

1 call" means don't leave town in case we need you
2 again.

3 **THE WITNESS:** Yes, ma'am.

4 **THE COURT:** You're free to go today.
5 Thank you, sir.

6 **(Witness released)**

7 **THE COURT:** Any other witness?

8 **MR. BATARSE:** Yes, Your Honor. State
9 calls Sarah Garay to the stand.

10 **THE BAILIFF:** Your Honor, this witness
11 has not been sworn.

12 **THE COURT:** Thank you. Come on up,
13 please, ma'am. And I'd like the jurors to see the
14 witness take the oath. So, if you don't mind facing
15 them and raising your right hand.

16 **(Witness Duly Sworn)**

17 **THE COURT:** Thank you. Please have a
18 seat.

19 **MR. BATARSE:** May I proceed, Your
20 Honor?

21 **THE COURT:** Yes, sir.

22 **SARAH GARAY,**
23 having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

24 **DIRECT EXAMINATION**

25 **Q. (BY MR. BATARSE)** Ms. Garay, could you

1 please introduce yourself to the jury?

2 **A.** Yes. My name is Sarah Garay. I'm a
3 licensed professional counselor and a marriage and
4 family therapy associate with the Fort Bend County
5 Women's Center.

6 **Q.** Tell the jury a little bit about what it
7 means to be a licensed professional counselor.

8 **A.** Licensed professional counselor is someone
9 who has obtained a Master's degree in counseling and
10 is prepared to counsel individuals and groups. And I
11 also have a marriage and family therapy license which
12 helps me to counsel families.

13 **Q.** And what type of -- tell the jury your
14 educational background.

15 **A.** So, I have a Bachelor of Science degree in
16 nursing from the University of Texas, and I have a
17 Master of Arts in counseling from the Houston --
18 Houston Graduate School of Theology.

19 **Q.** And how long have you been a counselor?

20 **A.** I have worked in counseling since 2009. I
21 have been fully licensed since 2012.

22 **Q.** You said you worked at Fort Bend County
23 Women's Center?

24 **A.** Yes.

25 **Q.** And describe what you do there.

1 **A.** I work under two grants. One is for
2 domestic violence, also called family violence. And
3 I also work as a sexual assault counselor. So,
4 50 percent of the funds are given for sexual assault
5 clients, and the other 50 percent is for family
6 violence.

7 **Q.** And have you had -- since your prior
8 education, have you had additional training on
9 counseling victims of sexual abuse?

10 **A.** Actually, I have had years of experience.
11 I'm a pastor's wife in the Katy area. And many
12 Hispanic people, 90 percent, seek help through the
13 clergy, whether they want help for family violence or
14 sexually traumatic incidents.

15 So, for years as a nurse in the
16 community, I was seen as a helper; and my husband and
17 I decided that one of us needed to go back to school
18 and get more training because there was such a need.
19 So, I'd say for 28 years I have been dealing with the
20 issue.

21 **Q.** So, how is it that a child or parent is
22 referred to you?

23 **A.** So, there are numerous ways that they can
24 find out about our agency. They are online. Our
25 numbers are online. If you Google "sexual assault

1 help," all of those numbers will come up. There are
2 national hotlines. And when they call in, they can
3 just give their ZIP code; and they will be referred
4 to the local agencies.

5 Q. Tell us a little bit about the theory
6 behind the counseling. I mean, what is your purpose
7 when you're counseling victims of sexual abuse?

8 A. So, I counsel using a theoretical base
9 called shame resilient theory. So, one of the issues
10 with sexual trauma is shame. So, what we try to do
11 is help the clients come out of that shame and to
12 find their voice again, to find that passion for
13 living their own identity, and to continue on with a
14 healthy life.

15 Q. Okay. And what -- could you tell the jury
16 what cognitive trauma therapy is?

17 A. Yes. Cognitive trauma therapy is very
18 helpful in trama. It's three phases of therapy that
19 we do. The first phase is assertiveness training, a
20 strategy to give the clients back their voice to help
21 them to be able to say, You're important. I'm
22 important to state their case with a calm,
23 nonaggressive, but assertive demeanor.

24 The second phase of therapy we deal
25 with anger, because anger is always an issue with

1 people who have had trauma. They become what we call
2 reactive. Any kind of situation in the present which
3 normally would be processed with a logical prefrontal
4 cortex part of the brain. Because of the trauma,
5 they process that with the limit part of the brain,
6 which is very reactive, very emotional.

7 So, instead of responding logically
8 within the situation, they respond with anger and
9 aggression, which can get them into trouble in the
10 future. When you're trying to look for a job, if the
11 person that's interviewing them looks like an abuser,
12 they can have an emotional reaction and respond
13 inadequately. So, we deal with all that in the
14 second phase of therapy.

15 And the third phase of therapy, we do
16 what's called desensitization. You may have heard of
17 this. An example, if someone has a fear of snakes,
18 you expose them to pictures of snakes, video of
19 snakes. Take them to the zoo and they can get close
20 to a snake and maybe finally touch the snake. We do
21 this kind of work with someone perhaps who has been
22 raped at the beach.

23 Well, the beach is no longer harmful;
24 but the beach is something that they kind of avoid.
25 And we don't want clients to have any limitations in

1 their life --

2 **THE REPORTER:** I'm sorry, can you
3 please slow down, for me?

4 **A.** I'm sorry. We don't want them to feel that
5 places or objects or smells or the way people look or
6 a certain race or language has power and control over
7 them. So, what we do is we try to desensitize them
8 by exposing them to non-harmful memories which they
9 would normally avoid.

10 And usually after those three phases
11 of therapy, the clients feel like they are ready to
12 move on. And they are always welcome to come back.
13 We have an open-door policy, especially with sexual
14 trauma. As new relationships come up, new issues may
15 come up; and they're always welcome to come back.

16 They can even come back with a
17 potential partner, and we can discuss the dynamics of
18 someone entering a relationship with someone who has
19 a sexual trauma.

20 **Q. (BY MR. BATARSE)** So, you mentioned
21 obviously the trauma, the effects. What is the role
22 that family plays in the life of the victim post
23 trauma?

24 **A.** All right. So, all families have normal
25 problems and issues. So, if you throw in sexual

1 trauma on top of that, it's like family problems on
2 steroids. Everything becomes problematic. May I
3 give an example?

4 Q. Sure. Actually, I was going to ask you, I
5 mean, in your experience dealing with victims of
6 sexual abuse, do you ever deal with an issue of a
7 doubting parent? Does that ever come up?

8 A. It's very common. In fact, one of the
9 statements I make in the beginning -- let's say a
10 mother brings in her daughter, and the daughter's had
11 sexual trauma. And I can tell that the mother is
12 very embarrassed about being there. I talk to her
13 about resiliency and shame resilience.

14 I tell her that in order for her and
15 her daughter and her family to heal from this, three
16 things need to be avoided: Secrecy, silence, and
17 judgment. And if she is more concerned about what's
18 going on in the community or what people think of
19 her, that's a problem.

20 And I tell her my goal with you is to
21 be able to take you out into the parking lot and you
22 would be able to say to whomever, My daughter has
23 been raped. And I'm here to support her. I'm going
24 to do whatever I can to help her.

25 And I try to coach her and enable her

1 to grow that kind of a voice because that's what it
2 takes.

3 Q. What -- what affect does a doubting parent
4 have on the victim?

5 A. So, it just -- it just makes that shame so
6 much worse. So, here is someone who has had that
7 sexual trauma; and the message that she is receiving
8 is, You're no longer clean. It's over. Really this
9 part of your life is over. This part of you, which
10 is so special, has been ruined. You're ruined.
11 You're no longer daddy's little girl. You're no
12 longer your teacher's favorite pet. If your teacher
13 knew this about you, she would never call you her
14 favorite anymore.

15 So, all of these negative messages,
16 this is what the client is hearing if they don't have
17 the support of her mother or a parent. That's, you
18 know, the face that says, You're loved. I love you
19 no matter what.

20 If you remove that face, what are they
21 left with? What is the community going to think of
22 me if my own parent doesn't support me? So, it's
23 huge.

24 Q. With regard to this case, did you have an
25 opportunity to see Jasmine Chacon as a patient?

1 **A.** Yes, sir, I did.

2 **Q.** Okay. And did you also see her sister
3 Natalie?

4 **A.** Yes, I did.

5 **Q.** Okay. And about how long were your --
6 about how long did you see Jasmine as a patient?

7 **A.** I saw Jasmine and the family from 8/13 to
8 11/13.

9 **Q.** Okay. So, a few months in 2013?

10 **A.** Seven sessions.

11 **Q.** Okay. And was it for sexual abuse
12 counseling?

13 **A.** Yes.

14 **Q.** And I guess -- give me one second.

15 So, during the course of therapy with
16 Jasmine, you had an opportunity to meet with her on
17 multiple occasions?

18 **A.** Yes, sir.

19 **Q.** Okay. Have you -- are you familiar with
20 the idea of a flat affect, something like that?

21 **A.** Yes.

22 **Q.** Okay. Could you explain that to the jury
23 what that might be?

24 **A.** Well, as it's related to sexual trauma, or
25 just in general.

1 **Q.** As related to sexual trauma.

2 **A.** No. Okay. As related to flat affect,
3 first of all, is kind of like an emotion, kind of
4 like poker face. And this usually comes from burying
5 your emotions. With sexual trauma, we can see this.
6 When someone is kind of suppressing that inner self
7 that was traumatized, they can go to a space of just
8 not wanting to respond to anyone. It's kind of an
9 escape.

10 So, some people flee; and so, it's a
11 compensatory mechanism. It's what you would see when
12 someone's using the compensatory mechanism of flight
13 of isolation. Many of these children will stay in
14 their room for hours. They won't want to associate
15 with their friends anymore. And they just kind of
16 bury themselves in their isolation.

17 **Q.** And during your therapy sessions with
18 Jasmine and the family, did you see her alone or with
19 her family?

20 **A.** I would see her alone, and then I would
21 bring in the family. Every session I would spend
22 time alone with her to kind of see how she was doing,
23 and then if it was all right with her, then I would
24 invite the family in.

25 **Q.** And to be clear for the jury, when we are

1 saying "the family," we're referring to her
2 biological father and his girlfriend, correct?

3 **A.** Yes.

4 **Q.** Okay. And was -- I mean, was she
5 ultimately able to disclose to you the reason that
6 she had -- that she was seeking the therapy?

7 **A.** Yes. The -- in the first session she
8 disclosed to me why she was there.

9 **Q.** Okay. Okay. And she disclosed -- did she
10 disclose the sexual abuse to you?

11 **A.** Yes.

12 **Q.** Was she consistent in her disclosure of the
13 type of sexual abuse that she had experienced?

14 **A.** Yes.

15 **Q.** In the therapy sessions that you had with
16 her, when you were you able to, I mean, did she
17 respond to the therapy; or was it something that was
18 good for her?

19 **A.** Yes.

20 **Q.** Okay. Let me ask you this: When you have
21 a traumatic experience like this, is there like a
22 shelf life about how long this will affect you; or is
23 this something that's indefinite? How does that
24 work?

25 **A.** It affects clients for a lifetime. Those

1 memories affect them. May I explain a little bit
2 about that?

3 Q. Sure.

4 A. The arousal template. So, when someone is
5 exposed to sexual trauma, there is what's formed in
6 the brain called an arousal template. And this is
7 similar to like moms in the hospital. When we want
8 them to nurse their babies right away, we keep the
9 baby skin to skin for an hour to imprint with the
10 baby, that this is your mother; and there is
11 something in the brain that imprints in that child.

12 It's the same thing with sexuality.
13 In those traumatic experiences, that's what's formed
14 in the brain of the victim, that this is sexuality.
15 And so, it forms a template that they will always go
16 back to at some point or another. What they try to
17 do is suppress that because they don't want to
18 remember it. But usually when there is any kind of
19 crisis, any kind of stress or a new relationship, the
20 arousal template comes back.

21 So, it's not anything that we can
22 erase. As much as we try in therapy, we cannot erase
23 that arousal template. So, what we do is we try to
24 restructure the thinking around that and avoid three
25 things: Shame, secrecy, and judgment. Judgment,

1 meaning the messages, the negative messages that I'm
2 telling myself. The judgment, I'm giving myself
3 because of this unwanted experience.

4 And we try to remove those messages
5 and help her with her own sense of identity to move
6 forward.

7 **Q.** And, also, I wanted to ask you with regard
8 to the abuse, was she always consistent as to who had
9 committed the abuse against her?

10 **A.** Yes.

11 **MR. BATARSE:** Pass the witness.

12 **THE COURT:** Thank you.

13 Cross-examination?

14 **MR. TABOADA:** Yes.

15 **CROSS-EXAMINATION**

16 **Q.** (**BY MR. TABOADA**) Ma'am, was -- was Maria
17 Ortiz a doubting parent?

18 **A.** Well, I'm not able to share exactly what
19 was told to me by the client.

20 **THE WITNESS:** Is that my
21 understanding?

22 **THE COURT:** No. This is governed by
23 the Rules of Evidence. So, you just have to answer
24 the question asked.

25 **A.** Okay. In my impression, yes.

1 **Q.** **(BY MR. TABOADA)** Okay. In your impression,
2 she was a doubting, a doubting parent. And as of
3 when was she a doubting parent?

4 **A.** So, in the beginning the client -- the
5 client received a lot of support from her mother; and
6 the proper authorities were contacted. She was given
7 a SANE exam. She was able to show her momma that
8 this, indeed, did happen.

9 And then in June, the -- several times
10 the perpetrator came back into their lives; and the
11 mother didn't follow through with contacting the
12 authorities and removing the abuser from my client's
13 presence, which was very, very destructive to her and
14 hurtful.

15 And then the relationship between her
16 mother deteriorated in June of that year where she
17 felt like she needed to reach out and get help, she
18 didn't feel safe.

19 **Q.** Okay. Fair to say, then, that she went
20 from not being a doubting parent to becoming a
21 doubting parent, correct?

22 **A.** Yes.

23 **Q.** Okay. And the reason why that would
24 happen, could it be that she came to believe that the
25 child was lying?

1 **A.** Normally what I see is the same three
2 components that affect the client or what's affecting
3 the parents: Shame, secrecy, and judgment. Those
4 same three things affect the parents just as much as
5 the client because the message is that the mother
6 says, Huh, I wasn't there for her. How -- you know.
7 And shame, that overcomes her, then helps her to be
8 able to avoid getting the help that she needs.

9 **Q.** Uh-huh (affirmative.) My question to you
10 was: Is it possible that she became a doubting
11 parent because she started to believe that the child
12 was lying?

13 **A.** That's always a possibility.

14 **Q.** Uh-huh (affirmative.) And what were the
15 dates that you had treatment sessions, or rather
16 encounters, with the child?

17 **A.** I have them written down. Is it okay if I
18 just look?

19 **Q.** Please.

20 **A.** 7/17/2013 to 11/5/2013.

21 **Q.** And August 7th of 2000 --

22 **A.** 2013.

23 **Q.** -- '13.

24 **A.** To November the 5th, 2013.

25 **Q.** So, over a one-month period of time?

1 **A.** Over -- no.

2 **Q.** Over one-month period?

3 **A.** No. August 7th of 2013 to November the
4 5th of 2013.

5 **Q.** Oh, November 5th. So, your first encounter
6 with the child was 10 months after -- about 10 months
7 after the alleged incident?

8 **A.** Nine months.

9 **Q.** Yes. And how many times did you meet?

10 **A.** Seven.

11 **Q.** With the child and with the child's mother?

12 **A.** Not with the child's mother. I never met
13 with the child's mother. I met with the child's
14 father and his girlfriend.

15 **Q.** Okay. And --

16 **A.** And the child's sister, Natalie.

17 **Q.** And why did you never meet with the child's
18 mother?

19 **A.** She never made herself available.

20 **Q.** Did you try to contact her?

21 **A.** No, sir, I didn't. As far as I knew, she
22 was out of reach. She had -- she was not in the
23 child's life.

24 **Q.** Why?

25 **A.** The information that was given to me was

1 that she was not -- she was not wanting to be a part
2 of the child's life at that point.

3 Q. Did the child's father explain to you why
4 he had custody of the child?

5 MR. BATARSE: Objection, Your Honor,
6 hearsay.

7 THE COURT: Sustained.

8 Q. (BY MR. TABOADA) Were you aware of why
9 Mr. Chacon had custody of the child?

10 MR. BATARSE: Objection, Your Honor,
11 relevance and hearsay.

12 THE COURT: Sustained.

13 Q. (BY MR. TABOADA) Okay. Now, you did not
14 become aware of any disciplinary problems with the
15 child in December of 2012, did you?

16 A. There were -- there were problems with
17 behavior which is normal for the sexual trauma that
18 we were dealing with within the family.

19 Q. Were there any problems in school?

20 A. I believe that she was having problems in
21 all areas of her life. This was affecting school.
22 This was affecting her relationships.

23 Q. Did you see her report card?

24 A. I don't remember seeing her report card at
25 any time, no. It's possible that I might have, but I

1 don't recall that.

2 Q. So, you don't know what was happening to
3 the child in school in December of 2012. In fact,
4 did you not even look into that issue?

5 A. I was not seeing the client in December of
6 2012.

7 Q. Correct. But don't you think if the child
8 had been sexually abused in November, that she might
9 be having problems in school in December of 2012,
10 right after?

11 A. I would imagine that she would be having
12 problems in all areas of her life. So, it wouldn't
13 really help me in my therapy to prove that she was
14 having problems. I would already assume that. It
15 would have been an assumption that every area of her
16 life would be difficult.

17 Q. All right. So, it's fair to say that from
18 the moment she walked into your office, you had
19 already assumed that sexual abuse had taken place?

20 A. Yes, sir.

21 Q. And you never considered that the child
22 might have lied about that, about the incident?
23 Never considered that?

24 A. There is always consideration for
25 everything in therapy, but when we -- the reason --

1 why would a client want to go through that? Why
2 would they make that up? Why would she be making
3 that outcry? It's very unlikely because of the shame
4 involved. It's kind of like saying, Oh, I just want
5 to keep a bunch of shame on myself.

6 And, you know, people don't usually do
7 that. I have never actually had an experience where
8 someone has come in claiming a sexual trauma when it
9 wasn't indeed a sexual trauma that was proven at a
10 later point. In my experience, the outcry has been
11 genuine.

12 **Q.** You're aware there are a lot of children
13 today that want to be sexually active with their
14 girlfriends and boyfriends, right?

15 **MR. BATARSE:** Objection, Your Honor,
16 relevance.

17 **THE COURT:** Overruled. You may
18 answer.

19 **A.** It is not my understanding that people want
20 to be sexually traumatized. I believe that human
21 beings are very curious and children are extremely
22 curious because of what's going on in the media, but
23 in no way do we say that they were asking for it or
24 that it's something that they wanted. Sexual trauma
25 is trauma, and it's unwanted.

1 **Q.** **(BY MR. TABOADA)** That was not my question,
2 ma'am. My question was: You're aware there are a
3 lot of children today that want to be sexually
4 active?

5 **A.** We all, yes.

6 **Q.** In fact, we hear constantly about teenagers
7 becoming pregnant as a result of consensual sex,
8 correct?

9 **A.** We do hear that, yes.

10 **Q.** And so, you never looked into what was
11 going on with the child in school after the alleged
12 sexual encounter, sexual assault?

13 **A.** I would ask her about what was going on in
14 school. I have documented that she had signed up for
15 soccer and things were going well once she was with
16 her father, her biological father; and she seemed to
17 be doing well in school at the point that I had
18 received her in my care.

19 **Q.** Okay. What other activities was she
20 involved in when you were seeing her?

21 **A.** She had gone to church several times, had
22 gone to the youth group, and soccer. That's all I'm
23 aware of.

24 **Q.** Uh-huh (affirmative.) Were you aware of
25 how she was doing academically?

1 **A.** That is something that I would ask in
2 general assessment every time she came in. And I
3 would say, How is school going? How are things going
4 at home? And at the point that I was caring for her,
5 things were going smoothly.

6 **Q.** Okay. Did you inquire as to whether she
7 failed the school year --

8 **MR. BATARSE:** Your Honor --

9 **Q.** **(BY MR. TABOADA)** -- from --

10 **MR. BATARSE:** I didn't mean to
11 interrupt. I was just going to object to asked and
12 answered.

13 **THE COURT:** Sustained.

14 **MR. TABOADA:** I have no further
15 questions, Your Honor.

16 **THE COURT:** Thank you.

17 Any redirect?

18 **MR. BATARSE:** No, Your Honor.

19 **THE COURT:** Thank you. Is this
20 witness excused for all purposes?

21 **MR. BATARSE:** Yes, Your Honor.

22 **MR. TABOADA:** Yes, Your Honor.

23 **THE COURT:** Then you're released as a
24 witness. Thank you so much.

25 **(Witness released)**

1 **THE COURT:** Any other witnesses?

2 **MR. BATARSE:** Yes, Your Honor. I need
3 to check and make sure that this particular witness
4 is available in the back.

5 **THE COURT:** Okay.

6 **MR. BATARSE:** May I have a moment?

7 **(Brief pause)**

8 **MR. BATARSE:** Your Honor, I apologize
9 for the delay. If we could just have a few moments.

10 **THE COURT:** Is the witness coming?

11 **MR. BATARSE:** On their way, Judge.

12 **THE COURT:** Is the witness in the
13 building?

14 **MR. BATARSE:** I'm not sure. I had
15 spoken with them before we started testimony. So, I
16 wasn't able to get ahold of them right now. I just
17 wanted a moment. I didn't want everyone to wait.

18 **THE COURT:** Okay. Well, then we will
19 retire the jury briefly. Thank you.

20 All rise, please, for the jury.

21 **(Jury released)**

22 **THE COURT:** For those of you in the
23 audience, typically -- the next witness is the child
24 in this case. Typically, children don't speak very
25 loudly. And so, it's hard for the jury to hear them

1 anyway. So, it's important that you not go in and
2 out during that testimony. If you want to step out,
3 please step out at the beginning of the testimony.
4 And if you step out, please don't come back in
5 because we just don't want a whole lot of movement.
6 And for the staff, we need to avoid rustling papers
7 and that sort of thing.

8 Will there be someone with the victim
9 witness office standing by her?

10 **MR. BATARSE:** Yes.

11 **THE COURT:** Who is that?

12 Come on up, please, ma'am. And tell
13 me your name, please.

14 **MS. JOHNSON:** Amy Johnson.

15 **THE COURT:** Who do you work for?

16 **MS. JOHNSON:** Children's Court
17 Services.

18 **THE COURT:** Okay. Excuse me,
19 Mr. Taboada. This is Ms. Johnson from Children's
20 Court Services. And as you know, the rules allow
21 someone to stand next to the child. So, of course --
22 you normally stand behind a little bit, don't you?
23 And, of course, you know not to communicate any
24 information to the child on the stand.

25 **MS. JOHNSON:** Yes, Your Honor.

1 **THE COURT:** Okay. So, I know you have
2 been trained in that; but just so the record is
3 clear. Thank you.

4 **MS. JOHNSON:** Thank you.

5 **THE COURT:** All right. Then we're
6 ready for the jury. Thank you.

7 **MR. BATARSE:** Judge, we're still
8 getting the actual victim.

9 **THE COURT:** Where is she?

10 **MR. BATARSE:** They were coming in the
11 building, Judge. I talked to dad.

12 **THE COURT:** She is not with her?

13 **MR. BATARSE:** No, Judge.

14 **THE COURT:** Okay.

15 **MR. BATARSE:** Sorry, Judge.

16 **THE COURT:** Sorry. It turns out the
17 witness is just in the building, not here. So, it
18 will be another minute. Sorry.

19 **THE BAILIFF:** Yes, Judge.

20 **(Brief pause)**

21 **THE COURT:** We're ready for the jury.

22 **MR. BATARSE:** Judge, would you like
23 for her to come up now?

24 **THE COURT:** It's up to you. You can
25 have her come up to the witness stand if you want to.

1 **(Brief pause)**

2 **(Jury enters the courtroom)**

3 **THE COURT:** Thank you. Please be
4 seated.

5 Who will your next witness?

6 **MR. BATARSE:** The State calls Jasmine
7 Chacon.

8 **THE COURT:** Thank you.

9 **THE BAILIFF:** Your Honor, this witness
10 has not been sworn.

11 **THE COURT:** Thank you.

12 Hello, Jasmine. You can come on up to
13 the witness stand right here.

14 And members of the jury, this is Amy
15 Johnson; and she is from Children's Court Services.
16 And the rules allow someone from that department to
17 be present with the child during the testimony.

18 Thank you. You may begin.

19 **MR. BATARSE:** Yes, Your Honor.

20 **THE COURT:** Sorry. Let me swear them
21 in first. Sorry.

22 Better to look at the jury than at me
23 because you're testifying for them. Will you raise
24 your right hand, please?

25 **(Witness Duly Sworn)**

1 **THE WITNESS:** Promise to tell the
2 truth, nothing but the truth.

3 **THE COURT:** Thank you.

4 **JASMINE CHACON,**
5 having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

6 **DIRECT EXAMINATION**

7 **Q.** **(BY MR. BATARSE)** Jasmine, could you please
8 introduce yourself to the jury?

9 **A.** My name is Jasmine Brianna Chacon, and I'm
10 14 years old.

11 **THE COURT:** Excuse me just a minute.
12 You have kind of a soft voice. So, we're probably
13 going to need you to move a little bit closer to the
14 microphone.

15 **THE WITNESS:** Okay.

16 **THE COURT:** Okay. You have to speak
17 so the very last juror on the end can hear you.
18 Thank you.

19 **Q.** **(BY MR. BATARSE)** I'm going to turn the
20 volume up a little here.

21 Would you mind spelling that for
22 Cynthia sitting in front of you, please?

23 **A.** J-A-S-M-I-N-E, C-H-A-C-O-N.

24 **Q.** Okay. And, Jasmine, how old are you?

25 **A.** Fourteen.