

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF TUSCALOOSA COUNTY, ALABAMA

WILLIE DORRELL MINOR,

*

Petitioner,

*

v.

*

CC-95-1118.80

STATE OF ALABAMA,

*

Respondent.

*

AFFIDAVIT OF ANGELA BURTON

State of Alabama

County of Tuscaloosa

BEFORE ME, the undersigned Notary,

Kimberly A. Kirsch, on this 21st day of
June, 2006, personally appeared Angela Burton, 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 Angela Denise Burton, and I was born on March 13, 1968. I live in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. I formerly lived in the same apartment complex as Lakeisha Jennings at 1750 40th Avenue in Tuscaloosa. My apartment was directly upstairs from Lakeisha's. I moved out of this complex in 1995, right around the time that Lakeisha Jennings' and Willie Minor's baby, E'bious, died.

2. I knew Lakeisha Jennings fairly well at that time and used to see her regularly because for part of this time period her phone was disconnected and she would come upstairs to use mine. When she did so, she often would tell me about what was going on with her life. Sometimes, I would socialize with her in her apartment.

3. I knew Lakeisha when she was pregnant with E'bious. She regularly told me that she did not want to have the baby. Lakeisha already had two children, Raqual and Edrick, by a man named Eddie Rice (known as "Teddy Bear"), and she did not want to have any more children. I understood that part of the reason for this was the child she was pregnant with was not Eddie's. While she was pregnant, she never told me who the father was, but she was very upset about being pregnant again and used to cry about it.

4. Lakeisha told me that she was trying to save up enough money to get an abortion. Lakeisha told me that she would steal clothes from the mall and then sell them to try to raise money. At least one time, I remember Lakeisha getting in trouble with the law for doing so. She



got caught stealing, but I saw that her aunt, Tina Williams, who was a police officer brought Lakeisha home, and I understood that Lakeisha had not been charged.

5. Later, I remember Lakeisha crying because she still did not have enough money to get an abortion. Afterwards, probably when she was several months pregnant, I used to see Lakeisha jump down the apartment building's stairs onto a landing, which was about six or eight steps down. I saw her do this on at least two occasions. When I asked her what she was doing, she told me she was doing so to try to cause a miscarriage. Lakeisha also told me that she also drank some mixture, I believe it contained turpentine and fingernail polish removal, in an effort to miscarry. She also asked me if I knew whether drinking turpentine or other things would work; I told her that I didn't know.

6. I often saw Lakeisha with her other children, Raqual and Edrick. She did a lot of yelling and cursing at them, and she also used to hit them real hard. In particular, I remember seeing her punch Edrick in the back with her fist to discipline him. This blow sent Edrick flying. I remember saying to Lakeisha, "you can't do that to a child, that's not how you spank a child." I also remember that Raqual had casts on her legs, and I remember hearing from Lakeisha that she had somehow hurt her daughter's legs.

7. I know that because Lakeisha would get so angry and out of control with her children that her mother used to take care of them. Lakeisha told me that her mother had gotten custody of Raqual because of the incident which caused the girl's leg injuries. When Raqual was around and Lakeisha was mad at her, Lakeisha would yell at her daughter, saying things like "why don't you go around to your grandmother's house where you belong."

8. In June 1996, shortly before Willie Minor went to trial for E'bious's murder, I met a private investigator who I understood was working for Minor's lawyers. The investigator interviewed me for a few minutes about my knowledge of Lakeisha and Willie Minor, and I was told that I might be called to testify by Minor's attorneys at trial. I did not know Minor very well, as he was not around when Lakeisha was pregnant with E'bious, which is when I often saw her. There was a lot of pressure in the community at the time not to say anything about Lakeisha Jennings or the case. I think it was Lakeisha's mother who was telling people not to get involved. I was willing to testify because I thought I had a duty to tell the truth about what I knew about Lakeisha. Given everything I knew about how much she did not want to have her baby, E'bious, it did not totally surprise me to find out that he had died.

9. I was informed that I would not be called by the defense to testify because, for some reason, it might cause problems for a criminal prosecution I was facing. At the time, I was locked-up in the Tuscaloosa jail for allegedly hindering the prosecution of my sister. A jury convicted me of that offense, but the Alabama Supreme Court reversed my conviction for insufficient evidence, and acquitted me of the crime in 2000. After Minor's attorneys decided that I would not testify, I had no contact with them or the private investigator thereafter. I heard about Minor's conviction getting reversed, but I never had any contact with his attorneys until this year. I had no familiarity with the names Dan Turberville or Cyndi Bockman until Minor's current attorneys asked me about them.

Further affiant sayeth not, this the 21 day of June, 2006.

Angela Burton

Angela Burton

Tuscaloosa, AL

Subscribed and sworn to before me, this 21st day of June, 2006.

Kimberly A. Krosch

NOTARY PUBLIC

My commission expires: 3/3, 2009:

