



**ILLINOIS STATE
BAR ASSOCIATION**

Illinois State Bar Association
424 South Second Street, Springfield, IL 62701
800.252.8908 217.525.1760 Fax: 217.525.0712

**Illinois State Bar Association
High School Mock Trial Invitational
2023 Mock Trial Case**

People of the State of Illinois

v.

Logan Emerson

None of the characters in this case are real. Any similarity between these characters and living people is coincidental and unintentional.

This problem was prepared and created by the Illinois Bar Association's Standing Committee on Law-Related Education for the Public.

Special thanks to ISBA staff and the ISBA's Standing Committee on Law-Related Education for the Public, and the Mock Trial Coordinator for their work in preparing the problem.

© Copyright 2023 Illinois State Bar Association

WITNESSES

| Prosecution's Witnesses | Defendant's Witnesses |
|--|---|
| Drew Jordan, Stage Crew Member Detective Taylor Blake, Lincoln County PD Alex James, ISP Forensics Analyst | Ezra Austin, Cast Member Cameron Smith, Lincolnville Theater Janitor Dr. Avery Ryan, Consultant |

CASE DOCUMENTS

LEGAL DOCUMENTS

1. Statement of the Case
2. Grand Jury Indictment
3. Pretrial Order
4. Jury Instructions

EXHIBITS

1. Curriculum Vitae Alex James
2. Curriculum Vitae Dr. Avery Ryan
3. Text messages between Drew Jordan and Logan Emerson
4. Text messages between Ezra Austin and Logan Emerson
5. ISP Crime Laboratory Report (fingerprints)
6. Lincoln County Police Department Incident Report
7. Prop Gun Photo
8. Text messages between Logan Emerson and Rory Hollis
9. Logan Emerson 911 Call Transcript
10. Logan Emerson Interrogation Transcript
11. Lincoln County Medical Examiner Report
12. Photo of Prop Cart
13. Detective Blake's fingerprint photos
14. Theater Diagram
15. Script Excerpt

Statement of the Case

On October 27, 2021, Logan Emerson, 18 years of age, texted Rory Hollis, 18 years of age, to meet around 6:30 p.m. at the Lincolnville Community Theater for an impromptu rehearsal for the upcoming local community theater production - *How the Garden of the Gods Were Won!*. Both teenagers were actors in the play.

During the rehearsal, around 6:53 p.m., a janitor, Cameron Smith, heard a loud BOOM coming from the stage. Thereafter, Logan Emerson called 911 and told police that he had accidentally shot Rory Hollis. Hollis was pronounced dead at the scene and Logan Emerson was taken into custody by the Lincoln County Police Department where he gave a statement after waiving his Miranda rights.

The State has charged Emerson with First Degree murder under 720 ILCS 5/9-1(a)(2) and Involuntary Manslaughter under 720 ILCS 5/9-3(a). Emerson has pleaded not guilty to both charges.

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
FOR THE TWENTY-FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
LINCOLN COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|--------------|
| THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, |) | |
| |) | |
| v. |) | 2021-CF-1818 |
| |) | |
| LOGAN EMERSON, |) | |
| |) | |
| Defendant. |) | |

INDICTMENT

THE GRAND JURORS chosen, selected, and sworn, in and for the County of Lincoln and State of Illinois, in the name and by the authority of the People of the State of Illinois, upon their oaths, present as follows:

COUNT I

That on the 27th day October, 2021, Logan Emerson committed the offense of FIRST DEGREE MURDER, in that the said defendant, Logan Emerson, did knowingly and without lawful justification, proximately caused the death of a living person, Rory Hollis, by discharging a loaded firearm, to wit a prop gun, at Rory Hollis, knowing that such act created a strong probability of death or great bodily harm to Rory Hollis, said act occurring in the County of Lincoln, State of Illinois, and all in violation of the Criminal Code of 2012, as amended, 720 ILCS 5/9-1(a)(2), and against the peace and dignity of the same people of Illinois.

COUNT II

That on the 27th day October, 2021, Logan Emerson committed the offense of INVOLUNTARY MANSLAUGHTER, in that the said defendant, Logan Emerson, did knowingly and without lawful justification, unintentionally caused the death of a living person, Rory Hollis, by discharging a loaded firearm, to wit a prop gun, at Rory Hollis, which act the defendant performed recklessly and which act was likely to cause death or great bodily harm to Rory Hollis, all of said acts occurring in the County of Lincoln, State of Illinois, and all in violation of the Criminal Code of 2012, as amended, 720 ILCS 5/9- 3(a), and against the peace and dignity of the same people of Illinois.

Reggie C. O'Connell
Grand Jury Foreperson

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
FOR THE TWENTY-FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
LINCOLN COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|--------------|
| THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, |) | |
| |) | |
| v. |) | 2021-CF-1818 |
| |) | |
| LOGAN EMERSON, |) | |
| |) | |
| Defendant. |) | |

PRETRIAL ORDER

This cause having come before the Court for a pretrial conference and the Court having considered all pending pretrial motions and arguments of the parties, and the Court having been informed of various stipulations which the parties have entered into, the Court hereby enters the following PRETRIAL ORDER which shall govern the parties and their witnesses during the jury trial to be held in the above-captioned matter:

1. Defendant, Logan Emerson, has entered a plea of not guilty to all indicted charges and has not indicated intent to raise any affirmative defense. The Defendant has presently exercised his Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination and does not presently intend to testify at trial. Neither party may comment or refer to Defendant exercising this right at any point during a trial round.
2. The case has been bifurcated. This trial concerns only the guilt phase. No evidence that goes solely to the extent of the penalty faced by the Defendant may be presented by either party.
3. Jurisdiction, venue, and chain of custody of all evidence are proper and may not be challenged.
4. Both parties waive all objections and motions based on the Constitution of the United States. Both parties also waive all objections and motions based on privilege except as to the Fifth Amendment privilege as stated in paragraph 1, above.
5. All photographs that the parties may use as evidence at trial are stipulated to be a fair and accurate representation of what is depicted in the photograph. The parties also stipulate to the following: Exhibit 7 is a fair and accurate photograph of the gun that discharged on October 27, 2021; Exhibit 12 is a photograph of the prop cart at the scene; and Exhibit 14 accurately depicts the layout, not to scale, of the Lincolnville Community Theater.
6. All witnesses who were questioned by law enforcement were either properly advised of their Miranda rights and/or agreed to speak voluntarily to law enforcement.

7. All witnesses reviewed their affidavits and reports immediately prior to trial and were given an opportunity to revise them. None did so. All witnesses affirm the truthfulness of everything stated in their affidavits. All witness affidavits have been properly signed and notarized.
8. All documents, signatures, and exhibits included in the case materials are authentic; no objections to the authenticity of any documents will be entertained. Both parties must still lay proper foundation prior to entering evidence, and both parties reserve the right to dispute any legal or factual conclusions based on these items and to make objections other than to authenticity.
9. The Court has been informed that the evidence in this case may include text messages. Text messages may be admitted into evidence if a proper foundation is established for admission, including that the text message be authenticated. The parties may establish authentication by any evidence, direct or circumstantial, that establishes that the text message is what the proponent claims it to be. The proponent of the text message evidence need prove only a rational basis upon which it can be concluded that the text message did in fact belong to or was authored by the party alleged. The opponent, however, is not precluded from contesting the genuineness of the writing.
10. A witness must be formally tendered to the Court in accordance with Rule 702 of the Rules of Evidence before testifying in the form of an expert opinion. A party must establish by a preponderance of the evidence that the tendered expert satisfies Rule 702. There is no definitive checklist of what must or must not be presented for admission of expert testimony. The Court will apply Rule 702 based on the totality of the circumstances presented.
11. Logan Emerson's gender is male and Rory Hollis' gender is female for purposes of this trial.
12. Although motive or lack of motive is a proper subject of argument, it is not an element which must be proved by the State to convict the Defendant on either Count I or Count II of the Indictment.
13. National Rule of Evidence 703 provides:

An expert may base an opinion on facts or data in the case that the expert has been made aware of or personally observed. If experts in the particular field would reasonably rely on those kinds of facts or data in forming an opinion on the subject, they need not be admissible for the opinion to be admitted. But if the facts or data would otherwise be inadmissible, the proponent of the opinion may disclose them to the jury only if their probative value in helping the jury evaluate the opinion substantially outweighs their prejudicial effect.

When an expert witness testifies to underlying facts or data, not otherwise admitted into evidence for the truth of the matter, but solely to explain the expert's opinion, it must be shown that these facts or data relied upon by the expert witness must be of the type customarily relied upon by experts in the field and the data must be sufficiently trustworthy to make the reliance reasonable. If the evidence establishes that the facts or data are sufficiently trustworthy to make the reliance reasonable, an expert is permitted not only to consider the reports commonly relied upon by experts in their particular field, but also to testify to the contents of the underlying facts or data.

14. The State need not disprove recklessness in order to establish the knowledge necessary for a murder conviction. *People v. Lucas*, 132 Ill. 2d 399, 441 (1989).
15. The Defendant is constructively present at trial wearing, by stipulation, a blue blazer and orange necktie. The defense may not engage in any conduct that seeks to mislead a witness as to the identification of the Defendant.
16. A person is unavailable due to either death or due to the fact that the person's attendance as a witness at trial could not be procured by reasonable means or legal process. Statements by a person who is found to be unavailable are admissible as an exception to the hearsay rule.

ENTERED: November 4, 2022

Catherine Meyer
Circuit Judge

JURY INSTRUCTIONS

The Charge Against The Defendant

The Defendant is charged with the offenses of First Degree Murder and Involuntary Manslaughter. The Defendant has pled not guilty to both charges.

Under the law, a person charged with First Degree Murder may be found (1) not guilty; or (2) guilty of first degree murder; or (3) guilty of involuntary manslaughter.

The Indictment – Not Evidence

The charges against the Defendant in this case are contained in a document called the Indictment. This document is the formal method of charging the Defendant and placing the Defendant on trial. It is not any evidence against the Defendant.

Presumption of Innocence – Reasonable Doubt – Burden of Proof

The Defendant is presumed to be innocent of the charges against him. This presumption remains with him throughout every stage of the trial and during your deliberations on the verdict and is not overcome unless from all the evidence in this case you are convinced beyond a reasonable doubt that the Defendant is guilty.

The State has the burden of proving the guilt of the Defendant beyond a reasonable doubt, and this burden remains on the State throughout the case. The Defendant is not required to prove his innocence.

Failure Of Defendant To Testify

The fact that the Defendant did not testify must not be considered by you in any way in arriving at your verdict.

Definition of First Degree Murder

A person commits the offense of first degree murder when he/she kills an individual without lawful justification if, in performing the acts which cause the death, he/she knows that such acts create a strong probability of death or great bodily harm to that individual or another.

Issues In First Degree Murder

To sustain the charge of first degree murder, the State must prove the following propositions:

First Proposition: That the Defendant performed the acts which caused the death of Rory Hollis; and

Second Proposition: That when the Defendant did so he knew that his acts created a strong probability of death or great bodily harm to Rory Hollis.

If you find from your consideration of all the evidence that each one of these propositions has been proved beyond a reasonable doubt, you should find the Defendant guilty of first degree murder.

If you find from your consideration of all the evidence that any one of these propositions has not been proved beyond a reasonable doubt, you should find the Defendant not guilty

Definition Of Involuntary Manslaughter

A person commits the offense of involuntary manslaughter when he/she unintentionally causes the death of an individual without lawful justification by acts which are performed recklessly and are likely to cause death or great bodily harm to another.

Issues In Involuntary Manslaughter

To sustain the charge of involuntary manslaughter, the State must prove the following propositions:

First Proposition: That the Defendant performed the acts which caused the death of Rory Hollis; and

Second Proposition: That the Defendant performed those acts recklessly; and

Third Proposition: That those acts were likely to cause death or great bodily harm.

If you find from your consideration of all the evidence that each one of these propositions has been proved beyond a reasonable doubt, you should find the Defendant guilty of involuntary manslaughter.

If you find from your consideration of all the evidence that any one of these propositions has not been proved beyond a reasonable doubt, you should find the Defendant not guilty

Knowledge

A person knows the nature or attendant circumstances of his conduct when he/she is consciously aware that his/her conduct is of that nature or that those circumstances exist. Knowledge of a material fact includes awareness of the substantial probability that the fact exists.

A person knows the result of his conduct when he is consciously aware that that result is practically certain to be caused by his conduct.

Reckless

A person is reckless or acts recklessly when he/she consciously disregards a substantial and unjustifiable risk that circumstances exist or that a result will follow, and such disregard constitutes a gross deviation from the standard of care which a reasonable person would exercise in the situation.

Act

The word “act” includes a failure or omission to take action.

Jury Is Sole Judge Of The Believability Of Witnesses

Only you are the judges of the believability of the witnesses and of the weight to be given to the testimony of each of them. In considering the testimony of any witness, you may take into account his ability and opportunity to observe, his/her age, his memory, his/her manner while testifying, any interest, bias, or prejudice he/she may have, and the reasonableness of his/her testimony considered in the light of all the evidence in the case.

You should judge the testimony of the Defendant in the same manner as you judge the testimony of any other witness.

PROSECUTION WITNESS AFFIDAVIT: DREW JORDAN

1 I just can't believe Logan could have done this to Rory. We've all been best friends since,
2 like, the fourth grade. Well, I've been friends with the two of them. They did seem to have this
3 competitive thing going on when it came to acting in our local community theater. For years,
4 both Logan and Rory were involved in every play and musical. Some years Logan would get the
5 lead role and in others, Rory would. It was like a game to them but, because they were friends,
6 they both seemed to be happy for each other when one got the lead. They both tried out again for
7 the play this year, *How the Garden of the Gods Were Won!*. This time Rory got the lead.

8 Logan had texted me after tryouts and said he was sooo mad at Rory for getting the lead
9 part when Logan had gotten the third cowboy part. Logan also texted me that rehearsals were
10 going really bad, and he texted me gun and skull emojis. I really didn't think anything about it
11 because Logan is ALWAYS such a "drama king". Logan always wants to be the center of
12 attention. For instance, during last year's play, *Don Quixote*, Logan acted like he tripped and fell
13 on his sword because he wanted the attention.

14 Logan seemed even more upset than usual this time though when Rory got the lead. It
15 made me nervous because Logan has a scary side when he wants something. It's like he'll stop at
16 nothing to get it. I was just happy to get "lead stage crew manager" for like my fifth time in a
17 row! While the stage crew is not glamorous like it is being on stage, I get to see some really cool
18 things backstage, and I get to mess around with the props and sets. It's pretty cool.

19 All this weird talk from Logan was so odd to me because Logan and Rory had been
20 friends, like really good friends, since they were little kids. It just didn't make sense why Logan
21 was so angry with Rory. He was so jealous. Before this whole thing Logan would have done
22 anything for Rory. They were so thick. They had been arguing a lot lately though and being

23 mean to each other. It was not like them to treat each other this way. I also noticed that as time
24 went on Rory was becoming more paranoid and skittish toward Logan. It was like Rory was
25 becoming afraid of Logan. That's why I was so surprised to hear Logan say, on the phone, that
26 Logan and Rory were going to the theater to practice together. There was no practice that day. It
27 would be just the two of them.

28 I did overhear Logan talking to someone and telling them that Rory was a horrible actor
29 and didn't deserve the lead role and that Rory stole it from Logan. I heard Logan say that he
30 could just kill Rory for stealing the lead role away from Logan in his senior year. Logan just kept
31 repeating that he "just wanted Rory gone".

32 I saw Logan the day before Rory died. Logan was messing around with the prop guns,
33 especially the one that shot Rory. It looked like a cowboy gun. Logan was saying that the blanks
34 were not working right in the gun. I didn't mess with it because Logan was assigned to those
35 guns and the rule was "you only touch props that belong to you" so I left Logan to figure it out. I
36 didn't really think anything of the gun not working because stuff was always breaking, and we
37 didn't have the money to fix things right. I just figured it was another prop breaking down. I was
38 constantly repairing the props that I was in charge of. They would fall apart and break all the
39 time. So, seeing Logan working on the guns and his explanation wasn't surprising to me. When
40 Logan was messing with that gun he was wearing a dark sweatshirt. I think he put his hood up at
41 one point because it got really cold inside of the theater that night, but I don't remember for sure.

42 But then I heard from Ezra that Logan texted that Rory isn't the lead anymore. (I thought
43 that was weird.) Ezra told me Ezra heard some pretty strange rumors going around and that after
44 Ezra said that to Logan, Logan wouldn't talk to Ezra anymore.

45 In October, Logan texted me asking me weird questions about the prop cart and whether
46 the props got locked up at night. I told Logan that they're supposed to be but that it didn't always
47 happen. Logan had made a comment that he might "fix the Rory problem". I didn't know what
48 Logan meant by that, but he did use that gun emoji again. Logan also asked me about having a
49 fan and mop in his dressing room. That didn't make sense to me, why would Logan need a fan or
50 a mop for this show? Logan had called me then and told me that Logan and Rory were going to
51 go and practice that night and Logan asked me if I could run over there and put the fan and mop
52 in his dressing room right away. I said sure. About a half an hour later, I ran over to the theater
53 and put the mop and fan in Logan's dressing room. When I put them in there I noticed some
54 cleaning spray on his table, but I had seen that there before I think, so I didn't think much of it. I
55 could hear the two of them rehearsing. A couple times I heard Logan yelling at Rory that Rory
56 wasn't doing it right and she should just quit. He said she would be better off gone and not in the
57 way of the show. Rory told Logan that Logan was just jealous because he didn't get the lead this
58 time.

59 It sounded pretty rough between them. Then I heard a loud bang and went running to the
60 stage, which took a couple of seconds because I was in the back. I saw Rory laying on the floor
61 with blood pooling around her body. The gun was by her side and Logan was just standing there,
62 looking like he was in shock. It was like Logan couldn't move.

63 In the scene that they were practicing, only Rory would have had any gun. Logan's
64 character didn't have a gun in that scene. This is why I was very confused as to how Rory got
65 shot by the prop gun. Also, the prop gun had no bullets in it, just blanks. Anyway, Logan was
66 just standing there staring, not moving, not talking or anything. Then he seemed to suddenly

67 come out of it, and he called 911. I didn't know what to do. I was horrified and just kept saying
68 "how did this happen?" Logan didn't say anything to me.

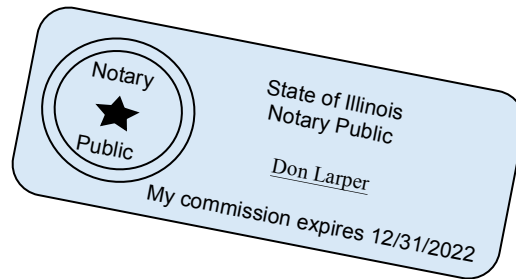
69 Not too long after the 911 call, the police and paramedics started showing up. They were
70 touching things, without gloves on, and then they declared Rory dead. I couldn't take anymore; I
71 was feeling very sick and wanted to throw up. Later one of the police detectives wanted me to
72 write down everything that had happened, which I did. I am familiar with, and have knowledge
73 about, Exhibits 3, 7, 12, 14, and 15 in this case.

74 Further affiant sayeth not.

Drew Jordan

Signed and sworn before me on
December 3, 2021.

Don Larper



PROSECUTION WITNESS AFFIDAVIT: ALEX JAMES

1 My name is Alex James. I am 45 years old and reside in Springfield, Illinois. I am the
2 Lead Forensic Analyst with the Illinois State Police (“ISP”). I have been a full-time employee
3 with the ISP since 2004, although I interned with them for two years prior. I obtained my
4 undergraduate degree from Lewis University, where I received a dual degree in Forensic
5 Criminal Investigation and Chemistry. I later obtained my M.S. in Forensic Science from the
6 University of Illinois-Chicago. I am certified in all things evidence. I have specific training in
7 Latent Fingerprint Identification, DNA, Toxicology, and Ballistics and Gunshot Residue
8 analysis. I am especially proud of my fingerprint training because it is often very difficult to
9 determine the identity of an individual, especially in situations where fingerprint samples may
10 not be as clear. I took the class twice, so I like to say I have double the knowledge.

11 On October 29, 2021, I received evidence collected by Detective Taylor Blake and other
12 members of the Lincoln County Police Department. It is my understanding that the evidence was
13 collected from the Lincolnville Community Theater on October 27, 2021. I am familiar with
14 Exhibits 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 11, 12, and 13. I checked the evidence collected for usable fingerprints.
15 While there is some disagreement about which standard is to be used by all Forensics
16 professionals, my training bases its analysis on the 10-point standard because it is commonly
17 accepted by the United States legal system.

18 In the lab, I was able to determine that the fingerprints on the handle of the firearm
19 belonged to two different individuals and that the prints of Logan Emerson were not excluded. A
20 second print, albeit slightly smudged, was also found on a bullet recovered from the weapon’s
21 chamber. It appeared to be of the same size, shape, and pattern of Logan Emerson’s prints. No
22 other usable prints were recovered from any other items. To this day, the other individual whose

23 fingerprint was on the handle of the firearm has not been determined because it does not match
24 any of the fingerprint sample I was provided to compare it to and there have been no hits in the
25 State Database that matches it either.

26 The next part of my analysis included looking at the weapon to determine if the bullet
27 retrieved from the victim matched the ones in the chamber. Very quickly, I determined that they
28 were a match. To determine if the bullet was fired from the firearm recovered, I first performed a
29 test fire on the firearm recovered from the scene by police. I determined that it was a functioning
30 firearm. To determine if a firearm has fired a particular bullet, I compare the bullet I know was
31 fired from that firearm to the one retrieved from the victim to see if the groove and ridge patterns
32 on both bullets match. When I performed that analysis in this case, I determined that the grooves
33 and ridges on the test-fired bullet matched the bullet recovered from the victim.

34 Logan Emerson and his clothing were also processed for possible gunshot residue (GSR)
35 by the police department after he was arrested on October 27, 2021. His hands and arms were
36 swabbed for GSR, and his clothing was collected and placed into an evidence bag. He was
37 wearing a long sleeve shirt at the time of this incident, which was collected. Once the swabs and
38 clothing are sent to the ISP Crime Lab, I will analyze both to determine if GSR is present. GSR
39 will be present any time a firearm is discharged and will generally be on anyone who fired a
40 firearm, and anyone who handles a firearm after it is fired. It is easily transferable when an
41 object containing GSR comes into contact with another object. Additionally, it may be found on
42 surfaces or objects that are nearby when a firearm is discharged. GSR was determined to be
43 present on the swabs that were taken from Emerson's hands; it was also present on the shirt that
44 Emerson was wearing in the area of his forearms.

45 A significant number of particles were found on his shirt in the area or his right and left
46 forearms. This indicates that his arms were fully extended at the time the shooting occurred. We
47 did not receive clothing from any other individuals and did not find it significant to test other
48 surfaces for additional GSR evidence.

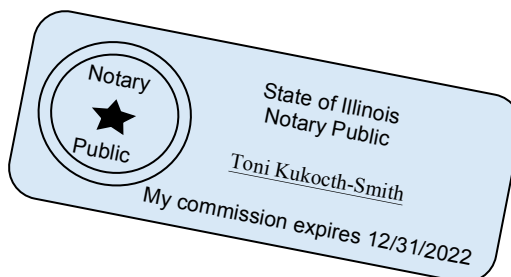
49 As a forensics expert, I cannot speak to the intent or motive of an accused shooter, but I
50 can use the evidence collected to propose a possible scenario. My report is included with the case
51 materials as Exhibit 5.

52 Further affiant sayeth not.

Alex James, M.S.F.S

Signed and sworn before me on
December 3, 2021.

Toni Kukoeth-Smith



PROSECUTION WITNESS AFFIDAVIT: TAYLOR BLAKE

1 My name is Taylor Blake. I am 38 years old. I am a detective with the Lincoln County
2 Police Department in Lincolnville, Illinois. Prior to becoming a detective in 2018, I worked as a
3 traffic officer for approximately six years. In that role, I pulled people over when they weaved
4 outside the yellow line or pushed that gas pedal too far. It was fun while it lasted, but it was
5 time to move on to bigger and better things; I had wanted to be a detective my entire life. Thus,
6 when the opportunity came around, I pounced!

7 In my spare time, I volunteer as a mall enforcement officer at the Lincolnville mall. I
8 have no close family, but I do have a goldfish that I won at the Illinois State Fair (the one in Du
9 Quoin, not Springfield), last fall. His name is Splish Splash.

10 I love working as a detective. There is never a dull moment. These days, I respond to all
11 sorts of calls, from cats stuck in trees and loud barking dogs to suspicious activity at night
12 (usually around trash cans). I've been called to shoplifter alarms going off in stores, and,
13 recently, even a shooting! No job is too big or too small for me. My duties generally include
14 arriving at the scene and investigating the area to determine what happened. I try to close down
15 the scene from anything that may compromise my investigation and then I collect as much
16 evidence as I can. I am supposed to wait for backup to arrive first before making sure the scene
17 is safe for me to investigate. I try to follow this practice each time I respond to the scene of a
18 new incident.

19 I recall the night of October 27, 2021, very well. I had spent all week investigating local
20 grave robberies in the area and I was just about to crack the case when the dispatch call came
21 over the radio. I had suspected something nefarious was going on in the Lincolnville graveyard,
22 but the evidence was beginning to lead me towards some kind of four-legged animal. The next

23 thing I knew, Dispatch sent me to the Lincolnville Community Theater for a suspected shooting.
24 I hopped into my squad car as fast as I could, almost tripping over two gravestones. While
25 strange things do sometimes happen in Lincolnville, this was out of the ordinary to say the least.
26 I was up for the challenge.

27 When I arrived at the Lincolnville Community Theater, I met with Logan Emerson, who
28 showed me the body of the victim, Rory Hollis, which was laying on the stage. Even though
29 Emerson had made the 911 call, I could not rule anyone out as a suspect. As a detective, this is
30 Rule Number One. I instructed Emerson to go outside with another officer while I tried to
31 secure the scene and prepare to collect all the evidence I could as quickly as possible. Time is of
32 the essence during evidence collection, so I didn't really want to wait for anymore backup to
33 arrive to fully secure the scene. I figured this was my moment to shine and I wasn't going to let
34 pesky formalities get in the way of solid detective work. I was ready and qualified.

35 As part of my evidence collection, I took pictures of the gun I found near the victim's
36 body. Exhibit 7 is the photograph I took and accurately depicts what I saw that day. I also took a
37 photo of the prop cart where the props were allegedly stored, and that picture is labeled as
38 Exhibit 12. I gathered the fingerprints in Exhibit 13 and sent those, along with the other photos,
39 to the Illinois State Police Crime Lab for analysis. After the fingerprint analysis was completed,
40 I relied on the findings for my investigation. Those findings are outlined in Exhibit 5. I regret
41 that during the course of my investigation, I sort of forgot to put on my gloves while collecting
42 the fingerprint evidence. I'm sorry about that lapse. However, I'm about 99% certain that this
43 had no impact on the investigation whatsoever. I didn't notice any contamination.

44 After all the physical evidence was collected, I interviewed Logan Emerson down at the
45 Police station. After we arrived at the station, Emerson was given a fresh set of clothes and his

46 fingerprints were taken. His hands, arms, etc. were also swabbed for GSR (gunshot residue)
47 with some giant swabs that looked like huge Q-Tips. His clothes were placed into evidence.
48 Emerson waived his rights to have an attorney present and to remain silent and I think I got
49 some good evidence from that interview even though it was pretty short. Emerson seemed very
50 nervous and uncomfortable during that interview. It was almost as if he was trying to hide
51 something from me. He seemed upset and squirmed a lot in his chair, and he would not make
52 eye contact with me. Exhibit 10 is a fair and accurate transcript of that interview.

53 Through the course of my investigation, and subsequent subpoenas, I am also familiar
54 with Exhibits 3, 4, 8, 9, 11, 14, and 15.

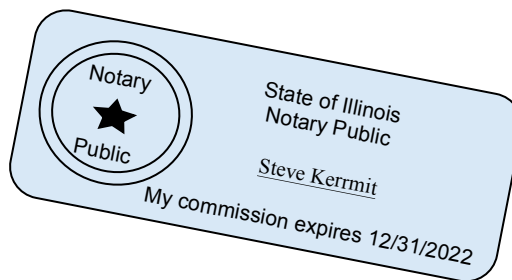
55 As part of my regular duties, I created the incident report found in Exhibit 6.

56 Further affiant sayeth not.

Det. Taylor Blake

Signed and sworn before me on
December 3, 2021.

Steve Kermit



DEFENSE WITNESS AFFIDAVIT: EZRA AUSTIN

1 My name is Ezra Austin. I am 17 years old and a student at Lincolnville High School
2 with Logan Emerson. I also used to go to school with Rory Hollis before she passed away. I
3 barely knew Rory, but Logan Emerson was my best, if not only, friend. We both shared a
4 passion for community theater, Pokémon card collecting, and stamp collecting when we were
5 growing up in Lincolnville. Come to think of it, I'd do anything for Logan. Logan has always
6 been there for me over the years, and I wanted to be the one there for Logan when he needed
7 someone the most. This might be one of those times. Thus, I came forward with all the
8 information I knew to see if I could be of help crack this case. That's why I'm providing this
9 affidavit.

10 I have been doing community theater since I was 8 years old. I typically play very small
11 roles, but I enjoy just being a part of the cast each year. You may have noticed me in at least one
12 of the following shows: *Don Quixote* (2020), *Peter Pan* (2109), *Little Shop of Horrors* (2018),
13 *Willy Wonka* (2017), *Sweeney Todd* (2016), *Seussical* (2015), *The Sound of Music* (2014), *Joseph*
14 *and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (2013), or *Disney's Beauty and the Beast* (2012)!
15 Again, my roles have always been super small but so much fun. I love the stage and each time I
16 get to be on stage, and perform in front of others, I just come alive under spotlights!

17 In 2021, I was just tickled to barely get a role in a much more obscure production written
18 by a local retiring drama professor for the Lincolnville Community Theater, called *How the*
19 *Garden of the Gods Were Won!*. This is some spin-off, or remix, of *Oklahoma*, *Annie Get Your*
20 *Gun*, and *Spring Awakening*, maybe? I have no idea really; the show still makes little sense to
21 me. Even though the old saying is "the show must go on", the events of October 27, 2021, put a
22 welcomed end to this dreadful show before it ever saw the light of day.

23 This nightmare really started after the cast list was posted in September of 2021. I got a
24 very unusual role as a mysterious talking bush. While this was a very tiny role (per my usual),
25 the part brought some levity to the show, so I was excited to hopefully get a few laughs from the
26 audience. Logan got the “Third Cowboy” part which sort of surprised everyone to be honest.
27 Logan wanted the lead role as Sheriff Goat, and everyone knew it. He seemed to be extremely
28 mad that Rory got that role instead of him. Logan did send me some weird text messages
29 afterwards. I’m sure they are nothing, but I supplied them to the police as requested. Ever since
30 the list was posted in September, Logan was not the same.

31 Rehearsals began two days later. I asked Logan whether he wanted a ride to rehearsals
32 but got no response. Logan was still fuming. He can hold a grudge! One time I pranked Logan
33 and told him that I found a 1999 First Edition Shadowless Holographic Charizard #4 Pokémon
34 card and had given it away for free. This is a really rare card so giving it away would be
35 downright ridiculous. He was upset for three days until he realized it was a prank. Then, he
36 stayed mad at me for six months without talking to me. Too funny!

37 Anyways, subsequent rehearsals for the show were fairly unremarkable, but the overall
38 organization of the show was essentially non-existent. Everything was very chaotic. For
39 example, the layout of the prop cart seemed to have no rhyme or reason to it. Even though the
40 theater rule was that you “only touch props that belong to you”, cast members would still play
41 with props that did not belong to them and no one enforced the rule. Nothing was locked up.

42 I saw several people playing around with the prop guns because everyone thought they
43 looked so real. I didn’t think they were real but maybe they were. This was not my first rodeo, so
44 I just avoided touching the props. After all, my character, the talking bush did not use the gun
45 props in the show. There were no lockboxes, labels, or any clear organization in my view. Some

46 props were also falling apart. This was unusual for the Lincolnville Community Theater, but I
47 just figured this production was new, and there must have been budget cuts, so maybe they were
48 still working out the logistics and things would get better. They did not, however.

49 The night before the incident, on October 26, 2021, I saw a dark hooded figure backstage
50 messing around with the props on the prop cart. I thought this was really strange because the cast
51 had all gone home for the evening. I only went back to the stage, on the stage-left side opposite
52 from the prop cart, because I forgot a jacket that I had stashed. No one should have been near the
53 prop cart at this time. It sort of freaked me out, so I got out of there as quickly as I could. I
54 figured I should bring this up; maybe it will help Logan. I don't think it could have been Logan
55 because 20 minutes later he and I met up for ice cream down the street at the Tasty Freeseeee -
56 their ice cream was always our favorite and we went there almost every night. I guess the ice
57 cream place isn't far down the road, maybe only 10 minutes, but it seems unlikely to me he could
58 have done both.

59 I was not in the theater on October 27, 2021, because the cast and crew had the entire
60 night off. I'm actually not sure how Logan or Rory got into the building that night. It's usually
61 locked up like Fort Knox between rehearsals.

62 On October 28, 2021, Logan sent me a weird text about Rory not being the lead anymore.
63 I started hearing rumors about the police being around the theater the night before so I got a little
64 scared about what Logan could have been talking about. I'm not sure what Logan meant by his
65 text and it's probably not important at all. I only brought the text messages because the lawyers
66 asked me to. There were one or two texts that I tried to show them that the police said weren't
67 important and they didn't take copies of. I don't remember the exact dates of those ones, but they
68 were from a day or two before October 27, 2021. They were mostly about Logan saying he just

69 wanted to help Rory and that maybe he could just demonstrate some scenes for her, and she
70 would be able to pick up her role better. I guess Logan thought Rory was struggling with this
71 particular role and just wanted to help her out. I think Logan also mentioned in one of the texts
72 that he had a crush on Rory and just wanted to go to the theater alone with her to show off his
73 skills and try to convince her to go out on a date with him. Those weren't his words, but I guess
74 that's how I interpreted them. I don't remember his exact words, but after I gave everything to
75 the police they asked for, I went through and deleted a bunch of old texts, and I think those got
76 deleted by accident too. That's about all I know, I think.

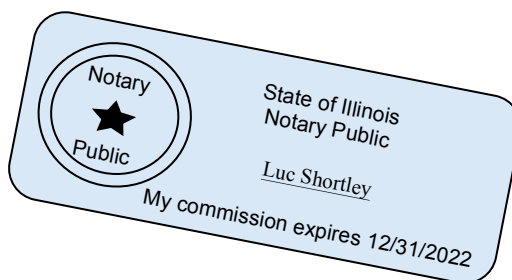
77 I am familiar with, and have knowledge about, Exhibits 4, 7, 12, 14, and 15.

78 Further affiant sayeth not.

Ezra Austin

Signed and sworn before me on
December 3, 2021.

Luc Shortley



DEFENSE WITNESS AFFIDAVIT: CAMERON SMITH

1 My name is Cameron Smith. I am a 56-year-old cleaning professional who enjoys
2 listening to music, finding old candy under theater seats, and relaxing. I currently work full-time
3 in the maintenance/ cleaning department of the Lincolnville Community Theater. It’s not fancy,
4 but it’s a stable job with consistent hours. Normally, it's also pretty quiet and laid-back, but not
5 in October 2021.

6 Prior to being the full-time janitor with the Lincolnville Community Theater, I obtained
7 my postgraduate degree in Sports Science. I’m not really sure why I obtained a postgraduate
8 degree in something I never planned on using but here I am. Perhaps I should have listened to
9 my parents and gone to dental school.

10 I grew up right here in Lincolnville, Illinois. I attended Lincolnville High School and still
11 hold the school record for longest time in the “phantom chair” (also known as the wall sit),
12 position. I grew up in the working-class neighborhood of Mather Square and my parents
13 separated when we were small. They remained friends, though, and provided a happy, stable
14 home while I was growing up.

15 Now, I’m married and live in the Lincolnville area with my spouse, Corey, my two
16 children, Edin (age 5) and Ada (age 13), a budgie named Sammy, and a cocker spaniel named
17 Sadie. In my spare time, I enjoy creating music playlists.

18 In October 2021, I was the lead maintenance crew member during the theater’s fall
19 production, *How the Garden of the Gods Were Won!*. I had never heard of this production
20 before, and someone told me it was a Lincolnville Community Theater original. How cool!

21 The cast and crew were friendly enough and did a fairly decent job of cleaning up after
22 themselves, which I truly appreciated. During the rehearsals, I did become aware of some faulty

23 props. One time, a cast member (Ezra I think the name was), came by and asked if I would see
24 if I could fix some of the broken props. I'm pretty handy with a hammer and other tools, so I
25 said I'd take a look. Ezra said that the broken props were left on the prop cart.

26 After that request, one night after rehearsals (I can't remember which day), I went over to
27 the prop cart and looked to see if anything on it was broken. The props were all sorts of a mess,
28 and I wasn't about to get involved in trying to fix all the problems, so I left. The next day I
29 noticed several props in the trash can, including some of the prop guns I had seen. I just figured
30 they were broken. The props were breaking quite often during the production. One time I found
31 three swords, two lassos, and a broken pint glass in the garbage. The actors and stage crew were
32 going through a lot of props on this production.

33 Anyways, I was somewhat familiar with that Logan Emerson kid. One time I overheard
34 Logan tell another cast member that Rory, the lead in the show, was the worst actor of all time.
35 Actors are always trying to show each other up and they say all kinds of dramatic things, so I
36 didn't think much about it at the time. Maybe now what he said means something, though.

37 I was working on the evening of October 27, 2021, when those two, Logan and Rory,
38 were practicing in the theater together and I noticed a few things. I had left the doors open all
39 night because it was a nice, cool fall evening and I enjoyed the fresh air. That's how they must
40 have gotten into the theater that night. I wasn't expecting to see anyone at the theater that night.
41 Nonetheless, I saw them practicing the show together. I didn't make any fuss about it. People
42 come and go and practice on their own all the time in the theater. So, I didn't think too much
43 about seeing them there. I heard on the news the next day that they think there was a murder
44 there that night. To me, it looked like they were practicing pretty amicably together. Nothing
45 seemed unusual.

46 First, I saw Logan and Rory standing on the front stage-right side. They were standing
47 close together. They were running through a scene where the Sheriff Goat character shoots at
48 someone, but I have no clue who or really what the scene is about. Rory was playing Sheriff
49 Goat first. She had the prop gun to start. But then, I heard Rory ask Logan for some pointers on
50 what she could do better. Then I heard Rory asked Emerson to play the role of Sheriff Goat and I
51 saw Rory give Logan the gun. Logan never asked for the gun, and I hadn't seen Logan with it
52 before then. After that, I saw Logan pointing the prop gun at Rory a few times while it seemed
53 like they were practicing that scene. I wasn't paying too close attention because I was cleaning
54 the area and I was pretty far away. I was standing near the southeast exit, but it did not even
55 appear that Logan had his finger on the trigger. From what I had seen in the past, Logan always
56 seemed really careful about the props and to use them safely. I next remember seeing Logan
57 point the gun down towards the ground and ending the scene. After that, I saw Rory and Logan
58 walk back towards each other and start talking, like they were going over pointers for each other
59 or something. I even saw Logan give Rory a hug at that point. I never heard them yell at each
60 other that night. I did hear Logan say that Rory was struggling with her role, but it wasn't said in
61 an aggressive way at all. It was just practice as normal and Logan seemed to be trying to help
62 Rory out with her role.

63 After that, I walked out of the auditorium to check on a broken soda machine in the
64 lobby. That's when I heard a loud BOOM! The boom sounded like an explosion and not a
65 gunshot. The sound was almost muffled, yet forceful. It was completely unexpected, and it
66 shocked me.

67 I immediately freaked out and ran out of the theater. I had no idea what was going on and
68 I just wanted to get back to my family as fast as I could. There was no sense in sticking around to

69 find out what was going on. No, I did not call 911 or anyone for that matter. I'm not sure why - I
70 was just so scared. I'm a cleaning professional, not a security guard!

71 Later that night, I heard the awful story that someone was shot at the Lincolnville
72 Community Theater. I could not believe what I was hearing. I saw the two kids just rehearsing, I
73 think, and everything seemed to be going fine with the rehearsal. If someone intended to shoot
74 someone else, wouldn't they just shoot that person while I was standing there and not rehearse a
75 few times first? I am certain that Logan and Rory didn't see me there that night, so I don't think
76 they would have been waiting for me to leave the area before taking that fatal shot.

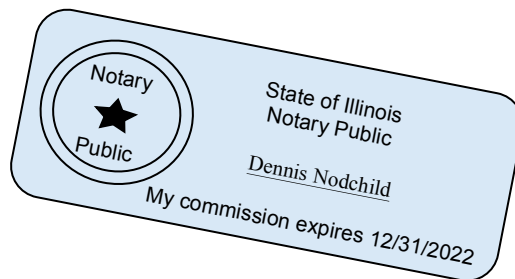
77 I am familiar with, and have knowledge about, Exhibits 7, 12, and 14.

78 Further affiant sayeth not.

Cameron Smith

Signed and sworn before me on
December 3, 2021.

Dennis Nodchild



DEFENSE WITNESS AFFIDAVIT: DR. AVERY RYAN

1 My name is Dr. Avery Ryan. I am 43 years old and currently reside in Havana, Illinois. I
2 am the sole proprietor of my forensics consulting agency, Ryan Consulting Services, LLC and
3 have been employed as a Criminalistics and Forensics Professor with the University of Illinois
4 Chicago since 2015. I received my Ph.D. in Forensics from West Virginia University,
5 Morgantown in 2007, my Master of Science in Forensics from the University of Illinois-Chicago
6 in 2003, and my undergraduate degree in Biology and Forensic Science from Loyola University-
7 Chicago in 2001. I have over twenty years' worth of combined expert experience in Forensic
8 Science and Analysis and was hired by Logan Emerson's (Emerson) defense team to provide my
9 analysis on the unfortunate October 27, 2021, incident that occurred at the Lincolnville
10 Community Theater.

11 In my review of the facts, and subsequent analysis of those facts, I spent approximately
12 thirteen hours reviewing the exhibits and evidence provided to me and am familiar with Exhibits
13 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 11, 12, and 13. I was compensated my standard rate of \$750.00 per hour for my time
14 and careful analysis and an additional \$5,000 appearance fee in the event I appear and testify
15 during a trial. These are fairly standard rates within the field of forensic science consultants for
16 providing analysis and testifying at trial.

17 After reviewing all the evidence provided to me, I have formed an opinion based on my
18 experience and training in the field of forensics. It is my professional opinion that the findings of
19 the prosecution's forensic examiner, Alex James (James), are generally consistent with the
20 evidence collected. However, James' analysis of the fingerprints, or lack thereof on the bullet of
21 the firearm, as well as James' conclusion that the weapon was fired intentionally, given the
22 location of gunshot residue (GSR) particles, are erroneous and not supported by the evidence.

23 I relied on the samples collected by Detective Taylor Blake on October 27, 2021, that
24 were analyzed by James, James' Crime Laboratory Report (Exhibit 5), the report of the Lincoln
25 County Medical Examiner (Exhibit 11), and well-established standards in the field of forensics. I
26 also reviewed the fingerprint card provided by Detective Blake (Exhibit 13) in my comparison of
27 the samples taken from Emerson and compared it to other fingerprints lifted from several
28 surfaces at the scene.

29 The fingerprints found on the firearm that was recovered from the scene were of
30 importance to my review and conclusions. James concluded that the fingerprints on the handle of
31 the firearm belonged to two different individuals and did not exclude Emerson as one of those
32 individuals. I agree with this finding. The identity of the other individual whose fingerprints were
33 found on the handle has unfortunately not been identified at this time, due to a lack of point
34 matches to any other individual. Let me explain what I mean.

35 Prior to identifying a subject via fingerprint analysis, I look for at least 14 match points
36 between a sample received from an individual and the sample found on a given surface. To
37 match a print, I use the ridge characteristics of a print to identify specific points on a suspect's
38 fingerprint with the same information in a known fingerprint. Comparing a crime scene print to a
39 print on file in the State database would first gather known prints with the same general pattern
40 type. Then I compare the prints side-by-side to identify specific information within the ridges
41 that match. If enough points of the fingerprints correlate, the fingerprints are determined to be
42 from the same person. The more points you find in common, the better the match.

43 Of note, James lifted a partial print from the gun's bullet, which James ultimately
44 identified as belonging to Emerson using a 10-point match standard. While this 10-point match
45 standard may be acceptable in James' office, and in the local courts before which James may

46 appear, this standard is not as widely used in the forensics community. This is because 10 points
47 are not usually considered to be a sufficient number of match points to accurately identify a
48 single individual. Most cutting-edge experts, like myself, agree that at least 12 match points
49 should be present prior to making a *bona fide* identification of the fingerprint sample. Perhaps
50 James did not cover the more-recent research in this area during the two times that James
51 attended a fingerprinting course. In my professional opinion, James' 10-point match standard is
52 inadequate and James' identification of Emerson as the contributor of the fingerprints on the
53 firearm should not be taken as the only possible identification in this case.

54 Further, in my professional opinion, the "smudged" fingerprint on the bullet is not a
55 sufficient and/or usable sample for precise fingerprint identification. When comparing
56 fingerprints and using the point system analysis system mentioned above, forensic analysts like
57 myself are looking for matches in the ridge patterns of the fingerprints. When fingerprints are
58 taken in a controlled environment, like a police department on a fingerprint card, they are often
59 very clear. When fingerprints are removed from objects, like tables, doors, or weapons, they can
60 become less clear which makes analysis much more complex. In this case, the fingerprint lifted
61 off the bullet was so smudged that, in my opinion, it was not suitable for comparison because it
62 lacked the defined ridges and patterns necessary to compare. I cannot say to a reasonable degree
63 of scientific certainty that the fingerprint would match any fingerprint it was compared to simply
64 based on how compromised of a condition it was in when it was lifted off the trigger due to the
65 smudging. In cases like these where the stakes are so high, it is my professional opinion that
66 unless a fingerprint is suitable to compare and has sufficient match points, experts shouldn't go
67 speculating on whether those fingerprints match.

68 Next, I reviewed James' findings regarding the positioning of the weapon at the time it
69 was discharged. Based on the significant number of GSR particles found on the swabs taken
70 from Emerson's hands and the GSR particles on his clothing, James determined that Emerson
71 was standing with his arms fully extended as if he were aiming at the deceased when the firearm
72 discharged. However, GSR has been known to be easily transferable and the presence of a
73 significant number of particles on one side of the body. This may sometimes be caused by the
74 individual reaching for the weapon after it has discharged or picking the firearm up with their
75 dominant hand after the firearm has discharged. Further, GSR particles remain within a given
76 space for an extended period of time and may continue to land on an individual or surface, even
77 after the weapon is no longer in the room. In addition, Detective Blake noted that he handled the
78 firearm without gloves on. It is possible that Detective Blake's handling of the firearm and the
79 nearby scene and the subsequent collection of other evidence, including the swabs and
80 Emerson's clothing, could have been contaminated with GSR that was on Detective Blake's
81 hands from Detective Blake's processing of the scene. GSR particles are not visible to the naked
82 eye, so there is no way Detective Blake would have known if such contamination occurred.

83 Notably, James did not comment on whether the discharge could have been accidental in
84 James' report. If GSR is found on both forearms, as was the case here, it suggests that the
85 individual was reaching or grasping for a weapon, rather than intentionally aiming it. In this case,
86 based on the evidence, it is my professional opinion that Emerson was reaching for the weapon
87 when it was discharged. This is based on the location of the GSR on Emerson' body. I have not
88 been provided with any evidence that suggests any other scenario to the contrary.

89 In conclusion, while I would typically agree with James' evidence collection abilities and
90 basic analysis of the forensic materials, it is clear there were deficiencies in James' analysis in

91 this case. James did not have sufficient points of analysis to reach the conclusion that Emerson
92 loaded the weapon and fired it intentionally. James did not apply the more reliable 12-point
93 match standard in the identification of the partial print, did not thoroughly analyze the GSR
94 evidence, or receive any additional evidence from other surfaces to compare areas containing
95 GSR particles. This might have further suggested the post-discharge presence of GSR and also
96 further clarified the proximity of the firearm to the deceased and any surfaces nearby. This
97 information would have been covered in any doctorate-level courses in forensics if James had
98 taken such courses in the pursuit of a doctorate in this field.

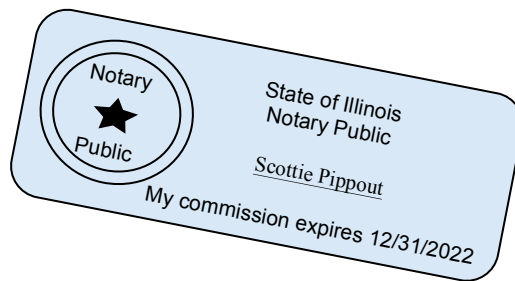
99 Notwithstanding, I always appreciate the efforts of a fellow colleague, and I do agree that
100 James is an expert in what James does, but the evidence obtained in this scenario simply does not
101 suggest an intentional discharge of a weapon by Emerson. Therefore, I disagree with James'
102 conclusions.

103 Further affiant sayeth not.

Dr. Avery Ryan

Signed and sworn before me on
December 3, 2021.

Scottie Pippout



CURRICULUM VITAE OF ALEX JAMES

1410 Special Olympics Drive, Springfield, IL 62704
(312) 214-1970

Education

- University of Illinois Chicago, Chicago, IL
 - M.S., May, 2002, Forensic Science
- Lewis University, Romeoville, IL
 - B.S, May, 2000, Forensic Criminal Investigation, Chemistry

Certifications

- The American Board of Forensic Toxicology, 2002
- The American Board of Criminalistics, 2002

Professional Experience

- Illinois State Police, Division of Forensic Services, Crime Scene Services Command, 2004-Present
 - Lead Forensic Scientist, Bureau Chief, 2008-Present
 - Forensic Scientist II, 2006-2008
 - Forensic Scientist I, 2004-2006
- Illinois State Police, Forensic Scientist Trainee, 2002-2004
 - Forensic Biology (includes screening and DNA work)
 - Drug Chemistry
 - Latent Prints
 - Firearms/Toolmarks
 - Forensic Toxicology
 - Trace Evidence

Community Activities

- Ronald McDonald House Charities
 - Chair, 2017-19
 - Board, 2009-19
 - Volunteer, 2002-Present
- American Academy of Forensic Sciences 2016 Annual Meeting
 - Keynote Address
- United Way of Metro Chicago, 2003-Present
- Governor's Forensic Science Commission, 2020-Present
- Bears Booster Club, 2000-Present

Publications

- “The Crime, the Alibi, and the Firearm that Done It,” *Journal of Forensic Sciences*, July, 2002.
- “Splish Splash: Splatter Analysis 101,” *Forensic Science International*, October, 2004.
- “An Epidemiological Analysis of Ballistics of the American Revolutionary War,” *American Journal of Forensic Medicine and Pathology*, May, 2005.
- “Fingerprint and Pattern Evidence in the Most Unlikely Places,” *Journal of Forensic Practice*, October, 2005.
- “Cursive, Dead or Alive?,” *Journal of Handwriting Experts*, February, 2008.
- “No Theatrics: A Ballistics Analysis of Abraham Lincoln’s Final Hour,” *Journal of Forensic Sciences*, April, 2010.
- “Could it get any worse?,” *Chicago Bears Weekly*, January, 2016.
- “The Changing Scene of Geomorphology with Gamma-ray Radiography and Ground-penetrating Radar,” *Forensic Toxicology*, August, 2018.
- “A Call to Arms: Ukraine Needs Forensic Scientists,” *Forensic Science International*, April, 2022.
- “Da Bears, Da Bears, Da Staleys?,” *Football Magazine*, August, 2022.

CURRICULUM VITAE

Dr. Avery Ryan

Professional Experience

- Ryan Consulting Services, Lincoln County, IL, 2012 – present
- University of Illinois Chicago
 - Professor, Criminalistics and Forensics, 2015-Present
 - Assistant Professor, Criminal Behavior, 2010-2015
 - Lecturer in various areas, 2007-2015

Education

- West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV, Ph.D.
 - Post-graduate fellowship, 2007-2008, Ballistics and Fingerprints
 - Residency, 2003-2006
- University of Illinois Chicago, Chicago, IL
 - M.S., May, 2003, Forensic Science
- Loyola University, Chicago, IL
 - BS, May 2001, Forensic Science, Biology

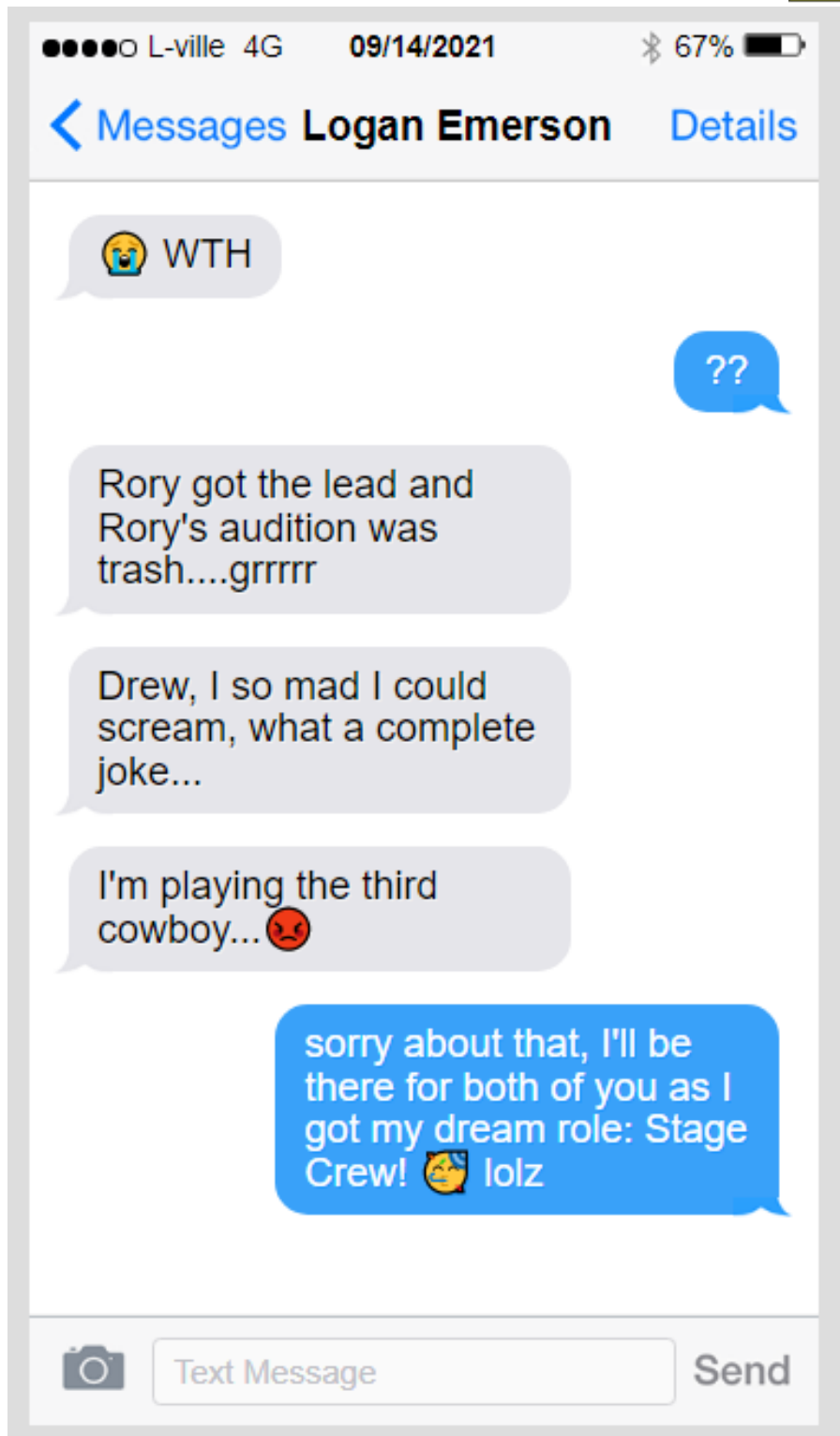
Professional Training

- Accredited in LabCollector (laboratory management software), 2003
- Springfield, Illinois, Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, Sangamon County, Illinois, 1998-2003
 - Fellowship in Forensic Pathology, 2002-2003
 - Forensic Fellowship Program, 2000-2002
- Lincoln County Medical Examiner's Office, in conjunction with Southern Illinois University School of Medicine, 2000
- Internship, Forensic Laboratory,
 - Southern Illinois University School of Medicine, 1999

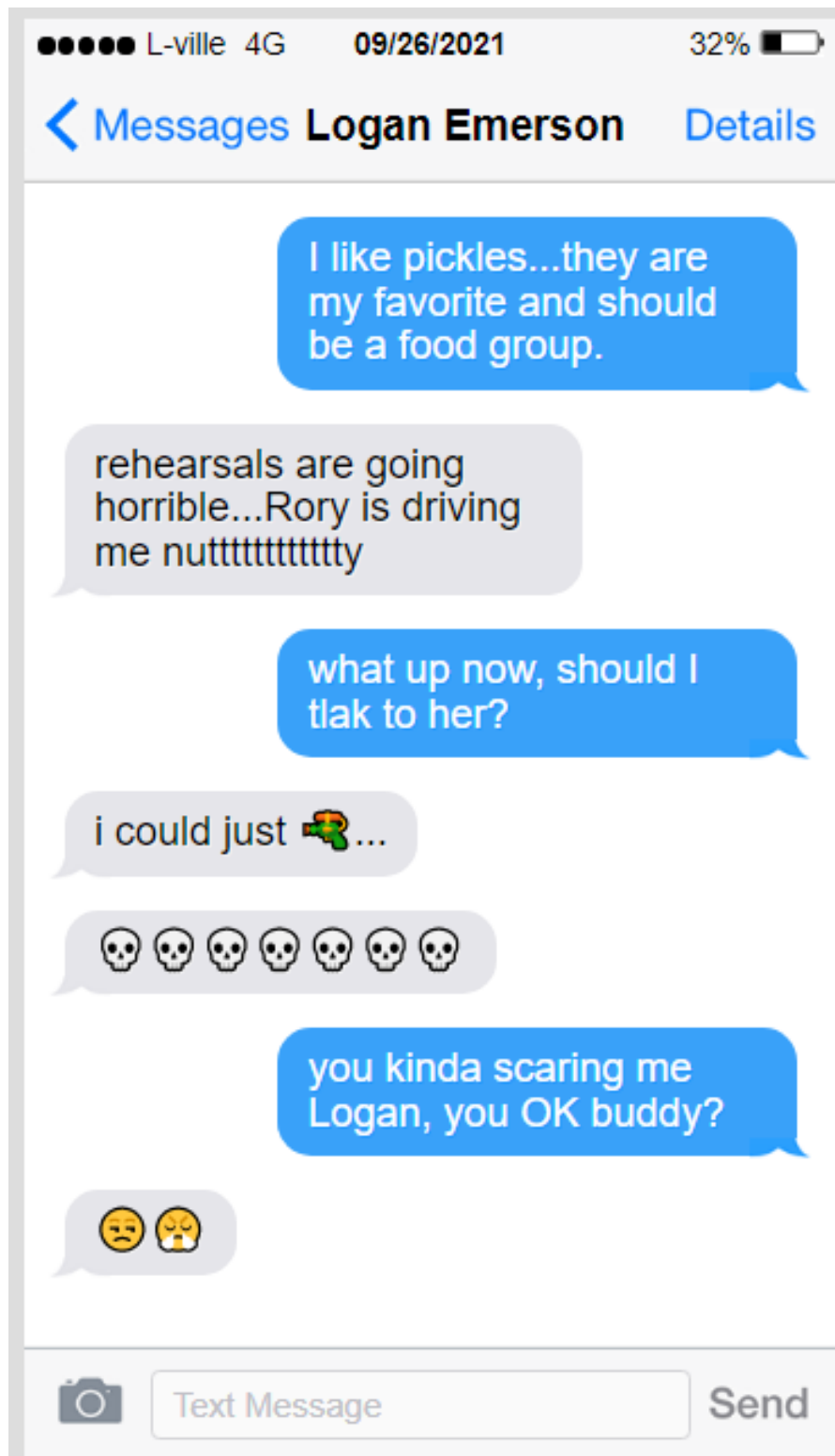
Board Certifications and Professional Memberships

- The American Board of Forensic Toxicology, 2003
- The American Board of Criminalistics, 2003
- The American Board of Forensic Anthropology, 2004
- National Association of Medical Examiners
 - Member: Forensic Toxicology Committee
- Illinois Coroner and Medical Examiner's Association
- Illinois Association of Homicide Investigators
 - Member of Board of Directors, 2011 – 2014

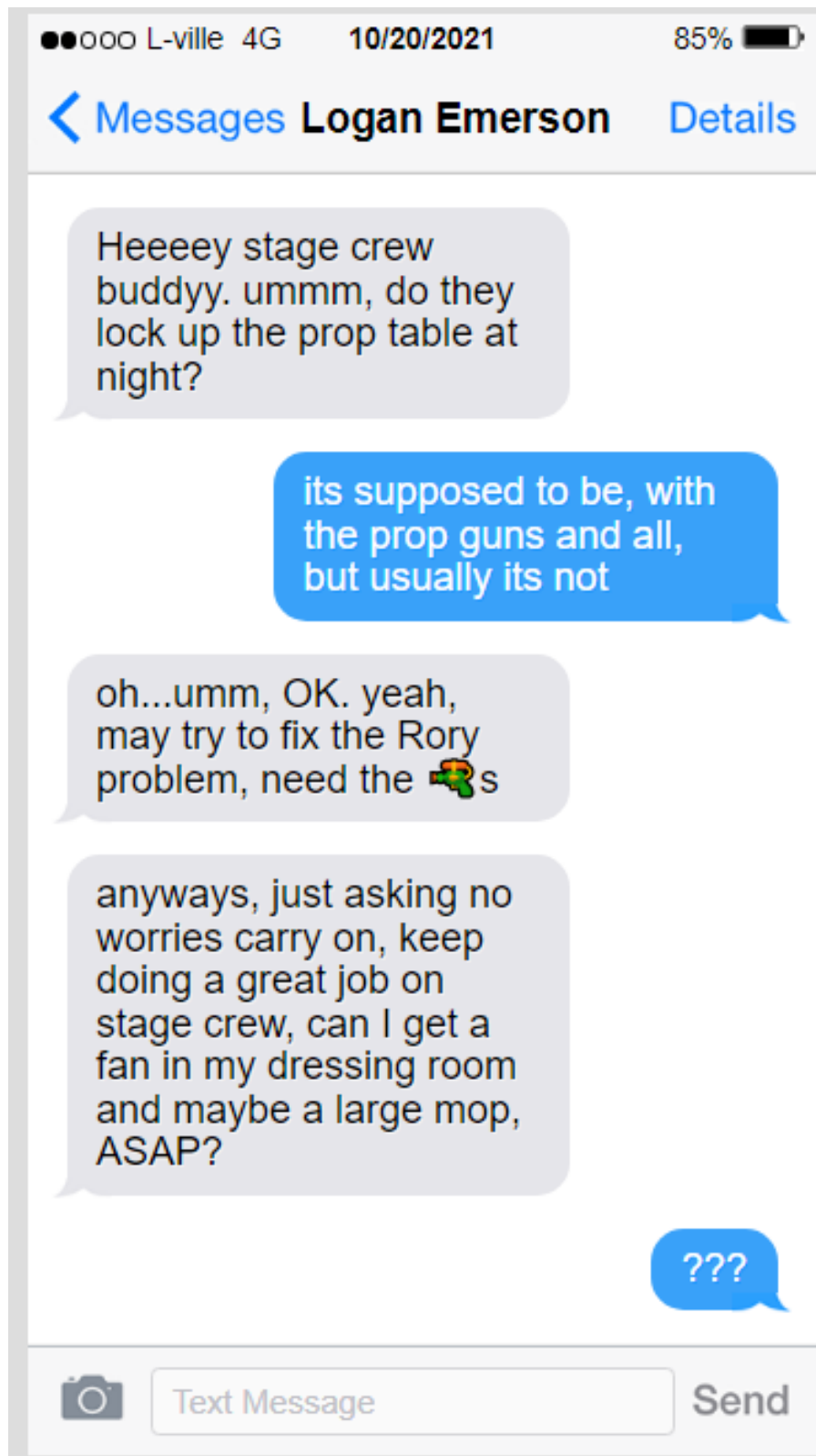
**EXHIBIT
3-A**



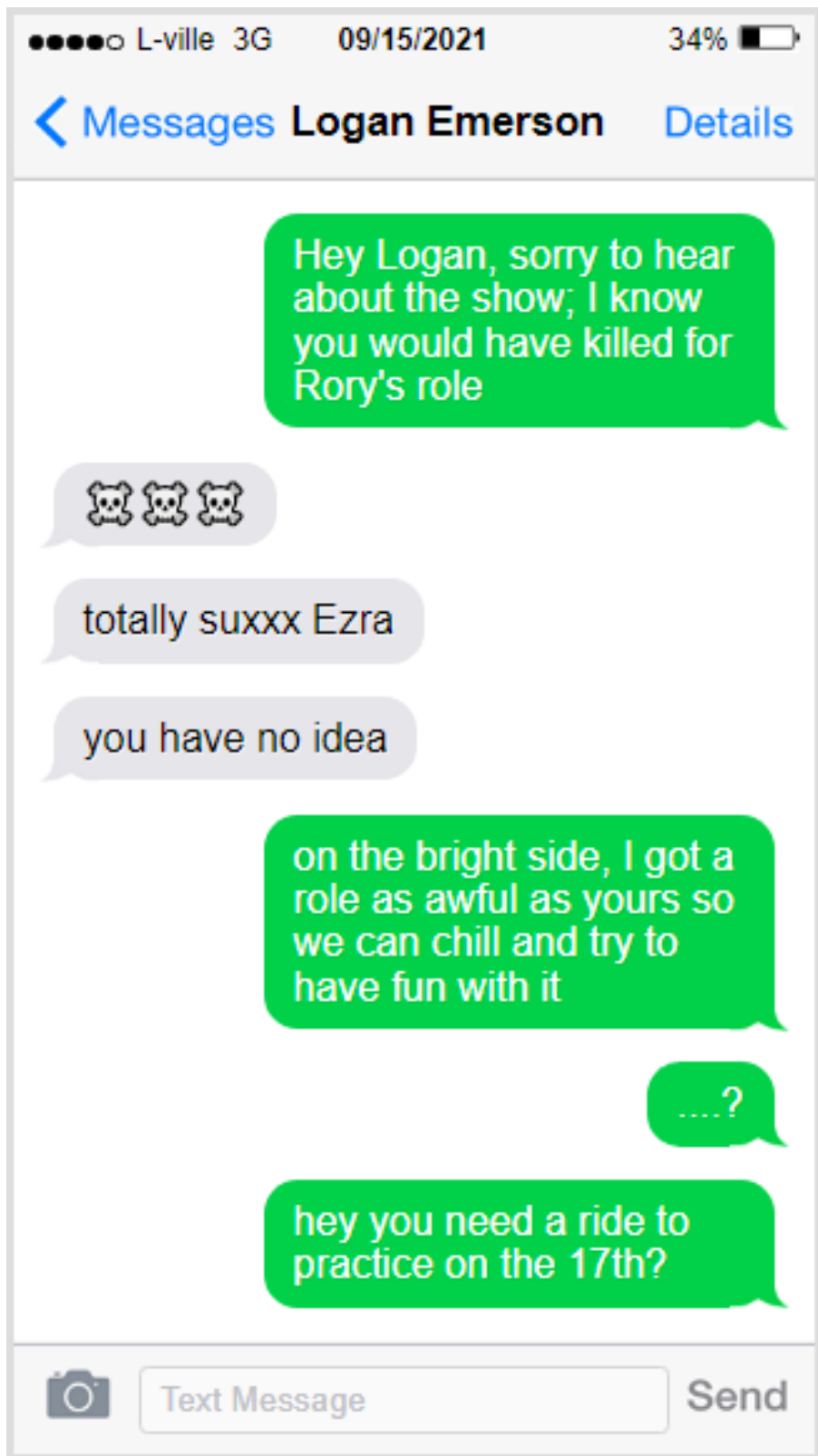
**EXHIBIT
3-B**



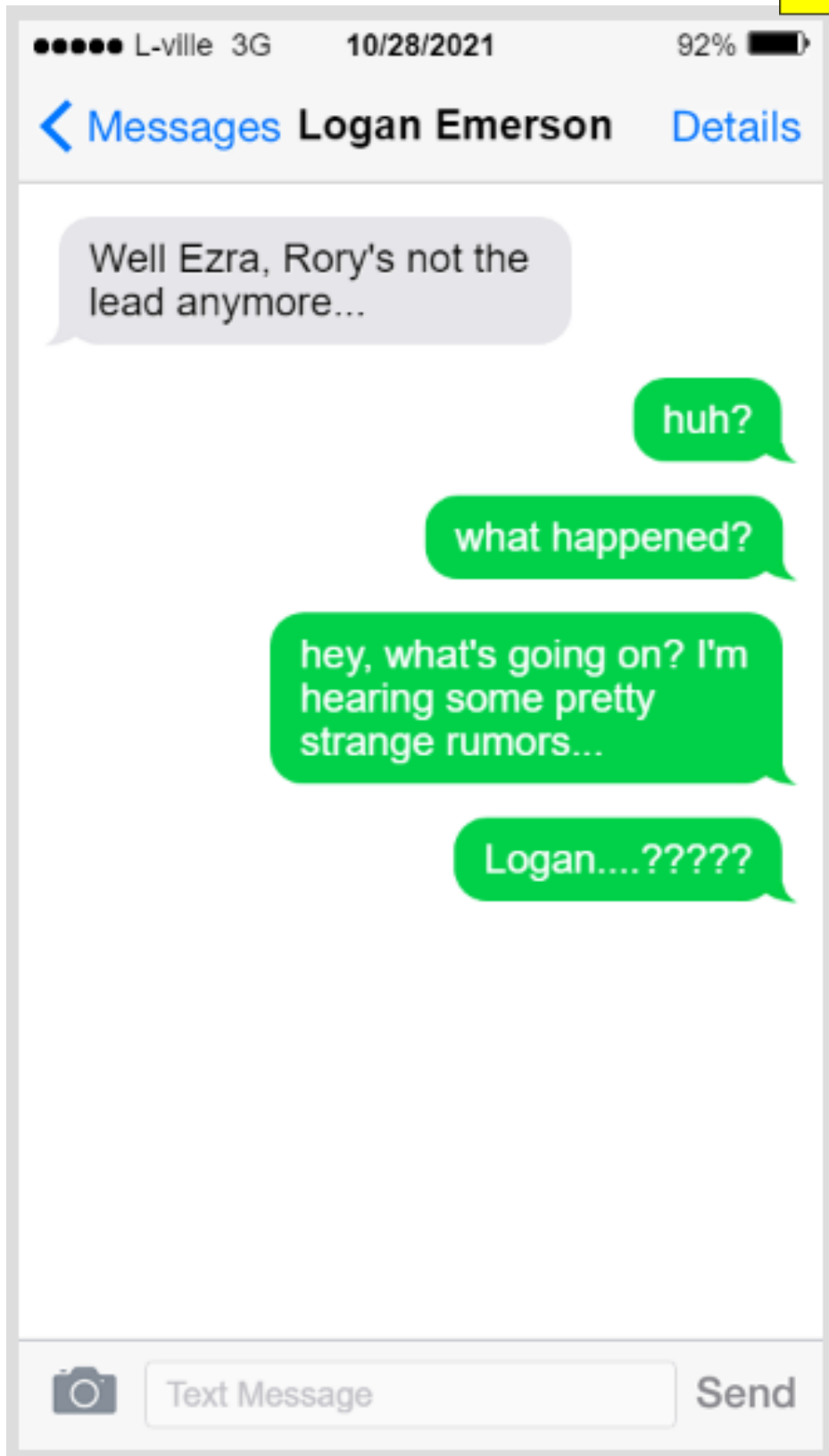
**EXHIBIT
3-C**



**EXHIBIT
4-A**



**EXHIBIT
4-B**





State of Illinois
Illinois State Police
Brendan Kelly, Director

Overview/Case Summary:

On October 27, 2021, Rory Hollis, an actress from Lincolnville, Illinois, was killed when a weapon possessed by actor Logan Emerson was discharged. Upon the arrival of Lincoln County Police Department, Detective Taylor Blake collected several items of evidentiary value and sent them to the Illinois State Police Crime Lab for evaluation and analysis.

Objectives

This report is a summary of Lead Forensic Analyst Alex James' findings regarding the analysis of latent fingerprint samples, gunshot residue evidence, and ballistics of the weapon retrieved from the scene. This report is not intended to include an analysis for each and every forensic sample collected from the crime scene.

Evidence Analyzed

This Analyst received several items marked "Evidence" from Detective Taylor Blake, notably, a medium sized firearm, an article of clothing, and several fingerprint samples. Specifically, Alex James inspected the following evidence:

- (1) .36 Caliber Colt Revolver
- (1) Fingerprint sample taken from the barrel of the weapon
- (1) Fingerprint sample taken from the handle of the weapon
- (1) Fingerprint sample taken from the bullets retrieved from the weapon
- (1) Plaid long-sleeve casual button-down shirt taken from Logan Emerson; and
- (1) Fingerprint Card Containing the fingerprints of Logan Emerson

Investigation Steps

Latent Fingerprint Analysis

This Analyst conducted a comparison and analysis of the latent fingerprints collected from the scene using widely-accepted standards in the field of Forensics. Specifically, in attempting to match the collected fingerprints with the fingerprints of the known sample of Logan Emerson, this Analyst used the 10-point match standard to determine whether the fingerprints collected from various items and areas belonged to Logan Emerson. The material arrived in several sealed, clear evidence bags from Lincoln County PD shortly after the shooting occurred on October 27, 2021.

Gunshot Residue

This Analyst utilized widely-accepted testing methods to detect the presence and amount of gunshot residue on the articles of clothing provided by Lincoln County PD. This analyst was informed that the clothing belonged to one Logan Emerson and was collected shortly after Lincoln County PD's arrival on scene.

Ballistics

This Analyst received a .36 Caliber Colt Revolver with the bullets unloaded from the chamber and placed in a separate evidence bag. One bullet was tested and a partial print was removed from the surface. The print's owner was identified using the 10-point match standard widely-accepted in the Forensic community.

Findings

The fingerprints collected from the handle of the gun matched an individual not excluding Logan Emerson, wherein a 10-point, 14-point and a more than 20-point match were found for Logan Emerson's left index, ring, and middle finger, respectively. This is consistent with Logan Emerson holding the gun in position at some point before or during the shooting.

With regard to gunshot residue ("GSR"), the shirt belonging to Logan Emerson contained several particles of GSR on the left and right forearms. Particles were also present near the center of the shirt, although fewer in number. This is consistent with the firearm being held away from the body, extended, at the time of its discharge.

Finally, a partial print, somewhat smudged, was lifted from one of the bullets provided. This Analyst was able to match the print to Logan Emerson using the 10-point standard. At least 10 points of comparison were found between the sample provided by Logan Emerson and the partial print lifted. See attached exhibits for further information.

Conclusion

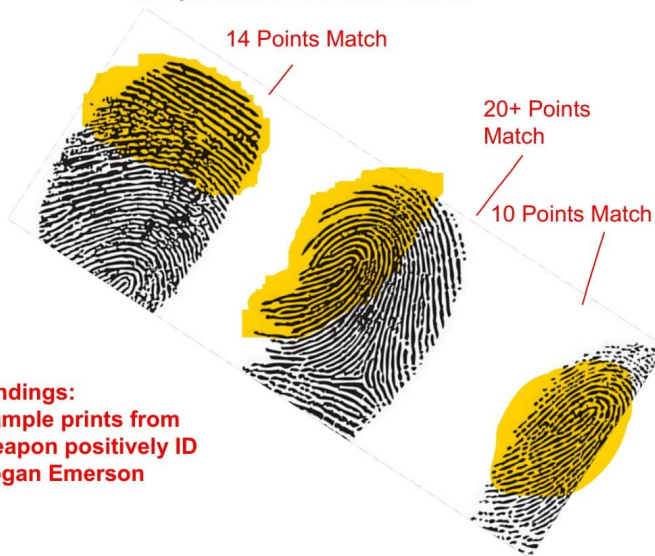
This Analyst found significant evidence suggesting that Logan Emerson was the individual who loaded the weapon and discharged it with his arms extended away from his body and towards a particular target. This is consistent with the finding that the discharge of the weapon was intentional and is not consistent with the accidental dropping of a loaded firearm.

LATENT FINGERPRINT ANALYSIS
Rory Hollis' Death Investigation

Sample Taken from Logan Emerson



Sample Lifted from Gun Handle



Findings:
Sample prints from
weapon positively ID
Logan Emerson

LATENT FINGERPRINT ANALYSIS
RORY HOLLIS' DEATH INVESTIGATION



Partial print on bullet believed to belong to Logan Emerson based on match points.

**EXHIBIT
6**

**Lincoln County Police Department
Incident Report**

Incident: Fatal Shooting

Incident Report No:
2021-384732

Incident Date:
10-27-2021

Incident Time:
6:58 PM

Reporting Officer: Blake, Taylor

Report Date: 11-01-2021

Incident Location: Lincolnville Theater, 349 Main, Lincolnville, IL.

Individual's Name: Rory Hollis

DOB: 4-13-2003

Individuals Address: 123 Karbers Ridge Rd,
Lincolnville, IL

Phone: N/A

Employer: N/A

Work Phone: N/A



Narrative:

On October 27, 2021, at approximately 7:03 PM, I, Detective Taylor Blake, was on duty investigating recent local grave robberies when I received a dispatch call to Lincolnville Community Theater at 349 Main Street, Lincolnville, Illinois. Logan EMERSON had reported an unresponsive individual suffering from a gunshot wound. When I arrived at the scene, I was met by the EMT-paramedic Billy JEAN and was led through the southwest exit/ entrance towards the stage.

As I arrived, I noticed the stage was set up for what appeared to be a Western play or musical. EMERSON approached me and appeared fairly calm and slightly pale faced. EMERSON pointed to the stage but did not move. I instructed officer MYERS to take EMERSON out the west exit to the parking lot. I instructed them I would be outside soon to discuss the matter further.

Rory HOLLIS, the individual that was unconscious, was laying on the stage when I approached from the audience level seating area. There was a considerable amount of blood pooled on the stage and some of the blood had already appeared dried. However, the lighting in the theater was considerably low. HOLLIS appeared to be deceased.

Near HOLLIS, was a very old firearm that at first glance appeared to be a stage prop. However, upon closer inspection, the gun was real. I dusted the gun for fingerprints and took photographs of the gun and the surrounding areas.

While examination of HOLLIS' body was ongoing, officer MYERS and I spoke to EMERSON while outside in the parking lot. Soon, a crowd of people began to gather. Therefore, I took EMERSON to the Lincoln County police station for further questioning and investigation.

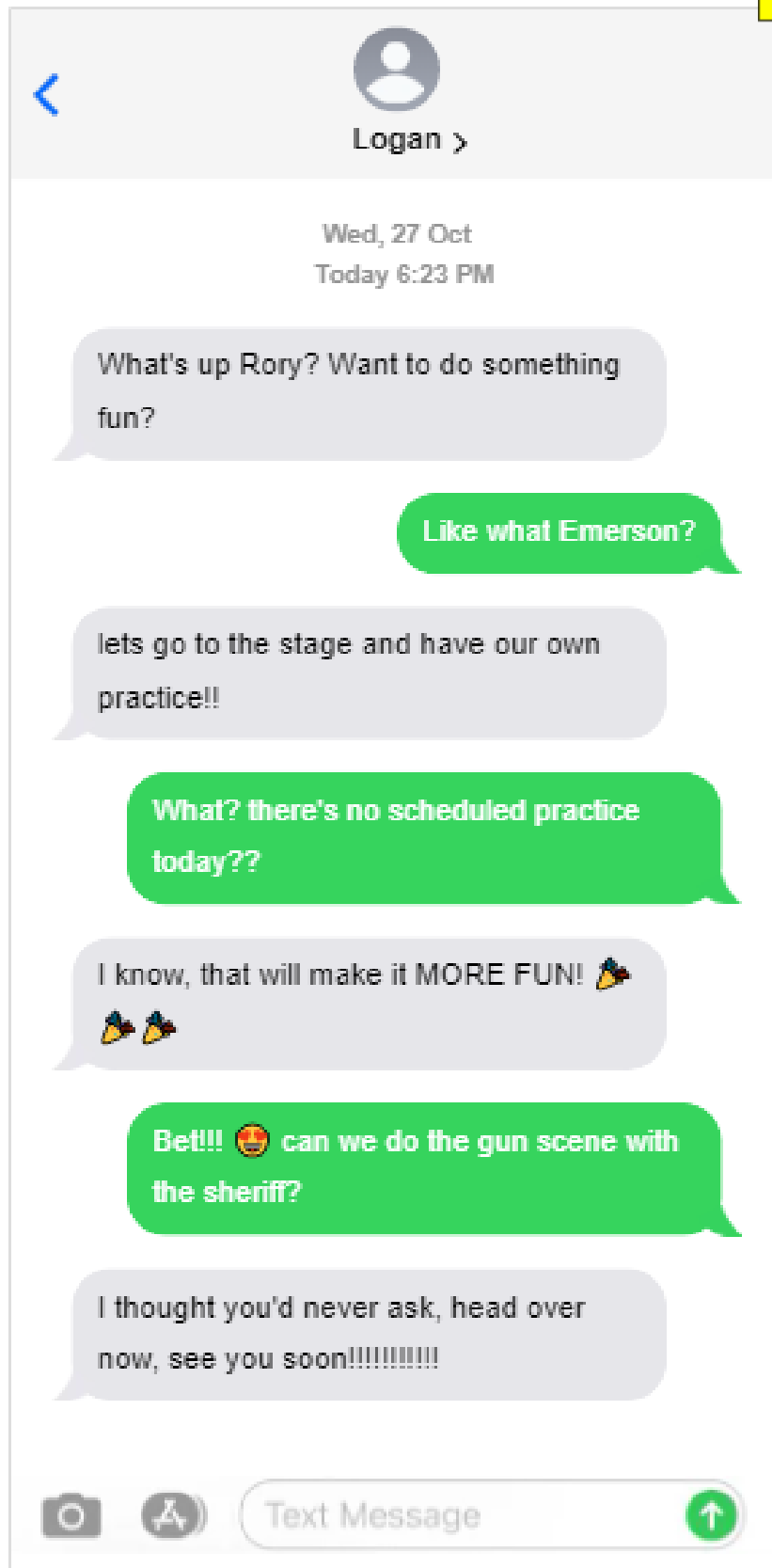
Reporting Officer: *Det. Taylor Blake*

Supervisor: *Julio Jones, Bureau Chief*

EXHIBIT
7



**EXHIBIT
8**





LINCOLN COUNTY DISPATCH

Incident No.: 31-992984
Date: 10-27-2021 Time 19:03

Dispatch: "911. What is the address of your emergency?"

Caller 1: "I have no idea! I'm at the Lincolnville Community Theater just off the main road in Lincolnville."

Dispatch: "What's going on there?"

Caller 1: "There was an accident. Rory isn't breathing!"

Dispatch: "Why is Rory not breathing? Did something happen to Rory?"

Caller 1: "The gun went off, it was loaded. She's not moving."

Dispatch: "What is your name?"

Caller 1: "Logan."

Dispatch: "Okay Logan. Give me a minute; I'm sending help."

Dispatch: "Lincoln County Fire Department Ambulance 3. You're due for an unconscious person at the Lincolnville Community Theater, not breathing, at 349 Main Street. Cause of injury believed to be gunshot wound."

Dispatch: "Lincoln County PD unit K45, you're due an unconscious person, gunshot wound, at 349 Main Street, Lincolnville Community Theater."

LCPD K45: "Copy. LCPD K45, Detective Blake on route."

AMB 3 AP: "Dispatch, this is AMB 3 AP. I copy, on my way."

Dispatch: "OK, Logan, stay with me. I've dispatched police and EMS to you. Where is the gun located at this time Logan?"

Caller 1: "It's too late...I...I...did..(inaudible)."

Dispatch: "Where is the gun now Logan? Is anyone else hurt?"

***** CALL ENDS *****



Lincoln County Police Department
BUREAU OF CRIMINAL APPREHENSION

EXHIBIT
10

TRANSCRIPT

| | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| INTERVIEW DATE: | October 27, 2021 | BCA CASE #: | 2021-384732 |
| OFFENSE: | Fatal Shooting | EXHIBIT #: | |
| INTERVIEW OF: | Logan Emerson (LE) | INTERVIEWED BY: | Det. Taylor Blake (TB) |
| REVIEWED BY: | Sgt. Ronnie Woo Wickers | | |

On October 27, 2021, Detective Taylor Blake ("TB") interviewed Logan Emerson ("LE") at the Lincoln County Police Department. LE waived his right to an attorney prior to the interview.

TB: It is presently 2047 hours on October 27, 2021, Detective Taylor Blake along with Logan Emerson, currently at the Lincoln County Police Department in Lincolnville, Illinois. This is BCA case number 2021-384732. No other persons present. After reviewing Miranda, Mr. Emerson waived his right to an attorney for this interview. Logan, I want to get some basic info down for our report. Your first name is spelled L-O-G-A-N and Emerson is spelled E-M-E-R-S-O-N, correct?

LE: Yes.

TB: And your address is 3844 West Elm Street, Lincolnville, Illinois. Is that right?

LE: Yes.

TB: OK, thank you Logan. Do you need anything to drink?

LE: Do you have anything stronger than water? If not, no thanks.

TB: Umm water only, here. Sorry about that. So, uh, Logan. Tell me, what happened tonight?

LE: Look, the gun had a mind of its own; I swear! The thing just went off! I was aiming a little high but I thought it was a prop gun and I in no way planned any of this. It's true I could not stand Rory but still no one actually believes...am I going to jail? Oh no, I mean...this looks like a total and complete accident, right? So, I should be OK in terms of going to jail...well not going to jail, ya know what I mean right? I'm not in any trouble for any of this am I?

TB: Let's start from the very beginning, Logan. How did you end up at the theater tonight?

LE: Ummm...well...on second thought, I should get a lawyer; I need a lawyer right now!

TB: OK, Logan. [Inaudible...recorded interview terminates].

Lincoln County Autopsy Report
Dr. Lakisha Slone, Chief Medical Examiner

Who is the Deceased?

Name: Rory Hollis

Address: unknown

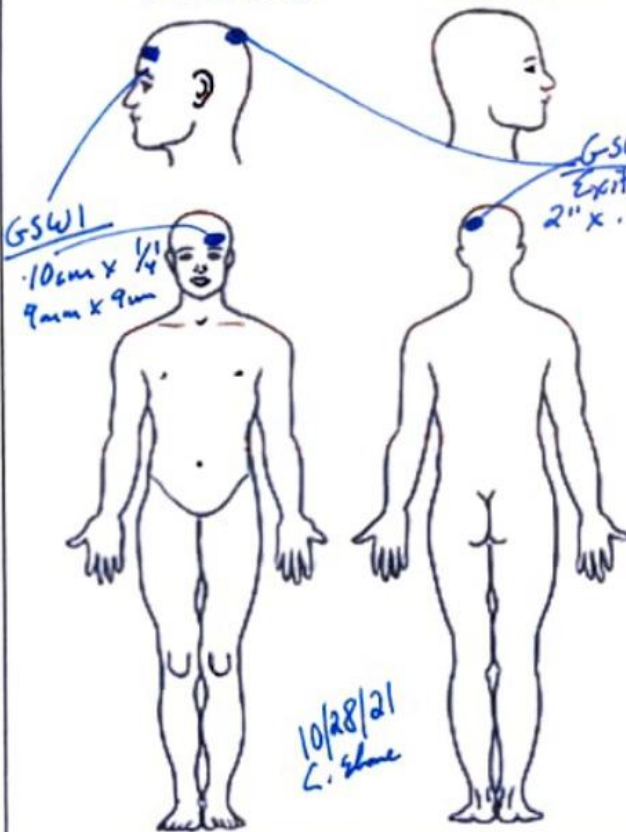
City, State Zip: Lincolnville, IL

Phone: unknown

| Age | Race | Sex | Length | Weight | Eyes | Hair | Beard |
|-----|-------|-----|--------|--------|-------|-------|-------|
| 18 | White | F | 67" | 155 | Hazel | Brown | N |

Marks and Wounds

Case # 00-372-16 Patient Hollis



The body is that of an adult female with little necrosis. Decedent is in a full state of rigor mortis. The body is clothed in a blood-stained Disney-logo t-shirt, jeans, and converse sneakers. The body was recovered relatively soon after the time of death, thus lividity is minimal but indicates decedent was on her back immediately after death and remained that way until she was transported to the morgue. The body measures approximately 67 inches in length and weighs an estimated 155 pounds.

There are two gunshot wounds to the head. The front wound is 10 cm above the left eyebrow and exits through the back of the head. The holes measure 9 mm diameter. The holes are round with level edges. Edges around the front wound show an abrasion ring measuring up to 2 mm from entry. Evaluation of the front wound indicates it is an entrance wound. The path of the shot is slightly upward. The track of this lead shot has been traced to have passed through the skull and through the back of the head with minimal displacement suggesting entry at close range.

Probable Cause of Death: Homicide

Date and Location of Autopsy: Lincolnville, IL
County morgue

Signature: Lakisha Slone, M.D.
10/28/21















Additional Notes:

Officers from Lincolnville PD present.
Clothing worn by decedent was turned over to officers.

**EXHIBIT
12**



FINGERPRINT CARD

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|-----|---|-------------|---|-------|---|--|--|--|
| LAST NAME | | FIRST NAME | | | MIDDLE NAME | | | SR; JR; etc. | | | |
| EMERSON | | LOGAN | | | JAY | | | | | | |
| DATE OF BIRTH | PLACE OF BIRTH | SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER | SEX | RACE | HGT. | WGT. | EYES | HAIR | | | |
| | ILLINOIS | 987-65-4321 | | | | 155 | BROWN | BROWN | | | |
| DATE | SIGNATURE OF PERSON FINGERPRINTED | | | RESIDENCE OF PERSON FINGERPRINTED | | | | | | | |
| 10-27-21 | <i>Logan Emerson</i> | | | | | | | | | | |
| DATE | SIGNATURE OF PERSON TAKING FINGERPRINTS | | | PRINTED NAME OF PERSON TAKING FINGERPRINTS | | | | | | | |
| 10-27-21 | <i>Det. Taylor Blake</i> | | | DETECTIVE TAYLOR BLAKE | | | | | | | |
|  | |  | |  | |  | |  | | | |
| 1. RIGHT THUMB | | 2. RIGHT INDEX | | 3. RIGHT MIDDLE | | 4. RIGHT RING | | 5. RIGHT LITTLE | | | |
|  | |  | |  | |  | |  | | | |
| 6. LEFT THUMB | | 7. LEFT INDEX | | 8. LEFT MIDDLE | | 9. LEFT RING | | 10. LEFT LITTLE | | | |
|  | | | |  | |  | |  | | | |
| LEFT FOUR FINGERS TAKEN SIMULTANEOUSLY | | | | L. THUMB | | R THUMB | | RIGHT FOUR FINGERS TAKEN SIMULTANEOUSLY | | | |

Notes:

1. Based on FBI Criminal Justice Information Services Division Fingerprint Card: FD-258 Applicant Card.
2. You may be asked to use this or another card to take fingerprints. Please print on card stock paper.
3. Parent or Guardian - Consider keeping this fingerprint card in a safe place.

**EXHIBIT
14**

