

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF
OKLAHOMA SITTING IN AND FOR CRAIG COUNTY

THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA,

Plaintiff,

vs.

RONNIE DEAN BUSICK
ADDR: 3836 E Pawnee Court
Wichita, KS 67218

DL: ****

SSN: ***-**-9658

DOB: September, 1951

Defendant.

Case No. CF-2018-56

DISTRICT COURT
FILED

APR 23 2018

DEBORAH MASON, COURT CLERK
STATE OF OKLA, CRAIG COUNTY

BY Renee T. Hall
DEPUTY

INFORMATION

FOR:

COUNT 1: MURDER IN THE FIRST DEGREE ~ MALICE AFORETHOUGHT ~ 21 O.S. §
701.7(A), a FELONY

OR IN THE ALTERNATIVE

COUNT 1: ACCESSORY TO MURDER IN THE FIRST DEGREE ~ 21 O.S. § 175, a FELONY

COUNT 2: MURDER IN THE FIRST DEGREE ~ MALICE AFORETHOUGHT ~ 21 O.S. §
701.7(A), a FELONY

OR IN THE ALTERNATIVE

COUNT 2: ACCESSORY TO MURDER IN THE FIRST DEGREE ~ 21 O.S. § 175, a FELONY

COUNT 3: ARSON IN THE FIRST DEGREE ~ 21 O.S. § 1401 (A), a FELONY

OR IN THE ALTERNATIVE

COUNT 3: ACCESSORY TO ARSON IN THE FIRST DEGREE ~ 21 O.S. § 175, a FELONY

COUNT 4: MURDER IN THE FIRST DEGREE ~ FELONY MURDER ~ 21 O.S. § 701.7(B), a
FELONY

COUNT 5: KIDNAPPING ~ 21 O.S. § 741(1), a FELONY

COUNT 6: MURDER IN THE FIRST DEGREE ~ FELONY MURDER ~ 21 O.S. § 701.7(B), a
FELONY

COUNT 7: KIDNAPPING ~ 21 O.S. § 741(1), a FELONY

STATE OF OKLAHOMA, COUNTY OF CRAIG:

I, Matthew J. Ballard, the undersigned District Attorney of said County, in the name and by
the authority of the State of Oklahoma, give information that in said County of Craig and in the
State of Oklahoma, **RONNIE DEAN BUSICK** while acting in concert with Warren Phillip Welch II

AKA Phil Welch and David A. Pennington did unlawfully, willfully, knowingly and wrongfully commit the crime(s) of:

COUNT 1: MURDER IN THE FIRST DEGREE ~ a FELONY, on or about the 30th day of December, 1999, in Craig County, Oklahoma did aid and abet Phil Welch and David Pennington during the commission of murder in the first degree with malice aforethought resulting in the death of another human being, to-wit: Ronnie Dean Busick did act as a look-out while Phil Welch and David Pennington attempted to collect a drug debt from Danny Glenn Freeman during which Danny Glenn Freeman was shot and did in fact languish and die as a result of the wounds inflicted by Phil Welch.

OR IN THE ALTERNATIVE:

COUNT 1: ACCESSORY TO MURDER IN THE FIRST DEGREE ~ a FELONY, on or about the 30th day of December, 1999 and dates thereafter, by aiding Phil Welch and David Pennington, knowing that on or about the 30th day of December, 1999, they had committed the crime of Murder in the First Degree of Danny Glenn Freeman, by failing to cooperate with and providing false information to law enforcement with the intent on the part of Ronnie Dean Busick that Phil Welch and David Pennington may avoid arrest for their crime.

COUNT 2: MURDER IN THE FIRST DEGREE ~ a FELONY, on or about the 30th day of December, 1999, in Craig County, Oklahoma did aid and abet Phil Welch and David Pennington during the commission of murder in the first degree with malice aforethought resulting in the death of another human being, to-wit: Ronnie Dean Busick did act as a look-out while Phil Welch and David Pennington attempted to collect a drug debt from Danny Glenn Freeman during which Kathy Eleta Freeman was shot and did in fact languish and die as a result of the wounds inflicted by Phil Welch.

OR IN THE ALTERNATIVE:

COUNT 2: ACCESSORY TO MURDER IN THE FIRST DEGREE ~ a FELONY, on or about the 30th day of December, 1999 and dates thereafter, by aiding Phil Welch and David Pennington, knowing that on or about the 30th day of December, 1999, they had committed the crime of Murder in the First Degree of Kathy Eleta Freeman, by failing to cooperate with and providing false information to law enforcement with the intent on the part of Ronnie Dean Busick that Phil Welch and David Pennington may avoid arrest for their crime.

COUNT 3: ARSON IN THE FIRST DEGREE ~ a FELONY, on or about the 30th day of December, 1999, by willfully and maliciously did aid and abet Phil Welch and David Pennington in setting fire to and burning a residence located at 7856 S 4390 Road that was owned by Danny and Kathy Freeman and occupied by Danny and Kathy Freeman in concert with Phil Welch and David Pennington.

OR IN THE ALTERNATIVE:

COUNT 2: ACCESSORY ARSON IN THE FIRST DEGREE ~ a FELONY, on or about the 30th day of December, 1999 and dates thereafter, by aiding Warren Phillip and David Pennington, knowing that on or about the 30th day of December, 1999, had committed the crime of Arson in the First Degree of Danny and Kathy Freeman's residence, by failing to cooperate with and providing false information to law enforcement with the intent on the part of Ronnie Dean Busick that Phil Welch and David Pennington may avoid arrest for their crime.

COUNT 4: MURDER IN THE FIRST DEGREE - FELONY MURDER ~ a FELONY, on or about the 30th day of December, 1999, in Craig County, Oklahoma, without a premeditated design to effect death, did cause and effect the death of one Ashley Freeman while said defendants were unlawfully engaged in a felony in the manner and form as follows, Kidnapping 21 O.S. 741(1), to-wit: did aid and abet in the forcible abduction of Ashley Freeman from 7856 S 4390 Road, and confined Ashley Freeman against her will without lawful authority and at a later time strangled Ashley Freeman

and said Ashley Freeman did in fact languish and die as a result of the wounds inflicted by Phil Welch. The defendants' actions were a substantial factor in bringing about Ashley Freeman's death and thus her death was a direct result and during the commission of the unlawful acts of said defendants. Said crime was committed in concert with Phil Welch and David Pennington.

COUNT 5: KIDNAPPING ~ a FELONY, on or about the 30th day of December, 1999, by forcibly abducting Ashley Freeman from 7856 S 4390 Road, and confining Ashley Freeman against her will without lawful authority and with the intent to keep Ashley Freeman confined and/or imprisoned against her will, in concert with Phil Welch and David Pennington.

COUNT 6: MURDER IN THE FIRST DEGREE - FELONY MURDER ~ a FELONY, on or about the 30th day of December, 1999, in Craig County, Oklahoma, without a premeditated design to effect death, did cause and effect the death of one Lauria Bible while said defendants were unlawfully engaged in a felony in the manner and form as follows, Kidnapping 21 O.S. 741(1), to-wit: did aid and abet in the forcible abduction of Lauria Bible from 7856 S 4390 Road, and confined Lauria Bible against her will without lawful authority and at a later time strangled Lauria Bible and said Lauria Bible did in fact languish and die as a result of the wounds inflicted by Phil Welch. The defendants' actions were a substantial factor in bringing about Lauria Bible's death and thus her death was a direct result of and during the commission of the unlawful acts of said defendants. Said crime was committed in concert with Phil Welch and David Pennington.

COUNT 7: KIDNAPPING ~ a FELONY, on or about the 30th day of December, 1999 by forcibly abducting Lauria Bible from 7856 S 4390 Road, and confining Lauria Bible against her will without lawful authority and with the intent to keep Lauria Bible confined and/or imprisoned against her will, in concert with Phil Welch and David Pennington.

MATTHEW J. BALLARD
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

By 
ANTHONY J. EVANS
ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

WITNESSES ENDORSED FOR THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA

E.B.A.H., c/o DA District 12

Lorene Bible

J.B., c/o DA District 12

Tony Chenoweth, Craig County Sheriff, Craig County Sheriff's Department, Vinita, OK 74301

Michael Dean, OSBI, OSBI

L.E., c/o DA District 12

R.E., c/o DA District 12

Tammy Ferrari, OSBI, OSBI, NE Regional Office, 125 W. 15th Street, Ste. 100, Tulsa, OK 74119

AUNGELA SPURLOCK, OSBI, NE Regional Office, 125 W. 15th Street, Ste. 100, Tulsa, OK 74119

RYAN WOOLLEY, OSBI, NE Regional Office, 125 W. 15th Street, Ste. 100, Tulsa, OK 74119

BRAD GREEN, OSBI, NE Regional Office, 125 W. 15th Street, Ste. 100, Tulsa, OK 74119

TRAVIS SMIDDY, OSBI, NE Regional Office, 125 W. 15th Street, Ste. 100, Tulsa, OK 74119

JOHN GRAHAM, OSBI, NE Regional Office, 125 W. 15th Street, Ste. 100, Tulsa, OK 74119

LORI NIVEN, OSBI, NE Regional Office, 125 W. 15th Street, Ste. 100, Tulsa, OK 74119

VICKY LYONS, District 27 District Attorney 307 E. Cherokee, Wagoner OK 74467

JON HUNTINGTON, SPECIAL AGENT (RETIRED) OSBI, NE Regional Office, 125 W. 15th Street, Ste. 100, Tulsa, OK 74119

MARK MCCOY, SPECIAL AGENT (RETIRED) OSBI, NE Regional Office, 125 W. 15th Street, Ste. 100, Tulsa, OK 74119

DON FAIRCLOTH, SPECIAL AGENT (RETIRED) OSBI, NE Regional Office, 125 W. 15th Street, Ste. 100, Tulsa, OK 74119
ZA SMITH, SPECIAL AGENT OSBI, NE Regional Office, 125 W. 15th Street, Ste. 100, Tulsa, OK 74119
DAVE PAGE, SPECIAL AGENT (RETIRED) OSBI, NE Regional Office, 125 W. 15th Street, Ste. 100, Tulsa, OK 74119
PAT KENNEDY, SPECIAL AGENT, OSBI, NE Regional Office, 125 W. 15th Street, Ste. 100, Tulsa, OK 74119
CRAIG CORMIER, SPECIAL AGENT OSBI, NE Regional Office, 125 W. 15th Street, Ste. 100, Tulsa, OK 74119
MAIT MOOSBURGER, SPECIAL AGENT OSBI, NE Regional Office, 125 W. 15th Street, Ste. 100, Tulsa, OK 74119
DENNIS FRANCHINI, SPECIAL AGENT (RETIRED) OSBI, NE Regional Office, 125 W. 15th Street, Ste. 100, Tulsa, OK 74119
JIM OTTE, SPECIAL AGENT (RETIRED) OSBI, NE Regional Office, 125 W. 15th Street, Ste. 100, Tulsa, OK 74119
KELLY BEACH, SPECIAL AGENT (RETIRED) OSBI, NE Regional Office, 125 W. 15th Street, Ste. 100, Tulsa, OK 74119
BEN ROSSER, SPECIAL AGENT (RETIRED) OSBI, NE Regional Office, 125 W. 15th Street, Ste. 100, Tulsa, OK 74119
RICHARD GOSS, ASSISTANT SPECIAL AGENT IN-CHARGE OSBI, NE Regional Office, 125 W. 15th Street, Ste. 100, Tulsa, OK 74119
DANNY MOUTETT, SPECIAL AGENT, OSBI, NE Regional Office, 125 W. 15th Street, Ste. 100, Tulsa, OK 74119
ROBERT WILLIAMS, SPECIAL AGENT, OSBI, NE Regional Office, 125 W. 15th Street, Ste. 100, Tulsa, OK 74119
TODD SPURLOCK, SPECIAL AGENT, OSBI, NE Regional Office, 125 W. 15th Street, Ste. 100, Tulsa, OK 74119
Bob Green, Oklahoma State Fire Marshal, 2401 NW 23rd, Suite 4, Oklahoma City, OK 73017
R.H., c/o DA District 12
W.H., c/o DA District 12
Jeremy Jones, c/o DA District 12
C.M., c/o DA District 12
Steve Nutter, OSBI
Oklahoma Medical Examiner, 1115 W 17th, Tulsa, OK 74107
James Pennington, c/o DA District 12
Tom Pryor, c/o DA District 12
J.R., c/o DA District 12
Steve Rosebrough, Kansas Bureau of Investigation, 1620 SW Tyler St. Topeka, KS 66612
Jimmie Sooter, Craig County Sheriff (retired), 210 W. Delaware, Suite 101, Vinita, OK 74301
Gary Stansill, D12 District Attorney's Investigation Unit, Rogers County DA's Office, Claremore, OK 74017
Wayne Stinnett, Chief Investigator District 12 District Attorney, 200 S. Lynn Riggs Blvd., Claremore, OK 74017
Dewayne Vancil, 20661 S. Hwy 2, Vinita, OK 74301
J.V., c/o DA District 12
Heath Winfrey, Craig County Sheriff, Craig County Sheriff's Office, 210 W Delaware, Vinita, OK 74301
JD LINDSTROM, OSBI CRIMINALIST, 1995 Airport Parkway, Tahlequah, OK 74464
APRIL M. MARCANGELI, OSBI CRIMINALIST 800 East 2nd Street, Edmond OK 73034
GORDON ROBERTSON, OSBI CRIMINALIST (RETIRED), 800 East 2nd Street, Edmond OK 73034
BRANDY REESE, OSBI CRIMINALIST, 800 East 2nd Street, Edmond OK 73034
MARK D. HAYES, Craig County Sheriff, 210 W Delaware, Vinita, OK 74301
JIM HERMAN, DEPUTY, Craig County Sheriff, 210 W Delaware, Vinita, OK 74301
TROY MESSICK, DEPUTY, Craig County Sheriff, 210 W Delaware, Vinita, OK 74301
ANGELA BERG, OCME 1115 W 17th Street, Tulsa, OK 74107
CARLOS ZAMBRANO, OCME 1115 W 17th Street, Tulsa, OK 74107
DONNA WARREN, OCME 1115 W 17th Street, Tulsa, OK 74107

**IN THE DISTRICT COURT IN AND FOR CRAIG COUNTY
STATE OF OKLAHOMA**

THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA,
Plaintiff,

-vs-

Ronnie Dean Busick,
W/M, DOB 09/04/1951,
5'11", 227lbs,
Gray Hair, Brown eyes,
SSN XXX-XX-9658,
Last known address:
3836 East Pawnee Court,
Wichita, Kansas 67218,

Defendant,

CASE NO. CF-18-56

**DISTRICT COURT
FILED**

APR 23 2018

DEBORAH MASON, COURT CLERK
STATE OF OKLA, CRAIG COUNTY
BY [Signature]
DEPUTY

AFFIDAVIT FOR ARREST WARRANT

COMES NOW the undersigned Affiants, of lawful age and being first duly sworn upon oath, alleges and states as follows, to-wit:

There is probable cause for issuance of an arrest warrant on the basis that on or about December 30, 1999, said Defendant did commit the felony crimes of **4 Counts of 1st Degree Murder (21 O.S. § 701.7), 2 counts of Kidnapping (21 O.S. § 741), and 1 count of 1st Degree Arson (21 O.S. § 1401)**

Affiant Gary Stansill's Experience and Training

Affiant Gary Stansill is a peace officer as defined by 19 O.S. § 215.35A and employed by District 12, District Attorney's Office as a DA Investigator, having been so employed for over six years. Previously your Affiant was employed as a police officer for the Tulsa Police Department and having been so employed there for almost thirty-six years. Twenty-four of those years your Affiant was an investigator and investigative supervisor in the Detective Division, specializing in sexual assault and child abuse investigation. Your Affiant also supervised the Child Crisis Unit and later the Sex Crime Unit of the Tulsa Police Department

Affiant Tammy Ferrari's Experience and Training

Affiant Tammy Ferrari is a peace officer as defined by 21 O.S. § 99 and employed by the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation as a Special Agent for over five years. Previously your Affiant was employed as a police officer for the Fort Smith Police Department and having been so employed there for ten years. Six of those years your Affiant was an investigator in the investigative division specializing in Homicide. Your Affiant also investigated sex crimes, juveniles, domestic violence, crimes against persons, and property crimes.

Facts Establishing Probable Cause

The following facts were learned by your Affiants through personal observations, examination of evidence, and conversations with law enforcement officers and/or other people.

On the early morning of December 30, 1999, the Welch, OK fire department received a call at approximately 0530 hours of a fire at the home of Danny and Kathy Freeman located at 7856 S 4390 Rd, Welch, Oklahoma, in Craig County. Upon arrival, firemen of the Welch Fire Department found the mobile home residence fully engulfed by the fire. Inside the structure the body of an adult female was discovered. The body was later identified to be that of Kathy Eleta Freeman. State Fire Marshal Bob Green was contacted and he later determined the fire was deliberately set. At the conclusion of the search of the residence by law enforcement on December 30, 1999, Danny Freeman, Ashley Freeman (daughter to Danny and Kathy Freeman) and Ashley's friend, Lauria Bible (who had spent the night at the Freeman's residence on December 29, 1999), were unaccounted for.

On the morning of December 31, 1999, the remains of an adult male were found at the Freeman residence, in the fire debris, by family members. The body was later identified to be that of Danny Glenn Freeman. Ashley Freeman and Lauria Bible were still unaccounted for after a detailed search of the Freeman residence. As of the date of this affidavit Ashley Freeman and Lauria Bible are still missing.

An autopsy of both Kathy and Danny Freeman by the Oklahoma Medical Examiner's Office determined the cause of death to both to be a gunshot wound to the head and the manner of death to both as homicide.

The Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation (OSBI) became the lead law enforcement agency in the subsequent investigation with the assistance of numerous other law

enforcement agencies and organizations, e.g. National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs).

Affiant Stansill began investigating the case in September, 2011. Affiant Ferrari of the OSBI was assigned the case after the previous assigned OSBI agent, Steve Nutter, retired. In November, 2011, Affiant Stansill reviewed the OSBI case file which included investigative reports from other law enforcement agencies and the FBI. A copy of the OSBI case file was obtained by District 12 District Attorney Office in January 2013. On February 22, 2013, a meeting was held at District 12 District Attorney's Office in regards to potential suspects. Among those attending the meeting were Craig County Sheriff Jimmie Sooter, retired OSBI Agent Steve Nutter, OSBI Agent Tammy DeMier (Ferrari) and DA Investigator Gary Stansill. As a result of the meeting Affiants Stansill and Ferrari began jointly investigating the case in a more active role, although the OSBI has always maintained an open and active investigation. Affiants Ferrari and Stansill reviewed old leads, investigated potential suspects, developed new leads and received new leads from the public and family members.

This affidavit will contain only the aspect of the investigation that has led your Affiants in establishing probable cause in regards to the Defendant and two Co-Defendants that are now deceased. The deceased Co-defendants are Warren Philip Welch II, AKA Phil Welch (W/M dob 10/27/1945, date of death 07/29/2007) and David A. Pennington (W/M, dob 09/01/1958, date of death 06/14/2015).

One to two days following December 30, 1999, a search party found an insurance verification card belonging to EB near the crime scene. Lorene Bible, mother of Lauria Bible and Dwayne Vancil, a relative of Danny Freeman, both reported they recalled observing the insurance verification card and verified that it was found by members of a search party. On 01/03/2000, two FBI lead sheet reports referenced the insurance card belonging to EB. In one of the reports an FBI agent questioned EB as to why her insurance card was found near the scene. In the report EB reported that "she has no idea" as to why her card was found at the scene. The report further stated that EB has "never met Danny Freeman and has never been near their home. Her boyfriend knows who Danny Freeman is, but does not associate with him. The boyfriend's name is Phil Welch." Affiant Ferrari could not locate the insurance card in the evidence file on the Freeman case which should have contained a list of all physical evidence in regards to the case.

On 01/09/2001, a TW was interviewed by OSBI Agent Steve Nutter. In his report TW reported that beginning in March or April, 2000, she began living with Warren "Phil" Welch at 412 South College, Picher OK. TW reported that Welch was a "cooker" of methamphetamine and that she was a user of the drug. In the report TW reported that while living together, Welch had conversations with Dave Pennington and Ron Busick during which they implied the people "who were killed in Welch, Oklahoma, had owed them money and had been murdered for that debt. They had taken the two girls that were missing from Welch with them and eventually killed them. Pennington and Busick indicated they had set fire to the home of the murdered people."

The report further stated, "A poster with the pictures of the two missing girls from Welch, Oklahoma, which advertised a \$50,000 reward, had been nailed to a wall in Welch's house in Picher by WELCH." TW reported she had "seen several Polaroid pictures, which WELCH kept in his soft leather brief case, of the two girls." TW "was certain the girls in the Polaroid's were the same two girls identified in the reward poster." In some of the photographs TW reported the girls were lying on a bed. TW reported she recognized the bed as being the one that was in her and Welch's bedroom in Picher. TW reported "In all the photographs the girls' hands had been tied and their mouths' gagged."

TW reported that Welch had dated EB before he dated her. TW reported that Welch had kept EB's vehicle which she thought was a small 4-door American made sedan.

In a report dated 06/04/2001 OSBI Agent Steve Nutter reported he interviewed EB. In the report it stated Phil Welch had been EB's boyfriend and lived in two homes, one in Chetopa, KS, the other in Craig County, OK. EB reported she recalled being questioned by some "police officer" about the insurance card to her car being found near the scene of the crime. EB reported she had "no idea how the card had gotten to the location where it was found." EB reported she did not know the Freeman family, but Welch told her he did know them. EB reported she left Welch two or three months after the Freeman incident because Welch became violent towards EB.

On 02/19/2003, Kansas Bureau of Investigation Special Agent Steve Rosebrough met and interviewed Warren "Phil" Welch. Welch stated prior to the murder of Freeman and his family, Phil Welch moved to a residence approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ mile north of the Freeman residence.

In the report Phil Welch indicated he met David Pennington in Chetopa and they became friends. Welch described Pennington as a "king pin" and that Pennington always had a supply of methamphetamine.

In the report, Welch indicated that EB moved in with him and that soon after the murder of the Freeman family law enforcement officers had spoken to him and EB, about EB's insurance card being found near the crime scene. Welch reported that he had cleaned out EB's vehicle approximately one month earlier and had remembered seeing the insurance card in the glove box. Welch reported he "does not know why the insurance card was removed from the vehicle or why it was found near the crime scene."

In January 2016, your affiants began receiving additional information and leads regarding David Pennington, Phil Welch, and Ronnie Busick, as being involved in the Freeman murders and kidnapping of Lauria Bible and Ashley Freeman. As a result of this information Affiant Stansill located and interviewed LE on 02/05/2016.

Interview of LE on 02/05/2016

LE confirmed she used to live with David Pennington. When asked if she ever heard David Pennington talk about or mention the name of Danny Freeman. LE replied that name is familiar. When asked if he (Pennington) ever talked or bragged about killing anyone. LE suddenly replied "I thought that was the name". LE asked why she was being looked for now. LE was informed that information has come forward that David Pennington had information regarding the missing girls from Welch, OK, Lauria Bible and Ashley Freeman.

LE stated she had to hide from David Pennington because he talked about that (missing girls) all the time she was with him. LE stated that Pennington told her that if she ever left him that he would kill her too and that is why she hid.

When asked what he said about it, LE replied that he (Pennington) said it was a "bad drug deal". LE stated he (Pennington) cooked meth. LE stated they decided to "take the girls and have fun with them. You know what I mean?"

LE indicated she was told by Pennington that one of the parents was buying drugs from David when the girls walked into the room.

LE stated Pennington told her this over a period of time and not all at once. She stated

there were three involved. She stated one is dead now, but couldn't recall their names.

She was asked if the name Welch was familiar to her and she asked what the first name was and was told "Phil".

She replied "Philip" Welch and recalled that was one of the people involved. She couldn't recall the third.

The first name of Ronnie was offered to her and she stated "Busick". She stated Ronnie Busick "ran around" with them, but she wasn't sure if he was the third person involved.

LE stated one of them "bragged" about taking pictures of the girls tied up.

LE reported all three molested the girls. LE stated she didn't know where the girls were, but heard they may be in the bottom of a pit.

LE stated she was told this by Pennington and was threatened that if she told she also would be thrown into the pit with them.

LE reported she did believe what David Pennington told her in regards to the missing girls.

LE also reported that a car belonging to a woman who (Phil) Welch was seeing was used and that the woman's "ID" was found on the ground.

During the interview LE reported being physically abused by Pennington and that he made threats on her life. She indicated that she hoped he (Pennington) died a "horrible death".

LE stated she heard David Pennington tell friends to "shut up" when they began to talk about it (Freeman murders and missing girls).

Interviews of EH

On 02/23/2016, Affiant Stansill located and interviewed EH (AKA, EB) and conducted other subsequent interviews. During these interviews EH confirmed her live-in relationship with Phil Welch around the time of the Freeman murders.

EH confirmed that she learned that her vehicle's insurance verification card was found at the Freeman's, residence, but does not know how it got there. She further confirmed that Phil Welch would often drive the blue vehicle, which the insurance verification belonged in. EH stated she kept the card in the glove box.

EH stated she did not know the Freemans or the missing girls.

EH reported the information she had about Phil Welch and David Pennington's involvement in the murders and missing girls came from a person by name of JV.

EH reported she lived with Phil Welch in rural Welch, OK, and in a trailer in Picher, OK, during the time frame of the murders and missing girls.

EH reported she finally left Phil Welch because he physically abused her.

EH admitted to using "meth" while living with Phil Welch and that Phil Welch used and manufactured "meth".

EH reported when she left Phil Welch he had her blue car and it was eventually sold to an auto salvage by TW, who started dating Phil Welch after EH left him.

Interviews of CM

On 06/21/2016, Affiant Stansill interviewed CM and conducted subsequent interviews with her.

During these interviews CM reported she knew TW, Phil Welch, David Pennington and Ronnie Busick. She reported TW dated Phil Welch and there was an occasion when TW stayed with CM because Phil Welch physically abused TW and TW's son.

CM stated TW showed her a Polaroid picture that TW told her belonged to Phil Welch. CM stated the Polaroid was of two young girls who were bound and gagged lying on a bed facing each other. CM reported she didn't look very long at the picture of the girls because it would make her want to "vomit" and she didn't want to have to remember the image. She stated the girls looked "emaciated".

CM reported she recognized the bed spread the girls were lying on as belonging to Phil

Welch. She reported she had been to Phil's trailer house in Picher (OK) in the past and recognized the bed spread as being the same one that was on Phil Welch's bed.

CM reported she learned the Polaroid picture were of the two girls missing from Welch, OK, and that TW had the Polaroid picture to use as "leverage" to keep Phil Welch from killing TW.

CM reported that when Phil Welch discovered TW was staying with her that Phil Welch would call and threaten to kill CM and her children and throw them into a "pit" with the (missing) girls. CM reported she received over 100 threatening calls from Phil Welch. CM reported from the context of the calls, she learned from Phil Welch that he was involved in the murders and the missing girls from Welch, OK.

CM reported she also learned from her association with David Pennington, that Pennington was involved with the murders of the Freeman's and that David Pennington and Ronnie Busick were told to burn the (Freeman's trailer) house. CM stated that David Pennington and Ronnie Busick were at the wrong place at the wrong time.

CM stated there was a private investigator by the name of Joe Dugan who had another individual with him that wore a "ten gallon" hat. CM reported she worked with these individuals in regards to the murders of the Freeman and the missing girls. She stated at one point they wanted her to wear a "wire" to get incriminating statements from Phil Welch, but she was too afraid to do it. CM stated she was initially convinced to meet Joe Dugan by RH. She stated she trusted RH. CM stated she later learned that Joe Dugan passed away and that she has not seen or talked to TW in many years. She stated she has known TW since they were children.

Interview of TW on 08/04/2016

On 08/04/2016, Affiant Stansill located TW after nearly a two-year search for her. TW was interviewed in Tulsa, OK.

During the interview TW confirmed her relationship with Phil Welch and finding the Polaroid pictures of two girls who were "tied" up lying on a bed and on top of a blanket she recognized that belonged to Phil Welch. She stated the blanket was like an antique that maybe his grandmother gave him. She stated it was the same blanket that was on his bed when she lived with him in a trailer in Picher, OK. She stated the pictures were real and not "fake".

TW stated she only lived with Phil Welch a few months. She reported they lived in a trailer house in Picher, OK.

TW reported Phil Welch assaulted her and her son and was arrested for the assaults. While he was in jail she decided to leave him. It was at this time that she reportedly found the Polaroid pictures of the two girls in a brief case that belonged to Phil Welch, in an office area in the trailer house they were staying in. She stated there were about 10-15 Polaroids. In some of the Polaroids she observed Phil Welch lying next to the girls. TW reported at the time she didn't know who the girls were. She stated she ended up putting the brief case in the trunk of one of the cars at their residence that she was planning to "scrap".

TW stated when Phil Welch got released from jail he showed up at her friend's house that she was staying with (CM) and asked her where the brief case was. She stated she told him that she didn't know what he was talking about and he replied "yeah you do". She stated he then told her that if she had seen what was in the briefcase she had better not repeat what she had seen.

TW stated at this time she asked him what it was about (Polaroids of the girls). Welch then asked her if she recalled the time he and EH were questioned (by law enforcement) about the missing girls and about when he was driving EH's car and EH insurance card being found in the driveway of the people's (Freeman's) house.

TW stated she told him that she did remember him telling her about it. TW stated that Phil Welch then told her "then that should tell you who that was in the pictures."

TW stated she then told him that she still didn't know what he was talking about, but then recalled "Oh those girls from Welch that were missing."

Welch told her that he knew she had seen the pictures and "don't you ever tell anybody or you will end up in a pit in Picher (OK) like those two girls."

TW stated there were a couple of other times he called her on the phone and told her the same thing.

TW stated she didn't know what happened to the pictures that were in the trunk of one of the cars Phil Welch had. She stated the cars may have been hauled off to a salvage by the

landlord of the trailer house while Phil Welch was in jail.

When TW was asked what her impression was of the girls in the pictures she replied they appeared to "be tied up against their will."

TW reported she does not remember all that she had previously reported, but the information she reported to OSBI Agent Nutter (in January 2001) would be correct.

Discovery of Freeman Case Files at Craig County Sheriff's Office

On 02/11/2017, Affiant Stansill received a call from Craig County Undersheriff Tony Chenoweth. Chenoweth stated a crate containing reports and files related to the Freeman murders and the missing Welch girls were discovered by Craig County Sheriff Heath Winfrey shortly after he took office. The crate was found in the office of former Craig County Sheriff Jimmie Sooter and was placed in the evidence locker by Sheriff Winfrey. Undersheriff Chenoweth reported he immediately notified Stansill when the contents of the crate were reviewed and discovered to be material related to the Freeman investigation.

On 02/14/2017, Affiants Ferrari and Stansill reviewed the contents of the crate. Information was obtained from the crate that was previously unknown to Ferrari and Stansill, and was not in the OSBI's case file. In particular, was some information pertaining to Phil Welch, David Pennington, and Ronnie Busick, as being involved in the murders and missing girls. The crate also contained names of individuals that may possess information. This led your Affiants to conduct numerous additional interviews.

Interviews of RH

One of the aforementioned interviews was with RH. RH was first interviewed by Affiants Ferrari and Stansill on 04/20/2017, along with subsequent interviews.

RH stated there was an occasion when he saw Ronnie Busick walking in Chetopa. RH stated he knew Busick was staying at his (Busick's) dad's place and appeared "about to starve to death." RH stated Busick knew him (RH) to be "a soft touch for a free meal."

RH stated he gave Busick a ride to the "grocery" store where he bought Busick some "groceries."

RH stated afterwards Busick "started running his mouth" about his involvement in the Freeman murders and the missing girls. RH stated Busick told him how the girls were tied up in a trailer house in Picher where they were raped and tortured. RH stated Busick said the girls were kept alive for several days. RH stated Busick told him that he was not the shooter (of the Freemans), but stayed behind with David Pennington and set fire to the home.

RH stated he learned that Phil Welch was the shooter. RH learned the girls were "hailed off" in EH's blue car.

RH stated the way Busick talked implied that Busick was there (at Freeman's) when it (murders) took place.

RH reported he ended up telling Joe Dugan and another PI who was with Dugan.

RH stated he learned from TW and CM about a "bunch" of pictures that were taken of the girls "duct taped" to chairs. RH stated he never saw the pictures, but knew Phil Welch was concerned about TW and CM knowing that he (Welch) was involved with the murders and the missing girls.

RH stated that CM, TW, and JV came to him for help because Phil Welch was threatening to kill them and cut their children's throats if they told.

RH stated he heard the threats Phil Welch made while at CM's residence. RH stated he listened to calls from the other phone line at CM's residence.

RH stated he told law enforcement about what he learned and law enforcement put CM, TW, and JV, and their kids into protective custody in a motel.

RH stated when Phil Welch learned that he was helping them (CM, TW, JV) that Welch threatened to take him "out" (killed).

RH stated he heard from TW, CM, and JV about the photos taken of the girls and was told that in some of the photos the girls were duct taped to chairs.

RH stated that Busick also told him the girls were duct taped to chairs, which confirmed to RH that the photos did exist at one time.

Interview of RE

On 04/26/2017, Affiant Stansill and Craig County Undersheriff Tony Chenoweth interviewed RE. RE had previously been interviewed by OSBI Agent Nutter and a KBI (Kansas Bureau of Investigation) Agent in March, 2005. The report of that interview indicated that RE didn't know about Jeremy Jones (who confessed to the killings), but stated that Phil Welch was often rumored in Chetopa to have been involved. RE stated in the report that he lived in Chetopa, KS, at the time of the murders.

RE told Affiant Stansill and Undersheriff Chenoweth, in our interview with him on 04/26/2017, that "the person who did it is dead, Phil Welch" and for us to follow that (lead).

RE is the son of LE and knew that Affiant Stansill had interviewed her already.

RE stated he has "multiple people" to back up what he is telling us. RE stated a JR, who is in a minimum (security) prison had seen the pictures "of the girls too."

RE stated the previous investigators who interviewed him had stated the information about EH (insurance) card found in the driveway "was a lie" and "hearsay."

RE stated his mother's boyfriend at the time was David Pennington who lived with them.

RE stated he has had to live with the threats from Phil Welch and had lived around these people. He stated that we don't know what it is to live with threats because of what he knew. RE stated he was young at the time and that he would get calls from Phil Welch in the middle of the night telling him "don't you say a word."

RE stated he tried years ago to tell this, but was accused of being a liar. RE stated he has "nothing to gain" by telling us this.

RE reported he was dating CB at the time of the murders and had asked her to stay the night with him on the night of the murders. RE stated CB was supposed to be at the house (Freeman's) that night (for a sleep over for Ashley Freeman's birthday) and that he had saved her life.

RE stated he had no prior knowledge (of the Freeman murders), but learned later of the murders from David Pennington and Phil Welch.

RE stated Phil Welch would come to their house and sing Bible hymns. He stated Phil Welch was "evil."

RE stated he didn't associate with Phil Welch, but Welch would come over because his mother was with David Pennington and that they (Welch and Pennington) would "cook dope".

RE stated he learned from David Pennington that Phil Welch killed "them girls." RE stated he learned from Phil Welch that the girls are in a mine shaft somewhere in Picher (OK).

RE stated there were pictures of the girls and they tried to show him the pictures, but he looked away. He stated he didn't want to know or see (the pictures). RE stated he saw them (Welch and Pennington) holding the pictures. RE stated he doesn't know if there are any pictures now (still exist) because it has been so long ago.

RE stated Phil Welch and David Pennington told him that they killed the girls by strangling them.

RE stated he got involved in it was because Welch and Pennington later learned that CB was supposed to have been there that night.

RE stated over the years he has "shunned" the child he had with CB because of all of this.

RE stated it (Freeman murders) was all over drugs.

RE stated he didn't know the Freemans, but CB knew the girls because CB was from Welch, OK.

RE stated his mother would get "beat" by Pennington over "this stuff."

RE stated he had seen the pictures that Phil Welch had, but he didn't stare at them and didn't want to know. He stated he did see enough of the pictures to see the faces and could tell it was the girls (Ashley Freeman and Lauria Bible).

RE stated it was a couple of months later (after the Freeman murders) that he learned

from Pennington and Welch of their involvement. RE stated he learned about their involvement when Phil Welch would come over and cook "dope" with David Pennington. RE stated David was a "known dope cook." RE stated the reason they (Pennington and Welch) went out there that night was over drugs. RE stated he didn't know or couldn't remember what the exact reason was, but that it involved drugs and a drug debt over "meth."

RE stated he first learned about EH's (insurance) card because they (Pennington and Welch) talked about it and was worried about it because they thought they left something behind. RE stated he didn't know how they (Pennington and Welch) knew about the insurance card.

RE stated he heard there was another person with Phil (Welch) that night and as far as he knew David Pennington was not there that night, but at some point David Pennington was around the girls. RE stated David Pennington and Phil Welch were "laughing" about the girls being in a mine shaft and they would state "good luck in trying to ever find them." RE was asked if they (Pennington and Welch) indicated how they killed the (girls). RE responded, "Yeah, they were raped and violently strangled to die."

RE stated the pictures were Polaroids and were shoved into his face like "here look." They acted as if they were "proud" of that. RE stated he didn't know if his mother saw the pictures or not. RE stated he is telling us the truth about all of this.

RE was told of his mother's statement to us about one of three involved, bragging about the pictures. RE stated, "See. She never even told me that and I'm telling you exactly the same thing."

RE reported he learned the girls were kept alive a "matter of days." RE stated he didn't learn details of the Freeman murders, but mostly about the girls (Ashley Freeman and Lauria Bible).

Undersheriff Chenoweth asked RE if the pictures they had were like a "trophy." RE responded "exactly."

RE stated he learned that Phil Welch had the girls in his trailer.

RE was asked if he knew TW. RE responded that he did and knew that she was with Phil Welch at that time too. RE stated he never talked to TW about any of this. RE was told

that TW also saw the pictures. RE responded "and they came back to Phil Welch too, didn't it?" RE stated we were making him "happy" because others have confirmed what he was telling us. RE stated this is making him feel better because "the truth is coming out for real."

RE was asked what prompted him to come forward now and talk about it. RE responded that he was "tired" of living with it.

RE stated he didn't know the Freemans, but it (murders) was over a "meth" debt and that it was "Phil's deal."

RE stated Ronnie Busick "cooked dope" with them (Welch and Pennington) too.

RE stated they (Pennington and Welch) would act like "holy rollers."

RE stated he had to sleep with knives under his bed and that this has "haunted" him for years. RE reported that it was hard to come forward with threats that he "would die too."

RE stated he didn't look long at the pictures, but was certain the faces he saw were the girls (Ashley Freeman and Lauria Bible). RE stated that beside JR a JV also saw or had the pictures.

RE was told that JV was interviewed and denied seeing the pictures.

RE stated he was told there was another person involved, but he was never told who it was.

RE was asked how many pictures (Polaroids) he saw. He responded that he saw two different ones and doesn't know if there were more of them or not. RE stated "it was kind of one of those things where it's shoved in your face, you look, you see what it is." RE stated he only saw the pictures one time.

RE reported at the time he saw the pictures he already had knowledge of the murders and missing girls.

RE was asked if he recalled the night of the murders since CB spent the night with him. RE responded by stating CB spent the night with him in Chetopa and David Pennington would probably not have been there that night since he wouldn't have CB over if

Pennington was there. RE stated David Pennington would be gone for days at a time.

RE was asked about Ronnie Busick. RE reported that Busick associated with David Pennington and Phil Welch, but he has no knowledge whether Busick was involved or not. RE reported CB would continually thank him for saving her life that night.

Interview of JR on 05/02/2017

Affiant Ferrari received a tip that a JR, who was in custody in Oklahoma Department of Corrections, had information in regards to the missing girls from Welch, OK. This tip came in before Affiant Stansill interviewed RE, who also reported that JR had seen the pictures of the girls bound and gagged.

On 05/01/2017, JR was interviewed by Affiant Ferrari and Stansill at an Oklahoma Department of Corrections facility.

During the interview JR reported he lived in a trailer home with CM in Chetopa, KS. JR reported on one occasion he walked into CM's trailer and observed JV, Ronnie Busick, David Pennington, and Phil Welch sitting on a "sectional" that CM had in her trailer.

JR stated they were all looking at photographs and when he walked in they quickly gathered them up and put them away. JR stated he did manage to see one Polaroid that was of two girls duct taped to a chair with their hands bound. JR reported David Pennington was holding the photos.

JR was asked by your Affiants if he knew who were in the pictures. JR responded that over a period of years he would hear them "slip up" and talk about the girls and "hush it out." JR stated he heard statements from them such as "yeah we got them didn't we."

JR stated the only evidence he has seen were the pictures.

JR reported his observations of this "clique" revealed that they were "scandalous" and "dangerous people."

JR reported he decided to come forward with this information now that his family no longer lives in that area (Chetopa). He stated it would have been dangerous for his family (had he come forward earlier).

Interview of AS on 05/12/2017

On 05/12/2017, Affiant Ferrari and Stansill interviewed AS.

AS reported she had been introduced to David Pennington by a friend of hers. AS stated there was an occasion that David Pennington invited her over to his residence to "drink some beers." She accepted the invitation and was at David Pennington's residence, outside near a "bonfire." AS reported there were three males there. David Pennington, Ronnie Busick, and a third male whose last name she thought may have been Welch. AS stated at one point she had to use the restroom and when she came out she overheard conversations between the males in reference to the Freeman murders and the missing girls. AS heard that "Welch" was the "triggerman" and the "shooter."

AS stated she heard it was a "drug deal gone bad."

AS stated she heard that Welch was the one who killed Dan (Danny Freeman) because he (Dan) messed him (Welch) "over." She stated the way David Pennington and Ronnie Busick were talking led her to believe they were somehow involved, but not the shooter.

AS reported there was talk of the girls being dumped in a "mine shaft" or dumped in a cellar that was later covered in concrete.

AS reported she heard that the man and woman (Freemans) were shot and that the girls came out of the back room unexpectedly. She also heard that they didn't know at first what to do with the girls and ended up taking them.

AS heard the girls may have been kept alive for a while.

AS stated she overheard this conversation about 5 or 6 years ago at Pennington's residence, which at the time was a trailer home between Chetopa and Bartlett (KS).

AS stated the males were "intoxicated" and they didn't know she was listening. AS stated they were talking between themselves and apparently didn't know she was able to hear them.

AS stated she had previously been introduced to Ronnie Busick. AS described Busick as wearing glasses and walked with a cane.

AS stated the name Welch was often said and she thought the third person's name was Welch.

Your Affiants informed her that there was a Phil Welch, but that he died in 2007.

AS stated she was certain the time she heard these conversations was 5 or 6 years ago, or about 2011.

AS stated she just heard the name "Welch" mentioned often.

AS stated she got scared and didn't want to hear anymore, so she excused herself and left.

AS stated she hadn't seen Ronnie Busick since then other than on Facebook.

AS stated she was around David Pennington a few times since and had asked him if he was involved, because if he was she didn't want to associate with him. She stated Pennington denied being involved.

AS stated the way Ronnie Busick and David Pennington were talking they knew what happened, like they may have been an "accomplice."

AS stated she was familiar with the case (Freeman murders) because she used to live close by them (Freemans), but never knew them. She reported she was living in Missouri at the time of the murders but heard about it, and her son told her that he rode the bus with one of the missing girls.

Interview with James Pennington

On 07/31/2017, Affiant Stansill interviewed James Pennington in Chetopa, KS. James is the brother to David Pennington.

James reported he heard "on the streets" that his brother was involved (with the Freeman murders) and that Phil Welch was involved also. James stated his brother ran with Phil Welch and EH. James stated he couldn't get his brother to "elaborate" on it. James stated his brother wouldn't say "yea or nay" when asked about it.

James reported that Ronnie Busick was always with them (David Pennington and Phil Welch).

James stated he didn't associate with them.

James reported his brother was always "cooking dope."

James reported his brother never told him directly, but when he confronted his brother, he would "clam up" or told him to "mind my own business." James stated that he believed his brother had something to do with it (Freeman murders) because of his brother's lack of "communicating" with him about it.

Interviews with WH

Your Affiants attempted to locate and interview a WH who may have knowledge about the Freeman case and may have been associated with David Pennington, Phil Welch and Ronnie Busick. Affiant Ferrari left her business card with WH's father on 07/17/2017.

WH returned her call on 07/18/2017.

In the phone call WH told Ferrari that David Pennington "spilled his guts" to him about being involved in the Freeman murders with Phil Welch.

WH had a warrant out for his arrest at the time and wouldn't stay on the phone long with Ferrari.

WH called Ferrari back on 07/27/2017. In that call WH told Ferrari that David Pennington got drunk and told WH that he, along with that "Welch dude" were involved.

WH reported he knew Phil Welch, and that Welch and Pennington were "always cooking meth."

On 01/31/2018, WH was interviewed in person by your Affiants, while in custody in an Oklahoma county jail.

WH reported he heard Phil Welch and David Pennington talk about the (Freeman) murders and the girls. WH stated based on what he heard he believed that David Pennington, Phil Welch and Ronnie Busick were involved in the murders and the missing girls. WH stated when Phil Welch and David Pennington talked about the (missing) girls they referred to them as "them two little bitches" and that if they wouldn't have taken off running from one of their vehicles they would still be alive.

WH stated "I think they killed them."

WH stated he was told it was a "robbery" gone bad, because of money owed them.

WH reported they told him about "brutalizing" the trailer (house) trying to "get that guy's stuff" and that he (Danny Freeman) owed them a "bunch of money."

Interview with Tom Pryor and Recovery of Evidence

Your Affiant's interviews with some of the aforementioned individuals indicated there was a private investigator by the name of Joe Dugan who, along with another individual, had investigated the case. Your Affiants had no previous knowledge of Joe Dugan, or his investigation until the recent investigation.

Investigation revealed that Joe Dugan had lived in Miami, OK, and that he died on or about May 25, 2009. Your Affiants learned that Joe Dugan had files, notes, and other investigative materials regarding the Freeman murders and the missing girls.

Affiant Ferrari researched possible relatives of Joe Dugan in hopes of locating Dugan's investigative materials. Affiant Ferrari did locate a relative of Joe Dugan and interviewed that person. Affiant Ferrari learned from Joe Dugan's relative that Joe Dugan, along with another private investigator by the name of Tom Pryor, had investigated the Freeman murders and the missing girls, at the request of a Freeman family member. (This was later confirmed by Dwayne Vancil, a relative of Danny Freeman.) Joe Dugan's relative reported that Joe Dugan had a box of investigative material pertaining to the Freeman case. After his death relatives of Joe Dugan took the investigative material to the Craig County Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff's office refused to take the material and it was eventually destroyed by Joe Dugan's relatives.

Affiant Ferrari made phone contact to Tom Pryor who confirmed that he worked with Joe Dugan on the Freeman case. Pryor reported that Joe Dugan had the investigative notes and materials, and he (Pryor) only had a few documents. Tom Pryor stated one of the documents was an insurance verification card that checked to EB (AKA EH), which was found by Joe Dugan in the Freeman's driveway a few days after the murders.

On 08/18/2017, your Affiants interviewed Tom Pryor. Pryor confirmed working with Joe Dugan on the Freeman case and that Joe Dugan actually worked for him. Pryor stated he and Joe Dugan were at the Freeman's residence just after the scene was released by law

enforcement, which was a couple of days following the murders. Pryor reported he and Joe Dugan were searching the property and that Joe Dugan found the insurance verification card on the side of the driveway leading to the Freeman's residence. Pryor stated he was present with Joe Dugan when Dugan found the card which was about 50 feet from the road on the west side of the Freeman's driveway. Pryor reported Dugan handed the card to him. Pryor reported to law enforcement about finding the insurance verification card, but they did not take possession of the card.

Pryor reported he found EH's vehicle, which the insurance card checked to, at a salvage in Picher, OK. Pryor was given permission to go through the vehicle. Pryor stated he reported finding the vehicle to law enforcement and requested they "process" the vehicle. Pryor reported he was told the vehicle had gone through too many hands to be processed (for evidence).

Pryor produced the insurance card along with some other documents that Pryor recovered from EH's car. Ferrari took possession of the insurance verification card and the documents for evidence. The other documents were receipts for rental property in the name of Phil Welch and one for EH, along with title and registration document for EH's (AKA EB) vehicle. The receipts were for rental of the trailer house at 412 South College Street, Picher, OK. The earliest receipt was dated 10/15/1999, and the latest was dated up to 04/12/2000.

Pryor reported he interviewed EH a few weeks after the murders, but when he questioned her about Phil Welch she "clammed up" with her stating that Phil Welch would kill her. Pryor reported that he interviewed Phil Welch about two weeks after the murders. Pryor stated Phil Welch went on a "preaching rant" and was "tripping" at the time. Pryor stated he didn't get "anywhere" with Welch.

Tom Pryor had to rely on memory in regards to his and Joe Dugan's investigation, but their investigation led him to believe that Phil Welch, David Pennington, and Ronnie Busick were involved in the murders and kidnapping of the girls. Much of what Tom Pryor reported to your Affiants coincided, and is consistent with your Affiants investigation of Phil Welch, David Pennington and Ronnie Busick's involvement with the Freeman murders and the missing girls. Pryor also reported he heard something about photos being taken of the girls, but does not recall where or from whom he heard it.

Pryor reported he stopped investigating the Freeman case after being told by a law enforcement personal that he was interfering and that his (private investigator) license

would be cancelled if he didn't cease his investigation.

Interview of JB on 01/26/2018

On 01/26/2018, your Affiants interviewed a JB in Vinita, OK. JB reported he associated with David Pennington up until his death.

JB reported about 3-6 months before Pennington died, Pennington told him that he knew more about the murders than what he was "letting on to people about it." JB stated Pennington told him that Phil Welch was the "mastermind" about it. JB stated Pennington gave the names of TW and EH, but didn't elaborate on what their involvement may have been.

JB reported Pennington told him on two occasions about his involvement in the (Freeman) murders and the missing girls. Once traveling to and from a casino with David Pennington, and once while fishing with Pennington.

JB reported that "everybody" already thought David Pennington was involved in it anyway. JB reported that Pennington did not tell him how he was involved.

JB stated the way Pennington talked about it made him believe that Pennington was involved. JB stated Pennington seemed to know a lot about it (murders/kidnapping) to not be involved. JB stated Pennington didn't mention any other names of people being involved other than Phil Welch, TW, and EH.

JB stated he heard "hearsay" on the "streets" that Ronnie Busick was also involved.

JB stated he tried to get Pennington to elaborate more, but Pennington "clammed up."

JB stated he would have told about this earlier, but he figured everybody already knew.

Interview with RONNIE BUSICK on 07/11/2017

Your Affiants conducted interviews with the Defendant, Ronnie Busick, on three occasions. The first interview was conducted on 07/11/2017, in Wichita, Kansas. At the beginning of the interview Busick was informed of our investigation into the Freeman murders and the missing girls. Busick first stated he thought he was living in Lawton, Oklahoma with his sister at the time of the murders, but later stated he was living in

Chetopa, Kansas. Busick was asked who he ran around with in Chetopa. Busick gave a couple of names, but did not mention David Pennington or Phil Welch. He was asked if he knew a Phil Welch. His response was that the name "sounds familiar". He did admit to knowing David Pennington and hanging around him "quite a bit". He stated he last saw Pennington about a year before he died.

A reward poster was placed in front of Busick with the pictures of Lauria Bible and Ashley Freeman and offering \$50,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person(s) responsible for the kidnapping of Lauria Bible and Ashley Freeman. Busick was asked again about knowing Phil Welch. Busick stated he "remembered the name." Busick was asked how well he knew Phil Welch. His response was "not too well." Busick was asked if he knew anything about the case. He replied "No, not really," but remembered hearing about it on the news. Busick was told we were certain the girls were deceased. Busick then blurted out "I wouldn't put nothing past Philip Welch." Ferrari asked Busick why he said that, Busick replied that he (Welch) "always struck me as being sort of shady." Ferrari asked Busick to explain further. Busick said "just the way he looks." Busick stated of Welch and Pennington that "we were all dope buddies." Busick stated he didn't trust him (Welch) and that if he didn't like the looks of someone he didn't trust them.

Busick was told our investigation has led us here (to Busick). Your Affiants told Busick there was a lot we knew and had talked to a lot of people in Chetopa and others in Kansas. Busick was then told we had information that he, Pennington and Welch, had information about the case. We later told him the information we had was that three people were involved (with murders and missing girls), and the names of the three were Phil Welch, David Pennington, and Ronnie Busick. Busick immediately responded by stating "We were pretty tight back in those days." Busick later denied having anything to do with it. Busick then stated he heard Philip Welch had a hand in burning the trailer house. When asked where he got that information he replied that it came from David (Pennington). Busick stated he asked about the girls, but Pennington didn't know where they were at. Busick was asked what David's involvement was. Busick responded "He didn't say." Busick stated the information came from Pennington and not Phil Welch. Busick stated "Phil didn't talk that much." Busick admitted to being closer to David and that he didn't like Phil Welch.

Your Affiants informed Busick about the information we had about his involvement with Pennington and Welch in the murders and kidnappings. He was told about information we had about the photos of the girls being tied up and that he was seen looking at the

photos. Busick stated it "pissed" him off being around Phil if he had them tied up. Busick then stated that Phil Welch had a "bad temper."

Throughout your Affiant's interview and interrogation of Busick he was accused, or told of the information we had of his involvement with David Pennington and Phil Welch with the Freeman murders and the missing girls. The vast majority of the time Ronnie Busick would not make any denials or respond when accused. Much of the time he would just stare at the reward poster. Busick was told that he implicated himself by him telling people that he was involved.

Busick stated if he knew where the girls were he would let us know. Busick was asked:

(Stansill) "Who knew?"

(Busick) "I'd probably say Phil and probably Dave."

Busick denied being told by Phil Welch or David Pennington about where the girls were. Busick stated he asked David Pennington, but Pennington "sort of hushed up."

(Ferrari) "Why would you ask them?"

(Busick) "I just wanted to get down to the bottom of it."

(Ferrari) "But what made you ask them? Did you think he had something to do with it?"

(Busick) "Well I'm pretty sure Phil did."

When asked why he believed that, Busick replied that there was an occasion that Phil Welch would not let him in the trailer in Picher (Welch's trailer). Busick stated several times during the interview that he did not know where the girls were at. Part of the interview went as follows:

(Affiants) "But you know what happened".

(Busick) "Not really"

(Affiants) "What do you know?"

(Busick) "What you guys told me."

(Affiants) "That you were there?"

(Busick) "Supposedly"

A few minutes later:

(Busick) "I think it was Dave Pennington and Phil"

(Affiant) "Then David told you?"

(Busick) "No"

(Busick) "Phil was sure bragging about it."

(Affiants) "Then Phil did tell you."

At this point Busick explained that there was an occasion that he was listening to him (Phil Welch) and what Phil was saying "went in one ear (Busick's) and out the other".

(Affiants) "So you didn't pay much attention when he's (Welch) talking about offing some people?"

(Affiants) "You didn't believe him (Welch)?"

(Busick) "Didn't believe him."

Later Busick referring to Phil Welch stated, "I knew he was mean enough to do it."

Busick also stated in reference to Phil Welch's trailer, "He had something in there he didn't want (me) to see."

Your Affiants referred to the murders and kidnappings as being "cold blooded" and Busick responded by stating, "Phil could fit that category."

A break was taken during the interview and was resumed with Affiant Stansill interviewing Busick. On numerous occasions during Affiant Stansill's interview with Busick he was told:

(Stansill) "I know you were there (at Freeman's night of murders). I know you were involved in it."

(Busick) "I didn't kill anybody."

(Stansill) "You were there."

Later in the interview:

(Stansill) "You want me to charge you with it?"

(Busick) "Yeah, if you can prove it."

(Stansill) "You still think I'm blowing smoke?"

(Busick) "No, too many people (talking)."

Later Busick stated, "I don't remember having anything to do with it. To be truthful." Busick stated he didn't even know them (Freeman's). Stansill responded, "You might not have known them, but you were there that night." No response from Busick.

Later Stansill pointed down to the reward poster of the missing girls stating to Busick, "That does not need to be taken to your grave." Busick did not respond. The conversation follows:

(Busick) "I just don't know where they're at (girls)."

(Stansill) "Ok. You can tell me everything else. You were there that night."

(Busick) "I ain't so damn sure I was."

(Stansill) "You're not so sure!"

(Stansill) "You were there" (no response from Busick)

Later (Stansill) "Why would you lie about yourself? Why would you lie and tell people that you were involved and give details about it?" Again Busick would not answer or respond.

Busick continued to be accused of being "there" (at Freeman's on night of murders) and he would not respond or make denials. Busick readily admitted to "hanging" around David Pennington. Busick was asked:

(Stansill) "Are you just like Phil?"

(Busick) "Nope".

(Stansill) "You must be like David, you hung around him."

(Busick) "Yeah I did quite a bit."

Later (Stansill) "If David was bad Phil must have been off the scale."

(Busick) "Yeah he was."

Busick was told that David and Phil didn't have a conscience. Busick was asked:

(Stansill) "How about you?"

(Busick) "Yeah I got a conscience. I don't remember doing anything like that."

(Stansill) "You don't forget that."

(Busick) "Yeah if I done something like that I wouldn't forget."

(Stansill) "I guarantee you wouldn't."

Later Busick stated, "I don't damn remember."

Towards the end of the interview Busick was accused numerous times of being "there" the night of the murders.

(Stansill) "'You were there that night. You were there that night. Look, if you weren't there that night. Every time I said, 'you were there that night.' You would say, 'No, the hell I wasn't. I wasn't there that night.' You never even denied it Ronnie! You never even denied being there that night. You just sat right here and never even denied it. Not once! Only thing you said is 'I don't remember, I don't remember.'"

(Busick) "I wasn't there."

(Stansill) "Now you're saying it after I told you, you ought to be saying it."

Busick was told that the lack of denials "was even more convincing" of his involvement. The interview was ended a few minutes later.

Interview with RONNIE BUSICK on 08/29/2017

Ronnie Busick was interviewed again by your Affiants on 08/29/2017, in Newton, Kansas. During that interview Busick denied involvement or being at the Freeman's home on the night of the murders. Busick stated he did suspect David Pennington and Phil Welch. When asked what made him suspect them. He replied that David Pennington took off one night and was gone all day. Busick stated Pennington was to show up at his place that night, but didn't. Busick further stated Pennington was acting "like he done something" and was "always looking over his shoulder." Busick stated he heard about it the next day or two and it was on the news. Busick stated he became suspicious (of Pennington and Welch's involvement) when he heard that EH insurance card was found at the scene. Later Busick said it didn't take a "rocket scientist" to figure out EH's car was there. Busick was asked when he started walking with a cane. He replied about five years ago (which is consistent with AS description of Busick when she heard him and Pennington talking about the murders and missing girls 5-6 years ago).

Busick was told that a lot of people in Chetopa were throwing down the three names of Busick, Pennington, and Welch, as being involved. Busick stated, "I will admit I use to run around with them." Busick was asked how he heard about the insurance card. He replied he heard it from David Pennington and that Pennington was acting "sheepish" when he told Busick. Busick stated he knew the (insurance) card had to get there somehow and that Philip Welch was "mean enough to do it." Busick stated his friends have been lying about this (his involvement). Busick was asked what motive they would have to fabricate this. Busick's reply was "I don't know."

Later Busick was asked what he would believe if he were in our shoes. He replied, "I would believe what everybody said about me." Busick denied that David Pennington told him anything, but earlier Busick admitted to being close to David Pennington and that Pennington told him about the insurance card.

Interview with RONNIE BUSICK on 11/02/2017

On 11/02/2017, Ronnie Busick was again interviewed and interrogated in regards to the Freeman murders and the missing girls (Ashley Freeman and Lauria Bible). OSBI Agent Michael Dean conducted much of the interview and interrogation of Busick. Agent Dean attempted to get Busick to tell the truth about his involvement in the case, but moreover, the location of the missing girls. Busick maintains, as he did in the earlier interviews, that he does not know where the girls are other than he heard they may be in a mine shaft

in Picher, Oklahoma. During this interview Busick still believes that Phil Welch was the "shooter," but would only state that is what he heard and denied having direct knowledge.

The interview/interrogation lasted several hours with Busick listening to being accused of being somehow involved in the murders and kidnappings. At one point, Agent Dean asked what it was that was keeping him from being truthful and asked Busick if he was scared what his sister would think of him if he told the truth. Busick responded by stating, "Well yeah." Later Agent Dean stated, "You're scared of what your sister would think about you if you told truth. That's what it is, right?" Busick responded "yeah." Agent Dean and later Affiant Stansill attempted to get Busick to tell of his involvement in the case. Busick again stated he didn't remember, but Agent Dean and Affiant Stansill refuted that because of questions he answered earlier in the interview with Agent Dean. Agent Dean told Busick that he believes this has been "eating" at him for the past 17 years and that he would be in relief once he told the truth. Busick would listen and nod, but never disclosed his involvement.

Conclusion

Your Affiants states that this affidavit is being submitted for the limited purpose of determining whether probable cause exists to justify the issuance of an arrest warrant for the named individual. Each and every fact known to your Affiants or others concerning this investigation has not been included in this affidavit. Your Affiants have only set forth facts believed to be essential in determining probable cause for issuance of an arrest warrant for the named individual.

This act occurred within Craig County, State of Oklahoma.

Tammy Ferrari
Affiant Tammy Ferrari, Special Agent OSBI

Gary Stansill
Affiant Gary Stansill, District 12, DA Investigator

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 20th day of April, 2018.

My Commission Expires

Shelly A. Anderson
Notary Public

Warrant Approved

✓

Bond Amount \$

1,000,000

Warrant Not Approved

Shelly A. Anderson
Judge of the District Court