

vs.

TRANSCRIPT OF RECORD

JESSE D. OSBORNE,

DEFENDANT.

SEPTEMBER 28, 2016
ANDERSON, SOUTH CAROLINA

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INTERVIEW OF:

J E S S E O S B O R N E

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I N T E R V I E W E R S:

TRACY CALL, INVESTIGATOR
ANDERSON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

ALETHA THOMPSON, AGENT
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

INTERVIEW WITH JESSE OSBORNE.

(Questions are asked by Tracy Call and answers given by Jesse Osborne, as follows:)

FEMALE OFFICER: Hey, Jesse.

A Hey.

FEMALE OFFICER: My name is Aletha Thompson.

A Nice to meet you.

FEMALE OFFICER: I'm with the FBI in Greenville.

You heard of the FBI?

A Yeah.

Q And I'm Tracy Call. One of the sheriff's investigators here with Anderson County.

A Nice to meet you.

Q Nice to meet you. Before we start, you've probably seen on TV before, seen somebody that had their rights read to them and all?

A Yeah.

Q We have got to go through that formality, because some things did occur tonight, like to talk to you about them; but until we do that, I have to go through this.

All right?

A All right.

FEMALE OFFICER: We understand you had a very, very rough day, long day. And you're very tired.

Q What's your full name?

2

1 A Jesse.

2 Q Can you spell Jesse?

3 A J-E-S-S-E.

4 Q Okay.

5 A And my middle name?

6 Q Yes, sir.

7 A Capital D, e, Capital W, I-T-T.

8 Q DeWitt.

9 A Huh-uh.

10 Q Is that how you say that? And your last name?

11 A Osborne. O-S-B-O-R-N-E.

12 Q How far did you go in school, Jesse? You graduated?

13 Can you read and write?

14 A Yeah. I can read and write. Eighth grade.

15 Q Eighth grade.

16 A Now I'm home schooled.

17 Q Okay. You go on the computer?

18 A Yeah.

19 Q What do they call that, virtual high school or

20 something like that?

21 A Just Virtual Academy basically.

22 Q Okay. I'm going to read you these. And if you have

23 any questions, I want you to stop me and ask me. Okay?

24 A All right.

25 Q Says: "You have the right to remain silent.

1 Anything you say may be used against you in court. You
2 have the right to speak to a lawyer for advice before
3 you're asked any questions and have him with you during
4 questioning. If you cannot afford a lawyer, one will be
5 appointed for you before any questioning if you wish. If
6 you decide to answer questions now without a lawyer
7 present, you still have the right to stop answering
8 questions at any time. And you also have the right to
9 stop answering at any time until you speak with a lawyer."

10 Can I get you to read two of these back to me?

11 A These the rights?

12 Q Yeah, the stop -- right here. These two that I've
13 got the marks next to. Can you read them?

14 A "You have the right to remain silent. Anything you
15 say may be used against you in court."

16 Q Okay. Can you just put your initials next to that.
17 All that does is show me that you can read and write.

18 A Sign this side of it?

19 Q Yeah. Just put your initials on the side there.

20 (Complies.)

21 Q The next piece that I'm going to read to you is
22 what's called the waiver. And that's what allows us to
23 talk. Okay?

24 A (Nods head up and down.)

25 Q It says -- and I apologize, I keep taking my glasses

1 off. To read I have to take glasses off, to see I have to
2 put them on.

3 It says, "I have read this statement of the rights.
4 I understand what my rights are. I am willing to make a
5 statement and answer questions. I don't want a lawyer at
6 this time. I understand and know what I'm doing. No
7 promises or threats have been made to me. No pressure or
8 coercion of any kind has been used against me."

9 Do you know what coercion is? It's a fancy word for
10 use force. We don't use it in everyday language like
11 people used to at the time. Basically what it means is
12 I'm not forcing you to talk to me. I'm not promising
13 anything under the sun. I'm not taking you out to get you
14 a steak dinner and beer just to get you to talk. If you
15 want to talk, we'll listen. If not, hey, it is what it
16 is. Okay?

17 FEMALE OFFICER: It's your right.

18 A I want to get it out of the way.

19 Q Okay. Do you understand what I told you, what
20 coercion means? The definition of it? I'm not forcing
21 you. It's a free and voluntarily. If you understand what
22 coercion means, get you to put your initials right next to
23 that again.

24 A The little light mark?

25 Q Yes, sir. And then we'll get you to sign right here,

1 and right here, that we went through both sections of
2 that.

3 A I can't really write in cursive.

4 Q However, you can do it, it's fine with us.

5 FEMALE OFFICER: Why don't they teach cursive
6 anymore?

7 MALE OFFICER: Actually they started back this year.

8 FEMALE OFFICER: Really?

9 MALE OFFICER: Yeah. I have a daughter who's fixing
10 to graduate high school who was never taught cursive.
11 And I have an eight-year-old son having to learn it in
12 third grade.

13 FEMALE OFFICER: How else do you sign your
14 signature?

15 MALE OFFICER: That common core and all that
16 completely stopped it. When she get's a chance, I'm
17 going to get her to witness that we went through this
18 together. Okay?

19 (Complies.)

20 All right. Jesse, we're here to listen. Can I get
21 you anything before we start? You need a drink,
22 something to eat, anything like that?

23 A No. I had something before.

24 Q Okay. So, obviously we're at the sheriff's office,
25 some stuff has occurred today. What can you tell me about

1 what's been going on?

2 A For my whole life basically?

3 MALE OFFICER: Well, let's start with what happened
4 today then we'll go backwards. How about that?

5 FEMALE OFFICER: We both understand you have been --
6 you have had a really hard day. We understand this is
7 hard for you. And there are a lot of things going on.
8 So why don't we start from this morning and just talk our
9 way through the events of today.

10 A Well, nothing really happened this morning. It was
11 really last night that just, that happened.

12 FEMALE OFFICER: Okay. Well, let's start last
13 night. You can just talk and --

14 MALE OFFICER: We're just going to listen.

15 A Well, last night, my dad was fussing to me and my mom
16 about not getting paid enough for his chicken houses. And
17 he was getting up in my face and stuff. And whenever he's
18 drunk, he always like says he wants to fight me because I
19 make this face to him. And he'll -- and then my mom will
20 have to step in and get fussed at too. And last night he
21 was just worse than he's ever been. He was just drinking.

22 And then this morning, he got the paycheck, and then
23 he just went off. And I hadn't finished my math homework,
24 and he also got mad about that; but I was working on ELA.
25 So -- and that's the point where I went into his drawer

1 and loaded his gun and --

2 FEMALE OFFICER: You knew his gun was there?

3 A Yeah. I don't think he knew. But --

4 FEMALE OFFICER: Had you ever used his gun before?

5 A Yeah. I have shot every gun in the house, like, with
6 my parents. Yeah.

7 MALE OFFICER: What kind of gun did you get today?

8 A I think it's a 40. But thank God I put the wrong
9 ammo in it.

10 MALE OFFICER: Where did he keep that in the house?

11 A Right, beside his bed, like in a drawer. Like it
12 was --

13 Q Kind of like a nightstand type thing?

14 A Yeah. And he kept his alarm clock above it and the
15 ammo under it. Everything was covered by a piece of
16 paper. So how was he supposed to know that I knew where
17 it was? So -- and then once I got to the school, I shot
18 one round at a teacher. And then it jammed. And then I
19 shot again. And It jammed again every time. And I thank
20 God for that. Please say no one died. Did anyone die?

21 FEMALE OFFICER: At this point --

22 (Interruption.)

23 FEMALE OFFICER: So, going back to -- how many guns
24 were in the house? A lot of guns?

25 A That's impossible. But every single one was in his

1 safe, except one, which is a black powder rifle. That's
2 the black powder rifle.

3 Q Right.

4 A And then if there was a shotgun laying around the
5 house, it was never loaded. No ammo ever anywhere.

6 Q I don't want to interrupt you, but a minute ago you
7 said you put the wrong ammo in the gun?

8 A I put cheap ammo in the gun, which is good. Which is
9 good. And then once I finally figured out I'm going to
10 hell for this, I threw the gun away and I just took my
11 vest off, threw my hat down, called my Papa and Nanna and
12 just told them what happened. And they said they were
13 going to come down, pick me up, and take me to the
14 sheriff's office.

15 And I was like, "Papa, you can't do that. I'm going
16 to get arrested." And that's basically when the fireman
17 came around the corner, told me to get on the ground,
18 blah, blah, blah.

19 FEMALE OFFICER: What happened -- so this morning
20 you went and got the gun, and you said you got cheap
21 ammo. Was that your ammo?

22 A No. That was his. At least I think it was cheap
23 ammo. I like guns and stuff, but I don't know a lot about
24 ammo so.

25 Q And where was he at that point when you got the gun?

1 A He was reading his bill in his chair.

2 Q And then what happened?

3 A I went in there and shot him three times. Then I
4 immediately ran downstairs, gave my rabbit a kiss, went
5 back up, gave all the dogs kisses. And then went in his
6 truck and drove to the school.

7 Q And --

8 FEMALE OFFICER: And then what happened? You drove
9 it to the school?

10 A Yeah, I drove behind the school and then jumped out
11 and started shooting. Then it jammed.

12 FEMALE OFFICER: So it jammed.

13 A Then I just got mad at myself and started yelling,
14 screaming to the top of my lungs, just saying, "Why did I
15 do this?" So --

16 FEMALE OFFICER: Did you -- had you gone to that
17 school?

18 A I went to school. That was the first school I ever
19 went to. And nobody liked me there. So --

20 FEMALE OFFICER: Is that what you felt like? You
21 felt like --

22 A Nobody ever likes me.

23 Q Why you say that? You seem like a nice kid.

24 A Exactly.

25 Q You do, I mean --

1 A I don't know why. But every school I've went to I've
2 been bullied.

3 FEMALE OFFICER: Well, you know what? Growing up is
4 hard.

5 MALE OFFICER: It is.

6 FEMALE OFFICER: It's hard. So, where did you get
7 the vest?

8 A I play air soft.

9 FEMALE OFFICER: So this is an air soft vest?

10 A Yeah, it was just a vest that I could put ammo in and
11 my phone if I needed to call my papa. Because I was
12 freaking out.

13 Q Sounds like you're pretty close to your papa?

14 A Yeah, I hope I can let him visit me, and my mom and
15 my Nanna. So --

16 FEMALE OFFICER: Did you ever talk to anybody else
17 today about what was going on before you did it?

18 A Yes. I was wanting to tell this to you-all. But
19 every time someone comes by the door, they just come back.

20 Q Like I said, we're here to listen to whatever you
21 want to say.

22 A There's this one group that's on my Instagram. It's
23 private and there's this group of random people and they,
24 like, told me they were my friends and stuff. And they
25 said they were all going to shoot up their schools too.

1 And I was like, Okay, actually people get me. But at
2 the same time I don't want to. So --

3 FEMALE OFFICER: So were you saying, were you
4 talking about doing this earlier on the evening?

5 A Yeah, but it was still, like, my mom and dad were
6 fussing a lot so I was --

7 Q You were just spouting off on the --

8 A Yeah. I finally found people to actually talk to me.

9 Q You said there was an Instagram.

10 A Yeah. And one of them was from Manhattan. The rest
11 are from Germany and England. So --

12 Q Do you recall what the name of the group is?

13 A No. But they probably changed it.

14 Q What's your Instagram name? Do you remember? Is it
15 on your phone or on you computer?

16 A It's on my phone. I think it's private. It might
17 not be. I don't know.

18 FEMALE OFFICER: Is there a password?

19 A To my phone?

20 Q Yeah.

21 A Yes.

22 Q What's your password?

23 A It's like one of them linear --

24 Q So you got to draw it out?

25 A Yeah. You want me to draw it out?

1 Q I'll get a piece of paper. I don't want to draw on
2 this. That's a --

3 FEMALE OFFICER: I'll get a piece of paper.

4 A There's is a bunch of crazy stuff on my Instagram
5 because last few months I've just been --

6 Q Seems like you have been having a hard time. And a
7 person's got to -- you can't keep it all bottled inside.

8 A Yeah. Unfortunately, a pillow doesn't help.

9 FEMALE OFFICER: Did anyone know that you were going
10 to go to the school today?

11 A The kids in my group. Yeah.

12 FEMALE OFFICER: Did you tell them this morning?

13 A Yeah. And they were cheering me on, so what else was
14 I supposed to do? They're just a bunch of lunatics.

15 FEMALE OFFICER: Yeah, sometimes. That's
16 unfortunate. Unfortunately, those type of people are
17 drawn to the internet.

18 A And you will see a bunch of Columbine and stuff like
19 that on my page and stuff. I felt like this year, it's
20 like I had --

21 FEMALE OFFICER: Because you've been bullied?

22 A Yeah. Basically, just started stuff.

23 Q Well, let's get back to earlier today. You're at the
24 house, your dad is kind of -- I guess he's upset?

25 A He was upset that --

1 Q Seems to be tight at the house?

2 A He was upset that he got big chickens but he got paid
3 like below poverty line. And we needed money anyway.

4 Q Is that what you-all do for a living, raise chickens?

5 A Yeah. My mom is a dental hygienist. I don't know
6 what she did. She probably freaked out and drove home.

7 Q Where is she working at? Is that here in Anderson?

8 A No. She moved so many times.

9 Q So you knew to go where the gun was?

10 A Uh-huh.

11 Q When you got the gun, was it already loaded?

12 A No. He never keeps it loaded.

13 Q Did you have the -- load the magazine for it?

14 A Yes.

15 Q You did.

16 A I preloaded it in the morning. And then whenever he
17 got home, started fussing at me again, I was like, this is
18 it. I ran and popped it, and then went in and shot him
19 three times. And then I freaked out.

20 Q So sometime he left?

21 A Yeah. He went to the tax office I think. I'm pretty
22 sure that's where he went. Or the post office.

23 Q Do you remember about what time that was?

24 A 11:30-ish, 11:00-ish maybe.

25 Q When he came back, did you-all have a confrontation?

1 A He was just mad because he didn't get paid.

2 Q So he was sitting in a chair?

3 A Yeah.

4 Q Like at a desk or --

5 A No. In a, like, couch/sofa, but with seats.

6 Q At what point did you put on your vest?

7 A After I shot him. I ran downstairs immediately, gave
8 all the animals hugs, and then put my vest on. I put some
9 ammo in my vest so I could just grab it. And then I put
10 my hat on and ran upstairs and drove there.

11 FEMALE OFFICER: Had you already said on the
12 Instagram exactly the location of the school?

13 A No. Never.

14 FEMALE OFFICER: You just said you were going to
15 shoot up the school?

16 A Yeah. Sadly.

17 FEMALE OFFICER: Had you considered doing this
18 before today?

19 A Yes, but not as much as today. Because I always have
20 this anger feeling whenever someone doesn't, like, treat
21 my friend well or something like that. I just can't
22 control sometimes, and I can't stop moving either. So,
23 I don't know what's wrong with that.

24 Q Has it always been Townville Elementary -- always
25 been your school that you were going to?

1 A No. I started in 4-K, and then I went up to fifth
2 grade. And then everybody started bullying me. I don't
3 even remember why. Then they changed me to West Oak. I
4 went there for about a year and a half, then got arrested
5 again for taking a hatchet and machete there, because
6 people were bullying me again. Actually, physically
7 bullying me now. And then in this home school I basically
8 have no one because it's all on line.

9 Q Just you and the computer?

10 A So I felt isolated. So --

11 FEMALE OFFICER: So what happened when you got to
12 the school? Did you have a plan?

13 A Kind of. But at that moment my mind was just focused
14 on --

15 Q Let me ask, why the back and not go in through the
16 front.

17 A I guess at the time I thought that the more windows
18 you have to get through, the less people --

19 Q Okay. If the -- you said the gun jammed?

20 A Multiple times. Yeah. That's when I finally just
21 threw it and started yelling.

22 Q If it didn't jam, what do you think would have
23 happened?

24 A God knows. I probably would have been dead.
25 Honestly, I probably would have shot myself.

1 Q You said you took extra ammo with you?

2 A Probably 15 more bullets. Like the actual, like,
3 thing it comes in. But I threw them down at one of the
4 back entrances with a camera. And I just called my
5 grandfather. And then once the cop got there, just threw
6 the phone on the ground. And I think he could still hear
7 because he got there immediately.

8 Q Your grandfather?

9 A Yeah. He was like, "I'm sorry that this happened to
10 you." Because he knows, like --

11 Q Listen, were there any teachers at the school that
12 bullied you or just those students?

13 A No. I liked everybody there. But I didn't --

14 Q The kids were a little rough?

15 A Yeah. It wasn't those kids there. It was just the
16 past kids before that.

17 FEMALE OFFICER: So you didn't really have personal
18 animosity against any one at the school?

19 A I just had a problem with the school.

20 FEMALE OFFICER: With the school.

21 A Yeah.

22 FEMALE OFFICER: The school system?

23 A Yeah, basically.

24 Q That the only school recently that you've thought
25 about shooting? Or is there --

1 A No. The one that I brought the ax and machete to, I
2 thought about that. That was West Oak. And I got
3 arrested, went to Columbia, got in a school. I was
4 supposed to see a therapist soon. That might actually
5 have stopped me from doing this. The therapist wouldn't
6 ever call so.

7 Q Really?

8 A Yeah. That probably would have helped me too.

9 Q Are you in any sort of juvenile probation or --

10 A I'm on probation. Yeah.

11 Q For that?

12 A Oh, yeah. I was only charged with disrupting school
13 though. So -- because I never actually, like, brought
14 them out or anything. I was like, "Why did I do this?
15 I'm just going to not tell anybody."

16 Happens to be some kid looked in my book bag.

17 Q During all this, did you ever go to like a school
18 administrator or -- you said West Oak?

19 A Yeah. I don't like the school administrator.

20 Q Did they have like a school resource officer that
21 could help you out?

22 A Yeah. But I don't like asking for help because then
23 I get bullied more. So --

24 FEMALE OFFICER: When you went to the school, what
25 was your intent? I mean what --

1 A To end my life.

2 FEMALE OFFICER: -- you expect to happen?

3 A To end my life. The fighting.

4 FEMALE OFFICER: And shoot other people too at the
5 same time?

6 A At that time, yes. I was just, because of all the
7 anger in my body that I just killed my father.

8 Q Do you recall seeing a red car pull up at the school?
9 Kind of pull in behind the truck, then back out and leave?

10 A No.

11 Q Does your grandpa have a red car?

12 A No, he has a blue truck.

13 Q Anybody in the family have like a little red Chevy
14 car?

15 A No. We all have Dodges.

16 FEMALE OFFICER: But no one knew of your plans that
17 you were going to go to this school?

18 A Not that school, no. I never gave a location.

19 FEMALE OFFICER: Did they know a day and time?

20 A No.

21 FEMALE OFFICER: So it was just general?

22 A Yeah.

23 FEMALE OFFICER: General talk.

24 A But the other kids in that group, they were planning
25 on doing it on the same day.

1 FEMALE OFFICER: What day?

2 A I don't know. They haven't said yet. So I was glad
3 they didn't either, because they were trying to plan for
4 mass chaos.

5 Q In the U.S. or --

6 A Oh, they're all over. One's from Manhattan. One's
7 from England, one's from Germany. The rest are from
8 Ireland and stuff like that.

9 Q So it's kind of like a impassioned group?

10 A Yeah. About five or six.

11 Q Okay.

12 FEMALE OFFICER: Did they call themselves something?

13 A They have like Columbine names. There's like Red and
14 Vodka, stuff like that. Natural Selection, that kind
15 of --

16 Q Is this like a chat room that you're in?

17 A Yeah. And then we Skype call sometimes.

18 Q So it's on a computer screen.

19 A Yeah, but the chat was on Instagram.

20 Q Tell me something now. I thought Instagram was just
21 pictures. I didn't know there was an actual chat room on
22 Instagram.

23 A But there's these accounts on Instagram that usually
24 have TCC in them, and that's true crime community. And if
25 you ever find one, just shut it down.

1 Q What is that?

2 A True crime community is basically people obsessed
3 with mass murderers and serial killers.

4 Q Yeah. See, you're teaching me.

5 A I wish I couldn't. I wish I couldn't.

6 FEMALE OFFICER: Is there anything else about today
7 that you want to talk about?

8 A No, just that my relatives can visit me. That's all
9 I ask. And is this just a holding jail or --

10 Q Uh-huh.

11 A So I'll be sent to like Columbia or something?

12 Q Possibly. I don't want to give you the wrong answer.
13 Because to be honest with you, I really don't know. But
14 that's something we're going to have to work out.

15 A There's a school, because I'm obsessed with history.

16 Q I like history myself.

17 A Going out with -- going without history a few days, I
18 get cranky.

19 Q What's your favorite part of history?

20 A It's hard to tell. World War II, civil war, stuff
21 like that.

22 Q Nothing wrong with that. Enjoy it myself.

23 FEMALE OFFICER: That's good, thirst of knowledge,
24 your thirst for knowledge is --

25 A Sometimes too much knowledge can ruin you.

1 FEMALE OFFICER: You said there were other guns in
2 the house?

3 A Yes. But if there was, we had either emptied them
4 the other day by shooting them, or they just were locked
5 up. I couldn't even get them. A piece of metal inside
6 the safe. So it's a sturdy gun safe. There was no way I
7 could get into it. And there were probably 20 guns, 30
8 guns in there. Only one was a semi-automatic so.

9 Q But the only gun you took with you was --

10 A The .40, yeah. I was planning on taking the
11 semi-automatic mini .14, but it was locked up in the safe.

12 Q You shoot the guns a lot? I mean, you a pretty good
13 shot?

14 A Yeah. My dad just a couple of days ago said that I
15 was a better shot than him. And he shoots a ton.

16 Q What's your favorite gun to shoot?

17 A Couple days ago I shot an M16, fully automatic.
18 Probably the funnest thing I ever done.

19 Q Seem like the type of guy who likes to go to
20 BattleCats? Do you like BattleCats?

21 A Yeah.

22 Q Do you?

23 A I went there a lot.

24 Q Okay.

25 A I'm actually very good friends with Tribble. Do you

1 know who that is?

2 Q I've only been there twice.

3 A He has a big red beard. He was one of the owners but
4 doesn't go there anymore. Well, he doesn't work there
5 anymore. That's where I really loved to hang out because
6 I got to hang around with people that liked what I liked.

7 So --

8 Q You got a bunch of those air soft guns?

9 A (Nods head up and down.) they're laying in my room.
10 They're laying in my closet. I'll go out and shoot them a
11 couple of times a day, make my dogs go crazy.

12 Q How many dogs you have?

13 A Three. And then a rabbit, which I hope my
14 grandfather is going to -- my grandma and grandpa get to
15 take care of, because that's my best friend right there.

16 Q Your rabbit is?

17 A Yeah.

18 Q Tell me about your rabbit. What color is it?

19 A Gray and white. It was probably running around when
20 the SWAT team got to the house.

21 Q I never went to your house. The only place I was at
22 was at the school. So I don't know about that. So you
23 just let it run loose?

24 A No, she jumped the cage. She heard the gunshot, and
25 she jumped the cage. She was like, "I'm getting out of

1 here."

2 Q So you keep it inside the house?

3 A Oh, yes. It's like a playpen. But I made it too
4 big. I didn't put a roof on it neither. She can just
5 jump out, get on my bed sometimes. And I'm, like, she'll
6 be on my chest.

7 Q Never had a pet rabbit. I had a friend who had a pet
8 rabbit, and it got out of their cage and --

9 A It was outside, wasn't it?

10 Q Well, it was inside, but decided it liked all the
11 wood trim. So while they were sleeping that night, it ate
12 through their dining room, all the wood trim. The
13 friend's mother said, "The rabbit's got to go."

14 They didn't have the rabbit very long.

15 A Rabbits can be aggressive, though. If you touch them
16 on their back legs, she'll bite you. And she does that to
17 me all the time.

18 Q How long have you had it?

19 A It's hard to say. Right whenever I got out of
20 Columbia. I found a little baby rabbit, like a wild
21 rabbit, that my dogs had got ahold of; and I got it and
22 put it in a box and nurtured it for a couple of days. I
23 think seven days. It finally just died from not having
24 it's mama.

25 FEMALE OFFICER: Sounds likes you're good with

1 animals.

2 A I love animals. Because they can't hurt -- well,
3 they can't emotionally hurt you. Then I gave my new
4 rabbit, Floppy, after I got -- the other rabbit died,
5 because I was really upset whenever that little rabbit
6 died. So -- but it's only been five months maybe.

7 Q That's relatively recent.

8 A And she was probably three, four months old whenever
9 I got her. She was a big rabbit too. She's even bigger
10 now. Because every time she bites me I know to feed her.

11 Q What do you normally feed her?

12 A Pellets and hay. I make sure to give her a lot of
13 hay, but I couldn't afford --

14 Q A little cube stick or something that the rabbit
15 would gnaw on.

16 A For their teeth?

17 Q Yeah, for their teeth.

18 A Oh, yeah. The top -- like a teeth grinding hay.

19 FEMALE OFFICER: Sounds like you're a guy that does
20 a lot of research?

21 A Oh, yeah.

22 FEMALE OFFICER: And read a lot?

23 A I don't read a lot. But I like to read articles, but
24 not books. Books are hard.

25 FEMALE OFFICER: Educate yourself? There's a lot of

1 ways to do that.

2 A Yeah.

3 FEMALE OFFICER: Is there anything else about today
4 that you want to talk about?

5 A I don't think there is.

6 FEMALE OFFICER: Or about this week?

7 A I don't think there really is anything else to talk
8 about.

9 Q Tell us the last couple of weeks. What has it been
10 like at home?

11 A Well, I have just been downstairs isolating myself
12 because I don't want to get fussed at.

13 Q You kind of keep to yourself?

14 A Yeah. I close my doors and lock them. So -- and I
15 just stay in my room holding my rabbit. That's good for
16 me.

17 Q Now, are your mom and dad divorced?

18 A No.

19 Q Okay. Okay.

20 A But if he did get on to me, I'd usually just go
21 downstairs. And then my mom would get fussed at. So I'd
22 come back up and tell them to stop fussing because they
23 were fussing for no reason. And then I'd go back
24 downstairs and just stay down there for 13, 14 hours.
25 So --

1 Q Well, you could kill a lot of homework in 13, 14,
2 hours if you want.

3 A Last few weeks I haven't been focused on school work
4 either, because everything that's going in my head is just
5 messing me up. I used to do my school work (snaps
6 fingers) on time and stuff. I'm like weeks off on
7 projects now.

8 Q How does that work? Do you like mail your stuff in
9 or is it all in the computer?

10 A There's like a submission box on line. But I think I
11 have everything caught up now. But that doesn't matter
12 now.

13 Q Seems like online school is getting really popular.

14 A Yeah, I wouldn't recommend it though. Kids don't
15 socially --

16 FEMALE OFFICER: Yeah. Maybe that is a down side of
17 it.

18 A That's probably the reason why I did this, because I
19 had no friends.

20 Q Did you do Snapchat and all that stuff too?

21 A No, I had it on my phone. But just --

22 Q Just Instagram.

23 A -- Instagram, and Skype. Twitter and Skype. I'd
24 just look at Twitter to see what stupid people are
25 posting. And I usually just stay on YouTube, watch funny

1 videos. So --

2 Q You sure you're not hungry?

3 FEMALE OFFICER: Got two cheeseburgers, McDonald's

4 if you want.

5 A I just now ate McDonald's. What time is it right
6 now?

7 Q 8:30.

8 A I thought it was already in the morning.

9 Q No.

10 A But I do have a question. How long will I be in this
11 holding cell? Because the holding cell is the worst part.

12 Q Yeah, I would think just a few hours until we figure
13 out what our next step is. I don't want to tell you that
14 you're going to Columbia. I don't want to tell you that
15 you're going somewhere else. To be 100 percent honest
16 with you, I don't know where you're going. We'll work
17 that out here shortly, trying to figure out who can house
18 you. And being that you're how old?

19 A Fourteen.

20 Q What is your date of birth?

21 A 9/8/02.

22 Q Just going to put that on there.

23 A My birthday was 20 days ago.

24 FEMALE OFFICER: You have any other passwords on
25 your phone or computers?

1 A On my computer, my school computer. But that -- no,
2 no, no. Not my school computer. My school computer
3 doesn't have one I don't think. But my mom's home
4 computer has one.

5 FEMALE OFFICER: Do you use that computer a lot?

6 A Just for submitting stuff, like for scanning it on
7 the printer and then submitting it.

8 FEMALE OFFICER: But as far as your interaction with
9 these other individuals, that's all on the phone?

10 Q No facebook or anything?

11 A No. I had a facebook but I never used it. I just
12 looked at what my friends were using.

13 Q Mainly you got on Instagram.

14 A Yeah, I just edit videos and stuff, post stupid
15 pictures too.

16 Q Did you belong to any other groups?

17 A There was a bunch of groups just over the years but
18 not like school shooter groups. Just like ones from my
19 old schools. Buddies I met at BattleCats, stuff like
20 that. But the only one I knew that had people on it is
21 the one that --

22 Q Well, when you got upset with your dad and your mom,
23 and all that, you wanted to let it out and you went on the
24 Internet, where did you go?

25 A I remember a couple of months ago, I was listening to

1 a song and it mentioned Columbine. And I just asked my
2 dad, "What is Columbine?"

3 And he said, "Two nerd retards went into a school and
4 shot it up." And so I researched more because I knew that
5 dad's kind of biased. Then I started researching about
6 that stuff. Then I looked up all these other ones, all
7 that; and that's mainly what I posted. And mainly video
8 edit's of them.

9 Q And you posted that on Instagram?

10 A Yeah, I submitted Columbine stuff, like a
11 documentary, which I got in trouble for. I don't know
12 why. It's a documentary.

13 Q Who got in trouble for that?

14 A West Oak. They seen it as a threat.

15 Q So that was while you were still in school over
16 there?

17 A Yeah. And then once I brought the machete and
18 hatchet to school, that's when they just sent me off.

19 Q Here recently how have you taken out your anxiety?

20 A I just went into my rabbit cage and --

21 Q Your rabbit was your favorite?

22 A Yeah.

23 Q I mean some people like rabbits, other people paint,
24 some people target shoot. I mean, there's some variety.

25 A Shooting guns relieves my stress too because

1 something I can focus on. And if my dad, just a couple of
2 days ago I attached a scope and sighted it in.

3 Q You have like a little range in your yard, or on your
4 property?

5 A We shoot at, like, a water heater and washer and
6 there's hundreds of bullet holes in those.

7 Q I mean, they're on your property, though?

8 A Yeah. And it's away from any buildings. So we know
9 it's not going to --

10 Q Do you write? Keep a journal? Anything like that?

11 A I used to but not anymore. I used to write stories,
12 like a series. Not anymore. My handwriting is too
13 sloppy.

14 Q When you did, what was the series about?

15 A That's been since third grade. I think it was just
16 mystery things. Sci-fi, mysteries.

17 Q You like stuff where you have to put pieces of a
18 puzzle together?

19 A Yeah. I like whenever someone gets something wrong,
20 and I can inform them or -- and missing thing from this
21 article and you have to find out what it is or whatever.
22 I like doing that kind of stuff.

23 Q I understand. I got you. Well, listen, I appreciate
24 you talking with us, being honest with us. That goes a
25 long way. It really does.

1 A I just hope my mom and grandparents are okay.
2 Because I hope they don't have a heart attack. I remember
3 last time they said if I ever go back to jail, they're
4 going to have a heart attack.

5 Q As far as I know, they have not had any heart
6 attacks.

7 A Have you heard from my mom at all?

8 Q Your mom was with one of our victim services ladies a
9 little while ago. And where she is right now, I don't
10 know.

11 A But I just hope she --

12 Q From what I understand, she was okay. A little upset
13 but okay.

14 FEMALE OFFICER: And you'll have the opportunity to
15 see her.

16 A Will I get to see my grandparents too?

17 FEMALE OFFICER: At some point. I just can't tell
18 you --

19 A I remember in Columbia there were two at a time could
20 come in for two hours or whatever. That really helped me.
21 That too.

22 FEMALE OFFICER: Yeah, you'll be able to have
23 visitors.

24 A I really hope I get sent to Columbia because there's
25 an actual school there. That might actually help me.

1 Because I haven't studied at all, forever. Just studied
2 what I want to study. Everything else I just threw off.

3 FEMALE OFFICER: Okay.

4 Q Like I said, I appreciate you talking with us. If
5 there's anything else that you need or you want to talk
6 about, just holler for me. I'll come to wherever you are
7 and sit down and talk with you.

8 And you sure you don't want those burgers?

9 A I'm sure. I ate four chicken nuggets, a medium fry
10 and quarter pounder, which had pickles on it. I was
11 like --

12 FEMALE OFFICER: You don't like pickles?

13 A No.

14 Q What is it with kids now? My kids don't like
15 pickles. I love them.

16 A I just don't like the sour taste.

17 You think I'll be out of this holding jail
18 tomorrow-ish? Because I remember staying four or five
19 days.

20 Q No. We're not going to hold you here for five days.

21 A It was on the weekend.

22 Q Yeah. I don't foresee us holding you in this holding
23 cell for five days.

24 A And then I'll have to go to court right after, right?
25 And they'll send me to wherever they want.

1 Q More than likely, probably be in Columbia.

2 A And I think that's the --

3 Q More than Union.

4 A Sure.

5 Q But I do, I want to thank you for sitting here and
6 talking with us. I know it's not easy. It does show a
7 good bit of moral character in you. Sometimes we get
8 overwhelmed in life. Now, there's no other weapons or
9 anything like that in the truck, right?

10 A Unless my dad kept --

11 Q What you had basically what you had?

12 A Oh, yeah. Unless there was a trunk gun, I don't
13 really know. I don't think he did.

14 Q Okay.

15 A But --

16 Q Well, you have anything?

17 FEMALE OFFICER: One more question. I meant to ask
18 you earlier, do you recall how many times you shot at the
19 school?

20 A The first shot I hit someone. Second I hit a window
21 and I -- maybe four shots, maybe. And then I just threw
22 it in the playground and just ran off to the side.

23 Q The first shot you hit someone?

24 A I think. I just seen red pop up. So I just
25 assumed --

1 Q Is that inside or outside?

2 A I never went inside the school. I shot a window and
3 then shot at other people. And then I just got, like,
4 "What am I doing?" I threw the gun. And kept jamming
5 too, so I think God was looking for me right there.

6 FEMALE OFFICER: How many rounds do you think you
7 put in there?

8 A Like, actually in the magazine?

9 FEMALE OFFICER: Uh-huh.

10 A I think it held 17. But I think I could only put in
11 like 15 or 16. I think the reason why it kept jamming is
12 because the magazine never had been like fully filled up.
13 It had always been filled up in five or sixes. It just
14 wasn't used to it I guess.

15 Q Do you remember saying anything to any of those
16 people that were there at the school?

17 A Students? I don't remember saying anything to the
18 kids. I was just screaming to the top of my lungs, just
19 like, "What am I doing?"

20 I started screaming, "I'm sorry. I'm sorry. Please
21 don't hurt me. I'm sorry. I'm sorry."

22 Because I thought there was going to be a cop coming
23 around the corner to shoot me. Which could have happened
24 if I was dumb. But everybody did what they were supposed
25 to, ran inside. That is one thing I don't get, is one of

1 the teachers just looked at me. She didn't even move.
2 She just looked. And then she just kept the door open and
3 she just looked at me like, "I know you." And she just
4 ran inside. That's whenever I shot out the window. I
5 guess she was just shocked that someone had pulled up.

6 Q And that's a possibility.

7 A Because nothing ever happened in this area.

8 Q Not in little Townville, you know?

9 A Only thing that's happened in South Carolina is down
10 at that church. So I can understand that. But --

11 Q How do you feel about the church?

12 A The church shooting -- this guy with a mental illness
13 went in, killed a bunch of black people, and then that's
14 how he -- now he's dead, isn't he? On death row?

15 Q No. He's still alive.

16 A I can't get to death row, can I? I'm pretty sure I
17 can't. Because I would not want that.

18 Q Well, let me ask you this. What did you think the
19 outcome today would be?

20 A Like total wise? I was thinking like 20, 30 kids. I
21 don't even know.

22 Q You thought you would kill 23 kids?

23 A Yeah. And the kids -- the kids in the group chat
24 which are 14, 15, 16, and I think one is 17. They were
25 all cheering me on. So --

1 FEMALE OFFICER: When you told them that's what you
2 planned to do?

3 A Yeah. They were telling me to make bombs and stuff.
4 I was, like, I'm not going to do that.

5 Q Did you tell them it was a primary, or elementary
6 school? Or did they --

7 A I don't remember. I think I did. They were still
8 like, "Kill the scumbags." But the kids did nothing to
9 me. So --

10 FEMALE OFFICER: How were you going to kill that
11 many kids with one gun?

12 A Honestly, I don't know. But it's just like Virginia
13 Tech, a guy went in with two handguns and killed 32
14 people. So --

15 Q Somewhere in there you have to stop and reload.

16 A Yeah.

17 Q Did you have any extra magazines with you?

18 A My dad never, ever bought extra magazines, except for
19 a semiautomatic rifle.

20 Q You said you really wanted to use --

21 A That, yeah.

22 Q What kind of gun is that?

23 A To the media it's called an assault rifle. But it's
24 just a hunting rifle. It's also known as a ranger rifle.
25 It's a mini .14. Also like a further version of the M1

1 Grand, that holds a lot more and has a magazine. So --

2 Q But you couldn't get that, you said?

3 A No. It was locked up in the safe. I tried. Like, I
4 even filmed my dad typing in the code, because I was
5 sighting in the scope for the safe, but I --

6 Q You filmed your dad doing that?

7 A I was pretending I was texting. But I think he knew
8 so he changed it. Because I tried -- I even put dish soap
9 on the thing and turned the lights off.

10 FEMALE OFFICER: When were you doing that? How far
11 back?

12 A A long time ago. It was a long time ago, like a
13 month.

14 Q I'm going to play my ignorance. You said you put
15 dish soap?

16 A Dish Soap. It glows neon in the dark and shows up
17 fingerprints, so it would show up the code. I just tried
18 different numbers.

19 Q You have that video on your phone?

20 A I don't anymore. No. I think I deleted it because I
21 was, like, "Okay, I don't need to have this on my phone."

22 I think if my dad would have found it, he would have
23 been like, "Okay, you're grounded."

24 FEMALE OFFICER: So you were kind of planning this
25 all along?

1 A Just for like a month or two. I finally had enough
2 of people bullying me. I was, like, if I want to kill
3 myself, I'm not going out without a fight. But that's
4 kind of ironic now that I think of it. I guess in the
5 heat of the moment, I guess that was the right thing to
6 do, I thought.

7 FEMALE OFFICER: If you hadn't done it today, when
8 do you think you would have done it?

9 A I think I would have waited, because I was saving up
10 my money because anybody in my family -- I have the money
11 for it, they can buy it for me. So I was going to by me
12 an AR15. But I knew it was going to be stuck in the safe,
13 so I was going to have to find a way to get it out. But
14 he never gave me the job for some reason. That's probably
15 a good thing too. But that's probably a bad thing also.
16 I don't know.

17 FEMALE OFFICER: Well, thank you for being honest
18 with us.

19 A I'm just glad to talk to someone. Just staying in
20 there just --

21 FEMALE OFFICER: It's hard to sit and just think
22 about things.

23 A Yeah, because all I keep remembering is going up
24 behind my dad and just shooting him three times. That's
25 all my mind is going through right now.

1 Q Did your dad say anything?

2 A No. He was reading something.

3 Q So he never knew you were behind him?

4 A No, I just seen him slump over. I thought I missed
5 the first time, so I shot him two more. Then I seen him
6 slump over, and I was like, "What have I just did? I
7 can't go back now." So --

8 It's already done. But I'm pretty sure he's dead.
9 I'm hoping he's not, but I'm pretty sure he is.

10 Q Well, what was your ultimate goal? I mean, what --
11 you know, if you know you shot your dad and you knew you
12 went over to the school and some kids got hurt there, what
13 were you looking -- I mean, were you planning to take your
14 own life?

15 A Yeah. Because I was just done. I was just done.
16 Bullying by all these people. And I was like, "Okay. I
17 can't take all this hatred anymore."

18 So I was like, Yeah, I might as well kill myself
19 before I go to jail. But I'm glad I didn't, because now I
20 have a life. Probably won't get a job, but I'll -- I'll
21 at least have a life.

22 Q Well, is there anything that we can do for you?

23 A Just make sure my family can get to see me. Tell
24 them I love them too. So -- tell them I'm sorry about
25 putting all this stuff on them. Because I'm pretty sure

1 they're going to get death threats from people now, just
2 from parents that are really angry.

3 FEMALE OFFICER: You'll have the chance to talk to
4 them.

5 Q Yeah, you'll see your family.

6 A Will it be soon? I know you can't answer.

7 Q In law enforcement nothing is soon. But it won't be
8 no five days, I'll tell you that much.

9 A Less than three basically? Before this weekend?

10 Q Probably by tomorrow I would think.

11 A Tomorrow. Well, that's quick. Then I'll go to
12 court, right? Or will I just get sent --

13 Q Today is what?

14 A Wednesday.

15 Q Tomorrow is Thursday. You may go to court before the
16 end of the week. That's a possibility. Don't hold me to
17 it, but that is a possibility.

18 A But do you know any charges, except murder?

19 Q I don't to be honest with you.

20 A Like is there any charge for driving down the road
21 under age? I almost wrecked it. I wish I would have.
22 But -- and there's no charge for having a gun under age?
23 Like, because I thought there was, but whatever.

24 FEMALE OFFICER: The charges are going to be
25 discussed. You'll sit down with an attorney and all that

1 will be explained to you. I mean, you're not on your own
2 in that. It's a process. There's a structure. And --

3 A Will I have the lawyer that I had last time? Like,
4 my grandparents hired him for me.

5 Q Who was that? And your grandparents may. I don't
6 know.

7 A I don't know the lawyer's name actually.

8 Q I know if you can't afford one, the state will
9 appoint one for you.

10 A I think my grandparents would put in the money for
11 one.

12 Q Your grandparents live close?

13 A They're a quarter of a mile up the road. It's the
14 first house you see when you go down my driveway.

15 Q Are they chicken farmers too with your dad?

16 A No, they're retired.

17 Q They're retired. Seems like they're really important
18 to you, your grandparents.

19 A They are. They're the only people I can really talk
20 with.

21 Q Do you have any brothers and sisters?

22 A I have a brother and a sister. But one's -- my
23 brother is in Austin, Texas, in college. And my sister,
24 she's in art school, she's like 20 something. Twenty-two
25 maybe. My dad's -- I mean, my brother is like 18.

1 Q Are these like full or half?

2 A I go by them as full. But I think my brother is
3 half. I treat him like he's full.

4 Q What's your relationship like with them?

5 A Nothing right now because, like, they live so far
6 away.

7 Q Well, what about when they were here? How did
8 you-all --

9 A I played video games with my brother all the time.

10 Q So you and him were pretty tight until he went off to
11 college?

12 A Yeah. Well, I went to see him last month.

13 Q How did that go?

14 A Good. We were only able to stay for two days,
15 because we had to move his apartment in. But I went there
16 before just to check out the college for a week. That was
17 fun.

18 FEMALE OFFICER: Did you talk about any of these
19 issues with him?

20 A With my grandparents?

21 FEMALE OFFICER: With your brother?

22 A I told them that I was getting bullied in school.
23 But they took it like, okay, that's just life. They
24 didn't know I was getting physically bullied too.

25 Q When you say physically bullied, what --

1 A I mean, like, whenever I'm in the restroom, I'm
2 getting ganged up by people, multiple people.

3 Q Okay.

4 FEMALE OFFICER: Did you share with your brother any
5 of your plans --

6 A No.

7 Q -- about the school?

8 A No. My brother's been gone for two years now. So I
9 was fine back then. I was hanging out with him. I had
10 two or three friends. I was fine back then. But --

11 Q What about your sister?

12 A My sister, it's been like six, seven years since I
13 seen her. She got mad at my dad for no reason. Because
14 her mom, not my mom, her mom told all this bad stuff about
15 my dad that wasn't true. So she doesn't really hang
16 around anymore. She hasn't came back in years.

17 Q Does she live here or she live in another state? Do
18 you know?

19 A Last time I knew, she was just in South Carolina in
20 art school. But she might be in another state. But the
21 last time I called her was a couple of weeks ago. She was
22 coming out to see us.

23 Q You really spent most the time with your
24 grandparents?

25 A Yeah. I go up there every other day and just hang

1 out there six, seven hours, just talking with my papa
2 about history and stuff. He really doesn't care what part
3 of history. He's like, "The kid likes history." So --

4 Q I love it myself.

5 A I talk to my mom or dad about history, they'd get mad
6 at me because I talk about World War II and stuff like
7 that. They don't like me talking about death and stuff
8 like that.

9 Q Was your papa in World War II? Is he a veteran?

10 A No. But he was supposed to be in World War II but
11 something went wrong. I think it's because he married his
12 wife, Patsy. Yeah, I'm pretty sure that's why. And he
13 was just about to have a son too. So -- and then my dad
14 was supposed to be in the Afghan war, but something's
15 wrong with his feet. Like, the chemicals in the cement,
16 they had messed them up. My uncle, he's an Air Force
17 pilot. So, but, yeah.

18 Q Well, is there anything that you want to talk about
19 that we didn't talk about today?

20 A Actually, I don't know what to talk about.

21 FEMALE OFFICER: Like he said, there will be other
22 chances to talk. It's been a long day for you.

23 Q I'm going to give you my card when we take you back
24 downstairs. I'll go to my office and get a card. Before
25 I leave tonight, I'll make sure you have my card. That

1 way if you want to talk, there's a number on there. You
2 just let the folks know you want to talk to me, I'll come
3 wherever you're at and talk to you.

4 A Thank you-all for talking to me.

5 Q Well, we thank you for talking to us.

6 A I literally thought it was 3:00, because I went to
7 sleep. I thought I was going to have nightmares. I
8 actually thought today was a nightmare. So I woke up
9 thinking nothing happened. So, sad.

10 FEMALE OFFICER: You can only go forward from here.

11 A Yeah, I wish I could go back. But I -- it's
12 impossible, so -- unless there's something I don't know
13 about that I can rewind time. But I'm pretty sure you
14 can't. So everything is done. Can't be redone. So, so
15 (Shrugs shoulders) I kind of have to live with it now.

16 Q Well, as I always tell everybody, it's a terrible
17 thing that occurred. It's going to be a long road ahead
18 of you. But you always have the opportunity to make
19 something good out of a bad situation. There's always a
20 little bit of good that can come out of anything that's
21 bad.

22 A I'm pretty sure I'm going to be in until I'm 18.

23 Q But you know what, you might be that person that has
24 a conversation with somebody who's in and changes your
25 life.

1 A Like a priest or something.

2 Q You never know. God's got a plan for all of us. We
3 don't know what it is.

4 A Before today I gave up hope in God because of all the
5 thoughts. Now I know that he is real. And probably the
6 reason why the gun jammed is because of God.

7 Q I thank God that the gun did jam.

8 A I thank God for that too. And I thank God for that
9 fireman not shooting me in the back for moving an inch.
10 But --

11 Q All right. I'm going to walk you back downstairs
12 unless you have something else?

13 A No.

14 Q All right.

15 A Can you possibly tell me what time it is so I'll --

16 Q It's 9:00. You can go back down there and go back to
17 sleep. Take a nap. And we'll get this as quick as we
18 can.

19 A Hopefully, in the morning I'll --

20 Q I would think we'd know a little bit more by morning.

21 A Okay.

22 Q All right.

23 A All right.

24 FEMALE OFFICER: Thank you.

25 A Nice meeting you.