

STATEMENT
CASE NO. 81-11241

Today's date is June 24, 1981. We are in Dr. Johnson's office at the Polk General Hospital. Present in the interview will be Dr. Johnson, Faye Tyson, Detective Robert Frazier, and Detective Jerry High of the Winter Haven Police Department. The time now is 2:50. The interview will be in reference to a murder that happened in the City of Winter Haven at the Holiday Inn at 4:11 a.m., this date.

JH: Dr. Johnson, this morning, or during this period of time, the last day or so, have you gotten a call from anyone in reference to this?

DJ: Yes. This morning, I don't know what time it was, sometime after 4:00, I got a call and somebody said would I come to room 526. Immediately I thought of on call at the hospital and I started to tell them I'm not on call at the hospital. Then the woman went on to tell me at the Holiday Inn and I said what's wrong. She said I just shot Tony's girlfriend, Charlotte I believe she said was the name, and this woman identified herself and gave me a first name but I was half asleep and I don't remember who it was, I've never heard it before. Then she talked about she knew me and all she said was I shot Tony's girlfriend and she's not dead, she's still alive. I said, well, nothing I can do, you've got to call the rescue squad, they have to take her to the hospital, really nothing I can do. She said I've already called the police and the rescue squad and then she hung up.

RF: Okay, Doc, what kind of female was it, was it a black female or white female, or couldn't tell?

DJ: I couldn't tell, I would assume she was white but she didn't have any specific accent that would identify race.

RF: Okay, do you think she had any kind of special reason for calling you?

DJ: Well, I have no idea why she called. In fact, when she said Tony's girlfriend, I said Tony who? Then she identified as Tony Broom. I didn't know who she was or what she was talking about. It took me several minutes to put things together, in the conversation, to put things together, and I refused to come and she realized then and she hung up in a hurry.

JH: Are you familiar with Tony Broom, in the past?

DJ: Yeah, I know Tony. Known him about five or six years. He did some building for me.

JH: As contractors? Contracting work?

DJ: Mmm hmm.

JH: Did you have any opportunity or anyone else give you any calls in reference to this?

DJ: About 6:00 Tony's mother called and wanted me to come down to the Holiday Inn and I said what's wrong. She said Tony's girlfriend has died of a heart attack and said Tony's been arrested. I said what do you want me to do and she said well I need a lawyer and I said well I don't know any lawyers. In fact, I mentioned what about Barris. But then I asked how can they arrest him for a heart attack and, of course, she didn't seem to be hiding something or wouldn't tell me anything and that's all I can recall of the conversation. I just told her I wouldn't come down there. I said I can't do anything, I don't have any instruments, I wouldn't know what to do anyway, you know. I said the rescue squad will take care of her.

RF: Okay, why would she call you, doc? Have you got some kind of personal ties with the Broom family or something?

DJ: Well, Tony's dad, I'd taken care of him a number of cases, in fact he's a patient here at the clinic, in fact, I referred him down here several years, he was sick and I referred him down here. He ran out of money and I told him to come down here and I guess the thing is I try to be nice to these people and, in return, you develop people that hang on to you that you don't exactly care about but you don't want to be rude to them. They're generally the old, nice, country folks.

RF: You live close around these people some, doc?

DJ: I live in Winter Haven. No, they live in, used to live in, Mr. Broom used to live in Wahneta, used to own an oyster bar out there.

RF: How long you been knowing the Broom family?

DJ: Oh, about five or six years.

RF: Okay, are you familiar with the victim of this?

CJ: I don't know who the woman is. I might have met her. Tony's always got a different girlfriend and once in a while he'd come by the house with them. I don't know this one, I can't remember her anyway.

RF: So, really, the relationship between you and the Broom family is pretty close.

DJ: (inaudible) I try to keep it professional and they try to make it personal.

RF: Well, why would they do it this way. To me it seems...

DJ: Why would they call me? Because they knew I'd talk to them. If they called any other doctor he probably would have slammed the phone down and not even talked to them. If they have a health problem they always call me.

RF: But in this type of situation, they still call you?

DJ: I assumed they called me because they were wanting a doctor, somebody was hurt and they was wanting a doctor, but I told them there wasn't anything I could do. I guess the proper thing I should have done was jumped up and gone down there.

RF: Okay, when the white female first called you, she didn't give you...

DJ: Gave me room number, said room 539 or something.

RF: She didn't advise where was she at that time?

DJ: Yeah, she said the Holiday Inn cause I knew where she was talking about in the conversation. Immediately I thought it was a hospital call.

RF: Which Holiday Inn did she say?

DJ: It's the Holiday Inn, that's all.

RF: She didn't indicate which Holiday Inn?

DJ: Nah.

RF: And she did identify herself but you can't remember...

DJ: She did, I swear I just can't remember the woman's name. She said I shot Tony's girlfriend, Charlotte, Tony's girlfriend. My wife woke up, my wife will give you a deposition too, she may can give you a straighter story than I am. She was awake and she asked me a bunch of questions and I went back to sleep.

RF: Did she say where she had shot the victim, in what part of the body or anything like that at the time you talked to her?

DJ: I was trying to think of the head, but I can't...She said I shot her and if you ask me where I think she shot her I'd say the head but I don't know why I would have said the head. If that's true, maybe she did tell me, but I just don't remember. I believe she said the head, maybe that the reason I wasn't too anxious to go down there.

JH: That is the part of the body that was shot.

DJ: Then she must have told me then.

JH: You haven't heard a news cast or anything today?

DJ: No. I told my wife to find out something, but I didn't have time, I had...

RF: But doc, in your profession, you're pretty close with the Broom family, something like that, they come visit you, Tony came to visit you...If you were so close wouldn't you gather up and just go and see what he was talking about or something like. With this type of incident they call

RF: CONT'D

on their reliable friends...

DJ: If I thought I could have been of any help to anybody I would have, but like they said, Tony shot the woman in the head and I didn't know the woman...the woman said I shot Tony's girlfriend. Apparently she must have told me it was in the head because that's the only...I was half asleep. If I thought I could have helped the woman I would have went there. She said she's still alive and I said get the rescue squad and she said I already called the rescue squad and the police, so may be the woman who called y'all is the same woman who talked to me, you don't know who called, who turned in the call?

RF: It wasn't no woman that called us.

DJ: It wasn't? It was a woman who called me; maybe somebody else called the rescue squad...

RF: She was by herself when she called?

DJ: When she called? I don't know.

RF: You don't know...was there any kind of commotion or anything in the background?

DJ: I didn't hear anything, no. I didn't hear any screaming or anything.

JH: You mentioned a minute ago that Tony, every now and then, will bring a new girlfriend by your house. Has he brought any girlfriends recently in the last month, let's say? Girlfriends to introduce you to or has he introduced anyone to you lately?

DJ: In fact, I'd been trying to get him to come over and do some work for me for over a month I'd been asking him to come over and do some work and I hadn't seen him. Also, I got another call from his brother and I couldn't understand what he wanted either. Finally he told me Tony was charged with murder and could I go to Bartow and I said I'm going to Bartow, going to the hospital there.

RF: Where does his brother live?

DJ: Maybe with his Mom...I don't know where he lives.

RF: Which brother was this?

DJ: A brother named Neil.

RF: Neil. Okay, doc, let's just back up a bit, about the relationship between you and the Broom family. You say you try to keep it professional but they go a little further.

DJ: Yeah, I've treated his brother, in private practice, I've treated his brother a couple of times and several times I've given him prescriptions for medicine. He used to have (inaudible) of the spine...

RF: What about Tony? Have you ever treated him? Have you prescribed any medication for him?

DJ: Umm...I guess I have a couple times, two or three times. Only thing he's ever had any problem...I don't even recall what it was, maybe something, antihistamine for the itch or something like that.

RF: What you personally feel about Tony, doc?

DJ: Well, Tony's biggest problem is drinking. Tony's an alcoholic and he won't admit it and, of course, as long as Tony stays sober, he's alright. When he gets to drinking, he gets mean, but I never thought about Tony killing anybody. He's kind of...likes to beat up his women. I've know that several times that he has a reputation of beating up girls. He likes to fight, he gets to drinking and he likes to fight. But, as far as Tony killing anybody...I just never thought about him being that kind of guy.

RF: Do you think he's capable of doing it though?

DJ: That's hard to say...I don't think he'd get mad enough at anybody to kill them, no. He just likes to fight. I've never seen him violent really.

JH: When was the last time that you've come in any contact with Tony?

DJ: He came over and fixed the light for me, probably six weeks ago, maybe two months ago. One night he came over and fixed the outside light for me.

JH: And you haven't had any contact other than that, phone conversations or anything of that nature?

DJ: No. I believe my wife called him and asked to come over and put some fans up and he never came to do that.

RF: Is there any kind of financial ties between you and Tony or his family?

DJ: No...I don't have any...I don't believe they ever loaned him any money. I may have. If I did, he paid me, he's honest, he'd pay a debt. If he asked me for money I'd lend him money.

RF: You say he brought over, a couple of times, he brought over some girlfriends. Okay, if you were shown any photos would you be able to pick out maybe a couple of his girlfriends or something like that?

DJ: I might be able to identify them, I don't know. Every time I see him he's with a different one.

RF: So he's the lover boy type, huh?

CC: He always got a girlfriend.

JH: But you'd never come in contact with a Charlotte?

DJ: I don't remember the girl, no. Don't remember the name...

RF: Okay, doc, we don't have anything further at this time, but Investigator High or myself, or any of the investigators at the police department, most likely will be getting back in touch with you further down the line in the investigation.

DJ: Okay.

RF: We'll appreciate it if you have any kind of contact from this young lady again if you think of her name in the future, we'd appreciate it if you would give us a call or something like that.

DJ: Tony didn't give you any indication who the woman might have been?

JH: Tony has clammed up; won't say a thing.

DJ: He won't say anything?

JH: His attorney advised him of that. So, at that point, we can no longer ask him anything, or talk to him. I have no further questions. Do you have any questions?

RF: Any more, doc?

JH: This will conclude the interview. The time is 3:02, same date.