

STATE OF MINNESOTA**COUNTY OF DAKOTA**

Ct. File No.: 19HA-CR-15-4229
Ct. File No.: 19HA-CR-25-4230
State v Gina Dahlen and Doug Dahlen

AFFIDAVIT OF LAURA LAMANNA

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
) SS.
 COUNTY OF DAKOTA)

Laura LaManna being first duly sworn and therefore subject to the penalties of perjury, does make and depose the following true statements:

1. I, Laura LaManna, have worked in the Criminal Justice field for over 10 years. My experience includes loss prevention, security, corrections, and law enforcement. As a police officer, I conducted investigations of crimes in support of the Knox County District Attorney's office in Camden, Maine. I have a Law Enforcement Occupational Certificate from the Minnesota POST Police Academy. Presently, I work with a major insurance company investigating insurance claims. I have been requested to provide a report of my contact with witnesses that met and experienced SVR and GJR's fear of their father, David Rucki, while openly staying at the Dahlen's White Horse Ranch in Herman, MN.

2. On August 6, 2016, I made a telephone call to Trish Quernemoen (14012 State Hwy 79, Elbow Lake, MN 56531), who is the pastor's wife at Destiny Church in Ashby, MN. I introduced myself as an investigator for Kyle White and Travis Keil, who are representing Doug and Gina Dahlen, owners of the White Horse Ranch in Herman, MN. I asked her if she was familiar with SVR and GJR.

3. Trish stated she went to the Dahlen's ranch on a few occasions when the girls first arrived. She described them as being fearful of strangers, apprehensive to be touched, and afraid to hug anyone. They also appeared to be very nervous when new cars pulled up in the driveway. Once the girls got more comfortable, Doug and Gina Dahlen brought both SVR and GJR to several church services at Destiny Church.
4. Next, I telephonically interviewed Dee Dee Jorgensen (18895 193rd Ave, Barrett, MN 56311), who is Doug's sister. She stated that she brought the girls shopping several times in neighboring towns including Fargo, ND, and did their hair at her salon in town. She reported seeing the fear in the girls' face and acting afraid when they mentioned that their father threatened to kill them and their mother. Dee Dee recalled an instance when she made a comment about having expired tabs on her truck that she had to renew, and the girls appeared to be terrified. She asked them what was wrong, and they stated that if she gets pulled over by the police, they would "have to go back" (to their father).
5. After speaking to Dee Dee, I called and interviewed Sharon Henneman (23359 Lake Jennie Road NW, Evansville, MN 56326), who is a board member at the White Horse Ranch. She stated that anytime someone knocked on the door of the ranch house, the girls would immediately run into their room. They were afraid of who was at the door, and wanted to avoid any possibility of being sent back to their father. She could see the fear in their faces when that occurred.
6. Sharon also mentioned that the girls had full access to the computer and phones, keys were left in vehicles, and they were told by the Dahlens that they could leave at any time. The girls chose not to leave because they felt safe at the ranch. They also were homeschooled, learned to cook, sew, bake, do farm work, chores, and learned about forgiveness.
7. I then called and spoke to Michele Warga (29194 150th Ave, Ashby, MN 56309), who was a volunteer and assisted in sessions at the ranch. She stated that when the girls first came to the ranch, GJR had nightmares, and they made comments that their father wanted

to kill them. She also said the ranch held fundraisers, but the girls initially chose to stay in the house out of fear of who would be outside. However, over time, the girls would go out on Fridays with the Dahlens to eat at the Dew Drop Inn in Hoffman, MN.

8. On February 7, 2016, I called and interviewed Theresa Hanson (PO Box 40, Battle Lake, MN 56515), who is a friend of the Dahlens, and also boards her horses at their ranch. She met both SVR and GJR shortly after they arrived at the ranch, and described them as being guarded, leary, and quiet. As time went on, they started to open up, and Theresa would bring them to dinner in town, and swimming with her kids at a public lake with other people. She stated the girls also went shopping at a lot of local thrift stores, and attended services at Destiny Church without wearing any kind of concealment to hide their identity.
9. I specifically asked Theresa if either Gina or Doug attempted to conceal or hide Samantha or Gianna, and she stated that they did not. They introduced the girls to other people using their real names, and the Dahlens usually had company at the ranch many days of the week. The ranch had a very large fundraiser consisting of a couple of hundred people in September of 2015. Both SVR and GJR were in the open, unconcealed amongst the guests, helping with the events including the silent auction, and bringing things in and out of the house. Theresa also reported that the Dahlens would make cakes for the girls' birthdays, and would invite people over to celebrate.
10. After approximately 1 year at the ranch, Theresa said the girls would occasionally make comments about their father to her. They said that they were physically and emotionally abused by him, and that he threatened to kill them, their mother, and then himself. He also allegedly possessed a gun, which he had shown to the girls, inflicting more fear in them. The girls also shared that their father had inappropriate sexual behavior with them by commenting on their breasts. They also described him as being a "drunk", unpredictable, and sporadic. They also witnessed their father choke their mother. As they shared these stories with Theresa, she saw the girls start to cry, and described how scared they were of their father.

- 11. When someone new came to the ranch, they exhibited fear since they were afraid it was someone who was going to take them away back to their father. They mentioned to Theresa and the Dahlens that they "can't live with him", and would run away again if they were brought back to him. Both Gina and Doug would encourage them to forgive their father, and did not encourage them to run away again due to the dangers of being in the street as they were concerned for their safety.

- 12. Theresa described the Dahlens and the White Horse Ranch as being a "safe place" for children (and others needing help) where they can be open, listened to, encouraged to be themselves, grow in their faith, learn new skills, and find therapeutic relief in interacting with the animals. The Dahlens told both SVR and GJR that they were free to leave at any time and not forced to stay, and had access to phones and computers. However, the girls did not want to leave the ranch since they felt safe there, and were being cared for and educated.

FURTHER YOUR AFFIANT SAYETH NOT


Laura LaManna

Date 5/19/16

Subscribed to and sworn to before
me this 19th day of May 2016


Notary Public

