

Testimony of Amanda Gray

DIRECT EXAMINATION

11

12 BY MR. DOUGLAS MULDER:

13 Q. Would you tell the jury your name,
14 please?

15 A. Amanda Gray.

16

17 THE COURT: How do you spell your last
18 name?

19 THE WITNESS: G-R-A-Y.

20 THE COURT: Thank you.

21

22 BY MR. DOUGLAS MULDER:

23 Q. Where do you live, Ms. Gray?

24 A. McKinney, Texas.

25 Q. And how are you employed?

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1 A. I'm a teacher.

2 Q. Where do you teach?

3 A. Anna, Texas.

4 Q. All right. And so the jury will have

5 some idea where that is, can you tell them where that is,
6 in proximity to Dallas and McKinney?

7 A. It's north of Dallas, and north of

8 McKinney. It's between McKinney and Sherman.

9 Q. Okay. And for how many years have you
10 taught school?

11 A. Eleven.

12 Q. What grade do you teach?

13 A. Sixth.

14 Q. Those children in the sixth grade are

15 what? Eleven or twelve years old, something like that?

16 A. Between 11 and 12.

17 Q. Okay. I guess, you, in your 11 years

18 as a teacher, have seen many, many children and many,
19 many parents with their children, I suspect?

20 A. Yes, I have.

21 Q. Okay. What is your relationship to

22 Darlie Routier?

23 A. I am her husband's cousin.

24 Q. How old were you when -- do you

25 remember back when Darin was born?

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1 A. Yes.

2

3 THE COURT: You have to speak a little
4 louder, ma'am, so this lady over here can hear you.

5 Okay?

6 THE WITNESS: Okay. Is this okay?

7 THE COURT: Very good. Thank you.

8

9 BY MR. DOUGLAS MULDER:

10 Q. Would you say that you have had a
11 close relationship with Darin?

12 A. Yes, I do.

13 Q. Kind of -- how did you look upon
14 Darin?

15 A. Well, when he was born, I was 12. And
16 it was like somebody had given me my own little, living
17 baby to carry around and take care of, and I have always
18 kind of had that relationship with him.

19 Q. Have you maintained that relationship
20 with him throughout the years?

21 A. Yes, I have.

22 Q. Okay. And you have known Darlie, I
23 guess, since she and Darin started dating?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. She has become a member of y'all's
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1 family, has she?

2 A. Yes, she has.

3 Q. And you love her in that way?

4 A. Yes, I do.

5 Q. Okay. Do your parents still live in
6 Lubbock?

7 A. Yes, sir.

8 Q. Do they have occasion to visit you?

9 A. Yes, sir.

10 Q. And when they do, do y'all always
11 visit the -- Darin and Darlie and the boys?

12 A. Yes, we do.

13 Q. Have you had many occasions, Ms. Gray,
14 to observe Darlie in the company of her children?

15 A. Yes, our family was the kind of family
16 that spends Christmas, Thanksgiving, we spent lots of
17 holidays altogether.

18 Q. What type of a mother was Darlie?

19 A. A very devoted, kind, concerned,
20 patient, a lot of patience with the boys.

21 Q. Can you picture in your mind her not
22 being a caring, devoted, very loving mother?

23 A. No, when I think of her, the memory --
24 all of the memories that come to me of her with the boys
25 are of loving, kind, caring, taking care of them, great
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1 concern for them.

2 Q. Did you ever have occasion to ride
3 with the boys out to Lubbock?

4 A. Yes, Sarilda and I took them to
5 Lubbock one time.

6 Q. Can you tell us, did Darlie pack their
7 things?

8 A. Well, I was impressed by the fact that
9 she made each one of them a little lunch kit with -- each
10 one of them had his own little special snacks in the kit
11 and little toys, and she took a lot of care with each one
12 of them so they would be comfortable on the trip to
13 Lubbock.

14 Q. You thought she was a very caring
15 parent?

16 A. Yes, I did.

17 Q. You have seen situations no doubt
18 where the parents have acted like they didn't want the
19 children?

20 A. Yes, and you can usually tell by the
21 way the children act, too, if they don't have a caring
22 parent.

23 Q. You can tell that as a school teacher?

24 A. Yes, sir, I feel like I can.

25 Q. And you counsel with parents and
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1 children alike in the school situation, do you not?

2 A. Yes, sir.

3 Q. Okay. What was Darlie's relationship
4 with her children?

5 A. Very, very caring with them, was
6 almost every time we got together, she would ask me
7 things as a teacher that I felt that she could do to --
8 when they started school, to help them, I told her she
9 needed to read to them as much as she could.

10 Damon had difficulty with his speech
11 and she asked my opinion about what I thought she should
12 do with that, and I said he needed to have his hearing
13 tested, and be tested for allergies; and what kind of
14 toys did I think would be good for them to have to give
15 them a head start before they went to school. Always a
16 lot of concern for them.

17 Q. Always was a very devoted and loving
18 mother?

19 A. I never saw anything but a loving and
20 devoted mother.

21

22 MR. DOUGLAS MULDER: We'll pass the
23 witness.

24 MR. GREG DAVIS: No questions.

25 THE COURT: Thank you, ma'am. Ma'am,
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1 when you are not testifying, you have to remain outside
2 of the Courtroom. Don't talk about your testimony with
3 anybody who has testified. In other words, don't compare
4 it. You may talk to the attorneys for either side. If
5 someone tries to talk to you about your testimony, please
6 tell the attorney for the side who called you. Okay?

7 THE WITNESS: Okay.

8 THE COURT: Watch your step.

9 All right. Your next witness.