FLO v. Dwain Hall - Day 4

(12:34 - 17:54)

Thank you for joining us. All right. We're here in 2025 CF 4516 state of Florida versus 20 C Hall will counsel for the parties identify themselves for the record.

(17:55 - 18:03)

Amy Mark for the state. Rich. I'm sorry.

(18:03 - 18:07)

Yeah, I know you're you're you're working on somewhere. Peter, you're fine. That's you.

(18:07 - 18:14)

The bar representative is the whole job. We're also representing Mr. Hall. Mr. Hall is presently to the council.

(18:14 - 18:18)

Mr. Hall, can I have you raise your right hand, sir? You swear to tell the truth, the whole truth. Nothing but the truth. So you got it.

(18:18 - 18:21)

I do. Okay. Mr. Are you wearing handcuffs? No.

(18:21 - 18:26)

Are you wearing shackles? No. Like you to stand up, take a couple steps back to your right. All right.

(18:27 - 18:32)

Mr. Hall is in custody. He does not appear to be in custody. He's wearing civilian clothing.

(18:32 - 18:44)

He is wearing a light blue button up dress shirt, a pair of charcoal slacks, a pair of black belts. Deputy Mitchell. Can you move the.

(18:44 - 18:46)

There we go. Everyone. Thank you.

(18:47 - 18:52)

I'm sorry. If you're gray dress shoes, it's appropriate to dress in court. He is not wearing handcuffs or shackles.

(18:52 - 19:02)

All right. Let me see Mr. Hall. State.

(19:02 - 19:10)

Is there anything from y'all's perspective the court needs to take up before we bring in the jury? If you need a minute, that's fine. Yes, Your Honor. Yeah.

(19:10 - 19:14)

But is there anything that we have to address other than. No, Your Honor. No, Your Honor.

(20:05 - 20:22)

I do have just a quick word from the folks who are here in the audience observing the trial. Well, everybody who has been here this week has behaved in an exemplary fashion. I have no reason to believe that anybody in the audience would do anything inappropriate for the remainder of the trial.

(20:22 - 21:05)

With that being said, I do want to just let you all know that if folks observing a trial are going to hear things that they disagree with or that they want to have some type of visible reaction to, it's oftentimes during closing arguments. So I'm just going to ask and instruct all of you during the closing arguments, refrain from most certainly audible commentary on arguments that you may hear, as well as visible commentary, shaking one's head back and forth, sighing loudly, doing things of that nature only serves to distract the jury from the arguments that they're hearing and it's improper and inappropriate for a member of an audience to do that. The trial takes place in this part of the courtroom.

(21:05 - 21:17)

So, like I said, all the reactions thus far have been appropriate, everyone's been well-behaved. I just want to make sure the jury pays close attention to the closing arguments and nothing in the audience is distracting them. So, that's it.

(21:18 - 24:50)

We'll get going with closing arguments in a moment here. Yes, sir. Very good.

(24:50 - 25:06)

We're ready for the jury? Yes, Your Honor. Let's go ahead and bring them in. Thank you.

(25:06 - 25:17)

Should you all encounter technical difficulties during closing argument, that won't eat into your 90-minute allotment. Thank you. And if you feel we need to bring the jury out to address any technology issues, just let me know.

(25:17 - 28:18)

Thank you very much. Do you want me to tell the jury that there could be an issue? Hopefully not. Ladies and gentlemen, welcome back.

(28:18 - 28:22)

Counsel, everybody can go ahead and be seated. Thank you. All right.

(28:22 - 28:41)

The first thing we're going to do, I'm going to ask you the same question I've asked you the last three days that we've met. We took a recess last night. I instructed all of you to not learn about the case or try to learn about the case, either through talking with people or through your phones or electronic devices, also instruct you not to talk about the case with anybody or allow anybody to talk to you about the case.

(28:42 - 28:57)

Let me know by nodding your heads up and down or shaking them back and forth have all of you been able to follow that instruction? All the jurors have nodded their heads in the affirmative. Very well. At this point, ladies and gentlemen, we're going to begin with the final phase of the trial which will include the reading of the jury instructions and the closing arguments.

(28:57 - 31:57)

So I'm going to have Deputy Cabrera hand out a copy of the jury instructions to you. Once you all have a copy, I'll explain what we're going to do here and then turn you over to the lawyers. Now what you all have been provided is a copy of the final jury instructions.

So I'm going to read these aloud to you. When you go back and deliberate your verdict, the copy that you're going to have with you of the instructions is the copy that I actually read from up here at the bench. The copy that each of you have is simply a copy that I've provided to you so that you can read along with it while I read it to you out loud.

Hopefully that will aid in comprehension and understanding of the instructions. But again, you will have a copy of them when you go to deliberate and it will be the copy that I have. I tell that to you because some jurors are inclined to take notes during closing arguments or their instructions on the law.

If you do that, make sure you take it on your notepads. If you take them on your copy of the jury instructions that you've been handed to read along with, we're going to be taking those back up from you and collecting them after these have all been read. But you won't get those notes back.

So again, any notes you want to take, please take them on your notepads. With that being said, what I'm going to do is I'm going to read about half of these to you. I then break for closing argument.

The lawyers will then make their closing arguments. They each have 90 minutes in which to make their argument here this morning. And after that, I'll conclude with the last bit of the final instructions and then we'll identify the alternate jurors and then the 12 of you who remain on the jury to go and deliberate your verdict.

That's kind of the plan of the morning. Let's begin on page 1 with 3.1 Introduction to Final Instructions. Members of the jury, I thank you for your attention during this trial.

Please pay attention to the instructions I am about to give you. Dwain C. Hall, the defendant in this case, has been accused of the crimes of first degree murder and kidnapping. I will now explain these crimes to you.

Dwain C. Hall is accused of first degree murder in count 1 of the indictment. First degree murder includes the lesser crimes of second degree murder and manslaughter, both of which are unlawful. However, a killing that was excusable homicide or that was committed by the justifiable use of deadly force is lawful.

If you find Sonia Exelby was killed by Dwain C. Hall, you will then consider the circumstances surrounding the killing in deciding if the killing was first degree murder, second degree murder, or manslaughter, or whether the killing was excusable homicide or resulted from the justifiable use of deadly force. The use of deadly force to kill a human being is justifiable homicide and therefore lawful if necessarily done while resisting an attempt to murder or commit a felony upon the defendant or to commit a felony in or upon any dwelling house in which the defendant was at the time of the killing. Deadly force means force likely to cause death or great bodily harm.

(31:58 - 33:13)

Great bodily harm means harm that is more than slight, trivial, minor, or moderate. The killing of a human being is excusable homicide and therefore lawful under any one of the following three circumstances. One, when the killing is committed by accident and misfortune in doing any lawful

act by lawful means with usual ordinary caution without any unlawful intent.

Or two, when the killing occurs by accident and misfortune in the heat of passion upon any sudden and sufficient provocation. Or three, when the killing is committed by accident and misfortune resulting from a sudden combat if a dangerous weapon is not used and the killing is not done in a cruel or unusual manner. A dangerous weapon is any object that will likely cause death or great bodily harm if used in the ordinary and usual manner contemplated by its design and construction.

To prove the crime of first degree murder the state must prove the following three elements beyond a reasonable doubt. One, Sonia Exelby is dead. Two, the death was caused by the criminal act of Duane C. Hall.

Three, there was a premeditated killing of Sonia Exelby. An act includes a series of related actions arising from and performed pursuant to a single design or purpose. Killing with premeditation is killing after consciously deciding to do so.

(33:13 - 34:04)

The decision must be present in the mind at the time of the killing. The law does not fix the exact period of time that must pass between the formation of the premeditated intent to kill and the killing. The period of time must be long enough to allow reflection by the defendant.

The premeditated intent to kill must be formed before the killing. The question of premeditation is a question of fact to be determined by you from the evidence. It will be sufficient proof of premeditation if the circumstances of the killing and the conduct of the accused convince you beyond a reasonable doubt of the existence of premeditation at the time of the killing.

Sonia Exelby's consent is not a defense to the crime of first degree murder. Consent means intelligent, knowing, and voluntary consent and does not include coerced submission. Coercion means the use of exploitation, bribes, threats of force, or intimidation to gain cooperation or compliance.

(34:05 - 34:29)

If the evidence does not convince you that the defendant committed the main crime of which he is accused in count one of the indictment, there may be sufficient evidence that he has committed a lesser included crime. In other words, if you decide the main accusation has not been proved beyond a reasonable doubt, you will need to decide if the state proved beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant is guilty of a lesser included crime. The lesser included crimes indicated in the definition of first degree murder or second degree murder and manslaughter.

(34:29 - 36:27)

I will now define these crimes for you. To prove the crime of second degree murder, the state must prove the following three elements beyond a reasonable doubt. One, Sonia Exelby is dead.

Two, the death was caused by the act of Duane C. Hall. Three, there was an unlawful killing of Sonia Exelby by an act imminently dangerous to another and demonstrating a depraved mind. An act includes a series of related actions arising from and performed pursuant to a single design or purpose.

An act is imminently dangerous to another and demonstrating a depraved mind if it is an act or series of acts that one, a person of ordinary judgment would know is reasonably certain to kill or do serious bodily injury to another and two, is done from ill will, hatred, spite or an evil intent and indicates an indifference to human life or that denotes a wicked and corrupt disregard of the lives and safety of others. To convict of second degree murder, it is not necessary for the state to prove the defendant had an intent to cause death. Sonia Exelby's consent is not a defense to the crime of second degree murder.

Consent means intelligent, knowing and voluntary consent and does not include submission by coercion. Coercion means the use of exploitation, bribes, threats of force or intimidation to gain cooperation or compliance. To prove the crime of manslaughter, the state must prove the following two elements beyond a reasonable doubt.

One, Sonia Exelby is dead. Two, Duane C. Hall, A, intentionally committed an act or acts that caused the death of Sonia Exelby or B, intentionally procured an act that caused the death of Sonia Exelby or C, caused the death of Sonia Exelby by his culpable negligence. Every person has a duty to act reasonably toward others.

If there is a violation of that duty without any conscious intent to harm, that violation is negligence. The defendant cannot be guilty of manslaughter by committing a merely negligent act or if the killing was either justifiable or excusable homicide as I have previously instructed you. To convict a manslaughter, it is not necessary for the state to prove that the defendant had an intent to cause death, only an intent to commit an act that was not merely negligent, justified or excusable and which caused death.

(36:28 - 37:16)

To procure means to persuade, induce, prevail upon or cause a person to do something. I will now define culpable negligence for you. As I have said, every person has a duty to act reasonably toward others.

If there is a violation of that duty without any conscious intention to harm, that violation is negligence. But culpable negligence is more than a failure to use ordinary care toward others. For negligence to be culpable, it must be gross or flagrant.

Culpable negligence is a course of conduct showing reckless disregard of human life or a grossly careless disregard for the safety and welfare of the public. The negligent act or omission must have been committed with an utter disregard for the safety of another. Culpable negligence is consciously doing an act or following a course of conduct that the defendant knew or reasonably should have known was likely to cause death or great bodily harm.

(37:16 - 39:12)

Sonia Exleby's consent is not a defense to the crime of manslaughter. Consent means intelligent, knowing and voluntary consent and does not include submission by coercion. Coercion means the use of exploitation, bribes, threats of force or intimidation to gain cooperation or compliance.

Duane C. Hall is charged in Count II of the indictment with kidnapping. To prove the crime of kidnapping, the State must prove the following three elements beyond a reasonable doubt. 1. Duane C. Hall forcibly, secretly or by threat, confined, abducted or imprisoned Sonia Exleby against her will.

2. Duane C. Hall had no lawful authority to do so. 3. Duane C. Hall acted with intent to inflict bodily harm upon or to terrorize Sonia Exleby. Secretly means the defendant intended to isolate or insulate Sonia Exleby for meaningful contact or meaningful communication with the public.

If the evidence does not convince you that the defendant committed the main crime of which he is accused in Count II of the indictment, there may be sufficient evidence that he committed lesser included crimes. In other words, if you decide the main accusation has not been proved beyond a reasonable doubt, you will need to decide if the State proved beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant is guilty of a lesser included crime. The lesser included crime of kidnapping is false imprisonment.

To prove the crime of false imprisonment, the State must prove the following two elements beyond a reasonable doubt. 1. Duane C. Hall forcibly, secretly or by threat, confined, abducted or imprisoned Sonia Exleby against her will. 2. Duane C. Hall had no lawful authority to do so.

Secretly means the defendant intended to isolate or insulate Sonia Exleby for meaningful contact or meaningful communication with the public. The defendant has entered a plea of not guilty. This means you must presume or believe the defendant is innocent.

The presumption stays with the defendant as to each material allegation in the indictment through each stage of the trial, unless it has been overcome by the evidence to the exclusion of and beyond a reasonable doubt. To overcome the defendant's presumption of innocence, the State has the burden of proving the crime with which the defendant is charged, was committed, and the defendant is the person who committed the crime. The defendant is not required to present evidence or prove anything.

(39:13 - 40:11)

The law does not require proof beyond all doubt on the part of the jury before it returns a verdict of guilty. A mere possible, speculative, imaginary or forced doubt is not a reasonable doubt. A reasonable doubt is not a guess or mere conjecture.

Rather, it is a doubt based upon reasoning and common sense after careful and impartial consideration of all of the evidence in the case. A reasonable doubt as to the guilt of the defendant may arise from the evidence, conflict in the evidence, or lack of evidence. If, after a careful and impartial consideration of all of the evidence, you have a reasonable doubt as to the guilt of the accused, it is your duty to find the defendant not guilty.

On the other hand, if after a careful and impartial consideration of all the evidence, you are convinced beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant is guilty, it is your duty to find the defendant guilty. It is to the evidence introduced in this trial, and to it alone, that you are to look for that proof. The evidence that has been admitted to show other crimes, wrongs, or acts allegedly committed by the defendant may be considered by you, but only as that evidence relates to proof of motive or intent.

(40:11 - 40:24)

However, the defendant cannot be convicted for a crime, wrong, or act that is not included in the indictment. It is up to you to decide what evidence is reliable. You should use your common sense in deciding which is the best evidence and which evidence should not be relied upon in considering your verdict.

(40:25 - 41:03)

You may find some of the evidence not reliable or less reliable than other evidence. You should consider how the witness has acted, as well as what they said. Some things you should consider are 1. Did the witness seem to have an opportunity to see and know the things about which the witness testified? 2. Did the witness seem to have an accurate memory? 3. Was the witness honest and straightforward in answering questions? 4. Did the witness have some interest in how the case should be decided? 5. Does the witness's testimony agree with the other testimony and other evidence in the case? Whether the state has met its burden of proof does not depend upon the number of witnesses it has called or upon the number of exhibits it has offered, but instead upon the nature and quality of the evidence presented.

(41:04 - 41:17)

The fact that a witness is employed in law enforcement does not mean that his or her testimony deserves more or less consideration than that of any other witness. Expert witnesses are like other witnesses, with one exception. The law permits an expert witness to give his or her opinion.

(41:18 - 41:34)

However, an expert's opinion is reliable only when given on a subject about which you believe him or her to be an expert. Like other witnesses, you may believe or disbelieve all or any part of an expert's testimony. It is entirely proper for a lawyer to talk to a witness about what testimony the witness would give if called to the courtroom.

(41:34 - 41:48)

The witness should not be discredited by talking to a lawyer about his or her testimony. You may rely upon your own conclusion about the credibility of any witness. A juror may believe or disbelieve all or any part of the evidence or the testimony of any witness.

(41:48 - 42:01)

The Constitution requires the state to prove its accusations against the defendant. It is not necessary for the defendant to disprove anything, nor is the defendant required to prove his innocence. It is up to the state to prove the defendant's guilt by evidence.

(42:01 - 42:15)

The defendant exercised a fundamental right by choosing not to be a witness in this case. You must not view this as an admission of guilt or be influenced in any way by his decision. No juror should ever be concerned that the defendant did or did not take the witness stand to give testimony in the case.

(42:15 - 42:32)

A statement claimed to have been made by the defendant outside of court has been introduced into evidence. Such a statement should be considered with caution and be weighed with great care to make certain it was freely and voluntarily made. If you conclude that the defendant made the statement, you must also determine from the evidence whether the defendant's statement was freely and voluntarily made.

(42:33 - 42:58)

In making this determination, you should consider the circumstances, including but not limited to 1. Whether when the defendant made the statement, he had been threatened to get him to make it and 2. Whether anyone had promised him anything to get him to make the statement. If you conclude the defendant made the out-of-court statement but it was not freely and voluntarily made, you should disregard it. During the trial, a recorded interview was admitted into evidence between Special Agent Rebecca McKenzie, Sergeant Joseph Miller, and Dwain Hall.

(42:59 - 43:18)

The recording contains the opinions and statements of Special Agent Rebecca McKenzie and Sergeant Joseph Miller. These opinions and statements are pertinent only to explain the reactions and responses they elicited. You are not to consider these opinions and statements by Special Agent Rebecca McKenzie or Sergeant Joseph Miller as true, but only to establish the context of Dwain Hall's reactions and responses.

(43:19 - 43:28)

The attorneys will now present their final arguments. Please remember that what the attorneys say is not evidence or your instruction on the law. However, do listen closely to their arguments.

(43:28 - 43:44)

They are intended to aid you in understanding the case. Each side will have equal time, but the state is entitled to divide this time between an opening argument and a rebuttal argument after the defense has given its closing argument. With that said, ladies and gentlemen, the attorneys have each been allotted 90 minutes.

(43:45 - 43:52)

Ms. Burnt, would you like a notification we have a certain amount remaining? No, Your Honor. Okay. May it please the Court? Yes, ma'am.

(43:52 - 44:09)

Counsel? Good morning, members of the jury. This is Sonia Exling. Now that you've heard all of the evidence, you know that everything I told you in the opening statement about Sonia is true.

(44:10 - 44:30)

She was 32 years old, she was beautiful, she was kind, and she was deeply loved by everyone who knew her. She also suffered from mental illness for most of her life. She should be alive today.

(44:31 - 44:50)

She had survived many mental health crises in her life before. She had counselors, she had Stevie who would do anything for her, she had friends, she had her family who were always there to support her. She would have made it through this crisis as well.

(44:51 - 45:42)

But no one could save her from the defendant, the alpha sadist. Think about what he must have said to her over those two years. How did he manipulate her to get her to leave her home and travel thousands of miles to come here? What did he say to her? What made her think that she

would be successful with him in her attempt to commit suicide by proxy? He took advantage of a severely depressed, mentally ill woman who was incapable of making any rational decisions for his own sadistic pleasure.

(45:43 - 45:55)

And that's why we're here today. And this woman should be alive today. You've heard in those jury instructions that the defendant is charged with first degree murder.

(45:56 - 46:13)

But there's two lesser included offenses, second degree murder and manslaughter. And those instructions tell you that you have to find the defendant guilty of the highest crime that we have proven beyond a reasonable doubt. And that's going to be first degree murder.

(46:14 - 46:30)

Because the other two choices, second degree murder and manslaughter, don't include premeditation. And if there was any murder that was premeditated, it was this one. So I suggest to you that after you look through the first degree murder elements, which we're going to talk about, you don't go any further.

(46:31 - 46:40)

Because it was premeditated and second degree murder and manslaughter don't apply in this case. And the judge read you this. These are the elements.

(46:41 - 46:52)

There are only three things that we have to prove to you to find the defendant guilty of first degree murder. And only these three things. One, Sonja Exelde is dead.

(46:53 - 46:59)

That's already proven beyond a reasonable doubt. We know that she's deceased. Unfortunately, we haven't seen the pictures.

(47:00 - 47:06)

They stipulate that it was Sonja Exelde. There's no question about that. Remember, one is easily checked off.

(47:06 - 47:17)

There's no dispute about that. Two is the death was caused by the criminal act of Dwain Hall, which we'll talk about in a minute. And three, there was a premeditated killing of Sonja Exelde.

(47:18 - 47:29)

Let's talk about the premeditation first. What does that mean? I know some of you watch a lot of true crime shows. And you may think that premeditation means a long time claim.

(47:29 - 47:40)

We have that here, but that's not exactly what it means. Killing with premeditation is killing after consciously deciding to do so. The decision must be present in the mind at the time of the killing.

(47:40 - 47:56)

The law does not fix the exact period of time that must pass between the formation of the premeditated intent to kill and the killing. The period of time must be long enough to allow reflection by the defendant. The premeditated intent to kill must be formed before the killing.

(47:59 - 48:21)

And probably one of the most important things is that Sonja Exelde's consent is not a defense to the crime of first degree murder. I submit to you, and I'm going to show you some things that I can prove that she didn't want to be killed when she came here and she changed her mind. But even if you don't believe that, if you believe that she came here and she 100% wanted this man to kill her, he can't do that.

(48:22 - 48:34)

She cannot consent to that. He can't do it. I think we proved to you she changed her mind, but again, even if you do not believe that, this man does not have the right to kill her even if she wants to die.

(48:35 - 48:56)

So that is not even a consideration. How do we know it's premeditated? They've been planning this since February of 2025. Because in February of 2025, she paid Solver Wolf $3, and then she paid him $500.

(48:57 - 49:03)

And all of those bank records are in evidence. You can look through those and you'll see that. So they've been planning this since February.

(49:04 - 49:14)

And then something happened and it didn't go through in February. So then they planned it again

for October. She bought those tickets in September 22nd of 2025.

(49:14 - 49:27)

And she booked the Airbnb. I mean, it was weeks they had this planned. He bought the paracord, the utility rope at Walmart, on that Friday at 547.

(49:28 - 49:43)

And remember, even if you think that it wasn't planned when she booked the plane ticket, it certainly was planned when he went to Walmart and bought all the supplies. He bought a shovel and rope. He knew what he was going to do with that shovel.

(49:44 - 49:58)

Because right after that, he went to the airport to pick her up. He bought the shovel and the rope, 554 and 547, and he went right to the airport when her flight came in at 622. And then what else does he buy? Tarp.

(49:59 - 50:13)

He buys tarp before he kills her. And after he buys the tarp, he goes to Dunkin' Donuts first, then right to the burial site. How much premeditation do we need? Shovel, rope, tarp.

(50:15 - 50:36)

And then to top it all off, we have this, which shows the... And remember, when you look at these, the UK records are... This is the month, and this is the day, and this is the year. And these are the records that I told you about. She paid Royal Inn in Ocala 91 pounds in February.

(50:37 - 50:46)

And then down here in March, she paid Silverwool $500. And here's the $3 one. March.

(50:47 - 51:02)

A hotel in February, and she paid him in March. And he was kind enough to give us a lot of video footage of him buying all the things that he was going to use to murder her. Here we go, strutting along outside of Walmart with a shovel.

(51:04 - 51:13)

Here's the rope. This is the same rope that he bought that we never found. And here he is, walking through Lowe's with his tarp.

(51:14 - 51:25)

Never found that either. But here's a picture of that exact tarp. So we have the receipts, and we know he bought it because we have the pictures of him buying it.

(51:27 - 51:36)

Clearly it was premeditated. There's no question this was a premeditated murder. We have receipts, we have videos, we have photographs, we have everything.

(51:37 - 51:54)

So if number one is proven beyond a reasonable doubt, and number three is proven beyond a reasonable doubt, all we have is one thing left. Did he do it? Was her death caused by the criminal act? Because if that's proven beyond a reasonable doubt, you have to find him guilty. How do we know that? Let's talk about the suicide.

(51:57 - 52:08)

So think about this, if this makes any sense. For years, Sonia's been trying to find someone to kill her because she couldn't do it herself. For at least two years.

(52:09 - 52:21)

Her prior suicide attempts were overdoses by prescription medication, Stevie told us that. She pays him $1,200 to kill her. She flies overseas.

(52:23 - 52:34)

She comes to Florida. And then she gets here. And then all of a sudden she's like, Oh no, oh no, Alpha Theta, I got this, I'm going to stab myself.

(52:35 - 52:47)

Does that make any sense? All of a sudden, she can't kill herself for two years, she's desperately trying to find somebody to do it. She goes through all this and gets here, and then she's like, Oh, I got it, I'm going to kill myself. It's ridiculous.

(52:54 - 53:04)

I'm sorry that we have to look at these again. But you can see they're on the left side right here, and these are the close-ups. We know Sonia's right hand, and I asked Stevie that.

(53:05 - 53:16)

She would have had to use her left hand to do that. Her right hand is never going to reach around there. Those stab wounds were four to seven inches deep.

(53:18 - 53:33)

The medical examiner said it would take significant force and speed to obtain those wounds. She couldn't do that one time, let alone four. The pain of that would be excruciating.

(53:34 - 54:02)

If you think about every wound she had, and Dr. Lange talked about where they went, every one of them hit a vital structure. The stomach, spleen, pancreas, kidney, diaphragm, ribs. I mean, there is no way she would be able to get that knife in one time, let alone four times.

(54:03 - 54:29)

And again, she's going to do this herself? So she comes here and says, I'm going to kill myself? So she takes the knife in her non-dominant hand and starts stabbing herself back here? It makes no sense at all. And it's impossible. There's no way she could have done that to herself with the pain that she would have been in from one of those.

(54:30 - 54:44)

This was no suicide. There's no evidence that she did this herself. And if it was, why didn't he tell the police that? Wow, he should have made up a really long story for four hours.

(54:46 - 54:52)

They said, we know she's suicidal. They told him that. If that happened, he goes, yeah, OK.

(54:52 - 55:05)

She came here, and then she killed herself. I guess he knew he couldn't do that, because then he would have to say, well, then I threw her in the grave, and I buried her and took all her stuff and got rid of it. But the police ask him, did you kill Sonya? And this is what he says.

(55:08 - 55:17)

Did you kill Sonya? I can't tell you that. He says, I can't tell you that. Did you kill Sonya? Point blank, they ask him.

(55:18 - 55:29)

He says, I can't tell you that. If it was a suicide by her own hands, certainly he would have told them that. He admits he's got violent ideations.

(55:30 - 55:41)

He doesn't want to talk about them specifically, but he admits it. I may occasionally have the

violent ideations or whatever. But at the same time, it's better left on paper.

(55:41 - 55:53)

Yeah, no, I hear that. There's a lot of people that leave it on paper. So what type of violent ideations? I don't feel comfortable discussing that with you.

(55:53 - 56:07)

He doesn't feel comfortable discussing his violent ideations with her. He admits that the plan was for Sonya to come here so he could kill her. He admits that.

(56:08 - 56:28)

We got into that, just that she had met up with a few guys, or she was supposed to meet up with a few guys, and they always stood her up and or cowered in doubt, or fell in love with her. It's exactly what they did. So they couldn't follow through with it? They wouldn't follow through with it.

(56:28 - 56:37)

Okay. That's basically what that came down to. So she came to you with the hopes that you could follow through with it.

(56:38 - 56:44)

Apparently. Apparently that was the original plan. That was the plan.

(56:46 - 56:58)

So there's no dispute that that's why she came here. And he admits that that's why she came here. And then you have this horrible video that he made of her.

(56:59 - 57:28)

And he asks her. He thinks this is going to help him somehow. He asks her, what have you been consenting to here today? And she says, you mean you're talking about killing me? Are you talking about killing me? He says, what have you been consenting to? And she says, you're talking about killing me? Is that what you mean? And then he says, you consent to what beforehand, what do you feel that you deserve? And she says to be stabbed.

(57:28 - 57:45)

And he says, huh? And she says, to be stabbed. And this video is in evidence, and you're going to have a laptop actor with you. You can watch it as many times as you need to and listen to it as many times as you need to.

(57:45 - 57:52)

This is what she says. He asks her, what do you consent to? And she can't consent to that. He knew it.

(57:52 - 57:58)

To be stabbed. That's what she says. That's what the plan was.

(57:58 - 58:42)

He was going to stab her. And she says it right here. What have you been consenting to here today? You mean the way that you're talking about killing me? Yeah, is that what you mean? Huh? Is that what you mean? You consent to what kind of treatment beforehand that you feel like you deserve? To be stabbed.

(58:44 - 59:01)

Huh? To be stabbed. There's just more evidence that he killed her. Shovel.

(59:02 - 59:11)

We know he bought that shovel before he picked her up from the airport. And that shovel's found in his garage. It has her blood on the handle.

(59:12 - 59:29)

Is he saying she stabbed herself and then done her own grave? How is her blood on the handle? Her blood's on the handle because he stabbed her and then he buried her. There's no other reason her blood's on that handle. And it has his fingerprint on it.

(59:31 - 59:42)

And we know that that shovel was the one used to dig the grave. You know how we know? Because thank you, he left the label in the grave. The label for that shovel is in the grave.

(59:42 - 59:50)

And you can look at the receipt. It matches up the skew numbers with the one he bought. Thanks for that evidence because you left the label in the grave.

(59:50 - 1:00:03)

So we know it was the same shovel. I mean, I don't know how much more evidence we need than her blood is on the handle of his fingerprint on the shovel that he bought to kill her. There's no other way her blood got on that handle.

(1:00:04 - 1:00:18)

His knife is a murder weapon. His friend Rick Snyder bought him that knife as a present prior to the murder. That knife is consistent with the size and shape of those stab wounds.

(1:00:20 - 1:00:36)

Dr. Lang looked at it and said yes. But we don't even need Dr. Lang to say yes, it matches the stab wounds because some of his blood's on it. And where is it? Under that handle and the screws on both sides of the knife.

(1:00:36 - 1:00:50)

How did it get there? When he stabbed her, it went in and the blood went up. It was on both sides under the screws of that handle when they took that handle off. How did that get there? It's his knife.

(1:00:50 - 1:00:57)

It's the murder weapon. Her blood's on it. And he nailed it away and tried to get rid of it.

(1:00:59 - 1:01:11)

We've got the murder weapon with her blood. We've got the shovel with her blood at his house that he bought. How much evidence does there need to be that he is the one that killed her? Oh, I'm sorry, there's more.

(1:01:12 - 1:01:29)

Because he was at the burial site from 938 to 1050. His life's 360 shows it right here. That's where he is right after he buys a guitar.

(1:01:31 - 1:01:49)

What's he doing there for that long, for an hour and 20 minutes? And we've got him there. And more, we're going to cover everything up. Why are we covering everything up? He murders her and buries her.

(1:01:50 - 1:02:04)

Then he goes to Butler Plaza in Gainesville, and we know he puts her backpack in that recycling bin. Because, I mean, there's nothing more the Florida Department of Law Enforcement could have done in this case. They got every piece of evidence they possibly could of no stone unturned.

(1:02:05 - 1:02:17)

They sent an agent to the recycling bin in Tampa to go through that huge truck you saw of everything that was in there. And did they find Sonja's bag? They did. They found her bag.

(1:02:17 - 1:02:28)

Stevie identified it. When you look at those pictures, he initialed it and said, that's Sonja's bag. But we don't even need Stevie to identify it, because his DNA is on it, and so is Sonja's.

(1:02:29 - 1:02:38)

But he got rid of that. Where is the utility rope, the paracord, and the tarp? He got rid of those somewhere. Those are all gone.

(1:02:39 - 1:02:48)

And we know because the empty wrappers were in the Airbnb. Those were the empty wrappers, the paracord and utility cord. But those things were not found.

(1:02:48 - 1:02:57)

They're just the empty wrappers. So he's disposed of those. And he drives by her burial site again later on that Sunday to see if there's any cops out there or anybody sniffing around.

(1:02:58 - 1:03:05)

Then Tuesday, wakes up. First place he goes is UPS. I'm going to mail that knife and get this knife out of here.

(1:03:06 - 1:03:19)

Then he comes back to his house and does what's called a batch deletion. Every photograph of Sonja and that video he made, he deletes. He is on the cover-up now.

(1:03:19 - 1:03:28)

He's going to get rid of everything. I don't want any trace of her on my phone anywhere. He lies to the police.

(1:03:30 - 1:03:48)

And then he does get a little concerned, because on October 15th, and this is in Evidence 2, he asks Gemini, which on an Android phone is XSiri. How long would it take a large family dog to decompose? Why does he want to know that? Because he's hoping that's going to decompose and nobody's going to find her body. There's no other reason he's searching that.

(1:03:52 - 1:03:55)

And motive. We don't have to prove motive. You see those three elements.

(1:03:56 - 1:04:00)

Nowhere in there does it say motive. We don't have to prove motive. We only have to prove those three elements.

(1:04:01 - 1:04:09)

But I think in this case, it's important to talk about it because we know why. And lots of times the juries want to know why. We don't have to prove it to you, but we know why.

(1:04:10 - 1:04:25)

He targeted her because of her mental illness and exploited her for his own state-of-the-state pleasure. How do we know that? We know all about her mental health. We talked about that to show you why she would go to these websites.

(1:04:26 - 1:04:35)

Why would somebody go to these websites and ask to have these things done and come here for that? We obviously have to be mentally ill. We know her history. Both her parents suffered from mental illness.

(1:04:36 - 1:04:45)

Her father suffered from addiction as well. And Dr. Dunbury said that there's lots of components of mental illness that can be directed. She had a traumatic childhood.

(1:04:46 - 1:04:58)

She was removed from her home, but foster care separated from her siblings. There was some indication of sexual abuse after she was taken from her biological parents. She was a wonderful, amazing person that she had.

(1:04:59 - 1:05:12)

Low self-esteem was always one of her problems. And Stevie said she was crying out for help in the letter that she wrote from the plane. We know from Dr. Dunbury that he reviewed all the records.

(1:05:12 - 1:05:19)

There was mental health records. There was hospital records going back to her teenage years.

He interviewed Stevie, who he knew were the best.

(1:05:19 - 1:05:23)

That's who he interviewed. He listened to all the other interviews. He personally interviewed Stevie to talk to him.

(1:05:24 - 1:05:57)

And he talked about why somebody cuts and does self-harm, that the immediate physical pain of cutting yourself alleviates the emotional pain. Just so you could try to have you understand why she was doing what she was doing. Because even though she stopped cutting, going on to these horrible websites where they would talk about vile sexual violence kind of took the place of the cutting and made her forget the emotional distress that she was in when she went to these websites.

(1:05:59 - 1:06:05)

He talked about all the disorders. She was bipolar. She had bulimia, anorexia, borderline personality disorder, depressive disorder.

(1:06:06 - 1:06:18)

She was vulnerable. And when she was murdered, she was suffering from serious mental illness. And anyone who spent time with her would know that she's not capable of making rational decisions.

(1:06:19 - 1:06:29)

She was a highly vulnerable, mentally ill female. She was conflicted and ambivalent about wanting to die. And we don't have the communications between them.

(1:06:30 - 1:06:39)

But why don't we have them? Because he deleted his motherless account. And with the account, when he deleted it, all the communications were deleted. And then they got on Sessions.

(1:06:40 - 1:06:51)

And he knows Sessions is automatically deleting things. And there was no chance we were ever going to get anything from Sessions. But as I said before, I think the lack of messages is more telling.

(1:06:52 - 1:07:03)

Because he got rid of them all. But again, think about what had to be in those messages to get

her to come here. It wasn't just they talked a couple times on motherless or Sessions.

(1:07:03 - 1:07:12)

Hey, how are you? Blah, blah, blah. He said he was communicating with her for two years. And it had to be very substantial communication.

(1:07:12 - 1:07:28)

And very manipulative and predatory by him. Because there's no way she would have come here without that. And again, why did he do it? Motive? We know what he wants.

(1:07:29 - 1:07:33)

Because he himself wrote it. This is nobody making this up. This is his own bio.

(1:07:33 - 1:07:39)

Alpha sadist. Hmm, well, I'm a sadist. I like 18 to 25-year-olds generally.

(1:07:39 - 1:07:49)

I enjoy mother-daughter sets as slaves. Would love to find a domestic pain slut for complete control. No scat or puke playing.

(1:07:50 - 1:07:58)

Only complete submissions acceptable. Which is what he wanted from her. Which is why he picked her and why he targeted her.

(1:08:00 - 1:08:05)

This is his other bio. Live in Florida. Sadist.

(1:08:06 - 1:08:11)

Want to find my own little sex doll for all sorts of things. That's that guy. That's who he is.

(1:08:11 - 1:08:30)

That's how he describes himself and what he's looking for. So even though we don't need to prove motive, we know what the motive is and we know why. And in this clip from the interview, he talks about telling her to have sex with Stevie.

(1:08:31 - 1:08:41)

He called her husband or fiancé. And he's directing her what to do with Stevie. And then Agent

McKenzie starts asking him, so she did it and you liked it.

(1:08:41 - 1:08:48)

Was it for the control? And he goes, yeah. He did it for the control. I wanted to see if you could control her.

(1:08:48 - 1:09:01)

I'm going to tell you what sexual acts to do with your fiancé. I'm going to see if she'll do it. So is that her thing, to be submissive? Yeah, that's what I got from her when we were talking.

(1:09:02 - 1:09:28)

So is that kind of like the turn-on, because she was submissive? And online you're telling her to be more assertive with her husband or her boyfriend and trying to get her to be more sexually aggressive with him? Or what was the appeal of giving her direction to have sex with someone else? The control. Just the control. Control on her? Mm-hmm.

(1:09:28 - 1:09:55)

So that's what kind of just fed you, turned you on, that you could get her to try something that maybe she wasn't comfortable with because you said it wasn't how she typically had sex and you were able to kind of push her to do those things. Yeah. Yeah, control.

Complete control. He admits it. We've proven how he did it and why he did it.

(1:09:58 - 1:10:03)

One, two, and three. Those are the three things. We know she's dead.

(1:10:04 - 1:10:17)

There's more than enough evidence that he's the one that did it. And we know it was premeditated. And because those three things have been proven beyond a reasonable doubt, we have to find him guilty of the first-degree murder.

(1:10:18 - 1:10:30)

We also have the second charge, which is kidnapping. And like the first-degree murder, there's also a lesser-included offense in this case, false imprisonment. These are the three elements for the kidnapping.

(1:10:31 - 1:10:41)

And what I'll tell you is the false imprisonment is the same as one and two. There's just no three

in the false imprisonment. There's no intent to inflict bodily harm or to terrorize someone.

(1:10:42 - 1:11:08)

Of course, I would submit to you that that's clearly the reason you brought her here, was to do that to her, so the false imprisonment doesn't apply. And I want to be clear that for the kidnapping, we are not talking about her getting on the plane and coming here. She did that on her own.

That's not the kidnapping. The kidnapping started when she got here, and then she clearly changed her mind and wanted to leave, and he told her, you're not leaving unless you shoot me. That's when the kidnapping starts.

(1:11:08 - 1:11:16)

We're not talking about her flying here on the plane and coming here. She did that on her own. I mean, obviously, she wasn't manipulated by him, but she did that on her own.

(1:11:16 - 1:11:47)

So the kidnapping starts once she gets here, and after she's endured beatings from him, and he's terrorized her, that's the kidnapping. We talked about the second boss. Was she conflicted? Was she sure? We know she booked a return flight, and we know she didn't do that to trick her family because her family didn't even know she was leaving anywhere, so why'd she book a return flight? And this is something we haven't talked about either.

(1:11:47 - 1:12:05)

That's in the records, the bank records. The day before she left on Thursday, before she left for the U.S., she had two bank accounts we've talked about, Tesco bank account and the Lloyds bank account. She transferred 950 pounds from her Lloyds bank account to her Tesco bank account.

(1:12:06 - 1:12:24)

That meant her Lloyds bank account had a negative balance, so she moved that money out of her Lloyds account, and she had a negative balance. The Lloyds account is the one that he kept trying to charge for his business that weren't applying. She knew there was no money in that account because she had transferred it out the day before.

(1:12:25 - 1:12:43)

And then when she gets here and he's demanding the money, she gives him that card. She knew there was no money on that card because she had just transferred it out. Was she hoping that when it didn't go through? Because remember, he said she kept insisting there was money on the

card.

(1:12:44 - 1:13:02)

Was she hoping that when it didn't go through and he would maybe kick her out and let her leave and say, I'm not going to kill you because you didn't pay me? It seems kind of obvious. There's no other reason that she would have given him that card. I mean, these are the bank records, and again, they're in evidence.

(1:13:04 - 1:13:21)

The converging time is October 9th at 10.04. She transferred $950 out of that account. And it put her in the negative. And then here's all the times he's trying, trying, trying, and he's decreasing the amount.

(1:13:21 - 1:13:27)

He keeps trying four times. And she knew. She knew there was no money in that account.

(1:13:27 - 1:13:34)

Why would she do that? Hoping that he would say, get out of here. You didn't give me the money. I'm not going to kill you.

(1:13:36 - 1:13:50)

There's no other reason she would do that. It's like hoping she could get out of this terrible situation. And then she switched over, and she ended up giving him the other card that had the money on it, and that's when he got the $1,200.

(1:13:52 - 1:14:03)

I mean, we can look at the video, and we know what kind of condition she was in. But she eventually gave him the card, so he got the money. And this is the letter.

(1:14:03 - 1:14:10)

I know it was hard to hear. It's in evidence. It was hard to read with the connection.

(1:14:10 - 1:14:22)

But this is the letter that she wrote from the plane, on her way here. I've never hurt so much. I'm trying so hard not to have a panic attack.

(1:14:23 - 1:14:34)

I'm scared enough to leave home soil, and don't you forget about me as plane. It's such cruel irony. That was the song I almost died to in an attempted suicide.

(1:14:35 - 1:14:52)

I haven't really hurt since. As soon as the wheels leave the ground, I wish I was home, but I can't get off the plane, and it's moving, and I have no Wi-Fi. What does that say? I wish I was home, but I can't get off the plane.

(1:14:53 - 1:15:06)

I'm screaming like I'm in a saw trap. I want to beg for help so badly, but there's such a wall, it will never happen. The Virgin intro, Virgin Airlines intro saying, the end.

(1:15:07 - 1:15:15)

Oh God, I feel so sick. I can hear it powering up. Why am I here? Why? The guy in front of me looks like Barry.

(1:15:16 - 1:15:22)

He's her brother. If I wasn't numb, I'd never have gotten out of the house. This would be impossible.

(1:15:24 - 1:15:36)

Although I'm hurting more than I ever have, but that's exactly why. Any worse than I screamed bloody murder. I thought I was calming down, but then the worst fear swept over me as I feel us speeding up.

(1:15:37 - 1:15:47)

I hate that I can see my reflection in the screen. All the staff have been so wonderful. I know they want to help me, and I could just tell them, but I can't.

(1:15:48 - 1:15:56)

The crushing realization that my singing yesterday didn't even record. I offended my phone. It was everything, and I left nothing.

(1:15:58 - 1:16:05)

Well, now I'm so depressed, I'm not hurting as much. And there we go like a fucking rocket. It's too late.

(1:16:07 - 1:16:15)

Oh, I thought we took off. I've never felt panic like this. Everyone can give to the world except me.

(1:16:15 - 1:16:28)

I just hate it. It almost looks like a perfect day above the clouds. Why do I still feel like I'm not going to die? I fucked up so bad in not leaving a trace at the end.

(1:16:29 - 1:16:38)

I got too overwhelmed and forgot things. If I manage to get to him, it'll be so easy to find me. I'll be mutilated and disabled for the rest of my life.

(1:16:41 - 1:17:11)

This is the condition that she was in when she wrote this, and when she went to him. Was she having second thoughts? Was she panicked? Did she want to get off the plane? Several minutes later. Did he act with intent to inflict bodily harm or terrorize her? I'm going to submit to you he did both.

(1:17:13 - 1:17:27)

Let's first talk about how he feels about women. We know how he feels about women because you've had a look at those horrific 17 images that were on his phone involving the torture and rape and mutilation of women. I'm just going to put one of them up.

(1:17:30 - 1:17:34)

This is how he feels about women. They're not human. Hate it.

(1:17:35 - 1:17:42)

Rape it. Execute it. That's what he thinks about women.

(1:17:43 - 1:17:58)

That's what he thought about Selma. He did whatever he wanted to her when she got there. And she kind of left us a note by reaching out to Ari about what she was going through.

(1:18:00 - 1:18:10)

He wouldn't let her leave unless she shot him. He made it clear there was no way out unless I shoot him. That can only mean that she asked to leave.

(1:18:10 - 1:18:16)

She wanted to leave. And he said, there's no way. You want to leave? You've got to shoot me.

(1:18:17 - 1:18:35)

Is that terrorizing and inflaming somebody? We know he had a gun because we found it. Did he inflict bodily harm on her and terrorize her? Clearly. First, he made her record a disclaimer and message my family because he thought it was funny.

(1:18:36 - 1:18:51)

He thought that video he took of her, beaten and broken, was funny. And she said, this was on Saturday. Friday night, we know once they got back to the Airbnb, they were there all night until the next morning.

(1:18:52 - 1:19:03)

Last night was so bad. Every time I pass out, I wake up crying. So whatever he did to her was bad enough.

(1:19:03 - 1:19:12)

She's passing out. I can't even take a choke. And the disorientation makes me truly believe I'm with you.

(1:19:12 - 1:19:21)

And I keep crying your name when I realize I'm not with you. I'm so scared. I'm so broken.

(1:19:22 - 1:19:38)

And I'm in so much pain. He put her in emotional pain as well as physical pain. Did he terrorize her and inflict bodily harm on her when he wouldn't let her leave the Airbnb? Yes.

(1:19:43 - 1:19:55)

You see the bruising here, the bruising here. We know this is the rope that he had. The rope, the original rope is gone, but this is the exact same kind he had as well as the paracord.

(1:19:57 - 1:20:13)

And if you look at her breast right here, that's not from a smacking. He admitted he smacked her on the ass, the front, the back, smacked her on the face a couple times, smacked her on the breast. That's not a smacking.

(1:20:15 - 1:20:42)

That looks like a rope right here and then across here. And we know, I'm not going to show it to you, but there is evidence that there are pictures he had on his phone of women's breasts being

tightly bound with rope. Is that physical pain? Is this terrorizing someone? She didn't tell me about why you're here.

(1:20:47 - 1:21:46)

Because I'm an awful person. Yeah, but why are you such an awful person? I've crushed everyone who ever loved me. I've cheated on them.

I can't bear. God, the amount of lies to everyone about this is overwhelming. I've led on so many men because I didn't know how to just... Well, it was more just that I didn't have the guts to say no because I knew they probably wouldn't like me.

(1:21:47 - 1:21:58)

I don't know. People just always seemed overly nice. Yeah, I was always an oddball.

(1:22:02 - 1:22:46)

And how did you want to die? What was your chosen way to die? Kind of describe that. What have you been consenting to here today? You mean the way that you're talking about killing me? Yeah, is that what you mean? Huh? Is that what you mean? Sorry. You consent to what kind of treatment beforehand that you feel like you deserve? No.

(1:22:50 - 1:22:58)

To be stabbed. Huh? To be stabbed. Yeah, that's what you want.

(1:22:58 - 1:23:34)

But the last day or two, what has your treatment been? What did you ask for leading up to that? I can't remember. We've talked about so many different ways. What's this on your face? You've beaten me.

(1:23:35 - 1:24:33)

Is that what you wanted? Is that what you asked for? Yes, literally speaking. Now you're being coerced? You're being forced into this? And this is how you wanted to die, right? You wanted to be beaten? And made to suffer because you're such a piece of shit? Say it. I needed to be beaten and suffer because I'm such a piece of shit.

(1:24:35 - 1:25:08)

Good. You're not being forced to say that, right? So are you getting what you wanted? Are you pleased? Are you happy? This is what Sonia actually looked like on the bed. Before she came here and met with Alpha Sadist.

(1:25:10 - 1:25:45)

This is what she looked like after. We ask that you find the defendant guilty of first degree murder and kidnapping. Mr. Barrett? Dealing with the debt of a loved one is never an easy thing to do.

(1:25:46 - 1:26:14)

It doesn't matter whether or not the debt is natural causes or from suicide. We will always think that it had gone too soon. We start to ask ourselves, could we have done more? Did we miss something? Is it our fault? All of this is natural.

(1:26:14 - 1:26:25)

Just as it is natural for you to have emotional reaction. Miss Hexley is dead. There's no question about that.

(1:26:32 - 1:27:03)

The question for you to decide is how she died and who caused her death. If the question of how she died has been answered for you, the medical examiner told you. So the remaining question I suggest to you is, who took her life? All the other elements of the crime are clearly established.

(1:27:07 - 1:27:46)

So the question is, who caused her death? There is no question that she suffered from several mental health issues. We've heard from her boyfriend, her sisters, that sometimes she had good days, essentially, and sometimes she had bad days. Her boyfriend, at some point, went with her for counseling to a therapist.

(1:27:49 - 1:28:19)

She was on medication. The idea was to help her to deal with mental illness. But one of the things you must keep in the back of your mind, and again, personal experiences, is that not every death or every suicide is caused by mental illness.

(1:28:21 - 1:28:39)

Sometimes people just decide that they don't want to live anymore. We talk about, every day, an individual's right to life. And we often times avoid the question of the individual's right to die.

(1:28:43 - 1:28:55)

Mental illness is not always obvious. Even Dr. Demery told me that. Through your life experience, you'll probably pass someone on the street, just laying there, sitting there.

(1:28:56 - 1:29:10)

It's not always someone just getting up and acting weird. It's not always someone who has mental illness. It can be controlled, at times.

(1:29:11 - 1:29:28)

In the case of Ms. Bexley, we know that she had several different types of mental illness. And as part of it, sometimes she is at one stage where she's fine. She can do her day-to-day activities.

(1:29:29 - 1:29:53)

The next time, it is different. The people who have been around her her life, her sisters, her boyfriend of 10 plus years, you've heard them tell you that when she's in that bad stage, she doesn't want to speak to anyone. She avoids them.

(1:29:53 - 1:30:09)

They understand that. They've been around her her life. You heard that the day she left the United Kingdom to come to the United States, she was happy.

(1:30:10 - 1:30:17)

You heard that from her boyfriend. She did her hair. She was in a good mood.

(1:30:18 - 1:30:52)

You heard that the month before, sometime in September, she was able to book a flight, book an Airbnb. She was able to plan it essentially just around the time she was supposed to meet up with her sisters. Her boyfriend knew she was going to be gone because, again, she was to meet with her sisters.

(1:30:52 - 1:31:05)

Her plan to come to the U.S. was done around the same time. I suggest to you that was an action of somebody who was, at that time, mentally in a good place. She knew what she was doing.

(1:31:05 - 1:31:14)

She made those plans. And she made it in such a way that they would not know she's gone. Now, the fact that she bought a round-trip ticket.

(1:31:16 - 1:31:38)

Those of you who have traveled know if you're going to another country, you've got to go through immigration. If you have a one-way ticket, even coming from the U.K. where you don't need a

visa to come to the U.S., if you buy a one-way ticket, they're not letting you in. You have to buy a round-trip ticket.

(1:31:38 - 1:31:54)

This way they know you're planning to leave. You have to provide information about where you're going to stay. Again, conscious thought, planning.

(1:31:56 - 1:32:22)

She made those plans herself to come to the U.S. And yet she came here with the intention of dying. She felt she was worthless, not useful, a burden on a lot of people. And she felt that by dying, that was essentially her gift to her family.

(1:32:22 - 1:32:41)

She would no longer be a burden. Again, I suggest you that took some thought. We know that she likes porn that maybe the average person doesn't like.

(1:32:43 - 1:32:57)

We know that Mr. Hall does that also. This is not a question about what kind of porn he likes. It is not illegal, unless it involves child porn.

(1:32:58 - 1:33:06)

Or some type of porn that is illegal. It is not. You're not here to judge somebody's lifestyle.

(1:33:09 - 1:33:28)

State introduced 17 photographs, and if you choose to look at this photograph, some of these photographs are not anything that happened to this woman. There's no evidence that she had some kind of an object inserted in her. No evidence that she was tied up.

(1:33:28 - 1:33:44)

No evidence of objects coming through her chest. Those are all emotional elements that the state has introduced in this trial. You can disagree with him about what he likes.

(1:33:47 - 1:34:02)

But that is not the issue in this case. This case should not be decided because you're just angry at anyone. Or because you don't like his lifestyle.

(1:34:02 - 1:34:14)

You don't like the type of things he likes. In the video, you hear him talking about what he likes. Yes, you can consider that perverted if you choose to.

(1:34:17 - 1:34:43)

But the fact that that's what he likes does not make it illegal. Did you see any photographs or pictures of him actually engaging in any of those activities? Not being introduced in this trial. There's been several witnesses and a lot of stuff introduced in this trial.

(1:34:44 - 1:34:54)

The state presents a case they want to present the case. That is their responsibility. It is their duty to prove beyond a reasonable doubt.

(1:34:54 - 1:35:10)

So, yes. But most of these things introduced doesn't really tell you anything about who killed her. There's no question that at some point he was around her.

(1:35:13 - 1:35:22)

The video shows him purchasing stuff. The state talks about the robe. There's no evidence that at some point he had beat her with a robe, tied her up.

(1:35:23 - 1:35:37)

Medical examiner or no one else have told you that there's any indication that any of those things happened. He talked about spanking. In fact, he had quite a discussion with the detective about safe words.

(1:35:38 - 1:35:47)

And about if the individual flinches, you stop right there. Again, it's an evidence. You can listen to it.

(1:35:49 - 1:36:01)

There's no evidence of her being bound, tied. He talked about choking. But the medical examiner told you that there's no evidence of strangulation.

(1:36:03 - 1:36:24)

Again, you may not like the way he engaged in sexual activity. But that in and of itself does not make it illegal. Ms. Bexley came here because she wanted to die.

(1:36:25 - 1:36:33)

She attempted this several times before. It wasn't successful. She wanted to be away from her family.

(1:36:34 - 1:36:45)

And you heard in his interview, she didn't want them to find her. She lied to them about where she was going. She even booked two different places to stay.

(1:36:46 - 1:37:12)

The state talked to her about some inn that she, Royal Inn, I believe was the name, that she stayed. But we know she didn't let Mr. Hall book the A, B, and D. So she did everything to make sure that the family didn't know where she at. Now on the plane, did she stop thinking about what was going to happen and think about it? Yeah, you have that interview.

(1:37:15 - 1:37:29)

When she got off the plane, she still had the opportunity, if that's what she wanted to, to change her mind. To not get out of the airport. We know she's made contact with at least one friend.

(1:37:30 - 1:37:39)

She could have told him where she's staying. She may not be able to give him a direction as to where this A, B, and D is. But she's the one who booked it.

(1:37:39 - 1:37:46)

Which means she had to have gone somewhere to get that information. This is it. This is where it's located.

(1:37:47 - 1:38:00)

She could have provided that if that's what she wanted. She was upset. What was she upset about? Because she didn't think it would take that long for her to die.

(1:38:02 - 1:38:19)

That's one of the things Dr. Demary spoke to you about. Was he playing her along for his sexual gratification? Could be. Did he kill her? That's the question for you.

(1:38:21 - 1:38:26)

She wanted to die. She wanted to die quickly. He wasn't doing that.

(1:38:42 - 1:39:23)

There was no question that the knife was involved in her death. Now, yes, the state asked both the boyfriend, and I believe one of the sisters, if she right-handed or left-handed. Does the fact that you have a dominant hand, excuse me, means that you're not capable of using your other hand? Is it possible for her to stab herself with her left hand? I think one of you asked the question of the doctor about speed.

(1:39:24 - 1:39:39)

And the doctor told you she can't tell you that they didn't measure speed. To do that, they would actually have to get a human being and do testing, which is not allowed. But words are important.

(1:39:39 - 1:40:05)

The words we use are important. And that was one of the questions I asked of the doctor when she talked about whether or not she could have killed herself. And I believe I'm trying to get as close to the words she used as possible because, again, words are important.

(1:40:19 - 1:40:39)

When asked whether or not the injuries could have been self-inflicted, the response, and again, this was a state question, from the doctor was, typically not consistent with. And I got an answer for that. You use the word typically.

(1:40:39 - 1:41:05)

What does that mean? Again, common sense. Normally that may not be consistent, but typically it doesn't mean it could not happen. And in fact, I would suggest when the doctor responded, she gave an opening, in essence, to the state by saying, it is not outside the realm of possibility.

(1:41:07 - 1:41:13)

I thought it was supposed to be opposite. That shouldn't be my apology. I definitely, okay.

(1:41:27 - 1:41:44)

Her response to me was, not outside the realm of possibility, because it could happen. Depends on the strength of the hand. I suggest to you what she actually meant was not just the hand, but the whole arm, because obviously it's not just a hand movement.

(1:41:45 - 1:42:05)

It requires strength. Someone who has made up her mind that she wants to die. We often, in our own life experience, talk about that extra strength when you're in a situation out of fear or anger.

(1:42:05 - 1:42:49)

Could she have done it herself? We know she was angry because he wouldn't do it. Could she have done it herself? We know that the A, B, and D were searched. They got a warrant.

They searched. They recovered all kinds of things. We know that Mr. Hall's home was searched.

(1:42:51 - 1:43:04)

No evidence of blood on shoes found. Blood on any clothing found. Either the A, B, and D are at his home.

(1:43:06 - 1:43:23)

Full-stack injury, deep injuries. You would expect there would be blood somewhere. The only thing connected to him, besides the knife where there's blood, was a bracelet.

(1:43:25 - 1:43:55)

And you probably wondered, why was he asking these questions about transfer, DNA, and transfer? Because blood can be transferred. Blood can spatter. If you're involved in a certain type of sex where there is injury, and you can see from the photograph, it looks like the redness, it can be transferred that way.

(1:43:56 - 1:44:22)

If you're engaged in burying someone, it could be transferred that way. The fact that there's blood on the bracelet means that at some point in time, he was in close proximity to her blood. It could be from burying her.

(1:44:24 - 1:44:39)

It could be from sexual activity. But somebody with poor, severe stab injury that even pierces her heart, the heart is the pump of the body. You would expect a lot of bleeding.

(1:44:40 - 1:44:52)

You would expect blood. Again, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, you've heard the witnesses, a lot of experts got on there. They were all introduced to you that way.

(1:44:53 - 1:45:10)

Several times said, Judge, we would like permission to have this witness give opinion testimony. Because of their schooling, their experience, they've been doing it for 10, 15, 20 years. They were thorough.

(1:45:10 - 1:45:23)

They collected everything. They double-checked, triple-checked. No blood on anything connected to him other than the knife, yes, and that bracelet.

(1:45:25 - 1:45:40)

No skin tissue or anything of him found on her. No struggle, screams, any signs that as he's stabbing her, she can grab onto him. There's no cuts, no blood, no nail clippings were done.

(1:45:43 - 1:45:59)

Nothing indicated any of those things. Did he, after she died, remove the knife? Yes, he did. It is his knife.

(1:46:01 - 1:46:17)

He took it, he boxed it up, didn't throw it away. He sent it to his friend to keep. Clearly, she couldn't have buried herself, so he buried her.

(1:46:18 - 1:46:35)

Again, in the interview, he said to the detective, you know, I basically disappointed everyone, my wife, my kid. I made a promise to her. I'm not going to break the promise.

(1:46:35 - 1:46:52)

This was when the detective keeps saying over and over again, we just want to get her back home to the family. Where is she? And that was the question he wouldn't answer. Now, to stay pointed, he said, when they asked him, did you kill her? He wouldn't answer.

(1:46:52 - 1:47:11)

Again, several times in the interview, he said, well, if I did something, my life is over with anyway. So he wouldn't answer any questions about what he did. Because in his mind, for burying her also, clearly that was something he did that was wrong.

(1:47:15 - 1:47:45)

Now, did he do some act that may have helped her do what she wanted to do, what she wanted, which was to die? Obviously, the knife was his. Was he careless about where the knife was that allowed her to be able to have access to it? Yes. Could he have gotten her to a hospital, to a doctor for treatment? Yes.

(1:47:48 - 1:48:09)

Would that have been the right or moral thing to do? Did he have some kind of a duty to try to stop her, kill herself? Maybe. But the fact that he may not have helped her or stopped her from

killing himself does not make him a murderer. That's what he's charged with.

(1:48:10 - 1:48:26)

The fact that you may have a gut feeling that he did it is not the standard. The state has a burden of proof. We're not asking you to determine that he's innocent.

(1:48:27 - 1:48:43)

You may hear the word innocent used, but that's not your duty. You cannot determine whether he's guilty or innocent in the sense that you weren't present for what happened. And that guilty verdict is not an innocent verdict.

(1:48:44 - 1:48:59)

And that guilty verdict goes to whether or not the state has met his responsibility. Did they prove beyond and to the exclusion of any reason of doubt? Any doubt you cannot attach a reason to. I told you the jury instruction on the reason of the doubt.

(1:48:59 - 1:49:06)

It really doesn't tell you what it is. It just tells you what it's not. I suggest to you the opposite is also true.

(1:49:08 - 1:49:38)

You cannot find him guilty based upon speculation, based upon force, doubt, meaning, just because you want to find him guilty. Just because this woman is dead. You cannot find him guilty because you're angry at him or you feel sad for Ms. Exley or for her family.

(1:49:39 - 1:49:51)

All that is understandable. But you have a special duty when you gather and raise your hand. A duty to follow the law, to decide the state based upon the evidence introduced.

(1:49:53 - 1:50:32)

And as difficult as I know it is to separate your emotion while you decide what happened, who did what, did the state prove it to you beyond and to the exclusion of every reason of doubt? Now before I sit down, I am going to address the testimony you heard from Dr. Devery. Obviously he was here to tell you how bad Ms. Exley was. She was so mentally challenged that she could not have made any decision.

(1:50:33 - 1:50:45)

That's the reason he was here. He read her files, never spoke to the individual who actually was counseling her, the therapist. He could have, he didn't.

(1:50:46 - 1:51:13)

He spoke to her boyfriend and the boyfriend, from what you've heard by video, told you that around the time she was leaving, she was fine. The boyfriend told you that at some point in the past, because of how she was in that bad place, essentially, he took her passport. He took her passport for like two or three years.

(1:51:16 - 1:51:31)

But then he gave it back to her. He gave it back to her because he felt that she was fine, she was well enough. He sees her on a daily basis.

(1:51:32 - 1:51:53)

Dr. Devery even contradicted himself. Because he told you initially that if you just surround her for a short period of time, you wouldn't really realize how bad her mental illness was. But then later he said, well, there's been two years of correspondence.

(1:51:54 - 1:52:17)

And then he points to three correspondence that he viewed between Mr. Hall and her. But then he talked about these other correspondences. I suggest to you, as the judge instructed earlier, that you can choose to believe or disbelieve any or all part of his testimony.

(1:52:19 - 1:52:47)

I suggest to you, he's not in a place to tell you what state she was in at the time she came here or at the time she died. He's not in a place to tell you anything about what place she was in close to the point she left the UK to come here. He didn't speak to anyone who would have been in a place who had seen her and seen her, would have been able to at least give him some idea as to where she was.

(1:52:48 - 1:53:09)

He just read some report. Now, I'm just going to address a few things that he said on her closing. And she will have the opportunity to get up here and speak to you again.

(1:53:11 - 1:53:31)

And when she does, I will not get the chance to come up again and try to at least address some of the things. So I would like to suggest that as you listen to her, kind of stay in the back of your mind. What would Mr. Barrett say about that? Don't just accept what you hear.

(1:53:31 - 1:53:39)

Think it through. Remember what you heard, the evidence. Challenge yourself and challenge the evidence.

(1:53:41 - 1:53:55)

She said that Ms. Exleby paid him $1,200 to kill her. Speculation. We know she gave him money.

(1:53:56 - 1:54:11)

Again, maybe. And there's no question, again, from what you've seen, that, yeah, he was taking advantage of the fact that he didn't get money from Ms. Exleby. He himself was going through some things at the time.

(1:54:11 - 1:54:22)

Now, that's an excuse, but just to give you a full picture. We know that around the same time, his wife had just gotten out of surgery. In fact, he said to the detective, she died.

(1:54:23 - 1:54:36)

They had to basically open up her heart, revive her. We know that he had a lot of expenses. And, yes, part of the discussion involved, yes, if you come here, I will do this.

(1:54:37 - 1:54:51)

You will help me out. She agreed to help him out. And, yeah, you can thank him, a real bad person, for getting this woman to give him money.

(1:54:52 - 1:55:14)

But, again, I suggest to you from what you heard, he wasn't doing what she wanted him to do. This was making her upset. Now, the fact that she moved money from one account to another means that she just knew that he would have been taking money from her.

(1:55:14 - 1:55:34)

And some of this has something to do with her planning to avoid dying or him getting money. If you recall, you heard testimony that she had talked to other men about taking her life. And these other men took her money and never did anything.

(1:55:35 - 1:55:39)

She was disappointed. She talked to her sisters about it. They got in touch with the police.

(1:55:40 - 1:55:55)

So, yes, she moved the money from one account to another to make sure this didn't happen again. I suggest to you that is the action of someone who has thought it through. Not someone acting impulsively.

(1:55:55 - 1:56:20)

Not someone acting without any control of her action, not knowing what it is she's doing. My job, essentially, is done. Yes, she really just started.

(1:56:24 - 1:56:36)

There is a woman who's dead. There is a family that's mourning. I can see some of you are getting very emotional about it.

(1:56:36 - 1:57:00)

It is an emotional case. But the fact that it is an emotional case doesn't mean that you disregard your oath. What was her purpose for coming to the United States? It was because, for whatever reason, she did not want to live anymore.

(1:57:03 - 1:57:13)

What was the plan? At least in her mind, she was coming. And he was going to kill her. But he wasn't doing that.

(1:57:16 - 1:57:25)

She thought it would happen quicker. That's one of the statements that's been introduced. Did she have second thoughts? I would imagine, yes, she did.

(1:57:26 - 1:58:01)

But does that mean she did not want to go through with it? Does that mean she didn't do that final act of taking her own life? Those are the questions you need to ask yourself. Did the state prove that the stabbing was done by Mr. Hall? I suggest to you they have not. Not beyond every single reason for the stabbing.

(1:58:02 - 1:58:30)

Did the state prove that he kidnapped her? We know she had access to the Internet. She was even to correspond with people. Have we seen any evidence of any kind of a binding or anything like that? We know that she does have a habit, probably because she didn't want to hurt her family, of telling them things that weren't true.

(1:58:33 - 1:58:52)

Telling them she would meet up. That they would get together, giving them specific time when they would get together, knowing that wasn't going to happen. Writing a letter essentially apologizing to the family.

(1:58:54 - 1:59:04)

She knew what she was going to do. She knew what she wanted. When he wouldn't do it, she did.

(1:59:04 - 1:59:13)

She didn't want to go back home. She didn't want to live anymore. Thank you for your time, your attention.

(1:59:14 - 1:59:33)

As I said before, the state will get up here again. And I would just ask that you go through the evidence and decide this case based upon the evidence introduced in this trial. I would ask that you remember they have the burden.

(1:59:33 - 1:59:56)

They brought these charges. It is their responsibility to prove it. The reason for that could come from the evidence, the lack of evidence, including blood on shoes, blood on clothes, blood on... Or it can come from conflict in the evidence.

(1:59:58 - 2:00:27)

On a verdict of not guilty, if you have a gut feeling, or as I said in your selection, you hear in the back of your head, stand up, or whatever. If you walk out of here and say, you know, I kind of think he did it. Do you know that you prove it? If you find guilty just because you kind of think he did it, that gut feeling, then everything we have done this whole week is essentially with nothing.

(2:00:30 - 2:00:52)

If you, on the other hand, find him not guilty and leave and say, you know, I wasn't sure, then I suggest that you have done your job in this case. Again, thank you for your time, your attention. Thank you, Judge.

(2:00:52 - 2:01:10)

Thank you, Counselor. Ms. Barrett? I just want to briefly address some of the things Mr. Barrett said. I'm not going to go over all of the things we already talked about.

(2:01:11 - 2:01:37)

He said that maybe the defendant was careless with the knife. I think that he's trying to imply that she grabbed the knife and then stabbed herself somehow. Why did he buy a car then if this was just some spontaneous thing? Why is he buying a tarp before he goes to the burial site? Mr. Barrett keeps saying over and over again that Sonia was mentally in a good place.

(2:01:39 - 2:01:53)

We have direct evidence of the mental state that Sonia was in when she was here and she was alive. We have the letter she wrote on the plane to herself. You can look at that and see what mental state she was in.

(2:01:53 - 2:02:12)

That was Friday, October 10th. We know what her mental state was. Direct evidence.

She wrote it herself. And then Saturday, October 11th, we have a video of her. Again, direct evidence showing what her mental state was.

(2:02:13 - 2:02:28)

Do either of those two things show someone who's in a good mental state? Absolutely not. He can say it all he wants to, but you have the direct evidence. Her own writing and a video.

(2:02:29 - 2:02:46)

She was in no way in a good mental state. And he talked about her stabbing herself and what Dr. Lang said. Dr. Lang said it was highly unlikely that anyone could do that themselves, especially with a non-dominant hand.

(2:02:47 - 2:02:52)

And he talked about it's possible. Anything's possible. Of course, anything is possible.

(2:02:52 - 2:02:59)

That's not what the legal standard is. That's not what those jury instructions say. They use the word reasonable.

(2:03:00 - 2:03:37)

And that's the standard you have to go by. Is it reasonable that she stabbed herself? And Mr. Barrett said she had made up her mind and she had extra strength and that's how she did it. If she had made up her mind, is she going to use her non-dominant hand? Or is she going to use

her right hand and stab herself right in the heart? Again, what is reasonable? That she uses her non-dominant hand and starts stabbing herself here? And again, you heard from the medical examiner.

(2:03:37 - 2:03:55)

I'm not going to go over all the vital structures that those knife wounds hit and how deep they were. And there is no way that she did that to herself one time, let alone four. Is that reasonable? Absolutely not.

(2:03:56 - 2:04:04)

And that's the standard you have to go by. And he also said over and over again, there's no evidence she was tied up. No evidence she was tied up or bound.

(2:04:05 - 2:04:17)

I would submit to you to look at those pictures again. And the video, because if you look at her breasts, that is clearly rope marks here and here. That is not from a slap.

(2:04:18 - 2:04:31)

And we know he bought two different kinds of rope. And we have a video of her with marks that are consistent with her being bound. So I would submit to you that is not what the evidence shows.

(2:04:33 - 2:04:46)

And he said it's speculation that she paid him money to kill her. Well, remember in his interview, he said she was supposed to bring $4,000 cash. And he said it was supposed to be cash so it would be untraceable.

(2:04:47 - 2:04:57)

That's what he said. And he was mad that she didn't bring it, because that's what he was supposed to get paid. Why would it need to be untraceable? Because he was going to kill her.

(2:05:02 - 2:05:16)

And this is probably one of the most important things it's going to show you, too, that it wasn't suicide. This is what he said about the knife and the bracelet. That box contains two of my most prized possessions.

(2:05:18 - 2:05:27)

Prized possessions. This is the bracelet. This is the bracelet he's wearing when he went to that

Petro station.

(2:05:27 - 2:05:47)

This is Saturday. We know he's wearing that bracelet. Why is he calling this his most prized possession? He just wanted to help Sonya.

(2:05:47 - 2:05:59)

He was so compassionate. And she grabbed this. He's claiming.

(2:06:01 - 2:06:25)

And she stabbed herself with this in front of him. That's what he claims. Why is this one of his most prized possessions? And why would he not get rid of this if she had done that in front of him and he didn't know what was going to happen? Because that's not what happened.

(2:06:27 - 2:07:01)

He stabbed this into Sonya four times, four to seven inches deep. And why did he keep this? Because he wanted it back in six months if the storm came over. Why? To relive it? Over and over again for his own sexual sadist pleasure? Why else would he keep this? Why would he keep this? And why would he call this one of his most prized possessions? We know why.

(2:07:13 - 2:07:37)

Did he know she was mentally ill? In November of 2024 and March of 2025, he downloaded this photo and all of those nude photos of Sonya that were on his phone. You've seen all those pictures. Look at this picture.

(2:07:37 - 2:07:45)

He went along with all the other naked pictures of her. This one was on his phone. He'd been communicating with her for two years.

(2:07:45 - 2:08:06)

This is what he had. This is what he saw. Did he know she was mentally ill and vulnerable? Did he manipulate her to be a predator, to get her to come here so he could stab her with that knife and then keep it and relive it over and over again? That's what he took advantage of.

(2:08:08 - 2:08:29)

The evidence has been proven to be beyond a reasonable doubt. We'd ask that you find the defendant, Dwain Hall, guilty of murder in the first degree. Ladies and gentlemen, if you'll turn to

page 9 of your jury instruction packets, we'll begin reading the remainder of the instructions.

(2:08:41 - 2:08:48)

Everybody look situated. We'll begin with 3.10, Rules for Deliberation. These are some general rules that apply to your discussion.

(2:08:49 - 2:09:00)

You must follow these rules in order to return a lawful verdict. 1. You must follow the law as it is set out in these instructions. If you fail to follow the law, your verdict will be a miscarriage of justice.

(2:09:01 - 2:09:18)

There is no reason for failing to follow the law in this case. All of us are depending upon you to make a wise and legal decision in this matter. 2. The case must be decided only upon the evidence that you have heard from the testimony of the witnesses and have seen in the form of the exhibits and evidence and these instructions.

(2:09:19 - 2:09:33)

3. This case must not be decided for or against anyone because you feel sorry for anyone or are angry at anyone. 4. Remember, the lawyers are not on trial. Your feelings about them should not influence your decision in this case.

(2:09:34 - 2:10:07)

5. Your duty is to determine if the defendant has been proven guilty or not in accord with the law. It is the judge's job to determine a proper sentence if the defendant is found guilty. 6. Whatever verdict you render must be unanimous.

That is, each juror must agree to the same verdict. 7. The jury is not to discuss any questions that a juror wrote that were not asked by the court and must not hold that against either party. 8. Your verdict should not be influenced by feelings of prejudice, bias, or sympathy.

(2:10:08 - 2:10:18)

Your verdict must be based on the evidence and on the law contained in these instructions. 9. Deciding a verdict is exclusively your job. I cannot participate in that decision in any way.

(2:10:18 - 2:10:31)

Please disregard anything I may have said or done that made you think I preferred one verdict over another. 10. You may find the defendant guilty as charged, or guilty of such lesser included

crimes as the evidence may justify, but not guilty.

(2:10:32 - 2:10:52)

11. If you return a verdict of guilty, it should be for the highest offense on the verdict form for each count that has been proven beyond a reasonable doubt. 12.

If you find that no offense has been proven beyond a reasonable doubt, then of course your verdict must be not guilty. 13. The verdict must be unanimous.

That is, all of you must agree to the same verdict. 14. Only one verdict may be returned as to each crime charged.

(2:10:53 - 2:11:04)

15. The verdict must be in writing, and for your convenience, the necessary verdict forms have been prepared for you. Now, you all have copies of the verdict forms there in what I call your read-along packet.

(2:11:04 - 2:11:31)

And the packet that you're going to be taking back is also going to have copies of the verdict forms. You'll know that they're the copies because I've stamped the word copy on the four-person signature line. These are not to be filled out by you.

These are in the packet that you're reading along with, which I've given to you so you can look at the verdict forms up close. They will be in the packet you take back with you, but they're not the verdict forms you complete. So pages 11 and 12 of the packet will be in there again, but you don't fill them out.

(2:11:31 - 2:11:41)

You're going to have a separate verdict form. It's going to have verdict in the footer, bold and underlined, and there will be no copy stamp on the four-person signature line. So these are the verdict forms that you're going to fill out.

(2:11:41 - 2:11:53)

They'll be paper-clipped separately, but if you want, I'm going to go over them now. So let's take a look at your packet there on page—it should be page 11. Both of the verdict forms have at the top what we call the style or the caption of the case.

(2:11:53 - 2:12:21)

In the Circuit Court of the Judicial Circuit of the State of Florida, in and for Marion County, State

of Florida v. Duane C. Hall, Defendant, Case Number 2025-CF4516. And then each one has a different body. So the verdict form for Count 1 reads, Verdict Count 1. We, the jury, find as follows as to the defendant as to this offense.

Check one only. And there are four boxes, A, B, C, and D, that you would check one of. A, the defendant is guilty of first-degree murder.

(2:12:21 - 2:12:27)

B, the defendant is guilty of second-degree murder. C, the defendant is guilty of manslaughter. D, the defendant is not guilty.

(2:12:28 - 2:12:42)

So to save you all, they have this blank date of November 2026 with a signature line for the foreperson. Today is November the 20th, 2026, so should you reach your verdict before midnight, today will be the 20th. Verdict as to Count 2 will have the same caption.

(2:12:43 - 2:12:54)

Then we go down further, says Verdict Count 2. We, the jury, find as follows as to the defendant as to this offense. Check one only. There are three boxes, A, B, and C. A, the defendant is guilty of kidnapping.

(2:12:54 - 2:13:03)

B, the defendant is guilty of false imprisonment. C, the defendant is not guilty. So to save you all, they have this blank date of November 2026, again, with a signature line for the foreperson.

(2:13:03 - 2:13:29)

After you've reached verdicts, you'll check off your verdicts on these verdict forms, date and sign the forms, and then knock and let them know you all have reached verdicts. A separate crime is charged in each count of the indictment, and although they have been tried together, each crime and the evidence applicable to it must be considered separately, and a separate verdict returned as to each. A finding of guilty or not guilty as to one crime must not affect your verdict as to the other crime charged.

(2:13:30 - 2:13:43)

In just a few moments, you'll be taken to the jury room by the bailiff. The first thing you should do is choose a foreperson who will preside over your deliberations. The foreperson should see to it that your discussions are carried on in an organized way, and that everyone has a fair chance to be heard.

(2:13:44 - 2:14:03)

It is also the foreperson's job to sign and date the verdict forms when you all have agreed on a verdict, and to bring the verdict back to the courtroom when you return. During deliberations, jurors must communicate about the case only with one another, and only when all jurors are present in the jury room. If a juror goes to the restroom, the deliberations must stop until that juror returns.

(2:14:03 - 2:14:20)

You are not to communicate with any person outside the jury about this case. Until you have reached your verdict, you must not talk about this case in person, through the telephone, email, writing, or electronic communication, such as a blog, Twitter, email, text message, or any other means. Do not contact anyone to assist you during your deliberations.

(2:14:20 - 2:14:40)

These communication rules apply until I discharge you at the end of the case. If you become aware of any violation of these instructions, or any other instruction that I have given in this case, you must tell me by giving a note to the bailiff. Many of you may have cell phones, tablets, laptops, or other electronic devices here in the courtroom, or perhaps back in the jury deliberation room.

(2:14:40 - 2:14:51)

The rules do not allow you to bring your phones or any of those electronic devices into the jury room while you're deliberating. If you have them here in the courtroom, kindly leave them on your seats. They will be collected by Deputy Cabrera when you all go back to deliberate.

(2:14:51 - 2:15:05)

If the devices are back in the deliberation room, he'll collect them with you before you begin deliberating. And he will guard those with you until your deliberations have concluded and you have reached verdicts. If you need to communicate with me, you must send a written note through the bailiff.

(2:15:06 - 2:15:18)

If you have voted, do not disclose the actual vote in the note. If you have a question, I will talk with the attorneys before I answer, so it may take some time. You may continue your deliberations while you wait for my answer.

(2:15:19 - 2:15:29)

I will answer any questions, if I can, in writing or orally here in open court. During the trial, items were received into evidence as exhibits. You may examine whatever you think will help you in your deliberations.

(2:15:30 - 2:15:45)

These exhibits will be sent into the jury room with you when you begin to deliberate. Now, there were a couple of items of evidence, members of the jury, that can only be played or viewed using a computer or a television DVD player. So, all the items that were introduced are going to go back with you.

(2:15:46 - 2:16:04)

What we've taken the liberty of doing, our court administration here has a laptop that they've given me that does not have an internet connection, it does not connect to any network, but it does have software on it that will allow media to be played. So, we have a TV that we're going to bring back there to the jury deliberation room with you. It's going to have a laptop on it.

(2:16:04 - 2:16:22)

It's password protected with the passwords on a little pink sticky note on the laptop. You can input that and the files are going to be there on the desktop for you in folders. You can double-click them, get into the folders and double-click the files and the files should play automatically in an appropriate media player.

(2:16:22 - 2:16:33)

That will give you all the ability to review that evidence back there in the jury deliberation room and discuss it there with one another. That's why we're doing that. So, everything will be back there and everything should be viewable.

(2:16:33 - 2:16:58)

Now, if you encounter any technological difficulties playing any of the things on the laptop computer, we do have the DVDs or CDs that the materials were on here in evidence. Just simply let us know you're having difficulty, that you'd like to watch one of the items, that we can play all or any part of it for you, but just send us a note letting us know that you'd like us to do that. If we go about viewing evidence that way, it would have to necessarily be done here in the courtroom.

(2:16:59 - 2:17:10)

So, we'd have to reconvene everybody. We'd stay in here until you were done viewing the evidence. During your time viewing it, if you choose to view it in the courtroom, you cannot have discussions among one another, which is why we send it back with you.

(2:17:10 - 2:17:23)

That way you can watch things and discuss them as part of your deliberations. It's probably a more natural, organic process than stopping deliberations, watching, then going back and resuming. But we can do either if you have any technological difficulties.

(2:17:24 - 2:17:36)

In closing, let me remind you that it is important that you follow the law spelled out in these instructions inside of your verdict. There are no other laws that apply to this case. Even if you do not like the laws that must be applied, you must use them.

(2:17:36 - 2:17:49)

For more than two centuries, we have lived by the Constitution and the law. No juror has the right to violate rules that we all share. So, with that being said, ladies and gentlemen, I'm going to have you take your read-along packet of the instructions and pass them down to your left.

(2:18:07 - 2:18:22)

Now, there are 14 of you. As I told you on Monday morning, we only send 12 jurors back to deliberate. We have had two of you all serving this week as alternate jurors in the event that one of you all were not able to complete your service for some reason.

(2:18:23 - 2:18:49)

By the looks of it, all of you appeared to the court to be able to complete your services. Does anybody here feel differently? Seeing no hands, we're going to now identify and release the alternate jurors, Madam Clerk. Personal items back in the jury room that you need to get.

(2:18:50 - 2:19:04)

Do you, Ms. Heminger? You'll be permitted to go back there in a moment and grab them. Do you have your notepads with you? I'd like you to just leave those on the rail in front of you. Those will be collected by the bailiff, and your notes will be shredded here momentarily.

(2:19:05 - 2:19:22)

Now, the remaining 12 of you, you're all going to go back in just a minute and begin deliberating. While Mr. Stumpf and Ms. Heminger are back there gathering up their personal belongings, you all cannot discuss the case. You can only discuss it when the 12 of you who are on the jury are in the room, all 12 of you and only the 12 of you.

(2:19:22 - 2:19:34)

So, when Ms. Stumpf and Ms. Heminger are gathering their things up, there's to be no discussion whatsoever. Once they leave the room, you can begin discussing the case. Now, you are going to be interrupted here shortly, probably two or three times.

(2:19:34 - 2:19:44)

First, we ordered your lunches to arrive. I think we tried to pick 1045 or so, assuming this would be about when we would start. If the lunches have not arrived, you will get a knock on the door.

(2:19:44 - 2:19:48)

At that point, stop discussing. The lunches will be delivered to you. You can eat and deliberate at the same time.

(2:19:49 - 2:20:08)

Additionally, we're going to bring back to you all the items of evidence that have been introduced in the trial, as well as the copy of the jury instructions, the verdict forms, and the indictment, which is the charging document filed in the case. So, that stuff will go back to you. When Deputy Cabrera brings that stuff back, he'll knock on the door to let you know he's about to enter, and then he'll come in, set the things up, and then leave.

(2:20:09 - 2:20:18)

When he is in the room dropping those things off, you're not deliberate and discuss. Additionally, we have that television. I don't know if it's been set up yet or not.

(2:20:18 - 2:20:25)

It was staged to be set up. When you all begin deliberating, we've got to put that in there and plug it in. We can go ahead and do that for you.

(2:20:25 - 2:20:39)

That will be maybe another interruption. Again, when those interruptions happen, stop discussing the case and resume again when that person leaves and it's the 12 of you in there again. When you've reached a verdict, again, complete the verdict forms as instructed.

(2:20:39 - 2:20:46)

Knock on the door. Hand the bail note. It simply says, we have reached a verdict, or we have reached verdicts, or something to that effect.

(2:20:46 - 2:20:56)

At that point in time, we'll convene back up here and we'll receive your verdict. The jury can take as long or as short as they need to reach a verdict. You all take what time you feel you need.

(2:20:57 - 2:21:09)

Your notepads and everything that are with you right now, those 12 of you who will be deliberating, you can bring those back with you at this point in time. That being said, state defense, anything else? No, Your Honor. No, Your Honor.

(2:21:09 - 2:21:18)

All right. Members of the jury, we'll have your names back shortly. Ms. Heminger, Mr. Stumpf, after you all have got your things, we'll have you go to the lobby of my office down the hall.

(2:21:18 - 2:21:27)

I've got some jurorship tickets for you that will get you out of jury duty for the next year. Okay? Yes, ma'am. Yes, ma'am.

(2:22:09 - 2:22:13)

All right. The records reflect the jury has left the courtroom. Counsel, you all can be seated.

(2:22:14 - 2:23:09)

I'd like you all to come up and take one more look at the jury instructions verdict form and make sure the items of evidence are all there and that you need to go back. Yes, sir. Madam Clerk, can I borrow your stapler? You all want to take a look at the indictment as well.

(2:23:10 - 3:04:09)

Make sure there's nothing objectionable in it. All right. Are we getting ready for the indictment? Ladies and gentlemen, just a reminder, all phones please put on vibrate.

(3:04:09 - 3:04:17)

Double-check your phones. If you're not with law enforcement or the prosecutor, make sure your phones are off. Thank you.

(3:04:18 - 3:04:27)

State your name for the jury? Yes, sir. Yes, sir. Thank you.

(3:04:33 - 3:04:56)

All rise. You all can be seated. I've been advised that the jury has reached a verdict.

(3:04:58 - 3:05:05)

As they have sent a note to that effect, we have a verdict. State, are we ready for the jury? Yes, Your Honor. Defense, are we ready for the jury? Yes, Your Honor.

(3:05:07 - 3:05:24)

Before we bring them back, I will say to everybody here in attendance, you can never be with any degree of certainty what a jury's verdict may be. Therefore, I will ask all of you to attempt to refrain from visible, displaced emotion of approval or disapproval of the jury's verdict. They'll be brought back in now.

(3:06:24 - 3:06:26)

Thank you. Counsel, you all can be seated. Thank you.

(3:06:28 - 3:06:50)

Ma'am, I take it you are the foreperson of the jury? Yes. Has the jury reached verdicts? Yes, Your Honor. Can you please hand the verdict forms to the bailiff? Madam Clerk, you'll publish the verdicts.

(3:06:50 - 3:07:04)

Mr. Hall, please stand for the reading of the verdicts. Verdict as to count one, be the jury find as follows, as to the defendant, as to this defense. The defense is guilty of first degree murder, so say we all dated this 20th day of November, 2026.

(3:07:05 - 3:07:18)

Verdict as to count two, be the jury find as follows, as to the defendant, as to this offense. The defendant is guilty of kidnapping, so say we all dated this 20th day of November, 2026. Thank you, Madam Clerk.

(3:07:18 - 3:07:23)

You all can be seated. Thank you. Members of the jury, the clerk is now going to conduct a poll of the jury.

(3:07:23 - 3:07:36)

What the poll of the jury means is that the clerk will ask each of you by name whether these are your verdicts. You respond aloud with either yes or no. Madam Clerk, will you please poll the jury? Cabrera, Cook, are these your verdicts? Yes.

(3:07:37 - 3:07:45)

Ashley, Fogarty, are these your verdicts? Yes. Lisa, Jennings, are these your verdicts? Yes. Herbert, Santiago, are these your verdicts? Yes.

(3:07:46 - 3:07:53)

Sherry, Prezel, are these your verdicts? Yes. Garrett, McCord, are these your verdicts? Yes. John, Benton, are these your verdicts? Yes.

(3:07:54 - 3:08:02)

Eric, Weeks, are these your verdicts? Yes. Elizabeth, Santamaria, are these your verdicts? Yes. Katie, Kimes, are these your verdicts? Yes.

(3:08:02 - 3:08:09)

Fred, Peters, are these your verdicts? Yes. Maureen, Wilson, are these your verdicts? Yes. Thank you, Madam Clerk.

(3:08:09 - 3:08:24)

Ladies and gentlemen, I wish to thank you for your time and consideration of this case. I also wish to advise you of some very special privileges that are enjoyed by jurors. No juror can ever be required to talk about the discussions that occurred in the jury room, except by court order.

(3:08:24 - 3:08:48)

For many centuries, our society has relied upon juries for the consideration of difficult cases, and we have recognized for hundreds of years that a jury's deliberations, discussions, and votes should remain their private affair for as long as they wish it. Therefore, the law gives you a unique privilege not to speak about the jury's work. Although you are at liberty to speak with anybody about your deliberations, you are also at liberty to refuse to speak to anyone.

(3:08:49 - 3:09:06)

Our request to discuss either your verdict or your deliberations may come from those who are simply curious, from those who might seek to find fault with you, from the media, from the attorneys, or elsewhere. It will be up to each of you whether to preserve your privacy as a juror. With that said, I hereby discharge you as a jury of this case.

(3:09:06 - 3:09:15)

You have my sincere thanks for the services that you have rendered here this week. I'm going to ask you once more to retire to the jury room. I'll be back momentarily to give out some juror

certificates to you as a thanks.

(3:09:15 - 3:09:24)

It will also get you out of jury duty and state court for the next 12 months. Deputy Cabrera will also be back there with your cell phones and devices to hand those back out to you. With that said, you may retire once more.

(3:10:09 - 3:10:19)

The jurors are left in the courtroom. Counsel, you all can be seated. Mr. Barrage, any legal reason the court cannot now impose sentence? The only issue would be the second charge, Judge.

(3:10:19 - 3:10:23)

Yes, it is. Yes, it is. Yes, I extracted and talked to him more than I did once.

(3:10:23 - 3:10:34)

There is a case I can pull up. I've got to say that the person's convicted of a capital offense and a non-capital offense that they're not entitled to a pre-sentence investigation. I'll pull the case up, just so it's there for the benefit of the record.

(3:10:34 - 3:10:39)

But I intend, if there's no other reason, to impose sentence shortly. Correct, Judge. All right.

(3:10:40 - 3:10:45)

State, can you all prepare a score sheet if you don't have one prepared already for the kidnapping? Yes, Your Honor. Okay. All right.

(3:10:45 - 3:29:11)

I'd like Mr. Hall handcuffed and shackled again, whatever manner you all see fit. Okay? Mr. Hall, I'll be back shortly to conduct the sentence on the sheet. Yeah, thanks.

(3:29:11 - 3:29:47)

Thank you. All rise. All right, you all can be seated.

(3:29:47 - 3:30:18)

Thank you. If you all give me just one moment, I'm going to pull that case law up about the pre-sentence investigation so we have it for the record. Judge? Yes, sir.

(3:30:18 - 3:30:26)

I've also discussed it with him while the court was out. And even if it was, he would have been waiving it anyway. So I do believe the best is to not.

(3:30:46 - 3:31:00)

In Rose v. State 461, subject 2nd, 84, Florida Supreme Court case from 1984, the defendant was convicted of murder and kidnapping and was not given a pre-sentence investigation. That was held to not be error. This case is analogous.

(3:31:00 - 3:31:19)

Even if Mr. Hall had requested a pre-sentence investigation, that case would have been denied. Mr. Barrett, at some point in time, obviously, your client will have the opportunity if he wishes to allocute, make a statement before sentencing. But prior to getting to that, that will be what we do at the end, as is customary.

(3:31:20 - 3:31:32)

Is there any other evidence you wish to introduce at this time? No, Your Honor. State, is there anybody here who wishes to make any type of statement or address the court? Yes, Your Honor. Four of Sonja's siblings would like to make a statement to the court.

(3:31:32 - 3:31:38)

And they requested that they could come up together to the podium. Absolutely. Have them come on up.

(3:32:04 - 3:32:16)

Do you all have an order in which you would like to speak? Yeah, I think I'm going to go first. Let's have you all get right to left. So I'll do my right.

(3:32:17 - 3:32:26)

Step over there. If you're going to go, OK, yeah. Who's going to go second? Third? I think you raised your right hand, sir.

(3:32:26 - 3:32:30)

Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, nothing but the truth, son? You got it. I do. OK, tell me your name.

(3:32:30 - 3:32:41)

Luke Wilton. Mr. Wilton, when you'd come up, you'd kind of come around this side of the podium, almost to address the crowd and everybody there. Is that what you'd like to do? If I may, yes.

(3:32:41 - 3:32:54)

Yes, sir. Deputy Cabrera, can we angle the podium so that he can? OK. You let Deputy Cabrera know when you have it where you want it.

(3:32:56 - 3:33:09)

Yeah, that's perfect. The floor is yours, sir. Your Honor, the jury, and everybody in this courtroom, thank you for giving me this appointment to speak.

(3:33:10 - 3:33:28)

Our journey began here in the worst imaginable way, with the tragic loss of our sister, Sonia, in Marion Oaks last October. Coming all this way to a courtroom in Ocala, it's been terrifying for a family. We didn't know what to expect when we got here.

(3:33:28 - 3:33:46)

But what we found, however, has moved us beyond words. From the moment we arrived, warmth, decency, and care shown to us has made us feel genuinely welcomed. The people we have met here, in Florida itself, will stay forever part of our lives.

(3:33:49 - 3:34:23)

We also want to thank our close friends and family back at home who couldn't be here for their constant support, as well as everyone that donated so generously to help us financially, making it possible for our closest loved ones to be here with us, to support us, which has been so important. Once we arrived, seeing how the state of Florida fought in our corner for Sonia has touched us deeply. Watching so many people come together in harmony like this has just been truly awe-inspiring.

(3:34:23 - 3:35:26)

To Your Honor, for your unwavering commitment to the law, to the members of the jury who gave the time to this case, to your patience, attentiveness, and dedication throughout this trial, to the state prosecution team who have left nothing to chance, no stone unturned, to the courtroom clerks, bailiffs, and staff who looked after us with such kindness every single day, and the Floridian authorities and the British police, along with the witnesses and family liaisons who have worked so tirelessly together behind the scenes and sometimes off the scenes, thank you, each and every one of you, for your humility and your dedication. This has been an exhausting, emotionally draining rollercoaster, and nothing can bring Sonia back. This tragedy has changed

us forever, but because of the truth and the accountability reached in this courtroom today, we can finally begin to hiddle and start looking forward to a new life.

(3:35:27 - 3:35:32)

Thank you. Thank you, sir. Any questions, counsel? No.

(3:35:33 - 3:35:40)

No, Your Honor. Now, if you would turn to me, raise your right hand, and swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and the truth shall be done. I do.

(3:35:40 - 3:35:44)

And your name again. It's Jenna Hizal. You can speak.

(3:35:49 - 3:36:17)

Sir, a vulnerable person was preyed upon by a beautiful soul was taken. I'm sorry. Without Sonia, our lives will never be the same again.

(3:36:18 - 3:36:34)

But we must learn a new way of being. Thank you. When this tragedy began to unfold, Sonia really believed that she could stop others from getting hurt, and I believe that today's justice is on her.

(3:36:39 - 3:37:09)

Furthermore, she shone the spotlight on the darkness of such sites like Marvelous.com. And in some capacity, we will continue to fight for her mental health in her name. We do not take for granted the fact that Sonia has been located. Our thoughts and love are with those families that still have people missing.

(3:37:14 - 3:37:47)

And as Luke said, there are so many people to thank and we are truly wholeheartedly humbled. It's been remarkable how many people have come together to ensure that this book of justice turns. We will forever be so grateful for the outstanding and dedicated professionals and that each and every one has been so kind.

(3:37:51 - 3:38:10)

Thank you to our partners and our friends who have given us so much strength every day. Even the reporters in their swathes of numbers have been overwhelming. But everyone has been really respectful and patient with us.

(3:38:15 - 3:38:26)

And our partners, our friends. Sonia was loved by everyone who knew her. There wasn't a person who didn't love her.

(3:38:28 - 3:38:47)

To Stevie, she was the bravest, sweetest, most loving person that he had ever met. Stevie will carry her strength and her spirit with him always. As a friend, she was Vicky's co-pilot through the storm.

(3:38:48 - 3:39:10)

She was Evie's little sister who has a place in her heart that will belong to no one else. And to John, she was a gentle and trusting soul who always understood. As a sister, she was the sweetest and most kindest person and our heart is ingrained in ours forever.

(3:39:13 - 3:39:19)

Thank you. Thank you. Sir, if you could raise your right hand, you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, nothing but the truth.

(3:39:20 - 3:39:28)

I do. Thank you, sir. Counsel, any questions of the last witness? No, Your Honour.

(3:39:28 - 3:39:56)

Go ahead, sir. This last year has been one of the hardest of our lives. Losing our dear sister, Sonia, has had a profound impact on me and my entire family.

I'm not sure we will ever be the same again. I've seen a deep, lingering pain inflicted on all of my siblings. Their day-to-day lives have changed forever.

(3:39:56 - 3:40:09)

I know Sonia would be so distraught to see the aftermath of her death. Dwain, you pretended to care for Sonia. You didn't at all.

(3:40:10 - 3:40:26)

You used her to fill your sick fantasies. You had her life in your hands. You had the opportunity to save her but instead you preyed on her vulnerabilities and you took her from us.

(3:40:27 - 3:40:47)

There will never be any forgiveness coming to you behind bars. May your actions weigh heavily on your minds for the rest of your pitiful life. Today's verdict helps provide justice for all the pain he has caused.

(3:40:48 - 3:41:10)

And I hope this is the first step towards closure for all of us. I know this sentence has not yet been passed. I pray that it's the maximum possible sentence that would give us comfort knowing he will never be able to prey on anyone else ever again.

(3:41:12 - 3:41:41)

From this we have nothing but overwhelming gratitude to everyone involved in the case as Luke so wonderfully put. From here we pray that everyone who has ever been touched by Sonja's kindness will be given to him. We will ensure Sonja's memory lives on forever in our hearts and we will honour her life every day so that her life is not in vain.

(3:41:42 - 3:41:52)

Thank you sir. Any questions councillor? No your honour. Please raise your right hand I'm sorry I have to leave.

(3:41:53 - 3:42:02)

Go ahead. Today our family wants to remember Sonja for the person she was. Kind, gentle and full of warmth.

(3:42:03 - 3:42:14)

She had a way of making people feel welcome and cared for and she touched so many lives. She was a much loved daughter, sister, friend and family member. You miss her all in words can say.

(3:42:16 - 3:42:46)

The verdict cannot bring Sonja back and it cannot take away the grief we carry. We are grateful to everyone who worked so hard so hard on this case to help bring it to this point. We also want to thank the people who have stood beside our family and supported us through an incredibly difficult time.

Your kindness has meant so much. We hope Sonja's story encourages people to take mental health seriously. Mental health does not discriminate and can affect anyone.

(3:42:47 - 3:43:03)

People deserve compassion, understanding and support. We also hope the story reminds

everyone to be thoughtful about the harm that can happen online, especially when someone is vulnerable. We will keep speaking Sonja's name and remembering her life.

(3:43:03 - 3:43:17)

Not only for the way lost her, but all the love, laughter, kindness she brought into the world. My parents, Trevor and Sheila, want to share these words. The loss of our beautiful, musically talented daughter has left us utterly devastated.

(3:43:19 - 3:43:28)

The depth of grief is impossible to put into words. Sonja, we love you. We miss you every day.

(3:43:29 - 3:43:49)

You're part of us. You all can take your seats. Thank you.

(3:43:50 - 3:44:01)

Any other evidence or presentations? Nothing from the stage. Mr. Hall, is there anything you would like to say before the court imposes a sentence? No, sir. Very well.

(3:44:04 - 3:44:20)

At this point in the trial, I know a lot of folks expect the judge to say something to sum everything up in some grand, eloquent way, but I don't think that there's anything I can say here that has not been said except this. I hereby adjudicate you guilty of first-degree murder. You are sentenced to life in prison.

(3:44:20 - 3:44:42)

You will receive credit for 400 days served. You'll pay $100 cost of prosecution, $100 cost of defense, $50 public defender application fee as the offense of kidnapping. You are adjudicated guilty.

You are sentenced to a consecutive term in life in prison for which you will receive no credit for time served. You'll pay a $250,000 liquidated cost of care to the state of Florida for your incarceration. That will be the sentence of the court.

(3:44:42 - 3:44:53)

You have 30 days if you'd like to file a notice of appeal. Would you like me to appoint a lawyer to represent you on appeal, Mr. Hall? I'll do that. You've been convicted and sentenced to life in prison.

(3:44:53 - 3:45:05)

Yes. You have a right to an appeal of that conviction. I ask the Fifth District Court of Appeals whether there were any errors made here, such that the verdict was not, or the verdict and the judgment are not entered in accordance with the law.

(3:45:05 - 3:45:42)

Would you like me to consider appointing a lawyer to represent you in that appeal? Can I have the same one? Yes, sir, but it's a new proceeding, so I have to ask if you want to counsel. Oh, yes. I will appoint the Office of the Public Defender to represent you on appeal.

Mr. Barrett, I'm sure you'll get with... Just a second. I don't think we actually do the appeal, but obviously it's our responsibility to get the paperwork started including the notice. Yes, sir.

Mr. Hall, I appoint the Office of the Public Defender of the Seventh Circuit to represent you on appeal. They're located in Daytona Beach where the Fifth District Court of Appeals is located. They handle all appeals out of our judicial district, which includes the Fifth Circuit where we're located.

(3:45:44 - 3:46:03)

If it were such that the Office of the Public Defender had a conflict in the case where they could not handle the appeal, then the Office of Regional Conflict Counsel will be appointed. But whatever conflict the Office of the Public Defender locally had such that they couldn't represent you, that will not be present with the appellate office. It's an entirely different office that does not handle the trial work that we handle here.

(3:46:04 - 3:46:20)

Okay? But counsel will be appointed for the appeal. But that's just letting you know it won't be Mr. Barrett necessarily. You'll be fingerprinted here in open court, remanded to custody, or transported to the Department of Corrections.

(3:46:22 - 3:47:07)

That'll be all. Thank you. Deputy Barrett, is he going to be printed? Anyone wants to watch it printed? Yeah, counsel, I'd like everyone to stay until Mr. Holt is done being printed and signed his paperwork.

(3:47:10 - 3:47:29)

If y'all need to step out, Mr. Buxman, speak to anybody, feel free, Mr. Barrett, Mr. Holt, likewise. I don't know if folks who are here may want to watch the printing process and folks like to see to its conclusions. I'll be back down in a moment.