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2
3 IN RE: INVESTIGATION, Lisa McPherson
4

5 STATEMENT OF: DAVE HOUGHTON.

6 DATE: April 25, 11:10 a.m. 67

7 BEFORE: Donna M. Kanabay, RPR, RMR
8 Notary Public, Court Reporter.

9 PLACE: State Attorney's Office
10 Criminal Justice Center
Clearwater, Florida

11 APPEARANCES: MR. MARK MCGARRY, JR.
12 Assistant State Attorney
Attorney for State of Florida.

13 Agent Lee Strobe
14 FDLE.

15 Sergeant Wayne Andrews
Clearwater PD.

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ORIGINAL

INDEX TO PROCEEDINGS

	PAGE	LINE
DIRECT EXAMINATION - Mr. McGarry	3	4
EXAMINATION - Agent Strobe	32	2
EXAMINATION - Sgt. Andrews	40	9
EXAMINATION - Agent Strobe	48	21
Reporter's Certificate	51	1

1 DAVE HOUGHTON,
2 the witness herein, being first duly sworn was examined
3 and testified as follows:

4 DIRECT EXAMINATION

5 BY MR. MCGARRY:

6 Q. Would you please state your name, please?

7 A. Dave Houghton.

8 Q. And your occupation?

9 A. Dentist.

10 MR. MCGARRY: You want to put something on
11 the record?

12 MR. POLLI: Sure.

13 My name is Bob Polli. I represent
14 Dr. Houghton -- it's H O U G H T O N, by the way -- in
15 this matter.

16 We received a subpoena from the State Attorney's
17 office. I have discussed with Dr. Houghton the provisions
18 of Florida statute 1914.0 (sic), which provide the
19 protections that go along with the State Attorney's
20 subpoena. Dr. Houghton is aware of what those protections
21 are. He's also aware of what his responsibilities are
22 regarding that statute. And we're here to proceed
23 accordingly.

24 BY MR. MCGARRY:

25 Q. My name is Mark McGarry. I don't know if you've

1 met these guys; Wayne Andrews, Lee Strobe.

2 We're going to ask you some questions about the
3 circumstances of your involvement, if any, in reference to
4 the death of Lisa McPherson during the period of November
5 and December 1995, okay?

6 If I could get some background from you, what's
7 your birthdate?

8 A. February 2nd, 1961.

9 Q. And you're currently a dentist working for --

10 A. The Church of Scientology.

11 Q. -- the Church?

12 And where did you get your formal education?

13 A. The University of Iowa College of Dentistry, is
14 where I got my dental degree. My undergraduate was at
15 Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa.

16 Q. How long have you lived in Clearwater?

17 A. Just slightly under two years.

18 Q. And where did you come from before that?

19 A. I was in Columbus, Ohio, for just a short period
20 of time before that.

21 Q. Why did you move to Clearwater?

22 A. To join the -- become a staff member of the
23 Church.

24 Q. Were you a member of the Church prior to moving
25 to Clearwater?

1 A. I was a parishioner, yes.

2 Q. Up in --

3 A. Columbus.

4 Q. -- Ohio?

5 A. Yeah.

6 Q. So they suggested, if you want to be a staff
7 member, Flag, Clearwater's where you've got to go?

8 A. That was my origination. That's where I wanted
9 to go.

10 Q. Okay. Have you ever been here before?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. So you knew it was a nice place.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. So do you remember the month you started --
15 You started in '95, I assume, sometime.

16 A. Yeah. I -- actually, I started in July of '95.
17 I couldn't be a dentist, couldn't be a practicing dentist
18 until January of '96, because I had to wait to take the
19 Florida board exam.

20 Q. I got you.

21 MR. POLLI: Tell him when the board exam
22 was.

23 A. The examination was the 7th through the 11th of
24 December of '95.

25

1 BY MR. McGARRY:

2 Q. 7th through the 11th of November --

3 A. Of December.

4 Q. Of December.

5 A. Yes.

6 MR. POLLI: And prior to the 7th -- just so
7 we can kind of move through this, prior to the 7th, he had
8 a study course in Gainesville to take the boards. And he
9 left Clearwater on November 28th, I believe.

10 A. Whatever that Tuesday was, that's when I left.

11 BY MR. McGARRY:

12 Q. All right. So during this whole thing here,
13 you're studying for the boards.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. That helps. Thank you for giving me a jump
16 start.

17 So what was the arrangement, if I could -- what
18 is the staff arrangement that you had with the Church?
19 How does that work -- how is that worked out?

20 A. I'm not sure I fully understand your question.

21 Q. Well, they hired you as a dentist. How do
22 they -- what's your contract with them?

23 A. Okay. I'm a Sea Org member, same as every other
24 person that sat in here -- at least that I'm aware of.

25 Q. Mm-hmm.

1 A. I sign -- you know, sign the contract. Payment
2 is room and board and fifty dollars a week. Basic Sea Org
3 member.

4 Q. Room and board, fifty a week.

5 That's pretty slim pickings for somebody that
6 just finished dental school.

7 A. I've been out of school ten years. Graduated
8 '86.

9 But I obviously don't do it for material gain.

10 Q. Mm-hmm.

11 So even now, that's what your deal is?

12 A. Yes.

13 My wife gets the same thing.

14 Q. Okay. You're living in the Hacienda area or --

15 A. Actually, no. I live -- I have two kids. We
16 live at the QI. Used to be a Quality Inn.

17 Q. Right. They bought that recently, right?

18 A. I --

19 Q. Relatively new acquisition or --

20 A. No. The new acquisitions are the ones down on
21 North Ft. Harrison: The Tradewinds, the Clipper and the
22 Bayside.

23 Q. There's a rumor floating around that the
24 Biltmore might be going to the Church. Is that true?
25 Have you heard that? You didn't hear that?

1 A. No.

2 MR. MCGARRY: You guys hear that?

3 A. The what?

4 BY MR. MCGARRY:

5 Q. Biltmore.

6 A. Where is that?

7 Q. That's a big Clearwater country club.

8 A. Okay. That's news to me. But as the dentist,
9 they don't necessarily keep me apprised of real estate
10 acquisitions.

11 Q. Okay. Going right into the Lisa McPherson
12 thing, how did you become involved with that?

13 A. Well, I -- because I was going to be in the
14 dentist's office, which is part of the MLO office --

15 Q. Mm-hmm.

16 A. I'm assuming you guys understand some of these
17 things --

18 Q. Yeah, we kind of got a little bit of a grip on
19 it.

20 A. Just general conversation, I got that, you know,
21 there was someone who was obviously having difficulty, who
22 was at the Ft. Harrison.

23 Q. Is that where your office is?

24 A. No.

25 Q. Your dental office?

1 A. No. My office is in the Coachman Building.

2 Q. Coachman building?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. Who told you about Lisa?

5 A. Like I said, it was basically general
6 conversation, but it was most likely Janice Johnson.

7 Q. Okay. Did Janice encourage you or suggest that
8 maybe you should drop in and see what you think?

9 A. No, no. I -- what -- my involvement basically
10 came on -- they were talking about wanting to get her to
11 eat, drink, you know, that kind of thing, and I said,
12 "Well, I can certainly get her to swallow something.
13 That's -- you know --"

14 Q. Kind of in your area?

15 A. -- something I could do without getting bit or,
16 you know, something like that.

17 Q. All right. So that -- do you remember --

18 MR. McGARRY: Is he familiar with the
19 calendars and dates and times?

20 BY MR. McGARRY:

21 Q. Let's go ahead put on the record, if you would,
22 so we can fill this in here and better understand where
23 you're at --

24 A. Okay.

25 Q. You attended a --

1 MR. McGARRY: Help me out, Bob.

2 A. Yeah. It was a continuing education seminar.

3 BY MR. McGARRY:

4 Q. And that was when to when?

5 A. I left the evening of the 28th, and didn't come
6 back until the 12th of December.

7 Q. That was November 28th?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. December 12th.

10 A. I left the evening of the 28th.

11 Q. Okay. So any involvement you had with Lisa is
12 obviously occurring somewhere between the 18th and the
13 28th, ten-day period there?

14 A. Yeah.

15 Actually, mine didn't come in quite that soon.
16 But I didn't have anything to do at the beginning. It was
17 towards the end. But --

18 Q. Okay. All right. How did you become involved?
19 Who was the one that suggested that you come and maybe
20 help her eat?

21 A. Well, it wasn't necessarily suggested that I go
22 and help her eat. I had mentioned earlier in the
23 conversation that I could -- you know, it's not difficult
24 to get somebody to swallow something. You can run stuff
25 down from the side and back of their tongue. They're

1 going to swallow it.

2 And I -- I honestly don't remember the exact
3 specifics of who asked me to do anything for her.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. I honestly just don't remember.

6 Q. It was somebody in the MLO office?

7 A. It was most likely Janice, but I don't recall a
8 conversation where someone said, you know, "Go."

9 Q. Were you aware that Lisa was, for lack of a
10 better term, for using a Church term, which is a Type 3 --

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. -- personality?

13 A. I was definitely aware of that.

14 Q. Okay. All right. When -- do you recall,
15 looking at that calendar, what day that you first saw Lisa
16 was?

17 A. The day that I first saw her?

18 Q. Yeah.

19 A. I don't recall the exact day.

20 Q. Well, give me a ballpark.

21 A. The first day I saw her was probably Monday or
22 Tuesday, the 20th or 21st. That was just a very brief --

23 I went over, actually, to see how the people who
24 were keeping an eye on her were doing.

25 Q. Do you remember who they were?

1 A. Joan Stephens was certainly one of them, because
2 she was dying to have a cigarette.

3 Q. Mm-hmm.

4 A. Suzanne Schnurrenbarger was there.

5 Q. Okay. And did you see Lisa?

6 A. Just briefly.

7 Q. What was she doing?

8 A. Staring at a light bulb, standing in -- Suzanne
9 was at the door. She walked out. As she opened the door,
10 I saw Lisa standing in the middle of the room, just
11 looking up at the light bulb.

12 Q. Did you have any contact with her, talk with
13 her --

14 A. No.

15 Q. -- check her out?

16 A. No. That was the first time I saw her. Just a
17 very brief opening and closing of the door.

18 Q. All right. The next time you saw her was when?

19 A. Again, there was just another brief, when I
20 didn't go into the room -- again, I couldn't tell you
21 exactly what day that was. Within a day or two of having
22 been over there the first time. Like I said, at that
23 point, I didn't go in the room.

24 Q. That was the second time you didn't go in the
25 room?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Why did you go there?

3 A. I went over, just, again, to check to see how
4 the people were doing who were keeping an eye on her,
5 making sure that they had food and they were getting their
6 sleep and that kind of stuff.

7 Q. All right. Was there a security fellow standing
8 outside the door when you were there?

9 A. There was a security guy who was around. I
10 couldn't even tell you who it was, but I'm sure there was
11 a security guy around. There was nobody standing outside
12 the door.

13 Q. All right. When was the next time you had any
14 contact with Lisa?

15 A. Would have been a Saturday, the 25th.

16 Q. All right. And what was the purpose of that
17 appearance?

18 A. I went in to give her some aspirin and Benadryl,
19 an antihistamine.

20 Q. And whose suggestion was that?

21 A. Alain's. Alain Karduzinski.

22 Q. Did you meet with him?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. And he suggested that might help?

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. What was the purpose of that meeting?

2 A. Apparently, she -- Lisa hadn't been sleeping
3 well, and they wanted to do something to help her sleep.
4 And you know, basically, it was a discussion of what might
5 be given to her to help her do that.

6 Q. And that was his suggestion? Did you concur
7 with that?

8 A. I didn't -- certainly seemed fine to me, some
9 aspirin and Benadryl. Certainly makes people drowsy.

10 Q. All right. So that was your plan? How was she
11 acting when you saw her on Saturday the 25th?

12 A. She -- I mean, she was obviously --

13 Q. Type 3.

14 A. -- Type 3. Talking -- basically talking
15 incessantly; very -- things that didn't -- you know,
16 didn't follow one or the other; didn't make any sense,
17 particularly.

18 She --

19 Q. Do you remember what time that was, you were
20 there on Saturday?

21 A. It would have been late afternoon. I don't know
22 the exact time. Late afternoon, beginning of the early
23 evening.

24 Q. Do you remember who the girls were that were
25 staying there, watching?

1 A. No, I don't. I couldn't pin it down, 'cause I
2 was there three separate times.

3 Q. Are we on the third time now?

4 A. No. This would be the first time.

5 Q. The first time?

6 A. Yeah. The first time I actually went in the
7 room.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. I couldn't tell you who was there each
10 individual time. I could tell you generally who was
11 there, but that wasn't like something I thought I would
12 have to remember.

13 Q. Okay. Tell me about the aspirin/Benadryl
14 procedure. How did that go?

15 A. The first day, it went really well, actually. I
16 took some aspirins and I also took the Benadryl -- the
17 Benadryl was the liquid-gel type of thing -- crushed up
18 some aspirin, added some Benadryl, put it in some juice,
19 and then took -- it's an irrigating, syringe, has -- it's
20 a fairly large syringe, probably ten cc's, that has a
21 plastic curved end on it.

22 I cut most of that end off to enlarge the
23 hole -- it's a small hole -- because the aspirin doesn't
24 really crush real well and doesn't dissolve in solution.

25 Q. Right.

1 A. And you know, I just ended up giving it to her.

2 Q. I take it you did that procedure because she was
3 not voluntarily taking anything orally, food or liquid?

4 A. Yeah. It was my understanding she wasn't eating
5 or drinking well; that there could be some, but not
6 sufficient quantities to --

7 Q. Did she have to be restrained to do this
8 procedure?

9 A. Well, the way it worked is, I knelt down on the
10 bed and sat her down. But you know, it wasn't like
11 forcing down. Basically, just guided her down. There
12 were people around who were holding her, just in case she
13 did do something, but it wasn't like forcibly holding
14 down. There wasn't a lot of struggling or anything like
15 that. It was -- at least not that I was aware of.

16 You know, I was worried about -- I'm putting my
17 fingers in this girl's mouth --

18 Q. Might lose one.

19 A. I was worried about teeth. That's what I was
20 paying attention to.

21 Q. Come out of there one digit short.

22 Did you accomplish the mission, so to speak?

23 A. Yeah, yeah. The first time went really well. I
24 gave her some.

25 And like I said, I was kind of running it down

1 the side, around the outside of the teeth, to the back of
2 the tongue and squirting it in, and she was swallowing.
3 But when she got a taste of it, she really liked it. She
4 just basically turned herself got ahold of it and started
5 sucking this thing down. Obviously enjoyed the taste.

6 Q. How long do you think you were in there for that
7 period of time?

8 A. Somewhere between forty-five minutes and an
9 hour. I just -- I stayed around afterwards to see if it
10 would --

11 Q. Did she calm down? Did it have an effect on
12 her?

13 A. Yeah, it did. She sat on the bed, basically,
14 just rocking back and forth for a while. She obviously
15 started to get drowsy, which is what I felt my being there
16 was more of a distraction than anything else, so I left.

17 Q. All right. Shall we move to the next time you
18 saw her?

19 A. Which would have been Monday the 27th.

20 Q. All right. And why were you there, and what
21 time did you get there?

22 A. Again, I believe it was, like, probably, a later
23 afternoon, more of an early evening, kind of thing.

24 Q. Okay.

25 A. I went over because -- to do the same thing, to

1 give her the aspirin and the Benadryl.

2 Q. Do you remember who was there?

3 A. Again, I don't remember exactly, although it
4 seems to me that, the second time I was there, Alphonso
5 Barchenas' son was there. He was there. I believe Rita
6 Boykin was there. Maybe Heather Hough.

7 Q. All right.

8 AGENT STROPE: Petzold.

9 THE WITNESS: Petzold. It was "Hough,"
10 then.

11 BY MR. McGARRY:

12 Q. How was Lisa when you went in, that time, there?

13 A. She had obviously -- she looked like she'd been
14 working out. Hair was sweaty, face was red, you know,
15 like after vigorous activity. You know, the same -- lot
16 of non sequitur type of talking. She was -- I would say
17 was more agitated that day than the day before -- than the
18 time before, that I was there.

19 Q. Same procedure?

20 A. Same procedure --

21 Q. Aspirin, Benadryl?

22 A. Aspirin, Benadryl.

23 Didn't go quite as well.

24 Q. As in --

25 A. I didn't get it back far enough the first time

1 and she spit some of it back out at me. But then again,
2 once I got it going, it went better.

3 Q. Was she saying anything during this period of
4 time?

5 A. Like I said, she was saying lots of stuff. It
6 was --

7 Q. Nothing that made any sense?

8 A. -- virtually nonstop talking. And nothing --
9 certainly nothing that made sense to me.

10 Q. Anything, for instance, like, "Hey, let me out
11 of here. I want to go home"?

12 A. No.

13 Q. Just thought I'd ask.

14 A. Yeah.

15 Q. Was there -- was that a physical situation that
16 was more physical than the first time you administered?
17 She have to be restrained, or was there a battle for that?

18 A. There -- there was -- certainly wasn't a battle
19 for that.

20 Like I said, she was more agitated, and she was
21 more active. You know, she might have been restrained
22 slightly more. The first time was really light. It was a
23 real cooperative thing, the first time. The next time,
24 she was definitely more --

25 Q. How long did that time last?

1 A. I -- again, I stayed around for about an hour
2 afterwards, to see if it would help.

3 Q. Did it?

4 A. Not to the degree it did the first time.

5 Q. She was still agitated?

6 A. She was up and around much more.

7 Q. All right. Next time must have been the next
8 day?

9 A. The next day, Tuesday. This was, like,
10 mid-afternoon. Similar -- again, it was a similar
11 procedure. I gave her --

12 But this time, I gave her the stuff and left. I
13 didn't stick around afterwards, because I was leaving to
14 go to my board exam. I had to go do the exam, and I had
15 someone picking me up who was going to drive and go up
16 with me, and I didn't have much time.

17 Q. How would you describe her on the third
18 appearance?

19 A. She looked like she'd had a rough twenty-four
20 hours.

21 The one thing that I did notice that was
22 different from the day before was, like, her shins were --
23 had bruises on the shins. Looked like she's been kicking
24 at something, or something to that effect.

25 Q. Any bruising anywhere else? Hands? Arms?

1 A. Nothing that I noted at that point. I did
2 notice the legs.

3 Q. Was she up and around any of these times -- any
4 of these past three times, or was she on the bed each time
5 you saw her?

6 A. She was definitely -- she was up and around.

7 The first day, when I got there, she was, you
8 know, like, up and around, but walking, and that kind of
9 thing. The second day, like I said, I didn't stick
10 around. The third day -- the second day, she was
11 definitely more active afterwards.

12 Q. Did you ever see Janice Johnson in the room with
13 you at the same time?

14 A. I don't recall Janice being there at the same
15 time I was there.

16 Q. Did you have any discussions with her about this
17 procedure?

18 A. Sure.

19 Q. You did?

20 A. I mean, I'm not sure I'm going to recall
21 specifics, but I'm sure we talked about it.

22 Q. Maybe in the MLO office?

23 A. Yeah. Exactly.

24 Q. What did she tell you? What was your
25 understanding of the whole mission here for this girl?

1 A. Well, she was one of our parishioners who was
2 Type 3, and we were trying to help her through this
3 obviously rough time for her, you know, to help her get
4 back to normal and doing well.

5 Q. Mm-hmm.

6 So that was the purpose of this mission, this
7 watch?

8 A. Absolutely.

9 Q. Janice ever relay to you how she thought it was
10 going?

11 A. You know, only in general-terms kinds of things,
12 you know.

13 And it was -- our concern was for Lisa,
14 obviously. Also, for the people who were there watching,
15 you know, because those are our staff members and, you
16 know, we were concerned about them as well. We knew there
17 wasn't a lot of sleep on some nights. I know, other
18 nights, sometimes, were better than others. But you know,
19 we were concerned about them as well.

20 Q. Any other contact with Lisa after the 28th?

21 A. No.

22 Q. When did you find out that she'd expired?

23 A. Not till I returned --

24 Q. December 12th?

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. Who told you that?

2 A. It was either Janice or Suzanne. Janice Johnson
3 or Suzanne Schnurrenburger.

4 Q. What did they tell you?

5 A. I don't -- again, I don't have big recall on
6 that. Because the circumstances where I was returning
7 from this test, there was a lot of people who wanted to
8 make sure I passed this thing so I could start practicing
9 here in the state, and my focus was much more on that than
10 on this other -- than on Lisa's situation.

11 And I was told that, you know -- 'cause when I
12 first came in, they asked me about my exam; how it had
13 gone; did I think I passed; all that kind of stuff. I
14 asked them how things had been with them. They said it
15 had been an interesting time, and that, you know, Lisa had
16 passed away.

17 At one point, they thought it might be
18 meningitis, and they'd actually taken everybody who had
19 contact with her and, you know -- or even, like, my family
20 who'd had contact with me, who'd had contact with her --
21 they took them and put them all in a place where they
22 could keep an eye on them.

23 Q. You found out that was what they did --

24 A. I found out that's what they did after she died.

25 Q. Because this was a full week later, you got

1 back?

2 A. Exactly.

3 Q. Did you ever write a report to anybody about
4 your activities to this? You ever write down anything?

5 A. No. Not that I recall, anyway.

6 Q. You missed the big meeting with Marcus Quirino
7 and everybody else, right?

8 A. Apparently so. I didn't find out about that
9 until he told me about it --

10 Q. Okay.

11 A. -- Just a few days ago.

12 Q. And you passed the boards?

13 A. Yup.

14 Q. To your understanding, who's in charge of the
15 MLO, from the medical standpoint; not from the dental
16 standpoint? Are you their first dentist at Flag?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. You're the number one guy.

19 A. Yup. The one and only.

20 Q. Who was the -- at the time, in November and
21 December of '95, the MLO honcho that was in charge of that
22 office?

23 A. Janice Johnson.

24 Q. Janice was?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. So she's the one that would have been in charge
2 of the general welfare of Lisa McPherson?

3 A. I wouldn't -- I wouldn't necessarily say that,
4 because Janice is -- the Medical Liaison Office is broken
5 up into several different functions. And Janice was the
6 Medical Liaison Officer for the staff, which means we've
7 got -- we've got a base of about a thousand people. And
8 when the people needed to get to a doctor, she made sure
9 that happened. And --

10 Q. So Emma was in charge of the regular
11 parishioners?

12 A. Emma's the Public MLO, yes.

13 Q. And still is.

14 A. And still is.

15 Q. And Judy Colesberry Webber was running around in
16 that office about that time, wasn't she?

17 A. Yes. She was the Deputy Staff MLO.

18 Q. She's not any more, though.

19 A. No, she's not.

20 Q. Since this occurred -- you ever been involved
21 like this before?

22 A. No.

23 Q. Would you say that you doubt it would be run
24 this way again?

25 A. I don't know, quite honestly.

1 Q. Who makes those decisions?

2 A. I honestly couldn't tell you that, either.

3 Q. Did you ever talk with Mr. Karduzinski --

4 A. Sure.

5 Q. -- other than that time on the 25th?

6 A. About this particular thing?

7 Q. Mm-hmm.

8 A. I talked to him -- I'm trying to remember if I
9 talked to him again on the 27th or if I didn't talk to him
10 again on the 27th.

11 I don't know that I talked to him or not, quite
12 honestly.

13 Q. How about Dr. Minkoff? Do you know him?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Did you talk to him about this whole thing?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Since it occurred?

18 A. Since it occurred? Brief touching-on-it, once.

19 Q. How about during this week, here? Did you ever
20 call him and talk to him about this deal?

21 A. Yes, I did.

22 Q. What day did that fall on?

23 A. Would have been Friday, the 24th.

24 Q. And what was the nature of that phone call? You
25 called him?

1 A. I didn't call him. Probably -- I don't know. I
2 came in in the middle of it. Probably, Janice called him.

3 Q. Oh, this is in Lisa's room, during --

4 A. No. This is from the MLO office.

5 Q. And the nature of the phone call was what?

6 A. Well, they were discussing, if she needed
7 sedated (sic), what might be a proper thing to sedate her
8 with.

9 Q. I see.

10 And at some point in the conversation, you were
11 handed the phone?

12 A. I did talk with Dr. Minkoff, yeah.

13 Q. And what was the nature of that conversation?

14 A. Again, we were discussing different things that,
15 you know, might be -- might be a good sedative. Nobody
16 wanted her, you know, heavily sedated or anything like
17 that, but I believe -- again, I wasn't real involved with
18 this stuff terrifically before, but it was my
19 understanding she was getting a bit more violent and, you
20 know, there was some concern for her own safety. It might
21 be better to --

22 Q. Was there an agreement reached on a course of
23 action?

24 A. We discussed several things. There was --
25 chloral hydrate was mentioned. Actually checked around to

1 different pharmacies to see if we could find some,
2 particularly looking for something in liquid form, because
3 that was the only way we could hope to get her to take it.
4 Didn't find any.

5 (So we tried -- you know, actually called back
6 Dr. Minkoff and discussed it a bit more, and decided that
7 Valium would probably be the best thing.)

8 Q. All right. And did he call that in?

9 A. Yes, he did.

10 Q. And was that -- do you remember what pharmacy
11 you used? Eckerd's, maybe?

12 A. Eckerd's at Gulf-to-Bay.

13 Q. And do you remember what name it was under?

14 A. No, I don't.

15 Q. Do you recall who picked it up?

16 A. I picked it up.

17 Q. You did?

18 A. Yes.

19 It could have been under my name --

20 Q. All right.

21 A. -- it could have been under Janice's. I don't
22 remember.

23 Q. All right.

24 A. Could have been under Lisa's. I don't remember.

25 Q. Okay. And did you, in fact, pick it up?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And that was on the 24th?

3 A. Yes. Late that evening.

4 Q. All right. And when, if ever, was that Valium
5 used on Lisa?

6 A. To my knowledge, it was never used.

7 Q. All right. And why is that?

8 A. Again, to my knowledge, Mr. Karduzinski didn't
9 want her to have anything that heavy.

10 Q. And he was running the spiritual end of this.

11 A. Right.

12 Q. So I suspect that you talked to Mr. Karduzinski
13 on the night of the 25th and indicated to him that you'd
14 been, on the 24th, to pick up the Valium?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And that is the opportunity he took to tell
17 you --

18 A. He certainly knew we had the Valium, right. And
19 he didn't want to give her anything that heavy.

20 Q. So he nixed that.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Okay. Now, other than the stuff we've already
23 covered, is there something -- any other contact or area
24 that you think might be pertinent towards this
25 investigation?

1 A. I don't know. I don't know for sure what you
2 guys are looking for.

3 Q. Well --

4 A. I mean, I don't know.

5 Q. Well -- she died on December 5th --

6 A. Right.

7 Q. -- and we're trying to find out --

8 A. When I saw her -- the last time I saw her was
9 the 28th. You know, she was obviously Type 3. She was
10 certainly in good health, active, you know, that kind of
11 thing. She certainly had times where she was violent,
12 and, you know --

13 Q. All right. So she took -- she must have taken
14 her medical decline sometime after you left. Is that what
15 you're suggesting here?

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. Just out of curiosity, now that you're on staff,
18 are you still taking courses?

19 A. I have a requirement to do continuing education,
20 thirty hours every two years.

21 Q. Out of -- is that -- thirty hours every two
22 years with Church courses?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Oh, I thought you meant continuing education for
25 dental --

1 Q. No.

2 A. I mean, certainly, I do courses --

3 Q. That's why you're there.

4 A. -- on a regular basis.

5 I'm there to help my church. That's why I'm
6 there.

7 Q. What level have you achieved, as far as your
8 course materials are concerned? Is there a level?

9 A. Well --

10 Q. I talked to Dr. Minkoff. He said he was an OT8.

11 A. I'm OT4.

12 That just needs a little clarification. There's
13 two sides to that. Training, and there's -- the courses,
14 and then there's the auditing.

15 Q. Right.

16 A. I'm OT4 in the auditing portion.

17 Q. And your wife's doing this, too, right?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Children?

20 A. Two.

21 MR. McGARRY: All right. I'm done with my
22 questions. If you want to take a break, we can, but I
23 think we probably can wrap this up pretty quickly, if you
24 want to.

25 MR. POLLI: I've got a hearing at

1 one-thirty, so plunge on.

2 EXAMINATION

3 BY AGENT STROPE:

4 Q. I've just got a couple of questions.

5 What's your date of birth?

6 A. February 2nd '61.

7 Q. I'm sorry. I didn't get it the first time.

8 Social Security number?

9 A. 482-86-3607.

10 Q. You said you graduated from dental school when?

11 A. 1986.

12 Q. And you took the boards in '96?

13 A. Well, I took -- I took the Florida boards --

14 Q. So you practiced as a dentist somewhere else?

15 A. Yeah.

16 Q. Where at?

17 A. I practiced in Iowa from '86 till '93, and I
18 actually sold my practice, at that point, with the
19 intention of going into Sea Org.

20 Q. When -- when did you first become affiliated
21 with the organization?

22 A. With Scientology --

23 Q. Mm-hmm.

24 A. -- or with Flag?

25 Q. With Scientology.

1 A. Would have been November of '89.

2 Q. So it was during your practice as a dentist?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. How did that happen?

5 A. I went to a practice management course that was
6 based on the administrative technology of L. Ron Hubbard,
7 and I put that into my practice, and it went extremely
8 well. So I decided I wanted to find out more, started to
9 read L. Ron Hubbard books.

10 Q. It's like the Sterling Management Company?

11 A. That's exactly what it was, Sterling Management,
12 mm-hmm.

13 Q. Have you discussed your -- other than your
14 conversations that you had with your attorney, have you
15 discussed your testimony here today with anyone else?

16 A. No. I mean, other than the fact that the people
17 in the MLO office know everything I've told you, because,
18 you know, it's just what happened, as it was going along.

19 Q. So you've discussed -- my question is, have you
20 discussed your testimony here today with anyone other than
21 your attorney --

22 A. No.

23 Q. -- since this happened?

24 A. No.

25 Q. Have you seen your reports that you wrote since

1 this happened?

2 A. I didn't write any reports. At least not to my
3 knowledge.

4 Q. You didn't write any reports?

5 Well, you would know, right?

6 A. I would think I would remember if I'd have
7 written a report.

8 Q. What was your job back in November of '95? You
9 weren't a dentist yet. What was --

10 A. I wasn't a dentist. At that point in November,
11 was basically studying full time to prepare for the board
12 exam.

13 Q. So you had no post?

14 A. I was helping out in the MLO office, but at that
15 point in time, I was basically studying full time.

16 Q. Who was your senior then?

17 A. Would have been Janice.

18 Q. Janice Johnson was your senior?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Other than the Valium and the Benadryl, were
21 there any other prescriptions that you know of that were
22 written, any other medicines that were written given?

23 A. Well, the Benadryl is not a prescription.

24 Q. Well -- I'm sorry -- any other medicine?

25 A. Not as far as I know.

1 Q. And as far as you know, the Valium was not used?

2 A. As far as I know, it was not used.

3 Q. Do you remember what was told to Dr. Minkoff
4 that would necessitate him to write the prescription for
5 Valium?

6 A. Pardon me?

7 Q. Do you remember what was told to Minkoff
8 regarding Lisa's condition which would result in his
9 writing his prescription for Valium?

10 A. He certainly knew she was Type 3.

11 I don't remember the specifics of the
12 conversation, other than we talked about different types
13 of sedatives. You know, his idea was that the Valium was
14 actually a fairly mild type of sedative, as far as those
15 things go; that if -- you know, if we get into anything
16 else, it was going to get something real heavy.

17 Q. Type 3 -- is that a -- kind of a degree of
18 psychiatric evaluation, would you say?

19 A. No.

20 Q. Is that a degree of mental instability, as
21 defined by the organization, much like a psychiatrist
22 would do?

23 A. No. It's -- it more has to do what's going on
24 with the person, spiritually, quite honestly. There's
25 three -- there's three basic types. It's actually a type

1 of what's called PTS. And Type 3 is just someone who
2 thinks that everybody in the world is after them.

3 Q. Paranoid?

4 A. I don't know as I've ever seen that word written
5 along with that.

6 Q. I mean, whatever you call it, it's -- for you,
7 it's just different terms, right?

8 Who -- who assesses these people and says
9 whether it's Type 1 or Type 2 or Type 3 or Type 4 or
10 whatever?

11 A. I don't know.

12 Q. Is (sic) there guidelines written somewhere that
13 says, "If this person does this, it's Type 2. If this
14 person does this, it's Type 3"?

15 A. Not to my knowledge. There's descriptions of
16 those types of PTS's, certainly. You could probably find
17 them in the technical dictionary.

18 Q. Mm-hmm.

19 Of course, the treatment seemed to be the same.
20 I mean, a psychiatrist would probably prescribe Valium,
21 bedrest --

22 A. I don't know. I've never studied the field.

23 Q. Who was in charge of this watch, do you
24 remember?

25 A. I don't know that I actually ever knew that.

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. You know, there was a number of different people
3 in and around --

4 Q. Well, who was -- who was in charge of her mental
5 state, her, as you call it, spiritual state?

6 A. Well, certainly Alain Karduzinski, being the
7 case supervisor.

8 Q. And who would have been in charge of her medical
9 condition, her medical state?

10 A. I mean, I don't know that anybody was in charge
11 of her medical state.

12 Q. If you wanted to get a prescription or move her
13 to a hospital or take her for a walk or do whatever had to
14 be done, who had the "okay" to do that? Who had to give
15 the "okay" to do that?

16 A. I don't know.

17 Q. But when you wanted to get a prescription, you
18 went to Alain Karduzinski.

19 A. When I wanted -- when the whole thing with
20 prescriptions came up, we talked to Dr. Minkoff.

21 Q. Okay. But did you talk to Dr. Minkoff before
22 you talked to --

23 A. I didn't, personally. I have no idea if anybody
24 talked to Alain before that conversation.

25 Q. Did you ever remember ever seeing anyone give

1 Lisa a shot, intermuscular injection?

2 A. No. That definitely didn't happen when I was
3 there.

4 Q. The Valium that you picked up at Eckerd's, was
5 that a pill or was that a --

6 A. It was a liquid, either for intermuscular --

7 Q. Valium in liquid is just -- is that a blue
8 liquid?

9 A. I don't know.

10 Q. It's intermuscular only?

11 A. Yeah.

12 I believe it's probably clear.

13 Q. That's not something -- that's not a
14 prescription they give to -- that's a doctor's
15 prescription, right, if it's intermuscular Valium? I
16 mean, if I was to get Valium, I'd get tablet form.

17 A. Probably.

18 Q. Only a doctor can get intermuscular, right?

19 A. I don't know that. Honestly don't know that.

20 I just think, most people, if you've got a
21 choice of swallowing or getting shot with it, you'd choose
22 to swallow it.

23 Q. And you don't remember if the prescription was
24 in your name or Janice Johnson's?

25 A. I don't remember whose name it was in.

1 Q. But it was Eckerd's on Gulf-to-Bay?

2 A. It was definitely Eckerd's on Gulf-to-Bay.

3 Q. And who paid for that prescription?

4 A. I picked it up.

5 Q. Yeah.

6 Who paid for it? You paid for it?

7 A. No. Alain Karduzinski was -- that's where I got
8 the money to pick it up.

9 Q. So Alain gave you the money to buy the
10 prescription?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Was it bought through normal channels? Do you
13 have a prescription insurance plan or --

14 A. No. I mean -- no, we don't.

15 Q. So you paid the full price?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Cash?

18 A. Yeah.

19 It was somewhere -- twenty-five, thirty bucks,
20 something in that range.

21 Q. Do you remember how many doses you --

22 A. I believe -- I mean, it was -- it was a small
23 box.

24 Q. Okay.

25 A. I'm sure it was a vial of Valium. I don't know

1 if it was five milliliters or ten milliliters. I don't
2 know.

3 Q. But regardless, that whole plan was scrapped?

4 A. Yeah. To my knowledge, she never got it.

5 Q. And that was scrapped by --

6 A. Alain.

7 AGENT STROPE: I don't have anything else.
8 Thank you.

9 EXAMINATION

10 BY SGT. ANDREWS:

11 Q. Did you practice as a dentist in Ohio, too?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. So you took the boards in Ohio too?

14 A. No. When I graduated from dental school in '86,
15 I took what's called the Central Regional Dental Test.

16 Q. Okay.

17 A. It's good for a number of states in the middle
18 part of the United States.

19 Q. So you just moved in '93 to Ohio and practiced
20 there as a dentist?

21 A. Actually, I also had a short stint in Kansas
22 City -- Overland Park, Kansas, actually.

23 Q. Okay. All right. I took it, from your
24 testimony, that you were coming by to check on, also, the
25 people doing the watch, so some of the times that you made

1 visits to her room, you didn't actually go in and see her.

2 A. Yeah. That happened twice.

3 Q. When you came by there, could you walk straight
4 into the room? You know, what I'm saying? Say you come
5 to visit Lisa or you came to check on the people, like
6 Emma, if she was in the room, or Suzanne, could you walk
7 up and just open the door and go into the hotel room?

8 A. Well, it's a hotel room. The doors are always
9 locked from the outside. That's just standard.

10 Q. So how would you get in?

11 A. Knock on the door.

12 Q. So somebody inside would let you in?

13 A. Yeah.

14 Q. Okay. Did you ever see a security guard or a
15 person dressed in the light blue shirts with the dark blue
16 pants standing outside the door with a key?

17 A. No.

18 Q. I know your security has so many uniforms --

19 A. Yeah. I saw Security -- the light blue shirt
20 with the dark blue pants is what everybody was wearing at
21 the time.

22 Q. Yeah. Alphonso Barchenas -- I talked him, and
23 he said he had a key --

24 A. Okay.

25 Q. -- to the door, and I was wondering -- you

1 mentioned his name again --

2 A. Right. I saw him. He was inside one of the
3 times that I was there.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. That's the second time I was there.

6 Q. To your knowledge, could Lisa leave the room?

7 A. I honestly don't know.

8 Q. Okay. So if you're in there giving her this
9 medicine and this syringe, and she said to you, "Listen, I
10 don't want this stuff. I'm going to walk out of the
11 room," could she do that?

12 A. I would certainly think so. Had she been able
13 to look at us and say something like that, I think we all
14 would have been very happy.

15 Q. This whole thing with the prescription -- you're
16 a dentist, been a dentist since '86?

17 A. Mm-hmm. Right.

18 Q. Is this normal? I mean --

19 A. What do you mean?

20 Q. Well, you know, you have a -- Dr. Johnson, okay,
21 and n MD on the telephone, with a doctor here in Florida,
22 and a dentist on the telephone, and you guys are getting
23 Valium in liquid form in somebody else's name for a
24 patient you're taking care of in some room at a hotel.

25 I mean, to me, as a cop for twenty-five years,

1 you know, I start to go, "Boy," you know, "something," --
2 I mean, "Something's rotten in Denmark."

3 A. I mean, the reason we were talking to
4 Dr. Minkoff is because I wasn't licensed in this state. I
5 had no -- I wouldn't write any prescriptions.

6 Not that I would write a prescription for
7 Valium, anyway.

8 Q. Right.

9 A. And Janice, although she has an MD degree, she
10 didn't practice any medicine. She's not licensed in the
11 state. So, you know, that's why Dr. Minkoff was called.

12 Q. But I mean -- what I'm asking you -- I think you
13 went all the way around my question of -- this is --

14 You're a dentist. That's a doctor.

15 A. Right.

16 Q. She's a doctor. He's a doctor.

17 A. Right.

18 Q. Now, there's three doctors here.

19 Is it normal practice to get a prescription of
20 liquid Valium in one of the doctors' names to give to
21 another patient?

22 A. I wouldn't think so, no. Unusual circumstance,
23 however:

24 Q. Okay. Now, I find it very odd that -- we'll go
25 back to the three doctors again -- MD anesthesiologist, a

1 dentist and another MD in Florida, working in an emergency
2 room, and an infectious disease specialist, okay, and the
3 three of these people, who are all medical people, put
4 their heads together and they get liquid Valium, and they
5 send a doctor to get the liquid Valium, and he pays for it
6 out of his pocket, he brings it back to the hotel, and
7 we've got a civilian, nonmedical person, who says,
8 "Huh-uh. You ain't giving it to her."

9 A. It is what happened.

10 I agree that does sound kind of strange.

11 Q. Right.

12 And I think Special Agent Strobe asked you who
13 was in charge, and you kind of drifted around the fact
14 that, maybe, Karduzinski.

15 Wouldn't that give you the impression that this
16 is the guy pulling the strings? If he can tell three
17 doctors who's already gone to all this trouble of getting
18 the liquid Valium and carting it back and sending a doctor
19 to get it with thirty dollars in his pocket, and they come
20 back, and he pulls the plug on this thing, would that give
21 you the impression he's in charge?

22 A. Sure.

23 Q. Thank you.

24 A. I mean, he was definitely in charge of the
25 spiritual side of it.

1 Q. Well --

2 Woah. Woah. Woah --

3 A. Well, I'm not a -- I'm not trained on the
4 spiritual side of things. And I am OT4. I have some
5 understanding of it from that. But I'm not trained on
6 that.

7 And this lady was --

8 Q. I'm not asking you spiritually.

9 Basically, what I asked you, simply, was --

10 A. Okay.

11 Q. -- and I think I'm making you uncomfortable, and
12 I don't mean to do that -- but what I'm trying to get
13 is -- my point across, is that I have three doctors who
14 talked together, okay; they come up with a medical
15 solution to this girl, okay; we send a doctor to get it,
16 with money; and they came back and -- okay; and a
17 nonmedical person made the decision whether she's getting
18 this prescription or not. Is that true?

19 A. The one thing I would say is, we got the Valium
20 in case it was needed. It wasn't gotten as the solution
21 to her problem, okay --

22 Q. All right.

23 A. -- you know, and then it was decided not to be
24 used.

25 Q. November 28th, the last day you saw her, we have

1 some logs in here, that your attorney's familiar with, and
2 we have several of them that are -- listed the 28th and
3 29th that indicate in those logs from laypeople -- and I
4 mean "laypeople" because they're not trained as highly as
5 you are -- that she was becoming very weak. She wasn't
6 eating and drinking. She wasn't -- becoming very weak.

7 I found it odd that you testified just recently
8 that she was jumping around and she looked fine.

9 Now, is that -- you know, that's exactly what
10 you remember on the 28th; she was jumping? It couldn't
11 have been the 25th that she was jumping around?

12 I find it odd these people are saying, on the
13 28th, she was weak. And I thought maybe since you didn't
14 make reports --

15 A. The 28th -- like I said, I was in there a
16 shorter period of time. I went in and gave her the
17 aspirin and Benadryl, and I left, because I had to get
18 to -- go to my course.

19 The 27th, when I was there, she was definitely
20 up and around. Because at one point, she was walking --
21 you know, I stuck around to see if it would have any
22 effect. She was, like, very slowly walking across the
23 room. Then all of the sudden, she just took off.

24 She runs back in the bathroom and stood in the
25 toilet.

1 MR. MCGARRY: Is that "in the toilet"?

2 THE WITNESS: In the toilet.

3 BY SGT. ANDREWS:

4 Q. Stood in the toilet.

5 A. In the toilet.

6 You know -- and that's not the kind of thing you
7 forget.

8 Q. Did you, at that time, see her drink any of her
9 urine or eat any of her feces at that time?

10 A. No, I did not.

11 Q. Okay. Earlier, we talked about PTS, PTS 3's and
12 Type 3's?

13 "PTS" stands for what?

14 A. "Potential Trouble Source."

15 Q. The only -- last question I have is, you were
16 asked about conversations with Dr. Johnson and --

17 A. Mm-hmm.

18 Q. During the time you were taking care of her, did
19 you have conversations with Dr. Johnson?

20 A. I had conversations with Dr. Johnson every day.
21 We worked in the same space.

22 Q. All right. When you came back on the 12th of
23 December --

24 A. Okay.

25 Q. -- did you have conversations after the -- say,

1 the 11th of December? I know you were gone from the 7th
2 to the 11th. After December 11th, did you have
3 conversations with Dr. Johnson?

4 A. We had, maybe, one or two.

5 Q. Do you remember what they were?

6 A. I shouldn't say -- we had plenty of
7 conversations. I'm assuming you want to know about
8 conversations pertaining to this.

9 Q. Let me clear it up.

10 Basically, did Dr. Johnson tell you what
11 happened to Lisa McPherson, and why she died?

12 A. No. I didn't know -- I still don't know for
13 sure why she died. I read the autopsy report that said
14 dehydration and a blood clot to the lungs.

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. I did read that. That was just recently. I saw
17 that in his office. And you also told me that there was
18 some suggestion she might have had a septicemia,
19 generalized blood infection.

20 SGT. ANDREWS: Okay. Thank you.

21 EXAMINATION

22 BY AGENT STROPE:

23 Q. I've just got one question.

24 I hate to beat it to death, but why was this
25 prescription not written in Lisa McPherson's name?

1 A. I don't know.

2 Q. Doesn't it appear to you to be some kind of a
3 ruse? Why would that -- if it's a legitimate deal and
4 Lisa needed these drugs, and a doctor prescribed it, why
5 the game?

6 A. I don't know --

7 It was certainly never intended as any game.

8 Q. Certainly looks that way, doesn't it?

9 "Yes" or "no"?

10 A. I don't know. I mean, I --

11 Q. You don't know?

12 A. I -- at the time, I -- you know -- I had a
13 call -- I was going to go pick it up. Like I said, I
14 don't -- I don't remember whose name it was in. Might be
15 mine, might be Janice. Might be Lisa. I don't know.

16 Q. Do you write prescriptions now, as a dentist?

17 A. Sure. Antibiotics.

18 Q. Just antibiotics?

19 A. Just antibiotics. Since I've been here, I
20 haven't written a prescription for anything stronger than
21 that.

22 Q. But if -- if -- if I were your patient and you
23 were going to write me a prescription, you wouldn't write
24 it in Wayne's name, right?

25 A. No.

1 Q. You'd write it in my name.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Be "up and up."

4 A. Yes.

5 AGENT STROPE: I don't have anything else.

6 MR. McGARRY: Thank you.

7 SGT. ANDREWS: Thank you very much.

8 (Whereupon the statement was concluded at 12:05 p.m.)

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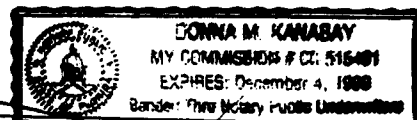
CERTIFICATE OF OATH

STATE OF FLORIDA)

COUNTY OF PINELLAS)

I, the undersigned authority, certify that DAVE HOUGHTON personally appeared before me and was duly sworn.

WITNESS my hand and official seal this 29th day of April,, 1997.



DONNA M. KANABAY, RPR, RMR,
Notary Public - State of Florida.

REPORTER'S DEPOSITION CERTIFICATE

STATE OF FLORIDA)

COUNTY OF PINELLAS)

I, DONNA M. KANABAY, Registered Professional Reporter, certify that I was authorized to and did stenographically report the deposition of DAVE HOUGHTON, and that the transcript is a true and complete record of my stenographic notes.

I further certify that I am not a relative, employee, attorney or counsel of any of the parties, nor am I a relative or employee of any of the parties' attorney or counsel connected with the action, nor am I financially interested in the action.

DATED this 29th day of April, 1997.

DONNA M. KANABAY
RPR, RMR.