

Original document at: <http://www.docstoc.com/docs/1080375/0825-Casey-Anthony-Documents-released-part-1>

TRANSCRIPT OF TAPED INTERVIEW CASEY ANTHONY

CONDUCTED BY DETECTIVE MELICH

CASE NUMBER – 08-069208

JULY 21, 2008

The date right now is July 16th, 2008, the time right now is 0411 hours. I'm Detective Melich with the Orange County Sheriff's Office. Um, present here at 4937 Hope Spring Drive, in reference to Orange County case number 08-069208. I am with Casey Anthony, is that correct?

A Yes.

Q-And Casey would you please state your birthday for me?

A-Zero 3/19/1986

Q-Okay. Casey, you understand this is being recorded?

A-Yes.

Q-You have any objection to that?

A-No.

Q-Alright. Casey, I got called here by Sergeant Reggie Hosey with the Orange County Sheriff's Office in reference to a missing child. We sat here and talked for a short moment before we went on tape. 'Cause I wanted to make sure that your sworn statement, which I'm looking at, was accurate. I'm looking at four pages of a sworn statement on the bottom it appears to be your signature, is that correct?

A-Yes.

Q-Okay. And you're saying that everything contained in these statements are true and accurate?

A-Yes.

Q-Also before I turned on the recorder I gave you a chance 'cause I wanted to explain what happens if you make a false report or if there's something about this incident that you're not telling us the truth of.

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

Q-And I wanted to make sure I made it perfectly clear that if you want to go ahead and rescind this statement and if you want to tell me a different story about what happened.

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

Q-If you're basically, if you're trying to fabricate a story to kind of make something look a little bit better.

A-Uh-huh.

Q-Now is your time to tell me. Are you telling me that this is the story you want to stick with?

A-That-s the truth. It's the story I'm gonna stick with, yes.

Q-Okay. Um, in your own words let's go, let's go back. Your daughter's name is Caylee, C-A-Y-L-E-E?

A-Yes.

Q-Marie Anthony. She was born August 9th?

A-Two Thousand five.

Q-Okay. And, according to your statement back on August 9th, I'm sorry. Ah, back on June 9th, 2008, you took Caylee to a baby sitter's house?

A-Yes.

Q-And who is this baby sitter?

A-Her name is Zenaida Fernandez Gonzales.

Q-Do you know how to spell the first name?

A-(Z-E-N-A-I-D-A).

Q-And where was Zenaida's...where did you drop Zen...ah, the...your child off?

A-The Saw Grass Apartments on Conway and Michigan.

Q-Do you remember the address?

A-I don't remember the address, no.

Q-Do you remember the apartment number?

A-Two ten.

Q-Okay.

A-It's on the second floor.

Q-If you were to pull into the Saw Grass Apartments, would the building be the one closest to the road, furthest back, half way?

A-As soon as you go straight, you go over one speed bump, and it's the first one on the right hand side.

Q-Okay, is there a pool next to it? Or is there anything about the...

A-There's...

Q-...apartment that stands out?

A-There's a welcome sign um, I guess there's a little shed close to the building, maybe about ten yards away.

Q-Okay. How long have you known Zenaida?

A-Almost four years, it'll be four years Christmas this year.

Q-And where did you meet her? Who did you meet her through?

A-A mutual friend, his name is Jeffrey Michael Hopkins. Um, I met him at Nickelodeon at Universal. I met her through him. She was...

Q-Was...

A-...his son's nanny at the time.

Q-Does Jeffrey still work at Universal?

A-No, he does not.

Q-How long has it been since he left?

A-About nine, ten months, give or take.

Q-Did he move back to Jacksonville?

A-He moved up to North Carolina for a short time and moved down to Jacksonville within the last three months.

Q-When was the last time you spoke with him?

A-About a week and a half ago.

Q-Okay. Do you know a telephone number for him?

A-I can find a number for him. I don't know a number off hand, no I do not.

Q-You mentioned something um, before we went on tape about your cell phones.

A-Yes, I have two phones. I just received a new phone through work.

Q-Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

A-Through Universal. Um, it won't keep charged, so I use my old phone that I, actually, had gotten again through Universal, for work.

Q-Okay. You, did you lose a phone?

A-Yes.

Q- Was that your personal phone?

A-It was my personal phone, but I also use it for business.

Q-Okay. What's your...what's the number for the phone that you lost?

A-Um, 407-619-9286. It's the same...

Q-Did you keep that same number?

A-...number. Yes, it's still...

Q-You just lost the phone?

A-...the same number. I just lost the phone.

Q-And, in that phone, you're saying was a Sim card, and the Sim card had the contact information?

A-Actually, the Sim card is in my Nokia phone, but I know there's numbers saved to the cell phone itself. So, if we get the actual phone, I know I have one other number for Zenaída. And probably a number for Jeff besides work numbers and...

Q-But they're not in your Sim card?

A-They're not saved on the Sim card, they're saved on the phone. I've been trying to figure out...on that new phone, how to save numbers from the phone to the Sim card and switch them back and forth. So, that way I have everything all in one piece.

Q-Okay, so the phone where you have the number saved was lost?

A-Yes. I filed an incident report.

Q- Well, how did you end up keeping the Sim card?

A-I had taken it out, I know I left the phone on my desk at work after I'd switched the Sim card back to my old phone. Because this was the phone that actually would keep charge.

Q-Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

A-I want to be able to have a working phone, instead of having a phone that would only stay charged for about a half hour, and then it would die and I can't make anymore calls. It's, for me, not practical.

Q-So, after you, after you switched the Sim cards on the phone, what?

A-I left.

Q-...(inaudible)...

A-I know I left it on my desk. And I hadn't been at work for at least three or four days.

Q-And you said you made the report to Universal or...

A-Yes, with security.

Q-When was that?

A-Nine days ago.

Q-Nine days ago?

A-Yes.

Q-Okay. So, you met Zenaida through Jeffrey Hopkins.

A-I did.

Q-And his son Zack Hopkins I guess, Zenaida used to watch over Zack?

A-Yes.

Q-And you say you've known Zenaida for about four years?

A-Almost four years, yes.

Q-So, you knew her before you had your child?

A-Well, I met her just before, I was actually pregnant at the time, so.

Q-And when did she start watching over your child?

A-Um, it's been within the last year and a half, two years that she started watching Caylee. I had another friend watch Caylee that I've known since middle school. When she went back to school, I was looking for a new nanny. Jeff offered to have Zenaida watch both kids. She agreed and it kind of went from there.

Q-Before Zenaida started watching over your child, who was it, who was the nanny?

A-Her name was Lauren Gibbs, G-I-B-B-S.

Q-And when did Lauren stop watching Zen...ah, your child?

A-Um, maybe April of 2006.

Q-Okay. And end of April 2006, roughly, is when Zenaida started watching her?

A-Yes.

Q-How would you normally drop off...how would you normally do the exchange with your child and Zenaida? Would you drop the child off, would she meet you somewhere?

A-I would usually drop her off. For a few months, we would go over to Jeff's house. He lived over in Avalon Park. That was a couple of years ago. Almost a couple of years ago.

Q-And you would go to Jeff's house, why?

A-To drop off Caylee. That's where Zenaida would go to watch both of the kids.

Q-Okay.

A-It was in a nice centralized area, he had a decent size house. It was good room for the two of them. Then I started bringing Caylee over to Zenaida's apartment.

Q-How long were you using, or were you going to Zenaida's apartment? How...when did you start taking Caylee.

A-Um, I guess maybe the end of 2006, beginning of 2007.

Q-So, since the end of 2006, beginning of '07.

A-uh-huh. (Affirmative)

Q-You started taking Caylee to Zenaida's house on Saw Grass?

A-She had an apartment on, I guess it's considered Glenwood, but it's off of Bumby and Robinson.

Q-Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

A-Close to downtown. She lived there for quite a few months, and moved over to Saw Grass just recently this year.

Q-The ah, house on Bumby. Do you remember the address, or remember where it's at?

A-I know it's off Glenwood, I don't remember the apartment number off hand, no, I do not.

Q-And how long ago did you say you dropped the child off there? From the beginning of...end of '06, beginning of '07 to...

A-Um, think about six, seven months, so maybe the middle of 2007.

Q-So, she moved into Saw Grass about the middle of '07?

A-She's been at that apartment in Saw Grass for about the last three or four months. She'd lived with her mom for a little bit.

Q-Where's her mom live?

A-She lived off of Michigan.

Q-Do you know where the house is?

A-Um, it's not a very well marked neighborhood. It crosses just over Conway, it's one of the big stretches of neighborhoods.

Q-Had you dropped the child off there before?

A-Yes.

Q-If you had to find the place would you be able to find it?

A-Most likely yes, I think I'd remember the house.

Q-Okay. So, she was living off of Glenwood, then moved into her mom's house, somewhere off of Michigan?

A-Uh-huh (Affirmative)

Q-And then moved into...

A-And then into...

Q-...Saw Grass?

A-...Saw Grass.

Q-So, Saw Grass three or four months ago. Off of Glenwood until mid '07.

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

Q-Then mom's house.

A-Her mom wasn't living there at the time. Her mom had gotten another place with her sister, that she was staying over at the house. And moved in with the two girls that are referenced in the pages.

Q-She was living with these two girls at Saw Grass?

A-Yes.

Q-Okay. Going back to your statement. You dropped off your ah, you dropped off Caylee on June 9th, and walk me through. You dropped her off to go to work?

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

Q-Okay. Get off of work and go from there.

A-I got off of work, left Universal, driving back to pick up Caylee, like a normal day. And I show up to the apartment, knock on the door. Nobody answers. So, I called Zenaida's cell phone and it's out of service. Says that the phone is no longer in service. Excuse me. So, I sit down on the steps and wait for a little bit to see if maybe it was just a fluke, if something happened. And time passed, I didn't hear from anyone. No one showed up to the house, so I went over to Jay Blanchard Park and checked a couple other places where maybe, possibly, they would've gone. A couple stores, just regular places that I know Zenaida shops at and she's taken Caylee before. And after about 7 o'clock when I still hadn't heard anything, I was getting pretty upset, pretty frantic. And I went to a neutral place. I didn't really want to come home, I wasn't sure what I'd say about not knowing where Caylee was. Still hoping that I would get a call, or you know, find out that Caylee was coming back, so that I could go get her. And I ended up going to my boyfriend, Anthony's house, who lives in Sutton Place.

Q-Did you talk to Anthony about um, what happened with Caylee?

A-No, I did not.

Q-Had Anthony ever seen Caylee before?

A-Yes, he has.

Q-Have you talked to anyone about Caylee, about your incident with Caylee? Or the fact that...

A-Outside of...

Q-...she's missing?

A-...a couple of people, a couple of mutual friends.

Q-Who did you talk to about it?

A-Um, I talked to Jeff, Jeffrey Hopkins.

Q-Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

A-I also attempted to contact Zenaida's mother and never received a call back from her.

Q-Do you know Zenaida's mother's name?

A-Um, wow...and um, I think it's Gloria.

Q-Do you know a telephone for Zenaida's mom?

A-I do not, no.

Q-Do you have any of these numbers programmed into your Sim card that you kept into your other phone?

A-No, I do not.

Q-How long did you have this old phone?

A-I've had the Nokia for almost a full year.

Q-Okay. So, after a full year of dealing with Zenaida and having her babysit, you don't remember...

A-Switching numbers back and forth. Zenaida's number has changed a couple different times. She switched services between having Sprint and having AT&T or Cingular.

Q-What about Jeffrey? You've known him for at least four years.

A-His number's changed a couple of times, from when he moved from Orlando up to North Carolina and back down to Jacksonville. I know I do have a current number for him.

Q-How would you get that number?

A-If we can find that other phone, or I might have it online. I may be able to access it off the internet.

Q-Okay. Who else did you talk to about this besides Jeffrey? You said you tried to call Zenaida's mom?

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

Q-You talk to Jeffrey, who else did you talk to?

A-I talked to Juliette Lewis. She's one of my co-workers at Universal.

Q-She works...you still work at Universal?

A-Yes.

Q-What ah, what do you do at Universal?

A-Event coordinator.

Q-Okay. What is Juliette, what position is she? Where does she work?

A-She's also an event coordinator. We work in the same department.

Q-You have a number for Juliette?

A-Ooh, off hand. I can't think of one.

Q-She in your Sim card?

A-No, she's not. Some of them are recent numbers. Her number just changed because she just moved back up north. She..within the last two months has finished moving up to New York. She's sub-leasing her apartment.

Q-So, Juliette...

A-(Inaudible)...

Q-...doesn't work at Universal anymore?

A-No, she does not.

Q-When did she leave Universal?

A-About two months ago.

Q-Who else did you talk to about it?

A-It's been within that small group. I've tried to find out, just information, from people, going out to different places. Like Fusion Ultra Lounge, and a couple of bars, that I know Zenaida had gone to downtown, before, to see if...just kind of random talk. If anybody heard about my nanny, or talked to her lately.

Q-Did you tell anyone specifically that Zenaida took your child?

A-No. The only two people that I specifically told were Jeff and Juliette.

Q-And you don't have a number for Juliette?

A-Not off hand; no, I do not.

Q-It's not in your phone? Might be online?

A-It's definitely on line, I know it's on one of our old work sheets. Um, her old number, which could still be active, I'm not sure if it is. But I know she does have a new number, which I just programmed into that new phone.

Q-When was, when was the last time you talked to Juliette?

A-Hm, about three weeks ago. Shortly after this happened.

Q-So, you talked to her after she left?

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

Q-What's the reason, um, I asked you this before, and I'll ask you just for the record. What's the reason you didn't call the police before? Since, right now, we're here because your grandparents or your

parents asked you about the child; and they were concerned, didn't get an answer as to where the child was, they called the Sheriff's Office.

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

Q-Why didn't you call prior to today?

A-I think part of me was naïve enough to think that I could handle this myself, which obviously I couldn't. And I was scared that something would happen to her if I did notify the authorities, or got the media involved. Or my parents, which I know would have done the same thing. Just the fear of the unknown. Fear of the potential Caylee getting hurt, of not seeing my daughter again.

Q-I asked you this...

A-It's...

Q-...I asked you this at the onset and before we went on tape, and I'll ask you again just to make sure we're clear. Um, is there anything about this story that you're telling me, that is untrue?

A-No.

Q-Or is there anything that you want to change or divert from, what you've already told me?

A-No, sir.

Q-Um, did you cause any injury to your child Caylee?

A-No, sir.

Q-Did you hurt Caylee or leave her somewhere and you're...

A-No.

Q-...worried that if we find that out that people are gonna look at you a wrong way?

A-No, Sir.

Q-You're telling me that Zenaida took your child without your permission...

A-She's...

Q-...and hasn't returned her?

A-...the last person that I've seen with my daughter, yes.

Q-Where did Zenaida. Does she have another job besides watching children?

A-She has a seasonal I.D. for Universal. However, the only job that I know that she's had for the last few years, she's been a nanny.

Q-So, seasonal employee at Universal?

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

Q-When was the last time she worked at Universal, do you know?

A-I have no idea.

Q-Does ah, Caylee take any medications?

A-No.

Q-She doesn't suffer from any conditions, any medical conditions, that we need to know?

A-No, not at all.

Q-Um, as brought up before about taking some money from some people. I want to make sure I get it on tape. Ah, do you have any problems with drugs or narcotics, either prescription narcotics...

A-No.

Q-...or drugs, cocaine, ecstasy, meth anything like that?

A-Nothing like that.

Q-Have you ever been um, have you ever been committed for thoughts of suicide? Have you ever been at Lakeside, anything like that?

A-No.

Q-Is there any underlying cause to why Zenaida would've taken your child?

A-No, nothing that...

Q-She ever make any statements to you about...

A-Only how much she loves Caylee, and how great of a kid she is.

Q-And have you talked...and when you talked to Jeffrey afterwards, I'm assuming that Jeffrey's child is still with him?

A-His child is still with him.

Q-Okay. You said Zenaida had family up in New England, up New York, or something?

A-Yes, she has family down south. Her mother, her sister um, her brother's in New York. She's originally from New York.

Q-And where's down South?

A-Um, Miami area.

Q-Where is she originally from?

A-New York.

Q-Ah, she's born, raised in New York? She got family outside of the country or...

A-I don't know. As far as I know, she pretty much grew up there, moved down here, went to University of Florida.

Q-She Puerto Rican, is she Dominican, is she white?

A-She's mixed. She's black and Puerto Rican.

Q-And you don't know what her birthday is, or you know when her birthday is?

A-It's in September, that's all I can remember, at the moment.

Q-If um, when we finish this, if you...would you be willing to drive with me, to show me where her mom lives, and the apartment that you used to drop her off at?

A-Yes.

Q-Okay. Is there anything I haven't asked you about, um, Caylee or Zenaida, or just this incident in particular, that you feel is important, that you wanted to tell me about, before I turn this off?

A-Um, I mean Caylee has very distinctive features, even if her hair was cut or changed, she's dark hazel eyes, they're brown and green. She has a birthmark on her left shoulder. Um...

Q-What kind of birthmark?

A-It's just like a small line, it almost looks like a small little beauty mark.

Q-Anything else?

A-I just want my daughter back.

Q-Okay. Would you raise your right hand for me?

A-Yes.

Q-Do you swear and affirm everything you told me is the truth?

A-Yes.

THIS TRANSCRIPT HAS BEEN REVIEWED FOR ACCURACY

Signed this 12th day of August, 2008.

DETECTIVE OCSO DEPUTY SHERIFF