

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 23, 2008

Um, the date right now is July 16th, 2008, it's about 1320 hours. We're at Universal Studios I'm here with Sergeant Allen, um, I'm here with Detective Appie Wells, um, also here with Casey Anthony.

Q And Casey, we talked earlier this morning and we're working a case looking for your daughter Caylee, is that correct?

A Yes.

Q-Okay. We came here to Universal Studios, we're sitting in a little conference room. Obviously the door's unlocked. We just closed it so we could have a little privacy and talk to you.

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative).

Q-And ah, couple more questions came up, I need to ask you about. Remember our, how I opened this whole thing in the morning?

A-Yeah.

Q-About saying that, you know, we need to get complete truth and the snowball effect and, and,...

A-Absolutely.

Q-...how it goes? Okay. Um, we're about half way down that hill, three quarters down that hill, and it's a pretty big snow ball. Which means that there's a lot of stuff going on right now.

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

Q-And I can tell you, just for a certainty, everything you've told me so far has been a lie. I can tell you , with a certainty, and let me explain why. Since I left you this morning,

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

Q-I've gone to every address that you've told me. I've looked up every name, I've talked to every person that you, you wanted me to talk, or try to.

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

Q-I've reached out, I've talked to your ex-boyfriend, I've talked to Amy. Ah, I talked to Tony. Um, I came over here, I've already talked to all the employees.

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

Q-And found out, all these names you're giving me, are people that either never worked here, or been fired a long time ago, okay. So, where we are right now, is in a position that doesn't look very good for you.

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative).

Q-And this is gonna be your, your escape hatch, so to speak. This is gonna be the point where you stop all the lies, and you stop all the fibs, and you tell us exactly what's going on.

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative).

Q-I'm just being, you know, being straight with you.

A-Yeah.

Q-'Cause, obviously, I know and you know, that everything you've told me is a lie, correct?

A-Not everything that I told you.

Q-Okay. Ah, pretty much everything that you've told me. Including where Caylee is right now.

A-That I still, I don't know where she is.

Q-Sure you do. And here's...

A-I absolutely do not...

Q-Listen to me, let...

A-...know where she is.

Q-...me, let me, let me explain something. Together, with combined experience in this room, we all have about 30 years of doing this.

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative0.

Q-Okay, both myself and Sergeant John Allen worked for homicide division for several years. We've dealt with several people, we've conducted thousands of interviews, between the three of us. And Appie's 20 years, so just between the three of us, we've got several years. And I can tell you for certain, that right now, looking at you, I know that everything that you've told me is a lie. Including the fact that, you know, you're child was last seen about a month ago. And that you don't know where she is. Yeah, I, I'm very confident, just by having talked to you this short period of time, that you know where she is.

A-I don't.

Q-You, you do. And here's the thing, we need to get past that because we could sit here and go back and forth all day long about I don't, I do, I don't, I do. It's pretty obvious that with everything that you've told us, nothing has been true. You know where she is. Now my question to you is, is this. We need to find Caylee. I understand that right now Caylee may not be in very good shape. You understand what I'm saying?

A-(No verbal response).

Q-She may not be the way we, or the way your family, last remembers her. We need to find out, from you, where Caylee is. This, this, this right now is just, this has gone so far down hill, and this has become such a mess.

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative).

Q-We need to end it. It's very simple, we just need to end it.

A-I agree with you. I have no clue where she is.

Q-Sure you do.

A-If I knew, in any sense, where she was, this wouldn't have happened at all.

Q-You know...Listen.

A-It wouldn't have happened whatsoever.

Q-This stuff about Zenaida, the care taker or the nanny, taking care of...

A-It's the truth.

Q-It's not the truth. Because we went to the apartment complex, there's no person that ever lived there by that name. The apartment's been vacant since March. That same apartment. Now the apartment that you pointed out to me, the two story apartment. That's an old folks home. It's right across the street from your ex-boyfriend's house, who you never mentioned. And you said you wrote the address down because it was across the street. That's a lie, because I've already talked to him; and we've already been by the house, and we've already, you know, looked at everything we need to look at over there.

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative).

Q-Everything you've told us is a lie. Well, now there's a couple of ways that this goes. Right now, we can, you know, we, I've never met you before. So, I can look at you in a couple of ways.

A-Hm.

Q-I can look at you as a person who's scared. Who's concerned, and who's kind of afraid of what's gonna happen because of something bad that happened before. Or we can look at you as cold, callous and a monster, who doesn't care. Who's just trying to get away with something that, something bad that happened, and trying to cover it up.

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

Q-It's gonna be one of those two options. Now, as for much, what I've already talked to you. Okay, you seem like a very bright young lady. You don't seem like someone who had no education.

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative).

Q-Alright. Now, what we would have to do, is we have to determine which way is this gonna go. Are you, are you a person who's scared about the consequences of what happened? Or are you scared about something that happened? Or are you, are you really this cold, callus person, who doesn't care about what happened? It's one of these two options.

A-I'm scared that...I don't know where my daughter is.

Q-So...

A-I would not have put my entire family...

(SERGEANT ALLEN)

Q-Hold, hold on, I want to ask you something.

A-Yes, sir.

Q-Like he said, you, you seem like a pretty bright person, okay. You're here willingly, right?

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative).

Q-You're here 'cause you want, you're here to try to help, right?

A-Oh, absolutely.

Q-Your whole reason for talking to us is, is to try to help, right?

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

Q-Nobody's forced you to talk to us, right?

A-No.

Q-You, you want us, you want us to...you're here because you called, you want us to help find your daughter, right?

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative).

Q-Now let me, let me ask you something. I want you to put yourself in, put yourself in some...put yourself in my shoes, for a minute, okay. Since you've talked to him this morning, in an attempt to try and help find your daughter, you've given him bad addresses, okay.

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative).

Q-You drive me all the way out here. We walked from the gate back here, all the way to your office, right?

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative).

Q- Okay. To the, to an office that you don't have. We got all the way to the building, into the hallway out here, before you finally say, "Well I really don't have an office here." But (Inaudible)..., we were walking to your office, right?

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

Q-Okay, so I mean, does any of this make sense to you?

A-I understand how all that sounds. I...

Q-No, no, no, no, here's the problem with that though. Here's the problem with that, okay. Uh, you can carry the weight of this around for a long time, it's not gonna get any easier, okay. What he's trying to tell you right now--I'm gonna tell you, you know, and in the amount of time that I've done this, almost 30 years, okay.

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative).

Q-I've learned this, people make mistakes. Everybody makes mistakes. We, every...all three of us have all made some mistake...mistakes in our lives.

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative).

Q-We've done some things we're not proud of, okay. But then there comes a point in time, you either own up to it, you say you're sorry, you try to get past it. Or you lie about it, you bury it, you lie about it, and you bury it, and it just never, ever, ever, ever, ever goes away.

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative).

Q-Okay. That's it, okay. Now, you know...you know, I want you to stop and think about what's going on here, okay.

A-(No verbal response).

Q-At this point, we can explain that you're afraid. You know, that you were ashamed of maybe something bad that happened. You were afraid that maybe what happened, but now we're giving you this opportunity, and you continue to lie and you continue to lie. Then what happens, at some point, it

becomes, there's no excuse, there's no reason, there's no reasonable, a reasonable person can look at this and go, wow, this is a person who really just doesn't care, okay. I mean, I mean, think about what would go so far, okay. You say you called us because you want our help. You want us to find your daughter, okay. "I'm calling you and I'm asking you for help. I'm asking you to help me find my child."

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative).

Q-That's been gone now for a month, okay. And to help you, help me find the child, what I've done to this point is, I've given you a bunch of bad addresses to go look at. Addresses and people, that don't exist, okay. Then, I take you to a place where I tell you that I work, okay. And I walk you past the security gate, okay. All the way to my office, that I don't have.

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative).\

Q-Okay. You sort of get the picture?

A-(No verbal response).

Q-Is this, is this, do you understand where we're headed here?

A-I understand.

Q-Okay. Now, you know, you're...by hiding this, by burying this, okay, you are not going to get yourself to a better place, okay. What you're going to do is, you're going to cause everybody else around you to suffer, okay. And, at some point, this is going to come out, it always does.

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative).

Q-It always comes out, okay. Now, your best bet is to try to put this behind you as quickly as you can. Go to your parents, and tell 'em, you know, some horrible accident, whatever happened, happened. Get it out in the open, now, okay. Instead of letting them worry, and worry, and worry, and worry, okay. How old are you?

A-Twenty-two.

Q-At some point, okay, you're gonna want to, to mend things with your family.

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative).

Q-Okay. You let this drag out for another three days, another week, another two weeks, okay. You make us solve this some other way. We'll solve it, we always do, okay. Okay, I mean it...it...there's no point in coming forward to say, oh my God, this is what really happened, once we figure it out, okay.

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative).

Q-You ever had anybody do anything wrong to you? Did anybody hurt...

A-Of course.

Q-...you in any way, okay. Let me ask you a question. When somebody's hurt you in the past. And they've come to you and said I'm sorry, okay. I really am, from the bottom of my heart, sorry for what happened. Do you forgive 'em?

A-Yes.

Q-What about somebody that does something to you and lies, lies, lies, lies, lies. You forgive them?

A-It's a lot harder to sometimes.

Q-A lot harder to. Tell me the last time somebody hurt you over and over and then let you suffer for a period of time. And then lied about it, then you caught'em, okay, well what...when you caught'em that apology didn't mean a hell of a lot did it?

A-No.

Q-Okay.

A-No.

Q-Alright. Right now your best bet is to just get it out in the open, whatever happened, and tell us now, okay. So, we can, we can kind of start getting past this. Try to help you explain, okay. 'Cause keep in mind, you're talking to people. There's nothing you're gonna tell any of the three of us that's gonna surprise us, okay.

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative).

Q-I've had to sit down with...with mothers who rolled over their babies accidentally. I've had to sit down with mothers whose kids have drowned in swimming pools. I've had to sit down with mothers who had boyfriends who beat their kids to death. Ah, you know, who...who felt horrible about what happened. And then try, and I had to go to them and help them try to explain to their families, okay. And then I've also had to deal with people who have done horrible, unspeakable things to children. And then lied about it, and lied about it, and lied about it, okay. And I'll bet you somewhere near, I probably dealt with somebody who maybe made a mistake, but continued to lie about it. Maybe they weren't such a bad person. But maybe the whole world didn't see it that way. Maybe their family didn't see it that way 'cause they kept lying, lying, lying, and lying about it. And then when it finally...and then months down the road or days down the road, when they finally decided to come forward, okay. People were past it, you told me that you lied to me for the last time. I...I would've listened to what you had to say. Don't talk to me anymore, okay.

A-Yeah.

Q-Yeah, we...we've had to, you know, we've had to go into court and try to help people explain situations. We've had to go in court at times and say, you know, the person just never said, they kept lying to us and kept lying to us, and lying to us, and lying to us, okay. We're all human beings.

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative).

Q- ...Okay. You tell me, I mean, you're...you're...you know, you're a smart person, figure it out, okay. So far, the only thing that we can say for sure, at this point, okay, is that you have lied to him about all these things.

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative).

Q-You brought us here, okay. Alright, I want you to look at this from an outsider's perspective. Somebody, somewhere down the road, and we have to decide, you know, how this all plays out.

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative).

Q-What would you do? How would you see that person? How would you see that person different? You might see somebody, maybe a young mother who made a mistake; and, you know, maybe initially was afraid to tell the truth. But at some point, came forward, and said a horrible thing happened. I'm sorry, I feel terrible about it, but I have to tell you.

A-The horrible thing that happened is-- this is the honest to God's truth. Of everything that I've said, I do not know where she is. The last person that I saw her with is Zenaida. She's the last person that I've seen my daughter with.

(DETECTIVE MELICH)

Q-Um, see here's the problem and I...

A-Yes.

Q-...think Sergeant Allen, Sergeant Allen is trying to get to this. Is we...we know that's not the truth. We know...

A-(Inaudible)...

Q-Listen, listen...

A-Absolutely is.

Q-...listen, we know that that's not true, that can't be the truth. Because if that were the truth, everything you would've told us would've been on the money. The addresses you would've taken us to would've been on the money. Everything else would've matched. If you had told us the truth, we wouldn't be here at Universal Studios, at a place that you've been fired from since 2006, with you trying to explain to us, you know, you got an office, and all that stuff.

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative).

Q-We wouldn't be here. So, we know, and this is the part we need to get past. We already know that you're not telling us the truth. That you know what happened to Caylee and you know where Caylee is.

A-No.

Q-But here's...here's...here's what we're trying to get by, is that there's...you're...you're, you fall under one or two categories. And I'm sure he explained it and I explained it. Is that, if this is something, that an accident happened, and, and no matter how you think people are gonna look at you--they're gonna look at you a lot worse if you show...if you continue to show, that you're callous or not caring, and that you just show complete dispassion and disregard for human life.

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative).

Q-Or they can look at you as someone that, you know what, I can understand, I'm a young mother. Or she's a young mother, first child, something horrible happened. She's thinking, oh my God, my life isn't going good right now. I already know my life is struggling. People don't see me in that great of a light, I know I got problems at home, I've got problems with friends. I know I got problems at work, or lack of work.

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative).

Q-All of a sudden something bad happens to my child, people are gonna think I'm just the devil. See, there's a difference between this person who makes a mistake and says, listen, I'm sorry, this is the reason that I lied to you. This is the reason I was scared. Compared to the person who might sit here and say, I have no idea what you're talking about.

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative).

Q-There's a big difference there. And I can tell you now, that everything you've told me is a lie. Everything that you've told me this morning from...from...from Zani, from the addresses, from Universal, from all these people that you've talked to, including people that you never told me their names. I found them and talked to them.

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative).

Q-You know, everything that you've told me this morning is a lie. Every single thing. There's one or two options right now. You need to tell me the truth and we can work with that.

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative).

Q-Or if you continue down this path and continue lying, I can tell that when this snow ball gets to the bottom of the hill, the only person who's gonna get hurt is you.

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative).

(SERGEANT ALLEN)

Q-That's not true, a lot of people around you get hurt.

(DETECTIVE MELICH)

Q-Your parents.

A-A lot of people are hurting right now. And...

(SERGEANT ALLEN)

Q-And you know what, one person could put a stop to that.

A-I've been trying.

(DETECTIVE MELICH)

Q-You haven't been trying.

(SERGEANT ALLEN)

Q-Wait a minute, wait a minute, okay. Let's go through this again.

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative).

Q-Okay. Stop me at the part that I say, it's not true okay.

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative).

Q-I want to go through this, and I want you to stop me at the part that isn't the truth , okay.

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative).

Q-You take your daughter and you drop her off on June the 9th.

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative).

Q-...Okay. At somebody, at a baby sitter's house, okay. Now, this is a baby sitter that lives at this apartment, okay. That's been vacant...

A-I dropped her off at that apartment.

Q-Okay.

A-At those stairs.

Q-Oh, you just walked her...you dropped her off...

A-Walked her to the stairs, that's where I've dropped her off a bunch of other times. Besides...

Q-And...

A-...just that day.

Q-Okay and when you dropped her off, who...who took her at that point?

A-Zani did, she took her at that point.

Q-You left her, you left her in Zani's care?

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative).

Q-On June the 9th? Okay, so far that's right?

A-Yes.

Q-Okay. You first called the police about this, when your mother and father, okay. Ah, actually, you don't call the police to report your daughter missing. What happens is, your parents find their car has been towed...

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative).

Q-...from Amscot, and your parents ask you where your daughter is. And you tell them your daughter...or your parents, that you haven't seen you daughter for over a month, right?

A-(No verbal response).

Q-That's true, okay. So, I haven't told anything...so, so far, I haven't said anything that's not true, okay.

A-That's all true.

Q-Okay, sounds...true, sounds reasonable to you, correct?

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative).

Q- Okay. When the police do get involved, okay, when you're, when your parents involve the police in an attempt to locate your child because they're worried.

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative).

Q-The first thing you do, okay, is you lie to the detective whose job it is to try to find your daughter and get her back into safe hands, okay. You give him all kinds of bad addresses to look at right, okay?

A-(No verbal response).

Q-So, far I'm on track right?

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative).

Q-Okay. Then, you bring us out to Universal, where you say you work, in an office.

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative).

Q-To try to help find stuff that will help us find your daughter. I'm on track so far, okay.

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative).

Q-And we get here, we walk all the way down the hall to where you tell us, you don't really work here. You don't have an office here, okay.

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative).

Q-So far everything I've said is true, correct?

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative).

Q-Okay. Now, that sounds reasonable to you, okay. I'm telling you this story, I'm saying to you, listen, I dropped my child off five weeks ago, at the baby sitter's house. And she just disappeared.

A-Hm.

Q-Now, I didn't call the police and tell them. Matter of fact, I made some attempts to locate her on my own. But I didn't really get the police involved or, you know, do anything like that, okay. And, oh by the way, um, I got my mom and dad's car towed, and then when my parents asked me what happened to my daughter, I told 'em, I hadn't seen her in five weeks. So, they call the police, okay. Now, what I did is, I lied to the police when they got there, okay. I told 'em a whole bunch of crap that isn't true. Gave 'em a bunch of bad addresses to go look at, where I know my daughter's not there. And I did all this to try to help find my daughter. Make sense to you right?

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative).

Q-That makes sense to you?

A-(No verbal response).

Q-It makes sense to you that I'm trying to help the police find my daughter. By giving 'em a bunch of bad addresses. That makes sense to you?

A-That's what I said, yes.

Q-No, no I'm asking you, that makes sense to you. My...

A-That part of it, no, not at all.

Q-My attempt to help him find my child, okay. What I've done to try to help him find my child, is I've given him a whole bunch of addresses to go to that are bad addresses. That's what I did to help him try to find my child. That makes sense to you?

A-I took him to the last place that I've seen my daughter. Besides that, I took them to other places that I've...

Q-Okay, when you.

A-...seen Zenaida.

Q-...When you brought us here, when you brought us here, to go look in your office. That was suppose to help us, how?

A-(No verbal response)

Q-'Cause everything we're doing here is about finding your daughter, okay. So, I want you, okay, to explain to me, how coming here, to come to an office that you don't have, I want you to tell me, how that's helping us find your daughter. Because everything...every bit of focus right now, okay, you got three people here to try to help you, that's why we're here, to try to help you find your daughter, okay.

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative).

Q-Alright. We came here to look for clues, to look for evidence that will help us find your daughter, okay.

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative).

Q-Now, I want you to tell me how that's helping find your daughter. We're here to go...to come search your office for anything that will help us, okay. We're here, 'cause you brought us here, right?

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative).

Q-Now, I want you to tell me how that's helping us find your daughter.

A-It's not.

Q-But...but everything we're doing is to find your daughter. That's the most important thing in the world to you right now. Right?

A-Caylee's been up here, maybe we could talk to security, see if she's come through the front. I know she's come to the park. She's gone to Disney. She's been at Sea World.

Q-Whoa, ho-hold on...

A-She's been to other places.

Q-Let's go back to, let's...let's...

A-It's...

Q-We're here.

A-...backwards way of...

Q-No, it's, you know, it...

A-...of looking.

Q-Why do you think it's backwards? It's backwards 'cause you haven't been truthful with us okay.

A-'Cause I've been reaching.

Q-You've been reaching, huh?

A-I've been reaching to try to figure out a place where she actually is.

Q-So, once again, okay, 'cause you never did answer my question. Your reaching and helping find her by bringing us here, to this office, that you don't have. It's helping us find her, how?

A-It's...

Q-Because what you're doing right now, is you're doing everything you can to find your daughter. You have three experienced detectives right now, whose sole focus is here to help you find your daughter, okay. And we're here, 'cause you brought us here, correct?

A-Absolutely.

Q-You directed us here, because we're going to your office to find evidence.

A-Hm.

Q-That will help us find her, okay. Now that we're here, I want you to tell me, how that's helping. What is it we're doing here, what's helping us right now, okay.

A-(No verbal response).

Q-Well, coming to an office that doesn't exist.

A-It's not helping.

(DETECTIVE MELICH)

Q-So, why'd you do it?

A-Honestly, I wanted to come up and try to talk to security. Maybe pass around a picture of Caylee. I legitimately have not seen my daughter in five weeks. I don't want anything to happen to her. Except, I trusted her with somebody. Somebody that had been taking care of her. That had been taking good care of her. Someone that she was comfortable with, that I was comfortable with.

Q-What about, what about Jeff, you said Jeff worked here about ah, about two months ago?

A-No, he hasn't worked here for quite a while.

Q-Ten months? How long?

A-It's been at least ten months.

Q-Okay, he got fired in...

A-(Inaudible)...

Q-...2002. He hasn't been employed here since 2002. What about ah, the girl?

A-Juliette?

Q-Yeah, what about her?

A-She left two months ago, that's exactly what she had told me.

Q-Juliette Lewis never worked at Universal Studios.

(DETECTIVE WELLS)

Q-Yuri. I'm sorry. Is the baby's daddy actually dead?

(DETECTIVE MELICH)

Q-That's a good question. (Inaudible)...

(DETECTIVE WELLS)

Q-Would you...

A-I...

Q-How do you...how do...

A-...I still have a copy of the obituary at home.

Q-Alright, well you've told us so many untruths right now, I'm confused.

A-That's...

Q-Would your parents be upset if you had given the baby back to the daddy, to take back for his grandparents, for his parents to take care of?

A-He passed away last year. We hadn't even talked much before that. She...

(SERGEANT ALLEN)

Q-Let me ask you this. Is the obituary in your office?

A-No, I think I have a copy of the obituary at home. There's no office, so there's no anything anywhere, we've made that clear already.

Q-Right.

A-So, if I have a copy of it, still, it would be on my computer at home. I'm pretty sure, I kept that. I don't think that's something I would've gotten rid of.

(DETECTIVE MELLICH)

Q-Zani has never worked here. How do you explain that?

A-She has an I.D. She has an I.D. with her name on it.

Q-Just like you have...

A-I've seen it.

Q-...just like you have an I.D.?

A-I do have an I.D., somewhere at my house. Both of my parents have seen it. Both of my parents know...

Q-Just like you have an office.

A-...that I worked here. I used to have an office.

Q-Now, just like you have an office?

A-No, I don't have an office now.

Q-Okay.

(SERGEANT ALLEN)

Q-And we're here to, to go to what, to do what? We're here because, why?

A-Try and put things together.

Q-No, we're here in this building because...we've put a lot more together, then I think you realize we've put together. My question to you is, we're in this office because...we got here because...we got here how, to do what?

A-(No verbal response).

Q-Our purpose in coming here was to do what? Go where?

A-I guess there wasn't a purpose. There wasn't a purpose whatsoever to come up here.

Q-So, we're wasting time, valuable time, which ought to be spent looking for your daughter.

A-I'm trying to think of places...

Q-No, I...

A-...I know she's been.

Q-You're not answering my question.

A-Help me.

Q-You want us to help...

A-Yes.

Q-...help find your daughter?

A-I do want you to help.

Q-Well then, you need to help...then...what...a good starting point would be to answer the questions, okay.

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative).

Q-If I say to you, we're here because, and then you just ignore that, like as if I never asked it, and go off in some other direction--is that answering the question?

A-No.

Q-Okay. Alright, let's go through this again. We're here because? We got here how? To do what?

A-Because I lied, because I brought you up here. And, honestly, I was reaching for...

Q-Now, stop right there.

A-...another avenue.

Q-I want you to tell me, how lying to us is going to help us find your daughter.

A-It's not going to.

Q-Huh?

A-It's not going to.

Q-Well, then if...if you're...if the main thing you want to do is find your daughter. And you don't think lying to us is gonna help us find her, why would you do that?

A-Because I'm scared and I...I know I'm running out of options, it's been a month.

(DETECTIVE WELLS)

Q-What are you scared of?

A-I'm scared of not seeing my daughter, ever again.

(SERGEANT ALLEN)

Q-Okay, and if you're scared...

A-And, I'm honestly petrified...

Q-...if you're scared of not...

A-...of not seeing her again.

Q-...seeing your daughter again, okay. I want you to tell me how lying to us is going to solve that problem, and help find your daughter quicker.

A-It's not.

Q-'Cause, if that's what you want, okay, obviously, you're doing things to help us find your daughter, right. And, I want you to tell me how lying to us, is getting to that end. How is lying to us, helping find your daughter faster?

A-It isn't.

Q-Then why would you do that?

A-See, I don't know. I'm telling you that I just dropped her off, and that was the last time that I've seen her. Even starting with that, everybody else is like, well, and what happened after that?

(DETECTIVE WELLS)

Q-You...

A-That can't just be it.

Q-You remember the phone call you were telling us about?

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative).

Q-Is that true?

A-Yes.

Q-Did you actually talk with...what day was it you talked to her?

A-Yesterday.

Q-You remember what time of day?

A-Around noon. It was from a private number.

Q-Okay, what'd she tell you? What'd your daughter say to you?

A-She said, "Hi, Mommy."

Q-And that's it?

A-And she started to tell me a story, talking to me about her shoes and books and...

Q-It's important that you tell me. I mean, maybe, there's something in what she said that can help us figure out where she is. What did she say?

A-I tried to ask her where she was...

Q-Okay.

A-...and she just kept talking about the book that she's...

(SERGEANT ALLEN)

Q-Right.

A...reading. We have videos of her reading the story, and she's telling me the story.

Q-So, she seemed happy and...

A-(inaudible)...a thousand times. She's...

Q-...she seemed happy and...

A-...fine.

Q-She's fine, she's happy?

A-She seemed perfectly fine.

Q-She was telling...

A-There was nothing in the background.

Q-...telling you about a book, that would seem not...no sign of any type of stress at all?

A-Not at all.

Q-Great, that's wonderful. Let me ask you a question. Your daughter hasn't seen you in over a month, and she's not, she...

A-She was excited, she was excited, sorry, to talk to me. But at the same time, it's crazy that she didn't get upset when she talked to me. Which...

Q-Yeah.

A-...had it been my mom.

Q-Is that another thing...

A-I know it would have been...

Q-...is that another thing...

A-...totally different.

Q-...that makes sense to you?

A-She never gets upset when she talks to me. Whether I haven't seen her for an entire day, or if I had to work late at night, I didn't see her almost an entire day, until the next one.

Q-The last time, the last time somebody took her, and you didn't see her for five weeks was when?

A-Never.

Q-Okay. Now, you haven't seen her in five weeks. She has not seen you in five weeks.

A-No.

Q-Okay. She's been with this woman for...or somebody for five weeks. Hasn't been in her own home, hasn't seen her mother in five weeks.

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative).

Q-That didn't upset her.

A-She was fine.

Q-She was fine, she talked about the, y'all talked about the book. I mean, is all that stuff you're saying true, right?

A-She's always been like that, though.

Q-Oh.

A-I don't understand...

A-Okay.

A-...how, but she's always been like that.

Q-Okay, but I'm getting that, but let's get back to, you say this had never happened before.

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative).

Q-She's never not seen you for five weeks.

A-Huh.

Q-But now she...now after five weeks of not seeing her mother.

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative).

Q-Not talking to her mother, okay. She finally talks to her mother after five weeks. You're...you ask her where she is. You begin asking her these questions, and she just wants to talk about the book, she's happy, she's not worried, doesn't seem upset.

A-She's always like that. You can even ask my mom, she's the same way.

Q-Okay, let me go back to the, when was the last time you didn't see her for five weeks? When was the last time something like this happened, where she was gone and you didn't see her for five weeks? The last time this happened, when?

A-Never.

Q-Okay, so this is the first time. Okay.

A-This is the first time I've been away from her for more than a day.

Q-Okay. The first time you ever been away from her for more than a day, and she wasn't the least bit upset?

A-No.

Q-When you talked to her on the phone that day?

A-She wasn't the least bit upset when I talked to her.

Q-She went on about, you know, "I miss you, Mommy", none of that, I just...she talked like you said, she talked about that book and all that stuff right, that's it?

A-And when I asked her to give the phone to another adult, to somebody else, she was fine, she was willing to do it, but the phone hung up. She doesn't hang up phones. I know...

(DETECTIVE MELICH)

Q-And that's the phone she called you on, your cell phone?

A-Yes.

Q-Can I see that real quick, while you guys are...

(DETECTIVE WELLS)

Q-Now, if this is the first time she's ever been gone for...away from you for more than a day. I'm a parent, too.

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative).

Q-I would've been, I would've been just beside myself.

A-I have been.

Q-I would've called the police immediately, and that's the part that I just don't understand. We got...

A-I didn't know...

Q-...so many resources...

A-...what to do.

Q-...out there that we could help on day one.

(SERGEANT ALLEN)

Q-You didn't know what to do?

A-I didn't know what to do. At that point, I'm thinking, okay, they haven't been gone that long. Maybe I can find them. Maybe I can track them down.

Q-They haven't been gone...

A-That first day...

Q-...they haven't been gone that long.

A-That first day...

Q-(inaudible)...right.

A-No that very first day, that all of this happened. That I went to pick up Caylee and she wasn't there.

Q-Uh-huh. (Affirmative).

A-Initially, my thought is that they went out to do something for a little bit. Maybe, I just missed a phone call.

Q-Right.

A-Maybe, I didn't get the call or the text message. Maybe something fell through the crack. It's happened before.

Q-But now, after...

A-(Inaudible)...

Q-Right, I understand all that, okay. I want you to focus on what we're doing here, okay.

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative).

Q-Alright. Because I want to make sure we get this right. After, after having, after having not seen your daughter for five...or heard from or not knowing where your daughter was at, for five weeks. She calls you on the phone. You have a conversation with her, where she talks about the books and this other stuff.

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative).

Q-But then you ask her to speak to an adult, and then she hangs up. Or the phone hangs up, okay. Correct?

A-She can't...

Q-Whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa, hold on, hold on, let me finish.

A-Go ahead.

Q-Okay. You have this conversation with her after not seeing her or hearing from her for five weeks. The phone call's terminated. You don't get a chance to talk to an adult, okay.

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative).

Q-The very next thing you do after that is what? Call the police because now something really strange has happened, so you must've called the police right, after that. Did you call the city police or do you remember who you called? Which police agency did you call yesterday?

A-I didn't call anybody at noon after I got that phone call. I sat down...

Q-You...whoa...You didn't think that was odd? This con...you didn't this, this...

A-I thought it was extremely odd.

Q-But not odd enough to call the police and try to get help.

A-(No verbal response).

(DETECTIVE MELICH)

Q-Let me, let me throw something in, if you don't mind.

(SERGEANT ALLEN)

Q-Sure.

(DETECTIVE MELICH)

Q-Um, Rick is in the office, and Rick's finishing up the interview and that was actually Rick calling me. You know Ricardo right obviously, your ex-boyfriend?

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative).

Q-We brought him down to the office, and he's been talking to a couple of our detectives down there. And he was able to help us because he's telling us something obviously, completely different, then what you're telling us. And I was just able to tell him that pull the surveillance camera from the video across the street, at the old folks home, that you drove me by.

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative).

Q-And ah, we're gonna get it enhanced, to see if we can actually get some good detail on pictures and faces. But Ricardo was saying that you spent the night with him on the 9th and left on the 10th. And this is being, this is being corroborated right now, which again shows that you're continuously lying about the 9th being the day that...

A-I stayed over at...

Q-...(inaudible)...

A-...at his house...

Q-...And...

A-...on the 9th of this month.

Q-...No.

A-...Not of last month. I was not at his place the 9th of that month.

Q-So, you stayed at your ex-boyfriend's the 9th of this month, when you're staying at your other boyfriend's house, Tony, the rest of the month?

A-He'd been out of town, so I was staying over at another friend's place while he was gone. I wasn't staying in his apartment. I was staying with Amy and Ricardo and JP. JP and Ricardo own the house.

Q-So, why didn't, why didn't you tell us you were staying there. We drove right by the house this morning, didn't we, when we went to...

A-(No verbal response).

Q-Okay, and you're at this old folks home, which is another lie, right?

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative).

Q-'Cause Zani never lived there. Am I correct?

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative).

Q-Okay, why were you pointing at this old folks home, and saying Zani lived there, at one point, when she didn't?

A-Because she had gone there before, I've seen her there.

Q-She went to the old folks home?

A-Yes.

Q-But you never dropped your kid off to her at an old folks home. You never went into the old folks home, you went to an apartment with her.

A-No.

Q-Yet across the street from this old folks home, right there on Glenwood, is where Ricardo lives.

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

Q-With Amy and JP.

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative).

Q-All of whom are at our station talking to our detectives right now. So, obviously, you know, we're...we're not stupid, okay. And, what you're doing right now, is you're treating us like we're stupid, in which I take that, you know, to be a personal insult. I can't speak for them. Here...here's where it comes down to. None of us are sitting here believing what you're saying, because everything that's coming out of your mouth is a lie. Everything. And unless we start getting the truth, unless we start getting the truth, we're going to announce two possibilities with Caylee. Either you gave Caylee to someone that you don't want anyone to find out about, because you think you're a bad Mom. Or something happened to Caylee, and Caylee's buried somewhere, or in a trash can somewhere...and you had something to do with it...either way, right now, it's not a very pretty picture to be painting. Either way, either way right now, with everything that you're telling us, you're painting yourself as a very bad person. Your family's gonna suffer for this. Your friends are gonna suffer for this. And remember what I told you about all these people coming? They're gonna crucify you for this. Because of all the lies that you've been telling us. We need to stop this right now. Everything you've told us is a lie. You're looking me in the eyes, you're looking at...everything you've told us is a lie. Every single thing.

A-No, it isn't.

Q-And you can't...Yes. And you can't keep sitting here and telling us the same thing and going constantly over and over and over again, we're disproving everything that you're telling us. You're telling us that you lied to us. You're telling us you're giving us misinformation, everything you're telling us. Okay, this needs to end.

A-The truthful thing...

Q-This needs to end.

A...is I have not seen my daughter. The last time that I saw her was on the 9th of June.

Q-And what happened to Caylee?

A-I don't know.

Q-Sure you do. You need...

A-I don't know.

Q-Listen, something happened to Caylee. We're not gonna discuss where the last time you saw her. I, I'm guessing something bad happened to her sometime ago, and you haven't seen her. So, that part is true, if you say you haven't seen her, because she's somewhere else right now.

A-She's with someone else.

Q-She's either...No, she's either in a dumpster right now, or she's buried somewhere, she's...she's out there somewhere, and her rotting body is starting to decompose because what you're telling us. And here's the problem, the longer this goes, the worse it's gonna be for everyone, everyone. The worse it's gonna be for everyone. Right now, everything you've told us, we've locked you into a lie. Every single thing that you've told us has been a lie. We're proving all that. Now, right now, it's gonna be one of two things. Either, we find Caylee alive, which is gonna help you out extremely by telling us the truth. Or we find Caylee not alive, which, if you start telling us the truth, might still paint you in a better picture. But here's where it needs to end. Here's where the truth needs to come out, okay. No more lies. No more bull coming out of your mouth. We've been very respectful, we're taking our time and talking to you. But we're tired of all the lies. No more lies. What happened to Caylee?

A-I don't know.

Q-You do know.

A-I don't know...

Q-What happened to Caylee?

A-...where she is. That is the God's honest truth.

Q-Okay, where was she the last time that you put her somewhere? Where was she?

A-The last time I saw her was on those steps, at that apartment that I took you to this morning. This same apartment that I took the other officers to last night was...

Q-But you didn't give her to...

A-...the last time...

Q-...any...you didn't give her to anyone while you were there.

A-I did.

Q-See (Inaudible)... No, 'cause...

A-No.

Q-...listen, listen...

A-I...

Q-...listen, listen, listen to me. We even pulled a surveillance video from an apartment complex and they have to keep this by law for several days, okay. And, we're not seeing you over there. We're not seeing you there at all that day. You think that we're stupid and we're not gonna...

A-I know you're not stupid.

Q-...do all this stuff. Okay.

A-That's...

Q-We're not seeing you there, so now, if...if you're not there, and you're not being seen there and, somebody's already saying that you're not there...And everything else you've told us is a lie. That's telling me--remember we had those, remember we had those two people that we were talking about the person who had an accident, or made an accident, or made a bad decision? And a person who's just a cold blooded, callous monster. That's telling me that you're the second person. This cold blooded, callous monster...

A-I'm not.

Q-...who doesn't care and doesn't want to help because she's afraid that something so heinous happened. That everyone's gonna look at her and say, she's a monster, she deserves to go away, she deserves to never see the light of day, this bad thing should happen to her. I don't want to believe that right now, but you're not giving me no choice. You understand, you're giving me no choice. This is, listen, this is gonna be the opportunity that you have, right now. No matter how heinous you think that what happened was, to Caylee, this is your opportunity to tell us. This is gonna be your only opportunity to tell us. Because what's gonna happen, we're gonna find out. There's not gonna be a question, we're gonna find out, okay? We've got so many resources on this right now, just like I told you would happen. That we, what we're trying to do, is prove your story; but everything we've done is disproving your story. Every single thing. Everything you've told us, we've shown you have lied about it. Casey has lied about it, and we're looking for your child. We got to throw these lies out, okay. All these lies are out. We know that everything you told us is a lie. Tell us what happened to Caylee. Tell us what happened to Caylee.

A-I dropped off Caylee. And that's the last time that I've seen her. I dropped her off...

Q-Where did you drop her off?

A-I dropped her off at that apartment.

Q-No, you didn't.

A-That's exactly where I dropped her off.

Q-No, you didn't. And who'd you drop her to?

A-With Zenaida.

Q-No, you didn't.

A-She's the last...

Q-'Cause none of that...

A-...person...

Q-No, that's not true.

(SERGEANT ALLEN)

Q-Zenaida give you any money that day?

A-No. I would not have sold my daughter. If I wanted to really just get rid of her, I would've left her with my parents, and I would've left. I would've moved out. I would've given my mom custody.

(DETECTIVE WELLS)

Q-What about the baby's dad's parents, would you have left her with them, too?

A-I haven't talked to them since we were probably six or seven years old. Since we were little kids. That was probably the last time I saw...

Q-You don't have a phone...

A-...or talked to them.

Q-...for 'em?

A-No, I do not. I would not have let anything happen to my daughter. Except, I made the mistake of trusting another person with her. That's it.

(DETECTIVE MELICH)

Q-No, no, no.

(SERGEANT ALLEN)

Q-Whoa.

(DETECTIVE MELICH)

Q-You. You. No...no stop. You, you...

A-That...

Q-...you...you made...

A-I've made a lot...

Q-Stop.

A-...of mistakes.

Q-You've made a lot more mistakes...

A-Yes.

Q-...than that. Because everything that you've told us, every single thing from the point that you opened your mouth to the police officer this morning to right now, everything has been a lie. We're sitting at Universal Studios because of a lie. We, we got all these other people in the station right now talking to us, because of a lie. We've got all these other apartment buildings that we've got people that had to check on, because of a lie. Okay. We need to stop this lie. Your mother has called me countless times today, okay. And that's why my phone keeps going off.

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative).

Q-Countless times, because your mother knows, your father knows, everyone around you knows, that you have lied, completely and absolutely, from the get go. Everyone knows. Why you're not coming out with it, and why you're not telling us the truth, no one has an answer to. The only person that has an answer to that is you. And this is what we're trying to implore upon you. You need to tell us the truth about what happened to Caylee. It's not that she's with someone, and you didn't call...

A-It's the truth.

Q-That's not the truth.

A-It is the truth.

Q-That's not the truth. You need to tell...

A-Absolutely the truth.

Q-No, it's not the truth. See, we can't get past that unless you go ahead and tell us the truth.

A-There's nothing to get past, because that is the truth. If there was anything...

(SERGEANT ALLEN)

Q-Well, let's get past this.

A-...else something would've happened.

Q-Let's get past how we got to Universal Studios. Let's get past, ah, why you talked to your daughter yesterday on the phone. Ah, having no idea where she's at and haven't seen...and having not seen her for five weeks, and you didn't call anybody. Did you just think that one day she is just gonna show up at your house?

A-No, I sat around yesterday trying to figure out what to do. I'm glad that I ended up seeing my mom. That all of that stuff happened, happened for a reason because (Inaudible)...

Q-You're glad you saw your mom. Let me ask you this. You could've saw your mom five weeks ago, said, "Mom, I don't know where..." You could have called your mom five weeks ago.

A-I was scared.

Q-What does that mean?

A-I saw my mom's reaction right off the bat, and it would've been the same from the get go.

Q-Well, so you're more afraid...

A-(Inaudible)...

Q-So wait a minute. So, you're more afraid of your mom's reaction than you are if you ever see your daughter again?

A-No, I'm absolutely petrified. Absolutely petrified. I know my mom will never forgive me. I'm never gonna forgive myself, because there's that chance that I might not see Caylee again, and I don't want to think about that.

Q-Well let me ask you, let me ask how...by lying to us and sending us on all these goose, these wild goose chases.

A-(Inaudible)...

Q-Hold on a minute, okay. I want you to tell me, okay, this is a, um, I mean is it, is there some other thing more important in your life right now that...

A-No.

Q-...maybe that...nah, but you just weren't kind of, you just weren't really focused on what you were saying when you told us? Yet, kind of just accidentally, told us you had an office here and we needed to

be here 'cause we might find something that would help? Or did you lie to purposely, or did you purposely mislead us? Which of those two is it?

A-I purposely misled you.

Q-Okay, so you purposely misled us. This was all an attempt to help find your daughter, right?

A-No.

Q-That makes sense to you, correct?

A-Again, and in a backwards sort of way, yes.

Q-In a backwards sort of way.

A-I'm coming back to places that are familiar to me, that I know are familiar to her. Familiar situations that maybe...

Q-What did you think...

A-...just maybe...

Q-How old is she?

A-...would help. She's almost three.

Q-She's almost three.

A-In a month.

Q-What do you think, she's gonna take a cab here? I mean...

A-I know she's not.

Q-...how did you think she's gonna get here?

A-Because she's with someone else. If I could find her, If...

Q-She's with someone else.

A-...I could track her down.

Q-Wait, she's with...

A-This wouldn't be happening.

Q-Okay, hold on a second, let's put this together, where it makes sense, okay. She's with someone else, whose hid her from you for five weeks.

A-Yes.

Q-Who let her call you on the phone yesterday, but then hung up.

A-(No verbal response).

Q-But you brought us here today 'cause she might be here.

A-She could be anywhere.

Q-Boy. That's true, but why here? Why would...let me ask you this, okay. Why would a person, why would a person, who has hid your daughter from you for five weeks, okay, bring her to the building that you used to work at?

A-(No verbal response).

Q-I mean, did you think we'd walk in here, she'd be sitting in the lobby, or...

A-No.

Q-Okay, well you brought us here to find her right?

A-(No verbal response).

Q-'Cause you thought maybe in some weird sort of what you said backwards way, that we would find her here. That this would help. So, I'm asking you.

A-Maybe she's been here within the last five weeks. Maybe they have something from up front, her coming through the turnstiles. I don't know.

Q-So, you think that this person who's hid her from you for five weeks--okay, that had her call you on the phone yesterday, and tell you about this book she was reading, then hung up; would bring her to Universal Studios? And this office, in particular.

A-Not in this office. Coming to this office...

Q-Well, this is where you brought us.

A-(Inaudible)...

Q-You didn't take us to the turnstiles, did you? You brought us here, right?

A-You're right.

Q-Okay. Now, when you, when you told him about these other places that were wrong earlier today-- that was also an attempt to help us find her, right?

A-These were other places that I've gone to and either seen Caylee...

Q-Right.

A...or, I know that her nanny has been to.

Q-And you're completely truthful with 'em about all that?

A-Yes. I was completely truthful about those places that we've been to. I've been to those steps, that's where I've dropped her...

Q-Now, we're not talking about steps, okay, we've already...

A-I'm talking about the other places. The other houses, I know...

Q-The old folks home?

A-Not the old folks home.

Q-Oh, so that was not really all the way true?

A-I know Zani has been to the old folks home. So, I've never...

(DETECTIVE MELICH)

Q-You know, you pointed out, you pointed at the 3rd floor window and you said, well, that's what's-her-name's bedroom, and Zani's bedroom is right below...is on the other side. That's what you told me. So, that was a lie?

A-That was a lie.

(SERGEANT ALLEN)

Q-And that was gonna help find her, how? Telling...lying about, lying about that bedroom, where is Zani's bedroom, that was gonna help find her, how? Huh?

A-It's not helping.

Q-Then why would you do it? 'Cause we are...I mean, that's what we're here for right, finding her?

A-I don't know what else to do anymore. If I knew where she was, if something had happened...

Q-Well, let me ask you this.

A-...I would've admitted that a long time ago.

Q-Do you think, do you think...do you believe, thinking up more lies to tell us will help us?

A-No.

(DETECTIVE WELLS)

Q-Is your daughter in a better place?

A-No, she's not.

Q-Are you worried about her?

A-I'm absolutely petrified. If she was with her family right now, she'd be in the best place. She's not. She's with someone that I absolutely do not trust. And I'm absolutely scared that...

(SERGEANT MELICH)

Q-That you don't trust, yet was babysitting your daughter for a year?

A-I don't trust her now, because of what happened.

(SERGEANT ALLEN)

Q-What point did you stop trusting her?

A-The moment that her phone was cut off and I couldn't get in contact with my daughter.

Q-So, you thought, man, something ain't right?

A-Something's wrong.

Q-And when you started thinking that something was wrong, which police agency did you call first, us or the city police, or who did you call first? Who did you go to for help first, to help try to find her?

A-No one.

Q-No one, okay, alright. Okay. Well, I'm glad we got that straightened out.

(DETECTIVE MELICH)

Q-I can't think of anything else that I can say that...that's gonna convince you on how to do the right thing...

(SERGEANT ALLEN)

Q-Let's start...let me talk to you outside about the surveillance tapes, and maybe look back and give her a little bit.

(DETECTIVE MELICH)

Q-Yeah. Not only that, um, you want to turn it off, help yourself.

(DETECTIVE WELLS)

Q-No, that's fine. You want some water, or something?

A-No, I'm fine.

Q-No, you're good.

A-My one goal is, regardless of how it happened, the thing is, I don't care: I will lie, I will steal, or do whatever I can, to find my daughter.

Q-Well...

A-I put that in my statement, and I mean that with all of my heart.

Q-I know, but we don't want you, we don't want you to lie because...

A-No.

Q-...we work off of truth.

A-I know that.

Q-And, and we want to find your daughter as much as you do. And I don't think you're a monster or anything like that. I think you might have some pressures in your life. Who, who put, who exerts the most pressure on you? Like my parents used to do me.

A-Um, my mom does, absolutely.

Q-She, does she not think you care for your daughter good enough or...

A-It's...

Q-I mean...

A-My...

Q-...It's kind of rough, you're single, you're a single mom.

A-I live at home with my parents.

Q-Got to be rough. Got to be rough. You'll never live up to your mother's expectations, right?

A-At least not right now.

Q-Right.

A-But that no way means that I would ever do anything, or let any harm come to that child. She's the one thing in this world that I love more than anything.

Q-And I understand that and I believe it, I see the tears in your eyes. Okay.

A-(No verbal response).

Q-My concern is, is, I know, from my years of experience, I know what, I know what young adults and young moms and dads can do when parents exert too much pressure on 'em. They don't live up to their standards, they don't...so, not that you would hurt your child. But you might, ah, because you...if your parents, just constantly talk down on you, makes you feel like crap. You're not good enough...

A-It's not constant. I brought that on myself. The stuff that she says, the things that she said...she's been right about everything.

Q-What kind of things did she say?

A-She told me that I took advantage of her, and she's right, because...

Q-And how?

A-...for a very long time.

Q-How did you take advantage of her?

A-By using credit cards. When I had my own money, I still used some of her money. I went and bought material things for nothing.

Q-Right.

A-Whether it was things for myself, going out to eat.

Q-Right.

A-Spend a little bit of time with friends, or went and took Caylee shopping. For whatever reason, I was extremely selfish.

Q-Right.

A-I was extremely selfish for a few years, quite a few years.

Q-What about, I don't know anything about this. Like I told you before, I was just sitting at my desk, and he said, "Hey, come on." Something about a car at Amscot.

A-My car...

Q-What...what's up with that?

A-My car ran out of gas. I was driving, actually to different places...

Q-Your car?

A-My car, yes.

Q-Okay.

A-The car they bought from my brother three years ago.

Q-Okay.

A-Sucks, because I ran out of gas. My gas gauge is obviously reading wrong. The sensor could be wrong.

Q-Right.

A-It showed I had half a tank of gas, but it was empty.

Q-When did it run out of gas?

A-Ah...

Q-Was that before or after your baby was missing?

A-Oh, it was definitely after.

Q-Yeah.

A-It was definitely after.

Q-And it ran out of gas in the parking lot of that check cashing store?

A-No, it was right at the corner of Goldenrod and 50. As you can turn, you get in that merging lane, where Sam's is and the Amscot.

Q-Right, right, right.

A-As you're going to get onto Goldenrod from 50, that's where my car stopped, right there. So, I had to get out, two guys helped me push it into that parking lot.

Q-Okay.

A-And, I left two notes on the car, even saying, I was gonna come back and put gas in it.

Q-Why is your mother saying that's her car? Or is she? Is that what I heard?

A-It's still in my parents' name.

Q-Oh.

A-It was my brother's car. He ended up, that was the car they bought my brother, in high school.

Q-Okay, so they bought....

A-He bought the, bought the car, he paid off the car, and then...

Q-And he sold it to you?

A-...he sold it to me. Yes.

Q-But not, not officially...

A-No

Q-...with the title transfer?

A-My parents kept the title, whether for insurance purposes or whatever else. They still kept it in their name.

Q-Oh, okay. So, the fact that it was at the check cashing place, it's just coincidental, because you ran out of gas?

A-'Cause I ran out of gas.

Q-It's not like you went there...

A-It wasn't on purpose.

Q-...to cash a check.

A-No, I...

Q-You didn't go...

A-...didn't go...

Q-...to the store...

A-...there to cash a check. No, I didn't go into the store.

Q-Right.

A-I wasn't abandoning my car.

Q-Right.

A-Just happened, circumstantially, I ran out of gas.

Q-Right.

A-I had to call my boyfriend, Tony, to come and pick me up.

Q-Hm. Well, if you were in our shoes, what could we do to help you find your child?

A-I don't know.

Q-What more can we do? Do you have a computer at home?

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative).

Q-Do you ever send, ah, what's the nanny's name?

A-Zenaida.

Q-Did you ever send her any emails or did she...

A-Her email accounts bounce back. I've tried twice, I tried...

Q-Does she...

A-...twice this morning.

Q-...does she...Have you...

A-She had email.

Q-Even when, even when y'all were, in good times, would she send emails back and forth?

A-On occasion we would...

Q-Okay.

A-...talk online. Not usually three in the morning.

Q-So, we might be able to track her, we might be able to track her...

A-If I check my logs, we could probably find her through instant messaging...

Q-What would be great, is if we could have our forensic computer guy...

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

Q-...take your computer, with your permission, and search it; and he can probably track her, by her AOL, or whatever account, and maybe see... 'cause , she's got to set up another account somewhere, where she goes.

A-Oh, yeah. She's gonna...

Q-Would that be something...

A-...set up (Inaudible)...

Q-...you'd be willing to do?

A-I'm okay with that.

Q-Yeah.

A-'Cause, I know that I have documentation on my computer, somewhere.

Q-Okay.

A-I have to.

Q-Well, he can find it. He, what he does, he makes a copy of what's on your computer, so you don't lose anything on your computer.

A-Yes. That way he can just pull it.

Q-And then he can search through...

A-And go through it.

Q-And, ah, maybe there's some clues there, as far as where this lady has gotten off to. Uh, and when she was watching your baby, she helped you for a year and a half?

A-Almost two years.

Q-Almost two years. Was she always in the same building?

A-She'd been at a house over in Andover Lakes , for a while. That was one of the main things...

Q-Was it her house, or was it one she was sharing?

A-No, it was a friend's house.

Q-So, it probably wasn't in her name?

A-No, it was not.

Q-Is that one of the addresses Yuri had?

A-No. Not that house.

Q-Do you know that address?

A-I do not know the address.

Q-Andover Lakes, where is that at?

A-Off of Dean and Curryford.

Q-Okay. That's out by, is McDonald's out there?

A-Out towards Waterford. Yeah. (Inaudible)...

Q-Do you remember how to get to that house?

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative).

Q-So, we can get the address, maybe do a title search or...

A-Ohhh.

Q-But she was probably just renting a room or...

A-I think she's just renting a room there for a while. She had a couple other roommates. I know the house wasn't in any of their names. I think they were just renting through...

Q-Did you know any of those roommates?

A-I have names, I have two names for them. But nothing...

Q-Have you given 'em to Yuri?

A-Yes.

Q-Okay. What were those names?

A-Raquell Ferrell and Jennifer Rosa.

Q-Okay. You had any contact with them?

A-No.

Q-Have any way of getting a hold of their cell phone numbers?

A-I never really talked to them much anyway. I think I probably saw them maybe a handful of times.

Q-Right.

A-Their schedules were completely opposite of mine. They were never really anybody that I met besides just in passing. Even with the boyfriend that Zenaida had last year.

Q-Right.

A-I saw him maybe twice.

Q-Right.

A-They only dated a couple months, it was never anything serious. She never had him around Caylee or the other children she baby sat. So, it was never an uncomfortable situation. But this is so heart wrenching because there was never a sign. Never a single sign that this was gonna happen.

Q-Right. Do you know where she was from? With a name like Zenaida whatever.

A-Zenaida.

Q-Zenaida.

A-She's mixed, she's Puerto Rican, and her father's black. She's from New York, from what I've been told, that's where she was born.

Q-Right.

A-She moved to Miami, she went to U of F.

Q-You said you went to Colonial High School.

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative).

Q-Did you go to college afterwards or...

A-Valencia.

Q-What...how many years at Valencia?

A-About a year and a half.

Q-Year and a half.

A-I got my planning certificate.

Q-Yeah. Oh, that's when you got hired on here at ah...

A-Well, I got that outside of all this. I just wanted to do event planning period, and working occasional events, even before actually coming to the event department.

Q-Right.

A-Part-time or as a seasonal employee. Which is something I always wanted to do anyway.

Q-Right.

A-So.

Q-Hm, when you were growing up, you take any medicines or anything?

A-No.

Q-No. Ah, your baby take any medicines?

A-No.

Q-She needed any medicine?

A-Not at all.

Q-She's good health?

A-She's had one cold, and it lasted two days, her entire life.

Q-Yeah. Wow.

A-She's been extremely healthy.

Q-Hm. Pediatrician? Who's your baby's pediatrician?

A-Dr. Silva.

Q-Did ah, these chairs aren't very comfortable.

A-No.

Q-You (Inaudible)...lay way back.

A-Exactly, I'm not comfortable.

Q-I feel like I'm gonna...

A-(Laughs).

Q-Did the nanny ever take, ah...

A-No.

Q-...baby to the doctor?

A-The only people that were on the list was myself, and both of my parents. And my dad, he came with me to a couple of visits. My mom, I think came to one. It was usually just Caylee and I.

Q-Favorite place to go. Ah, I guess Universal's one of 'em.

A-Well, as a theatrical thing, of course.

Q-Right.

A-But she liked Jay Blanchard Park. Going to Lake Underhill, and walking around the lake.

Q-Whereabouts in the park did she like the best?

A-The playgrounds.

Q-Yeah.

A-She liked to just attempt to run around Lake Underhill. She liked to go and walk the big trail at Jay Blanchard Park.

Q-Yeah, that's a big trail

A-She loved that. Oh, yeah.

Q-Yeah, we just finished walking that trail.. That's where, ah, the jogger was killed, I believe.

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative).

Q-It's a pretty park.

A-My mom didn't want me going out there to run for that reason.

Q-Yeah.

A-She didn't even want me running on the outside, running around Chickasaw, for the longest time, because of that.

Q-Trying to think, when you pull into the park, is the playground off to the right, if you're looking at the creek or the river?

A-There's two playgrounds.

Q-Which one did she play at?

A-She's played at both of them. But usually the bigger one that stops where the Y is.

Q-Right. That's the one she liked the most?

A-Yeah. 'Cause there's more things to climb on and for her to run around, there's usually a lot more kids.

Q-Yeah.

A-So, and there's swings.

Q-When was the last time she was there?

A-The last time I know that she was there, was the end of May. I took her in April a couple of times.

Q-Okay.

A-I've taken her a few times myself this year. The last time that I know that she went with someone other than myself, is the end of May.

Q-The end of May. And she, last...you last saw her June the 9th?

A-Ninth. A Monday.

Q-Hmm. Do you remember what y'all did on June the 8th?

A-It's a Sunday.

Q-I can't think of what I did, but... Anything significant?

A-I think I might've been at Tony's. I think my mom took Caylee up to see her parents in Mt. Dora. She either took her up there that Saturday or that Sunday.

Q-What's Tony's

A-It's my boyfriend's apartment.

A-Oh, okay. Mt. Dora, Mt. Dora, Mt. Dora, Mt. Dora.

A-It's just north of Apopka.

Q-Yeah. So, it was like a day visit?

A-For my parents, or for my mom, yeah.

Q-And...

A-And my mom goes up there even just by herself or with my dad or I go up there with her. It's usually just...

Q-Your mom will go...it's your...your current boyfriend, right?

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative).

Q-That what you said?

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative).

Q-So, your mom will go up there, and she, she likes (Inaudible)...

A-My mom will go up to Mt. Dora to see her parents.

Q-Oh, okay. And your, your boyfriend (Inaudible)...lives up there, too. They're not...

A-No, he lives off of University.

Q-Oh. Okay. I got you. So, your baby went up there with your mom to see...

A-Yeah.

Q-her parents?

A-See her great grandparents.

Q-Yeah. How old are they?

A-Oh, my grandfather's, I think, he's 88, maybe.

Q-Wow.

A-And my grandmother is probably 82, 83.

Q-Hang on a second.

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative).

Q-(on phone) I'm in an interview, Mick. (off phone) That's my partner. He's going on a cruise to Bahamas, I think.

A-Nice.

Q-What is that three days, four nights or...

A-Usually.

Q-...or four days three nights or something like that.

A-Yeah.

Q-That'd be nice. I guess, but I don't like boats.

A-(Laughs)

Q-So, man, I just don't know everything that was asked of you, and, I just don't know how...You're...you're our biggest help. You're gonna be our biggest help in solving this.

A-I have nothing to go off of, that's the problem. I have perspective ideas of maybe where she could go.

Q-Tell me.

A-At the same time... She could've gone back up to New York. She could've gone up to Jacksonville, where we have a friend. Could've gone down to Miami, where her mom and her sister live now. She could've gone anywhere.

Q-Did she have any children?

A-No.

Q-And we're talking about the baby sitter right?

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative).

Q-She didn't have any children?

A-No.

Q-Could, could she have children?

A-I...

Q-Is this something that she could've done and...

A-I'm pretty sure that she could, that was never anything that came up. But, I mean, I...

Q-Did she ever...

A-(Inaudible)...

Q-...when she was back, did she ever make any funny, oh like, "I love this child", you know, and "I wish you were mine", or anything like that? Or...

A-Never that I have witnessed or anybody else had ever told me. She used to just say how much she loved Caylee and that she was such a good kid. And you know, she was very, very proud of how she was being raised.

Q-Right.

A-It was always, good praise, but more of things that I heard from other friends. Nothing that sounded out of the ordinary, that was ever strange or weird.

Q-Right.

A-But then this just happened. And she was nonchalant with me the morning of. Everything was perfectly fine.

Q-And when you contacted, when you would call, like you would drop the baby off in the morning, or for the day or...was it 'cause you got to go to work and she was watching.

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative).

Q-Would you call during the day? Call her up during the day, say...

A-I would always call and check on Caylee or send a text message. Or, if I was online, just to make sure that everything was okay. She would occasionally call me, just to...

Q-Can you get online here at work? Can you send text messages from work?

A-I usually just use my phone.

Q-Oh, okay.

A-I usually text from...well, use my computer instant message from, you know, anywhere else where I have access.

Q-Well, once again, I mean, that phone, I'm not an electronic geek. But, I mean, the phone might have some valuable clues in there, that could help us try to track down...maybe that...

A-The only bad thing is, it only saves 20 calls at a time.

Q-Ohhh.

A-And text messages, it only saves the messages that I receive, it doesn't show anything that I sent. That's why I pulled up a list of stuff for them.

Q-Is that ah, Boost phone?

A-No...

Q-What is that?

A-...It's a Nokia. It's an AT&T phone, it's probably one of the cheapest, cheapest, crappiest, simplest phones.

Q-But the phone's...

A-(Inaudible)...

Q-But the phone company, your service, will have your telephone itemized for (Inaudible)...Right.

A-Yeah, I have everything. But...

Q-Incoming and outgoing, right?

A-Incoming and outgoing. The thing is...

Q-Do you have those itemized bills for...

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative). I printed off the ones for July.

Q-Did you give 'em to Yuri.

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

Q-Okay.

A-We did last night. Actually, I put them on a zip drive for him. I gave him my zip drive, that has pictures.

Q-Okay.

A-And it has two different word documents, one has my text messages, when they sent to what number.

Q-Uh-huh. (Affirmative).

A-And ones that I received. It didn't show the actual message itself. But, at least, showed texts were sent, at this time, to such and such number.

Q-Right.

A-Um, the same thing with the phone list. I just need to go back through, go back on the Cingular website and find the other months.

A-Right.

A-I know she's had at least three different phone numbers in the last almost four years, that I've met her.

Q-Uh-huh. (Affirmative).

A-And I know that she was on two different phone plans at...

Q-That she's lived in...

A-...at two different times.

Q-...places since...

A-Well...

Q-...that you know of?

A-She's lived at a couple places.

Q-Since she's been watching your child?

A-No, she's lived just in Orlando since I've met her. But she had just moved here...

Q-At Andover Lakes. She lived...was she watching your baby there?

A-Yeah.

Q-And then in the ah, whatever this other place is or...

A-There's another apartment that she had been in probably, right about the time that I met her.

Q-Uh-huh. (Affirmative).

A-It's Alafaya Club Apartments.

Q-Does Yuri know all that?

A-Uh-huh. (Affirmative).

Q-Alafaya Club Apartments? So, she...

A-She'd only lived there for a few months. I think Caylee probably was only there maybe once or twice.

Q-Did she live in the apartment that you dropped her off at the steps? Was that one of the ones she lived in, or was that, ah...

A-That was one of the places where we had met up a couple different times. I actually have a couple of friends that live in that complex, so does she.

Q-Okay.

A-A good friend of mine from high school still lives there. He has a one bedroom apartment.

Q-Do you know who...

A-Right around (Inaudible)...

Q-...do you know who her friends were in there? Where they lived, or names, or anything like that?

A-I do not. She used to talk about people all the time, but would never use specific names, or really go into any detail about anything. And it never seemed weird, some people are just very particular about giving out details or specific...

Q-Right.

A-...details about other people. So, I understood all of that, but looking back at stuff now, the privacy, the way she was a little bit changing phones and...

Q-Uh-huh. (Affirmative).

A-It just, it didn't seem right whatsoever.

Q-Right.

A-So, looking back at any place that I know that she had ever gone to, or that again would seem familiar for me. That maybe I've gone to, to meet her to drop off Caylee or to pick up Caylee for that reason. We'd find mutual places sometimes.

Q-Right.

A-Or, I'd go and pick her up at a grocery store, if that's where they were. To try and make it a little bit easier.

Q-If, if we found the nanny today, and we found your baby; what...what's your biggest, what's the next biggest hurdle for you in your life as far as who's it...maybe explaining something to somebody or who...who...what's the next biggest concern? I know your major concern now is finding your baby.

A-Honestly, that's all I care about, at this point. And I'll...I'll take that necessary stuff with whatever with, you know...

Q-Who would that be? I mean...who...who's gonna be the next hurdle in your life as far as trying to explain, that, no. I'm not a neglectful mother. I'm not, you know...is it gonna be your mom?

A-Myself. No, it's gonna be saying that and proving that to myself every day. My mom flat out told me yesterday she would never be able to forgive me. And I even told her, I'm never gonna be able to forgive myself. Every day, I've been beating myself up about this. Every single day.

Q-Right.

A-Not knowing where to go, what to do. Running in circles, literally, 'cause it's all I can do at this point.

Q-Right.

A-Even if I would've had my car in perfect condition, you know, under perfect conditions. It wouldn't have mattered, where would I have gone, just...driven around for nothing? That's what it feels like.

Q-Yeah, I just, you know, I mean, I would hope this would never happen to you again. But I think if this ever...

A-I would never...

Q-...happened again...

A-...let this happen.

Q-...ah, the very first...

A-If I ever (Inaudible)...

Q-...phone call should be to the...

A-Absolutely.

Q-...the police.

A-Be to the police.

Q-'Cause we got so many resources.

A-I wouldn't hesitate to talk to my parents, this time, if something happened.

Q-Right

A-I mean, I learned the biggest lesson from all this. I made the greatest mistake that I ever could've made as a parent, and, I even, you know, told Yuri that this morning, and he said he couldn't disagree.

Q-Right.

(SERGEANT ALLEN)

Q-You going out?

(DETECTIVE WELLS)

Q-No, I'm just gonna stand up, stretch my legs.

(SERGEANT ALLEN)

Q-Okay. Alright.

(DETECTIVE WELLS)

Q-Well, I know you've been in here a long time. Appreciate your talking to us and whatnot, I mean...

A-I'm sorry I've given you guys the runaround.

Q-We're not, we're not trying to be scary guys, we're just trying to...

A-Oh, I know and...

Q-We're just trying to make sure we get accurate information, so we have something to work off of.

A-Oh, I understand that.

Q-Um...

A-I just wish I honestly had more things to help with. We've talked about going through my computer, maybe trying to find past conversations through instant messenger or through emails, something.

(SERGEANT ALLEN)

Q-Okay.

A-I'll offer up my computer in a heartbeat. Just like with my phone logs and everything else. Anything that could possibly help, that's why we set up websites and have been making phone calls and trying to get a hold of people. I had such a limited number of people that I was actually trusting at that point, thinking maybe they could help. They, they'd have some insight. I didn't want to involve a bunch of people that maybe didn't know the situation. The biggest mistake was not calling you guys right off the bat. I understand all of that. It's the biggest slap in the face, and I did that to myself. But the worst is, I've done this to my daughter by allowing her to still be with someone else.

Q-Yeah, that's true. Um, you're right about that. By failing to notify somebody. And I'm glad you realize that by...by failing to notify somebody, you've put your daughter at greater risks.

A-Even bigger risks.

Q-You put your daughter in terrible danger by just letting this drag out five weeks and not telling anybody. That's, ah, you're right, I'm not gonna argue with you there.

A-No.

Q-Okay. Ah, you want to head back to the office and...

(DETECTIVE MELICH)

Q-Yeah.

(SERGEANT ALLEN)

Q-Yeah, outside of, ah, I want to bring this Zenaida up on the, ah...I'm gonna put that name in DAVID and see what we get. Better take a look, make sure we're...

A-Both of my parents were even saying to try to figure out all her names. If she went by something else.

(DETECTIVE MELICH)

Q-Let me, let me just go ahead, because this is still running, I noticed it. Raise your right hand for me. Just like this morning.

A-Yeah.

Q-You swear everything you've told me is the truth now about the lies and...

A-Yes.

Q-...everything else? Okay.

THIS TRANSCRIPT HAS BEEN REVIEWED FOR ACCURACY

Signed this 12th day of August, 2008.

DETECTIVE MELICH OCSO DEPUTY SHERIFF