

Q= Detective Lisa Kasperek  
A= Nicole Ballingrud

**Witness Interview**

[Ringing]

A: This is Niki.

Q: Hi Niki. Detective Lisa Kasperek, Hennepin County Sheriff's Office.

A: Hi.

Q: Hi. How are you?

A: Hi. I'm good, thanks.

Q: Good.

A: Good.

Q: Um, I got your name off the 911 call that you, when you called in-

A: Sure.

Q: -so.

A: Yep.

Q: Yeah, I just-

A: Yep.

Q: -wanted to touch base with you real quick, and-

A: Okay.

Q: -um, get your name. Could I get your last name?

A: Yep. It's Ballingrud, um, B as in boy, A-L-L-I-N-G-R-U-D.

Q: And your first name is, is it N-I-K-K-I?

A: Uh,-

Q: Or is it-

A: -N-I-K-I.

Q: Oh, N-I-K-I. And your middle name?

A: Unless you need my real name, it's Nicole, but-

Q: Oh, N-I-C-O-L-E?

A: Yeah.

Q: Okay.

A: Yes.

Q: Sure. And then what's your middle name?

A: Renae. R-E-N-A-E.

Q: Okay. Okay, and then, um, I just had a couple questions for ya. Had you ever-

A: Sure.

Q: -spoken to him before? In the past.

A: No.

Q: Okay. So-

A: No.

Q: -h-how, did he-

A: Nope.

Q: -know to call you?

A: Well, so what happened w- I was, I work, um, I work for Intrepid Hospice, um, which is a hospice program. Um, one weekend a month, and it happened to be my weekend on call-

Q: Oh.

A: -starting, I was 'sposed to start Friday at 5 o'clock, and, um, I've been working them for about a year, but when I got the na- and he called the on-call service, um, so they must of switched the phones over to the on-call service-

Q: Mm-hm.

A: -a little sooner than 5:00, otherwise I wouldn't of gotten the call. So when I looked up the name he wasn't in our system, so I, I didn't know, I was trying to get his information, and I ended up calling one of the other nurses on my other work phone-

Q: Mm-hm.

A: -and after about 10 minutes we finally figured out he had actually been, um, signed on to the Intrepid Hospice program in February of 2016.

Q: Mm.

A: And then he graduated from the hospice program. Um, he no longer qualified for hospice in December of 2016. So Intrepid hadn't had any contact with him when he graduated from the hospice program back in December of 2016,-

Q: Mm-hm.

A: -so I don't know why or h- he still had, he still had the phone number.

Q: Hm.

A: Um, and after, I don't know how long it was, it, it felt like I was on the phone forever-

Q: Mm-hm.

A: -and it ended up being about 40 minutes. But what kind of triggered me thinking he was a former patient was he, he said the name Jacob, he wanted to talk to the Chaplin Jacob, and I know Jacob, and he works for Intrepid. And so that was, that was what triggered me, and then Janessa, the other nurse that I called, and she looked in the archived records, and then we found him, and his address, and where he lived.

Q: Mm.

A: 'Cause he was—I was trying to get him, well he was trying to tell me his address and he was giving it to me, but he was, it was like he was on speaker phone-

Q: Mm-hm.

A: -and he was screaming, and I couldn't, I couldn't for the life of me figure out what he was, what he was saying as far as a street name, and even his last name I couldn't quite make out his last name-

Q: Mm-hm.

A: -for the longest time.

Q: Hm.

A: So that, I—why he called Intrepid Hospice almost a ye-, two, almost two years after being on the program-

Q: Mm-hm.

A: -I don't know.

Q: Is that part of the, um, VA hospital? Or any part of-

A: No.

Q: -that program at all?

A: No.

Q: Okay.

A: We're just, uh, we're just a, a hospice program. Just a regular, old hospice program.

Q: Why was he in that program? Do you know? Or-

A: Well, he would of been told by, um, uh, his physician that hospice was an appropriate next step. Um, you, when you sign up for hospice a, a physician has to say you have six months or less to live.

Q: Yeah.

A: And then you have to qualify with qualifying factors, so at some point, and I, to be honest with you, um, I could look it up-

Q: Uh-huh.

A: -and tell you what his diagnosis was, but, um, I don't know it off the top of my head.

Q: Sure. Huh. Uh, yeah, I wasn't-

A: Um-

Q: -aware of that, that's just kinda odd, that he was in that.

A: Yeah.

Q: I mean I didn't know,-

A: [Inaudible].

Q: -maybe, was he, did he have cancer? Or-

A: No, it wasn't cancer-

Q: Yeah.

A: -it actually was a diagnosis I've never, I've never heard of before. Um-

Q: Hm.

A: -um, I can pull it up here real quick-

Q: Sure.

A: -and let ya know, if you wanna know that.

Q: Sure.

A: Um, I don't know the—you'd have to call Intrepid, which I can give you their number, and-

Q: Yep.

A: -talk to, talk to them for more information-

Q: Sure.

A: -about, um, about that.

Q: Yeah.

A: But, um, yeah.

Q: Huh.

A: Let's see. Yeah, it was, it was very strange. Can't say I've ever been a part of anything like that-

Q: Yeah.

A: -before.

Q: Yeah. Exactly.

A: And I don't know, obviously feel free and you will to tell me it's none of my business, but did he have the arsenal of guns that he claimed he did?

Q: Yeah, he had quite a few. Not-

A: He did.

Q: -not,-

A: Okay.

Q: -not like massive or anything, but-

A: Not what he was—well [Inaudible-talk over].

Q: In general, what a gun collector might have, ya know, to go to the range-

A: Oh, okay.

Q: -and shoot. Yeah.

A: Okay. Okay. Yeah he made it sound like he had quite the, quite the arsenals.

Q: Yeah. Yep.

A: Alright, let's see here. I'm gonna try this one more time.

Q: Isn't that kinda weird though that he was put in the hospice thing, and then he was discharged from it later?

A: No.

Q: [Inaudible]. Now, is that normal?

A: No.

Q: Or-

A: That happens.

Q: Okay.

A: I wouldn't-

Q: Yeah.

A: -I wouldn't say it's normal,-

Q: Yeah.

A: -but it, it absolutely does happen. Mm-hm.

Q: Oh, okay.

A: Um, and I, again, I don't know the, uh, the specifics-

Q: Yeah.

A: -but I do know that when I was talking with Janessa, the other nurse, um, there might of been some other, um, some other behaviors-

Q: Sure.

A: -that maybe influenced them to, um, to say you're, we're—we, we can't provide care for you anymore, but I, but don't, that's-

Q: Yep.

A: -not-

Q: Yep.

A: I don't know that for positive.

Q: Sure.

A: So his diagno- his admitting diagnosis—my computer decides to pop up here—was...genetic, and then it's tor-torsion, T-O-R-S-I-O-N, dystonia, D-Y-S-T-O-N-I-A.

Q: Huh. Nev-never heard of it.

A: Um, and other, other ones were dystocia, which would be why I had a hard time understanding him. Abnormal weight loss, diabetic, weakness, and unspecified pain. Those are the-

Q: Ok, okay.

A: -the diagnosis' that, that we had. He was admitted February 1<sup>st</sup> of 2016 and, um, discharged, um, where did I see that? Uh, December 5<sup>th</sup> of 2016.

Q: S-so is that, is that program like for somebody who is diagnosed like you said to live six months?

A: Correct.

Q: Okay.

A: Yes. Mm-hm.

Q: Mm-kay. So did they, when they admitted him, did they know that, did they—I mean I don't, you probably don't know this either, but-

A: [Inaudible-talk over].

Q: -would they, would they assume that oh he has two months to live or six? Or they don't know? Or-

A: Well, the only thing we know is that his primary provider or one of his providers has said either there's no more, there's no more treatment options-

Q: Oh, okay.

A: -or given the severity of your disease or your illness or what, whatever it is-

Q: Yep.

A: -that-

Q: Okay.

A: -palliative care or hospice care is appropriate rather than life pro-longing or life-

Q: Oh.

A: -sustaining treatment 'cause-

Q: I see.

A: -there either aren't any more options or-

Q: Yep.

A: -maybe the person said, hey I'm done, no more-

Q: Mm-hm.

A: -treatments, no more hospitalizations, I just don't want, I, I just wanna be comfortable.

Q: Okay.

A: Again, his specific situation-

Q: Yep.

A: -I don't know. I wasn't there.

Q: Sure.

A: [Inaudible-talk over].

Q: Gotch-ya.

A: Somebody had decided that, that yep, given his, given whatever this is-

Q: Mm-hm.

A: -uh, genetic meaning he's, it's, he's had it since, ya know-

Q: Mm-hm.

A: -he's probably had it since birth.

Q: Mm-hm.

A: Um, but I don't know, I don't, I, I didn't look it up. I'm not sure-

Q: Mm-kay.

A: -what it is.

Q: Mm-kay.

A: Yeah.

Q: Hm. Mm-kay. And then, um, is, do you—where is that Intrepid located? W- do you-

A: Intrepid is based out of Roseville.

Q: Roseville. Okay. And do you have a phone number for them?

A: I do.

Q: Okay.

A: Yep. I do, again, um-

Q: What's the, what's the full name of it? Is it Intrepid Hospice Care?

A: It's-

Q: Or-

A: -it's a, well this it, it, it's Intrepid Hospice, USA.

Q: Oh, okay.

A: So it's kind of like it's like a national program.

Q: Uh-huh.

A: And then we have a branch of it in, in Minnesota.

Q: Oh, okay.

A: Let's see here, [Inaudible].

Q: And you're a nurse there, and you work there? Or you, what's-

A: And I'm, I'm a RN. Yep.

Q: Oh, okay.

A: Yep. I work there part-time-

Q: I see.

A: -and I do one weekend a month.

Q: Yep.

A: It's not my full-time job. Um, their phone number is 651-633-6404.

Q: Okay.

A: And then Daniel is the administrator, although he's new. I don't know that he would'a, I don't know if he was there during that time frame, otherwise, um, Gerry, she is the clinical director, um, of the nursing.

Q: Okay.

A: Um, she probably—I think she might of been there at that time. She for sure would of been there around that time that Ronald was admitted-

Q: Mm-kay.

A: -and discharged.

Q: Hm. Mm-kay.

A: So she might have more information on that for you.



Q: Okay. Alright. Well, I don't know. [Inaudible] do you have any questions for me? Or-  
A: Uh, I don't. I j-

Q: Okay.  
A: -I'm, I'm glad somebody called. I, I appreciate the call back.

Q: Yeah.  
A: 'Cause, um, I, I mean I was, it was a, it was a rough night for me I guess on Friday selfishly just because-

Q: Yeah.  
A: -of not knowing-

Q: Right.  
A: -what had—I'm glad that the situation ended the way that it did—I mean I knew it was gonna end that way, I'm just glad nobody else got hurt-

Q: Right.  
A: -and hopefully whatever I was able to give to, to 911 was helpful in some way.

Q: Yes-  
A: So-

Q: -it was very much so. We appreciate it.  
A: Good.

Q: Yeah, and-  
A: Good.

Q: -thanks for talking and stayin' on the line with him too. That was-  
A: Yeah, well-

Q: -that was awesome.  
A: -that was [Laughter], yeah, man. Yeah, well, good. I'm, I'm glad it all, it worked out and, and, uh, everyone's good.

Q: Right. Exactly.  
A: So.

Q: Okay. Well, I don't have any other-  
A: Alright.

Q: -questions, if I do do you care-  
A: Okay.

Q: -if I give ya a holler back?

A: No.

Q: Okay.

A: You just give me a call-

Q: Great.

A: -any time.

Q: Well thanks-

A: 'Preciate it.

Q: -so much.

A: Okay.

Q: I appreciate it.

A: Alright.

Q: Alright, take care.

A: Alright. Thank you, Lisa.

Q: Mm-hm.

A: Buh-bye.