

## Testimony of Melanie Lynn Waits

### DIRECT EXAMINATION

21 BY MR. CURTIS GLOVER:

22 Q. Melanie, if you would tell the jury  
23 where you live?

24 A. 1010 Sumner in Mesquite, Texas.

25

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1 THE COURT: Ma'am, speak into the  
2 microphone loudly enough so those two people can hear  
3 you. Okay. Let's try it again.

4 THE WITNESS: 1010 Sumner in Mesquite,  
5 Texas.

6 THE COURT: All right. That's good.

7

8 BY MR. CURTIS GLOVER:

9 Q. All right. Mesquite is a suburb of  
10 Dallas, isn't it?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And are you married?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Do you have children?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. What kind of work do you do?

17 A. Sign, I work for a sign company.

18 Q. Work for a sign company. Is that in  
19 Dallas or in Mesquite?

20 A. Dallas.

21 Q. Okay. And, how many kiddos do you  
22 have?

23 A. Two.

24 Q. What are they, boys or girls?

25 A. I have a boy and a girl.

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1 Q. Their ages?

2 A. Six and three.

3 Q. Okay. And what does your husband do?

4 A. He also works with the sign company,  
5 it's a family owned business.

6 Q. Okay. What do you do there at that  
7 business?

8 A. I help dispatch cranes and also  
9 invoice, that kind of thing.

10 Q. Okay. You create signs for businesses  
11 there in Dallas; is that right?  
12 A. That's correct.  
13 Q. Okay. And you say it's family owned?  
14 A. Yes, sir.  
15 Q. I'll ask you, Melanie, if you know  
16 Darlie Routier?  
17 A. Yes, I do.  
18 Q. How did you meet Darlie?  
19 A. Through mutual friends.  
20 Q. Okay. How long ago would that have  
21 been?  
22 A. About five years.  
23 Q. Do you recall what occasioned y'all  
24 meeting?  
25 A. When we met?  
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1 Q. Yes. What was the circumstance of  
2 your meeting, if you remember?  
3 A. Yes. Our friends, our mutual friend  
4 were moving away to Arizona and we had a -- like a going  
5 away party with all of their friends there and that is  
6 where we met.  
7 Q. Were your husbands with you?  
8 A. Yes.  
9 Q. Okay. I guess you met Darin at that  
10 time?  
11 A. Yes.  
12 Q. You all struck up a friendship?  
13 A. Yes.  
14 Q. And what kind of interest did you have  
15 together during the course of that friendship?  
16 A. Our children, you know, we would call  
17 and get together for birthday parties and send  
18 invitations, that is kind of how we started our  
19 friendship, going to each other's children's birthday  
20 parties.  
21 Q. Okay. Then you have had occasion, I  
22 guess, to see her around her kiddos; is that right?  
23 A. That's correct.  
24 Q. Okay. Tell the jury, in your own  
25 words, what kind of mother you think Darlie has been in  
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1 the past?  
2 A. To me, she has been a very good  
3 mother. Just being around her, she has acted the same as

4 I have, you know, with my children. We would go to these  
5 parties, and everything we do is for our children.

6 Q. The parties that you're speaking of,  
7 were these parties that always included the children?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. They weren't just adult parties, they  
10 were adult as well as for the children?

11 A. Mostly the parties that we went to  
12 were for the children.

13 Q. They weren't adult parties?

14 A. No, Chuck E. Cheese, that kind of  
15 thing.

16 Q. Chuck E. Cheese is kind of a little  
17 place where children can go and have their birthday  
18 parties?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And you, as parents, both took your  
21 kids to those places; is that right?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Okay. Did Darlie delight in her  
24 children?

25 A. Yes.

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1 Q. How about Darin?

2 A. Oh, yes, both of them.

3 Q. Were they a good team with their  
4 children?

5 A. Yes, they were.

6 Q. Okay. It has been indicated that  
7 Darlie uses or has used on occasion bad language,  
8 profanity or curse words in a public place. What do you  
9 know about Darlie and any proclivity for doing that sort  
10 of thing?

11 A. I have never heard Darlie use a cuss  
12 word, not once have I ever in her company.

13 Q. Okay. Describe her personality, if  
14 you will, what kind of person is she? Rude or --

15 A. No, she is very sweet.

16 Q. Have you had occasion to shop with  
17 Darlie over the years?

18 A. Yes, I have.

19 Q. Okay. What would y'all do together?

20 A. We went Christmas shopping, we have  
21 gone shopping for the children before. Most of the time  
22 when I was out with her, we bought clothes for the kids,  
23 things like that.

24 Q. Anything about her that was uppity

25 or --  
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1 A. No.

2 Q. Or thought she was better than other  
3 people?

4 A. No, she is an easygoing, easy to like  
5 person.

6 Q. Okay.

7

8 MR. CURTIS GLOVER: We will pass the  
9 witness.

10

11 CROSS EXAMINATION

12

13 BY MR. GREG DAVIS:

14 Q. Ms. Waits, you mention these parties  
15 that you attended with the defendant, were children  
16 always there at these parties?

17 A. At the children's parties, yes.

18 Q. Were there other parties that you  
19 attended with the defendant where no children were  
20 present?

21 A. At New Year's parties.

22 Q. Did you have occasion to be with her  
23 during the weekend of Mother's Day in '94 or '95?

24 A. Mother's Day?

25 Q. Mother's Day weekend.

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1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Okay. Which of those two years?

3 A. Both.

4 Q. Now, specifically, I'm talking about  
5 the Saturday night before Mother's Day. Were you with  
6 her on those occasions?

7 A. I believe so. I'm trying to remember  
8 what day that was.

9 Q. Well, in 1994, there was a party over  
10 there at 5801 Eagle Drive, was there not?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. And certainly no children were invited  
13 to that party, were they?

14 A. No.

15 Q. Either of the defendant's two sisters  
16 present at that house?

17 A. I don't recall either of them being

18 there.

19 Q. And in 1994, did someone come over  
20 there to the house to provide entertainment?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Who was that?

23 A. It was a male stripper.

24 Q. Do you remember what his name was?

25 A. No, sir.

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1 Q. Master Blaster?

2 A. It could have been. I honestly don't  
3 remember.

4 Q. And that evening, did y'all rent a  
5 limousine also?

6 A. Yes, we did.

7 Q. All of the girls then get in the  
8 limousine and start riding around town after the party  
9 had finished up there at the residence?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. In 1995, during that weekend, again,  
12 going back to that Saturday night, did you and the  
13 defendant and the defendant -- well, going back to 1994,  
14 was Darlie Kee, the defendant's mother, present at that  
15 party in 1994?

16 A. Yes, she was.

17 Q. In '95, again, you, the defendant, her  
18 mother, also present, did y'all rent a room there at the  
19 Anatole Hotel in Dallas?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Who else was present at that party?

22 Who else was present with you in the room there?

23 A. I can't name everyone, but I can --

24 Q. Just as many as you can recall?

25 A. Michelle Ramasine (phonetic), Basia, I  
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1 don't know her last name, Basia's last name, Darlie Kee,  
2 several of the women I had not met previously so I really  
3 can't name them, you know.

4 Q. How about Dana or Danielle Stahl?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. And let's see, Dana would have been,  
7 what, about 15?

8 A. I believe so.

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. I don't recall.

11 Q. Danielle, how old would she have been?

12 A. I don't know how old Danielle is now.  
13 Q. Okay. And, that evening, y'all didn't  
14 stay in the hotel room the whole night, did you?  
15 A. No.  
16 Q. Where did y'all go to celebrate that  
17 night?  
18 A. La Bare's.  
19 Q. Okay. And La Bare's is what?  
20 A. A gentlemen's -- or a ladies, where  
21 ladies go where gentlemen strip.  
22 Q. Strip club for women?  
23 A. Yeah, it's the only one in Dallas.  
24 Q. And, after you finished there, did you  
25 stay the night there at the Anatole?  
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1 A. Yes.  
2 Q. And I guess then, y'all wouldn't have  
3 gotten back home until what, about noon on Mother's Day?  
4 A. Yes.  
5 Q. And again, no children were invited to  
6 that party, were they?  
7 A. No.  
8  
9 MR. GREG DAVIS: That's all the  
10 questions I have, Judge.  
11 THE COURT: You may step down.  
12  
13 REDIRECT EXAMINATION  
14  
15 BY MR. CURTIS GLOVER:  
16 Q. Melanie, that was just a bunch of  
17 girls that got together and celebrated Mother's Day; is  
18 that right?  
19 A. Well, it was more or less a Mother's  
20 Day Out, where once a year the women can get together,  
21 and get away from everything once a year.  
22 Q. Your husbands all knew where you were,  
23 didn't they?  
24 A. That's correct.  
25 Q. Okay. You told your husband and it  
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1 was like a slumber party; is that right?  
2 A. Yeah.  
3 Q. But y'all went back to the hotel,  
4 didn't you?  
5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Okay. Everybody spent the night  
7 there?

8 A. Yes. We took a taxi back and forth.

9 Q. Okay. Did you find anything wrong  
10 with that?

11 A. No. We all had a good time and made  
12 sure that no one was driving. You know, we always made  
13 sure we had transportation there and from, Darlie took  
14 care of that.

15 Q. Okay. Thank you.

16

17 MR. CURTIS GLOVER: We have no more  
18 questions.

19 MR. GREG DAVIS: No further questions,  
20 your Honor.

21 THE COURT: Ma'am, you may step down.

22 Ma'am, when you are not testifying, you have to remain  
23 outside of the Courtroom. Don't talk about your  
24 testimony with anybody who has testified. Don't compare  
25 it.

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1 You may talk to the attorneys for  
2 either side. If someone tries to talk to you about your  
3 testimony, please tell the attorney for the side who  
4 called you. Okay? Watch your step going down, please.  
5 Your next witness.