



**QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE
STATEMENT OF WITNESS**



Statement No.:		Date: 27/04/2007
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Statement of:

Name of witness:	William Edwin THOMAS III	Date of birth:	5/4/1955	Age:	51
Occupation:	Management Training Consultant				

Police officer taking statement:

Name of police officer:	Gary Colin CAMPBELL	Rank:	Detective Sergeant	Reg. No.:	6690
Region/ Command/ Division:	Northern	Station:	Townsville Criminal Investigation Branch		

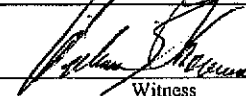
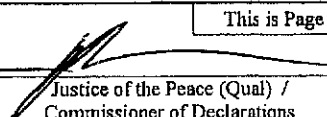
William Edwin THOMAS III states:

I am married man, 51 years of age, and reside at 1936 Seattle Slew Drive, Helena, Alabama, 35080, USA. My wife is Cindy THOMAS and she resides with me. I am currently employed as a Management Training Consultant with AIG-American General Life and Accident Insurance Company. I have been involved in the insurance industry for 29 and a half years. I am fully conversant with numerous life and health insurance policies, their values, product knowledge for both group and individual insurance contracts, and insurance management responsibilities, among other things. I have a living daughter and her name is Alanda Michelle THOMAS. She is 26 years of age and resides at 7572 Spencer Lane, Helena, Alabama, 35080, USA.

I had an older daughter however she died on the 22nd day of October 2003. Her name was Christina Mae THOMAS however her married name was Christina Mae WATSON. At the time of her death she had been married for 10 days to David Gabriel WATSON. I referred to David Gabriel WATSON as Gabe. They were engaged for 6 months prior to their wedding and Tina's subsequent death.

I am aware that prior to their marriage that they had purchased a marital home at 306 Oak Leaf Circle, Hoover, Alabama, 35244, USA. This had been purchased about two months prior to the marriage however Tina had only stayed in the home one night. They spent the first weeks of ownership painting and making improvements to their new home, after which Gabe moved in a few weeks prior to their marriage. Tina was living in Helena with our younger daughter, her sister Alanda, during this time. Tina owned a Mazda Miata convertible. Gabe was not happy with this vehicle, so a couple of months prior to their marriage, he had Tina trade her car in for a Jeep Cherokee. Tina had owned the Miata for approximately one year, it was her little dream car all the way back to her childhood.

Tina was employed from late 1999 to October 2003 at the Parisians Department Store. Her role their just prior to her death was as the manager in the boys department. Her salary at that time was approximately \$33-000 to \$34-000 per annum. I was aware that Tina had an insurance policy as part of her employment package. This was to the value of one year's employment and to a beneficiary of her choice. At the time of the death of Tina, I was the sole beneficiary of that policy. The policy was held with Unum Provident Insurance Company. Each year prior to her death I would sit down with Tina and review this policy with her to ensure she was fully conversant with the provisions of the policy and to clarify if she wanted to vary or change any of those provisions. I did the same thing with Alanda as well. I am aware that there was a provision on the policy of Tina for the life insurance benefit amount to be increased three fold plus an additional year in the event of an accident.

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In effect this means that if the current benefit is \$35-000 it could be increased to a total of \$175-000 for example as a payment to the beneficiary. This would require an increase in the premium to facilitate the increase of the benefit. The premium for the initial benefit was the responsibility of the employer however if you did wish to increase that benefit it was the responsibility of the insured for the additional coverage. The re-enrollment is annually and in effect is the finalisation of the agreement between employer and employee on the benefit changes and premium for the policy for the upcoming year.

Tina's health when I last saw her was very good. This was on the day of her wedding which was the 11th of October 2003. This was the last day I saw Tina alive. Tina did have some health issues when she was younger.

When Tina was a child she was very lethargic at times. This was mis diagnosed on several occasions however as she got older it was subsequently diagnosed as a minor heart condition. Tina was on medication for this condition for some time. Tina had surgery in 2001 which was a curative procedure. This in effect meant that she was cured of that condition. After the surgery the condition did not return and Tina did not need to take any medication. After the surgery and prior to her death I saw no indications of re-occurrence of the minor heart condition and Tina made no mention of any indication that the heart condition had re-occurred.

After the surgery Tina became a lot more active and could do things she previously couldn't do. Cindy at times would try and have Tina slow down but Tina would constantly tell her mother that she was fine now and could do all those things.

I believe it was in January 2003 that Tina came and saw Cindy and I at our home (Tina was still living with us at the time) and we were sitting around talking. Tina told us that she was about to begin scuba diving lessons. I was quite shocked. My response was you have never expressed an interest in scuba diving in your life, why are you considering doing it now. I did not know anything about scuba diving at this time and I knew very little about scuba diving prior to Tina's death.

Tina told me that Gabe had wanted her to do scuba diving and that he wanted her to do it with him.

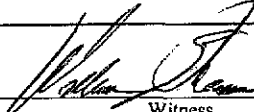
I told her that that was not a very good reason considering it was a sport that was not the safest sport to do and that just because he wanted to scuba dive doesn't mean that she had to.

Cindy said you know that this is a very strenuous sport and even though your heart condition is cured you have never been the real physical type.

Tina said that Gabe wanted her to scuba dive and that she wanted to make him happy.

I expressed my reservations but knew that she would do it anyway but I just wanted her to know that I was concerned and she needed to be careful.

Gabe was aware that Tina had a heart condition and had been the subject of surgery to cure this condition. I remember a time, it was the 15th of February 2003, when Gabe and I met for a coffee at the "Books a Million Coffee Shop" in Hoover, Alabama. When we met Gabe wanted to ask for Tina's hand in marriage. *(Gabe had actually called me on Monday the 10th of February 2003 while I was in Greensberg, Pennsylvania on business. Gabe's intent was to ask me about this over the telephone but I insisted that he should do this in person).*

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Gabe told me that he intended to ask Tina to marry him but he wasn't sure how or when he was going to do this. I told Gabe that he needed to make sure that the how and the when was something very special. Gabe said he understood. I told Gabe that when he made a decision as to when and how, to contact Cindy and me and let us know.

We also talked about Tina scuba diving. I was concerned about Tina scuba diving as my impression of scuba diving was that it was a sport that was physically demanding and not the safest sport a person could get involved in.

Gabe's response was that if he was going to do things that Tina liked to do, she would have to do those things that he liked to do and scuba diving was what he enjoyed doing. This did not sit well with me. I told Gabe that Tina had surgery a few years ago for a heart condition and he told me that he was aware of this and that she was cured of this condition. I told Gabe that we knew that she was cured and she constantly reminded us that she was cured but as parents we were still somewhat over protective because of raising her with that condition. This was acknowledged by Gabe however it did not change his point of view.

I also asked Gabe why he wanted to marry Tina. *(I had never heard him say he loved her nor had Tina ever told me that he had told her that he loved her).*

Gabe told me that his relationship with Tina just felt right. I asked him if he loved Tina and he responded by telling me that he felt that was a "little corny". Gabe told me that he felt they were comfortable together and, once again, their relationship just felt right for him. Gabe did not, at any time, tell me that he loved her, which, as her father, was what I was looking for.

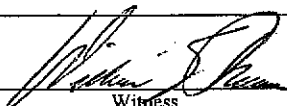
On the weekend following Easter Sunday 2003 I was at home with Cindy. Tina arrived at our home. Tina was quite excited and happy. She showed us a diamond ring and told us that Gabe had proposed to her on Easter Sunday. Tina had waited until she could show us the ring to tell us the engagement was finally official. Tina had told us previously that Gabe had the ring in November 2002 in a bag on top of his television in his condo.

Tina knew from that point on that it was an engagement ring but Gabe had warned her several times that if she attempted to look at it he would take it back. Prior to the engagement becoming official between November 2002 and March 2003 Tina had complained to us that she felt Gabe was teasing her with the ring and that he was using it to get her to do things he wanted her to do. Tina complained to us about this on several separate occasions. I asked her on a couple of occasions why she let him do that to her and she said because she loved him and was hoping one day he would ask her to marry him. Tina told us that they had not set a wedding date at that time but that Gabe wanted a short engagement.

I recall on Friday the 26th day of September 2003 I had arrived home from my work. I had just flown back in from Akron, Ohio. At home was my wife Cindy and my daughter Tina who had dropped over knowing that I was on my way in from the airport. We exchanged greetings and just chatted for a while. We were standing in the kitchen around the island table. This is a table in the centre of our kitchen on which you would prepare food and drinks for meals.

Tina said to me that Gabe had told her that she needed to increase her group life insurance benefit to the maximum and change him to be the sole beneficiary for her insurance policy at work.

I thought this was strange as at that time. I had been in insurance for 25 years and I had never come across a situation where a young soon to be married couple were concerned about these matters at that time.

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I asked Tina did Gabe say why he wanted her to do this.

Tina said that Gabe had told her that now that they were getting married any policies she had should have him to be the sole beneficiary.

I told Tina that her re-enrollment was coming up in November and that she had enough going on with the wedding. I said to Tina that I was surprised that Gabe was thinking of such a thing with the wedding coming up.

Tina asked me what she should tell Gabe as he might ask.


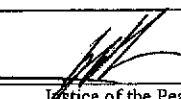
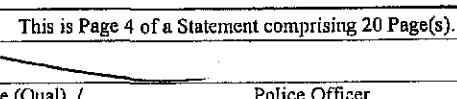
I told Tina to tell Gabe that it was taken care of. Then I told Tina that we (*Tina and I*) would do it on the re-enrollment in November when she got back from her honeymoon.

After that we talked about the upcoming wedding a lot. Some time later Tina headed home. At that time she was living with Alanda for the three months just prior to her wedding. After Tina had left I said to Cindy that the comments by Tina were the strangest damn thing I had heard for a long time. I had worked with couples that were married several years who I could not talk into getting insurance and many of which had not even thought to check beneficiary designations on their insurance long after their marriage. Cindy told me that it sounded strange too. I said to Cindy that it didn't make any sense as the re-enrollment was coming up in November and she would have to make her benefit elections and clarify those details all over again. We then talked about the upcoming wedding for Tina and Gabe.

On the 11th of October 2003 our daughter Tina married David Gabriel WATSON at the Southside Baptist Church, Birmingham, Alabama. The reception was at the Pickwick Hotel, Birmingham, Alabama. This was the last day that I saw Tina alive. The last moment I saw Tina alive, Tina and Gabe were about to go down in an elevator to leave from the reception and I reached in and took Tina's hand and told Tina I loved her and to have a good time. I turned to Gabe and asked him to take care of my baby girl.

On the 22nd day of October 2003 at 8.36am I received a call on my cell phone from David WATSON who is Gabe's father. David WATSON said Tommy are you at the office or are you at the hotel. I said I was at the office. David WATSON said are you alone or are there people around. I said there are people around but I can talk. David WATSON said I don't know any other way of telling you this but there has been an accident and Tina has drowned and then he said here's my preacher. A male voice then came on the other end of the cell phone and asked me if there was anything he could do for me. After that I was not really thinking but I remember saying that I wanted it kept quiet until I could get home and tell my wife and my daughter. The preacher said that they would do the best that they could do to keep it quiet until I got home. At the time I was under the impression that it had just happened.

A work colleague of mine attended to my travel arrangements and I went direct to the airport after going to the motel and getting my clothing etc. At the airport I rang David WATSON back and got his voicemail and left a message for him to call me back. The preacher called me back instead and I asked him for particulars about how Tina died as all I knew was that she had drowned. The preacher said he couldn't tell me anymore but also said that he was afraid that they couldn't keep the information quiet as it was already out. That put me in a panic as I knew that Alanda was going into work. I tried to ring Alanda at home but there was no answer. I tried to ring Alanda at work but the phone was busy every time I rang.

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As I was boarding the plane at the airport in Tallahassee, Florida, Alanda rang back. The first thing she said was what happened to Tina. She was crying and very upset. I asked Alanda how she knew so quick and she said she came into work and that everyone already knew. We talked for a few minutes more. I told her that I didn't know much except for what David WATSON told me. I told her not to leave work alone as I wanted someone with her. I asked to talk to Ceasar Lamonica, who was her boss. I spoke to Ceasar and asked to him to make sure that someone took Alanda home. Ceasar told me that he would get a good friend of Alanda's by the name of Kelli SMITH to take her home and make sure that she got there. I talked to Alanda again and told her that I had to go as they were closing the doors of the plane and I would call her upon arriving in Atlanta where I would be changing flights to get home. The call was then terminated.

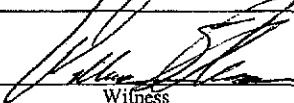
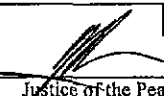
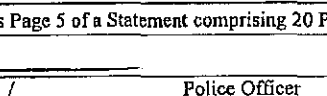
I then had an hour flight from Tallahassee to Atlanta. When I got off the plane I had two messages on the phone. One was from Alanda so I called her back. Alanda told me that she had spoken to Gabe's mother Glenda WATSON and that Glenda was at her home and getting ready to fly to Australia. Alanda said that Glenda had already gotten packed and obtained visa's and was waiting for David WATSON (her husband/Gabe's father) to return home to take her to the airport. Alanda had also asked what had happened and Glenda had told her that they did not know anything except that it was an accident and Tina had drowned. I asked Alanda how her mother (Cindy) was. Alanda said that mother doesn't know as far as she knew. I said that she may be sleeping late and that I was hoping to get home first before she found out. I didn't want Alanda to have to tell her mother that her other daughter had died. The call was then finished.

I also returned a telephone call to John LEONARD and he told me that he already knew about Tina's death. I asked him how he had found out and he said that a friend of his had told him. John asked me what happened and I told him that he knew just as much about what had happened as I knew. John tried to console me as a friend and told me that he would call me later. The call was then finished.

I boarded the plane at Atlanta and flew to Birmingham, Alabama. On arrival I called Alanda as soon as I got in my car and started heading home. Alanda told me that she and Kelli SMITH were at my house along with Kelli's parents, Dennis and Ruthie DUKE. Alanda told me that she had called to her mother at the bedroom door, had woke her up, then went in and told her about Tina. I asked Alanda if she was able to get the telephone to her mother to let me talk to her.

Cindy was hysterical and kept asking what happened, what happened to Tina. I didn't have any answers. Cindy was very upset, she was crying, it was terrible. I got home about thirty or so minutes later. It was around two o'clock on the 22nd day of October 2003 when I got home to my family. It was a very emotional time for Alanda, Cindy and I. Kelli stayed with us although her parents left a couple of hours after I arrived home.

As the afternoon progressed I made several calls to David WATSON's home and work telephone numbers and his cell phone and left messages but did not receive a reply. Dennis Duke, Kelli's father, also made some calls for us. He was trying to find out how to get in touch with someone from the American Consulate in Australia and to hopefully get some information.

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About 5.30pm or 6pm I got a call from Charlene ROBINSON who is with the American consulate in Sydney, Australia. ROBINSON asked me if I knew about what had happened to Tina. I told her that all I knew was that she had been in an accident and that she had drowned. ROBINSON expressed her sympathies and gave me a brief overview of the role of the consulate. ROBINSON asked me if there was anything she could do for me. I said to ROBINSON that I had gotten the news from Gabe's father in a very brief conversation with no specifics and that I had left several messages hoping to get more information but he had not returned my call. I said I did not know how to get in contact with Gabe and I would appreciate anything she could do to get me in contact with him. We needed to find out what had happened to Tina.

ROBINSON said she would see what she could do but that it may take a little while. About an hour later I received a call from ROBINSON stating that she had Gabe on the line. She said that she was going to lay the phone down so that we could speak to him privately as she couldn't hang the telephone up without disconnecting us.

Cindy, Alanda and I were all on telephone extensions. We had all went to the basement and could hear simultaneously what was being said by the person on the other end of the telephone line. Cindy had already said that if we could get Gabe on the line that she wanted to talk first.

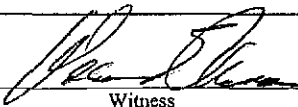
Gabe came on the line. Cindy said something to the effect that Gabe is that you, are you okay. Gabe said that he was okay. Cindy asked Gabe this several times wanting to be sure he was okay. Cindy asked are you hurt. Gabe said no and that he was fine. Cindy said Gabe what happened to Tina. Gabe asked you want to know what happened. Cindy said I want to know exactly what happened, Tina is our daughter we need to know everything.

Gabe said that there were two people in the room with him, he said they were from the dive company, Gabe said give me a moment I am going to ask them to leave. Gabe's voice then became a little muffled but I heard him say I have Tina's parents on the line, could you give us some privacy. I then heard what sounded like a door shutting.

Gabe's voice became clear and he then asked do you want to know everything that happened. Both Cindy and I said that we did.

Gabe said that they were on their first dive, at the 'Yongala' wreck site, and that they had gone in the water. Gabe said that he was not the best judge of distance but that they were down about forty feet. Gabe said that they were swimming along and that Tina had tugged on him, he turned to look at Tina and that she had given him a thumbs up signal.

Gabe explained that this was a signal to go to the surface. Gabe said that he had took her hand and started swimming back towards the anchor rope, which again not being the best judge of distance was about forty feet away. Gabe said that they had made it about halfway, and that Tina was sinking below him.

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Gabe said that at that point he stopped, spun her around, and went down in front of her to maintain eye contact. Gabe said he looked at her and blinked and she blinked back. Gabe said that he squeezed his inflator tube or something, which he explained was a signal to her for her to tell him that she was getting air. Tina squeezed her tube back telling Gabe that she was getting air.

Gabe said that at this point he was about to turn to go back towards to the anchor rope when Tina's hand reached out and she knocked loose his mask. Gabe said that his mask then filled up with water. Gabe said that he then had to let go of Tina to clear his mask. Gabe said that he then cleared his mask, got the mask back in place, looked for Tina and that she was about ten feet below him. Gabe said that he then proceeded to go down after her.

Gabe said that Tina was falling faster than he could go down, that she had her arms stretched upwards towards him, and that he could see her eyes and that she was looking at him. Gabe said that at that point with Tina falling faster than he could go after her he had to make a decision as to whether to continue after her or go for help.

Gabe decided it was better for him to go to the surface for help. Gabe said that he raced to the surface as fast as he could, ripping off his gear on the way, and that when he broke the surface he realised that he came up at the wrong boat.

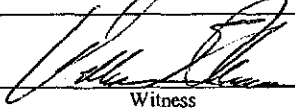
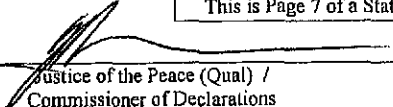
Gabe said that he then started swimming towards the 'Spoilsport' screaming for help. Gabe said that once he got there attention on the 'Spoilsport' two divers went into the water to get Tina. Gabe said that one of these two divers found Tina and brought her up to the other boat.

Cindy was crying and told Gabe that it was ok, that Tina knew he was going for help.

Cindy asked Gabe if he held Tina and called to Tina while they tried to revive her. Gabe said that he did. Cindy, Alanda and I then said that we were sorry. I genuinely felt sorry for Gabe at this time. I said to Gabe that if needed anything then to call us. I asked Gabe to let us know what was happening, and again if he needed anything to call us.

I asked Gabe to bring Tina home as soon as he could. Gabe said that he would. Cindy told Gabe that we knew that Gabe's mother was on her way and that if Gabe needed me to come down than I would. As the call was being finished Cindy told Gabe that we loved him and again that we were very sorry. The call was then terminated.

It was about 6.30 to 7pm in the evening where we were. Gabe didn't tell us where he was staying. When I got off the telephone I relayed everything that Gabe had told me to Kelli SMITH and Leia Travis (Alanda's friends) and Mike and Kim Brashier (our next door neighbors) who were still at our house. Kelli is a scuba diver and made a comment that this doesn't sound right. Kelli then called her father with the information that we had relayed. After Kelli got off the telephone she told us that her father said that this didn't sound right and mentioned a number of reasons as to why.

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For the next four days we didn't get any calls from Gabe or his father. David WATSON's minister, Craig Greer (who spoke to me on the cell phone at the Tallahassee airport) and his wife, Susie Greer (also a minister) came and saw us and consoled us on what had happened. They came every day to see us or if they didn't they rang until the day of the funeral. We have not heard from them since then.

On Sunday, the 26th day of October 2003, David WATSON came to our house with Craig and Susie Greer. David apologised for not returning our calls and for not coming to see us sooner. He told us that he was sorry for our loss, and that he had been a bit uncomfortable since our loss and didn't really know what to say to us. He promised to keep in touch and keep us apprised of what was going on.

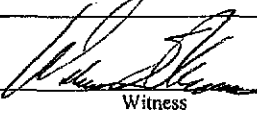
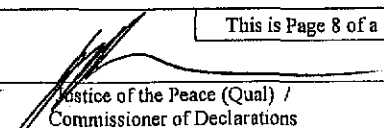
I told David that we wanted to pay for Tina's funeral and would like to go to the funeral home to start making some of the arrangements, would that be ok. Cindy told David that she wanted us to get 4 plots, 1 each for Tina and Gabe (if he wanted one beside Tina) and one each for Cindy and I. David said that would be up to Gabe. Cindy and I didn't have a lot to say to him after that. We did ask if Gabe and his mother were doing okay and asked if he was keeping in regular contact. David stated he was keeping in regular contact with Gabe and his mother. I told David we just wanted to know what was going on and to keep in contact. He left a short time later.

On Monday the 27th day of October 2003 Cindy and I went to the funeral home that morning and asked about making funeral arrangements for our daughter Tina. However Cindy and I were told that we couldn't make any arrangements. We were told that the Watson's had already contacted them with arrangements. I called the Holiday Inn in Townsville. I had no contact numbers so I tried it by chance. Cindy and I wanted to know about the arrangements for bringing Tina home. I spoke to someone at reception and they put me through to Gabe's room.

Gabe answered the telephone and I told him that I had not heard from him and that I wanted to find out if there were any arrangements being made to bring Tina home. Gabe said that there were police interviews, an autopsy and some other issues and that they were working towards getting the arrangements made but that they hadn't been made yet.

I told Gabe that as soon as any arrangements were made to please call and let me know personally and that I didn't want to hear it from someone else. Gabe assured me that he would call me with any arrangements or developments. I asked Gabe how he was doing and if he needed anything, how was his mother and was she staying with him.

Gabe said that he was doing as well as could be expected. Gabe stated that it was good to have his mother there with him and that she was doing fine. I asked Gabe about how Tina was going to be brought home. Gabe said that DAN (Diver Alert Network) was paying for all arrangements until he and Tina got off the plane in Birmingham.

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I said that I would take care of everything else once Tina got back. I said to Gabe I may need something by him such as a power of attorney to authorise me to set up the funeral arrangements, and how would I go about getting that to him. Gabe said he would sort that out when he got back home. I impressed upon Gabe to get Tina home as soon as possible and to let me know if there was any reason why he could not be on the plane with her. I told Gabe I didn't want Tina coming home alone and if needed I would come over and come home on the plane with her. Gabe assured me he would not let Tina come home by herself.

I think Cindy and Alanda then got on the line but they didn't really say much. At this time I was starting to get irritated. I had over the last few days left several messages for David WATSON who hadn't returned any of my calls. The only person who responded to the calls was the preacher or his wife, Craig or Susie Greer, and they had been the ones to arrange for David WATSON to visit with us the day before. The only previous time I had spoken to Gabe was to track him down through the consulate. Gabe had not called me back and then this time I had to find him through the Holiday Inn.

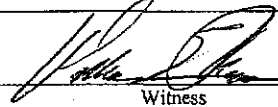
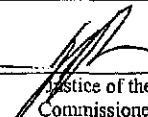
A couple of days later I met David for coffee to talk about the funeral arrangements for Tina. It really wasn't much of a conversation, talked a little bit about Tina, talked a little bit about Gabe, and said that Tina was our daughter and that we would like to have a role in the arrangements. David WATSON was non committal about this, he stated that Tina was Gabe's wife, and that his concern was Gabe first, and felt sure that Gabe would include us in the funeral arrangements.

I had told David that I didn't know anything about scuba diving and I was just starting to learn about it and David said something very similar. I did tell David that I had suggested to Tina that she shouldn't scuba dive but I knew that I couldn't tell her not to do it. David pretty much agreed with that. We parted a short time later.

On Thursday the 30th of October 2003, I received a telephone call from Gabe. Gabe said that he had the travel arrangements for Tina and him. He gave us the itinerary. They were flying from Townsville to Brisbane to Los Angeles and then to Atlanta. They would have to spend a night in Atlanta due to the late flight and would then catch another flight to Birmingham.

Gabe stated that they would leave Townsville on the actual Friday morning. I asked Gabe if he was going to be with Tina the entire way home. Gabe stated that he was and he and his mother would be on the same flight the whole way home. Gabe said he had to go back to the police station to drop off contact information and the itinerary for travel home. Gabe made a comment that they would have to drag him kicking and screaming before he would ever come back to Australia. The call was terminated a short time later, it was not very long call.

On Saturday the 1st day of November 2003 the preacher, Craig Greer, came to see us. He told us that Gabe had had to get off the plane with his mother. That the plane had to make an emergency landing in New Zealand to let Gabe and his mother off but that Tina was still on her way home. The emergency was due to Gabe's ear and it was medical related. We were told Tina would be in Atlanta for the night and that Gabe wouldn't be able to catch up. However Tina would land in Birmingham on Sunday morning and Gabe would be there by Sunday night. That was about all he had to say. He consoled Cindy and Alanda. I walked out of the room. He left a short time later.

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I spoke to Sam SHELTON from the funeral home. He advised that when Tina arrived she would be taken from the plane direct to a location downtown where she would be 'prept' and that she would then be taken to the funeral home. Sam told me that I would not be able to see Tina or her coffin at the airport and that it was best to wait until she arrived at the funeral home.

That Sunday afternoon, the 2nd November 2003, we had a private viewing for the extended family and some very close family friends. The viewing was of Tina at the Southern Heritage funeral home.

Apparently Gabe arrived back in Birmingham that night but we did not hear or speak with him or his immediate family. I was told by Sam that they were attending to the funeral home on the Monday which would have been the 3rd of November 2003 to attend to the funeral arrangements. No one from the WATSON family had told us at that time that this was when the final arrangements would be made.

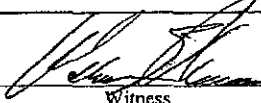
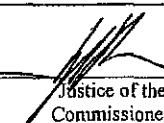
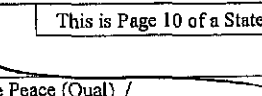
On Monday the 3rd day of November 2003 at about 11am we arrived at the funeral home. Present was Cindy, Alanda, Cindy's brother Gene, Krissie who is Cindy's niece and myself. Present from the WATSON family was Gabe and his mother and father. This was the first time I had seen Gabe since I saw him and Tina in the lift.

We were all in a room with Sam SHELTON and we were discussing the funeral arrangements. Gabe said something about releasing a number of doves at the funeral. Cindy got real upset and said that was something that Tina was against. That Cindy and I had offered to do something like that at the wedding but Tina was against that as she was against birds being caged. Tina was against anything that she perceived as being cruelty to animals. At this point Gabe got upset, got up and made a comment that we needed realise that this was not about us and it was about him. I thought it was about Tina and this really pissed me off.

Gabe said that Tina had told him everything she wanted for her funeral arrangements on the plane on the way to Australia. Gabe also said that it would have been easy for him to have her cremated and buried in Australia if he wanted to and we should be thankful that he brought her back for us. Gabe was angry and then walked out of the room and his father followed a short time later. The comment about the funeral arrangements struck me as very odd. I had never had any conversation with Tina in her whole life, even when she was ill, about her funeral arrangements. Each year when her re-enrollment came up she would treat it as a joke and not take it seriously. She would always make light of such situations and not dwell on things like that to the stage of discussing funeral arrangements and what was to be done on her behalf during the ceremony.

The comment about it being easier to cremate and bury Tina in Australia and that we should be thankful alarmed me as it was another little thing that told me that things were not right.

Glenda WATSON then made the comment that we needed to realise that Tina was Gabe's wife and that he was going through a difficult time and that he thought we blamed him for Tina's death. Up until that point I had not blamed Gabe for Tina's death. I was alarmed, but I had not expressed my concerns to anyone that I thought that Gabe had taken Tina's life.

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Cindy got up and walked out of the room and went over to where Gabe was sitting on a chair. Gene and I followed Cindy out straight after. I saw that Gabe was sitting with his elbows resting on his knee's. I couldn't see where Gabe's father was. Cindy knelt down in front of him and he leaned back away from her. I could here parts of the conversation. From what I could hear Cindy was saying, we don't blame you, we don't blame you, your mother says you believe we do, but we don't, why would you think that we do. Gabe wouldn't look Cindy in the eye. Gabe was not saying anything that I could hear.

After a time we all went back into the room and finished the funeral arrangements. Cindy brought up about having a horse drawn carriage as part of the funeral arrangements. I asked Gabe if this was alright as I knew without his permission he would object to any suggestion that he was not in agreement with. I said I would pay for the all the arrangements and he then said that it would be okay. A short time later we went up and picked out a vault. There were only four of us and it was Gabe, Gene, David and I. A vault was then selected. Gene actually picked the vault and I didn't mind. I turned to Gabe and his father and said is that alright and his father said that they didn't know anything about vaults or funerals anyway and it was okay by them.

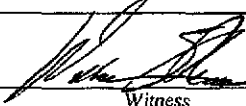
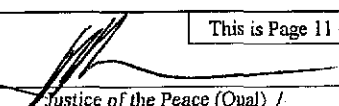
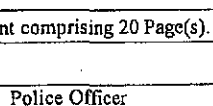
We then went back to the original room to go over the plot selection. This is where Tina would actually rest. It was discussed a bit and then we drove to a location within the cemetery looking towards Oak Mountain. Several plots were pointed and other sections of the cemetery were pointed out aswell. We discussed the view and discussed how much Tina liked Oak Mountain plus being further away from the main roads it would be more peaceful. A plot was agreed upon by all those present.

We then returned back to the funeral home and I made some arrangements with Sam to pay for the funeral and associated costs. Sam advised me to pay for it after the funeral. Gabe and his father were present for this conversation and Gabe was aware that I was happy to cover those costs. There was no dispute over this matter. Gene was also present for this conversation.

I had a dispute with Gabe and his father at this time over a fund that was being set up for donations in lieu of flowers to the World Wildlife Fund. This was being changed to some account for which Gabe had sole access and discretion to disperse funds for the payment of the funeral or whatever he wanted. I was upset over this as Cindy and I were paying for the funeral and people could give money under a misapprehension.

Arrangements were completed for the viewing the next day and the memorial and burial the following day. We all left the funeral home and parted from the WATSON family.

Just before we left the funeral home David WATSON came over to me. Glenda and Gabe were close by and would have heard what was said. David said we need to get Tina's jeep. I said David that's fine, out of respect for Tina, can we wait until after the funeral and I will be happy to take care of that. David said we need to get it as soon as possible. Cindy and Gene were nearby but not as close as Glenda and Gabe and I don't know if Cindy or Gene heard it.

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CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: William Edwin THOMAS III

That night I took Alanda home from my house and I asked her that instead of dealing with all this tomorrow how about we take the jeep over tonight and we don't have to worry about it tomorrow. I asked Alanda if she had the keys. Alanda said she did and I drove the jeep over and parked it in Gabe's driveway. Alanda followed me there and picked me up. We went back to her house and I later went home.

The next morning I got up and got dressed and was about to leave home to go to the funeral home to spend some time with Tina before anyone else got there. On the way down the stairs to leave the house I got a call on the cell phone from David. David said he wanted to touch base with me to see about getting Tina's jeep. I told him that he didn't have to worry about that as I had put it in Gabe's driveway the night before with Alanda. I also said that we had the keys and we would give them to Gabe at the funeral home that afternoon.

David said what about the rest of Tina's stuff and the wedding gifts. I said can all this stuff not wait until after we bury our daughter. David said not really we need to get this done for Gabe as soon as possible. I said you should have brought this up the day before when I took the jeep over and now you will have to wait until after I bury my daughter. I said I am on my way from my home to spend some private time with my daughter and I don't really have the time or the energy to deal with this at the moment.

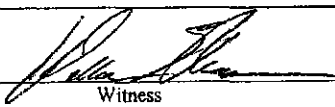
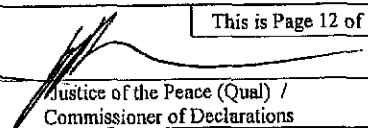
David insisted again that they needed to get everything for Gabe as soon as possible. He then asked is there any reason why they might not get it. I said no, I am going to spend some time with my daughter, I said goodbye and I hung up the phone.

I went downstairs and got into my car to go over to the funeral home. On the way I spoke to Alanda and we discussed the telephone call and I told Alanda that if they could have told us yesterday we could have had it all in the jeep and had it delivered and be done with it.

On arrival at the funeral home I spoke with Sam SHELTON and went and spent some time with my daughter Tina. I got there about 11am. Sam would drop in and be with me every now and then.

While I was at the funeral home my cell phone vibrated on numerous occasions as it was on vibrate if any calls were received. At about 1.30pm I left the funeral home and walked out to my car. While I was in the car I checked my cell and saw that there were a lot of calls from David WATSON and a lot of calls from Cindy. I rang and spoke with Cindy. Cindy was hysterical and she told me that David had rung her and that he and Glenda were on there way over to pick up the presents and Tina's stuff. I told Cindy that I had that all sorted. I drove home as fast as I could. When I got home I pulled up out the front of my house. I had actually pulled up behind the SUV that David and Glenda WATSON had come over in but they were already outside of their vehicle.

I got out of the car and walked over. David and Glenda were talking to Cindy and Gene in the front driveway. Cindy was begging them to wait until after the funeral. Gene was asking them to show some respect. David was insisting that they needed to get the stuff. I told David and Glenda that I thought we had this all sorted out and that we needed time to get ready for the viewing and so did the rest of the family. I asked David could we please have some peace to do that.

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At that time Roman and Maxie BRANTLEY arrived and saw what was going on. Roman came over and suggested that the last thing we needed at this time was this going on and suggested to David and Glenda that if they didn't leave he would call the police. David and Glenda WATSON got into their car and left.

After they left we got ready for the viewing that afternoon. I think it was scheduled for 4pm but we were to be there an hour early to have a private viewing. The extended family and I headed over the funeral home. Just after I got there I was approached by Sam SHELTON, the funeral co-ordinator and Gary LONG, the Funeral Director.

They said that they had been instructed by Gabe and his family that if we said or did anything that they considered derogatory or inappropriate that they would expect the funeral home to call the police and have us removed from the viewing and the later funeral. Sam and Gary said that they knew that this was difficult time for me and my family. They said that they didn't at all agree with what was going on, but if the WATSON's pushed it that they would have to have us removed. I said to Sam and Gary are you trying to tell me that they could have us removed from our own daughters funeral. Sam and Gary said that they have every legal right to do that. Sam and Gary cautioned me about trying to keep the family under control and being careful of our actions and what we said. Sam said he would like to bring the situation under control and for me to meet Gabe before the viewing. I said no problem as I had the keys to Tina's Jeep to give to him.

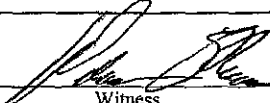
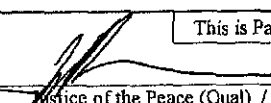
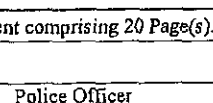
Shortly after that Sam brought Gabe and I together. I gave Gabe the keys to the jeep and he gave me a birth certificate back for Tina from when she was born in Germany. I told Gabe that I really didn't understand what was going on and why it was happening. I asked him why I was being threatened. He did not reply at first, looked at me, and told me that he wanted Tina's stuff. Gabe and I then parted.

After that my family and I stayed most of the time in the viewing room with Tina. During this the WATSON family spent most of their time outside in the foyer or lobby area. This was like the entrance area to the viewing room itself. There was an adjacent room to the foyer area where there were a lot of flowers from family and friends. There were also flowers in the foyer area itself and in the hallway behind the viewing rooms.

There were poster boards set up on the right hand side before you entered the viewing room. They reflected various stages in Tina's life prior to her death. On one of these poster boards were some photographs where Tina did some modelling with Amanda PHILLIPS and Keather PACK. Both PHILLIPS and PACK were Tina's girl friends at Mandeville High School, when we were living in the New Orleans area. Looking at the photographs was Gabe, his father and a woman that I did not know. The woman said something to the effect that Tina had looked like a model. Gabe said no that she just liked to dress up.

I interrupted and said no that Tina was a model and I explained the story to the woman. Gabe said nothing. It struck me that Gabe didn't really know that much about Tina, he didn't know that she had modeled for four years.

The viewing was finished at about 9pm and several members of our family were the last ones to leave.

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The next day I went to the funeral at about 1 pm, but before the rest of the family, and when I got there I was approached by Sam SHELTON. I could see that Sam was in a difficult situation. Sam said that he had been spoken to by David WATSON and was reminded to remind us that if there was any type of disturbance or comments made that we would be removed. I said to Sam the only type of disturbance that would occur is if they tried to remove us.

The service commenced and went for about an hour. During this Gabe got up and made a statement that he wanted to recite a poem that he had received from a friend after Tina had died and while he was still in Australia. Gabe felt that this was an appropriate reflection. Gabe read the poem but to me seemed that he was displaying little emotion. Several people that spoke to us after the funeral referred to his faking what little emotion was shown during the reading of that poem.


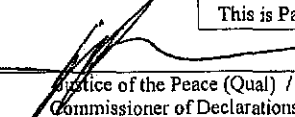
After the death of Tina I spoke with Alanda about the insurance through Tina's employer Parisians. I asked Alanda to contact the employee benefits department as they both worked at the same department store. I asked Alanda to clarify whether Tina had changed the policy beneficiary as I was not sure whether she had followed my advice or not. Alanda said she would do this for me as I could not bear to do this myself at the time.

Alanda told me later that day or the next day that she had spoken to someone who had told her that Tina had not changed the policy beneficiary. Alanda helped me with the paperwork and I made an application to Unum Provident Insurance for the benefit of the policy. I spoke with Brenda BROWN and she assisted with the policy claim. I believe it was during December 2003 I received \$33-024-41 in relation to the claim on Tina's insurance policy.

On the 26th day of March 2006 I went to the Townsville police station and commenced providing this statement to Detective Sergeant Gary CAMPBELL of the Townsville Criminal Investigation Branch. This statement was added to by me in the presence of Detective Sergeant CAMPBELL on the 29th day of March 2006. However the statement was not completed as I need to check some dates on my return to America.

On Thursday, 6 November, 2003, I went to the funeral home to pay for Tina's funeral. After writing a check to pay the funeral expenses, I inquired about the flowers and plants sent to the funeral home by friends, family members, and co-workers, of our family, that had not been placed on the grave. I was told to speak with Sam Shelton. Sam took me into his office and explained to me that the funeral home had been advised by the Watson's that our family was not to be given any of the flowers or plants, regardless of who sent them, that were sent for Tina.

I found this to be another strange event in a string of what had already been a series of strange events. After Tina's wedding the Watson's took most of the flowers from the wedding home with them. With the exception of a small amount paid by the groom we had paid for the bulk of the flowers at the wedding. I could not understand why would they insist that even the flowers sent by our own family, friends, and co-workers of Alanda and myself be left at the funeral home to die instead of letting us take them. Furthermore, I had paid for the funeral with the exception of the plot, which Sam had advised me I had no right to and should not pay for, as the Watson's could move Tina from the plot even if I paid for it.

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On the 12th of November 2003, I was en-route to Jackson, Mississippi to conduct a workshop when I received a voice message from Bob Austin, attorney for Gabe Watson, wanting anything that belonged to Tina turned over to Gabe immediately. I did not respond to the call, as I was not comfortable speaking with Austin and was just trying to pull myself together enough to work.

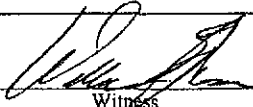
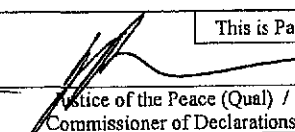
On Thursday, 20 November, 2003, I was returning home early from my second week back at work from Akron, Ohio and received another call from Bob Austin while checking in at the airport. I returned the call shortly after checking in and Austin explained that he was calling because he wanted to set up a meeting at his office with Gabe, he, and myself. I agreed and we scheduled the meeting for Wednesday, 26 November, 2003 (the day before Thanksgiving) as I was off work Thanksgiving week.

On Monday, 24 November, 2003, I met Ken Snyder at 4 pm in the afternoon at Barnes & Nobles bookstore in Hoover, Alabama. I had received a call from the funeral home that Ken had wanted to get in touch with me, if possible, a couple of weeks earlier, and had called Ken per his request. He had told me that he would be in Birmingham on business and would like to meet with me, if possible, at that time...he had explained that he and his wife were on the Spoil Sport with Gabe and Tina, and said that he was a father, had a daughter of his own, and if situations were reversed, knew he would want to talk with someone who was there when it happened to find out as much as possible about the events surrounding her death. I had agreed to the meeting for the aforementioned date, as I was off during the entire week and would be home in Helena when he came to Birmingham. Ken had suggested that we meet away from our home as I explained to him the emotional state that Cindy was in and he felt that our conversation might be too much for her this soon, to which I agreed. I met with Ken Snyder at 4pm and the meeting continued until around 7:30 pm. Alanda and Leia Travis joined us around 5:30 pm, after Alanda got off work.

I later spoke with Senior Constable Glenn Lawrence of the Townsville water police and I had numerous conversations with him concerning Tina's death up to that point.

Late afternoon on Wednesday, 26 November 2003 I kept the scheduled meeting with Bob Austin (Gabe's attorney) and Gabe Watson at Bob Austin's Law Office as Bob had requested. I arrived and was invited into Bob's conference room where he sat at the head of the conference room table, Gabe sat to his right against the far wall of the conference room and I was invited to sit across the table from Gabe to Austin's left (near the conference room door). Austin had a mini-recorder and a legal pad on the table in front of him and explained that he had hoped to get us all together to clear up any issues and insure that any of Tina's belongings were turned over to Gabe. AUSTIN said that as Gabe was the rightful owner since he and Tina were married at the time of her death. I asked Austin if the conversation was being recorded for some reason, and he told me to ignore the recorder, as it was not on. I found that rather strange.

Austin proceeded to tell me that Gabe was Tina's husband, had all rights to Tina, her belongings, to include anything that might be in our possession, etc. He proceeded to tell me that he hoped that any damage in the relationship between the Watson family and ours could be resolved, and any misconceptions might be cleared up. He asked me if there were any issues causing our family concern and I told him that I was concerned about the threats that the Watson's had reportedly made against the funeral home (bringing a lawsuit against them if they allowed us to cause the family any concern at the funeral) and Parisian's where Tina had worked (due to them allowing Alanda and myself to clear out Tina's desk at work and the group insurance).

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I told Austin that I just wanted the Watson's to stop threatening to sue people, he responded that he could not guarantee such, as it may be necessary to bring legal action against liable and/or responsible parties concerning Tina's death and surrounding events following her death.

After he finished telling me everything that Gabe had a right to of Tina's, he asked me if there was anything they could do for me, at which I got very emotional and stated "You could give me my daughter back...alive". Austin stated he was sorry and that he should have known I would say that, at which time I had to excuse myself for a few minutes to the restroom as I was crying and very emotional.

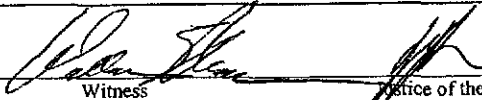
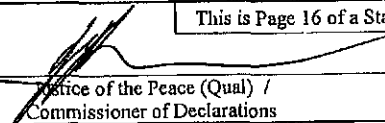
After a few minutes, I regained my composure somewhat and returned to the conference room. Austin asked me if there was anything I wanted to ask Gabe, at which I responded I did and Austin told me to ask. I looked directly at Gabe across the table and asked "When Tina gave you the thumbs up signal to surface, why didn't you just take her directly to the surface". Gabe, looking down and to his left toward the corner of the conference room, replied "She did not give me a thumbs up signal to surface, she gave me a thumb signal toward the anchor rope" (he demonstrated the signal with a thumb pointed to his left. Austin asked if I had any other questions and I said "No, not anymore" as Gabe had just lied to me or at the very least, totally contradicted his initial story to us.

Austin then went on to say, "By the way, Gabe does not have any insurance on Tina" to which I responded "I don't remember asking if he did". Austin told me they just wanted me to know, if I was wondering about it.

As we began to conclude the meeting, Austin asked me, if aside from bringing Tina back, which obviously they could not do, was there anything else they could do for me. I told Austin about the flowers and the events surrounding my paying the funeral bill concerning them. Austin apologized, told me that was a misunderstanding, as was the threats to have me or my family removed from Tina's viewing or the funeral services/funeral. He said that he would see to it that the misunderstanding surrounding the flowers was corrected. Shortly thereafter the meeting concluded. The flowers were never released by the Watson's for the funeral home to give to us. I failed to mention this earlier, but they had taken the flowers/plants they wanted from the funeral home before I had arrived at the funeral home on 6 November to pay the funeral costs.

Over the Thanksgiving week-end, we determined that we would spend the Christmas holidays in Australia, trying to re-trace as best we could Tina's steps in Sydney and her time in Townsville. We also wanted to meet the diver that brought Tina up and tried to save her. I made arrangements for us to do just that.

On Sunday, 21 December 2003, we departed Birmingham for Townsville, Australia, flying from Birmingham, through Chicago and San Francisco to Sydney. We arrived in Sydney on 23 December 2003 and after a short layover in Sydney, departed for Townsville by way of Brisbane, arriving in Townsville that same day, Tuesday 23 December. In Townsville, we stayed at the Holiday Inn Gabe had been when we talked with him following Tina's death.

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003707

CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: William Edwin THOMAS III

We walked around the city pretty much in a daze, just wanting to be where our daughter had been her last days, wondering if we were seeing what she had seen, etc. Due to the Christmas holidays, we were unable to meet with Glenn Lawrence or anyone else we had spoken with in Townsville, as they were on holiday. I did take pictures of Tina to the police station and leave for Glenn to have upon his return from holiday. We spent Christmas Day just being in the town where Tina had been her last day on land and where her body had been until being returned home. In some way, there was some comfort in being where our little girl's spirit had left her.

Although we did not see Glenn Lawrence we did speak with him by phone. We also contacted a Mike Ball office and told them who we were and asked that a meeting be set up with Wade Singleton, the diver that had brought our daughter up, trying to save her. They had Wade call us (at his choice) and we spoke to him for the first time at length, thanking him for what he had tried to do and asking him about his memory of Tina, which to our joy, he remembered her well and fondly shared those memories of his meeting her on the Spoil Sport.

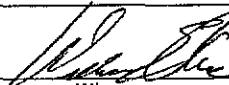

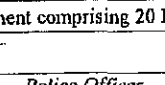
Wade had just left out on another diving expedition aboard the Spoil Sport. In our conversation, I asked him if there was any possibility of our meeting. He advised me that on 28 December the Jazz II would be coming to the Yongala site and that the Spoil Sport would already be there. If I could get a ride out on the Jazz II, he could make arrangements to meet with me for a short period.

Our return flight to Sydney was scheduled to depart Townsville on 27 December 2003. Cindy, Alanda, and I discussed the situation. Of concern were the following. Alanda was pregnant, both Cindy and Alanda were in quite an emotional state and Cindy needed to stay with Alanda as Alanda had not done well on the flight over. It was decided that Cindy and Alanda would go to Sydney as planned, and I would delay my flight until 29 December in order to go out to the Yongala site and meet Wade and whoever else I could that may have seen or talked to Tina or knew of anything concerning her last day. I went to the Jazz II office and was graciously granted a ride along for the trip out to the Yongala site.

On 28 December 2003, I boarded the Jazz II at 6:30 am for the Yongala wreck site. Once at the site and the divers aboard in the water, Wade was brought over and we sat and talked a few minutes, after which he invited me to go back with him to the Spoil Sport for a tour of the boat Tina spent her last moments on. We went back to the Spoil Sport, he took me around the boat and then we spent some private time with the ship's Captain at the helm discussing the events of the day of Tina's death as they recalled them.

I shared very little of what I knew with them, wanting first to find out their story. Wade and I finished our meeting with a soft drink on the rear deck of the Spoil Sport at which time he gave me the gift of a book "S.S. Yongala...Townsville's Titanic" by Max Gleeson. Finding a picture/diagram of the shipwreck in the book as I thumbed through it, I asked Wade to point out to me where he found Tina in relation to the wreck, which he did.

I parted for the Jazz II some time later, telling Wade how much we appreciated what he had tried to do for Tina and expressing Cindy and Alanda's apologies for being unable to make the trip out with me but sharing their heartfelt gratitude, as well.

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CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: William Edwin THOMAS III

Upon returning to the Jazz II, the rest of the diver's were loading and we headed back for Townsville. I talked with the captain of the Jazz II, Justin Rodgers, at length about my findings. We returned to Townsville, arriving around 4:30 that afternoon. I met the crew at a local restaurant and had dinner with them later that evening and I appreciate the time that they gave me.

The next day, 29 December, I flew from Townsville to Sydney to meet Cindy and Alanda. On 30 December we went to the Opera House, as we knew that was one of the places that Tina had seen. Cindy ran around the area outside crying and frantically searching for a place that Tina had sat for a picture on the seawall. We eventually found the exact spot and spent quite a while sitting where she sat, looking at what she would have seen.


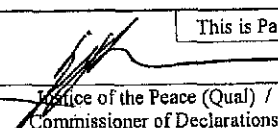
The next day, 31 December 2003, we departed from Sydney for home at 4:15 pm arriving that same date at around 10:40 pm in Birmingham. The next day, I visited Tina's grave that morning just as I had done the day before we left for Australia. I have been to her grave every week, usually over the week-end since I work on the road, with the exception of 4 weeks in over 3 years.

On or about 19 January, Cindy received a letter from Bob Austin that demanded we turn over all Tina's belongings to Gabe. That whatever had been going on with our family, we had more than ample time to do so. (I should note here that Cindy had 2 automobile accidents and a couple of near breakdowns up to this point and that Alanda had been having considerable problems with her pregnancy). Due to all of this, and our trip to Australia, I had not had the time to coordinate delivery of Tina's remaining belongings to Gabe.

I was angered at the letter and the tone of it and decided to call an attorney, Alton Parker, Jr, that had been referred to me as someone I should call about all of this. We set an appointment for 23 January, 2004 at 3:30 pm shortly following my return flight home that week. It was my only visit to Mr. Parker, but he agreed after hearing our story that we needed assistance in avoiding the continued harassment and stressful situation that Austin had kept us under. The following week, on Wednesday, 28 January, Alanda gave birth to our first grandson, William Matthew, almost a month early, due in part to the stress of the trip to Australia but most probably more to the stress, she had been under since the loss of her sister.

The week of 9 February, 2004 was also the first time our flowers had been removed from Tina's grave. I had been replacing the flowers on her grave every 4-6 weeks since about a week after she was buried and the flowers laid at the funeral had just been taken up.

From that time forward, every week-end or two until some time in May 2004, I would put new flowers on Tina's grave because some one would come by sometime during the week while I was out of town on business and take them. I would put the flowers at the grave usually on Saturday, sometime on Sunday, and generally by Tuesday or Wednesday of the following week they would already be gone. Alanda would call and tell me that the flowers were missing as she was visiting the grave during the week while I was out of town.

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CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: William Edwin THOMAS III

On 20 March, 2004, our next door neighbor, Mike Brashier and his son Andrew helped me load the remaining belongings we had of Tina's, including a few wedding presents, a mattress set, bedding items, etc., into a pick-up truck Mike borrowed and deliver them to Gabe's house. This also included the items that we had removed from Tina's desk at work. This had been agreed to through our attorney, Alton Parker.

On 9 June, 2004, Alanda called me (I was out of town working, as usual) to tell me that she had learned that Gabe was having Tina moved the Monday (14 June) before Father's Day. I made a number of calls to authorities in Australia, local authorities, and our attorney to try to get the move stopped. Unfortunately, my efforts were fruitless, however the move was rained out. The move was rescheduled a number of times by Gabe, but each time was delayed by either rain, Gabe changing the date or some other reason. In July 2004, the move was stopped by the District Attorney.

From July 2004 until around January/February 2005, there were no other instances of flowers missing. Then, attempts were made to have Tina exhumed and moved again, and flowers started missing from her grave every week or two again, and after a few weeks, it all suddenly stopped.

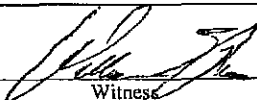
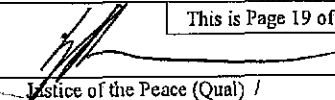
In late September 2005 I received a call from Detective Sergeant Brad Flynn, Helena Police Department, and advised that Gabe had contacted the funeral home, told them the investigation had been concluded and he wanted Tina moved on 7 October.

On the 7th of October 2005 I arrived at the cemetery with a friend, Buddy WOMUCHIL. We were met by Chief Jones, Detective Sergeant Brad Flynn, Doug Glascock (in charge of funeral home grounds), the funeral home director, David Watson and Bob Austin (Gabe's Father and Gabe's attorney). Shortly after, in a slight drizzly mist, Tina's body was dug from the ground, loaded in it's casket on the back of a dump truck, and moved to a different part of the cemetery. Gabe was not present when Tina was moved.

Someone had removed the flowers we had placed on Tina's grave, except one arrangement that was chained to a stake in the ground, the day before Tina was moved. After she was moved, I was the last to leave the new gravesite in the cemetery and returned the next morning to re-stake and chain the flowers from her previous gravesite. From that point forward through to November 22, 2005 Tina's flowers were removed every Monday following my putting out new ones each week-end with the exception of one week-end that I purposely did not put new flowers out just to see if it would stop if I skipped a week. The removal of the flowers continued.

Upon reporting this to Detective Sergeant Flynn, he suggested that I start filing police reports with each flower thefts with the Pelham Police Department (their jurisdiction). I filed the first Police Report on Saturday 15 October, 2005. On the following dates more flowers were reported stolen to the Pelham Police Department. Monday 24 October 2005 the flowers taken from Tina's grave however it was reported on Monday 31 October 2005.

On Monday 31 October 2005 and again on Monday 7 November 2005 the flowers were taken from Tina's grave and the chain cut. That police report was filed on the following Monday, which was 12 November 2005 for both flower thefts. Monday 22 November 2005 Flowers taken and this time chain and stake both were also taken, leaving nothing, and the police report filed 29 November 2005. In all this taking of flowers, there were angels and other items placed on Tina's grave that also came up missing. One was an angel put there that was sent by Evelyn Louise Thomas, Tina's grandmother.

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CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: William Edwin THOMAS III

To this day, there is no headstone on Tina's grave. She lies in an unmarked grave and I have been told I have no right to put a headstone there for her and that I would not be allowed to.

On Friday the 27th day of April 2007 I went to the Helena Police station and finished this statement with Detective Sergeant Gary CAMPBELL. Yesterday I went to my daughter Tina's grave. There is no headstone. The only flowers that were on Tina's grave yesterday were the one's left by my family and the MILSAPS and SNYDERS from Florida.

I think about Tina every day and miss her every day. Tina's death has practically destroyed my family. My wife Cindy is seriously ill due to Tina's death. My other daughter Alanda has health issue's because of the death. I have been terribly stressed over Tina's death and the problems we have had since.

I loved my daughter Tina and I still do.



William Edwin THOMAS III

Oaths Act Declaration

OATHS ACT 1867 (DECLARATION)

I, William Edwin THOMAS III..... do solemnly and sincerely declare that:

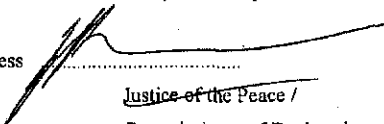
- (1) This written statement by me dated 27/4/2007 and contained in pages numbered 1 to 20 is true to the best of my knowledge and belief; and
- (2) I make this statement knowing that if it were admitted as evidence, I may be liable to prosecution for stating in it anything I know to be false.

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

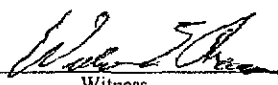
.....Signature

Taken and declared before me at Helena, Alabama

this 27th..... day of April..... 2006

Witness .....

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

			This is Page 20 of a Statement comprising 20 Page(s).		
Witness		Justice of the Peace (Qual) / Commissioner of Declarations		Police Officer	