

DECLARATION OF ERIK K. MITCHELL

1. My name is Erik Krag Mitchell. I am 70 years old. I am a medical doctor specializing in forensic pathology. I am board certified in anatomic pathology, clinical pathology, and forensic pathology. I first began performing autopsies in 1974 and have completed over 10,000 of them.
2. In 2008, I performed the autopsies on the bodies of Carl Schroll (“Carl”) and Kathleen Schroll (“Kathleen”) at the request of the Wyandotte County Coroner.
 - a. Carl’s body had an injury to the scalp. I classified that injury as a blunt-force injury. Carl’s body also had two gunshot wounds to the abdomen. I recovered two bullets from Carl’s body. I concluded that Carl’s manner of death was homicide.
 - b. Kathleen’s body has a single gunshot wound to the back of the head. I recovered one bullet from Kathleen’s body. I concluded that Kathleen’s manner of death was homicide.
3. I do not know if I previously was told that the gun that caused the wounds to Carl’s and Kathleen’s bodies belonged to Kathleen. I was recently told about this.
4. I do not know if I was previously told that the Schroll house bore no signs of forced entry. I was recently told about this.

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5. I do not remember what scene photographs I saw prior to my previous testimony. Recent review of the photographs showed:
 - a. The gun that caused the injuries was lying next to the left hand of Kathleen's body.
 - b. The gun had fired four bullets.
 - c. A pillow near the head of Carl's body had two holes in it. One had a dark discoloration under it and the other had stuffing protruding from it and a dark shape within the stuffing.
 - d. A trail of blood spread across the two-holed pillow and an adjoining pillow near the head of Carl's body.
 - e. There was no sign of a struggle within the home.
6. I do not remember that I was told that Kathleen had been embezzling money from the bank that she worked at. I was recently told about this.
7. I do not remember being told that Kathleen removed a check, written to her and part of her embezzlement scheme, from the checks to be processed on the last day she worked at the bank. Nor was I told that Kathleen would have no reason to remove this check unless she knew that she would not be coming to work on the following Monday, which was the day of her death. I was recently told about this.
8. I do not remember being told about Kathleen's financial situation at the time of the shootings. I was recently told about this.

9. I do not remember being told about Kathleen's long-term scheme to deprive Olin Coones of his money and property. I was recently told about this.
10. I do not remember being told about Kathleen's efforts to get herself added to the will of Patsy Van Vleck, the daughter of Olin Coones. I was recently told about this.
11. I do not remember being told that Carl and Kathleen had been experiencing marital tension during the weekend of the shootings. I was recently told about this.
12. I was recently informed that a fourth bullet was discovered lodged in the stuffing of the two-holed pillow.
13. All of the information I was not told and have recently been told about would have been significant to me in determining the manners of death for Carl and Kathleen.
14. Based on a review of my own work on the case, the new information I have been told, and the crime scene photographs I recently reviewed, I have concluded:
 - a. The injury to the head of Carl's body is most consistent with a bullet-graze wound rather than a blunt-force impact from another instrument.
 - b. Kathleen's most likely manner of death is suicide.
15. Had the above information been the information available to me at the time I testified at trial in this case, I would have testified consistent with these conclusions.

Under K.S.A. § 53-601(a)(1), I declare under the penalty of perjury under the laws of the state of Kansas that the foregoing is true and correct.

2 November 2014
Date



Erik K. Mitchell