

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
MCLEAN COUNTY, ILLINOIS

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

v.

BARTON MCNEIL

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No. 98 CF 633

AFFIDAVIT OF ROBERT SIMS

I, Robert L. Sims, being duly sworn, do hereby state as follows:

1. I reside at 1105 N. Evans Street, Bloomington, IL 61701.
2. I am over the age of 18 and am of sound mind to execute this Affidavit.
3. In 1998 Barton McNeil moved into an apartment located at 1106 N. Evans. My girlfriend, Robin Hafley, lived at 1105 N. Evans Street in a two-story home.
4. Mr. McNeil's front apartment door and our front door are directly across the street from one another.
5. One night a month or several weeks before Christina McNeil died, Misook was causing a public disturbance in our neighborhood by screaming and kicking and beating on the door of Mr. McNeil's residence.
6. It was sometime after the sun had set, between 9 pm and midnight as my girlfriend's children were trying to go to sleep. I believe it was a school night.
7. Myself and a neighbor, Dr. Judith Wright, who lived several houses away from Mr. McNeil's apartment complex, called 911.
8. I knew Judith Wright had called 911 as I spoke to her that night regarding the disturbance.
9. Before a marked Bloomington Police squad car with two uniformed officers arrived, I went out onto the street to confront Misook who was kicking the front door and pounding on it, telling her she needed to stop making a racket and to leave the neighborhood.
10. Misook was screaming bloody hell. I don't know what she was mad about but could tell she was thoroughly pissed off about some situation between her and Bart.

11. There was a lot of cussing going on. She cussed me, she cussed Judy, she cussed Bart's next door neighbor Mr. Meredith King.
12. I told her it was late at night and Judy had kids and so did we.
13. I told her it didn't matter what the argument was about and to just shut her mouth.
14. I told her she needed to be quiet telling her it's a quiet neighborhood.
15. Misook then threatened to kill me during this incident and threatened to kill Judy as well.
16. She said she would kill us if we kept sticking our nose where it didn't belong.
17. She said to us all to shut the hell up, go to hell, get out of her face, and if we didn't get out of her face she was going to kill both of us.
18. I remember making a stupid comment and said, "well get it done then".
19. Two officers then arrived driving a car with police markings.
20. As the officers got out of their vehicle, one of the officers recognized Misook calling her by her name.
21. I informed the police officers that Misook had been making a ruckus in the neighborhood and had threatened to kill me and Judy.
22. The officers tried to tell her to shut the hell up and by then she was threatening everybody including them.
23. They ordered Misook to leave the neighborhood which she did.
24. Several weeks later, approximately one to two weeks prior to the Christina McNeil murder, Misook and a friend of hers returned after it was dark.
25. A neighbor that lived next door, Ken Callahan, was on his front porch. His front porch is approximately 15 feet distance from Christina McNeil's bedroom window.
26. He was on his porch late that night as he was having a smoke.

27. He and I witnessed Misook walking along the sidewalk that ran beneath Christina McNeil's bedroom window.
28. Misook did not know that Mr. McNeil's next door neighbor Mr. Callahan was observing her.
29. Barton McNeil was not home at the time.
30. I left my front porch and went over to confront Misook again.
31. I knew it was her as it was the same person I had confronted earlier in which one of the Bloomington Police officers had recognized her.
32. I told her she needed to get out of the neighborhood.
33. Both she and the friend she came with then argued with me.
34. Misook again threatened to murder me and said she would murder my girlfriend Robin as well.
35. Misook's friend finally persuaded her that they should leave before I called police which they did.
36. On the morning of June 16th, my girlfriend Robin Hafley and I heard an ambulance arrive at the McNeil apartment residence.
37. Present at the apartment also was a fire truck, two police cars, two detective vehicles, and a County Coroner vehicle.
38. After everyone left that morning, I saw Barton on his front porch.
39. He was clearly upset about what happened. He was shaking a little bit.
40. I asked him what happened, and he didn't have much to say about anything. He told me that his daughter had died.
41. Later that morning or early afternoon, Judy and I noticed that we saw Bart had gone to run an errand and was no longer at his apartment from what we could tell.
42. We decided to go over and see his residence as we were both curious as to what might have happened.

43. We both noticed immediately the window condition that appeared someone had broken into the apartment.
44. It had two noticeable holes in the screen that would allow a person's fingers to unlatch the locking mechanisms when reaching inside.
45. The screen was also bent and not in its proper track.
46. We both noticed a prominent scuff mark directly beneath the window frame.
47. The apartment complex had been recently painted so the scuff mark stood out.
48. We went to the front of the apartment, and I noticed that plants located along the front of the residence had been trampled.
49. Later that afternoon, I returned with neighbor Ken Callahan and we both observed the same things.
50. Later in the day before the sun had set, I saw that detectives were at Mr. McNeil's residence. Curtains were up and photographs inside the apartment were being taken. Robin noticed this too.
51. I went over and noticed at least one of the officers outside the residence near the bedroom window area.
52. I told the officer that was situated along the walkway that I noticed a scuff mark beneath the window and wanted to make sure they noticed it too.
53. I also told the officer about the trampled plants in the front of the residence.
54. I told him where I lived, pointing to my residence.
55. I was told that the police would come to interview me later that night.
56. They did not come to my residence until the following afternoon or early evening.
57. The next morning, June 17th, around 10 am myself and my girlfriend Robin were on the front porch when an Asian woman I did not recognize came up to our residence and stood in our recently planted flower garden located in our front yard.
58. I heard her speak to Robin and so I came to our front porch.

59. I knew this woman was not Misook.
60. The woman standing in our garden I remember was wearing a Red Lobster work shirt. I recall it being red in color.
61. She wanted to know what we knew happened at the McNeil apartment.
62. Robin told her we did not know anything and asked her to get out our flower garden she was standing in.
63. I noticed that across the street, but in listening distance, was Misook.
64. I remember this as I commented to Robin "there she is" pointing to Misook as Robin up until now had only seen Misook from a distance.
65. They eventually left, getting into a car and driving off.
66. Later that day, two Bloomington police officers came to our residence.
67. They introduced themselves and said they were asking about anything we might have known concerning the death of Christina McNeil.
68. We invited them into our residence.
69. They had brought a tape recorder with them and asked if we would give them permission to tape our interview.
70. We both agreed to being recorded and were together for the time we were interviewed by both detectives.
71. One of the officers then spoke into the recorder to make sure it was recording properly which it appeared it was.
72. The interview began and I explained that we believed the Asian woman who we believed was Bart's girlfriend must have had something to do with it.
73. I explained to them both about the first incident that had taken place between the two of us with Misook causing a public disturbance with myself and Dr. Judith Wright having called 911.
74. I explained that in that incident a Bloomington marked squad car came with two officers.

75. I explained that I had confronted Misook in this earlier incident, and that Misook had threatened to kill me and Dr. Judith Wright who had also called 911 that same night.
76. I explained that one of the patrol officers had recognized Misook calling her by her first name.
77. I explained that Misook had become argumentative with us all and then was told to leave the neighborhood which she did.
78. I explained that weeks later, that Misook had returned to the neighborhood, this time with a friend of hers.
79. I explained that the neighbor whose residence was next to Christina's, both saw Misook at a late hour walking along McNeil's bedroom window that was in complete darkness.
80. I explained that Barton was not home at that time.
81. I explained that Misook was unaware that next door neighbor to Bart, Mr. Callahan, went unobserved by Misook.
82. I explained that we both thought she had been casing the residence on that visit as Barton was not home that evening.
83. I explained that I confronted her on this occasion also telling her that I had called the police even though I had not at the time.
84. I told her I was trying to keep her busy until the cops showed up to take her ass to jail.
85. I told her to just keep on bitching and screaming at me until the cops showed up.
86. She told me in reply to fuck off.
87. She threatened also to kill me at this time and threatened to stab me.
88. Her friend was egging us both on for a while but then told Misook they should leave before the police arrived. Both got into a car and then left.
89. I explained that on the day Christina had died, that in the afternoon myself and Robin had gone up to Barton's apartment to see what we could see.
90. I explained that we both saw the condition of the window observing that it had two holes cut into the screen and not in its track.

91. I explained that we both further saw a scuff mark beneath the window frame.
92. I noticed it as the apartment complex had just been painted not more than a month before that.
93. The scuff mark was about 3 feet or maybe a little more off the ground.
94. I explained that we both saw trampled plants outside the front of the McNeil residence.
95. There were a good bunch of plants in front. You could see that where somebody had their feet.
96. The plants were off to the side to the left and underneath the window.
97. I explained that I returned to the McNeil residence later that same afternoon with Mr. Callahan.
98. I explained that we both saw this same evidence together.
99. I explained that I had also brought all of this same information to the detectives that were at the McNeil residence the night of June 16th.
100. I recall that there were four detectives present.
101. At the time I approached them, they were taping off the yard and taking a lot of photographs of everything.
102. By now I pretty much figured out something bad had happened to the little girl.
103. I also mentioned to the police that his girlfriend had been over there for domestics and carrying on.
104. I explained to the two detectives interviewing us, that earlier in the morning on the same day we were being interviewed, that an Asian friend of Misook, wearing a Red Lobster uniform shirt, had come to our residence.
105. That she had come over not early in the morning but about 10 or 11.
106. That the woman stood in our flower bed that was located right in front of our porch.
107. Robin was on the front porch at the time and then hollered for me.

108. The woman was Asian, dark headed, 5' 4" or 5' 5" maybe and 35 or 140 pounds at the most. She appeared a little bigger than Misook.
109. The woman asked us what we knew about the Christina McNeil death.
110. I told the detectives recording us that I thought it was unusual and stupid at the same time as they wanted to know if he went to jail and what happened to the little girl.
111. I was thinking that Misook who was over near Callahan's home would have known something before we did.
112. The woman in our front yard was adamant a couple times about why he didn't go to jail, and I said why should he go to jail?
113. I told the detectives that I thought to myself, are you trying to tell us something that we don't know?
114. I explained that at the time of our being asked this question, that Bart's girlfriend Misook was nearby and could hear whatever answer that we were willing to give.
115. I explained to the detectives interviewing us that we felt these actions suspicious by both women.
116. I explained that I felt Misook had something to do with the murder.
117. We explained that Barton appeared from what I could tell appeared to be a good father of Christina.
118. I told them that I thought he was a pretty good father as he was always attending to her, and he wouldn't let her run out into the street.
119. I told them he would always take her out for walks and to the park and I would say "Howdy."
120. All my statements for the entire interview were recorded on the tape recorder that the police officers brought with them.
121. The tape recorder was small the detectives used and could fit in a small pocket, so it was approximately 3" x 5".
122. I remember that it was an old style one that used little cassette tapes as compared to modern digital ones used today.

123. On occasion as Robin and I were answering their questions one of the detectives would look at the recorder and say, "speak up".
124. During this interview Robin also answered several questions that were asked and at times would also nod in agreement to what I was saying or would add more to what I was telling or describing to them.
125. The two detectives left at approximately 5:45 pm, thanking us for our time.
126. We expected someone to follow up and ask us to be witnesses but never did.
127. We later learned Barton was found guilty.
128. We did not know what happened to Misook until she strangled her mother-in-law.
129. I am coming forward now on my own free will.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NAUGHT,

Robert L. Sims

Robert L. Sims

11-16-23

Date

Subscribed and sworn before me
on this 16 day of November, 2023.

Rose Connell

Notary Public, State of Illinois



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PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

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BARTON MCNEIL

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No. 98 CF 633

AFFIDAVIT OF ROBIN HAFLEY

I, Robin D. Hafley, being duly sworn and under penalty of perjury, do hereby state as follows:

1. I reside at 1105 N. Evans Street, Bloomington, IL 61701.
2. I am over the age of 18 and am of sound mind to execute this Affidavit.
3. In 1998 Barton McNeil moved into an apartment located at 1106 N. Evans.
4. My boyfriend, Robert L. Sims, and I live at 1105 N. Evans Street in a two-story home.
5. Mr. McNeil's front apartment door and our front door are directly across the street from one another.
6. The distance between our two front doors is approximately 50 feet.
7. One night several weeks before Christina McNeil died, Misook was causing a public disturbance in our neighborhood by screaming and kicking and beating on the door of Mr. McNeil's residence.
8. At the time of the disturbance, I heard the noise coming from across the street as I was in my upstairs bedroom which faces out onto Evans Street.
9. I could hear the noise as my windows in my bedroom were open as the weather was warm. I do not have air conditioning so could hear everything that was going on.
10. I keep a spyglass in my bedroom, so focused it on the person making the noise to see what was going on.
11. I was only able to see mostly the person's back that was making the noise. I could tell it was an Asian woman that was approximately five-foot tall, skinny, dark hair that was shoulder length.

12. She was screaming for Bart real loud, kicking and beating the door. I thought she was going to break down the door. I was surprised she didn't break it down.
13. I know that the incident took place sometime after the sun had set, between 9 pm and midnight as my children were trying to go to sleep.
14. Robert told me he had called police and that they were on their way.
15. He told me he was going out to confront the woman.
16. He went out halfway across the street and she was on him screaming at him.
17. The police arrived and I went back to bed as I thought to myself this was his trouble and I went back to bed.
18. Robert told me the next morning about the previous evening incident that the police had come and that she had threatened to kill him. I told him at the time it was a wonder she didn't as she looked like she could beat somebody up.
19. On the morning of June 16th, my boyfriend Robert Sims and I heard an ambulance arrive at the McNeil apartment residence.
20. Also arriving at Barton's apartment that morning was a fire truck, two police cars, two detective vehicles, and a County Coroner vehicle.
21. We later saw what appeared to be a small body bag removed from the apartment.
22. At the time I thought the little girl must have died from an asthma attack.
23. I thought this as I had met Barton and had learned in conversation she suffered from asthma.
24. At the time he told me about her asthma condition he asked me if it was safe outside for his daughter to ride her tricycle. I told him to stay with her and teach her not to go past certain driveways as the houses had teenagers who drove like maniacs. So he got her to where she would go as far as the neighbor's driveway and then turn around and come back.
25. At first I thought a Medi helicopter would come to take his little girl to Peoria. After the ambulance didn't take anyone away then the coroner van backed up and I said "Oh no, that's the coroner vehicle right there".

26. Robert and I decided to go over after everyone left and just look around. We did not know if Barton was home or not at the time. There is a sidewalk that runs beneath his apartment window that ran to the back of the complex where cars were parked. We walked along this sidewalk.
27. We both noticed immediately the window condition that appeared someone had broken into his apartment.
28. It had two noticeable holes in it and was bent and not in its correct track.
29. The window looked like someone had tried to pull it down but didn't get it back in.
30. We both noticed a scuff mark directly beneath the window frame.
31. The scuff mark looked like it was the toe and the ball and the outer side of a shoe.
32. The scuff mark was located about two feet below the window on the siding.
33. The scuff mark was dark like it was caused by a dark black bottomed shoe.
34. The apartment complex had been recently painted so the scuff mark stood out.
35. Later in the day, we saw that several detectives were at Mr. McNeil's residence.
36. It was evening and they had the curtains raised. I was watching what they were doing with my spyglass.
37. I could see they were tearing the apartment apart and were taking pictures. I could see the refrigerator door was open and they were taking pictures of inside it too.
38. Robert went over to talk to them and then returned letting me know he spoke to one or several of them.
39. The next morning, June 17th, around 10 am, I was on my porch.
40. An Asian woman approached my residence. She had dark hair, a flat face and her hair was half in a ponytail or something.
41. She stood in my recently planted garden that is in my front yard.
42. The woman standing in our garden I remember was wearing a Red Lobster work uniform. It looked like a dress but it is like a shirt and a skirt that they wear. To me, it reminded me of a sailor outfit.

43. She said she was a friend of Misook and Bart's and Misook wanted to know if something happened to Bart.
44. I said not that I know of.
45. She said "why is that tape over the door?". I said I was wondering the same thing why that tape is over the door.
46. The only thing I told her was that Christina probably died of an asthma attack.
47. I said that this is what I thought because I didn't know anything different at that time.
48. She then said something like "Umm, ok" and away she tromped.
49. I thought her showing up was very strange.
50. I thought it was strange as she was asking what happened to Bart.
51. She said she was a friend of Bart's girlfriend.
52. So thought to myself why she wouldn't then know versus my knowing?
53. I noticed before she tromped away, that across the street, but in listening distance, was another Asian woman.
54. I did not know who she was either.
55. Robert then pointed to the woman across the street as he had come out onto the porch while I was talking to the first woman. He told me that the other one was Misook, the same woman that he had confronted twice before in our neighborhood.
56. Later that day, two Bloomington police officers came to our residence.
57. It was evening but still daylight.
58. They introduced themselves and said they were asking about anything we might have known concerning the death of Christina McNeil.
59. They had brought a tape recorder with them and asked if we would give them permission to tape our interview.

60. We both agreed to being recorded.
61. The recorder looked to be about 3" x 5" in size. It could fit in a pocket. They were looking at it and said "speak up."
62. The interview began and I explained that we believed the Asian woman must have had something to do with it.
63. I further told them that anybody could have gone through that window and they told me nope, because the cobwebs weren't disturbed.
64. I said buddy, you come through my window and tell me if the cobwebs are disturbed hours later.
65. Robert and I told them about the condition of the window we saw earlier in the day.
66. We told them about the presence of the scuff mark.
67. The officers said there was no scuff mark.
68. Because of this remark, Robert and I returned a second time to inspect the scuff mark closely after they left either before the sun set or the following day and it was still there.
69. Robert told them about the earlier incident in which he called 911.
70. Robert told them that during that incident she had threatened to kill him.
71. Robert told them that she had threatened to kill neighbor Judith Wright and that she had threatened to kill me too.
72. Robert told them that when police officers responded to his 911 phone call that one of them recognized Misook calling her by her first name.
73. Robert told them about the other incident in which he and neighbor Callahan had witnessed her late at night walking beneath Christina's window at a time that Barton was not home.
74. Robert told them that he had confronted her this second time too.
75. Robert and I told the detectives that we saw the presence of trampled plants in front of the McNeil residence the day the girl died.

76. I also explained I saw trampled flowers between the sidewalk that ran beneath the bedroom window and neighbor Callahan's front porch.
77. Robert explained that he had brought all this same information about the condition of the window screen, scuff mark and presence of trampled plants to the detectives that were at the McNeil residence the night of June 16th.
78. I explained to both detectives that earlier on the same day they were interviewing us both, that an Asian friend of Misook, wearing a Red Lobster uniform shirt, had come to our front yard asking what we knew about the Christina McNeil death.
79. I explained that at the time of our being asked this question by this Asian woman, that Misook was nearby and could hear the answer we gave. Which was I thought she had died of an asthma attack.
80. I explained that Robert and I felt these actions suspicious by both women.
81. I explained that I felt Misook had something to do with the murder.
82. I told the police that I felt Barton was innocent and his girlfriend was guilty.
83. I told them that Barton was the best parent I'd seen on this block in a long time, and he obviously cared for her very much because he stood outside with her and let ride her bike.
84. I told the detectives further that she was very clean and very happy.
85. I told them that if they think Barton did this that they were way out of line.
86. I said several times "Did somebody go through that window?".
87. The detectives responded with "Why would you say that?".
88. I then said that I have had people come through my windows.
89. They said it was not possible somebody went through the window as it was up too high.
90. I told them they were not even close in making this kind of statement. I told them to just think about it. They'd get a hold of that windowsill, put their foot up, get right in.
91. I told them maybe it was the girlfriend as she was the violent one.
92. The detectives then just shrugged it off. They didn't say anything.

93. I was surprised that nobody called us to be witnesses at the trial.

94. All of my statements were recorded on the tape recorder that the police officers brought with them. Their microphone was held out to Robert and I near our mouths for the entire time we spoke.

95. I am coming forward now on my own free will.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NAUGHT,

Robin D. Hafley

Robin D. Hafley

11-16

Date

Subscribed and sworn before me
on this 16 day of November, 2023.

Rose Connell

Notary Public, State of Illinois

