as the AED machine and then proceeded inside the residence. I entered the residence through the front door. I walked past both daughters who were sitting on the couch to my left. The oldest daughter stated, "my father said my sister is dead." I then proceeded into the hallway where I was met by the father who stated, "she's dead." I went into the patients room where I met with Firefighter Dillon. I found the patient lying supine on the bed. There were no covers on her. She had her shirt up around her chest. There were signs of lividity, and her face was a shade of blue/purple. There were pictures spread out on the bed by her right side. Firefighter Dillon advised me that the patient had no pulse. The father entered the room and Firefighter Dillon asked him how long she had been like this. He told Firefighter Dillon 4 hours. The father said he went to wake her up for school and found the blanket wrapped around her neck 4-5 times. He also stated that her clothes were off. The father stated that the patient had a history of rolling in her sleep. The father said he removed the blanket from her neck. EMS arrived in the room. Due to the condition of the room, I stepped into the hallway to give EMS access to the patient. Firefighter Dillon stepped into the hallway and asked me if I heard the father say that he found her with no clothes on. I replied, "yes I heard that." Firefighter Dillon then went back into the patients room. I exited the residence with other Engine Company personnel. I stood by the fire apparatus until Capt. Simmons told us we could clear the scene. I got back on the fire apparatus and we returned to the station.

Firefighter I Tiffany A. Barnett 11-29-01

Tiffany A. Barnett

On 11-29-01 at 6:04 A.M. Engine 1 was dispatched to 407 Rich Street for unconscious/not breathing. I was the Driver Operator on Engine 1. We responded down Saluda Street, turned right onto Rich Street and searched for the house numbers with a spotlight due to heavy fog conditions. Upon arrival I exited the apparatus and followed FF Dillon, FF Barnett and Capt. Simmons into the residence. Due to the size of the room and number of personnel in the room, I did not enter the bedroom. I stayed in the hall outside other room. While in the hallway, I overheard the father state "that she was dead" several times. I also remember the father making a statement to someone in the front room "that he told her to get rid of that sheet". I exited the residence with other Engine 1 Company personnel. I stood by the apparatus until Capt. Simmons told us we could clear the scene and returned back to Station 1.

Engineer Richard A. Blackwell Jr. 11/29/01

Richard A. Blackwell Jr. 11-29