

1 Q] Okay. Can you do that?

2 A] I'd be glad to.

3 Q] Okay. And just one other thing. In terms of the places  
4 where you have worked and performed autopsies, do you have, is  
5 there any set number of tissue slides that you take in  
6 connection with a case?

7 A] It depends on the case; it totally depends on the case. If  
8 it's a sudden infant death syndrome, there's a certain set and  
9 if there's a brain injury, there's another set and if it's a  
10 traffic accident, then it's another number. So I don't have a  
11 particular number.

12 Q] Okay.

13 MR. HOLT: That's all. Thank you, Doctor.

14 MR. PHILLIPSBORN: I have no further questions.

15 MR. BURT: No further questions.

16 THE COURT: All right, you're free to go. Thank  
17 you very much.

18 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

19 THE COURT: Call your next witness.

20 MR. HENDRIX: Judge, we call Gail Grinnel.

21 THE COURT: Raise your right hand and be sworn.

22 (Witness sworn.)

23 THEREUPON,

24 ANGELA GAIL GRINNEL

25 was called as a witness by and on behalf of the Petitioner/

1 Defendant and having been duly sworn was examined and testified  
2 as follows, to-wit:

3 DIRECT-EXAMINATION

4 BY MR. HENDRIX:

5 Q] Gail, will you tell us your name, please?

6 A] Angela Gail Grinell.

7 Q] You are Jason Baldwin's mother; is that right?

8 A] Right.

9 Q] How long, who, realizing that you and Jason have different  
10 last names, I take it that your husband or his biological father  
11 and you are divorced; is that right?

12 A] (Witness nods head affirmatively.)

13 Q] Who was Jason's biological dad?

14 A] Uh, Charles Larry Baldwin.

15 Q] At some point, did y'all divorce?

16 A] Uh, yes.

17 Q] Okay. And did you subsequently remarry?

18 A] Yes.

19 Q] And who did you remarry?

20 A] Terry Ray Grinell.

21 Q] Uh, generally, do you remember how old Jason was around the  
22 time y'all got divorced, or let me put it this way: about how  
23 old Jason was when you married Terry Ray Grinell?

24 A] I think he was about four.

25 Q] A little kid; is that right?

1 A] Uh, he might have been five or six. He was young.

2 Q] Did you and, uh, just tell us quickly about your children.

3 You have Jason; is he the oldest?

4 A] Yes.

5 Q] Who is the next child that you've got?

6 A] Uh, okay now, I don't know what this has got to do with

7 Jason's uh, uh, Jason, uh, coming home.

8 Q] Tricky lawyer questions.

9 A] Oh. Okay.

10 Q] All right. You've got three children?

11 A] Right.

12 Q] Jason; who's next in line?

13 A] Uh, Larry Matthew.

14 Q] And his dad was Larry Baldwin?

15 A] Right.

16 Q] And you have another son?

17 A] Yes.

18 Q] And what's his name?

19 A] Terry Grinell.

20 Q] And I assume Terry Ray Grinell is his biological dad?

21 A] Right. And he passed away.

22 Q] Back in 1993 where were y'all living?

23 A] Uh, Lakeshore Trailer Park.

24 Q] And that's in Lakeshore Park outside of West Memphis?

25 A] It's between West Memphis and Marion, kinda.

1 Q] Okay. Who all was living in your house, Gail, back in  
2 1993?

3 A] Uh...

4 Q] ...you, obviously?

5 A] Right. Uh-huh. I had been head of the household there for  
6 quite a few years. Terry's dad hadn't lived there for a long  
7 time and, uh, and then he came back and then he left again. He  
8 was always coming and leaving.

9 Q] Terry Grinell was?

10 A] Yes, his father; step-father, right. Me and Jason's father  
11 were divorced.

12 Q] Okay. So who else was living in your house back in '93?  
13 Terry, I take it was in and out?

14 A] I mean, what, do you mean at the time, the time, at the - -  
15 which time?

16 Q] Well, let me right to the point. Do you remember May 5<sup>th</sup>  
17 and May 6<sup>th</sup>, 1993?

18 A] Correct.

19 Q] Okay. Specifically on May 5<sup>th</sup> and May 6<sup>th</sup>, 1993, who was  
20 living with you there in the trailer?

21 A] Okay. It was me, Jason, Matthew, my son Terry and a friend  
22 of mine I had met who just kind of pushed himself into the  
23 house, but my - - anyway.

24 Q] Was that Dennis Dent?

25 A] Correct.

1 Q] Okay. So for instance, on the day of, evening of May 5<sup>th</sup>,  
2 1993 there at Lakeshore Trailer Park in your trailer, were  
3 living you, Dennis Dent was there visiting - - did he spend the  
4 night and was he there overnight?

5 A] Yeah, we had, uh, he had just kind of pushed himself into  
6 my apartment, I mean, to my, uh, into our home.

7 Q] Uh-huh?

8 A] And, uh, I had asked him to leave, to go.

9 Q] Uh-huh?

10 A] And he wouldn't go and we had been arguing about that for  
11 some time.

12 Q] But he was there on May 5<sup>th</sup> and May 6<sup>th</sup>?

13 A] Yeah.

14 Q] Jason was living in the home at the time?

15 A] Right.

16 Q] Matthew, and also little Terry; right?

17 A] Correct.

18 Q] Okay. How old was Jason back then?

19 A] He was sixteen.

20 Q] Where was he going to school?

21 A] He was going to school at Marion.

22 Q] Marion High School?

23 A] Marion High School.

24 Q] Uh, how did he get to and from school in those days?

25 A] He rode the bus.

1 Q] Rode the school bus?

2 A] Yes.

3 Q] Okay. Where was Matt - - how old was Matthew?

4 A] Matthew is two years younger.

5 Q] So he would have been fourteenish?

6 A] Yeah.

7 Q] Where was he going to school at the time?

8 A] He was going to school at the same place, at the same  
9 school and they rode the same bus.

10 Q] So they were on the same bus?

11 A] Yeah.

12 Q] Okay. And how old was Terry back then?

13 A] Terry?

14 Q] Little Terry?

15 A] Uh, he was between eight or nine.

16 Q] I'm sorry?

17 A] Between eight and ten, eight and ten years old. It's hard  
18 to remember the correct ages. I know what happened that night.

19 Q] Was he in elementary school, Gail?

20 A] Yeah.

21 Q] Okay. Was he riding the bus, as well?

22 A] Yeah.

23 Q] Was it the same school or was he riding a different bus  
24 than Matthew and Jason?

25 A] Uh, uh, he, uh, I think he rode a different bus to school.

1 Q] Okay. Let's focus in on Jason for a minute. Uh, did Jason  
2 attend school regularly?

3 A] (Pause.)

4 Q] Let's put it another way. Was Jason the type of kid to  
5 skip School?

6 A] (Pause.)

7 Q] Did he like school?

8 A] (Nods head affirmatively.)

9 Q] Okay. He wasn't a - - you didn't have problems with him  
10 skipping school, is that right?

11 A] Huh?

12 Q] You didn't have any problems with him skipping school, is  
13 that right?

14 A] No.

15 Q] Okay. Tell us who some of Jason's friends were back then?

16 A] Uh, well, he had quite a few friends around the trailer  
17 park.

18 Q] Some of the kids at the trailer park?

19 A] Yes.

20 Q] Who else. Can you give us any names?

21 A] I don't know all of their names, but he stayed around the  
22 trailer park pretty much.

23 Q] What kind of kid was he; what did he like to do?

24 A] Uh, well, he had a Nintendo at home, he had a fishing pole  
25 that he liked to go fishing, uh, he had a TV in his room, he had

1 weights in his room, he had, uh, and so, you know, he liked  
2 playing the Nintendo and playing, uh, on the weekends fishing,  
3 we had TV, we had, uh, uh, at that time they didn't have a whole  
4 lot of technology as they do today. We had a DVD player - - not  
5 a DVD player, but...

6 Q] ...VCR?

7 A] VCR and all that kind of stuff, you know.

8 Q] And I've seen the pictures from back then. He was sort of  
9 a slight kid, kind of small built?

10 A] Yeah. He was, he was real short. At the time he was  
11 arrested, Jason was barely my height.

12 Q] Did you, Gail, see, was Jason a violent type of kid, was he  
13 getting in fights, was he a big discipline problem for you?

14 A] No, he wasn't.

15 Q] Was he known as a kid that would like pick on little kids?

16 A] No.

17 Q] Did you see, Gail, anything that caused you concern back  
18 then about Jason being involved in things like witchcraft and  
19 Satanism, the occult, anything like that?

20 A] No, there wasn't. Somebody was trying to spread those  
21 rumors around and he did not. There, there was no such thing  
22 out there.

23 Q] All right. Back, uh, Lakeshore is quite a distance from  
24 West Memphis, isn't it?

25 A] Yeah.



1 Q] Did Jason have a car or access to a car back in those days?

2 A] No. I was gonna try to get a car fixed, try to get him a  
3 car at the time that he got arrested, I was working on getting  
4 him a car.

5 Q] I guess he just - - he was sixteen or had just turned  
6 sixteen at the time, so he was eligible to drive a car, but he  
7 wasn't driving a car back then?

8 A] Right.

9 Q] Gail, a little bit more about you. You were working at the  
10 time; is that right?

11 A] Yeah.

12 Q] Where were you working?

13 A] I was working for Customized Transportation Incorporated.

14 Q] Where was that?

15 A] It was in Memphis.

16 Q] In Memphis?

17 A] Uh-huh.

18 Q] How long did you work there?

19 A] I worked there for quite a few years.

20 Q] What did you do for them?

21 A] I had to do, I had to do a lot of data entry through  
22 typing, uh, answer phones.

23 Q] So you were doing administrative stuff for them?

24 A] Yeah.

25 Q] This is a trucking company, I guess?

1 A] Yeah, I was, uh, I had to do all of that. I worked in the  
2 office. I had to do, if something had to be sent out for parts  
3 for a car, I had to send, I had to make sure it got out.

4 Q] Okay?

5 A] I had to make sure, I had to make sure, I had to key punch  
6 everything in so they could load the freight up on the trucks.  
7 I had to type letters, I, uh, you know, and but I had my own  
8 phone, my own desk and, uh, I was able to call my sons, uh, my  
9 children whenever, and they knew my phone number, they could  
10 call. They knew they could call me at work at any time.

11 Q] And did they?

12 A] Yes. And they hardly ever called me at work. They didn't  
13 have many emergencies at home, uh, but I would always call them.

14 Q] And, and they did not have a lot of emergencies at home.  
15 Was Jason the big brother and taking care of his two little  
16 brothers often times?

17 A] Most of the time; yeah.

18 Q] And did he do a good job at that?

19 A] Yes, he did.

20 Q] What hours were you working back then in 1993?

21 A] Uh, okay, they would switch my hours around. Sometimes I  
22 worked three to eleven, sometimes two to ten. Sometimes I'd  
23 have to work thirty minutes over.

24 Q] 3:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.?

25 A] Yeah. I didn't get a lunch, I didn't take a lunch break at

1 night.

2 Q] What time back then would you generally get home?

3 A] It would take me about thirty minutes to get home.

4 Q] And if I remember right, May 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> is in the week and  
5 you worked during the regular work week, you would have worked  
6 on a Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, is that right?

7 A] Huh?

8 A] Is that right?

9 A] Excuse me?

10 Q] Uh, if I remember right, May 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, I think, was in the  
11 middle of the week. Did you work during the regular week,  
12 Monday through Friday or was it a Tuesday, Wednesday or  
13 Thursday, you would have been working; correct?

14 A] (Witness nods head affirmatively.)

15 Q] Is that a yes?

16 A] (Witness nods head affirmatively.)

17 Q] Now when you were at work, because you go to work in the  
18 afternoon, well, when would the boys get home from school?

19 A] They got home 'tween 3:30 and four.

20 Q] So it was after you had already gone to work?

21 A] 'Tween 3:30 and four, I think is when they got home.

22 Q] Okay. They got home after you had already left for work?

23 A] Right.

24 Q] Okay. And you at the office, you mentioned something about  
25 this: you checked in by telephone with them?

1 A] Yeah.

2 Q] And was that something regular and customary that you did?

3 A] Yeah.

4 Q] What would you do? How often would you call?

5 A] I would call. You see, one good thing about my job, I was  
6 off on weekends and we were able to spend the weekends together  
7 and sometimes, you know, that's the good thing I liked about  
8 that job. I was off of work on the weekends.

9 Q] Well, when you were at work at night and the boys were  
10 home, you wanted to check in with them?

11 A] Yeah.

12 Q] And so how often would you call home on a normal evening?

13 A] (Pause.)

14 Q] Once, five times, ten times?

15 A] Uh, a couple of times.

16 Q] You did a couple of times at night?

17 A] (Witness nods head affirmatively.)

18 Q] And were you calling specifically to talk to Jason because  
19 he was the oldest?

20 A] Uh, just to ask about, see how they were. I always called  
21 and asked how my children were, you know, to help Jason or talk  
22 to Matthew or ask 'em how they were doing, ask 'em if they were  
23 okay.

24 Q] Okay. Now when you would get home at nights, 11:30ish I  
25 think is what you said?

1 A] Yeah. I had, see, I had tried to get a day-time job but  
2 the day-time jobs were filled. I had to work and support my  
3 children.

4 Q] Sure. So when you would get home at night about 11:30 then  
5 what was the typical routine for you when you got home?

6 A] Uh, I would, I would, uh, usually come in, I would check  
7 on, I would look in there on them and, uh, always, that was the  
8 first thing I would ever do and, uh, then, I usually get me, I  
9 cooked dinner before I would go to work. And all they had to do  
10 was heat their dinner up in the microwave. I would go ahead and  
11 cook their dinner first and all they had to do was heat it up in  
12 the microwave.

13 Q] So you would have dinner ready for them?

14 A] Right.

15 Q] Was that sort of Jason's role then to make sure the younger  
16 boys got, in fact, ate dinner that night?

17 A] Yeah.

18 Q] Okay. So you would get home, you would check in on the  
19 boys, 11:30ish midnight, I guess. Typically, were they in bed?

20 A] Huh?

21 Q] Would they be in bed by the time you got home?

22 A] Yeah, they were always.

23 Q] Okay?

24 A] They were always in bed when I got home.

25 Q] So after you checked on the boys, typically, what would you

1 do then?

2 A] I'd prepare myself some dinner, get a book to read and I'd  
3 sit up and watch TV for two or three hours.

4 Q] Kind of relax from the day?

5 A] Yeah, 'cause I wouldn't take a lunch break 'cause I worked  
6 steadily the whole time and, uh, it was real, it was a real hot-  
7 paced job.

8 Q] Uh-huh?

9 A] And I would, uh, actually, you know, it would take me a  
10 while to wind down from work.

11 Q] Sure.

12 A] And I just enjoyed, I didn't, in the day-time I was busy,  
13 'cause I'd be washing dishes, straighten' up the house, the  
14 apart - - no, the house, and, uh, straighten' up the house,  
15 preparing their dinner for that day, goin' grocery shoppin'.

16 Q] Okay. A couple of hours winding down after work when you  
17 got home, so typically, what time would you fall asleep?

18 A] Maybe three or four o'clock in the morning.

19 Q] Three or four?

20 A] Yeah.

21 Q] Where would you sleep, typically?

22 A] On the couch.

23 Q] And let's go through that just for a minute. Where was the  
24 couch that you slept on located?

25 A] In the living room.

1 Q] Okay. Uh, I assume there was a front door to the trailer.  
2 Was there a back door to the trailer?

3 A] Uh, yeah.

4 Q] Okay. From your position on the couch in the living room,  
5 could you see both front and back doors?

6 A] Sometimes I'd sleep back there in the bed but, I don't  
7 know, but two or three times I would sleep on the couch.

8 Q] Okay. And assuming that you're sleeping on the couch, can  
9 you see the front and back doors?

10 A] I just got in the habit of it. I mean, mostly, I always  
11 slept on the couch. And, uh, me and my husband didn't get along  
12 real good and I don't know. I just, I slept on the couch a lot.

13 Q] Could you see the front and the back doors from the living  
14 room?

15 A] Yeah.

16 Q] Okay. Uh, now what time would Jason get up to start a  
17 regular school day?

18 A] Uh, he would get up I think about six, 6:30 in the morning.

19 Q] What time did he have to be at school?

20 A] He had to be at school at eight. He'd always set the alarm  
21 clock in his room.

22 Q] Okay. And, and by that time I know you were asleep and did  
23 Jason then play a role in helping the younger brothers get up?

24 A] Yeah.

25 Q] Get up, get ready for school, brush their teeth; that sort

1 of thing?

2 A] Yeah.

3 Q] What all would he do?

4 A] He would, uh, he would help 'em get ready for school and  
5 get dressed.

6 Q] Okay. So really, if you're falling asleep between 3:00 and  
7 4:00 a.m., Jason is up and getting the boys up around six.

8 We're dealing with two or three hours of time when everybody is  
9 asleep; is that right?

10 A] Huh?

11 Q] That's probably the worst question I've ever asked. Let me  
12 put it this way: Let's change topics a little bit. Explain your  
13 trailer, and I've understood that if you've got a front door and  
14 a back door. On your windows, is there plastic?

15 A] There is plastic stapled on the windows because of the cold  
16 air that came in from the lake.

17 Q] And is that every window on the trailer?

18 A] Yeah.

19 Q] And how was it - - did you say it was stapled to the  
20 windows or the window frames?

21 A] Uh-huh.

22 Q] With what kind of staples?

23 A] What kind of staples? I mean, they had been stapled on  
24 there with the staple gun and on the windows.

25 Q] Are we talking about some big construction type staples, or



1 the little paper staples?

2 A] Big staples. Nobody could just tear through it.

3 Q] And so was the plastic secure on all of the windows?

4 A] Yeah.

5 Q] Does that mean you couldn't get out of a window in your  
6 home?

7 A] Right.

8 Q] So the only way for anybody to get in your house was  
9 through that front door and that back door; right?

10 A] Right. And he couldn't, he couldn't, and so there was, he  
11 was, he was there and nobody was in the back part of the house  
12 or the trailer and it was just, and Jason didn't go nowhere.

13 Q] Okay?

14 A] I didn't go nowhere. And Matthew or Terry didn't go no-  
15 where.

16 Q] Did Jason have his own bedroom?

17 A] Uh-huh.

18 Q] And I take it the two younger boys...

19 A] ...younger boys, he was the oldest so he got his own bed-  
20 room.

21 Q] Okay. So by the time you got home at night, 11:30, you  
22 would be awake for several hours so you would know if somebody  
23 was coming and going throughout your house. During the time  
24 that you were asleep, three and four and Jason was getting up at  
25 six, the only way somebody could get out - - if one of the boys

1 wanted to sneak out of the house, they'd have to go by you;  
2 right?

3 A] Right.

4 Q] Because they couldn't get out of a window?

5 A] Right.

6 Q] All right?

7 A] And they didn't have a habit of sneaking out of the house  
8 anyway.

9 Q] Okay. Next question is, was that something that Jason was  
10 known to do?

11 A] No. No. No.

12 Q] All right. Gail, let's talk now about specifically about  
13 May 5<sup>th</sup> and May 6<sup>th</sup> of 1993. You remember those days very well, I  
14 assume?

15 A] Huh?

16 Q] You remember those days very well; is that correct?

17 A] Right.

18 Q] Okay. Because May 6<sup>th</sup> is when they found the bodies of the  
19 little boys; right?

20 A] Right.

21 Q] Okay. On May 5<sup>th</sup>...

22 A] ...I think I found out about it while I was at work the  
23 next day.

24 Q] On May 6<sup>th</sup>?

25 A] Yeah. Or it was either at work the next day, or from my

1 neighbor, one of my next-door neighbors. I don't remember which  
2 one.

3 Q] Okay. May 5<sup>th</sup> of 1993, did Jason go to school that day?

4 A] Yeah.

5 Q] How do you know that?

6 A] I got his school records.

7 Q] Why did you get his school records?

8 A] 'Cause the, the, the, uh, they told me, the police told me  
9 if I took his school records, they would let Jason come home.

10 Q] What did the school records reflect?

11 A] Uh, they said, reflected that he showed up, he had an award  
12 for being the most punctual student and he also had an award for  
13 being must punctual in class, you know, on time for his classes  
14 at that time.

15 Q] Uh-huh?

16 A] He had a, uh, uh, and he didn't miss any school.

17 Q] Okay. So you, tell us about you getting his school  
18 records. Did you go sit down with the principal?

19 A] Yeah, I went and sat down with, I went to the office and I  
20 told them I needed my son's school records.

21 Q] When was that?

22 A] Huh?

23 Q] When did you do that?

24 A] As soon as the school was open. I was up there like  
25 between 7:30 and eight o'clock that morning. And they told me

1 that night, I called there and they told me if I brought his  
2 school records, he would come home.

3 Q] And, Gail, to give you some time reference, Jason was  
4 arrested June 3<sup>rd</sup>; does that sound right?

5 A] Right.

6 Q] Okay. Would you have gone to the school to get the school  
7 records before he was arrested, or after he was arrested?

8 A] After he was arrested.

9 Q] How soon after he was arrested were you at the school to  
10 get those school records?

11 A] Excuse me?

12 Q] Did you go to the school the next day after his arrest?

13 A] He was arrested that night.

14 Q] Uh-huh?

15 A] When I come in from work, there were police there.

16 Q] Uh-huh?

17 A] And they, I asked them what's going on?

18 Q] Uh-huh?

19 A] And I, I, and they said go in and ask your husband, 'cause  
20 he had come back.

21 Q] Terry?

22 A] Yeah. I had let him come back. I was, I don't know why I  
23 let him come back, uh, one thing...

24 Q] ...oh, let Terry come back. Okay?

25 A] Jason was watching, taking real good care of watching.

1 Q] His younger brothers?

2 A] Yeah. But nobody knew who murdered those children.

3 Q] Okay?

4 A] And I was scared that uh, somebody would come in and hurt  
5 my children, you know?

6 Q] Uh-huh?

7 A] After the murders.

8 Q] Right. And Gail, I'm going to talk to you about that in  
9 just a minute.

10 A] Okay.

11 Q] The question is: It was after Jason was arrested that you  
12 went to the school and got the school records; right?

13 A] Yeah.

14 Q] A day or two, or a month or two after he was arrested?

15 A] After he was arrested, the very night, the very morning.

16 Q] The very next morning?

17 A] (Witness nods head affirmatively.)

18 Q] Good. Then, did you get the records for May 5<sup>th</sup> and May 6<sup>th</sup>?

19 A] Uh, I think they gave 'em to me for, I don't know. I think  
20 the whole month, even.

21 Q] Did they show that he was in school on May 5<sup>th</sup> for the  
22 entire school day and made all of his classes?

23 A] Uh-huh.

24 Q] And on May 6<sup>th</sup> did they show that he was in school all day  
25 and made all classes?

1 A] Uh-huh.

2 Q] Okay.

3 MR. HENDRIX: Excuse me just one second.

4 (Pause.)

5 MR. HENDRIX: My more learned counsel has  
6 suggested that you answer "yes" and "no," instead of  
7 just "uh-huh," but I take "uh-huh" means yes. Fair  
8 enough?

9 THE WITNESS: Yes.

10 MR. HENDRIX: I'm sorry about that.

11 DIRECT-EXAMINATION, continuing:

12 Q] All right. Now let's spend a little bit of time, Gail,  
13 after Jason's arrest. Uh, you ended up talking to the police  
14 pretty quick; isn't that right, like, maybe the next day?

15 A] I called that night.

16 Q] Okay?

17 A] I called the chief of police that night and I asked him  
18 what was going on.

19 Q] Uh-huh?

20 A] And I told him, I said I want my son, you know, to come  
21 home and he said, "I tell you," he said, "you bring Jason's  
22 school records up here and I will let him come home."

23 Q] And you got interviewed by the police on the morning of  
24 June 4<sup>th</sup>, the day after Jason was arrested?

25 A] I talked to him.

1 Q] And did you take those school records?

2 A] I talked to him and I took the school records.

3 Q] Great. Did you also attempt to tell them about the where-  
4 abouts of Jason for the rest of the unaccounted time?

5 A] Actually, he told me if I brought his school records then  
6 he would come home.

7 Q] Okay. And I know...

8 A] ...but before I even got, was able to get to the courthouse  
9 they already had him in the courtroom.

10 Q] For plea and arraignment?

11 MR. HENDRIX: Could she get a glass of water?

12 THE COURT: Sure. I am having a little bit of a  
13 problem figuring out the purpose of this line of  
14 testimony.

15 MR. HENDRIX: And Judge, where I'm going with it  
16 is to both the police and to her trial attorneys. She  
17 was able to gather sufficient evidence and witnesses  
18 regarding an alibi defense that wasn't presented.

19 THE COURT: All right.

20 DIRECT-EXAMINATION, continuing:

21 Q] Uh, so you gave them the school records which accounted for  
22 Jason's whereabouts for the school day eight to 3:30 on May 5<sup>th</sup>  
23 and 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 on May 6<sup>th</sup>; right?

24 A] Yes, I did.

25 Q] Then did you also attempt to account for Jason's time from

1 after school May 5<sup>th</sup> until he got to school on May 6<sup>th</sup>?

2 A] Later on, after they didn't let him go.

3 Q] What did you find out?

4 A] I tried to find out, uh, everything. We talked, I mean, I  
5 talked, my, my, uh, somebody, my uncle said he mowed, come over  
6 and mowed his yard and that was in West Memphis.

7 Q] I beg your pardon?

8 A] My uncle said he come over and mowed his yard.

9 Q] And who is the uncle?

10 A] Uh, his Uncle Hubert said he come over and mowed his yard.  
11 And he went to Wal-Mart and played some video games there.

12 Q] And was he with somebody - - and I'm going to take one step  
13 back. Back when Uncle Hubert, that's Hubert Bartouch; is that  
14 correct?

15 A] Correct.

16 Q] And you, you talked to Uncle Hubert and were you told that  
17 Jason had come over that afternoon and mowed his yard?

18 A] Uh-huh.

19 Q] And then you mentioned about going to Wal-Mart and playing  
20 video games?

21 A] That's what, uh, yeah.

22 Q] And was he with somebody?

23 A] Uh, he was with Kent Watkins, I think.

24 Q] Okay. Then...

25 A] ...or somebody, yeah, I think Kent Watkins.



1 Q] Okay. And then Dennis Dent was staying at the house, at  
2 the trailer at the time, too; right?

3 A] Uh-huh.

4 Q] And did you talk to him and did he say Jason was home that  
5 evening?

6 A] Huh?

7 Q] Did Dennis confirm that Jason was at home that evening?

8 A] Yeah, he said, uh, he said he was gone to Wal-Mart that  
9 day, too.

10 Q] Okay?

11 A] And, uh, and then, uh, he, uh.

12 Q] Okay. Here's my next question.

13 A] He was gone part of the day and he said Jason came in and  
14 he saw Jason about eight, 7:30 or eight.

15 Q] And did you, as you typically would do, call home that  
16 evening from work?

17 A] (Witness nods head affirmatively.)

18 Q] And did you do so?

19 A] Yes, sir.

20 Q] Did you talk to Jason that evening?

21 A] Uh, I think when I called home, he was already in bed. I'm  
22 not sure if I talked to him or not.

23 Q] Okay. But you confirmed that he was there?

24 A] Yeah.

25 Q] Okay?

1 A] I'm not, I think I did talk to him. It's hard to remember  
2 now, exactly.

3 Q] I understand. Uh, at any time after, uh, May 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup>, or  
4 on May 6<sup>th</sup> or any time thereafter, did you ever run across...

5 A] ...he was home.

6 Q] Okay. Did you ever run across any clothing of Jason's that  
7 was bloody?

8 A] No. There was no bloody clothes in our house.

9 Q] Now on May 6<sup>th</sup> the police discovered the bodies of those  
10 three little boys; right?

11 A] Huh?

12 Q] Out in Robin Hood woods? On May 6<sup>th</sup>, the police found the  
13 bodies of those three little boys; right?

14 A] That's what they, yeah, that's what I was told.

15 Q] Okay. Jason got arrested on June 3<sup>rd</sup>; okay?

16 A] (Witness nods head affirmatively.)

17 Q] Yes?

18 A] (Witness nods head affirmatively.)

19 Q] Did you notice any changes in Jason any time on May 6<sup>th</sup>?

20 A] No.

21 Q] Or any time thereafter?

22 A] No. But nobody knew who killed those children. I don't  
23 know. And they kept saying, like, uh, and, uh, uh, I was trying  
24 to help my, I was trying to, oh, I'm trying to say yes. We  
25 prayed that whoever killed those children would be found.

1 Actually, me and my children, all did. And I never dreamed in  
2 my wildest dreams that they would arrest him for it.

3 Q] Right. In my senses that I was in at the time, but we  
4 got the sense that the community became very concerned; every  
5 parent became very concerned?

6 A] Yeah. Everybody was concerned. We, I was concerned about  
7 my children. I told Jason, I said, "watch your younger brothers  
8 real carefully," 'cause nobody knew who did it.

9 Q] So you sat down and talked to Jason about the disappearance  
10 of the little boys; is that right?

11 A] Huh?

12 Q] You and Jason talked about the disappearance of the little  
13 boys; right?

14 A] Uh-huh.

15 Q] How did Jason react to that?

16 A] We didn't know, actually, we didn't know any of those  
17 people, you know. You know, we didn't know any of 'em. I, I, I  
18 didn't know, I had never met any of those people in my life. I  
19 had never in my whole life met any of those people in my whole  
20 life. And, and neither had Jason. And, uh, and, uh, and, uh...

21 Q] ...Gail, sort of starting back on...

22 A] ...but when we heard about the children being killed, and  
23 we prayed that whoever, we really sat down and prayed that who-  
24 ever had killed them would be caught.

25 Q] Right.

1 A] And I never dreamed in my wildest dreams they were going to  
2 arrest my son.

3 Q] And I assume as fundamental, that at no point in time did  
4 Jason ever tell you he was involved in any of this or give you  
5 any reason to suspect that he was involved

6 A] He said that he was not. And he, he didn't know. He, he  
7 didn't know nothing about it. He didn't even know them people.

8 Q] And in fact, other than now being concerned for his own two  
9 little brothers, did he react about anything in any abnormal way  
10 after the disappearance of the little boys?

11 A] No, no, we were just more careful. Everybody was more  
12 careful. Uh, he was more careful, he was watching his brothers  
13 more carefully.

14 Q] Okay?

15 A] I told him, I said, "watch your brothers real carefully,"  
16 you know, 'cause nobody knew who killed those children.

17 Q] Now Jason knew Damian Echols and Jessie Misskelley at the  
18 time; right?

19 A] Yeah.

20 Q] Uh, and describe, first, talk about Jessie. Were Jason and  
21 Jessie buddies?

22 A] No.

23 Q] Why not?

24 A] I don't know, uh, something to do with some T-shirts and he  
25 went to the skatin' ring one night and they tried to steal,

1 Jason came home and told me that Jessie tried to steal a neck-  
2 lace of his. This was after the murders. At one time they had  
3 been friends.

4 Q] Uh-huh?

5 A] Kind of.

6 Q] Uh-huh?

7 A] And they moved from the trailer park and, uh, Jessie had  
8 stolen some shirts, uh, he got, uh, he had borrowed some shirts  
9 from Jason and Jason couldn't, he gave 'em to somebody that  
10 Jason couldn't get 'em back from.

11 Q] Uh-huh. So in May of 1993, were Jason and Jessie hanging  
12 out together as buddies?

13 A] No.

14 Q] Okay?

15 A] And you know, Jessie didn't come to our house. He took off  
16 and went, he came over to our, he popped up before the murders  
17 of those children and came over to our house and said he had  
18 just got back from California.

19 Q] Are you talking about Jessie?

20 A] Yeah.

21 Q] Okay. And Jessie is not living in Lakeshore Trailer Park;  
22 he's not a neighbor; right?

23 A] Right.

24 Q] Okay. And Jason knew Damien; right?

25 A] (Pause.) Yeah.

1 Q] Okay. Were they good buddies?

2 A] They weren't best friends. They were friends, but Jason  
3 had other friends also.

4 Q] But they hung out?

5 A] But they, Damien had separate friends that weren't friends  
6 with Jason.

7 Q] But I gather it's a different sort of friendship then, with  
8 Jessie; am I right? In my sense that I'm hearing you say is  
9 Jason and Jessie were not buddies at the time, there had been  
10 some falling out? Jason and Damien were buddies and Jason and  
11 Jessie were buddies?

12 A] They weren't real - - no they weren't close friends, they,  
13 uh, and Jessie and Jason weren't real close. Jason wasn't, uh,  
14 didn't hang out with Damien a whole lot.

15 Q] Uh-huh?

16 A] He had kind of quit hanging out with Damien.

17 Q] Okay. Now, Gail, going back to when you got interviewed by  
18 the police on June 4<sup>th</sup> of 1993, did you tell them, you gave them  
19 the school records that proved where he was?

20 A] I mean, he had other friends besides Damien.

21 Q] I understand. Like Ken Watkins?

22 A] Yeah, he had a lot of friends. And Damien had friends.

23 Q] Sure.

24 A] That wasn't friendly with, didn't know Jason.

25 Q] When you got interviewed by the police the day after Jason

1 got arrested, we know that you gave them the school records for  
2 May 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> that put Jason in school on those two days; right?

3 A] (Witness nods head affirmatively.)

4 Q] Yes, ma'am?

5 A] Excuse me?

6 Q] You gave the police the school records?

7 A] (Pause.) Uh, yes, I did. I gave the police the school  
8 records the day after he was arrested, June, uh, he was arrested  
9 June 3<sup>rd</sup>. It was June 4<sup>th</sup> when I gave 'em the records, 'cause I  
10 had to go to the school and get, I had to go to the school and  
11 get the records.

12 Q] Understood.

13 A] Or that's when they, they took him, or they, they, it  
14 seemed like they were just kidnapped or something, in a way.

15 Q] You had also told the police about Jason mowing Uncle Hu-  
16 bert's lawn the afternoon of May 5<sup>th</sup>; is that right?

17 A] (Pause.)

18 Q] And if it refreshes your recollection, uh, Gail, I'm look-  
19 ing at the transcript of that interview.

20 A] All I know is that Jason went and spent the night with  
21 Damien that night.

22 Q] What night?

23 A] On June the 3<sup>rd</sup>.

24 Q] Oh. On June 3<sup>rd</sup> when he got arrested. Sure.

25 A] And, uh, that's when he got arrested.

1 Q] Right. Understood.

2 A] Uh, they come up, the police went over there.

3 Q] Okay?

4 A] And I wish I hadn't of let him go over there and spend the  
5 night.

6 Q] Uh-huh. You told the police...

7 A] ...they weren't best friends.

8 Q] Understood.

9 A] You know, he had other friends.

10 Q] On Uncle Hubert mowing the lawn that day, May 5<sup>th</sup>, you told  
11 the police that; right?

12 A] Uh-huh.

13 Q] And did you also tell them that Jason had been to Wal-Mart  
14 playing video games?

15 A] (Pause.) Yeah.

16 Q] Okay. And if the transcript of your interview shows that  
17 you said he had been to Uncle Herbert's at about 4:30 after he  
18 got out school from 4:30 to 6:30; uh, you said "my uncle paid  
19 him and he said he was going to go down to Wal-Mart to play some  
20 video games. Does that refresh your recollection of what you  
21 told the police?

22 A] Yeah.

23 Q] Okay. And did you tell them that he was also baby-sitting  
24 his younger brothers?

25 A] (Pause.) Excuse me?



1 Q] Do you remember also telling them that Jason was baby-sit-  
2 ting his younger brothers?

3 A] Uh, that time, 'cause Dennis wasn't there, I mean, Jason,  
4 uh, I don't know why Jason went over there to mow the yard. I  
5 saw, I know, I don't know why he went over there to mow the  
6 yard.

7 Q] Okay.

8 A] I wish he would of waited, he could of waited until the  
9 weekend.

10 Q] Okay. But you remember telling the police those things to  
11 account where, for Jason's whereabouts?

12 A] Yeah.

13 Q] Okay. Jason gets arrested and it's fairly soon thereafter  
14 he is appointed two attorneys, Paul Ford and Robin Wadley; do  
15 you remember that?

16 A] (Pause.)

17 Q] Do you remember that?

18 A] Yeah.

19 Q] You remember his two attorneys?

20 A] Right.

21 Q] And did you meet with his two lawyers?

22 A] I met with two of 'em; yeah.

23 Q] Was that Paul Ford and Robin Wadley?

24 A] Yeah.

25 Q] How often or how many times...

1 A] ...I didn't meet Robin Wadley very many times and, uh, as a  
2 matter of fact, he made a comment one time to Brent Davis he  
3 didn't know how he got stuck in that situation.

4 Q] Do you mean by representing Jason?

5 A] Right.

6 Q] How many times do you remember, Gail, meeting with either  
7 Paul Ford or Robin Wadley?

8 A] I met with, I met with Paul Ford a lot of times.

9 Q] Okay. And did you tell Paul all of those things you had  
10 told the police, did you give or tell Paul Ford or Robin about  
11 the those school records that showed Jason being in school?

12 A] Yeah.

13 Q] Did you tell them about him going over to Uncle Hubert's  
14 and mowing the lawn?

15 A] Yeah. And he went over there and made out a transcript.  
16 He, he, they, he, uh, gave them a statement.

17 Q] Okay. Gail, did you tell Paul and Robin about Jason play-  
18 ing video games at the Wal-Mart after school?

19 A] Uh, I think so.

20 Q] Did you tell them, uh, did you give them names of potential  
21 witnesses?

22 A] Huh?

23 Q] Did you give them names of witnesses, like Uncle Hubert,  
24 and how to contact them?

25 A] (Witnesses nodding head affirmatively.)

1 Q] Yes, ma'am? Is that a yes or a no?

2 A] Yeah.

3 Q] Gail, did you tell Paul and Robin about you calling at home  
4 while you were at work and checking on Jason that evening?

5 A] Yeah.

6 Q] And you gave them the name of Dennis Dent?

7 A] And I talked to Jason and, uh, I'm pretty - - it's hard to  
8 remember, but I'm pretty sure I talked to Jason. I did talk to  
9 Jason that night.

10 Q] Did you give them names of Jason's friends?

11 A] Yeah.

12 Q] Okay. Uh, did you explain to them about you getting home  
13 at 11:30 but not falling asleep until three or four in the  
14 morning?

15 A] What?

16 Q] Did you tell them about when you got home and when you  
17 would fall asleep at night?

18 A] Yeah, I told them exactly what happened that night.

19 Q] Okay?

20 A] That night will remain in my head, I guess, because, like,  
21 the next day, we had had, I had, I had, uh, I had asked Dennis  
22 Dent to move out weeks before.

23 Q] Uh-huh?

24 A] I mean, and I don't why but I did, you know, because he  
25 just pushed his way into my home.

1 Q] Okay.

2 A] And, okay. And I had asked him to move out.

3 Q] Understood.

4 Q] And okay. And, uh, I had asked him to move out and, uh,  
5 and he got mad that night and threw a fit and took off and then  
6 the next day is when I find out that those children were killed.

7 Q] Okay. Going back, Gail, to meeting with Paul Ford and  
8 Robin Wadley, you explained to them at what time you got home at  
9 night. Did you also tell them that you checked in and Jason was  
10 at home, checked in his bedroom and that Jason was at home when  
11 you got home from work on May 5<sup>th</sup>?

12 A] I always checked on my kids when I got home from work. It  
13 was just a habit.

14 Q] And you told Paul Ford?

15 A] Because I cared about my children and I wanted to make sure  
16 they were in bed safe asleep, you know.

17 Q] And you told Paul and Robin?

18 A] And I got off work late at night and I'd go and check on my  
19 children at night when I came home from work.

20 Q] Okay. And you explained that to them?

21 A] Yeah.

22 Q] Okay. And did you explain to them that the only way after  
23 you got home that Jason could have snuck out was sometime  
24 between 3:00 or 4:00 and 6:00 a.m., but it had to be by one of  
25 the doors and you would have known about it?

1 A] What?

2 Q] Did you explain that to them?

3 A] What?

4 Q] About how it would be impossible for - - do you want to  
5 take a break?

6 A] Yeah, please.

7 MR. HENDRIX: Is that all right, Judge?

8 THE COURT: All right, a ten-minute recess.

9 (WHEREUPON, a recess was taken; proceedings resumed as follows,  
10 to-wit:)

11 MR. HENDRIX: Thank you, Judge.

12 DIRECT-EXAMINATION, continuing:

13 Q] Let's see, Gail, where we were is we were getting close to  
14 the end of this line, of this area. And we were talking about,  
15 uh, you having supplied the police and Jason's lawyers with  
16 evidence of Jason's whereabouts on May 5<sup>th</sup>, the evening of, the  
17 afternoon of May 5<sup>th</sup>, the night of and then the day of May 6<sup>th</sup>;  
18 right?

19 A] (Witness nods head affirmatively.)

20 Q] Now, uh, and I think we got through all of that and that  
21 you had explained that to his trial lawyers; is that right?

22 A] Right.

23 Q] Okay. Were you prepared to be a witness at Jason's trial  
24 to testify about his whereabouts when those little boys went  
25 missing?

1 A] Yes, I was.

2 Q] Okay. Were you, in fact, called as a witness?

3 A] Excuse me?

4 Q] Were you called as a witness?

5 A] No, I wasn't.

6 Q] And to your knowledge, were any of the people whose names  
7 you had given to help establish Jason's whereabouts, any of the  
8 physical evidence, the school records, that sort of thing, to  
9 your knowledge was any of that introduced at Jason's trial to  
10 explain what where he was when the little boys were killed?

11 A] Excuse me?

12 Q] To your knowledge, was any of that evidence that explained  
13 where Jason was when the little boys were killed...

14 MR. HOLT: ...objection to such a compound  
15 question, Your Honor.

16 THE COURT: Sustained.

17 MR. HENDRIX: Okay. That's the second worst  
18 question I've asked.

19 DIRECT-EXAMINATION, continuing:

20 Q] To your knowledge, was any of the alibi evidence presented  
21 at Jason's trial?

22 A] I have no idea what was supplied at the trial because I was  
23 not even in the courtroom.

24 Q] Okay. Because you were excluded as a potential witness at  
25 that time; right?

1 A] Right.

2 Q] Okay. Now Gail, this final topic. After Jason, uh, was  
3 convicted in, I think, February of '94, was that, did that event  
4 cause you a lot of emotional stress and strain?

5 A] Actually, I kept on trying to work at my job during the  
6 time Jason was in detention. I would call, actually, I would  
7 call, well, first of all, I had to take off work for several  
8 weeks because, actually, to be honest, they would tell me Jason  
9 was one place. Paul Ford kept telling me he was one place and  
10 I'd go there and they'd say he wasn't there.

11 Q] Uh-huh. That I assume, not knowing the whereabouts of your  
12 oldest son, combined with the fact that you strongly believed in  
13 his innocence and that he was wrongly convicted?

14 A] They had me running all over the state of Arkansas looking  
15 for Jason.

16 Q] That caused you emotional problems; is that right?

17 A] Yes, it did.

18 Q] And Gail, and again, this is for a purpose and not in any  
19 way meant to embarrass you, but then after the conviction did  
20 there come a time that you were in fact institutionalized?

21 A] That, uh, well, before that, now actually, I kept on trying  
22 to work during the hearings. They kept having a lot of hear-  
23 ings. I was at every hearing and, uh, I had to miss a lot of  
24 work and, uh, they kept on trying to keep me going at work.

25 Q] I understand.

1 A] And, uh, they tried to help me keep on going.

2 Q] Right.

3 A] And, uh, they were very supportive or me. And I was trying  
4 to hang onto my job.

5 Q] Sure. And did that become

6 A] But all of the hearings that were coming up it was very  
7 traumatizing going to the hearings and then trying to go to  
8 work.

9 Q] Right. And I want to focus for a minute, Gail, on the time  
10 after Jason was convicted, and did it get to the point where you  
11 were suffering so much that in fact, you were institutionalized?

12 A] Uh, my sister, they didn't have me on the right medication  
13 for my, 'cause I had so much anxiety.

14 Q] Right.

15 A] From Jason being arrested and all of the hearings and see-  
16 ing him in all of those, seeing him like that, seeing what they  
17 were doing to him, it caused me a lot of distress, actually, and  
18 uh, uh, they would not give me the right medication and, uh,  
19 and, uh, they, uh, and I had to go in the hospital once or  
20 twice.

21 Q] And again, Gail, I, I promise you, I mean this most  
22 respectfully, it created psychiatric problems for you and you  
23 were hospitalized at some point and put on medication; is that  
24 right?

25 A] That was a long time ago, though.



1 Q] I understand. And, and again, Gail, I swear I'm not, not  
2 trying to embarrass you; it's, it's just important. Have I  
3 stated that accurately?

4 A] That was a long time ago.

5 Q] And again, for our record, I have to ask this: Is what I  
6 have stated accurate?

7 A] Yeah, they, uh, at one time, yes. Well, actually, my  
8 husband had a part to do with it and they, uh, my son came and,  
9 uh, my son came and stuck, uh, the iguana in my face; I said I  
10 need to get out of here and take a ride and, uh, and, uh, I  
11 don't know, he, they were messing with me and, uh, uh, it looked  
12 like it was going to bite me and I took off. I said I gotta get  
13 out of here for a few minutes.

14 Q] But before Jason was convicted, you were working over there  
15 at the trucking firm, you were vitally employed and you were  
16 doing a good job and were taking your responsibilities?

17 A] Yes, I was. I was doing a very good job and they, they  
18 said I was a really good employee and they tried to keep me  
19 employed for a long time after Jason's arrest.

20 Q] And after his conviction you sort of fell apart, is that  
21 right?

22 A] After, there were so many hearings, though, that I had to  
23 go to, there were so many hearings I had to go to that, uh, it  
24 was so traumatizing for me to see my son like that.

25 MR. HENDRIX: Your Honor, that's all I have and I

1 pass the witness. Thank you, Gail.

2 CROSS-EXAMINATION

3 BY MR. HOLT:

4 Q] Just a few questions, Ms. Grinell, is all I have. You did,  
5 in fact, talk to Mr. Ford and Mr. Wadley regarding your son's  
6 case; is that correct?

7 A] Yes.

8 Q] And you had meetings with them about what you knew and you  
9 conveyed the information that you had to them, did you not?

10 A] Excuse me?

11 Q] Did you tell them what you knew about the whereabouts of  
12 Jason on the night of the murders; did you tell Paul Ford about  
13 that?

14 A] Yeah.

15 Q] Did you tell Paul Ford about your belief that Jason did not  
16 have anything to do with this?

17 A] Yeah, I did.

18 Q] And did you tell, did you give them information about him  
19 maybe being over at Wal-Mart playing the videos?

20 A] Yeah.

21 Q] And did you tell the police that, as well?

22 A] Yeah.

23 Q] Okay. And were you aware that the police went to Wal-Mart  
24 and looked at video tapes?

25 A] I don't know.

1 Q] Don't know? Okay. Was there anything at the time that you  
2 wanted Mr. Wadley or Mr. Ford to do that they didn't do at the  
3 time?

4 A] I wasn't allowed in the courtroom and everybody else, and  
5 Paul Ford kept telling me there was like all kinds of reasons  
6 for them to have, for Jason to get a mistrial and, uh, and, uh,  
7 he didn't, they, and I don't understand why he didn't get it.

8 Q] I see. Well, did uh, when they would tell you where Jason  
9 was being held, he wasn't always held in a jail there in West  
10 Memphis, was he?

11 A] They, he, he kept telling me he was one place. He told me  
12 where he was and I kept going there and I couldn't, they kept  
13 saying he wasn't there.

14 Q] Okay.

15 MR. HOLT: That's all I have.

16 THE COURT: Mr. Burt, do you have any questions?

17 MR. BURT: No, sir.

18 THE COURT: All right, you may stand down. Call  
19 your next witness.

20 MR. BURT: Judge, I'll check in the hall.

21 THE COURT: Sure. I don't think she understands.

22 MR. HENDRIX: And you can stay in the courtroom.

23 THE WITNESS: Okay.

24 (Witness excused.)

25 THE COURT: Do you all have any more expert