

ELECTRONICALLY FILED
2025 Feb 14 PM 5:09
CLERK OF THE BUTLER COUNTY DISTRICT COURT
CASE NUMBER: BU-2025-CR-000053
PII COMPLIANT
IN THE THIRTEETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT OF BUTHER COUNTY, KANSAS

THE STATE OF KANSAS

VS

BU-2025-CR-000053

CRYSTINA ELIZABETH SCHROER

**ORDER ON REQUEST FOR DISCLOSURE
OF AN AFFIDAVIT OR SWORN TESTIMONY**

Pursuant to K.S.A. 22-2302 or 22-2502.

On this 14th day of February 2025, the Court considers the Request for the Affidavit or Sworn Testimony in Support of a Warrant or Summons filed herein.

The Court finds jurisdiction and venue are proper. Notice to parties and those required to receive notice has been given as required by law.

The Court, ☐ having reviewed the proposed redactions, and/or ☐ having reviewed the motion to seal the affidavits or sworn testimony, and/or ☒ having received no proposed redactions or motion to seal from the prosecutor, defendant, or defendant's counsel finds as follows:

CHOOSE **ONE** OF THE FOLLOWING:

1. ☐ The affidavit(s) or sworn testimony shall be released with the redactions proposed by the prosecutor.
2. ☐ The affidavit(s) or sworn testimony shall be released with the redactions proposed by the defendant or defendant's counsel.

3. ☒ The affidavit(s) or sworn testimony shall be released with the redactions ordered by the court.

4. ☐ The affidavit(s) or sworn testimony shall be sealed and not released.

5. ☐ The affidavit(s) or sworn testimony shall be released without redaction.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the affidavits or sworn testimony be released or sealed as indicated above. If the documents have been ordered redacted it is further ordered that the ☐ prosecutor ☐ defendant's counsel prepare the redacted document and promptly file it with the court.

IT IS SO ORDERED this 14th day of February, 2025.



Judge of the District Court

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF BUTLER COUNTY, KANSAS

STATE OF KANSAS, Plaintiff

Case No:

RHPD Case No: 24-729

Vs.

Crystina Elizabeth Schroer



Defendant,

1. 21-5402(a)(2)(c)(1)(G) Felony Murder
2. 21-5602(a)(1)(C);(b)(1)(A) Abuse of a Child
3. 21-5602(a)(1)(A);(b)(1)(A) Abuse of a Child
4. 21-5602(a)(1)(A);(b)(1)(A) Abuse of a Child
5. 21-5825(a);(b) Making False Information
6. 21-5801; 39-701 (a)(2);(b)(3) Theft
7. 21-5927(a)(1);(b)(1)(d) Medicaid Fraud
8. 21-5938 Failure to Report Death of Child
9. 21-6205(a)(1) Criminal Desecration

STATE OF KANSAS, COUNTY OF BUTLER ss:

AFFIDAVIT

COMES NOW Melissa S. Tharp, Detective, Rose Hill Police Department, City of Rose Hill, located in Butler County, of lawful age, who, after being first duly sworn on her oath states that:

1. Affiant is now, and has been at all times relevant, a Police Officer for the Rose Hill Police Department, City of Rose Hill, and is a commissioned Kansas Law Enforcement Officer.
2. In such capacity, Affiant had occasion to investigate certain allegations of one or more violations of the Kansas Criminal Code, as more fully set out below.

3. This Affidavit is not intended to be a comprehensive report on the investigation of the allegations, but is limited to showing Probable Cause that one or more violations of the Kansas Criminal Code occurred, Probable Cause that the defendant above named committed the acts that were in such violation, that the same occurred in the City of Rose Hill, Butler County, Kansas within the time prescribed by the applicable Statute of Limitations.
4. Based upon the information from the described investigation, Affiant has learned the following either from her own investigative work or that of other law enforcement officers, witnesses and others, all of which Affiant verily believes to be true, to wit:
- That on Tuesday, September 10, 2024, at approximately 1929 hours, Affiant responded with Captain Conrad, who was on duty, to the report of a suicidal person that was locked in a bedroom, possibly with a gun at 1406 Meeker Court, Rose Hill, Butler County, Kansas.
 - Officers arrived on scene and after approximately forty-five minutes, were able to make physical contact with Crystina E. Schroer, white female, [REDACTED] lying in her bed, conscious, but unable to keep her eyes open or sit up at first.
 - Your Affiant, having known Crystina for several years, was able to speak with her and find out what was going on to make her want to hurt herself tonight.
 - Crystina stated she had taken a bunch of pills and her heart meds but was able to talk somewhat while crying. Crystina stated her life was over and that no one was going to look at her the same. The affiant asked her to talk about what happened tonight to make her want to hurt herself.
 - Crystina stated that her daughter, [REDACTED] was "fucking psychotic" and is a danger to others. Crystina stated she had to remove 2 other children from her home to keep them safe.
 - Crystina said that one day, another daughter, [REDACTED] had been choking another child [REDACTED] and choked her unconscious. Crystina stated that she was able to find [REDACTED] and give her cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), but [REDACTED] continued to fight her and tried to stop her from giving CPR. Crystina stated several times that [REDACTED] kept coming at her, so she put [REDACTED] in her (Crystina's) bedroom and told [REDACTED] to watch her and keep her from coming out into the living room while she was reviving the unconscious child. Crystina stated that she had to throw [REDACTED] several times onto the couch to keep her off of her, so she put her in the room with [REDACTED]
 - Crystina said after she revived [REDACTED], she went into her room and asked [REDACTED] where [REDACTED] was at. Crystina said [REDACTED] was sitting on a step and was looking at a box that had a crib or a cradle laying on top of a box that was covered in blankets. Crystina said she took the object off

the box and removed the blankets and found [REDACTED] in the box, unconscious and without a pulse. Crystina stated she was covered in sweat and was extremely hot. She said she put her in the cold shower to cool down and began trying to revive her by performing CPR, but to no avail, [REDACTED] was dead. Crystina stated she called her husband and told him she was taking [REDACTED] to the hospital. Crystina said she wrapped her up in a sheet and took her out to her vehicle and was thinking of taking her to the hospital, but just started driving around.

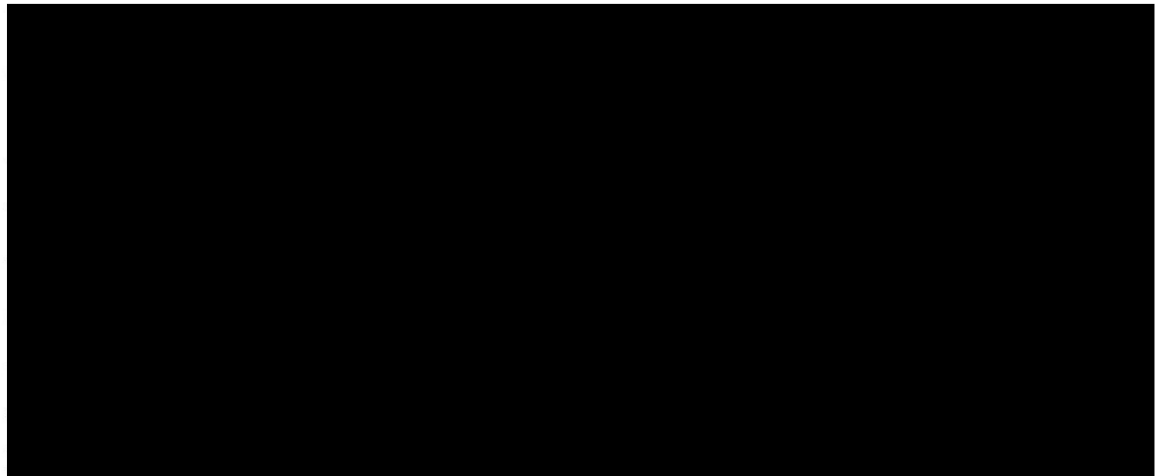
- Crystina stated several times, she didn't know what to do, she thought of calling your Affiant, thought of calling 911, or just coming to the police department, but just got lost in the situation and she did the wrong thing. According to Crystina, this event took place on the day of her best friend's birthday, December 10, 2020.
- Crystina said that she drove around for hours, came back to the house and got some of [REDACTED] things and left again to go driving. Crystina stated that she ended up back home with [REDACTED] and buried her in the backyard of 1406 N. Meeker Court, Rose Hill, Kansas, near the back door leading out of her bedroom we were standing in.
- Crystina was asked if she could get up and walk around, as your Affiant was wanting to have her transported to the station for an interview. Crystina was found to have been holding a pair of scissors and was pressing them on her left wrist, but did not puncture her skin. Crystina was able to get up and make it to the bathroom, where she attempted to get dressed. Crystina was unsteady on her feet during this time and struggled, but eventually did get dressed enough and was escorted back to her bed, as it was believed the unknown pills, she had taken were starting to take effect.
- Butler County EMS, Medic 50 was called to assess Crystina prior to any transport, due to the unknown number of drugs in her system. Crystina was eventually transported to Wesley hospital for treatment and remained in the hospital for a week, being released on Tuesday, September 17, 2024.
- Affiant interviewed [REDACTED] at the Rose Hill Police Department on Tuesday September 10, 2024, at approximately 2143 hours with her father, Joseph Schroer (W/M [REDACTED] present. [REDACTED] stated that she did not know what happened to [REDACTED] and became very emotional, stating she did not want to talk about her, because she really missed her. [REDACTED] told me that she used to hurt her sisters, mostly hit them and punch them in the back, usually it was for them calling her names and getting into her things. [REDACTED] was asked about playing in boxes, hiding in boxes and if anyone ever was in a box and didn't come out alive. [REDACTED] kept telling me to talk to her mom, as she did not know what happened to [REDACTED] was starting to shut down and was becoming very upset and did not want to talk. Affiant took a break from the interview to let [REDACTED] calm down and speak with others that were watching the interview from another location. When Affiant came back to the room, Joseph asked if he could use the restroom. Affiant escorted

- him to the restroom, and he asked if the room they were in was recorded. Affiant told him it was, and he stated that we needed to watch the last 5 minutes, as [REDACTED] opened up to him.
- While your Affiant was out of the room, [REDACTED] started talking to her dad and told him that she didn't tell me the truth, she didn't want to get anyone in trouble, like her or mom. Joseph was getting her to open up and tell him what happened, as she was apologizing for not telling me the truth. [REDACTED] told her dad that she was tired and wasn't going to get any sleep, because she was stressed, this whole thing was stressful, seeing him cry and talking about [REDACTED] said she would tell him what happened, but he couldn't tell anyone. [REDACTED] asked her dad if she remembered when he was working on 3rd shift. She stated he was at work and when mom put us to bed, if we moved around in bed, we just better not. Mom got a box, the ones she gets her meds in, if we curled in a tight ball we would fit in the box. Mom made [REDACTED] get up and come into her room with the box and made [REDACTED] get into one. Mom called her into the room, and she was making [REDACTED] bed, as it was in their room at the time, and told her to go over to that box, it was her sister. There was a big bundle of blankets that had a baby crib laying on top of it. [REDACTED] stated that her mom grabbed her and choked her and threw her on the floor. [REDACTED] said she didn't know what happened, but it took her a couple seconds, and she opened her eyes again. After that mom told her it would be her turn next, then made her sit next to the box. She stated that [REDACTED] was making noises, saying "daaa, daaa" or something like that. She believed her mom heard that and came back into the room, asking "is she still making noises?" [REDACTED] said her mom put more stuff on top of the box and told her not to let her make noise and left the room again. When mom came back into the room, [REDACTED] was bawling, and mom asked why and she stated she thought [REDACTED] was dead, because she wasn't making any noise. Mom took the box off and [REDACTED] fell out, she was blue. [REDACTED] told her dad she didn't want to say anything else. Joseph asked where [REDACTED] was at and she stated that her mom told her she was in a hospital, but she didn't know where she was. [REDACTED] said that she really missed [REDACTED] and wished she would come back. [REDACTED] talked to her dad for a few more minutes and asked if he thought she was lying and was worried about him telling Affiant about what she said, as she felt bad about lying. [REDACTED] said she didn't know about [REDACTED] choking [REDACTED], that mom told her that stuff happened. Affiant came back into the room and ended the interview, planning on speaking with [REDACTED] at a later time after she could calm down.
- On Tuesday, September 10th, 2024, [REDACTED], black female, [REDACTED] was placed in Police Protective Custody (PPC) as a Child In Need of Care (CINC), due to the circumstances that developed. It was believed at the time that [REDACTED] was a suspect in taking the life of her younger sibling. The only other child in the home at this time was [REDACTED].

- On Wednesday, September 11, 2024, at approximately 1058 hours, a search warrant was executed on the property of 1406 Meeker Court. Sedgwick County Emergency Management and C.E.R.T. teams with search dogs that are trained in the detection of human remains arrived and were deployed on the property. The dogs favored a particular area but never indicated with a positive alert for any odor in the yard. Two of the search dogs did however indicate positively on a silver vehicle parked in the driveway, a silver Fiat bearing [REDACTED]
- During the sniff of the earth, the K-9's were getting tangled up in the tall weeds and debris in the backyard. The Rose Hill Street Department was called out to this location to mow the yard for better searching ground. The large debris was removed and placed outside the fenced area. At approximately 1247 hours, city street department employees arrived with a brush mower and knocked down the weeds and tree seedlings in the back yard and made the search area workable.
- Once the yard was mowed down, we were able to see ground disturbances or differences in the soil. Sergeant Robert Albert, with Butler County Sheriff's Department, used tools to check for disturbances in the soil throughout this section of the backyard. A rake was used to move grass from and open certain areas to the soil beneath. An area that was under a pallet that had been raked, it appeared to Sgt. Albert to have been disturbed, as the soil was not level in approximately a 3X4 foot area, this was an area the K-9s favored in their search. It was decided this would be the first area the digging would begin. The area was marked off, a tent was placed over the area for protection and teams took turns digging, sorting and sifting through the soil with screens to locate any evidence beginning at approximately 1335 hours.
- At approximately 1630 hours, a black plastic bag was uncovered approximately 23 inches down that appeared to be tied shut with a knot. The bag was eventually removed from the ground and placed on a clean tarp. The tarp was removed from the area and placed several feet away, in an open area of the yard for photographs and examination. Once photos were taken, the bag was cut open, careful to preserve the knot. It was discovered that there were actually two black plastic bags (contents were double bagged). Once the bag was opened and laid back, it was evident the contents were the remains of a small child. The skull still had hair attached to it and the remains were curled up in the "fetal position". Along with the skull, the arms, legs, spine and ribs were very apparent and distinct. Outside of the bone structure, the contents of the bag were of a "sludge" appearance and the odor of decomposition was very pungent. Once photographs were completed of the human remains, the bag was covered up and protected from the elements.
- During the forensic dig other items were located and removed such as an empty black trash bag, red type of fabric, brown strand of carpet type fiber, hard plastic pieces, a white beaded substance, green stained soil and a green substance in the form of beads, an opaque piece of plastic with red printing.

- On Wednesday, September 11, 2024, at approximately 1845 hours, Sedgwick County Forensic Center arrived at the scene of the dig and collected the remains for examination the next day. The case number assigned by SGC Forensic Center is 13-24-2807. The evidence tag number affixed to the body bag was [REDACTED]. An autopsy was scheduled for September 12, 2024, at 0900 hours. Sedgwick County Deputy District Coroner Scott Kipper, M.D. conducted the autopsy beginning on time. Your Affiant attended the autopsy and photographed the examination as it was being conducted. The provisional anatomic diagnoses shows that there is not an immediate cause of death identified due to the decomposition of the remains. Dr. Kipper did indicate there were no immediate signs of trauma to the skeletal remains and no signs of healing trauma.

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- On Thursday, September 12, 2024, at approximately 1645 hours, the Affiant collected the DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) from [REDACTED] for the purpose of building a profile to compare to the human remains found in the backyard of 1406 Meeker Court. The affiant contacted Joseph Schroer and requested that he bring [REDACTED] to the Rose Hill Police Department, explaining the reason being for the collection of her DNA to comparison. While wearing PPC (personal protective clothing) gloving, the Affiant opened the swab sticks that were packaged in a paper sleeve. The affiant obtained a buccal swab sample from the right inside cheek of [REDACTED] at 1647 hours and a buccal swab sample from the left inside cheek at 1648 hours. Both swabs were placed in the appropriate collection box and labeled. The swabs were placed in the evidence room for drying purposes before sealing the box. The box was sealed and submitted into evidence on September 13, 2024, at approximately 1000 hours. Both swabs were released the next day to Detective Thomas Akers for transport and to submission to the Sedgwick County Forensic Science Center for testing/comparison of the remains removed from the backyard at 1406 Meeker Court.

- [REDACTED] was placed as a CINC on Friday, September 13, 2024. At approximately 1430 hours, [REDACTED] was at the Rose Hill Police Department (RHPD) and asked if we had time to talk before she had to leave for her foster care. Your Affiant sat down with [REDACTED] in the interview room and asked her what she wanted to talk about. [REDACTED] stated she was sorry, but a couple of days ago when your affiant first spoke with her, she didn't tell the whole truth. [REDACTED] stated that her mother, Crystina, punished children in the home by placing them in boxes and they were not to move or make noise for ten minutes at times. If they made it for ten minutes, they could get out of the box and the discipline was over. [REDACTED] stated mom has cameras all over the house and her phone "bings" when there is movement. She stated that [REDACTED] was placed in a box about three to four years ago and was made to sit still due to moving in her bed that night. Because she could not sit still and kept trying to get up, Crystina placed heavy blankets, a crib and more boxes of unknown items inside the crib to weigh it down. [REDACTED] became quiet and still, and Crystina came inside the room to allow her to get up by removing the crib and blankets and kicking the box and telling her to get up, but she did not respond. The box was removed, and [REDACTED] fell out of the box, limp and blue. [REDACTED] stated her mother looked at her in panic and started "blowing breaths" into [REDACTED] mouth, but it did not seem to be working. [REDACTED] was scared and crying, but stated her mother made her take care of another child in the house, while she continued to try to make [REDACTED] better. [REDACTED] stated her mother put [REDACTED] in the shower and she believed she heard [REDACTED] cough. Shortly after, her mother left the house with [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED] stated this event would have occurred around the lunch time hour, as she (Crystina) was feeding the other children. [REDACTED] stated her mother came back several hours later, but she did not come back with [REDACTED] said her mother showed her photographs on her phone of children strapped to beds and told her they were being tortured, and she could be next.
- [REDACTED] informed Affiant the home is equipped with mounted cameras throughout the inside and outside of the home. She knew the camera system was connected to Crystina's cellphone where she received alerts for motion and to access live views from the cameras.
- A report was made to Kansas Department of Children and Families (DCF) on August 30, 2024, regarding a welfare check on the Schroer residence, as it was reported one sister killed the other sister by putting her in a box. Ashley Reust, social worker with DCF reported she contacted Crystina on September 3, 2024, at 1519 hours, addressing the report she received. Crystina told Ashley that [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] have been out of the home for 3 weeks. No one would take them in Kansas. Crystina stated she was working with multiple adoption specialists, Aetna, South Central Mental Health, DCF, etc. Crystina told Ashley that everyone knows of the situations going on, that Callie Barthalamew is their worker through DCF. Crystina told Ashley that [REDACTED] is very much alive and, in the home, and that the girls like to tell stories. Crystina suggested that

since so many people are involved with the case, she did not think it was necessary for Ashley to see the kids for the welfare check. Review of a DCF report submitted by Ashley indicates she believed Crystina's version of events as she had set this matter to be 'screened out' or closed out due to insufficient evidence.

- On Thursday, September 12, 2024, at approximately 1651 hours, your Affiant met with [REDACTED] W/M, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] at the Rose Hill Police Department, as they had information they wanted to share about this case, living next door to the Schroer residence. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] reported that they had only met the wife that lives next door, (talking about Crystina Schroer) once, when she came over to apologize about the water, as they were draining their pool into the street. [REDACTED] stated that they used to envy their neighbors' backyard, as it was well maintained, there was a hot tub out there, the dogs would play, and it just appeared well cared for. According to both [REDACTED] the last time they saw the backyard (connecting with their backyard) mowed and cared for was approximately last spring (2023). [REDACTED] said towards the end of the mowing season, they just quit mowing and caring for the south side of their yard, blocking it off from dogs and children. They had not seen anyone in that portion of the backyard since then, it had gotten so bad, they actually were just about to ask if they could come in there and trim some of the tree seedlings down as they were growing into their fence and yard, causing the fence to start to bow.
- On Thursday, September 12, 2024, at approximately 1327 hours, your affiant met with [REDACTED] [REDACTED] at the RHPD for a walk-in interview regarding information she might have on this case. [REDACTED] reported that she was aware of a friend who received a text message that in April of 2023 Crystina messaged a local bail bondsman, known to me as [REDACTED]. The message was a request for him to check up on who might have bonded out the biological mother of one of her foster children, as her child was missing, and she believed the biological mother took him/her. [REDACTED] did not have any further information, but wanted to report this message that was sent, due to the human remains found in the backyard at the Schroer residence.
- On Friday, September 13, 2024, [REDACTED] was placed in [REDACTED] as a [REDACTED] due to the developing circumstances. To protect her safety and well-being regarding the allegations of this case, it was decided that she be placed outside of the family home. Your Affiant and Detective B. Sperry removed [REDACTED] from the custody of her father, Joseph, and transported her to an undisclosed location, placement arranged by Juvenile Intake.
- On September 13, 2024, Detectives Thomas Akers and Solomon Snowbarger were assigned to locate the biological mother of [REDACTED] in an attempt to collect her DNA also for comparison and identification purposes only. Detectives were able to locate [REDACTED]

██████████ after a few failed attempts at several addresses in Salina. ██████████ was found to be living in an Oxford House for sober living in McPherson, Kansas. Detectives made contact with ██████████ and explained the reason for the request. ██████████ was visibly upset but cooperated with the Detectives. ██████████ signed a consent form, stating she was willingly providing her DNA for the purposes described above.

- Detective Akers wore new ██████████ gloves and obtained Buccal Swab from his vehicle that were packaged in a sealed paper/plastic sleeve. Detective Akers explained to ██████████ to take the swabs, without touching any other surface and rub the cotton tips in a circular motion along the inside of her cheeks. ██████████ completed the 2 collection samples and provided them to Detective Akers for packaging and transport to the Sedgwick County Forensic Science Center (SGFSC). The samples were dropped off at the SGFSC at approximately 1747 hours as detectives returned from McPherson. The second sample was transported back to the RHPD and was turned over to your Affiant for storage in evidence.
- A search warrant was issued on Monday, September 16, 2024, and served on the phone that Crystina owns, an Apple iPhone 14 Plus, ██████████, red in color protective case. Chief Parlier transported the search warrant and phone to Detective Dan Ribble with Sedgwick County Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Unit, who completed the forensic examination downloading the contents from the phone. The data extraction of this phone was placed on an external hard drive and custody was turned back over to the Rose Hill Police Department following the completion of the download on Tuesday, September 17, 2024.
- During an examination of the cell phone extraction, some of the following information was found: On August 31, 2024, Crystina started many internet searches on Google looking up things such as:
 - 8/31/24-Signs of a sociopath in a 4-year-old child
 - 8/31/24-Neuro testing for sociopath child
 - 8/31/24-Child psychiatric-Derby, Butler County, Wichita
 - 9/3/24- Criminal Law Attorney
 - 9/4/24-can drinking visine kill you
 - 9/4/24-azelastine hcl eye drops deadly if ingested
 - 9/4/24-is drinking flonase deadly
 - 9/4/24-Kerns law group
 - 9/4/24-overdoes symptoms, can you OD on blood pressure meds
 - 9/6/24-how many hydrocodone cause overdose
 - 9/6/24-how to overdose on pills
 - 9/7/24-get arrested and can't afford lawyer

- 9/8/24-how to get money for lawyer fast
 - 9/8/24-can I donate my body to science
 - 9/10/24-culpable deniability vs. plausible deniability
- In addition to the above internet searches, tens of thousands of texts messages were reviewed on this phone between October 2020 through September 2024. These messages have revealed a history of physical, mental and emotional abuse to the entire Schroer family, by Crystina, to include:

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] There are numerous times that Crystina is at a casino or times where she has left for short periods that she texts Joseph about the cameras alerting her phone because the adopted girls are moving, or to ask him why he let them out of their room, why the girls are upstairs and such as she monitors the cameras at all times. Crystina tells Joseph to put the girls in bed, but to tell them if they move, they will go back in the closet. Crystina tells Joseph often that they had moved in bed all night, setting off the cameras, not sleeping. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



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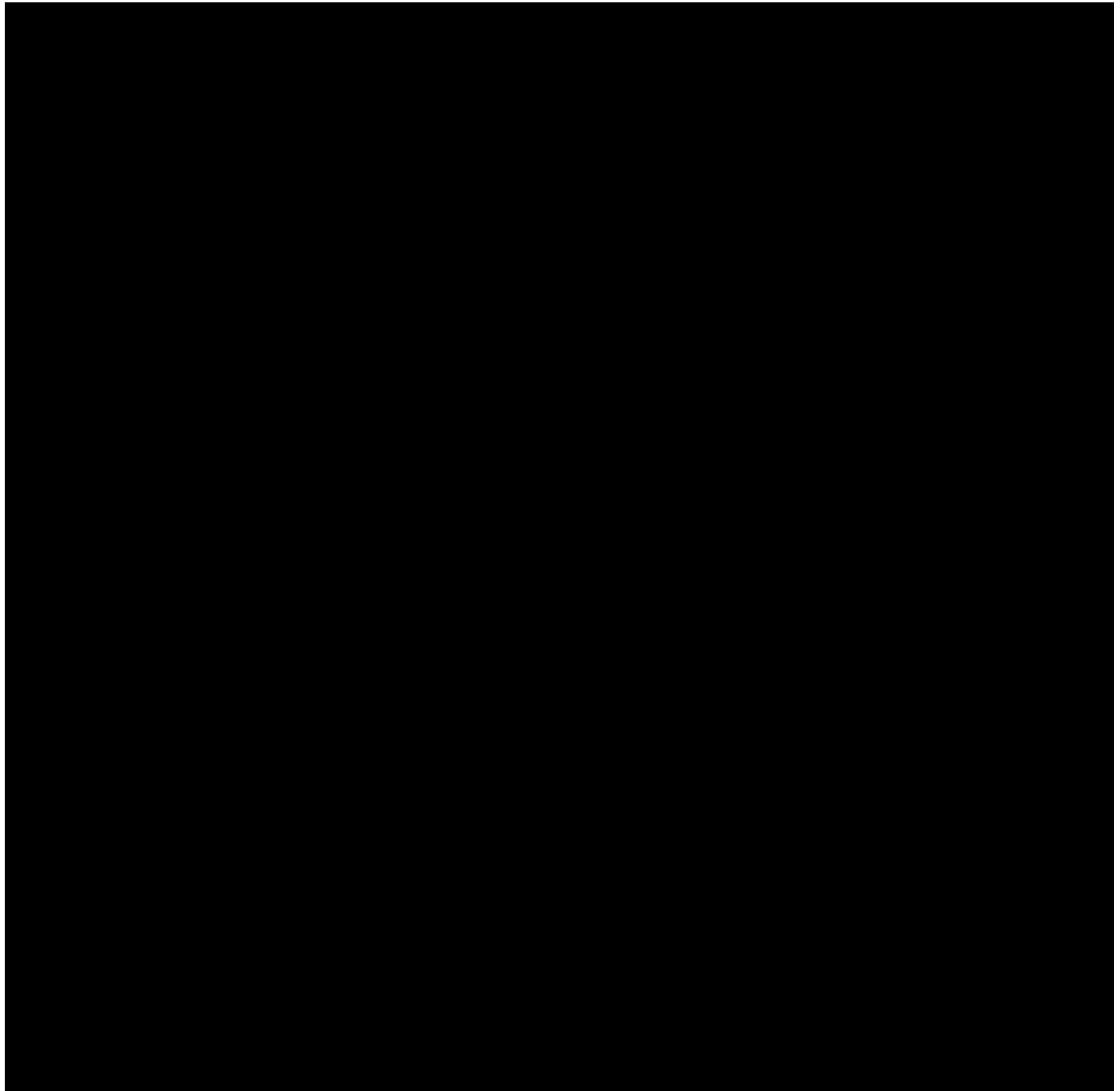
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- Crystina consistently tells Joseph through text messages between 2021-2024 that he chooses the adopted girls over her and that she doesn't want them anymore and wants to get rid of them.

- On January 9, 2023, Crystina found that her biological child [REDACTED] had broken one of her bowls in the kitchen. Joseph tells her that he knew about it and that [REDACTED] told him what happened. Crystina replied "IDC (I don't care) if she told you or not, I about punched her in the face. I'm done, these girls have me on edge. I'm going to kill everyone soon".
- An inquisition was opened on this case and subpoenas were sent to many places regarding this family, to include South Central Mental Health (SCMH), Grace Med, Department of Children and Families (DCF), St. Francis Ministries (SFM) and the Unified School District (USD) #394 Rose Hill School District. Numerous other subpoenas to financial institutions and personal accounts were also issued. Those records were received and reviewed, and it started becoming very apparent that Crystina was controlling the narrative to everyone involved, as there were several events that were reported by her that were simply not accurate or truthful. Examples of this untruthful narrative control:

- Rose Hill School USD #394 records indicate that January 6, 2020, Crystina removed [REDACTED] from the district, citing "Sister [REDACTED] has swelling on her brain and is not improving. Doctor said she needed to be protected from germs and getting ill. Mom said she can't send student to school for fear of bringing germs home to [REDACTED]. She is keeping her home and going to possibly homeschool. Needs to talk to principal about what to do." However, Crystina reports to SCMH, SFM and everyone else she talks to, that the girls were kicked out of Rose Hill Schools for behavior issues, violence, disruptive, uncontrollable behavior, eating trash and such so much that Crystina said she was getting "500 phone calls a day" from the school, so she had to pull them from school.
- Crystina told SCMH, and family members, that the adopted girls were afraid of water and had been tortured by it through their biological family prior to fostering. Amanda Williams directly contradicts this, stating the girls love to swim in the pool. Additionally, [REDACTED] had told SCMH that one of her favorite things to do was swimming. Reviews of

notebooks found during a search of the residence also show Crystina claimed prior foster children were afraid of water.

- Crystina told SCMHI and others that [REDACTED] tortures her sisters, household animals, and threatens to kill family members. During interviews with family and SCMHI there were no indications of violence by [REDACTED] other than in Crystina's statements. There are no known instances where [REDACTED] tortured a person or animal or threatened to kill anyone. There are no independent references to the aggressive behaviors listed above in any school setting, mental health setting, or in an interaction with a social worker.
 - Crystina reports violence by [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] to SCMHI, which SCMHI does not independently verify and begins to medicate the children accordingly. Crystina also reports they eat inedible objects (Pica), play/paint with fecal matter, urinate and roll in the puddles, and injure one another or themselves. These same behavioral issues she was having with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] are the same as she had with a prior foster child, as shown by handwritten notes Crystina kept in a notebook.
- Prior to The Schroer's fostering the last set of foster children, there were other children in foster care at this residence. Several spiral notebooks were seized as evidence during the search warrant for the residence. These notebooks contain daily notes and dated entries of the behavior of foster children [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], all three placed with the Schroer's on December 15, 2016. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] foster care ended on August 11, 2017, and [REDACTED] ended on August 28, 2017. Documentation in the journals were consistent and repetitive with the boy known as [REDACTED] peeing on the floor and in bed on a regular basis, screaming, acting out, biting self, spitting on the floor and choking himself. The children are repeatedly running into walls, falling off bikes or furniture hurting themselves. Crystina documents several times that there will be a bruise or a black eye from the incident described. [REDACTED] are documented several times by Crystina to pee and poop on the floor and play in it, smearing it everywhere. The kids are documented several times to have destroyed furniture, bedding, curtains, toys and everything in the room. [REDACTED] was documented that he wouldn't stop hitting the family dog, when sent to the corner, he slammed his face in the corner.
- The history of foster care at the Schroer residence consists of: [REDACTED] all being the first placement with the Schroer's on December 15, 2016, just after they received their foster care license on December 6, 2016. The last foster siblings were placed in foster care with the Schroer's on August 18, 2017, and adopted November 25, 2019. [REDACTED] were placed on August 29, 2017, and ended on January 29, 2018. [REDACTED] were placed on April 11, 2018, and were adopted along with the foster siblings on November 25, 2019. [REDACTED] was placed with the Schroer's on September 8, 2020, as a kinship

placement and ended on April 26, 2022, at Crystina's request, as reintegration with the family was sought and the Schroer's wanted to adopt. There were no other children placed with the Schroer's, as they closed their foster care doors on December 3, 2019, after the adoption of the 5 children in November.

- In the spiral notebooks, which were started with the first foster kids, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] in December 2016, there are entries on May 18th of 2017 by Crystina stating that the quality of care is not worth the stress, sending the kids to new foster care. On May 19th, 2017, she writes "Glad I'm walking away from foster care as the system is full of flaws" "I don't know what to do, my family doesn't deserve this, I don't need the stress and neither do they".
- Also documented in the notebooks is the behavior of the children after visitation with their bio-parents. Crystina documents that the kids are re-triggered, months of her work is undone in less than an hour with bio-mom. Kids are violent, scream and fight, regress to being younger and start soiling their clothing again. The kids "trash the house" will not sleep and just seem out of control. In very large letters, Crystina writes, "Not sure I can keep doing this!" Stating that [REDACTED] has bit everyone in the house and has now kicked the family dog, again stating "IDK how much more I can handle." Crystina wrote on August 14, 2017, that she had text [REDACTED] (unidentified in this investigation) told them IDK how much longer I can do this. "Therapy today, God I hope she can help him. This is taking a toll on my family, my marriage, my life!".
- On August 18, 2017, Crystina documented that today was visitation day for [REDACTED] "Yay, so excited to have [REDACTED] worse than he is already." The writings were that [REDACTED] was screaming, crying, kicking the floor and walls for over 2 hours, took his clothes off and threw them away, stating he didn't want to go visit. After [REDACTED] was told he didn't have to go for the visit, he calmed down instantly, wanted his clothes and ate lunch. On August 28, 2017, Crystina gave 30-day notice to have [REDACTED] removed from her home, as they were not a fit, the family did not want him there and the strain it was putting on her marriage. Crystina attributed the behavior of [REDACTED] to visitations with his mother, which made him 100 percent worse than he was when he arrived for placement 8 months ago.
- On September 8, 2020, [REDACTED] was placed with the Schroer's for kinship placement. On April 21, 2022, [REDACTED] was disrupted, requested by Crystina after being notified that a reintegration plan was being submitted to the courts. Crystina immediately expressed that she wanted to disrupt, reason being is her heart rate is "through the roof" and reported that [REDACTED] was extremely violent after visitations, stating she was being hateful and biting, pinching and screaming non-stop. The case team with St. Francis, however, was not seeing any of this behavior, only that [REDACTED] struggled with strangers and took a few minutes to adjust. It was the opinion of the case worker that the Schroer house was not supportive of reintegration, stating they thought Crystina was sabotaging.

- On Monday, September 16, 2024, at approximately 1140 hours, Detective Robby Chandler with Butler County Sheriff Department, while assisting the RHPD, interviewed [REDACTED] via Zoom Conference Call. [REDACTED] told Det. Chandler that she began living with the Schroer family when she was 17 years old after meeting Crystina at a daycare in Rose Hill. [REDACTED] stated that she fit in with the family, called it a loving family, one like she had never experienced. [REDACTED] described the marriage of Joseph and Crystina as loving, they would work through any issues, seemed to always be together and in love. [REDACTED] stated although she was never legally adopted by the Schroer's, she refers to them both as her mother and father. [REDACTED] described that prior to the foster children coming into the family, they were all treated the same. [REDACTED] stated she was already out of the house when the Schroer's began fostering children but believed that Crystina started fostering children because of her. Describing that Crystina felt good for helping a child in need. [REDACTED] moved back to the Schroer residence for a short stint, as she was struggling. [REDACTED] said she and Crystina weren't seeing-eye-to-eye anymore. She said she moved back into the house in October of 2023 and left March 2024. When [REDACTED] moved out, she felt that Crystina was money hungry, which was something new for Crystina. She felt that Crystina was in some money problems. She said Crystina was just off and there was no love in that house. She actually wanted to call the Department of Children and Families (DCF) but her siblings told her not to make a report. Christmas 2023 was when she first started to think about contacting DCF. She said that it was in March or April, and she felt that nobody was happy in that household. There was no love. It was all gone. Crystina was not the same. She had changed.
- [REDACTED] said Christmas 2023 Crystina began to talk about sending the kids off to boarding school. She just didn't want them anymore. Crystina told [REDACTED] that she did not want to be their mom anymore and that they were too much for her to handle. She said Crystina found a boarding school for [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] but nobody would take [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] began to cry and say she hopes they are actually at a boarding school and not somewhere else.
- [REDACTED] reported that Crystina was the one who dealt out punishment. When Crystina said that [REDACTED] was sent back to the State of Kansas nobody questioned the act. The foster kids were in their rooms 24 hours a day for seven days a week. Crystina would make them lay on the floor without a pillow or blanket, completely still without being able to move for several hours at a time. Crystina would give the kids a piece of bread with a packet of jelly for a meal. The kids never left the house, they never went anywhere. Nobody was allowed to talk to the foster kids. They stayed in their rooms all the time. They were not allowed to go outside and play in the yard. [REDACTED] was not allowed to talk to [REDACTED] anymore for putting batteries in a toy that Crystina had given her. [REDACTED] said that she never saw Crystina put a hand on the kids for punishment.

upset and thought he might have done something to [REDACTED]. The affiant assured him that was not the case, he did not make contact with her remains, which seemed to ease his mind.

- [REDACTED] was asked if he thought [REDACTED] could do something like this to [REDACTED] to which he replied that he didn't think that and he stated the girls were all sweet, they have sister fights, but nothing mean, no violence, he had never seen [REDACTED] hurt anyone. [REDACTED] did say that after he left the house, he didn't see them very much but tried as much as he could.
- [REDACTED] was asked if she ever saw anything go on at the house that gave her concern. She stated that nothing really ever happened while she was there, Crystina just usually sent the girls to their rooms. Both [REDACTED] stated that the girls were not allowed to talk to them when they came over, which is why they were sent to their room. [REDACTED] added that he did not know if it meant anything or not, but his grandma, Crystina's mother that lives in Alaska has 3 kids and 2 of [REDACTED] elaborated and told us that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was really struggling to talk, his demeanor was quiet, he was scared and extremely nervous. We ended this interview and planned to talk to him again at a later date.

- On Tuesday, September 17, 2024, at approximately 0917 hours, Affiant, along with several law enforcement officers from Rose Hill Police Department and Butler County Sheriff Office, executed a search warrant at 1406 Meeker Court. A search warrant was signed on Monday, September 16, 2024, by Judge D. Ricke at 1726 hours for the home and surrounding curtilage of the Schroer residence. Officers executing the search warrant were looking for the following evidence: Electronic Devices for communicating including phones, laptops, iPads, computers, tablets, devices used for controlling, storing, recording or manipulating digital video obtained through home surveillance systems. Written information in journals, books, ledgers, mail, calendars. Fabrics, including carpet samples, red colored fiber related items, landscaping material, cardboard boxes, identification cards, adoption paperwork, foster care paperwork, and photographs documenting such items.
- The search concluded at approximately 1551 hours and officers cleared the residence, removing the evidence collected and providing Joseph with a copy of the search warrant return. Photographs were taken of many other items, not seized from the residence, to include tax documents, bankruptcy papers, health cards, credit and debit cards, casino W-2 G's, players club cards, medical records and such, included in the photographs with this case. All items were processed and submitted into evidence. The following items were removed from the residence:
 - HP Laptop, [REDACTED]
 - Chrome Acer Laptop, [REDACTED]

- Chrome Acer Laptop, [REDACTED]
 - Samsung Chrome Book, [REDACTED]
 - IPOD 16, [REDACTED]
 - Chromebook Acer, [REDACTED]
 - Chromebook Acer, [REDACTED]
 - iPad Mini, [REDACTED]
 - LG G0Pad, [REDACTED]
 - Acer Aspire One, [REDACTED]
 - Leven Camera [REDACTED]
 - Pink Girls coat, Size 6, w/red knitted gloves
 - (2) Girls hair bows, rainbow colored and black and red colored
 - (6) 3 ring binders w/misc. adoption paperwork
 - Misc Paperwork and notebooks
 - Canvas Family photo, 30X40"
 - 3 carpet samples, 3 upstairs bedrooms
 - Christmas Stocking for [REDACTED]
 - Partial bag of Thicker Lawn fertilizer, from the garage shelf
 - White cardboard box (matching the box described by [REDACTED])
- On Tuesday, September 17, 2024, [REDACTED] white female, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] [REDACTED] who were being housed at the Oklahoma Baptist Children's Home in Owasso, Oklahoma, were placed into PPC as a CINC. An ex-parte order was issued through the Butler County Attorney's Office, as we were unable to ensure the safety of the children from Crystina, who was able to go pick them up at any given time as she had personally placed them at this home. The home was not able to prevent her from coming to get the girls and would not be able to interfere with her removing them. Captain Jason Conrad and DCF Supervisor Nicole Feller left Rose Hill Kansas after making arrangements to have [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] prepared to leave upon their arrival. The transfer of custody and transport back to Kansas was successful and the girls were released to Juvenile Intake for placement at an undisclosed location.
- Forensic Interviews were conducted on September 26, 2024, beginning at 1300 hours for [REDACTED] [REDACTED] at the Sedgwick County Exploited and Missing Children's Unit. Detective Clayton Van Daley and Child Advocate Kaitlan Unruh conducted the interviews which were recorded with video and audio.
- [REDACTED] interview started at 1319 hours and lasted for 76 minutes. [REDACTED] was not asked to talk about the information she already discussed during 2 other interviews with your Affiant,

however, other details and information were learned throughout the interview. [REDACTED] disclosed that her mom, Crystina, would put everyone but [REDACTED] in boxes for punishment for moving while in bed. [REDACTED] stated that there was one time that Crystina put her and [REDACTED] inside a lockbox together, stating she had to get in first, then [REDACTED] on top of her so they would fit. [REDACTED] said that it got hard to breathe in the box, it became hot, and they were sweating together. [REDACTED] said the punishment would last about 10 minutes, as long as they stayed still and didn't make any noise. When they were allowed out of the box, it felt amazing to get out, breathe and have a chance to cool off. [REDACTED] stated the last time she could remember being in a box was when she was 9 years old, [REDACTED] is 11 at the time of this interview). [REDACTED] said the last time she remembered being in a box, it was closed, and unknown items were placed on top of it and it was pushed into the closet in Crystina's room. [REDACTED] also reported that outside of being punished in boxes, the children were made to stand in corners and sometimes get spanked, typically with a hand or a wooden spoon.

- [REDACTED] interview started at 1457 hours and lasted for 56 minutes. During the interview and learning who lives in the house with her, [REDACTED] disclosed the names of everyone living in the house, including [REDACTED] but stated that [REDACTED] killed [REDACTED] and she really missed her. [REDACTED] went on when asked to talk more about [REDACTED] stating she was told this information by [REDACTED] and also by Crystina, that [REDACTED] was dead and she was placed in a box, specifically stating there were 6 blankets on top of the box and a crib. [REDACTED] was asked to describe the box [REDACTED] was inside and she stated it was a white box, and it had writing on it that said [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] disclosed that [REDACTED] was left in the box for 3 days. [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] almost locked [REDACTED] in a box, but she told mom right away and [REDACTED] was told not to do it and then got in bed with [REDACTED] and made her cry because she broke her arm. [REDACTED] also talked about her mom and dad spanking her with a wooden spoon or their hand. Because [REDACTED] talked about [REDACTED] being put in a box, she was asked if she had ever been placed in a box for punishment. [REDACTED] paused and thought about the question briefly, then replied, "no".
- [REDACTED] interview started at 1558 hours and lasted for 29 minutes. [REDACTED] talked about the household, those living in it and her schooling. When asked during the interview [REDACTED] disclosed the types of punishments she received in the house, including being spanked with a wooden spoon or a hand.
- [REDACTED] interview started at 1638 hours and lasted for 25 minutes. [REDACTED] talked about the household, those living there and her school. When asked, [REDACTED] disclosed punishment in the house to include being spanked with a wooden spoon.
- On Tuesday, September 17, 2024, at approximately 1519 hours, Detective Sgt. Rober Albert and Detective Wesley Stewart with the Butler County Sheriff's Office, while assisting the Rose Hill

Police Department, conducted an interview with [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] understood immediately why he was being interviewed and was asked to talk about his family. [REDACTED] started talking about his relationship with his mother and how it was strained. [REDACTED] stated that it started around the time of his son's baby shower, just over a year ago. [REDACTED] reported that his mother was trying to be too controlling and because of the way she was doing things. [REDACTED] said she was trying to make the raising of his son her way and he was not okay with that. [REDACTED] said that Crystina would not include his fiancée's side of the family have any involvement and wanted things done her way. [REDACTED] stated that he is estranged from his dad, but only because he won't come over while his mom is at the house, as he just kind of walked away from her, which inevitably stressed the relationship even further.

- [REDACTED] talked about his childhood growing up and stated it was pretty normal. [REDACTED] said he attended boy scouts, went to church and played sports, being pretty active. [REDACTED] was asked about discipline in the house, to which he stated he was punished for wrong doings by being grounded and made to stay in his room. [REDACTED] didn't have a television or anything like that, so he thought it was normal grounding. The kids were always sent to their rooms, occasionally his was spanked and that came from both parents. [REDACTED] believes there is a law where foster kids cannot be spanked, and he doesn't believe they were ever spanked after they were adopted.
- [REDACTED] was asked if he noticed a change in his mother over the last 6-7 years. [REDACTED] stated it was different for sure, because of the situation with his son and that she was very controlling and that he had to cut ties with her. [REDACTED] stated he would go back to the house for holidays and family gatherings. [REDACTED] was asked about not being able to take pictures and post things on Facebook, however he did not recall that. [REDACTED] did say that the family photograph, he believes was taken on Thanksgiving in 2019, was the last family photo they ever took like that. [REDACTED] said that no one really talked about [REDACTED] after she got sent away. He stated that he was told that a couple of the girls were being reckless and harmful to each other, so [REDACTED] was sent away to a boarding school or psych ward and never returned home. [REDACTED] was told that the family just trusted what their mom did and that she did right thing for the safety of others, and they all trusted her decision. [REDACTED] stated he heard a discussion about sending [REDACTED] back to the state, but his mom decided to go with sending her to the boarding school instead.
- On Tuesday, September 17, 2024, at approximately 1705 hours, Sgt. Robert Albert and Detective Wesley Stewart with the Butler County Sheriff's Office, while assisting the Rose Hill Police Department, conducted an interview with [REDACTED] and his girlfriend, [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] is the adopted son of Crystina and Joseph but is related as well. [REDACTED] is Crystina's nephew; she adopted him after her brother was unable to care for him when he was an infant. [REDACTED] remembers growing up

and feels like it was a normal childhood. Sometimes, he felt his punishment was stricter than that of his siblings, like longer grounding and things taken from him, but nothing out of the ordinary.

██████████ said that they were always doing something or going somewhere, like normal family things. ██████████ stated he was allowed to attend boy scouts, play sports, perform in plays, choir and orchestra. There was one time that he was not allowed to try out for basketball, because he was in trouble, but that was an isolated incident. When asked, ██████████ said that he never had food withheld from him when he was growing up.

- ██████████ continued to answer questions about his upbringing, having games, a phone and normal things a kid would have. ██████████ was asked about finances with his parents, stating that it seemed there was stress in the home because his mother did a lot of gambling. ██████████ remembered a time when his mom won a large jackpot online and didn't pay taxes on it, causing stress. He also stated that his mom is always shopping and buying stuff on Amazon, stating he feels like her spending was causing the stress. ██████████ stated that his mom once told him while she was doing their taxes, she had to list herself as a professional gambler, because of the amount of money she wins.
- ██████████ couldn't talk much about the "littles" adopted girls, as he had already moved out of the house when they were there, so he didn't spend much time with them. However, after he spoke with one of his siblings, ██████████ she talked to him about how the feel of the home was different. ██████████ stated that the little kids were not allowed to have seconds when it came to food and that they definitely could have eaten more. There was also talk about how the kids would have to spend a lot of time in their room and it didn't seem very joyful for them.
- ██████████ was asked about the backyard and its state of being overgrown. ██████████ answered that there was something said about a tree being overgrown or something like that no one was allowed back there. There was also something said about Crystina not allowing anyone or the dogs in that part of the yard. ██████████ cannot remember why his mom said that part of the yard was not being cared for, but it had been in that state for quite a while.
- On Wednesday, September 18, 2024, at approximately 1450 hours, your Affiant and Captain Conrad, conducted an interview with ██████████ at the Rose Hill Police Department. ██████████ talked about Crystina and Joseph's marriage, stating that nothing was really out of the ordinary, a typical marriage, arguing, couple fights, never anything physical. ██████████ stated that Crystina was her best friend of over 20 years. Although ██████████ believed Crystina was always filled with drama and made everything in life seem bigger and worse than it actually was, she remained friends with her and just overlooked the drama. ██████████ stated she has noticed over the last few years, the drama filled issues have become more drastic and outlandish, so much so it was shocking to hear, because it didn't need to be. ██████████ said the beginning of

COVID is when she started to notice changes. [REDACTED] said she just summed it up to them always cooped up in the house, the "littles" referring to the adopted children, were always in trouble, in their rooms.

- [REDACTED] stated she always thought they were one big family years ago, doing almost everything together, but most of that stopped a few years ago, as Crystina didn't like taking the girls out of the house. There were parties that the littles were not at, if they were at home, they were in their rooms and not allowed to come out. Crystina told [REDACTED] that the girls hated each other, specifically [REDACTED] [REDACTED] told us that the girls were homeschooled and never allowed to leave the house, per Crystina, they don't like people. [REDACTED] stated that she knew Crystina to be the disciplinarian, handling things. When the children were in trouble they were in their rooms, standing in the corner or made to do extra chores.
- [REDACTED] told us that Crystina has a serious gambling problem, she moves money from one account to another and at times borrowed from her in the past until it caused problems for her own finances. She stated Crystina is always moving money, sending money, changing accounts, sending money to one account and moving it to another just to make ends meet. [REDACTED] said that Crystina had money in several different accounts that were being locked up and overdrawn monthly.
- [REDACTED] said Crystina told her about an incident where [REDACTED] choked out [REDACTED] and by the time she got to her, she was blue, and she had to breathe life back into her. [REDACTED] was told that [REDACTED] was flailing around and was angry, "going crazy" so she wrapped her in a blanket and took her to a psychiatric ward. A couple days later she asked about how [REDACTED] was doing, and Crystina didn't tell her anything. A few more days later she asked again, and Crystina told her that they made [REDACTED] a ward of the state again and that she would forever be in a psychiatric ward or girls home as she was deemed unadoptable. Once, Crystina gave [REDACTED] an update about [REDACTED] stating that her therapist was in the room with her and when the therapist turned her back, [REDACTED] tried to stab her with a pen.
- [REDACTED] stated it was difficult to hear what had happened these last few days, because she was always home and right next door, not understanding why Crystina would not come to her and ask for help or call 9-1-1. Instead, she made a mess of things, the family is broken, and everyone is devastated. When [REDACTED] was asked about the last time she can remember seeing [REDACTED] she stated she has been trying to think over the last couple of days since this call came out. [REDACTED] believed it to be in November of 2020, as they had a birthday party at some point for the duo (which is how [REDACTED] are referred, due to their birthdays being 11 days apart). [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] was in Kindergarten and was kicked out of school due to behavior issues, according to Crystina. [REDACTED] remembers Crystina telling her that [REDACTED] stole a piece of pizza out

of the trash, and it caused a big issue at school, so she pulled them from school (meaning [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] told us she remembered the kids all playing well together, including with her children. [REDACTED] said she was always told [REDACTED] could not be trusted, but she never had issues with her in the past, when they used to play together.

- [REDACTED] talked about all the cameras in the house, literally everywhere, sometimes Joe would sleep elsewhere, as she even put cameras in her room. [REDACTED] said she moved the kids around a lot, from one room to another, bunk beds and such, then moving [REDACTED] to the basement because she had issues. Crystina told [REDACTED] that no one was helping her and she has been trying to get her into SCMH. [REDACTED] stated they put a thumb print lock on the other door at the bottom of the stairs, to keep [REDACTED] from going anywhere else in the basement. [REDACTED] was told that [REDACTED] was after the duo, so she had to take them out of the house to protect them. She stated that she was always told that [REDACTED] was a horrible person and that no one would take her, even after being put on medications by her doctor, because the medications were not working.
- [REDACTED] stated that she doesn't know what to think of all that has transpired, still trying to process it all. Not understanding why Crystina would not just call 9-1-1 and get some help, rather than cover it up and lie to everyone. [REDACTED] stated it's like she doesn't know Crystina anymore and wonders how many of the stories she has been told over the years that were actually lies. [REDACTED] told us that Crystina has always had medical issues, like if something is going to happen, it will happen to Crystina, stating she has had COVID over 50 times, fell down and broke her hand, a gallbladder attack, hip surgery, etc.
- On Friday, September 20, 2024, at approximately 1237 hours, Det. Wesley Stewart with the Butler County Sheriff's Office, while assisting the Rose Hill Police Department, conducted an interview with [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was placed with the Schroer's as a foster child when he was a senior in high school after being abused by his father. [REDACTED] admitted that he just found out about the case from the news media last week. [REDACTED] did not have much to talk about as he has been distant from the family for quite a while. [REDACTED] stated he went there for Christmas in 2017 or 2018 and has not talked to them since that day. He stated he felt out of place and got a strange feeling from them as he did not bring any gifts for anyone due to financial issues. He stated that the family has never reached out to him again since that day and he has not been back to the house on Meeker Ct. since.
- [REDACTED] stated he was treated well when he was in foster care, there were no issues he could remember and admitted that both Joseph and Crystina handed out punishment when it was warranted. [REDACTED] was only able to offer third-hand information he had heard from others about the case. He said he heard the State was asking questions of Crystina, which led her to her

mental breakdown and suicide attempt. He was also told that Crystina was screaming on her way to the ambulance [REDACTED] but heard now she was blaming one of her boys. [REDACTED] also heard that Crystina posted on Facebook a full confession of the crime. There was no firsthand knowledge he could offer about the household as he had been gone for quite a while, so detectives concluded this interview.

- On Friday, September 20, 2024, at approximately 1309 hours, Detective Wesley Stewart with the Butler County Sheriff's Office, while assisting the Rose Hill Police Department conducted a telephone interview with [REDACTED] confirmed that Crystina did contact him recently requesting his bonding service. [REDACTED] stated he picked her up from the hospital and drove her straight to the Rose Hill Police Department. [REDACTED] was asked if Crystina made any statements about the case to which he replied she really did not talk much. She told him that she did not have much money and that she had already told the police everything about a body being buried in her backyard. [REDACTED] stated he attempted to bring Crystina to the Rose Hill Police Department to turn her in, but there were no warrants for her yet. [REDACTED] stated that he took her back to his office, as she did not have a place to go, then at the end of the day, took her to a house on School Street in Rose Hill to stay with a friend.
- [REDACTED] was asked if he knew anything about Crystina's gambling habits. [REDACTED] stated he knew that she filed as a professional gambler on her taxes and that she had made approximately \$500,000.00 from playing slot machines. [REDACTED] stated he did not think they had much money, as he also provided pool cleaning services and has serviced her pool for the last 5 years and she is not able to pay her bill all at once.
- [REDACTED] stated Crystina called him because he has been cleaning her pool for the last 5 years and she knew him as a bail bondsman. [REDACTED] was asked if he had noticed anything different in Crystina's demeanor over the past few years and he stated she has always been crazy in his opinion. [REDACTED] also stated he thought Crystina was taking in all the foster children just to get money from the State. This interview was concluded with nothing further to report.
- [REDACTED] was later contacted again by Detective Stewart on Monday, September 30, 2024, at approximately 0936 hours for follow up questions regarding a text message between him and Crystina in the past. [REDACTED] stated he knew exactly what Detective Stewart was talking about and stated that Crystina reached out to him to ask about a 3-year-old child she identified as [REDACTED] and that he bonded the biological mother out of jail, now the 3-year-old was missing, and Crystina believed the mother took her. [REDACTED] was familiar with the biological mother as she skipped bond, and he was also looking for her. [REDACTED] stated that he eventually found the biological mother and the child was not with her. [REDACTED] was able to provide the date of the messages as April 28, 2023. [REDACTED] was asked if he'd ever seen that child and he stated he had a couple times.

█████ thought the child possibly went back to the state as Crystina was telling him that the biological father had the child and would not send her pictures and that she was also in contact with DCF about the situation. █████ stated he never knew where that baby went, so when this case was aired on local television, he thought it might have been that child that was recovered. Detective Stewart ended this interview with nothing further to report.

- On Tuesday, October 1, 2024, your Affiant and Chief Parlier interviewed █████ at the Rose Hill Police Department. █████ identified herself as the kinship placement worker for █████ as she was placed into the Schroer home. She told us the beginning of her interactions with the Schroer's exposed some discrepancies, specifically that their household had been a foster home, but the licensure had expired. She mentioned this as it required different checks to become allowable to place for kinship.
- █████ stated there had been a large overpayment of foster subsidies to the Schroer's, as a result the \$11-\$17 per day pay for █████ was withheld until the overpayment had been repaid, █████ believed this amount to have been approximately \$3,000. However, █████ did pay a utility bill or a portion of the Schroer mortgage to assist in some way. This monthly assistance was approximately \$200.
- In speaking with █████ we first learned of the levels given to each foster/kinship child, the higher the level of the child (or more intensive daily supervision needed) the more the daily stipend would be for their care.
- █████ care team came to believe that Crystina was sabotaging the reintegration of █████ with her biological father, making statements about her poor behavior once she returned from visits with her father.
- When questioned about her visits to the home for █████ was asked if she recalled seeing any of the other children in the home. Her response, "sometimes they were playing there (front family room), or in their bedrooms or the basement." She continued that frequently when she came to visit it was between 10a-11a and it was only Crystina, █████ She stated the other girls weren't there in the home or were napping. This is in line with what other family members have told us that the girls were frequently kept in their rooms, remaining quiet for large periods of the day.
- On Friday, October 25, 2024, your Affiant received notice from the Office of the Kansas Attorney General, Medicaid Inspector General, regarding Medicaid capitation payments and claims for the Schroer children. Information in the report shows that the State of Kansas paid capitation payments to Joseph and Crystina Schroer for █████ after date of death, totaling \$3,827.64. The payments were under the population code 67, which represents Adoption Support Medical program within the Kansas Modular Medicaid System or (KMMS). Those benefits

would have ceased after December 2020, once date of death was reported, however, the death was not reported.

- The affiant received gambling reports from First Council Casino as requested in a subpoena for Crystina's records. Lifetime totals, \$4,186,246.16 listed in "Coin In" column for Slot Statistics which is explained to be the amount put in by Crystina. Jackpots won in her lifetime at this casino are \$361,946.89.
- [REDACTED] were interviewed again on Wednesday, November 6, 2024, at approximately 1710 hours by your affiant and Chief Parlier. We asked how things changed once the fosters began coming into the house, he stated his mother Crystina became angrier, stricter, and mean. [REDACTED] said the biggest thing that changed was seeing how she would treat the fosters, and he couldn't do anything about it. [REDACTED] added that the kids would get into trouble for just normal children's things, and they would get sent to their rooms "for a long time". It was asked how the foster children were when it was just them (children) in the house. [REDACTED] stated, "they just sat and watched tv", we asked like normal kid stuff, and he replied that they were only allowed to watch tv. [REDACTED] added "the kids would get in trouble a lot when I came over because they would ignore Crystina and say hi to me".
- [REDACTED] told us that the first group of fosters that he can remember were a group of three, who he identified as: [REDACTED] He stated they arrived when he was in 6th or 7th grade, stayed for approximately 1 ½ - 2 years, and this was in the house prior to the one his parents own now. He stated he remembers it didn't seem that the fosters could ever do anything "right", specifically [REDACTED] seemed to frequently be in trouble for minor items. [REDACTED] stated to his knowledge, his mother got rid of (disrupted) those children because they "were too much", adding that they were always getting into trouble in school. However, to his recollection "they were such good kids".
- [REDACTED] talked about a time that she and [REDACTED] bought [REDACTED] a new swimming suit, as hers was too small and was giving her a rash. The next day, [REDACTED] was wearing her old swimming suit again. [REDACTED] said she sat down to talk to [REDACTED] and was told "I'm not allowed to talk to you". [REDACTED] said she didn't want to ask anything further, for fear of getting the girls in more trouble for talking.
- [REDACTED] asked Crystina many times if she could take the kids to the park or for a walk, maybe to go trick or treating, but Crystina would not allow it, stating they were too much to handle, they don't listen. [REDACTED] stated that just because they are too much for you, doesn't mean they are too much for me, adding they listen to her all the time. [REDACTED] added that when his dad is watching the kids, everything is peaceful and fine, just normal, but as soon as his mom walks through the door, it was instant screaming.

- [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] remember specifically the section of the yard where [REDACTED] remains were found, was blocked off by pallets from the rest of the yard around mid-late 2021. [REDACTED] stated he was responsible for the lawn care up until he left home and there were toys and other discarded items where [REDACTED] was found, and he just mowed around them.
- We spoke about the children for a time and [REDACTED] interjected. He stated if my mother is ever wrong, you must prove, you must prove she's wrong and if she is wrong, she will have a reason as to why she is wrong. I asked if anyone ever called his mother out on her lies, [REDACTED] stated no one ever knew they were lies because it was what she was telling them. [REDACTED] stated she wanted to call her out on the lies but decided it was not worth it. [REDACTED] added, that was part of the reason why he never turned my mother in because "who was going to believe me?" He stated, "everyone knew my mother outside of the house, but inside of the house who is gonna believe that?"
- On Friday, November 8, 2024, at approximately 1415 hours, your Affiant and Chief Parlier conducted a second interview with [REDACTED] via a Zoom conference, [REDACTED]. We discussed her connection with the Schroer family and learned that she was not legally adopted, as she came to live with the Schroer's when she was 17 years old. [REDACTED] stated she was having problems at her home and Crystina just took her "under her wing" and helped her get through high school and then get enrolled into college. [REDACTED] called Crystina mom, as her mother passed away when she was 3 years old and her father was abusive. She came to live with the Schroer's and developed a family bond.
- [REDACTED] described the relationship as good for most of the time she was there, however it started changing over the last several years. She stated she used to feel like she could just "go home and lay down" and feel comfortable doing so, but it was different now. [REDACTED] stated that they began to see less and less of the children, as they were always in their rooms for doing something wrong, stating that it appeared the girls could never do anything right. [REDACTED] stated that during Christmas time in 2023, she spoke with her brothers, [REDACTED] Schroer, when they discussed filing a report with DCF due to the treatment of the girls. [REDACTED] said they talked her out of making the report, as to not hinder their relationships, which she regrets that decision.
- [REDACTED] went on to discuss things she saw when she came back to the house to live or visit, specifically we asked about mealtimes. [REDACTED] stated that Crystina was very "ration oriented" and in her opinion the rations were unacceptable. [REDACTED] also remembers that Crystina would tell her that the girls were stealing food in the middle of the night, and they were obsessive over food. If the girls asked for a second helping of food, they were not allowed. [REDACTED] stated when she fed the girls, she would let them have as much as they wanted, but she would get into trouble with Crystina for doing so. [REDACTED] was asked if she ever witnessed Crystina brushing

the girls' hair. [REDACTED] stated she did and added that if the girls ever got a knot in their hair, she would just cut it off.

- [REDACTED] was asked if she thought the girls were being treated the same, to which she replied, "absolutely not". [REDACTED] talked about [REDACTED] being treated the worst of all the girls, stating there were times [REDACTED] told her that she was not allowed to talk to her today, but would whisper so Crystina would not hear her. [REDACTED] identified [REDACTED] as being the favorite and the [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were treated as a "twin pair" being called the Duo.
- We asked [REDACTED] to talk about [REDACTED] and what she remembered of her. [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] was the shy one, she was always smiling, always happy, never talked too much. She remembers [REDACTED] always wanted to talk with her, would complement her on the way she looked and such. When asked about the time she last saw [REDACTED] remembered that she left the Schroer residence to move back to [REDACTED] in July of 2020. [REDACTED] said she came back for Thanksgiving that year and remembers it as it was the last time she was allowed to bring friends to the house. [REDACTED] stated that she also remembers that [REDACTED] was not there for Thanksgiving that year. [REDACTED] stated the family was told they were not allowed to take any pictures during the holiday.
- [REDACTED] was asked about the girls being in trouble and if she ever witnessed any of the girls injuring or hurting the others or making threats to hurt/kill each other. [REDACTED] stated she never saw or heard any of that. [REDACTED] stated that Joseph nor Crystina would ever put hands on anyone, if there was any aggression, it was more sibling/kid behavior. The girls always seemed to be sent to their rooms for punishment and made to lay in bed and not move, sometimes for hours at a time and long enough the girls would fall asleep, and Crystina would just leave them there.
- [REDACTED] was also asked if she believed Crystina was the boss of the house, to which she quickly replied that was correct. [REDACTED] stated that whatever Crystina said was what happened, and no one was allowed to question her. [REDACTED] told us that Crystina is a habitual liar, and she does not trust her at all.
- [REDACTED] told us she remembered a time when Crystina told her that the children were passing diarrhea to each other, from eating and playing in their own poop. [REDACTED] was told to stay away from the house for a few days so she did not get sick. [REDACTED] stated that the girls were not taken to the hospital for this, as they were not taken to the doctor or dentist either and that should have been a red flag for her, because [REDACTED] was always going to the doctor. [REDACTED] went on to state that children were never allowed out in public. [REDACTED] asked to take them to the neighborhood park and Crystina would "never, never allow me to take them out of the house". [REDACTED] wanted to take the girls trick or treating one year, but Crystina

- would not allow it, as it was not fair that [REDACTED] could not go because she has epilepsy. [REDACTED] asked to take them to see Christmas lights or see movies and Crystina would never allow it.
- When asked, [REDACTED] described Crystina's gambling habit to be "over the top". [REDACTED] stated that Crystina was always going to casinos, gambling online and always needing money due to her bank accounts being locked up. [REDACTED] said Crystina hid her gambling from Joseph, stating that he did not know much, if anything about their bank accounts, as Crystina managed everything.
- [REDACTED] was asked if she knew why Crystina sent the duo [REDACTED] down to [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] stated Crystina had been trying to get rid of the children for some time and she did not want them anymore. [REDACTED] added, Crystina told her on Christmas (2023) that she wanted to give them up. Crystina told [REDACTED] that she wanted to send [REDACTED] off to boarding school because [REDACTED] was the worst of them. However, no one would take [REDACTED] because of all her psychiatric issues. She continued that the next thing she knew the duo were down in [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was asked if she knew why Crystina wanted to get rid of the children. [REDACTED] stated that Crystina told her the children were sucking the life out of her, they were all she knew, they were driving her crazy and causing too much drama. [REDACTED] was asked if she believed [REDACTED] was also one of the children Crystina wanted to get rid of, [REDACTED] stated Crystina would never get rid of [REDACTED], she wanted to get rid of the other three [REDACTED].
- [REDACTED] was asked about [REDACTED] and his mother's relationship. [REDACTED] stated her belief is the relationship between [REDACTED] and Crystina went bad when [REDACTED] started standing on his own two feet and having an opinion, and Crystina not liking his opinion and not liking what he is doing and saying. [REDACTED] added that [REDACTED] was a very, very, very strong advocate for those girls. He did not like how they were treated." [REDACTED] stated she remembered one time when [REDACTED] took a picture of [REDACTED] bed and the cushion was broken down, she stated you could see the springs poking through the mattress. In contrast, [REDACTED] had a memory foam mattress, so [REDACTED] took a picture of that." [REDACTED] allegedly took pictures of one of the girls being relegated to lying on the floor for three hours, as he did not believe the girl should have been in trouble for that long. She admits that [REDACTED] advocating for the girls forced her to look at the bigger picture. [REDACTED] told us she believed a large part of [REDACTED] concern for the girls came through [REDACTED] as [REDACTED] was in the home during the day while [REDACTED] was at work/school. [REDACTED] stated [REDACTED] would hear the interactions between Crystina and the girls and tell [REDACTED] about those interactions when he came home for lunch. All this information opened [REDACTED] eyes, prior to that she just took Crystina at her word.
- [REDACTED] bears a lot of blame on herself for not speaking up sooner, stating she knew the children were being mistreated and being treated inappropriately, and they could have done something

sooner. [REDACTED] stated that the children were not receiving love from Crystina as they should have been.

- A search warrant was obtained on November 18, 2024, and executed for the forensic examination of a Black Hewlett Packard Pavillion Laptop, [REDACTED] and silver iPhone, [REDACTED] model number [REDACTED] that were seized during the search warrant on the residence of 1406 Meeker Court, Rose Hill, KS. The items were transferred to Wichita Detective Dan Ribble at Wichita Exploited and Missing Children's Unit for a forensic examination/extraction on Thursday, November 21, 2024.
- The Hewlett Packard Pavilion Laptop content was examined by your affiant at a later date, and it was found that there was nothing of evidentiary value to report. The silver iPhone was reported by Detective Ribble to have been factory reset and there was no extraction available. Both of these items were returned to evidence for safekeeping.
- On November 20, 2024, at 1300 hours Joseph and his attorney Darren Patterson arrived at the Rose Hill Police Department for a scheduled interview with your Affiant and Chief Parlier. The interview began with demographics and the Schroer family dynamic. Joseph described his marriage to Crystina over the last several years as "having its ups and downs" and went on to discuss a short term split they had approximately two years prior where divorce and the splitting of marital assets had been discussed. [REDACTED]

- Joseph denied knowing Crystina's gambling was this bad, [REDACTED]
- Additionally, Joseph admitted he received a \$200 per paycheck allowance from Crystina and he frequently had to transfer her money to gamble at the end of the month as she had already spent what they had available.
- Joseph's monthly income/disbursements are known to be [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Totaling approximately \$9,204.00/month of incoming funds.
- Known outgoing monthly payments were [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] \$1,282/month for mortgage, \$130/month for water, \$400/month for electric, \$390/month for insurance, \$450/month for cell service, \$135/month for television and internet, \$230/month for car loan, and \$228/month for an unspecified loan. Additional monthly expenses for their cabin and [REDACTED] are as follows: \$740/month for cabin mortgage, \$60/month in cabin electric,

- \$230/month for cabin insurance, \$600/month for Hannah rent, \$20-\$40/month for [REDACTED] pike pass, and an unknown amount for [REDACTED] food.
- Total monthly (known) outgoing versus incoming (not factoring in Crystina's baking) is \$4,915 outgoing and \$9,204 incoming. This would allow Crystina to have on average \$4,289 in monthly disposable income.
 - Initially in the interview, Joseph stated he was not able to identify any difference between the manner Crystina treated their elder children versus their adopted children.
 - As the interview develops Joseph admits not witnessing the violent behaviors Crystina described of [REDACTED], admits [REDACTED] was segregated from the other children. This was not the treatment the elder children report ever experiencing from Crystina.
 - He also admits the cameras in and around the house were a staple of the adopted children's lives but not of the older children.
 - Joseph initially indicated the adopted children did not have, to his knowledge, their food rationed.
 - Interviews with other family members indicated this was not true, from their perspective.
 - [REDACTED]
 - Joseph, at the prodding of his Attorney Mr. Patterson, mentions while he does not remember the date K.J.S. left, he does remember a text message from Crystina that morning while he was at work. This message reportedly mentioned "that something was going on at the house, but Crystina had it under control."
 - [REDACTED] had choked [REDACTED] out and that an ambulance had taken [REDACTED] away to a secure psychiatric facility (possibly in Kansas City). He stated he looked over [REDACTED] and she appeared fine with no external injuries or bruising and was acting normally.
 - Joseph inferred he somehow knew [REDACTED] choked [REDACTED] but stopped short of saying that Crystina told him. He stated [REDACTED] was acting normally when he got home, and that Crystina never told him that she had to give [REDACTED] Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR).
 - Joseph stated he never saw [REDACTED] eating inedible food (Pica) and described their appetites as normal. He stated he never observed them playing in fecal matter but does mention one time that [REDACTED] had an accidental bowel movement and attempted to clean it up, possibly

before being found out, and made a mess. He mentions no knowledge of the girls urinating and rolling around in the urine puddles, as reported by Crystina.

- When asked if Joseph remembers [REDACTED] he stated, [REDACTED] loved her sisters, loved playing with them, doing activities with them." This is in direct contradiction of the [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- Joseph stated he had no knowledge of the adopted girls not being allowed to speak to people, however this was also contradicted [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
- During this interview, Chief Parlier asked Joseph if ne now believed that his estranged wife had been lying to him and he replied "No, I 100% believe Crystina has been lying to me."
- Joseph was asked if he was aware of the monthly adoption stipend they were receiving through DCF, he stated he was not aware. Additionally, he stated he did not sign an annual document for DCF to indicate they still had [REDACTED]
 - Annual documents with a signature in Joseph's name area were found in DCF. There were some similarities between the signature of Crystina and that of Joseph, indicating a possibility of the same person having signed both areas.
 - [REDACTED]
- Joseph confirmed that once Crystina stated something was going to be a certain way, the family did not second guess her or push back. As a result of this he stated when Crystina told him that [REDACTED] had been given back to the State for care he believed her.
- We spoke about [REDACTED] who had been a temporary kinship placement in their home, due to her tangential relationship with two of their adopted children.
 - Joseph denies any violent behavior in [REDACTED] part, as had been reported by Crystina. He stated he never knew her to spit, pinch, or hit.
 - Joseph directly contradicted Crystina's report of [REDACTED] decline at the time of her disruption from their home.
- In closing this interview with Joseph, he stated that he should have known something was going on and mentioned several things which make sense to him now, but he failed to connect in the moment.
- A final autopsy report was completed on December 9, 2024, and forwarded to the Rose Hill Police Department. Deputy Coroner-Medical Examiner Dr. Scott Kipper identified the cause of

death was "probably suffocation" and the manner was "homicide". The positive identification of the remains was made possible by DNA maternity testing and confirmed sibling DNA testing.

- The foster family of [REDACTED] have reported any issues or comments that the children have made to TFI immediately via email. On January 4, 2025, right after Christmas 2024, [REDACTED] took a picture of a Sterilite storage container she bought for Christmas decorations for storage in her garage. [REDACTED] came into the room and saw the container and "freaked out". It is reported that she started screaming, "please do not make up get in the boxes please, please we will never fight again". Teresa stated she started crying uncontrollably and it took over an hour for her and then [REDACTED] to calm down. The boxes were not big at all, and both girls pointed to the inside of the box where the edges are that point down on the lid and said that those really hurt when the door is closed and locked.
- On Thursday, January 9, 2025, at 1315 hours, your Affiant and Chief Parlier met with [REDACTED] for an interview at RHPD. [REDACTED] at the time of her involvement with the Schroer family, was an employee of SFM. As an employee of SFM she was tasked as the foster care home worker, in this role her primary focus was on Crystina, Joseph, and the overall safety of their home. It should be noted at the time of this interview, [REDACTED] was currently employed by The Family Initiative (TFI), Inc and performs similar functions for foster families.
- [REDACTED] informs us that she has worked with foster families in this capacity since 2015, and in other capacities since 2005. She recalls meeting the Schroer's for the first time in either 2016 or 2017, and states they were given to her as she got the difficult families. [REDACTED] went on to say their earlier worker was "very fastidious", an elderly female, and took issue with the clutter around the Schroer home. [REDACTED] inferred she took a longer view and focused more on core safety matters and less on a home's clutter. [REDACTED] describes Crystina as she "literally ran the house" and Joseph was a "sweet man".
- [REDACTED] stated her first placement into the Schroer home was a "3-pack", or a sibling set of three. Their names are [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] was an infant, and each had a different father but the same mother. [REDACTED] showed up frequently in a notebook found during the search of the Schroer residence. Some of the references to these three found in the notebooks are:
 - [REDACTED] acts like you drowning her in tub
 - [REDACTED] likes to play in poop
 - [REDACTED] pulled pants down and peed in the middle of the floor
 - Both [REDACTED] still act like they never seen food. Like I'm going to starve them
 - [REDACTED] bit self in right arm kids out of control, Beating on dog. Acting like they have no rules, no sleeping.

- [REDACTED] played in poop smeared all over bathroom
 - [REDACTED] scratched herself on top of right hand for attention
- These references are just a few and are in addition to what has been mentioned previously, showing a picture of the amazing similarities between these children and the foster girls once they were placed in the Schroer home. As we continued speaking about Crystina and her interactions with the different foster children, [REDACTED] stated "I can tell you this, she (Crystina) reported a lot of things I never saw." Chief Parlier asked if she thought this was intended for Crystina to raise the per diem rate per child, and [REDACTED] responded that Crystina gave "me enough information I could adjust any of those rates as high as the top rate." [REDACTED] added that Crystina would tell her, "She would call them crack whores" and "would call them insane", referring to the foster girls. [REDACTED] added, "I never saw any of those kids acting in that manner, ever."
- Your affiant asked [REDACTED] about the notebooks found in the search warrant, and if it was common for foster parents to use that manner of record keeping. [REDACTED] stated there are three separate types of foster families:
- A family that takes difficult behavior in stride so not everything is reported.
 - A family that is more intellectually based, who take notes out of curiosity and interest.
 - Then you have families "like Crystina that document because uh, they want a higher rate (of per diem pay).
- [REDACTED] added that it made no sense to her for them (Schroers) to be requesting rate increases 'because they had plenty of money, but it is what it is.' She adds, "Crystina is someone that very much wants to be in control of everything. All the time. Everything." In finishing the discussion about the notebooks, [REDACTED] guessed that the 'Schroer's just wanted babies to play with and did not necessarily think about the hard parts of fostering and adoption.'
- Moving on to the fostering of the foster girls, [REDACTED] Chief Parlier asked [REDACTED] to think back about their entry into the house. [REDACTED] stated, "The second (sibling) set (foster girls) were easier, it was calmer" she added that she called the foster girls the "precious moments kids". She stated this is because those girls are what everyone wants when they start fostering having blonde ringlets, blue eyes, long eye lashes, and cupids bow lips. [REDACTED] added all the girls were pretty quiet. When [REDACTED] spoke on the parents, she stated "I feel like Joe got more enjoyment out of the kids and Crystina got more attention." Chief Parlier asked her to elaborate on that point, and [REDACTED] stated her belief that Crystina liked the attention from the community adding, "I (Crystina) am the foster parent of these horribly neglected and abused children."
- [REDACTED] stated the Schroer house went from "Precious Moments" to hell on earth quickly, "She (Crystina) went immediately to these girls are crack heads, crack whores, they're crazy, they're strangling each other, ripping each other's hair out in chunks and trying to kill each other." "I

never saw any of it, not once", [REDACTED] informs. She also described the foster girls as very quiet and well-behaved. [REDACTED] stated it appeared to her that Crystina viewed [REDACTED] "...almost as an opponent" whereas [REDACTED] received all the fun toys and clothes as she was the baby and Crystina's favorite at this time. She seemed confident this transition took place in a mere 2-2 ½ weeks. Chief Parlier asked [REDACTED] if this ramped up faster or slower than another foster home, and she replied, "it was normal for Crystina's house" when pressed about the comparison she stated immediately it was "faster."

- [REDACTED] added the foster girls acted like "they were little soldiers", they did not run around and make noise, throw things or acting "that kind of way." [REDACTED] was asked how she believes these girls came to be this way, her reply "Well Crystina was very dominant" [REDACTED] told us "So if you have a dominant personality, and you place a dominant kid with a dominant personality then the dominant personality blows up". [REDACTED] continues, "because the one refuses to be controlled, and Crystina did not leave any room to defy her. This was the way it was going to be, period there was not a (inaudible) and that was her whole household". "When Crystina decided something was a certain way that's the way it was going to be, by God" explained [REDACTED] Chief Parlier asked her if the girls were ever in trouble when she did a house visit and she replied instantly, "all the time, constantly." Chief Parlier asked her to describe what it looked like when they got in trouble. She said, "in their rooms, in their beds, usually under the covers or sitting on their bed playing with their dolls". She stated whenever she walked into the room, they would look up at her like this (she demonstrated an unexcited and blank stare with wide eyes looking up). [REDACTED] added they never ran to her, there was no high fiving, or smiling and she believed "it was rare for kids not to be attached to me". [REDACTED] stated she used to think, "for as in control as you (Crystina) are, how the hell are they doing these things? when are they doing these things, because right now they are sitting in their rooms quiet, this would be the opportunity to beat the hell out of each other."

- [REDACTED] discussed for a time the process of how after the adoption was finalized the Schroer's foster license expired. A half sibling to [REDACTED] had just been born and was named [REDACTED] Crystina petitioned to have [REDACTED] placed as a kinship, instead of a foster placement. This apparently confused [REDACTED] as the Kinship pays a fraction of the price that fostering pays; however, she says it makes sense now because Crystina did not want [REDACTED] back in her home.
- Chief Parlier asked about the dynamic in the house once all five were present: [REDACTED]

- "I got the distinct impression that [REDACTED] was the least liked, it did not surprise me what I found out."
- [REDACTED] was just disregarded, like she was just not interested in her at all."

- [REDACTED] was cute and a baby, [REDACTED] was cute, and [REDACTED] was tiny, tiny, tiny so she was like a baby.”
 - [REDACTED] was the most celebrated child in the history of the world. Jesus didn’t get as much attention as [REDACTED] did, spoiled does not begin to cover it.”
 - “But, she (Crystina) would never talk about [REDACTED] there were never any cute stories about [REDACTED] ever, never. Most of my foster parents want to tell you about the cute things that happen, not this one it was just the facts ma’am; I didn’t see [REDACTED] getting any special toys. Nobody ever bragged on [REDACTED], she just...disregard is the word that I would use.”
- [REDACTED] told us, “I did tell my supervisor that I did not know how to take her, she spoke about the kids like they were things in the house, like lamps”. She adds, “there wasn’t a lot of warmth except toward the babies”
- Chief Parlier asked [REDACTED] about any issues the foster girls had with water (similar as we found out to [REDACTED]). [REDACTED] stated she remembers they did not like to have water poured over their head “but that didn’t persist”, she added if it had persisted “she (Crystina) would have told me about it, because she told me about every cough, sneeze, rash, everything.” [REDACTED] was asked if it was fair to say she got most of her information on the children from Crystina, she replied “yes.” With this information we discussed the medical diagnosis’ it appears Crystina gave to SCMH, DCF, and SFM. We discussed things like Reactive Attachment Disorder (RAD) and Oppositional Defiance Disorder (ODD). [REDACTED] mentioned that for the children to have RAD they would need to have an attachment to Crystina, and she saw no attachment. Regarding the ODD [REDACTED] stated, “I will say with [REDACTED] she was not defiant, not a moment, not a second, that child was so cowed by life like a little puppet. That was not a defiant child.”
 - [REDACTED] spoke about how it was difficult to get information on the foster children because Crystina “limited access to them”, stating they weren’t in sports, or girl scouts, and they didn’t go over to friends’ houses for the social workers to speak with other unrelated adults. Additionally, she stated “Crystina delivers information with a force and attitude which does not lend itself to thinking you can have a different opinion.”
 - [REDACTED] was asked her thoughts if Crystina was tired, and angry and woke up to tell one of the girls they had to lay still in a bed for six hours, what might she do if that child told her no. [REDACTED] stated, “she would pick them up and put them in bed.” Chief Parlier asked if she thought Crystina would have that much control of her anger. [REDACTED] replied, “I think if at the time there were other individuals that any reason to come in and out of that house, yes, I think she would have had enough self-control to not do that. But if she really had isolated that whole family to that point, she would do whatever she wanted.” [REDACTED] continued, “I could definitely see her being the kind

of person who could snap, just because Crystina is so very black and white, that she can't meld that it was one or the other."

- To conclude this interview, [REDACTED] painted a picture of the Schroer household where Crystina ran the home and its happenings with an iron fist and Joseph was simply the 'bread winner'. Additionally, whatever Crystina said was what the family did, without question. Crystina appeared to [REDACTED] as motivated by money, societal praise, and appeared to thoroughly enjoy babies. She described Crystina's, apparent to her, apathy towards [REDACTED] contrasted by her love for [REDACTED]
- On January 21, 2025, Affiant received an email from TFI forwarding a report that over the weekend, [REDACTED] while eating dinner, told [REDACTED] that Crystina would tell all the girls that [REDACTED] was burning in a fire in hell and if they were bad, they would burn too. The family reports that they had just prayed for supper and gospel music was playing in the home.
- The level of service changes through St. Francis Ministries to Intensive/Specialized Enhanced level, at \$40 per day, On August 18, 2017, receiving \$20 (satellite), for [REDACTED] to April 12, 2018, \$35 (moderate) to October 19, 2018, \$40 (intensive/specialized). [REDACTED] went from August 18, 2017 \$20 (satellite) to December 5, 2018 \$40 (intensive/specialized) reasoning for [REDACTED] is peeing in the middle of the floor in bedroom, living room and kitchen, getting up at night and beating up on the other kids in room, pulling hair out in clumps, eating hair, eating nonfood items, playing in feces, petrified of case workers showing up (thinks they are going to take her), throws huge emotional raging fits in public and home, cannot be consoled, extremely fearful, self mutilates, hits and scratches others. However, none of this behavior was ever noticed by anyone else (family, workers or school) except Crystina.
- The Deputy Chief Special Investigator Laura Lindsey with the General Counsel's Office of the Legal Division of DCF, forwarded an Affidavit issued by their office concerning the welfare fraud committed by Joseph and Crystina Schroer. On or about October 18, 2019, the Schorer's applied for and signed the Adoption Assistance Agreement with DCF and started receiving adoption assistance in the amount of \$500 a month for [REDACTED]. On November 23, 2019, [REDACTED] was adopted by Joseph and Crystina Schroer and her name was legally changed to [REDACTED] still residing in the Schorer home. Sometime in November 2020, [REDACTED] is believed to have died, and her death was not reported to DCF or any other authorities. During the time frame of December 2020 through September 2024, Joseph and Crystina continued to receive adoption subsidies for [REDACTED] since they failed to report her death to authorities. As a result, Joseph and Crystina were issued a total of \$23,000.00 in child adoption subsidy benefits which were deposited in their joint bank account via Automated Clearing House (ACH) transfer. Annual adoption assistance review

forms, signed by both Joseph and Crystina, were completed each year in August, confirming that [REDACTED] was still in the home and being cared for by the Schroer's.

- Based on testimonial evidence, gathered through independent interviews, and statements made by Crystina to Joseph via text messages strong evidence exists to show Crystina placed [REDACTED] into confined spaces as punishment. These spaces include but may not be limited to cardboard boxes used for medicine transport, dog kennels, foot lockers, storage boxes, and closets. Additional evidence shows Crystina would place these children into prolonged positions of motionlessness, such as in bed for hours or days, lying on the floor for hours, and/or standing in the corner with their nose against the wall for hours.
- With evidence showing the torture of children by placing them in boxes, we have the testimonial evidence from [REDACTED] of witnessing Crystina placing her younger sister, [REDACTED] into a box as a punishment for moving overnight. [REDACTED] reports that Crystina became angry at [REDACTED] for making noise in the box and/or moving, so she (Crystina) weighed it down with heavy blankets and a crib. Only after [REDACTED] stopped moving and making noise did Crystina kick the box to have this young child get out, only to receive no response. Crystina reportedly picked the box up and [REDACTED] fell out, blue in color, sweating, and unresponsive. [REDACTED] reports Crystina looking frantic and was trying to breathe life back into her before taking her to the shower and telling [REDACTED] to leave the room. [REDACTED] attests to hearing her sister cough as Crystina left the house with her for several hours.
- Crystina confessed in our first contact with her to bringing the lifeless body on a driving trip, to unknown areas, for several hours. Crystina self-reported she considered calling your Affiant, 9-1-1 and even going to the hospital but instead returned home with the believed corpse of [REDACTED]. It is unknown what state of dress [REDACTED] was in upon returning home, however she was shortly thereafter placed naked into two trash bags and buried 23" down into the cold earth of her former backyard.
- Crystina lied to law enforcement during our initial interaction with her, as she blamed [REDACTED] for the death of her sister [REDACTED]. Additionally claiming [REDACTED] tortured animals, abused and tortured her adoptive and blood sister, and threatened to kill family members. These claims have been directly refuted by several sources and no supporting evidence was found throughout this investigation. As a result of Crystina's lies, we further separated [REDACTED] from being placed with her siblings as a CINC, due to her initially being a homicide suspect.
- Evidence obtained through testimony of family members, and corroborated through Crystina's own text messages show a several year history of abuse. These abuses were mental, as well as

physical, and manifested in the segregation of the children from the outside world, each other, and other members of the home. Crystina admits to starving the children in order to gain their compliance, using food as a weapon. Crystina chastises Joseph for placing a bucket inside a closet where some of the girls were placed, in order for them to urinate in the bucket but instead they chose to urinate on the floor of the closet. Handwritten notes, corroborated by testimony of social workers, show that Crystina was fabricating medical ailments against some or all of her foster children in order to prescribe medications to them and increase her per diem stipend per child.

- Evidence shows [REDACTED] was murdered within the month of November 2020, and several years after (until August 2024), Crystina and possibly Joseph signed documents delivered to the State of Kansas stating [REDACTED] was in their care. Due to these statements, they accepted into their bank account with USAA monies totaling or in excess of \$23,000. It should be noted that one or more of these documents appear to have been signed solely by Crystina, forging the signature of Joseph.
 - Evidence obtained through the Kansas Attorney General's Office overseeing Medicaid shows an excess capitation payment of \$3,827.64, these monies would not have been paid had they reported the death of K.J.S. (N.G.).
 - A photograph showing [REDACTED] lying in a bed, in a stress position, face down, hands at side, feet straight out and no moving, taken on November 21, 2023 by [REDACTED] were turned over to the Rose Hill Police Department for evidence.
 - A photograph showing [REDACTED] lying on the floor next to the bed in a stress position, face down, hands at side, feet straight out and no moving, taken on November 21, 2023 by [REDACTED] were turned over to the Rose Hill Police Department for evidence.
 - At no time between October 1, 2020 and December 15, 2020 did Crystina Schroer notify any branch of law enforcement, fire department, emergency medical services, Department of Children and Families, Saint Francis Ministries or any other entity to report the death of [REDACTED], hiding the fact that she was deceased and buried in the backyard of her residence.
 - While examining texts messages from Crystina's cell phone for evidence, a conversation with Joseph took place on January 16, 2023 starting at 12:42:24 is about Crystina putting [REDACTED] in a dog kennel to sleep that night.
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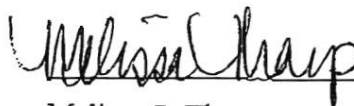
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- While examining photographs and comparing notes for evidence purposes, your Affiant was able to match three unique photographs and a drawing, showing a lockbox that was used for punishment. On September 26, 2024, [REDACTED] drew a picture during her forensic interview at

Child Advocacy Center. [REDACTED] was asked to describe a box she identified being locked inside with [REDACTED]. The drawing depicts a footlocker type box with a hook and lock type lock. On January 4, 2025 the foster parent of [REDACTED] emailed a photograph of a storage box they she bought for Christmas decorations to TFI manager, Kathryn Wiggins. The foster parent said in the email she bought two of these containers for storage in the garage, but when [REDACTED] came into the room she "FREAKED OUT" and started screaming, "please do not make us get in the boxes, please, please we will never fight again", crying uncontrollably. It took over an hour to calm her and [REDACTED] down. After they were calm, both girls pointed to the inside of the box where the edges are that point down on the lid and said, "those really hurt when the door is closed and locked." On September 17, 2024, during the execution of a search warrant on the Schroer residence at 1406 Meeker Court, Rose Hill, a black storage box, matching the identical of the photograph sent by the foster parent and the one [REDACTED] drew, was photographed in the basement storage room, full of clothing.

WHEREFORE, Affiant respectfully submits that the information contained above shows clear Probable Cause that one or more violations of the Kansas Criminal Code occurred in the Kansas County above specified, within the time prescribed by applicable Statutes of Limitations, and shows clear Probable Cause that the defendant committed those violations.

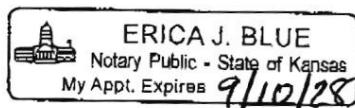


Melissa S. Tharp

Detective, City of Rose Hill, Kansas

Affiant

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN To before me this 10 day of February, 2025.


Notary Public