

Exhibit D

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE STATE OF ARIZONA

Stephen Aiken and Deborah
Aiken,

Plaintiffs,

v.

Town of Sahuarita, et al.,

Defendants.

Case Number:

4:24-CV-00199-RCC

**CERTIFIED
TRANSCRIPT**

VIDEO-RECORDED DEPOSITION OF STEPHEN AIKEN

Sahuarita, Arizona
Friday, August 8, 2025
9:13 a.m.

Reported by:

MELISSA GONSALVES, RMR, CRR
Arizona Certified Reporter No. 50070

STEPHEN AIKEN and DEBORAH AIKEN v. TOWN OF SAHUARITA
STEPHEN AIKEN - August 08, 2025

Page 2

1 THE VIDEO-RECORDED DEPOSITION OF STEPHEN
2 AIKEN was taken pursuant to Notice, on Friday, August 8,
3 2025, at 9:13 a.m., at the Sahuarita Police Department,
4 315 West Sahuarita Center Way, Sahuarita, Arizona,
5 before MELISSA GONSALVES, RMR, CRR, an Arizona Certified
6 Reporter, Certificate Number 50070.

7
8 APPEARANCES OF COUNSEL:

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10 Deborah Aiken:

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1 Q. Did the officers you communicated with state to
2 you that what their intent was, was to take action to
3 satisfy them that your wife was safe and okay and not
4 the victim of a crime?

5 A. Not at first.

6 Q. Okay. Did they say that?

7 A. Eventually.

8 Q. Okay. Did you understand that that's what they
9 were there to do?

10 A. At that time, when I finally understood it, I
11 did, and I offered to bring her her cell phone.

12 Q. Okay. And that's all captured on body-worn
13 camera. I've seen that.

14 A. (Witness nods.)

15 Q. So do you dispute in this litigation that their
16 intent was to ensure that your wife was safe or
17 determine whether your wife was the victim of a domestic
18 violence incident?

19 A. Eventually, about halfway through the incident,
20 it became clear to me but not at first.

21 Q. Okay. When did it become clear to you that
22 their intent really was to make sure your wife was okay?

23 A. Well, they had no idea who was in the house for
24 the first 10 or 15 minutes. And when they -- however,
25 they found out that my wife was in the house. I didn't

1 I don't know, but I did not see -- either
2 that or the cops had me turn my back. Because I don't
3 remember seeing my wife at the garage talking to police
4 officers until I saw the video.

5 Q. Okay. Could you hear what they were saying to
6 your wife?

7 A. No.

8 Q. Or what she was saying?

9 A. No, I -- I didn't know she was there. I
10 couldn't hear anything.

11 Q. Okay. So they re-separated you audibly and
12 visually?

13 A. Very much so.

14 Q. And was Officer Woodrow polite with you?

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. Was he professional with you?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. When the investigation was complete, did
19 Officer Woodrow remove the handcuffs?

20 A. Officer Woodrow removed the handcuffs
21 approximately 14 minutes after the all-clear was given.

22 Q. Okay. And were you essentially -- was the
23 investigation over and were you allowed to go back into
24 your home?

25 A. Eventually.

1 Q. Okay. What happened to the girlfriend who hit
2 you? That's aggravated assault on an officer; right?

3 A. I -- I don't remember.

4 Q. Did she go to --

5 A. I -- I know I didn't attend trial. So what it
6 -- what it -- what the final disposition was, I have no
7 ideas. One of hundreds of cases.

8 Q. Okay. Were you ever injured on any other
9 domestic violence call?

10 A. Domestic violence, no.

11 Q. How many domestic violence calls in your time
12 from the late '70s through the '80s do you believe you
13 responded to?

14 A. I have no way of guesstimating. I wouldn't
15 even know how to start guesstimating. It is a -- it's a
16 routine for police work, sadly, more and more often. I
17 don't know. I don't know.

18 Q. Did you receive any other in-line-of-duty
19 injuries while you were a police officer?

20 A. Not that I can recall, no.

21 I -- I know I sprained my ankle once, but
22 I don't think that was work related. I think I was
23 actually playing softball. No.

24 Q. Were you ever shot in the line of duty?

25 A. No.

1 Q. Have you ever been shot in your life?

2 A. No.

3 Q. And I think I asked this -- I apologize if I
4 did and you answered.

5 You have no military background; is that
6 correct?

7 A. I was in the Medical Corps for 3 years.
8 Whether you consider that military or not, it was. I
9 don't know.

10 No. It's -- we used army trucks. We used
11 army supplies, and the army supplied everything for the
12 civil defense back in those days. It was the end of the
13 black curtains. Didn't have to have black curtains in
14 your windows anymore. And they were giving away all the
15 excess medical equipment from the military. It was
16 called the Volunteer Medical Service Corps. That's what
17 I was apart of for three years.

18 I don't know if they consider themselves
19 military or not. They are definitely paramilitary.

20 Q. Okay. Do you agree that it's widely -- widely
21 considered that domestic violence calls for service
22 are -- should be presumed to be volatile?

23 A. Sure.

24 Q. And that when officers respond to a domestic
25 violence or abuse call, that officers generally

1 Q. Or house?

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. Okay. And then confront the people if there
4 are people to confront --

5 A. Certainly.

6 Q. -- in the house?

7 A. Make contact, yes.

8 Q. Right.

9 And if it's reported that there is a
10 victim, if there's somebody that is suspected to be the
11 victim of a domestic violence, would you want to have
12 contact with that victim?

13 A. Absolutely.

14 Q. Would you want to have a conversation with that
15 victim?

16 A. Yes, I would.

17 Q. Would you want to -- to make sure that that was
18 in an environment where the victim was not being
19 influenced or under the threat of the suspected
20 perpetrator?

21 A. I would want to be satisfied that they weren't,
22 yes.

23 Q. You were aware at that time because I don't
24 believe this has changed either about domestic violence,
25 is that true domestic violence perpetrators will often

1 try to bring to bear threats or influence to keep the
2 victim from speaking to the police?

3 A. I'm aware that that can happen, yes.

4 Q. Okay. And that by separating the two, at least
5 the police can increase the chances of getting an honest
6 answer from the victim?

7 A. That was standard practice in my day as well.

8 Q. We're still looking at this.

9 No, I think we're not.

10 Exhibit 4, do you know where this came
11 from?

12 A. The entire exhibit?

13 Q. Yeah. It's -- do you know --

14 A. I have no idea.

15 Q. -- how -- how I got this?

16 A. I have no idea. Do you want to tell me?

17 I have no idea. Do you want to tell me?

18 Q. I'm really not here to answer questions.

19 A. I understand that.

20 Q. You know that; right?

21 A. It's a strange question, but no, I have no
22 idea.

23 Q. You know that. Okay. I just want to put it in
24 order as well. All right.

25 Okay. Mr. Aiken, I -- give me one moment.

1 A. No.

2 Q. The kid that you were pursuing, did that kid
3 sustain any injuries?

4 A. He allegedly sustained head injuries, yes.

5 Q. Did he survive?

6 A. Oh, yeah. Yeah, that's why I say allegedly.

7 Q. Was he permanently disabled?

8 A. That's what they claimed.

9 Q. Okay. The address at 1124 West Golden Meadow
10 Path, do you rent or lease that?

11 A. I rent, yes.

12 Q. And who owns that property?

13 A. I have no idea.

14 Q. Who do you pay rent to?

15 A. It's all done through the church. It's like
16 Homes America or Rentals America or something America.
17 Rentals America. I think that's what it is.

18 Q. Okay. And why does the church pay your
19 personal residential rent or lease payments?

20 A. Back in the day -- and it doesn't really affect
21 anymore -- but pastors, ordained pastors were afforded a
22 tax break, and the government allowed us to
23 differentiate our housing allowance with our
24 actually sal- -- with our actual salary. And so pastors
25 in the day used to claim and have it done through the

1 It was my guess.

2 Q. Okay. Did you share with any of the officers
3 that you were either upset or saddened by the fact that
4 Mason was in the hospital and that that was because of
5 the vaccination?

6 A. Yes.

7 May I explain?

8 Q. I'm going to ask you why you said that.

9 A. Okay. Yes. My mind was racing. My first
10 thought literally was did my daughter send an assassin
11 to kill me because somebody is lurking around my house,
12 and I can't figure out who's lurking around my house.
13 I went to look at the camera, there was
14 nobody there, but yet I heard a distinct noise.
15 So I -- and remember, this is a big house.
16 So I'm going back towards the bedroom, and I get to the
17 bedroom. I got -- I got to the ensuite, and I thought I
18 heard another bang. And that disturbed me greatly.
19 I grabbed a weapon. I went to the hallway
20 and I said, ehhhh, I don't want to do this. I wasn't in
21 fear for my life or anything, so I put the weapon down.
22 And I said -- and I listened.
23 And I was like, What the heck? Then I
24 went back to the camera, still nobody.
25 Then I opened the little shady things.

1 What did you call them? Blinds? They're not blinds.

2 They're --

3 Q. I called them blinds, but they might not be.

4 A. All right. Yeah, the little Levolor things.

5 And I opened it up, and the flashlight hit
6 me, and then I heard somebody yelling at me to open the
7 door.

8 And I don't remember saying this, but I
9 saw it on the tape. I said: "No. Who are you?" I
10 didn't even know.

11 And then when the cops came, I realized,
12 uh, no, it's my daughter. It's not an assassin; it's my
13 daughter Stephanie. She's up to something. That was my
14 very first thought.

15 And so when Officer Fruge -- I'm going to
16 say confronted -- it wasn't a bad thing. When he
17 confronted me, he came up to the window. I made sure to
18 show him my hands 'cause I knew he would be concerned.

19 And he said he got a call.

20 And I asked him: "About what?"

21 Well, he couldn't tell me. And he didn't
22 tell me.

23 We got a call. Then he says: "Who's in
24 the house?"

25 And I told him, I said: "I'm not answering

1 that would bring the police to your door?

2 A. Stephanie.

3 Q. Okay. Now, when you were talking with Sarah
4 over the speaker phone --

5 A. Uh-huh.

6 Q. -- you had indicated, I think, that you're kind
7 of on the edge of where this kitchen is?

8 A. It's right where our sliding door is, yeah.

9 Q. And it goes -- goes to where?

10 A. Sliding glass door goes sort of into the
11 kitchen and out to the porch.

12 Q. Okay. Was the door open or shut when you
13 were on the phone --

14 A. I would guess --

15 Q. Sir, excuse me.

16 -- when you and your wife were on the
17 phone with Sarah?

18 A. I would guess that that door had been shut and
19 she was -- Deborah was inside the house by then.

20 Q. Do you know?

21 A. I don't recall exactly.

22 Q. Okay. And then at first when the police come,
23 you think it's a hit man from Stephanie, and you do --

24 A. When I heard the noises.

25 Q. Okay. And you go and you get your gun?

1 A. I do.

2 Q. What's the gun?

3 A. It's a Beretta .380.

4 Q. Okay. How many guns do you own?

5 A. I'm going to object as to relevance.

6 Q. How many guns did you have in the house --

7 A. I'm going to object on relevance --

8 Q. -- at the time the police arrived?

9 A. -- and refuse to answer.

10 Q. And --

11 A. They took pictures of all my guns, Counselor.

12 You have them.

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. Illegally.

15 Q. Was there a -- any ammunition -- was the -- was

16 the gun loaded?

17 A. I hope so.

18 Q. Was it an automatic?

19 A. Semi, yes.

20 Q. Okay. Was there a round chambered?

21 A. Probably.

22 Q. Okay. Why do you say probably?

23 A. 'Cause that's the way I carry.

24 Q. Okay. Where do you keep it?

25 A. Where do I keep what?

1 a bit if my daughter put a hit out on me. It wouldn't
2 have surprised me a bit. That was my very first
3 thought.

4 Q. Okay. Why would that not surprise you?

5 I think a lot of parents would be
6 surprised if their kid put a death hit on them. So
7 why is -- what is it about your relationship with her
8 that that wouldn't surprise you?

9 A. My daughter Stephanie is beyond reasonably evil
10 to the core.

11 Q. Okay. To the point of hiring someone to kill
12 you?

13 A. She's a narcissist.

14 Q. To the point of hiring someone to kill you?

15 A. I wouldn't put it past her.

16 Q. Okay. So, anyway, you get over the hit man
17 thing, and then your next thought is whatever this is,
18 this is something --

19 A. Stephanie did it.

20 Q. -- Stephanie is doing?

21 A. Yep.

22 Q. And up to that point in time, had Stephanie
23 accused you some one hundred times of abusing --
24 physically abusing Deborah Aiken?

25 A. Easily.

1 Q. Okay. And I believe your testimony before was
2 that is really the only thing that she really
3 repetitively accuses you of?

4 A. Yeah. Yeah. That is the main thing. There's
5 been all kinds of things. You name it, but.

6 Q. So you would -- if you thought it was
7 Stephanie, you would know that Stephanie's predominant
8 complaint about you is domestic violence against her
9 mother?

10 A. I think Stephanie had a period of time where
11 she graduated to abuse. There was a year or two in the
12 beginning, and I'm talking like five, six years ago,
13 where it was more that I kept her prisoner, I think.

14 And Deborah was starting to show symptoms
15 of her age, and I just -- I -- I -- I -- I just wrote it
16 off as, you know, a young kid. She sees her mother
17 declining, and for whatever reason wants to blame her
18 father for it. I didn't take it as seriously as I have
19 for the last three years.

20 Q. Okay. But as of April 19th, 2023, you told me
21 that the predominant claim that Stephanie had --

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. -- been making about you was domestic violence
24 against Deborah Aiken?

25 A. I would say that's 90 percent of her

1 complaints.

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. To strangers and anybody that'll listen.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. Including the newspaper.

6 Q. So when you talk about something Stephanie
7 would be doing, that would certainly be on the list of
8 things that she would do?

9 A. Absolutely.

10 Q. Falsely report you for physically abusing
11 Deborah Aiken?

12 A. Absolutely.

13 Q. And did you maintain that belief throughout the
14 entire encounter with the police, that this is a
15 Stephanie thing?

16 A. Pretty much.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. Yeah.

19 Q. When the police did -- you know, at some point
20 divulge to you that, Hey, the reason we're here is to
21 check on her welfare because we got a report of possible
22 domestic violence, did you believe at that point
23 that -- did that confirm with you this is a Stephanie
24 thing?

25 A. Yes.

1 on her nose and on her forearm.

2 MR. JELLISON: Okay. I think that completes my
3 deposition. I appreciate your time.

4 You heard yesterday about the reading and
5 signing?

6 THE WITNESS: Yeah, I don't desire.

7 MR. JELLISON: Okay. Thank you very much.

8 Waiving reading and signing.

9 And thank you.

10 THE WITNESS: Okay.

11 THE VIDEOGRAPHER: This is the end of the
12 deposition of Stephen Aiken.

13 Off the record at 2:50 p.m.

14 (The deposition concluded at 2:50 p.m.)
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DECLARATION UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY

I, the undersigned, declare under penalty of perjury, that I have read the foregoing transcript of the testimony taken on Friday, August 8, 2025, in the above-referenced matter, and that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of my testimony contained therein, except for the changes, if any, noted on the attached errata sheet.

Executed this ____ day of _____, 20____.

(Signature waived.)

STEPHEN AIKEN

1 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

2 I CERTIFY that the foregoing deposition
3 was taken by me pursuant to Notice; that I was then and
4 there a Certified Reporter for the State of Arizona, and
5 by virtue thereof authorized to administer an oath; that
6 the witness before testifying was duly sworn by me to
7 testify to the truth; that the questions propounded by
8 counsel and the answers of the witness thereto were
9 taken down by me in shorthand and thereafter transcribed
10 under my direction, and that the foregoing typewritten
11 pages contain a full, true, and accurate transcript of
12 all proceedings had upon the taking of said deposition,
13 all done to the best of my skill and ability; that
14 deposition review and signature was not requested; that
15 Alliance Reporting Solutions, Registered Firm R1015, is
16 designated to produce, distribute and invoice the
17 transcript.

18 I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am in no way
19 related to nor employed by any of the parties hereto,
20 nor am I in any way interested in the outcome hereof.

21 DATED at Phoenix, Arizona, this 20th day
22 of August 2025.

23 

24 Melissa Gonsalves, RMR, CRR
25 Arizona Certificate No. 50070