

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF TUSCALOOSA COUNTY, ALABAMA

WILLIE DORRELL MINOR,

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Petitioner,

\*

v.

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CC-95-1118.80

STATE OF ALABAMA,

\*

Respondent.

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AFFIDAVIT OF DOROTHY JEAN MINOR

State of Alabama

County of Tuscaloosa

BEFORE ME, the undersigned Notary,

Cheryl K. Muglach

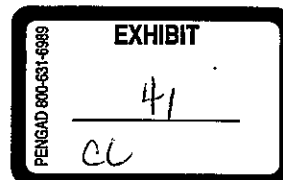
, on this 26<sup>th</sup> day of

September, 2006, personally appeared Dorothy Jean Minor, known to me to be a credible person and of lawful age, who being by me first duly sworn, on her oath, deposes and says:

1. My name is Dorothy Jean Minor. I live in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, and work at Northport Health Services as a Financial Assistant. Willie Minor is my younger brother and I testified during the guilt phase of Willie's capital murder trial in Tuscaloosa County Circuit Court in Tuscaloosa, Alabama in 1996 and during the guilt and penalty phases of his capital murder trial in the same court in 2001. I make this affidavit on personal knowledge.

2. In advance of the second trial, I did not have any significant interactions with Willie's attorneys. I vaguely remember meeting Cyndi Bockman before trial, but I do not believe I had ever met or seen Dan Turberville until the trial started. I was not in direct contact with the attorneys before trial; rather, I understand that they were in my contact with my father. I would hear information from him and through the grapevine after my father passed along information to others.

3. I believe that it was through my father that I had brief contact with Ms. Bockman before trial. I cannot recall whether I spoke with her at my parents' house or at an office somewhere—I know she never came to my home—but we had a short conversation about Willie. During that very brief conversation, the only thing we talked about was Willie's background. Ms. Bockman did not ask me any questions about the night that E'bius died although I was at the hospital during that night. Nor did Ms. Bockman ask me about my experiences with Lakeisha Jennings although I had seen Ms. Jennings with E'bius and her other children on several occasions. Finally, although Ms. Bockman asked me general questions about Willie's background and indicated that perhaps I would be called to testify as a "character witness," she did not tell me that I would definitely be testifying. As such, Ms. Bockman never prepared me to testify (for



example, she did not tell me what questions she would ask, nor did she explain what purpose my testimony would serve).

4. At trial, Willie's attorneys called me to the stand during both the initial phase of trial and during the penalty phase after Willie had been found guilty. Before being called to the stand those times, I still had not been prepared to testify by either of Willie's attorneys. Instead, the only thing that would happen is that while I was waiting out in the hall of the courthouse during trial, Ms. Bockman would sometimes try to reassure me and the other potential witnesses, saying things like "you may be called to testify, just tell the truth about what you know." Of course, I had little idea about what aspects of what I knew would be the subject of my testimony. Observing Ms. Bockman and Mr. Turberville in the courthouse and then in the courtroom, my impression was that they were unprepared and almost nonchalant about trial. It was frustrating that they hadn't given me a better idea of what purpose my testimony was supposed to serve because I first was naturally somewhat nervous given the only other time I had spoken in court was at Willie's first trial, and second, I knew much more about Willie, Lakeisha Jennings and the events surrounding E'bious's death than I got to testify about.

5. For example, when I testified during the guilt stage of trial, Ms. Bockman asked me whether Willie had been crying at the hospital. I answered in the negative, but in my previous conversations with Ms. Bockman, she had never asked me this question. If she had, I could have explained that although Willie was not crying at that time, he didn't typically show his emotions that way, and when I saw him at the hospital, I knew from his mannerisms that he was very upset.

6. Similarly and more frustratingly, Ms. Bockman gave me no opportunity to speak about my knowledge of Willie's interactions with his children and with other people's children. Although Mr. Turberville briefly asked me about these subjects during the penalty phase, I had never discussed them with him before, nor did he (because he couldn't) ask me very informed questions about these topics.

7. *If I'd been asked, I could have told them how Willie was as a parent.* At first, when Willie's son Dondrell was born, Willie was very nervous. Willie was so young and inexperienced that he was afraid to hold the baby as he wanted to be sure that he didn't do anything wrong. I remember Willie holding Dondrell for short periods of time, but because he was afraid that Dondrell would squirm out of his arms and get hurt, Willie generally tried to have me, my sister or my mother hold him. By the time, E'bious was born, Willie had more experience caring for children so he had become more comfortable. Willie kept E'bious a lot. He was very proud to be a father and showed off the baby to everyone in the neighborhood. While Willie was much more relaxed holding E'bious than he had been when Dondrell was a baby, he still got a lot of help from my sister, Lakeisha, in caring for E'bious. Generally, Willie would drop E'bious off at my mother's house, where Lakeisha also lived. Although Willie was comfortable holding and carrying E'bious, he was worried that E'bious would slip out of his arms if he bathed him. Therefore, my sister Lakeisha would give E'bious a bath every morning, and Willie would generally watch how it was done.

8. As for Willie's demeanor toward kids, he cared for children as much as anyone you could imagine. Whether it was with his children, or those of other people, when they acted up, the only discipline Willie imposed was refusing to give them candy or take them to the store. Normally, when kids were around, he would take them to the store where he would buy them whatever treats they wanted. When they acted up, he'd just say "if you keep acting like that, I'm not going to give you any candy or take you to the store." I think Willie had this attitude toward discipline because our parents rarely spanked us when we were growing up.

9. Willie believed everyone should treat children the same way and tried to get them to do so. Once, I remember my best friend, Diane Bryant, was over at our family home with her son, Gerald, who was a toddler. Gerald was acting up and Diane said that she was going to give him a spanking; I remember Willie, who must have been 15 or 16 at the time, butting in and saying "no, please don't do that. He doesn't need that." I remember everyone around laughed because Willie was so serious about this.

10. While we thought it was funny that Willie was so serious, it was not surprising considering his character. Willie had so much respect for children and his elders, and was so protective of children, old people and family. Because I was years older than Willie and would fuss at him like I was his mother, he showed me this same respect.

11. Willie also gave great care to his younger brother, Marcus. Willie never bullied Marcus, but instead he tried to show him the ropes and was very protective. After Willie got out of jail, he tried to make clear to Marcus that he needed to keep his nose clean and stay out of trouble. He always told Marcus, "I've done wrong and I am trying to do better, but there's no need for you to follow in my footsteps."

12. Willie's experiences with drugs and his earlier mistakes had played a big part in his life. I remember that when Willie was fairly young he got involved in drinking and smoking. When he got high, he would either seclude himself in the house or stay away from the house altogether. I used to fuss at Willie about the drinking and the drugs before and after he went to jail. Before he went to jail, nothing we said seemed to get him to change; my mother bent over backwards trying to take care of Willie. She took him to different doctors and tried to get him to commit himself in rehab. Willie was so family oriented that he knew and was sad that his drug use hurt us so much, but he told us that he just couldn't get over his addictions. After Willie went to jail, however, everything was different. He told the family that he was really trying to get himself together and that he wanted to clean himself up to raise Dondrell and then to raise E'bious and have a family of his own. Like I said, I always used to fuss at Willie, and when Willie got out of jail it was so easy to see that his attitude was different. He really responded when I told him to get his act together; he used to say "I am trying to sort myself out, and I'm tired of street life." Once our family found out that Lakeisha Jennings was supposedly pregnant with his baby, Willie made us sick with how many times we had to hear him say, "all I want to do is take care of my baby." Willie was very concerned about how much he'd hurt our family when he went to jail, so he told us that he wanted to stay out of trouble and have us proud of him again.

13. In my experience, Lakeisha Jennings' attitude toward children couldn't have been more different from Willie's. When she used to drop off E'bious at my parents' house, I remember

her being very impatient. Everything about her indicated that she didn't have time for her kids. One time when Lakeisha Jennings was over, she was getting ready to leave and was about to leave all three of her kids for my mother and sister to take care of. As she got ready to leave, her son, Edrick, indicated that he wanted to go with her and chased after her. Lakeisha Jennings hit that little boy with her hand across his chest and knocked him down; she knocked him all the way under our kitchen table. My mother jumped up and yelled "you don't need to do that, just explain to him why he can't come." I know that Lakeisha Jennings spanked the kids a lot when she had them. This always struck us as unusual, because it was not how my parents handled bad behavior.

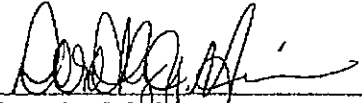
14. Another thing I would have liked to have testified about and told Willie's attorneys was about my brother's experiences with women generally. My family had not heard much about Lakeisha Jennings until Willie told us that she was pregnant with his baby. I don't think he ever asked if the baby was his. His whole life he had always fallen hook, line and sinker for whatever women said. Both my parents always told Willie not to listen to what girls told him, but he never listened to their advice. Therefore, right after Lakeisha Jennings had the baby; Willie told my parents that the baby was his and he had to provide for it. He really committed himself to E'biou and to Lakeisha Jennings and all her other children without stopping to ask whether the baby was, in fact, his. Because of this trust in women that Willie had, I was not surprised when I heard Willie told the police this story that he might have hurt E'biou. Willie would have said anything to make sure women he cared about were protected.

15. Willie had always trusted people too much. We tried to tell him that not everyone was a friend, but Willie would always trust folks right off, giving them the benefit of the doubt. Maybe part of this was that Willie himself was so trustworthy. In the neighborhood, the old people always knew that Willie was someone they could count on. Even while Willie was hanging out with some of the worst people around, Willie never became like them in very important ways. Old people would come up to Willie while he was hanging out with a group of his friends and ask him to run an errand, and Willie would. Willie never took advantage of these people, but would run to the store, carry their groceries to their homes and return all of their change. He was known in the neighborhood for being dependable. Interestingly, at trial, Mr. Turberville asked me about an instance like this although I'd never previously told Mr. Turberville about it (I suspect Willie must have told him the story). In 1992 or 1993, there was a homeless person who used to walk around the neighborhood and he started coming to dinner at my parents' house. I found out from my mother that Willie had felt bad for him and started inviting him to dinner. Because Willie often helped with the cooking, particularly barbequing, he knew that there was more than enough food to go around and thought we should help out this guy who was down on his luck.

16. Finally, I could have testified in greater detail about my experiences at the hospital on the night that E'biou died. I sat with my family and we spoke to Lakeisha Jennings' parents about what was going on. However, I also remember seeing Lakeisha Jennings' aunt, Tina, at the hospital. Because I understood that there was a police investigation going on, I remember asking someone whether she came in as police or as family. I remember that Lakeisha Jennings' uncle also had a sheriff's badge or uniform on, and I didn't know what capacity he was acting in either. Both Tina and the uncle were very cold to our side of the family, whereas, as I mentioned,

Lakeisha Jennings' parents talked to us. Although this police investigation was going on, I was never asked any questions by the police at the hospital, nor at any other time about what I knew.

Further affiant sayeth not, this the 26<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2006.

  
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Dorothy J. Minor  
425 57<sup>th</sup> St. 3-D  
Tuscaloosa, AL 35405  
Tuscaloosa, AL

Subscribed and sworn to before me, this 26<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2006.

Cheryl K. Muglach  
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NOTARY PUBLIC

My commission expires: January 28, 2007.

NOTARY PUBLIC STATE OF ALABAMA AT LARGE  
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES: JAN 28, 2007  
BONDED THRU NOTARY PUBLIC UNDERWRITERS

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