



QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE  
STATEMENT OF WITNESS



Occurrence #: \_\_\_\_\_

Statement no.: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 20/04/2007

**Statement of**

Name of witness: PHILLIPS JNR, Jimmy Lawrence

Date of birth: 18/12/1969 Age: 37 Occupation: Engineer

**Police officer taking statement**

Name of police officer: CAMPBELL, Gary Colin

Rank: Detective Sergeant Reg. no.: 6690

Region/Command/Division: Northern Station: Townsville Criminal Investigation Branch

**Statement:**

Jimmy Lawrence PHILLIPS states:

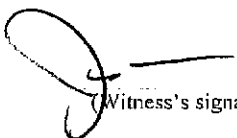
I am a married man, 37 years of age, and reside at an address known to police. I am married to Amanda Lorenz PHILLIPS. We have been married since 2001.

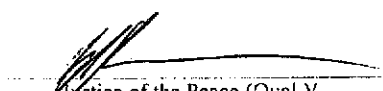
I knew Christina Mae THOMAS. I knew her more commonly as Tina. I knew Tina since about 2000. Tina was a close friend of Amanda. Tina was a bridesmaid of Amanda and Amanda was a bridesmaid of Tina.

I know David Gabriel WATSON. I met David Gabriel WATSON prior to the funeral of Tina. I was introduced to him as Gabe.

Approximately mid 2003 I became aware through Amanda that Tina was going to marry a person by the name of Gabe. I may have met Tina once before the marriage and if I did I do not recall anything memorable about any conversation.

I did not attend to the marriage as I had visitors from out of town.

  
(Witness's signature)

  
(Justice of the Peace (Qual.)  
Commissioner for Declarations's signature)

(Police officer's signature)

CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: PHILLIPS JNR, Jimmy Lawrence

One day in October 2003 I received a page to call my wife Amanda. I called her and she told me that Tina was dead and that it had happened while diving. Amanda was quite upset about this as they were very close and I actually finished work early.

In the next few days of hearing of the death I received an email. It was dated within a few days of Tina's death. The email was addressed from Gabe to a friend with a message for it to be sent to Amanda. There was also a reference to Gabe's father. I had received this email from Amanda. On reading this email it disturbed me that it seemed very well composed for someone who had just lost their wife. There was a reference by Gabe talking about his going to be okay and I found that bothersome under the circumstances.

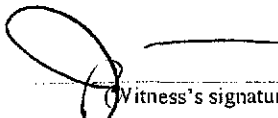
I recall sending this email to a friend of mine to get someone else's perception as I did not want to discuss it with Amanda at the time. My friend's opinion concurred.

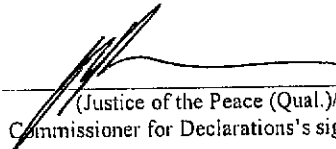
Amanda and I became aware of the funeral arrangements for Tina. We became aware that the funeral was going to be on the 5<sup>th</sup> of November 2003.


Amanda and I attended to Hoover on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of November 2003. Also with us were Amanda's brother Andrew, her mother Ellen, and her sister Karin. We attended to a viewing at the funeral that evening. This was the first time I met Gabe. I was introduced to him briefly and I do not recall anything memorable from that conversation.

I did not talk to many people there apart from Amanda's family and the THOMAS family.

I observed Amanda talking to Gabe at various times. Amanda did not mention anything memorable about those conversations at a later time. The funeral was the next day. Amanda's brother Andrew was one of the pall bearers and Amanda read a poem that she had written for Tina. I do not recall anything significant during the funeral apart from Miss Cindy being upset. I do not recall who that was to or what it was about.

  
(Witness's signature)

  
(Justice of the Peace (Qual.)/  
Commissioner for Declarations's signature)

  
(Police officer's signature)

CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: PHILLIPS JNR, Jimmy Lawrence

I became aware towards the end of the funeral that there was going to be a small gathering at Gabes house to watch the honeymoon video. I became aware of this from Amanda. I did not know who was going to be there until we got there.

We arrived at about dusk which would have been between 4pm and 5pm. We ended up being seated in the den when we arrived after meeting Gabe's parents in the kitchen. The honeymoon video was put on while Amanda, Gabe and I were sitting on the couch. During this I was also being shown a series of photographs. These two acts were concurrently occurring being the viewing of the video and the viewing of the pictures. I did not see the video in its entirety but I do recall seeing vision and hearing verbal references to the packing for and going on a honeymoon.

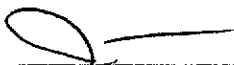
I do recall some references on the video to a zoo, some images of Sydney which I am fairly confident included the Opera House and the surrounding harbour. I do not recall any reference by Gabe on the video regarding a conversation with Tina, smiling for the camera, and a reference to death.

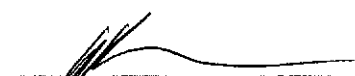
I am saying that this conversation may have occurred but I do not remember due to the time since I saw that video and that I did not see the video in its entirety. This video was going on in the background and I was looking at the pictures.

In relation to the pictures I can say that I was shown a series of several pictures. These pictures disturbed and bothered me at the time and they still do now. These pictures are my most vivid memory of the whole funeral and the viewing the night before. There were numerous pictures to the hazards of the water. It included danger signs on beach's, references to animals in the water that could harm you and potential drowning hazards.

In relation to the references to animals in the water that could harm you and potential drowning hazards I would like to say this. These references were numerous and were definitely in the pictures but may have been in the video aswell.

Gabe may have explained some of the pictures but I do not recall anything significant about what he said.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Witness's signature)

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Justice of the Peace (Qual.)/  
Commissioner for Declarations's signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Police officer's signature)

CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: PHILLIPS JNR, Jimmy Lawrence

Amanda was looking at the photographs next to me but she did not make any comment about them at the time. Amanda and I stayed at Gabes for about one to two hours. When we left I remember a conversation with Amanda specifically about the pictures. I conveyed to Amanda how the pictures disturbed me and Amanda had similar feelings. Amanda may have made reference to the video but due to the time I can not recall if she did.

Amanda and her family and I returned to our home that evening.

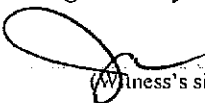
Within a month or so of Tina's funeral there was a football game at the University of Alabama. This is at Tuscaloosa. At short notice we contacted Gabe to see if he wanted to come and visit us while we were there. We met in the car park at a gathering with several other people. Most of us had drunk several beers by then. On his arrival I exchanged greetings with Gabe but did not have much specific conversation with him. I recall he was somewhat reserved and if there were any conversations they were with Amanda.

Towards dusk we moved into the football stadium. This was after we had found a ticket for Gabe. We watched the game till the end and we moved back to the hotel. That night Gabe slept on the floor of our motel room and the next morning we parted.

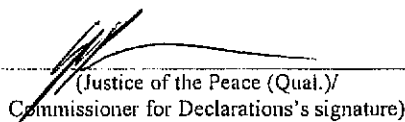
Before Christmas of 2003 a christmas card was received in the mail by Amanda and I. It was a Christmas card with a wedding picture of Gabe and Tina on the front. It had a green border. Inside was a reference "to the good looking guy next to Tina" or words to that effect. I found it bothersome and chalked it up as another odd thing with Gabe.

Sometime in the next several months I recall a conversation with Amanda. Amanda referred to a conversation she had with Gabe however I do not recall any reference as to when this conversation occurred if there was one. In this conversation Gabe had made reference to Amanda to the effect that, "had he spent a few more dollars on insurance he would be in jail".

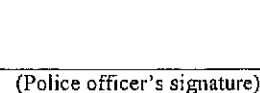
On Friday 20<sup>th</sup> day of April 2007 I attended to the Helena Police Department and took up with Detective Sergeant Gary CAMPBELL. I provided this statement to Detective CAMPBELL.



(Witness's signature)



(Justice of the Peace (Qual.)/  
Commissioner for Declarations's signature)

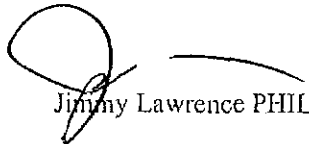


(Police officer's signature)

CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: PHILLIPS JNR, Jimmy Lawrence

I was also shown an email dated the 27<sup>th</sup> day of October 2003 – 21:16:47 from a “Craig YOUNGBLOOD” addressed to my wife Amanda’s email address. I can confirm that this is a copy of the email that I received from Amanda in the days following the death of Tina.

I was also shown an electronic copy of a Christmas bearing a picture of Gabe and Tina and a short message inside from Gabe. I can confirm that this is identical to the Christmas Card we received from Gabe prior to the Christmas of 2003.

  
Jimmy Lawrence PHILLIPS Jnr

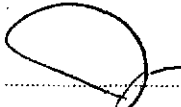
**Oaths Act Declaration**

**OATHS ACT 1867 (DECLARATION)**

I, Jimmy Lawrence PHILLIPS, do solemnly and sincerely declare that:

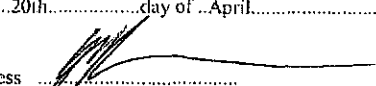
- (1) This written statement by me dated 20/4/2007 and contained in pages numbered 1 to 5 is true to the best of my knowledge and belief; and
- (2) I make this statement knowing that if it were admitted as evidence, I may be liable to prosecution for stating in it anything I know to be false.

and I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true and virtue of the provisions of the Oaths Act 1867

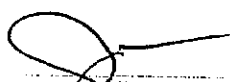
.....Signature

Taken and declared before me at Helena Police Station....

this....20th.....day of ..April.....2007

Witness .....

Justice of the Peace /  
Commissioner of Declarations 66651  
Other (Please State) .....

..... (Witness's signature)  
..... (Justice of the Peace (Qual.)/  
Commissioner for Declarations's signature)  
..... (Police officer's signature)