REPORTER'S RECORD

## VOLUME 18 OF 35 VOLUMES

TRIAL COURT CAUSE NO. 1384794

COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS NO. AP-77,025

OBEL CRUZ-GARCIA ) IN THE DISTRICT COURT

VS.
HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS
)

THE STATE OF TEXAS )
Appellee ) 337 TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

## GUILT-INNOCENCE PROCEEDINGS



On the 8th day of July, 2013, the following proceedings came on to be heard in the above-entitled and numbered cause before the Honorable Renee Magee, Judge presiding, held in Houston, Harris County, Texas;

Proceedings reported by computer-aided transcription/stenograph shorthand.

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 Hearing Only)
(Open court, defendant present, no jury)
MR. CORNELIUS: There are some statements I want to make in the record about looking at the DNA stuff that the D.A.'s office has --

THE COURT: Okay.
MR. CORNELIUS: -- that they've allowed me to look at. I just want to cover myself in the record. THE COURT: Okay.

MR. CORNELIUS: And then I'm offering for the purpose of the motion hearing only, on page on the second Bromwich report, one page of the third -- well, it's more than one page. Three pages of the third report --

THE COURT: I thought that was all in.
MR. CORNELIUS: It is. But this is
highlighted. And if somebody --
THE COURT: Why don't you just reference it in the record.

MR. CORNELIUS: I wish I had given this to you so you wouldn't have to read the whole report.

THE COURT: Well, I read most of that stuff.

MR. CORNELIUS: I know you did. And I feel sorry that -- I should have just marked this, but, anyway, it will be easier for whoever looks at this on
appeal to see what I'm talking about.
THE COURT: Okay. What's the gist of it?

MR. CORNELIUS: Well, Bromwich -- I will
put this in the record. If Bromwich were called as a witness to testify, he would testify that after his investigation and all the work that he was employed to do, the crime lab was a quote, train wreck. And he further testified that in their studies more than one-third of the DNA cases were flawed. Not that they had wrong identification -- that only happened in one case -- or that they even had an incorrect profile or should have gotten a profile when they didn't, or vice versa, just that something was wrong. They didn't write the thing down, according to procedures; they didn't label something correctly.

And then $I$ have -- one, two, three, four -four exhibits to offer of specific instances of contamination in the old crime lab. They did --

THE COURT: That was my --

MR. CORNELIUS: I know you're not going to
let them in. I'm just offering them for the record.
THE COURT: All right.

MR. CORNELIUS: I'm trying to streamline
and make it easier for whoever does this appeal to see -- and make it easier for whoever is reviewing this
from an appellate standpoint to see what $I$ presented you with.

THE COURT: Correct.
MR. CORNELIUS: You see what I'm saying? THE COURT: Yes. I'm not offended. I understand.

MR. CORNELIUS: Well, you shouldn't be.
THE COURT: I mean, it sounds like you are apologizing to me and you don't need to.

MR. CORNELIUS: I'm not apologizing. I'm just telling you I think -- I'm trying to do the right thing.

THE COURT: Right.
MR. CORNELIUS: And then the three convictions for Deetrice Wallace, copies of those convictions --

THE COURT: Offered in for purposes of the record.

MR. CORNELIUS: Record only. I know you're not going to let them in.

THE COURT: For that hearing only.
MR. CORNELIUS: What else?
Oh, I have the original Genetic Design file. When I say "original," I mean the original. The notes, all the photographs, everything concerning the
testing.

THE COURT: From the HPD old crime lab?

MS. TISE: From the California lab, Genetic Design that the HPD lab sent it to.

MR. CORNELIUS: Well, it actually comes
from LabCorp who bought Genetic Design. LabCorp in

North Carolina, but it has an affidavit supporting -records custodian affidavit explaining all of that. So, I'm going to offer this stuff. I know you're not going to let it in because it has to do with the old crime lab, but I'm going to put it in the record and then $I$ don't have to worry about it anymore. These are all the original --

THE COURT: But $I$ never heard any of that on the record in the case before because we --

THE BAILIFF: Quiet, please.
THE COURT: All $I$ heard on the record was about the fact that Sharma's results said it was too degraded or something.

MR. CORNELIUS: That's not in here.

THE COURT: What did the other lab say?

They never even tested the --

MS. TISE: They didn't have the defendant's DNA. They basically got a hodgepodge of results. Some of it's degraded and -- nothing definitive. And, again,
just like the crime lab, not anything we intend to go into.

THE COURT: Right.

MS. TISE: Or offer their reports in any way.

But I do think we touched on it in the hearing. They're calling them the California lab.

MR. CORNELIUS: Right. And that was correct.

THE COURT: Okay. Very good.
MR. CORNELIUS: Let me, so I don't --
THE COURT: Lose track.

MR. CORNELIUS: -- violate anything when I go on the record here. It appears to me from my reading of all of this stuff that they did -- they didn't find that it was impossible to get a DNA profile. They just used a different method and they did get a DNA profile from the panties and cuttings from the panties, but they were using some method that only has two loci, rather than 12 to 14 that $S T R$ has. But it's not -- you may know more about this than $I$ do. Don't think I'm correcting you, but from my reading of this, $I$ don't think it's fair to say they didn't get a DNA profile because they did.

MS. TISE: I'm not saying they didn't get a

DNA profile. They did not have the defendant's sample to compare it to. They got results, but they are based on -- you can't look at the loci they are looking at and the loci that Orchid looked at and say -- because we showed it to Courtney Head at HPD and talked to her about it at length. She was like: Yeah, I'm not trained on this technique, they are using a completely different strand of DNA. So, there is just nothing -it's just a hodgepodge of stuff that --

THE COURT: Any of that -- those were
individual cuttings that went there to that lab and stayed there. They didn't come back and retest it. It was a cut -- it was an extraction done by Sharma that went out there.

MS. TISE: Right.
THE COURT: So, none of that evidence was retested again by Orchid Cellmark. And Orchid Cellmark never compared their results to that evidence either. MS. TISE: Right. MR. CORNELIUS: So, that is my problem with it. I mean, that's what $I$ would seek to go into, that this stuff was tested by a credible lab, they did get a DNA profile, and just because Orchid Cellmark or the new crime lab used a different procedure, how do we know that if they'd used the D1SA PCR analysis procedure that
it would have come back to the defendant?

MS. TISE: Well, they didn't have the
defendant's DNA sample.

MR. CORNELIUS: Well, they could do right now. They've already got the profile.

THE COURT: Is that what -- if you wanted to --

MR. CORNELIUS: I don't want to do it. I don't want to do it.

THE COURT: You just want to object to the fact that they didn't.

MR. CORNELIUS: Exactly. Exactly. And if you tell me $I$ can't, $I$ can't. Certainly $I^{\prime} m$ going to honor that. In fact, I'm not going to --

THE COURT: They sent it to Orchid

Cellmark --

MR. CORNELIUS: I'm not going to -- no matter what we agree on now, I'm not going to read it without first approaching the bench.

THE COURT: I want to make clear on the record about this. I'll allow you to put all that in. We will do that in just a minute. I want to make it clear on the record. I'm going to allow you a pretty broad area of cross-examination as to contamination and storage on the case -- the evidence in your case, but I
don't want you to go into, even on cross-examination, anything about the Bromwich report or anything that it contains. Like any -- well, did you know that the, you know, the property room leaked in 19 whatever. It has nothing to do with this case. I don't want you to go any of that stuff on cross-examination. I think that was Ms. Tise's concern, that even though I didn't let in the report $I$ was letting a bunch stuff on cross-examination that couldn't be corrected without calling witnesses. I'm not going to. I think you got that. Right?

MR. CORNELIUS: I did. But I thought at our first hearing, $I$ thought you made some comment about I might be able to go into testing that was done by Genetic Design. And so, that's why I went through all of this.

THE COURT: I don't remember that, but I did consider having certain parts of the report, you be allowed to cross-examine on them, but after reading the case law that the state provided to me, I think it was pretty spot-on that, you know, this stuff is inadmissible. So, that's what $I$ believe it says and that's what $I$ believe the law is on it.

Now, I didn't get anything from you guys. Do you have anything else you want me to consider? Any
case law or anything --

MR. CORNELIUS: No.

THE COURT: -- in terms of this?

MR. CORNELIUS: No. I'm happy with the record that we have.

THE COURT: Okay.
MR. CORNELIUS: I'm not very moved by case law where the defendant is objecting to the introduction of DNA stuff and saying that because they have a Sixth Amendment right to cross-examine their accusers, the case gets reversed or at least that point is turned around because the state doesn't have a Sixth Amendment right.

MS. TISE: I don't think that's --

THE COURT: The case law that I read -- did you provide him with the case law?

MR. CORNELIUS: She did. And I read it.

THE COURT: It basically says the Court has a wide discretion of allowing it in, you know, in regards to this, but it held that it was a crime lab issue up in Tarrant County. You know, the judge there didn't allow them to go into certain things and did not allow it because it was too confusing and misleading to the jury, which $I$ believe that's exactly where we'd go in this case if we start putting the Houston Police

Department Crime Lab on because there's so much to go into --

MR. CORNELIUS: I hear you. I'm not going to argue with you.

THE COURT: -- and then get no result.

MR. CORNELIUS: I just want to be in the position of having argued my point and somebody else can deal with it later.

THE COURT: Okay. So, let's go. Let's get them out. I'd like to arraign the defendant outside the presence of the jury and then put any of that on the record for purposes of that hearing. So, I don't need to go into my ruling again.

MR. CORNELIUS: Take your gun and shoot me if $I$ go into DNA without first approaching the bench. THE COURT: I don't have a gun.

Is there anything on the motions in limine that we have not covered that you'd like to cover, either side, before we begin the trial? I have about eight motions in limine here in front of me. And some of them were each filed by Capitan and Shellist. And I think there is a State's one here, too. This is the State's. Any prior convictions, extraneous conduct on the part of any state's witnesses, any hearsay statement made by the defendant, and any other witness without

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first approaching, any reference to a polygraph
examination, any reference to prior convictions. Just
the basic stuff.
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MS. TISE: No, ma'am. That's my motion. MR. CORNELIUS: If you were to go into an extraneous offense, $I$ don't mean to -- that's going to come out, but like the other murder --

MS. TISE: Right.
MR. CORNELIUS: -- then I would like to be put on notice.

MS. TISE: I would never start talking about the other murder.

MR. CORNELIUS: The rules are different if you go into it on guilt and innocence than in punishment.

MR. WOOD: We talked about it as far as
when we make reference to the initial DNA sample obtained by the defendant in Puerto Rico. I was planning in some thoughts -- I wasn't saying that he was in prison or he was even in prison in Puerto Rico, just that a DNA sample was obtained in Puerto Rico.

THE COURT: That's good. Not going into that.

MR. WOOD: Right.
THE COURT: So, you-all know what's
admissible and what's inadmissible. I'll certainly rule on objections timely, but $I$ don't want people to blurt out things.

MS. TISE: Do you have any intention of going into Angelo Garcia, Jr.'s paternity?

MR. CORNELIUS: No.

MS. TISE: Okay. I would have a motion in limine to that. She's kind of unclear about who his dad is.

THE COURT: It really doesn't matter. But now you can go into the fact it was a child. Obviously, that was for voir dire only. And the fact that the complainant is a child is clearly a fact.

All right. Let's get ready to go then.
MR. WOOD: Judge, I also visited with Skip.

I am doing the opening and I'm going to be using one State's exhibit during opening and -- that $I$ intend to offer during our case-in-chief. And so, skip's already okayed that and he's aware of that.

THE COURT: Okay.

MS. TISE: We have a PowerPoint with all of the scene photos downloaded, some pictures of the different people so --

THE COURT: For opening?
MS. TISE: I'm not going to use it in
opening, but what we're going to do is offer in hard copies of this stuff, but then show it on the screen in the PowerPoint. And then at the end of the trial, we'll offer the PowerPoint, which will be edited to take out anything that might be found to be -- you know, some of the stuff we might have loaded might not be admitted. So, we don't want to offer the PowerPoint until the end of the trial.

THE COURT: Okay.
MS. TISE: But what we've done in other trials, we have a hard copy for you to look at. But we'll be offering hard copies of scene photos, but then putting the PowerPoint on the screen. And then our hope is to just offer the PowerPoint at the end. I don't know that that will have any --

MR. CORNELIUS: So, you'll have two copies of the pictures or two copies of the stuff.

THE COURT: Is there going to be an objection at some point?

MR. CORNELIUS: I need to see them first.
MS. TISE: There may be a crime scene photo or something that he might object to.

THE COURT: But you'll offer the hard copy before you do the PowerPoint?

MS. TISE: No -- well, the actual pictures,
yes. I'll offer them in the traditional way, but then $I$ want to be able to put them on the screen.

MR. CORNELIUS: It's faster to do it that way than through the DOAR.

THE COURT: You don't need to say: May I publish. If they are in, go ahead and start publishing. MS. TISE: Okay. Then you can obviously use it. We'll put photos up for you, too.

MR. CORNELIUS: I like to go to the DOAR. It gives me time to think.

MS. TISE: You can do it however you want to.

THE COURT: Okay. Very good. Thank you.
MR. WOOD: Judge, Friday we came up ahead of time and tested out the 911 call on the system and made sure that the audio was okay. And some of the IT guys were up here and we figured out that because of interference, it seemed to work better if the other mics were turned off, like the witness mic and your bench. Is that something that you don't mind doing once we offer that 911 and when we start playing that, just muting --

THE COURT: So, I need to mute mine?

MR. WOOD: Yes.

THE COURT: I'm fine with it. Just tell me
when I need to do it.
MR. WOOD: Okay.
(Pause)
(Open court, defendant present, no jury)

THE COURT: We're back on the record in

Cause No. 13847894 , the State of Texas vs. Obel

Cruz-Garcia. And present is Mr. Obel Cruz-Garcia at counsel table, along with his lawyers, Mr. Skip Cornelius and Mr. Mario Madrid. Present for the prosecution is Natalie Tise and Justin Wood.

And are both sides ready to proceed?

MR. WOOD: State is ready.

MR. CORNELIUS: The defense is ready. THE COURT: Can we please arraign the defendant outside the presence of the jury at this time? MR. WOOD: Cause No. 1390130 , State of Texas versus Obel Cruz-Garcia. In the name and by authority of the state of Texas: The duly organized Grand Jury of Harris County, Texas, presents in the District Court of Harris County, Texas, that in Harris County, Texas, Obel Cruz-Garcia, hereafter styled the Defendant, heretofore on or about September 30, 1992, did then and there unlawfully, while in the course of committing and attempting to commit the kidnapping of Angelo Garcia, Jr., intentionally cause the death of

Angelo Garcia, Jr., by stabbing Angelo Garcia, Jr., with a deadly weapon, namely, a sharp instrument.

It is further presented that in Harris County, Texas, Obel Cruz-Garcia, hereafter styled the Defendant, heretofore on or about September 30, 1992, did then and there unlawfully, while in the course of committing and attempting to commit the kidnapping of Angelo Garcia, Jr., intentionally cause the death of Angelo Garcia, Jr. by an unknown manner and means. Against the peace and dignity of the State. Signed by the Foreman of the Grand Jury.

THE COURT: And how does the defendant plead?

MR. CORNELIUS: Not guilty, Your Honor.

THE COURT: All right. And Mr. Cornelius,
did you wish to put something on the record at this time regarding the hearing that was conducted back in June? I believe it was the $18 t h$ or $19 t h$.

MR. CORNELIUS: Yes, I do, Your Honor.

THE COURT: All right. You may proceed.

MR. CORNELIUS: The record will reflect
that the court made some rulings last week and they have been reduced to writing. And $I$ have read them and studied them. And the Court will acknowledge that we had an informal discussion this morning with all parties
present about the situation of the record with respect to that hearing. I'm not now trying to argue with the Court about what your rulings are, but $I$ want to complete my record and make sure that the appellate court knows what steps the defense has gone to to try to get some of these things in evidence or to have them suppressed.

I want the Court to know and the record to know that $I$ did meet with Lester Blizzard, an assistant D.A., and he was in charge from the D.A.'s standpoint, Chuck Rosenthal's standpoint, who was the D.A. at the time, of the investigation of the former HPD Crime Lab. He took me to the 12 th floor where all of the records that he had access to are stored. There are exactly 40 boxes of records from the crime lab. He had them cataloged. He went through all of them, but he never looked at anything concerning this case because this case didn't exist at the time that crime lab investigation was going on, which was 2003 and 2004 , I think, the years that Lester was working on it.

And so, I didn't read 40 boxes of material because $I$ was assured that since this case didn't even exist, no one was complaining about what happened or didn't happen at the crime lab on this case. There would have been nothing for Lester to have investigated
in this case, but $I$ do know where the boxes are, I know they exist. I'm very confident none of them have anything to do with this case, however.

I'm offering into evidence as a proffer if
the Court were to allow me to go -- to offer into evidence the Bromwich reports, which the Court has enumerated them in order. If you were to allow me to go into them, if you did, I would also call Michael Bromwich as a witness, who would testify basically to two things. He has no personal knowledge of this case, but he would say that the conclusion of his investigation of the crime lab, it was quote, a train wreck. And, secondly, that one-third -- more than one-third of the DNA cases studied were flawed in some way or another. Not that they yielded a false DNA or should have yielded a DNA result or didn't and should have or should have and didn't -- if that's different -but it may be something as simple as just not following procedure or not labeling things correctly, but at least, in his opinion, more than one-third of the cases were flawed, somehow, quote, contaminated.
I am offering for purposes of the record a summary one-page -- it's not a summary -- one page of what was offered in evidence as the second report of the independent investigator. And that's Defense No. 10 .

And the State has a copy. Also Defendant's No. 11 is three pages of the third investigative report by Mr. Bromwich. I'm also offering into evidence Defendant's 12, 13, 14, and 15, which are specific instances of contamination that were found either by the Houston Police Department's investigation themselves or by the crime lab itself, none of which touched the evidence in this case, which $I$ understand to be the genesis of the Court's ruling. They don't touch the evidence in this case. I'm not indicating that they do, but I'm indicating that because of all of this and because of the, quote, train wreck of the crime lab, that the defense should be allowed to go into it with the jury to show the inherent unreliability of anything that the crime lab touched.
I'm also offering as Defendant's 16, 17, 18, the three convictions of Deetrice Wallace, who did have some connection to this case, but they don't prove -- I admit they don't prove that she contaminated evidence. Three convictions are not from anything she did at the Houston Police Department Crime Lab, but I'm offering them in response to the State's argument that she's not going to be a witness and so we can impeach her. Pretty convenient if the State can just eliminate any argument or testimony concerning any malfeasance
from the crime lab or unprofessionalism or incompetence of the former police crime lab just by not calling the witnesses. So, I think those convictions are admissible because they go to show the incompetence of the crime lab, but $I$ understand the Court's ruling.

The last exhibit is Defendant's 19, which is the entire original file from what was Genetic Design, which was the crime lab that the original cuttings from the original rape kit went for testing. That crime lab, according to the affidavit from the records custodian, was acquired by Labcorp, which is a North Carolina concern. These are the original handwritten notes of the analyst, the original photographs, all originals of the testing. As we've discussed off the record, we're offering this because in this file the Court will see that Genetic Design did get a DNA profile back in 1993 from the panties. They did get a male fraction and a female fraction. It was a different form of DNA analysis than the $S T R$ that has been recently used in this very case. But this DNA that was extracted was never compared. That analysis was never compared on what is to be the known buccal swabs of the defendant. And I would seek to cross-examine the State's witnesses or call my own witnesses to stab that that was a DNA
profile that was never resolved in this case. And we feel that's admissible.

We, of course, are not going to go into anything about DNA without first approaching the bench because we understand what the State's objections are and we're not allowed to go into anything concerning the old crime lab without approaching the bench and getting permission. And so, I will follow that and Mr. Madrid will follow that, but $I$ want all of these things in the record for our appeal, if necessary.

THE COURT: Okay. So, you are offering Defendant's $10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18$, and 19. Is that correct?

MR. CORNELIUS: Yes, Your Honor.
(Defense Exhibit No. 10 through 19 Offered)

THE COURT: That's for purposes of the
motion to suppress hearing only?

MR. CORNELIUS: Yes.

THE COURT: Any objection from the state?

MS. TISE: No objection for purposes of the hearing.

THE COURT: Then Defendant's 10 through 19 will be admitted for purposes of the motion to suppress hearing only. And having already discussed these items off the record and heard argument from counsel, the
motion to suppress ruling stands and it will be denied.
Do you have anything further?
(Defense Exhibit No. 10 through 19 Admitted

For Purposes of Motion to Suppress Hearing Only)

MR. CORNELIUS: Just to make sure that the record is complete. I am offering them for the motion hearing only right now. THE COURT: Right. MR. CORNELIUS: I would offer them in evidence -- I would seek to offer them in evidence at the trial, but I'm taking your ruling that $I$ can't offer them. So, I don't want the record to look like I'm giving up. I still seek to offer them before the jury, but I'm subject to your ruling. So, I don't think I have to offer them anymore. You know I want to offer them, correct?

THE COURT: That's correct. And I think the ruling is clear on the record that the motion to suppress is denied and all of the evidence from the old Houston Crime Lab, which is not being offered by the State for any purpose, any relevant purpose, and the Genetics Design LabCorp results are not being offered. And what $I$ have said in my motion to suppress ruling is that if it pertains to the evidence
in this case in terms of a contamination or a storage issue, you can cross-examine that. You can bring forward evidence on it if you would like, but we're not going to go into any of the evidence that's in the Bromwich report, the report itself is not admissible. Any of the details of the Bromwich report that do not pertain to the evidence in this case is not going to be admitted into evidence. And any of the disciplinary records or criminal records of the persons that worked at the old HPD Crime Lab are not going to be admitted into evidence unless and until one of those -- if a witness is called that makes it relevant. And if there's something that arises during the trial, please approach before you go into that.

MR. CORNELIUS: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: All right. Anything further we
need to put on the record at this time?

MS. TISE: Nothing from the State.

THE COURT: Let me check to see if the jury is ready to be brought in.

THE BAILIFF: Still missing one. THE COURT: It appears we're still missing one juror that was supposed to be here at 10:00. So, we'll take a break. THE BAILIFE: I will find out where she's
at.

THE COURT: We'll take a brief break. As soon as she is here, we'll resume. So, don't go anywhere. And we do need to swear the jury in. We're ready to proceed. So, get all of your technology ready to go. Off the record.
(Recess)
(Open court, defendant and jury present)

THE COURT: Please be seated.

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen of the jury. It's good to see you-all again. And thank you for being back. And $I$ hope you-all had a great July 4th weekend and are ready to start hearing some evidence.

First, would you please stand and raise your right hand to be sworn in as jurors? (Jurors sworn)

THE COURT: Very well. You may have a seat.

At this time, will the state please arraign the defendant?

MS. TISE: Yes, Your Honor.

This is Cause No. 1384794 , the State of Texas vs. Obel Cruz-Garcia. In the name and by authority of the state of Texas: The duly organized Grand Jury of Harris County, Texas, presents in the

District Court of Harris County, Texas, that in Harris County, Texas, Obel Cruz-Garcia, hereafter styled the Defendant, heretofore on or about September 30, 1992, did then and there unlawfully, while in the course of committing and attempting to commit the kidnapping of Angelo Garcia, Jr., intentionally cause the death of Angelo Garcia, Jr. by stabbing Angelo Garcia, Jr. with a deadly weapon, namely, a sharp instrument.

It is further presented that in Harris County, Texas, Obel Cruz-Garcia, hereafter styled the Defendant, heretofore on or about September 30, 1992, did then and there unlawfully, while in the course of committing and attempting to commit the kidnapping of Angelo Garcia, Jr., intentionally cause the death of Angelo Garcia, Jr. by an unknown manner and means. It's against the peace and dignity of the State. It's signed by the Foreman of the Grand Jury.

THE COURT: Thank you, Ms. Tise.
Does either side have witnesses in the
courtroom?

MS. TISE: Most of our witnesses are not in the courtroom at this time, Judge.

THE COURT: Does either side wish to have witnesses sworn in at this time?

MS. TISE: We can bring a couple of them
in.

THE COURT: Let's get the Rule invoked, if either side wishes to have the Rule invoked at this time.

MR. CORNELIUS: We do, Your Honor.

MR. WOOD: We have two witnesses.

THE COURT: Please raise your right hand to be sworn.
(Witnesses sworn)

THE COURT: Okay. The Rule has been
invoked. What that means is you're ordered to leave the courtroom and not reenter unless instructed to do so by the bailiff or by me. You are not to discuss this case or your testimony with other witnesses or anyone else except the attorneys. You are not to read any report or comment on the testimony of evidence in the case. Any witness violating this instruction is subject to being held in contempt of court.

So, at this time, you are excuse. We'll be calling you in shortly for your testimony.

THE WITNESS: Thank you, Your Honor.
THE COURT: In addition, as to -- no. I'm sorry. Go ahead, witnesses, leave the courtroom.

As to the reading of the indictment,

Mr. Obel Cruz-Garcia, how do you plead to that
indictment, guilty or not guilty?
MR. CORNELIUS: The defense pleads not guilty, Judge.

THE COURT: Thank you, sir.
State, do you wish to make an opening?

MR. WOOD: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Please proceed.

## STATE'S OPENING STATEMENT

MR. WOOD: It's November 5th, 1992. Diana Garcia sits in her apartment. She hopes that today might be the day that she gets some good news. It's now been 36 days since her 6-year-old little boy, Baby Angelo as she called him, has been missing. For 36 days, her and her family have been hoping and praying for that good news. For 36 days.

While sitting in her apartment that day on November 5th, she finally did get news when the Houston Police Department officers contacted her. However, it was not the news that she was hoping for. It was on that day, as she sat in her apartment, that she learned that the remains of Angelo Garcia, Jr., Baby Angelo, had been found. He had been found out in Baytown on what was described as a marshy, isolated, garbage-strewn beach.

You will learn, ladies and gentlemen, that
the 6-year-old little boy body of Angelo Garcia, Jr. had laid there in that water for 36 days. And when he was recovered, he was basically decomposed, reduced to, essentially, a pile of bones. And you are going to learn that on the night that Angelo Garcia went missing that he was wearing what he wore to bed, his pajamas, a little t-shirt and some shorts. And these shorts were significant. You see, these were his favorite little Batman shorts. Because Baby Angelo loved Batman and Superman and Spiderman and the things that 6-year-old little boys love.

At that time, that was one of the initial ways that they were able to identify those remains. Because you see, those little Batman shorts were still with those skeletal remains when they found him out in Baytown.

November 5th, 1992 will always be a day that Diana Garcia remembers. But that day is just a small piece of this puzzle, ladies and gentlemen. Because the nightmare for Diana Garcia began over a month before that, on September $30 t h$, 1992. On that date, she was living with her husband, Arturo. And they were living over in an apartment off of Fairway, which is kind of near 610 and Telephone Road. And September 30 th had been pretty much a normal day for her
and her family. Nothing really out of the ordinary.
It came time for bedtime that night and she put Angelo down to bed on a little pallet on the floor of their bedroom. And not long after that, she went to bed herself and went to sleep. After watching a little bit of TV, Arturo joined her just a short time later. And the next thing that Diana Garcia remembers is -- or that she recalls is there are two masked intruders inside of her apartment. And at that point, everything starts happening very quickly.

Before she knows it, her and Arturo are forced to lie face-down on the bed. She knows at least one of them has a gun. Arturo is being tied up. She can hear that he is being beaten. And then she feels her nightgown being lifted and her panties being pulled down. And as she lays there, she hears the sounds of her husband next to her being beaten and the cries of her little boy, Baby Angelo: Mommy, mommy. And that's when one of the men climbed up on top of her and began penetrating her. Sexually assaulting her there inside of her own apartment.

Finally, it stops. And when she's able to gather herself and she's convinced that the men are gone from her apartment, she then frees herself, -because she's been tied up -- she goes directly to Arturo, who
is on the floor. He is badly beaten and bleeding. He has been tied up with an electrical cord from the alarm clock. She gets him free and then goes to find Angelo. Where is Angelo? He is not in the apartment. And then that reality hits her and Arturo. Angelo is gone. And then she snaps into mother mode and she is frantically trying to get her hands on a phone to call 911. You will hear that her and Arturo leave, she goes next door, and finds a nearby neighbor, and is able to call 911. And you will hear that call: My baby, somebody's taken my baby. Arturo is trying to flag someone down. And very soon after that, the first Houston Police Department officer arrives on the scene. And that's when the investigation into the kidnapping of Angelo Garcia, Jr. begins.

You are going to hear from detectives, several detectives and investigators, that immediately they started trying to piece this story together to do their job, but it was hard because the two suspects wore masks. Diana and Arturo could not give but just general descriptions of them, height, what they could.

## Although, the investigators immediately

determined that there were items that had gone missing from in that apartment, robbery just didn't seem like the motive there. And they immediately were suspicious
that maybe drugs were involved, but Diana and Arturo denied that initially. It wasn't until the next day, on October 1st, when they were meeting with Houston Police Department Homicide detectives that Diana and Arturo came clean about their involvement with drugs.

They will come in here and they will tell you that. It isn't something that they were proud of then and it isn't something that they are proud of now. They will tell you that they wish they could give -they would give anything to take that back and to have been more forthcoming. But sitting in that interview room, Diana Garcia told the officers: We sold drugs for that man, Obel Cruz-Garcia; Chico, as he was known by many of his friends and associates.

And you will learn that Diana and Arturo had stopped selling for the defendant a short time before Angelo's kidnapping or by the time that Angelo went missing. They had stopped selling. They thought they were being watched by the police, so they said: No more.

Well, because of this connection to Diana and Arturo and Angelo, the investigators immediately started zeroing in on the defendant, looking at him. They wanted to question him and find out what his side of the story was. He wasn't the only person they were
looking at. They were looking at every angle. And you're going to hear that they brought in several people for questioning and they talked to several people. They gathered hair samples and blood samples from different individual that hopefully might make the connection, but they were looking for the defendant. They couldn't find him.

Very early on in their investigation, they came into contact with the defendant's wife back then, Angelita Rodriguez. And they learned very early on from Angelita that the defendant was gone. He had gone to Puerto Rico. And, ladies and gentlemen, you will hear from Angelita Rodriguez in this trial. And Angelita Rodriguez will tell you that on the morning after Angelo's kidnapping, the morning after he went missing, on October 1st she is sitting there and she's watching television and she sees the report and the news story of Angelo missing. Angelita and them were friends with Diana and Arturo. Obviously, she was taken aback just like any of us would be by that news.

She immediately goes to the defendant there in the apartments and says: Hey, we've got to go over to Diana and Arturo's; Angelo is missing. A normal reaction by someone that's close to someone. You will hear from Angelita that the defendant refused to go over
there. And, in fact, how he responded to her request, he told her he was getting a ticket to Puerto Rico. Angelita will tell you that within hours, probably somewhere around 36 hours after Angelo had been kidnapped and had gone missing, the defendant bought a ticket, got on plane to Puerto Rico never to come back. That's how he responded to that news.

The investigation did not end there.

Detectives continued to investigate the case and do what they could, follow up on leads, but leads really went nowhere. And it wasn't until 2007 , some 15 years after Angelo's murder, that police finally caught a break. You see, with time, with the passage of time came advances in science and in technology. And in 2007 , DNA was much different than it was in 1992. And in 2007, there were items of evidence submitted for DNA analysis and testing. There were certain particular items of evidence from the sexual assault kit that was performed on Diana the night of her rape, back on September 30th. There were several of those items of evidence submitted for testing.

And also, back on September 30th, 1992 in Diana and Arturo's apartment, the Crime Scene Unit recovered a cigar. And Diana and Arturo will tell you, and they told officers then: Hey, we don't smoke
cigars, this cigar was not in our house. It was recovered by the $T V$. It had to have been left by one of those men. That cigar was tagged in 1992. Well, advances in science allowed them to test that cigar for DNA in 2007 where they weren't able to do that back in '92. That was also submitted for DNA analysis.

Also, around that time, investigators had finally located the defendant and they were able to get a sample of his DNA so that they could maybe compare it against these other items. And you are going to hear two different DNA analysts come into court and testify that those items from the sexual assault kit from Diana Garcia, they were able to obtain a male DNA profile from certain items in that sexual assault kit. They were also able to obtain a male DNA profile from that cigar. And guess what? It matched the same profile from that sexual assault kit.

And they will tell you that based on their training and experience that that -- those DNA profiles that they obtained from that evidence matched that of the defendant. Just another piece of this puzzle, ladies and gentlemen.

In addition to that, you are going to hear from a witness named Carmelo Santana, Rudy as most of his friends and family knew him then and now. And Rudy
is going to tell you that he had a connection to several people in this case. He knew Diana and Arturo, but he had a very close connection with the defendant. In fact, he was family with the defendant's wife Angelita. And he actually met the defendant back when they all lived in Puerto Rico in the 80s. And naturally, they were close because Angelita was family.

So, he is going to tell you that sometime in the late $80 s$, he came over to the states, came to Houston. And shortly after, the defendant and then Angelita joined him. And very soon after they got to Houston, they became involved in the drug business. And it happened pretty quickly. And he is going to tell you that the defendant kind of became the boss of the operations, but that he and the defendant worked side-by-side. And several people sold for them. Diana and Arturo being two of those people. And it was always cocaine.

But more importantly, he is going to tell you that he was with the defendant on the night of September $30 t h, 1992$. And he was with the defendant and another associate of theirs named Rogelio Aviles, otherwise known as Roger. And they went over to Arturo and Diana's apartment. Rudy will tell you that he thought they were going over to get some drugs or some
money. Rudy waited in the car. After some time, the next thing he knows is the defendant is coming down to the car with Angelo in his hands. He gets to the car and Rudy is, like: Whoa, wait a minute. Why do you have the kid? And he says: Take Angelo back upstairs. I mean, they knew this kid. And the defendant leaves and only to return a short time later with Roger and Angelo in tow.

And you are going to hear that at point they get in the car, the defendant leaves Angelo -- I mean -- I'm sorry -- Diana and Arturo's apartment and immediately starts heading towards Baytown. Rudy is going to tell you that they pull off at some point, they pull into kind of a residential neighborhood, pulled down an isolated street, and the defendant stops the car. He knew at this point this was not going to be good. They had a kid in the car. They had the kid in the car. This was not part of the plan. He had a really bad feeling.

And Rudy is going to tell you that the three men get out of the car and that Rudy starts walking off kind of short distance from the car. He goes over and defecates in his pants, but hears the defendant say to Roger: Do what you have to do. And before long the defendant comes and gets Rudy and Rudy
goes over and there is Angelo laying there on the ground, Rudy says lifeless, as best he can tell. Rudy thinks he has been stabbed because there's blood on Angelo's little shirt. They load him back into the car and they drive a very short distance, what we know now is a location known as Goose Creek Park in Baytown.

And Rudy is going to tell you that at point the defendant, while he's got a gun in his hand, holding the gun on him says: Dump the body. Well, Angelo's little body kept floating back up to the top of the water. And he said: Weight the body down. And that's what they did. And that's where he laid for 36 days. Exposed to all of the elements, decomposing until he was found on November 5th.

And Rudy is going to tell you they left
there and they had some car issues. They blew out some tires, they traded out a car. They ended up that night at the defendant and Angelita's apartment, he and the defendant did. And the next day, Rudy is going to tell you that the defendant sold off a car that he had, used part of that money, bought a ticket to Puerto Rico, Rudy drove him to the airport, and Rudy never saw him again.

Now, Rudy was talked to initially by the police and he didn't tell that full story. It was many years later when investigators went to talk to him, when
they started piecing this story together that they visited with him again. He was in custody on a federal drug case up in Pennsylvania. And he finally came clean. Rudy will tell you that he lived with the guilt of knowing what happened to Angelo for many years and he could not take that information to his grave. And so, he started talking and he started filling in holes and explaining things that the officers never were able to piece together.

And you are going to hear from Rudy. And you get to judge Rudy's credibility, just like we talked about in jury selection. And you will hear Rudy tell you that he is going to be testifying free of any kind of promise, any kind of deal, any kind of benefit cut to him. And you get to decide what pieces of the puzzle Rudy has.

At the conclusion of this case, ladies and gentlemen, Natalie and $I$ will be asking you to do exactly what we talked about in jury selection. We'll be asking you to find whether or not we have met our burden of proof in this case, whether or not we have proven the case to you beyond a reasonable doubt. And you will get to review all of the evidence and all of the testimony that you have heard in order to gauge that.

We'll be asking you to hold the defendant accountable for his actions. Hold the defendant accountable for the kidnapping and murder of Angelo Garcia, Jr. And we're going to do that by asking that you find the defendant guilty of capital murder.

Thank you.

THE COURT: Mr. Cornelius, would you like to make an opening statement?

MR. CORNELIUS: I would, Judge.

THE COURT: Please proceed.

DEFENSE OPENING STATEMENT

MR. CORNELIUS: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen.

JURORS: Good morning (in unison).
MR. CORNELIUS: I will make a short opening statement.

I guess the greatest fear that a defense lawyer has in a case like this is the fact that there are people that if they are presented with evidence that a child has died and the State points their finger at someone who they say did it, that's the only evidence they need.

Now, the law didn't allow us to ask y'all
that question. None of you were asked that specific question. But the questions that you were asked and the
answers that you did give indicated to us that you are not that kind of a person, that you'd require strict evidence and proof beyond a reasonable doubt. Not a dramatic opening statement by the state talking about little Baby Angelo in his pajamas and all that kind of stuff, but actual evidence.

I think the evidence is going to leave you in this case with four questions that you are going to have to answer. Serious questions. The first one would be: How much credibility are you going to give witnesses that are admitted liars and drug dealers? And the second one is going to be: Can you base a capital murder conviction on the testimony of someone who is, by his admission, a co-defendant and who has everything to gain by lying? And the third one is going to be: What actually does the so-called DNA evidence prove with respect to this boy? And the fourth one: What does the medical evidence show? What does it show?

You are going to have those four questions to wrestle with, I guarantee. If the evidence goes as I anticipate, $I$ will be asking you for a verdict of not guilty.

## Thank you very much.

THE COURT: State, please call your first witness.

MS. TISE: Your Honor, at this time the State would like to offer State's Exhibits 5 and 6 . They are the business records affidavit for a 911 tape as State's Exhibit 5. State's Exhibit 6 is the actual copy of the tape. I will offer it to defense counsel for any objection.
(State's Exhibit No. 5 and 6 Offered)

MR. CORNELIUS: No objections.

MS. TISE: At this time, we'd like to publish it.

THE COURT: State's Exhibit 5 and State's Exhibit 6 will be admitted. And you may publish it to the jury at this time.
(State's Exhibit No. 5 and 6 Admitted)
MS. TISE: I also have a transcript of the statements of the 911 tape. I have a copy for each juror to aid them in following along.

MR. CORNELIUS: Judge, I don't see that that's necessary. It's in English.

THE COURT: Approach the bench.
(At the Bench, on the record)
THE COURT: Have you tendered the --

MR. CORNELIUS: She has. I've read it. I don't think it's incorrect. I don't think it's necessary.

MS. TISE: As 911 tapes often are, Judge, it's hard to hear. And so, we'd like to be able to provide a transcript for them to follow along.

THE COURT: You think it would aid and assist the jury in understanding what the transcript is saying?

MS. TISE: I do, Judge.

THE COURT: Is it -- so you have had an opportunity, Mr. Cornelius, to review it?

MR. CORNELIUS: I have.

THE COURT: You don't differ from what -you don't believe it misrepresents the actual tape, do you, sir?

MR. CORNELIUS: No.

THE COURT: Okay. Very good. I'm going to allow this then.

MS. TISE: I have a copy for you as well.

THE COURT: Thank you.
(Open court, defendant and jury present)

THE COURT: Ladies and gentlemen, the transcript is provided to assist you, if it does, in listening to the 911 tape, but the tape itself is the actual evidence and that's what you will rely on in remembering the testimony from this 911 tape.

You may proceed.
(Exhibit published)

THE COURT: Deputy, please pick up the transcripts.

All right. Call your first.
MR. WOOD: Your Honor, State calls Officer

James Devereaux.

THE COURT: And has this witness been sworn?

MR. WOOD: I believe he has, Your Honor.

THE BAILIFF: Your Honor, the officer has been sworn.

THE COURT: Please keep your voice up and speak into the microphone.

You may proceed.

MR. WOOD: Thank you, Your Honor.

## JAMES DEVEREAUX,

having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

## DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. WOOD :
Q. Good morning, Officer Devereaux.
A. Good morning.
Q. Can you please introduce yourself with your full name for the ladies and gentlemen of the jury?
A. James Devereaux.
Q. And can you tell us how you're employed,

Officer Devereaux?
A. City of Houston Police Department. I'ma sergeant of police currently assigned to the Robbery Division.
Q. And I'm sorry, Sergeant Devereaux.
A. That's okay.
Q. How long have you been with the Houston Police Department?
A. Thirty-one years.
Q. And you said that your current assignment is a sergeant in the Robbery Division. Is that right?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. What other assignments or responsibilities have you had within the Houston Police Department?
A. After graduating the police academy, I was sworn in as a police officer and assigned to the Southeast Patrol. About 13 years later, I promoted to sergeant. I also worked in patrol as a sergeant. I was assigned to the Jail Division for a few years, back in patrol, and then transferred to the Robbery Division.
Q. So, how long in total over the 31 years have you been assigned as a patrol officer or in a patrol division?
A. About 14,15 years.
Q. Generally, Officer Devereaux, what are the
responsibilities of a patrol officer as an assignment within HPD?
A. Patrol officers were considered -- I would consider myself like a generalist. We handle all types of calls for police service. It includes writing traffic tickets, investigating accidents. If somebody comes home and finds their home burglarized, we'll run those calls. Disturbance calls. Just any type of call for service. When somebody would call the police, we'll send a uniformed patrol officer.
Q. Sergeant Devereaux, $I$ want to direct your attention back to 1992. How were you employed back then?
A. In 1992, I was a police officer assigned to the nightshift patrol out in southeast.
Q. Were you working a particular area of town at that time or how does that work?
A. We're assigned to a district, which is a small portion of the city within the district. It's a smaller area, what we call a beat. That night $I$ was assigned 10's beat, which is the northern portion of our district, which was the 13th district.
Q. Specifically on September 30th, 1992, were you working as a patrol officer on that date?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. Did you have an opportunity to be dispatched to a location of 6705 Fairway that night?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. And are you familiar with that area?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. Is that location a location within Harris County, Texas?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. Do you recall what time or around what time it was that you were dispatched out to that scene?
A. It was at nighttime. About roughly 11:50, 11: 49.
Q. Did you arrive at that scene shortly after that?
A. Yes. Approximately three minutes later.
Q. So, I guess, you were probably somewhere close in the neighborhood?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. When you got to the scene, what do you recall about that specific scene?
A. Well, when we pulled up, I remember there was a male outside trying to wave us down and then there was another female that was on the phone kind of like pacing back and forth and in kind of an excited state.
Q. Describe what -- what was that scene? Is that
residential, business, or what?
A. It was a residential scene at the apartment complex.
Q. Were there others there at the scene other than the male and female that you identified?
A. As we pulled up, there was some extradition people that had come outside, outside their apartment doors.
Q. What about any emergency personnel, was anyone else on the scene?
A. We were the first ones.
Q. Okay. What did you do first when you arrived?
A. We tried to figure out what was going on. We got the call as a -- like a robbery, sexual assault call. And we tried to locate our complainants or our victim and the witnesses, tried to figure out exactly what was going on.
Q. Did you have an opportunity to identify a female individual by the name of Diana Garcia?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. And a male by the name of Arturo Rodriguez?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. Did you learn that anyone had gone missing or possibly had been kidnapped from that location?
A. We were informed that Diana Garcia's son was
kidnapped. He was 7 years old.
Q. Did you personally speak with Diana Garcia?
A. Yes, I did.
Q. And can you describe kind of what her state of mind was when you spoke with her?
A. She was excited, hysterical, really nervous and scared, you know, because of what happened to her and her son and her husband as well.
Q. Do you recall, was she crying or not?
A. Yes, she was.
Q. Was it your impression that the event for which she was excited about had just happened?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. Generally, what did Diana tell you at that time?

MR. CORNELIUS: Object to the hearsay.

THE COURT: That will be sustained.
Q. (By Mr. Wood) While visiting with any of the individuals out at the scene, were you able to get any kind of description of possible suspects involved?
A. We received a vague description of the two suspects and some possible vehicle information.
Q. And what did you do with that information?
A. I put out what we call a GB, a general broadcast over the radio. We send a message to the
dispatch as well so if we get a GB number that way that information could be, you know, given out throughout the city and other patrol stations that aren't on our radio channel.
Q. Let me ask about the male individual, Arturo Rodriguez. What were your observations of Arturo?
A. I remember, you know, from reviewing my report earlier that he had some cuts on the back of his head.
Q. Was he eventually treated or do you know?
A. An ambulance was called out to the scene for him.
Q. Other than putting out that general broadcast, what else did you do while you were out there at that scene?
A. Well, as a patrol officer, as I mentioned earlier, we are just generalists. This was a fairly -you know, a very serious crime and incident. So, we contacted our Homicide Division for the kidnapping and also contacted our Juvenile Division since it did involve a juvenile.
Q. Did you stay up there at the scene until someone else arrived or how did that work?
A. Yes, sir, we stayed out at the scene.
Q. What -- did anything -- did Diana Garcia remain there at the scene or was she transported anywhere, if
you know?
A. She stayed there for a while and she was eventually taken to the hospital by another police officer.
Q. At some point did you release the scene over to a Homicide sergeant?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. And who was that?
A. Sergeant Elliott.
Q. Sergeant Devereaux, I guess in 1992 how long had you been on patrol at that point?
A. Right at about 10 years.
Q. And over the course of your 31 years, you have spent a lot of time on patrol based on your testimony. Is that right?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. Was this scene and this call-out back on September 30 th, 1992, was that -- did that stand out in your mind at all?
A. I've never forgotten this call. And from the outcome of the call that $I$ realized about 30 days later or so, maybe a little longer, this was probably the most horrific call that I've ever ran in that time period.
Q. And Sergeant Devereaux, you stated that this is an area of town that you worked back then and were
familiar with at that time?
A. Yes, sir.

MR. WOOD: Your Honor, may I approach the witness?

THE COURT: Yes.
Q. (By Mr. Wood) Sergeant Devereaux, I'm showing you what's been marked for identification purposes as State's Exhibit 7. Do you recognize that (indicating)?
A. Yeah. That's Barnett Stadium, which is the football stadium, the baseball diamonds. And then the apartment complex is right across the street from Barnett Stadium.
Q. And State's Exhibit 7 is a map of that area or an aerial map?
A. It's an aerial map, yes, sir.
Q. Does that fairly and accurately depict the scene or the general location as you recall it from back in September of 1992?
A. Yes, sir.

MR. WOOD: Your Honor, at this time, I will offer State's Exhibit 7 into evidence after tendering to defense counsel.
(State's Exhibit No. 7 Offered)
MR. CORNELIUS: No objection.
THE COURT: State's Exhibit 7 will be
admitted without objection.
(State's Exhibit No. 7 Admitted)

MR. WOOD: And I'll pass the witness, Your

Honor.

THE COURT: Mr. Cornelius, you may proceed.

## CROSS-EXAMINATION

## BY MR. CORNELIUS:

Q. Sergeant Devereaux, my name is Skip Cornelius.

I don't know if we've met on other cases, but we've never talked about this one, right?
A. No, we haven't, sir.
Q. Do you have your report or did you look at it?
A. Yes, sir, I've reviewed it.
Q. All I'm finding is a couple of pages that you wrote. Is that correct?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. The description, the general description that you put out, what was it?
A. What we received from the complainants, that the suspects that were described to us as possibly black males, one wearing a mask. The vehicle description that we put out over the GB. That's basically all we put out.
Q. So, two black males, one wearing a mask?
A. Possible black males, yes, sir.
Q. Okay. No height, no weight?
A. If I remember from reviewing my report, she described she only saw one of the suspects and she only remembered him as being tall.
Q. Okay. I'm not trying to get you to testify to what she said to you or to repeat what she said to you. So, my question is: What do you think went out over the air as a description?
A. The description that we received, that it was possibly two black males, one was wearing a mask, and the description of the vehicle as well.
Q. So, no height or weight went out over the air?
A. No, sir.
Q. No age?
A. Not that $I$ can remember, sir.
Q. Did you discover that anything had been taken?
A. In the report, there was listed a bracelet and a wallet that was listed as stolen.
Q. Say it again. I couldn't --
A. Oh, I'm sorry. In the report, we listed a bracelet, some sort of gold bracelet, and a wallet that was stolen.
Q. Okay. Did you notice if the man and woman had on jewelry at the time that you talked to them?
A. I don't remember.
Q. Was anything said to you by anyone concerning drugs or this could have had something to do with drugs?
A. There was some mention that there might have been some drugs being dealt out of the apartment.
Q. Okay. And where did you get that information from?
A. It was somebody inside the complex, like a neighbor, somebody that just came outside.
Q. So, that was obviously pure hearsay?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. But when you were -- when you found that out, did you give that information to Sergeant Elliott?
A. If $I$ remember correctly, yes, we did.
Q. And were there other sergeants or detectives -did they have detectives back in 1992?
A. They were sergeants. We don't carry the rank of detective, but there were others out there.
Q. Back in 1992, though, was everybody a sergeant Or - -
A. Yes, they were sergeants then.
Q. Now?
A. Now they are sergeants and then they were sergeants.
Q. Okay. All right. Any other sergeants involved in this investigation that you know of?
A. From the Homicide Division, there was some others, but $I$ don't know exactly who they were.
Q. And they would have been privy to the same -or had the opportunity at least to have the same information that Sergeant Elliott got?
A. As far as $I$ know, yes, sir.
Q. Sergeant, were you able to talk to these two individuals in English?
A. If I remember right, we spoke to Diana Garcia in English, if $I$ remember correctly. The male, I don't remember.
Q. Okay. Did you gather any information from anyone that these two individuals knew who their attackers were?
A. We thought we -- we thought they knew who they were, but we did not receive any information that they knew them.
Q. Why would you think that?
A. Well, from the information that we received earlier, that it was possibly drug-related.
Q. Okay. Did you yourself -- what you said, not what somebody else said. Did you yourself say to these two individuals words to the effect: Your son's been taken, do you know who it is who did this? Did you say that to them?
A. Yes, I believe we did. Or I did. Because my main concern was with the son at that time.
Q. Okay. And even after saying that, the best you could get was possibly two black males, one wearing a mask?

MR. WOOD: Objection, Your Honor. That's back-door hearsay, that response. THE COURT: That will be sustained.
Q. (By Mr. Cornelius) Okay. Could you get anything other than that, though?
A. No, sir.

MR. CORNELIUS: Pass the witness at this time, Judge.

MR. WOOD: I have no other questions.
THE COURT: May the witness be excused?
MR. CORNELIUS: As long as he's on-call.
THE COURT: Very good.
MR. WOOD: That's fine.
THE COURT: Officer, you're excused.
Please call your next.
MS. TISE: The State will call Sergeant Elliott.

THE BAILIFF: This witness has been sworn, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Thank you.

Please speak into the microphone and keep your voice up.

THE WITNESS: That's not a problem for me.
THE COURT: You may proceed, Ms. Tise.

MS. TISE: I don't think it's a problem for me either, Judge.

## C.E. ELIIOTT,

having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

## DIRECT EXAMINATION

## BY MS. TISE:

Q. Would you introduce yourself to the jury, please, sir?
A. I'm Sergeant C.E. Elliott of the Houston Police Department.
Q. Okay. And can you tell the jury how long you've been employed by the Houston Police Department?
A. Thirty-six plus years.
Q. Can you tell us a little about where you spent your time in those past 36 years?
A. I graduated from the police academy in March of '77, was assigned to patrol, later transferred to the Accident Division, at the time it was a fatality division unit. I promoted in November of 1992 to what was then a separate rank of detective. Like in the military, or the government, $G-S 6$, or whatever, it was
same pay rate as a sergeant, but you were a detective and not a sergeant. I had a different badge, a detective badge. Chief Brown changed all of the detectives to sergeants in, I think, 1984, '85. It didn't change my job any. When $I$ made detective, $I$ went to Burglary and Theft, $I$ worked burglary and theft cases. I later transferred to the fugitive detail and ran felony warrants until 1990, October 1st, 1990. I reported to nightshift Homicide. I stayed in nightshift Homicide till October 12th of 1992. Then $I$ transferred to dayshift Homicide. And $I$ have been working in the murder squad dayshift ever since.
Q. So, basically, just days after this scene you transferred from nightshift Homicide to dayshift Homicide?
A. Yes. I was one of the last ones. We were at that time -- everything changes. We were in the process of phasing out full-time nightshift units and bringing everyone over to days at that period and $I$ was one of the last ones to leave.
Q. And $I$ guess nothing takes the place of 30 plus years of on-the-job training, but $I$ take you've received a lot of other training over the course of your years with HPD?
A. Thousands of hours. The department requires 40
hours of in-service training a year. I've never been shy about taking training. I usually averaged closer to between 60 to 80 hours. Some years I did special schools, 120 hours to 200 hours of training a year. Through the department, outside agencies, various associations in groups that $I$ belong to.
Q. Where are you currently assigned?
A. Dayshift Homicide.
Q. And can you tell the jury a little bit about how it works? You have patrol officers who are out at the scene and then you have officers who are assigned to the Homicide Division that have a different role. Can you kind of explain how those roles work?
A. In Homicide, we don't obviously go out on patrol. We're a responsive unit. We respond when patrol calls us to a death or a serious investigation that I'm assigned to. We do a rotation. On nightshift in 1992, $I$ just did the nightshift callout. Since I was assigned nights, I worked 10:00 to 6:00 or 11:00 to 7:00. And I'd sit in the office and wait for a scene to come in and I'd be assigned to it and I'd go out and investigate the scene. It's what we call the smoking gun or a clear case, I'd finish it up then. If it was a who-done-it or had extensive follow-up, I'd pass it on to the dayshift.
Q. Okay. So, if you didn't have an obvious suspect and the crime wasn't solved immediately that night, the case wouldn't be yours the next day?
A. No. Nightshift was strictly to respond and conduct the scene investigation. Like I said, if it could be solved then, we'd solve for continuity sake, but if there was a lot of follow-up to do, obviously, working in the middle of the night you couldn't do much follow-up.
Q. And the patrol officer who comes out to a scene is going to have a completely different role, correct?
A. Correct.
Q. What would be a patrol officer's role?
A. On a major case, to observe and determine what happened and basically hold and secure the scene until Homicide got there.
Q. So, it's not the patrol's job -- the patrol officer's job to take detailed statements of witnesses, correct?
A. No, not at all.
Q. Not their job to go out looking for a suspect, correct?
A. Correct.
Q. Or process the scene?
A. Correct.
Q. Those are all things that Homicide is going to do when y'all get there?
A. Correct.
Q. Okay. And the goal is to get those patrol officers back on the street to be first responders?
A. Correct.
Q. Okay. I want to take you back to 1992. And from what you're telling us, back in the day you were finishing up the end of your term as a nightshift Homicide officer?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. Okay. Do you remember going out to a scene on the night of September 30th, 1992, on Fairway?
A. Very much so, yes.
Q. And why do you say "very much so"?
A. It's one of those things you don't forget. It was a 7-year-old little boy kidnapped and killed.
Q. And you've seen a lot, I'm sure, in your years as a Homicide detective?
A. Yes.
Q. This one sticks out for you?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. Back in September, September 30th, 1992 to be exact, do you recall about what time it was when you were called out to that scene?
A. I was actually called October 1st at 12:35 in the morning. I was in my office. Then on nightshifts, it was hurry up and wait. That's one of the reasons they did away with the nightshift at the time was because you'd just sit around. Not to be crast, but you'd wait for someone to die. It was a waste of manpower at the time, but you'd sit there. And I was first up on the board. As a matter of fact, I think I was the only one on the board. I caught the scene at 12:35 and grabbed my gear and went out there.
Q. Okay. And so, at that point in time, the scene -- you learned that the actual incident had happened prior to midnight, correct?
A. Correct.
Q. Patrol officers would come to the scene and secure the location --
A. Right.
Q. -- doing their jobs?

And then at some point it was decided that Homicide needed to be brought out there.
A. Yeah. Back then, preceding cell phones, it would go through dispatch. It takes time. If they got the call, $I$ think around 11:50, called, it got to my office at 12:35. And it wasn't that far out there from the office. I ran over from -- I come from Riesner,
which was where our office was then. We've moved twice since this case. I was out there before 1 o'clock.
Q. Okay. And that location on Fairway, is it in Harris County, Texas?
A. Yes, ma'am. It's just off the South Loop.
Q. Okay. And the nature of the call was kidnapping?
A. Yes.
Q. Okay. When you got there, what did you observe? Can you tell me first a little bit about the apartment complex we're talking about?
A. It's a small apartment complex. It's just off the Gulfgate Mall area out 610 between Telephone and Broad on Fairway across the street from Barnett Stadium. It's a big reference point out there. Like I say, it's an old two-story, U-shaped apartment complex. Maybe less than 30 units. I think they had 26 units in it. Three separate buildings in a horseshoe. The back building was being renovated and was empty. Two-story, brick concrete, wood apartment complex. A small, independently-owned complex.
Q. What kind of neighborhood is this, would you describe it?
A. Generally it was middle to lower blue-collar employed, Hispanic. Mixed community, primarily moving
to Hispanics, is the majority at the time.

Transitioning from a white area into Hispanic and black. And just part of -- not inner-city because it's outside the loop, but a change in part of Houston at the time.
Q. Okay. And when you got there, what was going on?
A. Patrol cars were parked out front. They were securing the scene and holding it. I talked to the officers at the scene and began my initial investigation.
Q. And did your investigation initially focus largely on the scene itself?
A. In getting information out about the missing child, yes.
Q. Okay. And $I$ want to talk to you about the scene first and then we'll talk about getting that information out to the public.
A. Okay.
Q. Were pictures taken to document the scene?
A. I'm sorry, what?
Q. Were pictures taken to document the scene?
A. Yes, they were.
Q. Okay.

MS. TISE: May I approach, Your Honor? THE COURT: Yes.
Q. (By Ms. Tise) I'm going to show you state's Exhibits 9 through 31 (indicating).
A. Okay.
Q. I'll ask if those pictures fairly and accurately reflect the scene that you made that night on Fairway?
A. Yes, they do.

MS. TISE: Your Honor, I'm going to offer State's Exhibits 9 through 31. And I will show them to defense counsel for any objection.
(State's Exhibit No. 9 through 31 Offered)
MR. CORNELIUS: No objection, Judge.
THE COURT: Very good. State's Exhibits 9,
$10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,19,20,21,22,23$, $24,25,26,27,28,29,30$, and 31 will be admitted without objection.

Do you wish to publish those at this time?
(State's Exhibit No. 9 through 31 Admitted)

MS. TISE: I do, Judge.

THE COURT: You may publish them.

MS. TISE: And we're proceeding with a PowerPoint presentation to make it easier for the jury.

THE COURT: Okay. You may proceed.
Q. (By Ms. Tise) Take a look there on your left, Officer. You can see State's Exhibit No. 9. And can
you tell the jury what we're looking at here?
A. That is the front door to the scene location, Apartment No. 3 at 6705 Fairway. You can see the number 3 exhibited in the center of the door, which is of note. You will also -- it's got a flash going on it, but the light to the right of the door is off. It's not functioning. The door is open and you'll see inside.
Q. All right. And so, the outside light there was burned out basically?
A. Yes.
Q. Okay. Taking a look at State's Exhibit No. 10 . This is a backed-up picture of that front entrance, correct?
A. Correct.
Q. And what is that there chained on that post out in front of that?
A. It appears to be chained, but it's not actually -- the bicycle has a chain around it. It's a child's bicycle laid down against the post. It's got a chain around it, but it appears that Angelo probably tried to lock it up, forgot he had to lock it around the post instead of just locking the chain to the bicycle.
Q. Okay. Taking a look at State's Exhibit 11 --
A. You see --
Q. -- what are you documenting here?
A. What I'm documenting here -- I'm touching the screen -- I was seeing the door hasp and screws from the doorjamb where the door was kicked open. People put fantastic locks on their doors and then they screw them into $1-b y-4$ 's or light wood in the doorjamb. And that's actually what gets broken most of the time when the door is forced open, is the doorjamb. The lock is secure. It's still in a locked position, but there's just nothing there to hold it open and it's kicked off the door. And that's what you see laying there is the throw that the lock goes through and the screws that have been knocked out of the wood.
Q. And did this indicate to you forced entry?
A. Very much so.

THE COURT: Let me stop you for just a minute.

Members of the jury, there's two more pictures -- televisions if you can't see this one well. They were not on before, so $I$ wanted to bring that to your attention.

You may proceed.
Q. (By Ms. Tise) Taking a look at State's Exhibit No. 12, can you tell us about what we're doing now as we're proceeding?
A. You are standing in the doorway looking into
the apartment. And it is not a big apartment. It's a downstairs apartment, one bedroom. You've got a living -- one room that's kind of a living room, kitchen combination, and then the bedroom's in the background.
Q. Okay. And that doorway that we can see in the background where it looks like maybe a TV set or something in there, is that the bedroom?
A. Yes.
Q. Okay. Can you indicate the doorway and the TV set we're talking about in the bedroom area?
A. Here is the door and the TV right there and you can see the bed.
Q. And so, basically it's a two-room apartment?
A. Correct.
Q. One large living room, kitchen combination?
A. Correct.
Q. And then a bedroom with a small bathroom off of it?
A. Correct.
Q. Okay. Taking a look at State's Exhibit 13.
A. Looking inside the living room area, you see a hat tree there that's got men's and women's hats on it. I'm noting that. You see the picture of Angelo Garcia, little Angelo, on the wall. And just the TV or VCR box of some sort there in the living room area.
Q. Did you notice a big difference between the two main living areas of the home as far as the condition?
A. Yes.
Q. Can you tell the jury a little bit about that?
A. The living room was pretty much undisturbed. Everything was where it appeared to be like you'd go off and leave it when you went to bed at night. The bedroom was in complete disarray, doors were pulled out, turned upside-down, covers on the floor, blankets were thrown down. It had been ransacked. And it just looked like someone was in one room searching for stuff, tearing stuff out in the bedroom, and had pretty much just walked through the living room without tearing anything up or looking in there.
Q. Okay. Take a look at State's Exhibit 14. And does that kind of illustrate what you are talking about (indicating) ?
A. That's the kitchen and that's -- you know, you see the garbage. It's not turned over. You see the dish sinks out, but the dishes are washed and there is stuff set out. That's the way a person might go off and leave their house when they went to bed at night.
Q. Fairly orderly?
A. Fairly orderly.
Q. Taking a look at State's Exhibit 15, just more
of the same (indicating).
A. That's a reverse. You are looking out the front door. And you can see it's dark outside, but you see the refrigerator is right behind the door, the chair. A reverse position. The kitchen has the window over -- or the stove that has the window over it with a filmy curtain or almost transparent curtain, where the other curtain in the living room side where you'd be sitting at night, say, is a bigger window, but it's completely closed and the curtain is off so you couldn't see in if you walked past it.
Q. And State's Exhibit 16, what are you documenting (indicating) ?
A. The purse is sitting there apparently undisturbed. It's just been left alone.
Q. Okay. And did you learn that was Diana's purse?
A. Yes.
Q. Taking a look at State's Exhibit 17. What are we looking at (indicating)?
A. That's the dining area of the kitchen here. And over here is the door to the living room -- or to the bedroom. And you will begin to see on the bottom the disarray of the clothes thrown on the floor and the ransacking.
Q. State's Exhibit 18 (indicating).
A. Looking back into the living room area, you've got the console TV, a hutch with knickknacks on it and personal affects, flowers. And, again, it's just showing that nothing apparently is really disturbed there.
Q. Okay. And this television in this State's Exhibit 18 photo, it's one of two TVs in the apartment, correct (indicating)?
A. Correct.
Q. State's Exhibit 19 (indicating).
A. A close-up of the ransacking there. You can see that the clothes and all are thrown on the floor where you wouldn't normally have dropped clothes on the floor, but you don't leave them in the doorway where you will stumble over them, you know, normally.
Q. State's Exhibit 20 , where are we now (indicating) ?
A. We're in the bedroom. And you can see the complete -- the drawers are pulled out. In later pictures, you will see them turned upside-down or whatever. Luggage is thrown around. It's just -- the room looks like someone has searched it.
Q. Okay. State's Exhibit 21 (indicating).
A. Just the shoes, clothing, a storage box, just
the bottom -- that would be in the closet area in the bedroom area.
Q. Anything of note found in that storage box?
A. Nothing.
Q. State's Exhibit 22 (indicating).
A. That's a clock radio, a little clock radio.

And you really can't tell it, but there it's been used to tie someone up with. They used the cord on the clock radio to restrain the people in the house.
Q. And when you observed that clock radio, you could tell that it had been used to tie someone up?
A. Yes. You still see the knots in it.
Q. Okay. State's Exhibit 23 (indicating).
A. In the bedroom area you see the second TV, the open door to the bathroom are. You'll see all the drawers have been pulled out. And you see a drawer laying on the ground here and the other one laying here like they have been searched.
Q. Okay. State's Exhibit 24 (indicating).
A. Again, looking in, you've got the drawers, the bed -- it's at an angle and the mattress is kind of pushed over sideways. Just the disarray in the house from the ransacking.
Q. And in State's Exhibit 25 , we've got a little bit better shot of the pillow there on the bed. And why
is that important (indicating)?
A. Well, you've got a little blood on the pillow
there. Where I marked it -- you actually covered it up. There you go. You've got some blood transferred on the pillow there.
Q. When you arrived at that scene, did you have an opportunity to observe Arturo Rodriguez?
A. Yes.
Q. And what kind of physical condition was he in?
A. In layman terms, it looked like he had been pistol-whipped, beat about the head, knots, lacerations on his head. And, obviously, someone, you know, had struck him several times in the head and in the back of the head area.
Q. Okay. And was he bleeding?
A. Yes.
Q. Did y'all actually call an ambulance out to the scene to look him over?
A. The patrolman had called an ambulance, the first responder. The ambulance came, checked them. They did not transport him. They treated him, put a bandage on him, and he stayed at the scene.
Q. Okay. Looking at State's Exhibit 26 (indicating).
A. This is the complainant's handgun that's in the
bedside table there; unfired, unused except we know obviously there's a weapon in the apartment. It really looked -- other than we found a gun there, it was fine to have.
Q. Right. Nothing unusual about someone having a gun for their own protection?
A. Not at all.
Q. State's Exhibit 27 (indicating).
A. More of the ransacking of the apartment. You can see stuff is -- even one of the drawers looks like it's over here, drawer open there. Just showing the turmoil that happened in that bedroom.
Q. And there was a lot of it to show?
A. Yes, there was.
Q. We see some more of it in State's Exhibit 28 (indicating).
A. Correct. Again, you see drawers that --if you're asleep in bed, you're obviously not going to have your dresser drawers piled up on the bed with you in an empty state like that. You've got to move them off the bed. So, it's evidence that someone came in there other than the occupants and moved stuff around.
Q. And State's Exhibit 29 (indicating).
A. That is Diana's gown where she had removed it.
Q. Okay.
A. And just the close-up of the bed where she had laid it in the dirty clothes hamper or the -- you know, the carrying thing.
Q. Now, obviously, while you are working this scene and observing things in this location, you are also in communication with the people who lived there?
A. Yes.
Q. And learning from them about what had happened?
A. Yes.
Q. And determining, you know, what's important to your investigation, correct?
A. Correct.
Q. So, during the time that you are in communication with them and you are learning about what had happened that night, did you make note of certain things because of things that they told you?
A. Yes.
Q. For instance, the alarm clock.
A. Yes.
Q. You were given information about how that alarm clock had been used by Diana and Arturo, correct?
A. Correct.
Q. And that's why you photographed it?
A. Yes.
Q. There was a child's red t-shirt that was also
there tied in a knot. And I don't see a photo of it, but did you make note of that?
A. Yes.
Q. And did you make note of that because Diana had told you that it had been used to --
A. Restrain her, yes.
Q. -- to tie her hands?

MR. CORNELIUS: Judge, I object to the hearsay. Leading and hearsay.

THE COURT: That will be sustained.
Q. (By Ms. Tise) Well, I'll ask it to you this way. Why did you make note of the red t-shirt?
A. Because Diana told me it --

MR. CORNELIUS: It's still hearsay. We still object.

THE COURT: Don't go into what somebody else told you. That's hearsay at this time.
A. In my observations as a trained detective, a t-shirt being knotted at the scene of a kidnapping and hostage situation is something $I$ would suspect was used in the crime, commission of the crime, and $I$ tagged it --
Q. (By Ms. Tise) Okay.
A. - as evidence.
Q. In addition, was your attention called to an
item that was on the television set in the living room area of the apartment?
A. Yes.
Q. And who called your attention to that item, do you remember?
A. I learned it -- Diana and Arturo both, neither one were smokers.
Q. Okay. And was there something in the apartment that came to your attention that was inconsistent with that?
A. Yes.
Q. And what was it?
A. I observed a cigar that had been lit but put out. And $I$ know a lot of my friends and all that smoke cigars, they will smoke it and let it go out and almost chew on it like chewing tobacco, but it was an unlit cigar sitting on the edge of the TV and it did not appear that it had been lit when it was set down because it didn't burn back and burn the TV or scar the TV. I saw no other scarring from burns in the apartment. It was just out of place.
Q. Okay. It had been smoked?
A. It had been and had been chewed on.
Q. But it had been put out and put down?
A. Put out or went out at some point just because
it wasn't enough drawn and just sat on the TV. It was just like you take it off and set it there almost like the edge of an ashtray.
Q. And knowing that the individuals who lived in the home didn't smoke, did you make a decision to collect that cigar?
A. Oh, yes.
Q. Okay. Let's look at State's Exhibit 30. And is that photo documenting the cigar as you observed it there in the home that night (indicating)?
A. Yes, that's the cigar. And you see the tip of it is -- how it like went out and it's not burned anything up. And you can't tell, but you can tell that it had been in someone's mouth, it just wasn't lit and set there. Distortions -- it wasn't chewed so much as distortions at this end and it was just -- it was not where it belonged.
Q. Okay. And based on the fairly tidy condition of the living area of the house, did you think it might have been left behind by the perpetrators?
A. Yes.

MS. TISE: Your Honor, may I approach? THE COURT: Yes.
Q. (By Ms. Tise) Sergeant Elliott, I'm going to show you what's been marked as State's Exhibit 32 and
ask you to identify it (indicating).
A. It's the cigar from there, that same cigar.
Q. It was recovered --
A. Yes.
Q. -- from the crime scene and tagged into evidence, was it not?
A. Correct.

MS. TISE: Your Honor, at this time, I offer State's Exhibit 32. I will tender to defense counsel.
(State's Exhibit No. 32 Offered)
MR. CORNELIUS: The actual cigar itself, I have no objection to. Everything else related to it -I have an objection to all the writing anywhere, I have an objection to.

MS. TISE: State's Exhibit 32 is a package that contains the cigar. And it does have writing on the package. Are you objecting to that writing?

MR. CORNELIUS: Yeah.

MS. TISE: I'll have it marked, the cigar,
individually. It might get messy.
THE COURT: So, no objection to the cigar itself, State's Exhibit 32?

MR. CORNELIUS: No, Your Honor.

THE COURT: State's No. 32 is admitted
without objection. And that is without the bag or without any of the writing that's on the bag. Is it still 32, Ms. Tise?
(State's Exhibit No. 32 Admitted)

MS. TISE: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: You may proceed.
Q. (By Ms. Tise) A Crime Scene Unit was on the scene, correct?
A. Correct.
Q. And they were doing their job, were they not?
A. Correct.
Q. Looking for prints?
A. Correct.
Q. Any of them found on the immobile surfaces in the home?
A. No.
Q. Okay. Does that surprise you at all?
A. Not at all.
Q. In fact, it's fairly common not to get prints from a crime scene, is it not?
A. That's -- it's a very common occurrence not to get them. We only get prints, probably -- I'm taking a guess on my part personally -- probably 5 percent of the time. People just don't transfer their prints like you see all the time.
Q. So, it's not like what people see on TV where there is just prints everywhere and DNA?
A. I wish it was.
Q. And going back to the complainants that you talked to that night, Diana and Arturo.
A. Yes.
Q. What was Diana's emotional condition?
A. She was upset. She was very emotional. She -you know, obviously, the assault on her. And then her child was missing. She was -- I won't say hysterical, but she was very upset and very emotional about what had happened.
Q. And did you get a physical description of Angelo from Diana?
A. Yes, I did.
Q. Okay. And can you tell us what that description was?
A. It was 3 foot, 6 inches tall, 35 pounds, Batman shorts, with a white t-shirt with a design on the front. And then the picture.
Q. Okay. And I have that picture, State's Exhibit 31. And this is a picture that was actually hanging on the wall in their apartment (indicating)?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. And y'all took a photo of it; a photo of a
photo, basically?
A. Correct.
Q. What did you do with that description?
A. We put out a general broadcast to all the patrol units hoping the child had been taken and left somewhere nearby. I contacted the Juvenile Division and had them enter into the TCIC/NCIC missing persons database. I contacted HISD police department requesting that they send units out and do a physical search of Barnett Stadium. I contacted the FBI and requested their assistance with the kidnapping of a minor child.
Q. And the FBI actually came out and got involved, correct?
A. Yes.
Q. And stayed involved throughout a large part of the investigation, correct?
A. Correct.
Q. Y'all did a foot search of the football stadium across the street?
A. HISD P.D. did since they were familiar with the location, they had keys to the building. It was closed up, but they sent units out to do that. We searched the area, like I said, what all we could.
Q. Couldn't find anything?
A. Could not. Never found a thing.
Q. And you put a trap on the complainants -- the family's phone?
A. At the time that was just a matter of calling Southwestern Bell back then and explaining to them the exigent circumstances, the emergency nature. And they put a trap on the phone. Now, a trap is not like a wiretap at that point. A trap just says what number is calling that number. It just gives the -- in fact, back then it would be the seven-digit number. Not the full -- you didn't have to dial ten digits. And I had them do that.
Q. It's hard to believe things have changed that much in 20 years, isn't it?
A. Twenty-one.
Q. So, you also checked out the immediate family, did you not?
A. Yes.
Q. Okay. And an officer went out to talk to Diana's ex-husband, correct?
A. Correct.
Q. Okay. And did anything suspicious arise from that communication?
A. No. We almost -- we checked all of that, but there was not a custody battle. I mean, I got the call as a kidnapping. I was hoping -- I hoped this is just a
mom and dad fighting over the kid and the dad has the child. When $I$ got there and spoke to him and learned that the relationship was -- amicable as a separation or divorce could get and that the father regularly got custody of Angelo and there was no reason for him -MR. CORNELIUS: Object as not being responsive.

THE COURT: That's sustained.
Q. (By Ms. Tise) Okay. Anything about the relationship between Diana and her ex-husband, who is Angelo's -- who had raised Angelo that caused you any suspicion?
A. None.
Q. And, in fact, when officers went out to check on him, he was at home in bed?
A. He was, yes.

MR. CORNELIUS: Objection unless he knows of his own personal knowledge. It sounds like it calls for hearsay to me.

THE COURT: I will let him answer if he knows of his own personal knowledge.

THE WITNESS: I can't answer it, Your Honor.
Q. (By Ms. Tise) So, but that was checked out?
A. Yes, it was.
Q. And there was nothing that raised any red flags there?
A. Correct.
Q. Sergeant Elliott, based on your years of experience, your training, when you got out to that scene that night and you heard what all had happened, what did you think was going on?
A. I thought they took Angelo to bring pressure on the mother and dad, mother and Arturo.
Q. And did you think that was a drug-related situation?
A. Yes.
Q. Okay. And in talking to people in the neighborhood, did you have reason to believe that drugs had been sold at the apartment?
A. A couple of them, yes.
Q. Okay. And in your experience this kind of kidnapping can arise out of a drug retaliation type of situation, can it not?
A. Correct.
Q. Because of that, did you talk to Diana and Arturo about your thoughts on that?
A. Yes.
Q. And initially did they tell you that they had been selling drugs?
A. No, they did not.
Q. Okay. So, where did you go from there?
A. We --

MR. CORNELIUS: Can we approach the bench, Judge, just for a quick second?

THE COURT: Yes.
(At the Bench, on the record)
MR. CORNELIUS: I don't want to be insensitive to the jury, but if we're done with the picture of the child, there's no reason for it to be up there.

THE COURT: Unless there is some reason,
let's take it down. Is that it? Okay. Thank you.
(Open court, defendant and jury present)
THE COURT: You may proceed, Ms. Tise.
MS. TISE: Thank you, Judge.
Q. (By Ms. Tise) So, you have your suspicions --
A. Yes.
Q. -- about what had happened at that apartment?
A. Yes.
Q. Some sort of drug retaliation type of situation, correct?
A. Yes.
Q. So, did you do a search of the apartment for drugs?
A. Yes.
Q. And did you find any?
A. No.
Q. Did you find any large sums of money?
A. No.
Q. Okay. And, in fact, was a drug dog brought to the location and run on the apartment?
A. It was.
Q. And did the drug dog hit on anything indicating the presence of drugs in the apartment?
A. It did not.
Q. At that point in time, what happened with your investigation?
A. Well, I sent Diana and Arturo -- they ultimately wound up down at Homicide to be interviewed further.
Q. Okay. Before you did that, did you send Diana to get a rape kit done?
A. Yes. Officer Bredemeyer -- I had him transport her to the hospital to St. Joseph's for a sexual assault kit.
Q. Okay. And that happened, right?
A. Yes. And once that was completed, she was transported to the Homicide Division.
Q. And that was for the purpose of getting
detailed statements from her and Arturo?
A. Correct. We wanted to remove them from the scene, sit them down, get them in a comfortable -- more comfortable situation and where we had all the equipment to take proper statements.
Q. Did you yourself participate in that process?
A. No.
Q. Tell the jury why not.
A. I was at the scene processing the scene. I did not speak Spanish, which Arturo did. And that was, as I mentioned earlier, a follow-up on a who-done-it crime. And dayshift investigators were being called in to handle that.
Q. Okay. So, all of the investigation that took place in the daytime hours was done by other investigators?
A. Correct.
Q. And, basically, when the morning light came, you were off the case; is that right?
A. Well, I spent the day typing. I had to type enough up to pass on to them and talk to them. And what I couldn't type, brief them on, but my job was done pretty much to that point.
Q. Okay. As far as a follow-up investigation?
A. Correct.
Q. Okay. I want you to fast-forward with me to November 5th and ask you about how this case came back to be something that you were a direct part of.
A. November 5th, we were notified that Angelo

Garcia's body was found in Baytown by a crabber. And Baytown P.D. had investigated the body recovery. I went to the autopsy, viewed the body, and then went out to the scene of the recovery.
Q. And that scene, can you tell the jury a little bit about it?
A. The recovery scene was -- the address was 1200 Missouri in Baytown, which is still in Harris County. It's out off the East Freeway. It's an ugly scene. It was a -- one of the water basins, salt water lakes around Baytown of the ship channel. The reason the body was found is that a cold front had blown in the night before and as the north wind tends to do, it pushed the water out of the bays and dropped the level lower than normal and a local resident of Baytown, a man named Curb was out crabbing and found the body laying what would normally be underwater, but because of the low tide and the wind was laying, you know, out on the mud flat in a marshy, debris-strewn, desolated, isolated area with ugly -- you can see the ship channel factories in the background a mile or two away. Just, you know, a very
lonely, isolated place.
Q. When y'all were out at that scene, who were the primary officers responsible for it?
A. Well, like I said, Baytown did the recovery. Officer -- I think the detective was Wood with Baytown P.D. They did their death investigation and recovery because they just had a body. They didn't tie him to -it was an unidentified, skeletal -- not skeletal, but damaged little boy.
Q. And it was apparent it was the body of a child, was it not?
A. Oh, very much so; 3-foot-6. Not very big.
Q. And ultimately confirmation was made, was it not, who that little boy was?
A. When I went to the morgue, got official confirmation; but the clothing, physical size, characteristics, it was in my mind I knew who it was. And we got dental records and later confirmed the I.D., but there was no doubt in my mind that it was Angelo Garcia's body.
Q. And is it fair to say that everything matched right down to the little Batman shorts?
A. Yes.
Q. That location there, that little park, are there some major roadways in the area?
A. You can see 146 in the background, the bridge going across. And like I said, Missouri Street. And there's some apartment complex there. You can walk down to -- it's almost like this park area or something. Like I said, people go down there crabbing, unfortunately. I mean...
Q. And can you basically just drive right down to the water's edge?
A. You can get real close to it, yes.
Q. Okay. Now, you took some photos out there, correct?
A. Polaroids. So long ago, yes.
Q. Okay. And you said you also went to the morgue?
A. Yes.
Q. Were you present when Diana was told about this?
A. No.
Q. Okay. If you were going from Diana and Arturo's apartment out to this location, what roadway would be the most direct route?
A. From Diana's, probably out 225 , State Highway 225 through Pasadena to 146 that goes over to Baytown.
Q. And then that would be the most direct route, wouldn't it?
A. Correct.
Q. And is that entire route in Harris County,

Texas?
A. Well within Harris County, Texas, yes.
Q. It's not even close to the boundaries?
A. All of State Highway 225 is in Harris County, Texas.
Q. Okay. And 146 , right out to that site in Baytown where the body was found, is also well within Harris County, is it not?
A. Yes, it is.
Q. You know, back in September when this case happened and you were the original detective on that case at the scene, had Homicide honed in on a suspect or a person of interest?
A. In September, no.
Q. Okay. Do you recall shortly afterward, after learning of the direct connections of the family, an individual by the name of Obel Cruz-Garcia as the primary suspect?
A. Chico, yes.
Q. And that happened pretty quickly, did it not?
A. Yes, it did.
Q. Other people were being looked at, lots of leads were being followed, correct?
A. If a name came up, we were checking it. We weren't going to leave anything -- you know, we were looking for a -- hopefully we were going to recover Angelo Garcia being held somewhere, was our hope. It didn't happen.

MS. TISE: May I approach, Judge? THE COURT: Yes.
Q. (By Ms. Tise) I'm going to show you what's been marked as State's Exhibit 8. It's a calendar, a 1992 calendar. It sets out some of the relevant dates. Do you think it would be helpful to the jury to have this to assist them as far as dates that things were happening back at that time?
A. Yes, it would because is it starts on the last day of September and runs through the first part of October.

MS. TISE: Judge, at this time, I will offer State's Exhibit 8.
(State's Exhibit No. 8 Offered)
THE COURT: What says the defense?

MR. CORNELIUS: I'll have an objection,
Judge. Hearsay and relevance.

THE COURT: That will be admitted. State's Exhibit No. 8 is admitted over objection.

Ms. Tise, do you have significant more
questions of this witness? I'm not trying to rush you. (State's Exhibit No. 8 Admitted)

MS. TISE: This is just about it, Judge.

THE COURT: All right. We're going to
break following your questioning before cross-examination, Mr. Cornelius. Okay?

You may proceed.
Q. (By Ms. Tise) In taking a look at State's Exhibit 8, back in 1992, September 30th would have been on a?
A. Wednesday night. I got it Thursday morning, like $I$ said, at 12:35 a.m.
Q. Basically, a school night, correct?
A. Correct.
Q. A weeknight?
A. Regular weeknight.

MS. TISE: I'll pass this witness.
THE COURT: Okay. We're going to take your lunch break at this time, ladies and gentlemen of the jury.

I want to remind you that you should not talk amongst yourselves or with anyone else on any subject connected with the trial or to form or express any opinion thereon until the end of the trial.

We'll reassume in approximately one hour.

Will the lawyers be back by 1:30?

You may go with the bailiff.

THE BAILIFF: All rise.
(Lunch recess)
(Open court, defendant present, no jury)

THE COURT: We're back on the record in

Cause No. 1384794 , The State of Texas vs. Obel

Cruz-Garcia. And present is Mr. Cruz-Garcia at the table with his lawyers, Skip Cornelius and Mario Madrid. Natalie Tise and Justin Wood are here for the prosecution.

Are we ready bring the jury in?

MR. CORNELIUS: Yes, Your Honor.

MS. TISE: The State's ready.

THE COURT: We'll proceed with the same witness, Sergeant Carlos Elliott.

All right. Bring in the jury.
(Open court, defendant and jury present)

THE COURT: Please be seated.

We're ready to resume with the testimony of Sergeant Carlos Elliott.

And did the State pass this witness?

MS. TISE: I did, Judge.

THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Cornelius, you may proceed.

MR. CORNELIUS: Thank you, Judge.

CROSS-EXAMINATION

BY MR. CORNELIUS:
Q. Sergeant Elliott, we've met before, correct?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. All right. But we've never talked about this case, right?
A. No, sir.
Q. I'm taking it that the point you're making with the jury is that -- or one of the points is that you had your doubts about whether these two complainants were being truthful with you?
A. Correct.
Q. And I'm sure that you told them that your main focus was to get their -- or the lady's child back, correct?
A. Correct.
Q. And I'm sure you tried to impress on her how important it was for her to tell you the truth, to give you all the information that both of them could give you to help you try to get the child back, correct?
A. Correct.
Q. And at the end of that particular day, though, what was the description that you had of the alleged two assailants?
A. Two dark-complected individuals speaking a language that was not geographically Mexican Spanish type language.
Q. Okay. In looking through your report, it looks to me that you've written several times in the report that the description was two black males. Is that not correct, two black males? I don't know if your report is numbered like mine, but on Page 2.007, that's where your report starts. That's the number at least on mine. I know they come out of the computer sometimes differently.
A. Are you talking about the report generated by me?
Q. Yes, sir.
A. Okay.
Q. It says "introduction" and you introduce yourself in the report.
A. Oh, you're talking at the very first?
Q. Yeah. I was going start at the first.
A. It starts on 07, right. I thought you meant the...
Q. And if you will look --
A. I see. That's the general initial information that's labeled introduction.
Q. Uh-huh.
A. And that's the information, basically, that $I$ had.
Q. Yeah.
A. And what's relayed over the phone and the initial comments and -- it's -- our computers -- you know, everyone is classified into certain categories whether they fit neatly into that category or not. They say black males because going out in a patrol unit shortly driving down the street is looking for people. And at a distance, they are looking for white or black, basically, is the first generalization. And then once you get closer, it's a white, Hispanic, could it be Asian, or whatever. You know, you're looking for the visual clues to then further funnel it down to different. So, the general introduction was a black male. That's what patrol put out because that was the initial general description.
Q. So, are you saying that there was only two kinds of general description, either black or white?
A. No. I'm saying that's what was furnished to me.
Q. Okay. And you -- can you direct me in the report where you've written down that it was two dark-skinned people or however you described it awhile ago?
A. They described them as black, but it -- it's almost a cultural thing, Mr. Cornelius.
Q. Well, I will come to that in a minute. Did they describe them as black males or dark-skinned males?
A. In their limited language, I understood them to be black Hispanic.
Q. Why didn't you write that down?
A. That's -- at the time, we didn't have a black Hispanic race to define in 1992. We wrote the description of black males, is what they discovered speaking Spanish.
Q. These people were both Hispanic, right, the two people, the two alleged victims?
A. Diana and Arturo?
Q. Yeah.
A. Yes.
Q. You don't know they knew Hispanics from black male?
A. To a Hispanic person from Mexico, a Hispanic -that $I$ know to be Hispanics from Texas, we all speak different languages. And a Spanish person from Mexico might use words or not know how to describe a black from Columbia who is Hispanic in my mind as Hispanic, or from the islands. They could be Hispanic -- I mean they call them black, but they mean an entirely different word for
black than what you and $I$ mean as two Anglos sitting here talking about it.
Q. Okay. Are you through with that?
A. Sure.
Q. Okay. Let me get more specific with my question. You're trying to put in a police report a description, right?
A. Yes.
Q. And this is a police report that's going to be relied on by not only yourself but any other officer that works on this case, correct?
A. Yes.
Q. Okay. And it will be relied on by, perhaps, the district attorney's office, maybe the defense bar. Whoever else ever reads your report is going to rely on it and believe you have put down the best description you've gotten, correct?
A. The description $I$ wrote in 1992, the initial description was a black male.
Q. Okay.
A. It quickly becomes apparent they mean black Hispanics.
Q. Why didn't you write that down?
A. Number one, the initial description $I$ had was what they said. I can't change what they said,

Counselor.
Q. Have you read the rest of the report, the other parts of this report, the other interviews that they gave to other sergeants?
A. Not all of them, no, sir. It does me no good to read what one witness tells another sergeant.
Q. Well, would it do you any good to see if the witness you interviewed tells the same story to the next sergeant that interviews them?
A. I talked to the sergeants and talked to -- the story was consistent. The story never changed. They lied about being dope dealers, yes, initially to me. I don't have a doubt in my mind. I knew that walking in and told them they were lying. I understood that though. They were scared for Angelo. They didn't want to cause any harm to their baby.

MR. CORNELIUS: I object to being nonresponsive.

THE COURT: That will be sustained.

Just answer the question, sir.

THE WITNESS: Yes.
Q. (By Mr. Cornelius) Did you read in any other report where they described --

MS. TISE: Object to any reference to something in another part of the report that wasn't
completed by this officer. It's hearsay.
THE COURT: Okay. Hearsay is sustained, but I'll let you finish your question. What was your question?
Q. (By Mr. Cornelius) Did you read any other report where these same two witnesses that you talked to described their attackers as being anything other than two black males?

THE COURT: That will be sustained as hearsay.
Q. (By Mr. Cornelius) Will you agree with me that whatever they've said has been documented in this report, right?
A. Correct.
Q. And if you thought they meant they were black Hispanics, you could have written that in your report, right?
A. At the initial time $I$ knew what $I$ was looking for. I knew we would have to have something in those initial hours --

MR. CORNELIUS: Objection. Nonresponsive, Your Honor.

THE COURT: I'll give him a little leeway here. You've asked an open question. So, why don't you rephrase your question and we'll try to hold him to just
answering that question.
Q. (By Mr. Cornelius) Did you ever write in your report anything that indicated that the two alleged victims were saying their assailants were black Hispanics?
A. Under speech description, a foreign accent.
Q. Okay. Did you ever write that they were black Hispanics, ever in any report you wrote?
A. No.
Q. Okay. So, at the end of your initial work on this case, what was recorded -- you said you spent the next day typing the report?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. What was recorded for description, a physical description were two black males, right?
A. With foreign accents, yes.
Q. Okay. I know you want --

MR. CORNELIUS: Objection. Nonresponsive, Judge. I asked him for a specific physical description, not how they spoke. So, I object to him adding that. MS. TISE: I'm going to object to speaking objections. THE COURT: Why don't you both approach the bench.
(At the Bench, on the record)

THE COURT: I don't know if that was part of his description or not. If it's nonresponsive, just object as nonresponsive. I don't want speaking objections from either side. And I don't have the stuff -- $I$ don't have his report in front me to be able to see how he described them. So, I don't know.

MR. CORNELIUS: What I'm saying is physical
description doesn't have anything to do with how somebody talks. No. I asked -- read it back. I asked specifically what the physical description was. Physical. And he added the way they talked. And so, I objected to it as being nonresponsive.

THE COURT: Well, $I$ don't know if that was part of his physical description, a one-line description, but it's close enough. And so, let's just move on from this area. I think you've made your point.
(Open court, defendant and jury present)
Q. (By Mr. Cornelius) Can you show me in your report where you recorded anything about the language, the accent?
A. She stated the suspects used English, but spoke with an unknown foreign accent. That's one place in my narrative.
Q. Can you tell me where that is, please?
A. In my narrative. Oh, that's the patrol
narrative. Excuse me. The initial narrative. Other than on the suspect screen itself under speech --

MR. CORNELIUS: That's nonresponsive.
Q. (By Mr. Cornelius) I'm asking about what you wrote.
A. I entered the suspect screen, Counselor.
Q. Okay. Where is that in the report?
A. Under "suspects."
Q. Do you have a page number?
A. Suspect screen. It should be about the second or third page in the report.
Q. Does it have a page number?
A. $\quad 2.004$.
Q. Are you saying, Sergeant, that you filled in the scriptors before Devereaux and Carpenter ever made the scene?
A. Negative, but they do the report. I go in and -- the initial report is made, their supplement was put in as the original at that time, and then we come back and put our information in there.
Q. When?
A. When I start typing the next morning. And I can go in and modify it or whatever. And I make sure the suspect information is put into the suspect screens.
Q. Okay. Well, did you look at Devereaux and

Carpenter's report?
A. Yes.
Q. Okay. And didn't they say the people spoke English?
A. With a foreign accent. That's the part I read that's in their report.
Q. Okay. So, you're not saying they spoke spanish with a foreign accent. They spoke English with a foreign accent. And that's based on what Devereaux and Carpenter wrote?
A. I was just saying they spoke with a foreign accent. And $I$ have to interpret that by what the witnesses told me. A foreign accent to Diana Garcia, a Mexican-American heritage, Spanish-speaking woman.
Q. And you interviewed her in English, right?
A. Briefly, yes. She was -- she had just been sexually assaulted and her child kidnapped. She was very emotional.

MR. CORNELIUS: Objection.

THE COURT: That will be sustained.
Q. (By Mr. Cornelius) Okay. All right. Did you get a description of these masks that these men supposedly wore?
A. No, I did not. I don't recall.
Q. Not even a color?
A. Off the top of my head, I think it was dark-colored, but $I$ don't recall 21 years later.
Q. Okay. But you have a report, right? I mean, did you put in the report what you were told? MS. TISE: I will object because it calls for hearsay.

THE COURT: That's going to be overruled.
Q. (By Mr. Cornelius) Anything in your report about the color of the mask?
A. No. I sent Diana to the hospital with the patrol unit to have a sexual assault kit. I sent Arturo downtown to be interviewed by a Spanish-speaking officer. I got preliminary information at the scene. I knew they weren't being truthful. I sent them to be interviewed in detail downtown.
Q. Okay. After you did all of that, did you go back and put in your report anything about the description of the masks or their clothing?
A. No.
Q. Okay. So, again, the only physical description we have of the two assailants is two black males; that's it, right? No clothing, no height, no weight? MS. TISE: Objection. That's a compound question. MR. CORNELIUS: I will ask them one at a
time.

THE COURT: Rephrase it.
Q. (By Mr. Cornelius) Did you get any clothing?
A. No.
Q. Height?
A. No.
Q. Weight?
A. No.
Q. Age?
A. No. Just speech.
Q. Okay. Did you make an attempt to determine if either of the people that were allegedly robbed or sexually assaulted were employed?
A. They were not.
Q. Okay. Did that factor in your thinking about this may have been involving drugs for some reason or another?
A. Yes.
Q. Did you interview the neighbors -- without telling what they said, did you interview neighbors?
A. Yes, some of them.
Q. Did that factor into your belief that this involved drugs?
A. It was an accumulation, yes.
Q. And $I$ noticed that you put in the report that
you found it unusual that both of them were wearing gold necklaces. And I mean Diana and Arturo. It's on Page $2.0--i t^{\prime} s$ right in the middle.
A. Yes.
Q. And you described Arturo's necklace as being a rope chain, nugget cross, right?
A. Yes.
Q. And Diana, two small necklaces with a cross and medallion?
A. Yes.
Q. And you've listed the other things in your report that were not stolen, right?
A. Yes. Like TV and VHS, VCR, or whatever it was.
Q. Yeah.
A. Yes.
Q. What about the pistol? That obviously wasn't stolen either because there was a picture of it, correct?
A. Correct.
Q. I don't know if you can see that far. Is that a - -

MR. CORNELIUS: Can I approach the witness, Judge?

THE COURT: Yes.
Q. (By Mr. Cornelius) Is that a nickel-plated . 25
automatic?
A. Oh, no. I wouldn't call it nickel. That's
a --
Q. Stainless steel?
A. No. It's a Saturday night special. It's a chrome, is what $I$ would describe it.
Q. Chrome. A chrome-plated . 25 automatic?
A. I think so, yes, sir.
Q. And it was where? In a drawer?
A. Yes.
Q. And I think you testified on direct it looked like whoever ransacked that place was looking for something?
A. Correct.

MR. CORNELIUS: We pass the witness at this time, Judge.

THE COURT: What says the State?
MS. TISE: A few follow-up questions.
THE COURT: Very good. Please proceed.

## REDIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MS. TISE:
Q. Sergeant Elliott, you said from the get-go you don't do any of the follow-up investigation in the case?
A. Correct.
Q. You did not go down to the station and
interview Diana and Arturo in detail?
A. No.
Q. You did not participate in any of the follow-up interviews of any of the individuals who were questioned?
A. No.
Q. You didn't even really know who ultimately they had talked to until reviewing this report at a later date?
A. Correct.
Q. Because you weren't -- I'm sure you had other cases?
A. I caught one a couple of nights later actually, yes.
Q. So, as far as -- before taking Diana to the hospital to do a rape kit and before trying to get the posse out to try to find this little boy, did you have time to sit down and talk to Diana and have her spell out a detailed description of these suspects?
A. No.
Q. Okay. You're trying to get something basic out there to get things rolling?
A. I wanted -- I was looking for something that I could give to the patrol units to look for.
Q. Right.
A. The description of the little boy, a general description of what they could look for, suspects driving down the street, etcetera. Just something generally to put out to locate the child. Nothing to do with a follow-up identification on the suspects.
Q. And it seems to me from the entire report of this incident that it was fairly clear to you officers what Diana was referring to when she mentioned that the individuals had dark skin or were black and a foreign accent?
A. Yes.
Q. Okay. Now, you as a police officer who worked with all kinds of communities in the city of Houston, black, Hispanics, Asian, white communities, you know what that means, don't you?
A. Yes.
Q. And $I$ want to talk to the jury -- you tried to explain it a little earlier, but I'd like to give you the opportunity to explain it for the people on the jury because not everyone is familiar with that cultural description.

So, can you tell us when a Hispanic
individual describes someone who is black, are they -is your mind automatically going to an African-American person?

MR. CORNELIUS: Object to the form of the question, Judge. That's just an opinion on his part and not related to these facts.

THE COURT: Go ahead.

MS. TISE: Okay.

THE COURT: No. I'm saying, do you have a response?

MS. TISE: I think it's invited by counsel's questions and I'd like to explore this a little bit.

MR. CORNELIUS: Can I respond, Judge?
THE COURT: Go ahead, briefly.

MR. CORNELIUS: My questions were all specific to this case, not what he generally thinks about other people or how people think and things like that, but specifically what was done in this case, is what $I$ was asking.

THE COURT: I think it calls for speculation on the part of this officer. If you want to develop a little bit more of his experience, $I$ will let you do that, Ms. Tise.

MS. TISE: I'd like to do that, Judge.

Thank you.
Q. (By Ms. Tise) In your experience, when an individual in the black community uses the word "black,"
does that necessarily mean an individual who is African-American?
A. In the black community or --
Q. In the Hispanic community?
A. In the Hispanic community, no.
Q. Okay. And in your experience, having worked cases in the Hispanics community, what does that term include?
A. People from Columbia have a large group of visually black people. People from the Islands, the Caribbean speak Spanish, they speak French, they speak Creole, but they look black at a distance. And it's as different language-wise as my southern drawl is to a Vermonter in upstate Vermont speaking Yankee to me as when a Spanish person from Mexico hears a whole foreign language from someone who's from Dominica, Cuba, Columbia, etcetera.

And the people look different to them. Culturally, a Hispanic person covers, to me -- I mean, really, they speak a language, but it's just like there's many forms of spanish as there are many forms of English.
Q. In your mind when you left that scene that night, were you thinking that you were looking for two African-American suspects or two dark-complected

Hispanic individuals from another country like Dominica or Puerto Rico?
A. I thought $I$ was looking for a Caribbean Islander, black Hispanic, or Colombian of that nature Hispanic black.
Q. And when you were talking to Diana and getting description at the scene that night, were you nailing it down as to: And this person number one looked like this, and person number two looked like that, and person number one was wearing this, and person --
A. I could not do that at the scene. She had just been sexually assaulted. The violation that went on with that, plus the fact that her 7-year-old child was taken, I needed to remove her from the scene and send her to the hospital and then have her interviewed in a place removed from where the incident occurred, which was the office. And $I$ had someone else do that.
Q. So, when you talk about descriptions of the individuals out there, you're talking very general?
A. Correct.
Q. You are not even necessarily saying person one was dark-complected and person two was also dark-complected, are you?
A. No.
Q. Because you didn't get down to that kind of
nuts and bolts with her?
A. Correct.
Q. Do you even know if Diana got a good look at both of those individuals?
A. I understood she did not get a good look. That was something else. She hadn't seen them very well to relay to me. I know sometimes when you get calmed down, you can give a better description, but at that point, she was so upset that $I$ couldn't get anything from her there at the scene. And I didn't try.
Q. Okay. And that's understandable. I mean, are you -- do you know as you sit here today whether she got a good look at both of those people or one of them or did you even get down to that with her?
A. I knew she got a look at one of them in a mask and never saw the other one.
Q. Okay. And that was basically based on her statements to you from the get-go, right?
A. Correct.
Q. There were some things taken from their apartment, were there not?
A. Yes.
Q. And, specifically, do you remember what those things were?
A. A wallet with cash and a necklace or a bracelet
worth about -- a gold bracelet worth about four grand.
Q. Okay. And you were asked on cross-examination about your opinion about whether the complainants were telling you the truth as a blanket, general statement. I want to ask you if you felt like that was about something specific or about everything that they said?
A. Other than the reason why this occurred, they were truthful about everything. All the physical evidence, all the statements, and the motions matched everything that $I$ saw there at the scene, expect they weren't admitting they had some dope dealings. And I knew that already, so that wasn't that big of a deal with me. The jewelry that was there seemed to indicate that even, the religious stuff that was left was significant because a lot of times, you know, it's bad karma or bad juju or bad vibes to steal religious stuff. So, they leave the religious stuff alone. I understood all of that.
Q. And you have had a lot of experience with this type of crime?
A. Yes.

MS. TISE: I pass the witness.
THE COURT: Mr. Cornelius, do you have anything further?

MR. CORNELIUS: Not at this time, Judge,
but $I$ will need to have the witness on-call.
THE COURT: Subject to recall.

Is this witness then excused subject to
recall?

MS. TISE: Yes, Judge.

THE COURT: Okay. You may step down, subject to recall.

Call your next, please.

MS. TISE: The State would call Diana Garcia.

THE BAILIFF: The witness has not been sworn, Judge.

THE COURT: Please step right over here.
(Witness sworn)

THE COURT: Ms. Garcia, please keep your voice up and speak into the microphone.

THE WITNESS: Yes, ma'am.

THE COURT: You may proceed, Ms. Tise. MS. TISE: Thank you, Judge. DIANA GARCIA, having been first duly sworn, testified as follows: DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MS. TISE:
Q. Good afternoon.
A. Good afternoon.
Q. Ma'am, will you please introduce yourself to the ladies and gentlemen of the jury?
A. My name is Diana Garcia.
Q. And, Ms. Garcia, how old are you?
A. Sixty.
Q. Okay. And are you married?
A. I have a common-law husband.
Q. Okay. And what's your common-law husband's name?
A. Jose Arturo Rodriguez.
Q. Okay. And we call him Arturo. Is that okay?
A. Yes.
Q. Is that what you call him?
A. Yes.
Q. And you and Arturo are still together, are you not?
A. Yes.
Q. And $I$ want to talk to you a little bit about how y'all got to know each other. Okay?
A. Okay.
Q. Are you nervous?
A. Yes.
Q. Okay. We have talked many times, you and I, to get ready for this case, have we not?
A. Yes.
Q. Okay. And we have talked about the importance of you coming here and just telling your story, correct?
A. Yes.
Q. And we have talked about the fact that some of the things in your background are things that you are not proud of?
A. That's true.
Q. Do you remember what $I$ told you about those things?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. What did I tell you?
A. Well, I have made some mistakes. If I could correct them, $I$ would, but it's too late now.
Q. So, you are here to tell the truth?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. And you are here to talk about your mistakes, correct?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. And this jury will decide what they think and what they believe. Okay?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. I want to talk to you about how you and Arturo met and what was going on in your life at that time. First of all, when did you first get married to your first husband?
A. April 13th, 1970 .
Q. And how old were you then?
A. Sixteen going on seventeen.
Q. Okay. And where did y'all get married?
A. In Rosenberg.
Q. And what was his name?
A. Angelo Garcia, Jr. -- Angelo Garcia, Sr.
Q. Okay. Angelo Garcia, Sr. and you stayed married for quite some time, did you not?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. Where did y'all live mostly?
A. In Stafford.
Q. Okay. And you and he had some children, did you not?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. Can you tell me the names of your children?
A. My daughter's name is Rosalinda Garcia.
Q. Okay.
A. My second son is James Garcia.
Q. Okay.
A. And my third son is Angelo Garcia, Jr.
Q. Okay. And how old are your children, your older children?
A. Rosie is 40, James is 38, Angelo would have been 27 .
Q. Okay. And Rosie is here with you today, is she not?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. She's here in the courtroom?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. And your son, where is he?
A. He is working.
Q. Okay. And you had quite a gap there. You had some kids and then you had a surprise, didn't you?
A. Thirteen years.
Q. Thirteen years difference?

THE COURT: Hang on just a second. Let's take a break. I'm getting some water for you, ma'am. Sorry. I want to make sure they can pay attention. One second. Do you need a break?

JUROR: I'm fine. If you can give me a minute.

THE COURT: We'll get you some water, too.
All right? It's on the way. Proceed, Ms. Tise.
Q. (By Ms. Tise) So, your two older children and then later on Angelo came along?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. Okay. At some point in time did you have a relationship with someone else besides your husband

Angelo, Sr.?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. And is that the person that we have been talking about, Arturo?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. All right. And after you met Arturo, what happened? I mean, what did you -- what happened to your marriage?
A. Excuse me. Could you repeat the --
Q. Sure. What happened to your marriage with Angelo, Sr.?
A. I left him to live with Arturo.
Q. Okay. Were you in love with Arturo?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. Okay. And did you ultimately move in with

Arturo?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. Okay. At that time, were your two oldest children grown?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. Okay. Who did Angelo, Jr. live with?
A. Me.
Q. So, he moved in with you and with Arturo?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. After you met Arturo, did you find out that he
did some things that were not things that you did?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. What kind of things did Arturo do that weren't
things that you were familiar with at first?
A. Sell drugs.
Q. Okay. And specifically what kind of drugs?
A. Cocaine.
Q. Okay. Had you been involved in anything with drugs prior to falling in love with Arturo?
A. No, ma'am.
Q. Okay. Had you used drugs?
A. No, ma'am.
Q. Did you even drink?
A. No, ma'am.
Q. Did Arturo tell you he used drugs or did you
find out some other way?
A. I found out some other way.
Q. How did you find out?
A. His attitude.
Q. Okay. What did you notice about his attitude?
A. He wasn't the same person.
Q. Did he use drugs in front of you?
A. No, ma'am, never.
Q. But was it something that became an issue between the two of you?
A. Could you repeat that?
Q. Was it something that became an issue because he was different when he used drugs?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. Okay. And ultimately it was something that he was upfront with you about?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. Okay. So, when you first got with Arturo, was he working?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. Were you working?
A. No, ma'am.
Q. All right. What was Arturo doing when y'all first got together?
A. He was working in a radiator shop.
Q. All right. What happened with that job?
A. He stayed with it for quite a while and then he was laid off.
Q. All right. After being laid off, did y'all have some trouble with money?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. At what point after you were married did he start selling drugs? Or after you -- you said he was your common-law husband. So, you weren't ever technically formally married?
A. No.
Q. But you are still with him today?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. At what point after your relationship began and you moved in with Arturo did you find out about the drug dealing?
A. Quite a while.
Q. Okay. And at first, what did you think?
A. I didn't like the idea.
Q. Okay. But, eventually, you started helping him, didn't you?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. Okay. And how would you help him?
A. Selling it.
Q. All right. And was this out on the street or from your apartment?
A. From my apartment.
Q. How long did that go on?
A. Not too long.
Q. All right. Do you know where Arturo got his drugs?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. And how do you know?
A. He told me.
Q. All right. And did you ever see anyone bring
drugs to him or come to your house with drugs?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. And can you tell me the name of the person who supplied Arturo with the drugs that y'all sold?
A. Chico.
Q. Okay. Chico. When you say Chico, is Chico the person that you know as Obel Cruz-Garcia?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. Was that the name that y'all called him back then?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. Okay. How old were you at this time when this was going on in '92?
A. About $30,32,34$.
Q. Where were y'all living?
A. Fairway.
Q. Okay. An apartment on Fairway?
A. Yes.
Q. Okay. Where did you live before you lived in the apartment on Fairway?
A. Winfree or -- I get them mixed up. It's either Fairway or Winfree.
Q. Okay. So, you lived in one place first. Okay?
A. And another place second.
Q. All right. And were $y^{\prime}$ all selling drugs in the
place that you lived -- the first place?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. And while y'all were selling drugs at that first place, before you moved to the second place, the second place being where Angelo was abducted, let's talk about the first place. Was it close to the second place where Angelo was abducted?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. Okay. And did something happened while y'all lived in that first place -- was it a house or an apartment?
A. Apartment.
Q. Okay. So, that first apartment that y'all lived in, you said you thought it was Winfree?
A. I can't remember.
Q. It's okay. It's okay. That first apartment where y'all were living and selling drugs, did something bad happen?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. And do you remember what that was?
A. They broke into our apartment.
Q. Do you know at this time as you sit here who broke into your apartment on Winfree --
A. No, ma'am.
Q. -- the first place?

Okay. And do you know why -- or do you have a thought as to why your apartment got broken into on Winfree?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. Why?
A. Because we were selling drugs and they thought we had a lot of money.
Q. When you got back to your apartment after the break-in, did it look like the people who broke in were looking for something?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. And did they take anything?
A. I don't remember. I'm sorry.
Q. And you reported that incident to the police, right?
A. No, ma'am.
Q. No? Okay. Why not?
A. We just didn't.
Q. Was it because of the drug dealing?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. And you knew whoever broke in was looking for drugs?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. After that happened, did y'all move to the second apartment, the one where Angelo was abducted on

Fairway?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. Okay. Did y'all move because of the burglary that happened?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. And what was happening between you and Arturo about the drug dealing? Was it something that y'all we're talking about more and more?
A. We wanted to stop --

THE REPORTER: I'm sorry?
THE WITNESS: We wanted to stop.
Q. (By Ms. Tise) All right. And was there another reason that you were concerned about the dealing on Fairway?
A. I don't think so.
Q. Do you remember a vehicle that had been parked across the street?
A. Yes, ma'am. It was parked in the stadium up ahead.
Q. Over where that football field is across the street?
A. It had been parked there for about two weeks.
Q. All right. And what were you and Arturo thinking about that vehicle?
A. We thought it was somebody that wanted to stake
us out or...
Q. Like a police stakeout of some sort?
A. Uh-huh.
Q. Did that concern $y^{\prime}$ all?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. After moving to Fairway, y'all continued to deal for a while, correct?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. Okay. But eventually you and Arturo decided to stop?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. And did y'all do that?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. At some point when you were on Fairway do you remember Chico bringing some drugs over even though you and Arturo had said you wanted to stop dealing?
A. He would stop by the house, but Arturo was the one that made the conversation with him.
Q. Okay. So, you didn't really talk to him?

Do you remember a time when Arturo made you come back and pick up some drugs that he had left with you on Fairway?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. Okay. And Arturo was mad, wasn't he?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. And Chico had brought some drugs over and left them there and $y^{\prime}$ all didn't want to sell them anymore, right?
A. Right.
Q. And Arturo called him and said: Come back and get the drugs?
A. He did.
Q. And did Chico do that?
A. I don't remember.
Q. Okay. How long did that incident happen before Angelo was kidnapped?
A. Two, three weeks.
Q. Okay. Did y'all continue to see Chico from time to time or did he come by to see Arturo?
A. I don't remember.
Q. When he would come, he was -- he was a friend, wasn't he?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. He knew Angelo, Baby Angelo, didn't he?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. Okay. And he would talk to Baby Angelo and talk to you and talk to Arturo, didn't he?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. And sometimes he would bring his wife with him, wouldn't he?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. What was her name?
A. Angelita.
Q. What kind of relationship did you and Angelita have?
A. A good one.
Q. A good one.

And was she nice to Angelo?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. And y'all would socialize together, wouldn't you?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. Sometimes y'all went out to clubs?
A. We got together to eat.
Q. Okay. During the time that you knew Chico and Angelita and you were selling the drugs for Chico, you helped them get into an apartment?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. Can you tell us how that happened?
A. He asked me if $I$ could get them an apartment, $a$ lease on an apartment. I agreed.
Q. Okay.
A. So, I did.
Q. And why did they need your help getting an apartment?
A. I didn't ask.
Q. Okay. Were they paying the rent or were you paying the rent?
A. They were paying the rent.
Q. Okay. Do you remember it being something about their credit?
A. So he claimed.
Q. So, Chico claimed?
A. Yes.
Q. Okay. So, he told you it was because they had bad credit. And so, you actually signed the lease on their apartment, didn't you?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. And do you know where that apartment was?
A. I don't know.
Q. What part of town was it?
A. It was far.
Q. Okay.
A. It was far from Houston.
Q. Okay. Far up -MS. TISE: May I approach? THE COURT: Yes.
Q. (By Ms. Tise) I'm going to show you what's been marked as State's Exhibit 42. This is the apartment lease. And you actually initialed it down here, did you
not (indicating)?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. Okay. And does that look like the Humble Tree Apartments on Golden Eagle Drive in Humble?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. Okay. And this is dated April 28th of 1992; is it not?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. Okay.

MS. TISE: At this time, I will offer

State's Exhibit 42 .
(State's Exhibit No. 42 Offered)

MR. CORNELIUS: Objection as to relevance,

Your Honor.

THE COURT: What's the relevance, Ms. Tise?

MS. TISE: Later on the apartment will
become relevant to the jury, that specific address.
THE COURT: Okay. So, are you still
objecting?
MR. CORNELIUS: Yes.

THE COURT: I will go ahead and admit it
over objection. State's Exhibit No. 42 is admitted.

You may proceed.
(State's Exhibit No. 42 Admitted)
Q. (By Ms. Tise) You helped them get into an
apartment. You thought they were your friends?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. In fact, you thought they were pretty good friends, didn't you?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. Do you know where Chico is from?
A. I didn't know at the time, but now I do.
Q. Okay. Did sometimes he come over and bring some of his friends?
A. He would come with other men, yes.
Q. Okay. And was one of those men someone by the name of Rudy?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. Okay. And who was Rudy to Chico?
A. He was related to Angelita.
Q. So, he was related to Chico's wife, Angelita?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. Okay. And did he, from what you saw of their relationship, also work for Chico?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. Okay. And did he do what Chico said?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. In fact, everybody did what Chico said, didn't they?
A. I guess, yes, ma'am.
Q. He's a pretty strong person, isn't he?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. And there were other people besides you and Arturo who worked for Chico, weren't there?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. And Rudy was one of them, right?
A. Right.
Q. What about Angelita, did you ever see her using cocaine?
A. No, ma'am.
Q. Okay. Do you know how involved she was in Chico's business?
A. No, ma'am.
Q. Okay. Do you have an opinion about whether she was involved in Chico's business? Did you ever see her do anything?
A. No. No, ma'am.
Q. I want to show you some pictures of some people. I've got to show them up there before I show them to you on the screen.

Let me show you what's marked as state's
Exhibit 83 and ask you if you recognize that person (indicating).
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. Okay. I'll show you what's been marked as

State's Exhibit No. 85 and ask you if you recognize that person (indicating)?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. I'm going to mark this as State's Exhibit 86, and ask if you recognize that person (indicating)?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. I'll show you State's Exhibit 87. Do you recognize that person (indicating)?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. And 88. Do you recognize that person (indicating) ?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. Okay. And are these photographs fair and accurate pictures of individuals that you knew back in 1992, the way they looked at that time?
A. Yes, ma'am.

MS. TISE: I'm going to offer State's 83 and 85 through 88 .
(State's Exhibit No. 83 and 85 through 88 Offered)

MR. CORNELIUS: Objection as to relevance at this time, Judge.

THE COURT: Can you put on the record who the photographs are allegedly of?

MS. TISE: These are photographs of the
defendant at the time.

THE COURT: That's 80-what?

MS. TISE: 83 is of the defendant at the time.

THE COURT: Okay. And 85 through 88?

MS. TISE: 85 is the person we're calling

Rudy at the time. 86 is Angelita at the time. 88 is Arturo at the time. And 87 is Diana at the time. THE COURT: Do you have any other objections other than relevance?

MR. CORNELIUS: No.
THE COURT: They will be admitted over your objection. State's 83, 85, 86, 87, and 88 are admitted. (State's Exhibit No. 83 and 85 through 88

## Admitted)

Q. (By Ms. Tise) If you look at the small screen there beside you, you can see the picture on the screen. Who is that picture of, State's Exhibit 83 (indicating)?
A. Chico.
Q. Okay. The person that you know as Chico?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. And is that how he looked in 1992?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. Let me show you what's been marked as State's

Exhibit 86. Who is that (indicating)?
A. Angelita.
Q. Is that the person you have been talking about as Chico's wife?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. Is that how she looked at that time?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. I'm going to show what's been marked as state's Exhibit 85, and ask you who that is (indicating)?
A. Rudy.
Q. Okay. And is that how he looked back in 1992?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. And who is this good-looking lady?
A. That's me.
Q. State's Exhibit 87. Is that how you looked around 1992 (indicating) ?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. State's Exhibit 88, who is this (indicating)?
A. Arturo.
Q. And is that how Arturo looked back then?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. Do you remember what kind of car Chico drove?
A. I'm bad on cars.
Q. Okay.
A. It was a yellow one.
Q. Okay.
A. A silver one.
Q. All right. And do you remember him having other cars that he drove as well?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. Okay. And did you go out to Chico's house in Humble or his apartment ever, or did he just come to y'all?
A. One time.
Q. Okay. One time out to his place.

And it was a pretty good ways from you out to Humble?
A. Right.
Q. Diana, were you and Arturo making a lot of money selling drugs?
A. No, ma'am.
Q. Okay. Were you able to get by with the drug dealing y'all were doing?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. And neither one of you had to work, correct?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. And Arturo was able to buy a vehicle, wasn't he?
A. Yes.
Q. When y'all stopped selling, y'all were having a
little trouble making those payments, though, weren't you?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. How did it work when Chico would bring drugs for $y^{\prime}$ all to sell? What was the arrangement?
A. I don't know. He would deal with Jose, with Arturo.
Q. Okay. And your involvement was that you would sometimes be the one to do the transaction when people would come?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. Did you know most of the people you dealt with?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. Okay. Had a group of people that were fairly regular?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. Okay. I want to talk to you about the night of September 30th, 1992. And I want you to tellus a little bit about what was going on in your household that day.
A. The neighbors had made Baby Angelo a picnic table. Baby Angelo told me his friends were making him a picnic table and he wanted to make his friends some tortillas.
Q. Okay.
A. Arturo and his brother were outside with the neighbors. Arturo told me Chico came by. I did not see him, but he told me he had come by.
Q. Okay. So, did you make the tortillas?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. Then what happened?
(Brief pause)
Q. Was it a school day that day?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. And how old was Angelo, your son?
A. He was 6 years old. He was going to be 7 in December of that year.
Q. Okay. And was he going to school?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. What grade was he in?
A. First grade.
Q. Where was he going to school?
A. Very close by. I can't remember the name of the school.
Q. So, do you remember when he came in for the evening?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. And what was going on?
A. He was very excited.
Q. About what?
A. About the picnic table --
Q. Okay.
A. -- and his friends.

And then we came inside. I was tired. I
went to bed. He followed me. He said he wanted to
sleep in the same room where we were at.
Q. Okay. Where did he usually sleep?
A. In the sofa bed.
Q. Okay. So, that night he wanted to sleep in y'all's room?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. So, what did you do?
A. I put him right next to the bed.
Q. Okay.
A. He went to sleep. He got his school clothes and his lunch bag ready for the following day.
Q. Do you remember what he was wearing when he went to sleep that night?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. What was he wearing?
A. A little outfit -- I'm sorry.

THE COURT: Do you want to take a break?
Let's take a 10-minute break. We'll be back a few minutes after 3:00.

I want to remind the jurors that you should
not talk amongst yourselves or with anyone else on any subject connected with the trial or express any opinion thereof until the end of the trial. We'll be back shortly.

THE BAILIFF: All rise for the jury. (Recess)
(Open court, defendant not present, no jury)

THE COURT: Both sides ready?

MS. TISE: Ready.

THE COURT: Bring out the defendant.

Please bring in the jury.

THE BAILIFF: All rise.
(Open court, defendant and jury present)

THE COURT: Please be seated.

We're ready to proceed with Diana Garcia's testimony.

Ms. Tise, you may proceed.
Q. (By Ms. Tise) Ms. Garcia, we were talking at the break about the clothes that Angelo Garcia, Jr. wore to bed that night.
A. He was wearing a t-shirt and some shorts, Batman shorts.
Q. Batman shorts. Did he like Batman?
A. Spiderman, Batman, Ninja Turtles, yes, ma'am.
Q. Okay. And do you remember about what time he went to bed? If you don't, that's okay.
A. No, ma'am.
Q. Okay. Do you remember about when you went to bed? Did you go to bed at the same time as Angelo or later?
A. We went to bed at the same time, me and him.
Q. Okay. And he was sleeping on that little pallet you made for him on the floor?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. Did Arturo go to bed at the same time?
A. Later, a little bit later.
Q. Okay. And when he came to bed, were you still awake?
A. No, ma'am.
Q. Do you remember at some point the TV being on in your bedroom?
A. Yes. Yes, ma'am.
Q. And that $T V$ in your bedroom, did y'all leave it on a lot when you went to sleep at night?
A. It had an alarm and you could set it at 20 minutes, 30 minutes to an hour and it would turn off by itself.
Q. And did you often set that and just let the TV go off?
A. By itself, yes, ma'am.
Q. Was that $T V$ on that night when Arturo went to bed?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. Did y'all keep any lights on in your apartment?
A. I don't remember.
Q. Okay. At some point during the night when you were sleeping, something happened. What happened?
A. A big bang came inside, like if they had hit something real hard.
Q. And where was it coming from?
A. The living room.
Q. All right. And did it sound like the door?
A. Yes.
Q. Okay. Did that wake you up?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. What happened after you heard that big bang?
A. Arturo started walking towards the living room and he started walking back.
Q. Okay. What do you mean by that?
A. He got up from the bed and walked towards the living room.
Q. Then he started walking back?
A. Backwards.
Q. Okay. So - -

MS. TISE: If I may, Judge?

THE COURT: Yes, you may.
Q. (By Ms. Tise) He was walking frontward towards the living room door?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. And then you saw him going backwards?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. Did he make it out of the living -- the door to the living room?
A. No, ma'am.
Q. Okay. And did you see why he was going backwards?
A. There was a gun pointed at him.
Q. Okay. And did you see the man holding the gun?
A. A big man.
Q. Okay. When you say "big," do you mean tall?
A. Very tall.
Q. And do you mean big also in the shoulders?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. Okay. At that point in time, was he the only man that you saw other than Arturo?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. Okay. This big man, you said, had a gun. Do you remember anything about the gun?
A. To me it was just a gun.
Q. A handgun?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. And do you remember what the man was wearing?
A. He was wearing a long-sleeved shirt. I could see the color of his skin because he had long arms.
Q. Okay. Some of his skin was showing from his
shirt?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. Okay. And --
A. He was wearing a mask.
Q. What kind of mask?
A. Just his eyes and his mouth were showing.
Q. Okay. Do you know what a ski mask is? Have you heard of ski mask?
A. The one that covers your face?
Q. Uh-huh.
A. Yes.
Q. Is that the kind of mask it was?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. So, you could see his eyes, right? And you could see this area (indicating)?
A. Yes, his lips.
Q. And you could see the skin on his arms?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. Was the man talking?
A. He would talk, but I couldn't understand what he would say.
Q. Why not?
A. He had a very different accent. He didn't speak Spanish right and he didn't speak English right.
Q. Okay. Or at least the way you were used to?
A. No. I couldn't understand him.
Q. Okay. Would you say he had an accent?
A. Yes.
Q. And how would you have described -- or how would you describe that man's skin color? What color was it to you?
A. Dark.
Q. Okay.
A. Black.
Q. Okay. When the man put the gun in front of Arturo and Arturo backed up, what happened next?
A. He started beating Arturo. I was sitting on the bed. He told me to turn over.
Q. Okay. This tall man?
A. Yes. Face down.
Q. Okay. And where -- at what point did he tell
you to turn over? How close did he get to you?
A. The edge of the bed.
Q. Right up to the edge of the bed?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. And were you sitting up?
A. I was sitting on the bed and he told me to lay down back on the bed face down.
Q. And did you do that?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. Then what happened?
A. Somebody tied me up.
Q. And do you know who did that?
A. No. I was face down.
Q. Okay. At some point did another man come into the room?
A. Yes.
Q. Okay. And at what point was that? Was it before you were face down or after?
A. After.
Q. Before you were face down, did you have an opportunity, before the man came into the room, to see something?
A. I saw the man that was hitting and beating up Arturo, I saw his eyes, his lips, and the color of his skin. And I --
Q. Okay.
A. -- and I kept on -- I kept on talking to him and asking him and he wouldn't answer. If he would
answer, $I$ wouldn't know what he was saying. He wouldn't
speak either language --
Q. Okay.
A. -- clearly.
Q. But you understood him when he told you to turn over?
A. Yes.
Q. Okay. And you said that he was beating Arturo?
A. Very bad.
Q. And that was happening before and after you turned over face down on the bed?
A. Yes.
Q. Okay. So, before you laid down face down on the bed, where was Arturo when he was being beaten?
A. He was kneeled down with his head on the bed and they were beating him up.
Q. So, he was down on his knees and he had his head on the bed?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. Okay. Like this (indicating)?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. Okay. And where were you?
A. On the bed sitting down.
Q. Okay.
A. Then he told me to lay down on the bed --
Q. Okay.
A. -- face down. All I could hear was when they were beating him up. And then $I$ heard Baby Angelo.
Q. What did you hear Baby Angelo say?
A. He said: Mommy.
Q. Was he crying?
A. He was calling out for me.
Q. Do you remember someone tying up Arturo?
A. I could only hear when they were beating him up because $I$ was already face down.
Q. Okay. And do you know what they were beating him with?
A. No, ma'am.
Q. Okay. Could you hear the sounds of them hitting him?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. Did it sound like they were hitting him with something harder than a fist?
A. Very hard.
Q. Okay. And what was Arturo saying?
A. He would just take it. He took it. He would be like, "Oh." They were hurting him bad.
Q. Okay. And we're saying "they," at some point a second person came in the room.
A. A second person came in the room.
Q. And before you turned over, you saw something in the doorway?
A. A gun.
Q. Okay. So, the first person was by the side of the bed, the tall person?
A. He had a gun.
Q. And he was hitting Arturo?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. And before you were told to turn over, you saw a gun?
A. I saw another person with a gun towards the bedroom.
Q. Okay. And that person was in the doorway?
A. In the doorway.
Q. Could you see their full size?
A. No, ma'am. I couldn't see who the person was.
Q. Could you see what they were wearing?
A. No, ma'am.
Q. Could you see whether they had a mask on?
A. No, ma'am.
Q. But you did see a second gun and another man in the doorway?
A. I saw a second gun and a second hand with a gun.
Q. And at that point you were told to turn over.

After you turned over, did the tall man continue to beat Arturo?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. What did the second man do?
A. He was the one that tied me up.
Q. Okay. And you know this -- how do you know
that it was the second man?
A. Because the first one was hitting Arturo.
Q. Okay. And you knew that was continuing on?
A. I could hear it.
Q. Okay. What did the second man tie you up with?
A. I can't remember, but he tied me up and it wasn't very tight.
Q. So, you could move your hands?
A. I could move. He was touching me.
Q. Do you remember if he put anything over your head or face?
A. Yes.
Q. Okay. And who did it, the tall man who came --
A. The one that was touching me.
Q. The second one, he put something over your face.

And what did he put over your face?
A. The blanket or pillow.
Q. Okay. Did he keep you laying face down?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. At some point, did he turn you over?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. Okay.
A. He started touching me. He started touching me on my butt and then he turned me over and then he raped me.
Q. And when he turned you over, is that when he put the blanket on your face?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. And after he turned you over, what did he do?
A. He took off my underwear.
Q. Then what happened?
A. He started raping me.
Q. Could you hear Baby Angelo?
A. Yes. I could hear Baby Angelo, yes. He did that monster thing in front of Arturo and Baby Angelo.
Q. Did the first tall man keep beating on Arturo while the rape was happening?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. Do you know if Arturo -- or do you think he stayed conscious the whole time?
A. When I got myself untied, I sat down, and I could see Arturo. He was unconscious. He had something on his mouth, a pillowcase or something. He was tied
up. I untied him, but I started looking for Baby Angelo and I told him that Baby Angelo was not in place. I didn't have any clothes on. We went outside. We were looking for him. At some point when we were looking for him, I was untying Baby Angelo -- I was untying Arturo and looking for Baby Angelo. We were both walking towards the living room. We could see somebody come back in and we walked back to the bedroom.
Q. And I'm going to talk to you about that a little bit more in just a second, but $I$ want to go back to where you said there was something on Arturo's mouth.
A. A pillowcase.
Q. Okay. Like inside his mouth or around covering his mouth?
A. Inside his mouth.
Q. Okay. And was there something over Arturo's head?
A. The pillow.
Q. So, his head was covered?
A. With the pillow.
Q. And his hands were tied?
A. They were tied.
Q. With what?
A. With the alarm clock cord.
Q. Okay. And you said he appeared to be
unconscious?
A. Yes.
Q. After the man raped you, the second man had came in the room, correct?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. Did the men do anything else before they left the bedroom?
A. They went through my whole stuff.
Q. Okay. And do you know how long that took?
A. No, ma'am, I don't. They took Arturo's wallet. They took his bracelet, I guess a little bit of cash. Because my purse was on top of the table and they didn't take my purse.
Q. Okay. Do you know what they were looking for? Did they ever say?
A. No, ma'am.
Q. And while they were looking around the bedroom, Arturo was there tied up, was he still in that position over the bed?
A. He was on the floor where Baby Angelo was.
Q. On the pallet?
A. Uh-huh.
Q. And were you still tied with something and you had something over your face; is that correct?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. How long do you think they looked around your apartment?
A. It took them a little while.
Q. Okay.
A. I'd say 10,15 minutes.
Q. And did you get up or try to do anything while they did that?
A. I sat down and talked to the man like I told you, but, no, $I$ didn't get up until after, after they'd done what they did.
Q. So, what did you say to them?
A. Excuse me?
Q. You said you sat down --
A. I sat down on the bed and $I$ kept on seeing him beat up Arturo and then they laid me on the bed face down.
Q. Okay. So, you sat down and you were talking to the first man who was trying -- who was beating up Arturo?
A. Yes. I was trying --
Q. But you didn't talk to someone after the rape?
A. (Moves head side to side).
Q. Okay. I just wanted to clarify that.

After you were raped and they were looking around your bedroom and tearing up your bedroom, what
were you doing while that happened?
A. I was tied down. I was in bed tied down.
Q. And you just stayed put?
A. I stayed put.
Q. Okay. The second man that came in, did he ever talk to you?
A. No, ma'am.
Q. Did he ever say one word to you or anybody else in the room?
A. No, ma'am.
Q. Did you get a look at him ever?
A. No, ma'am.
Q. Could you see his face?
A. No, ma'am.
Q. Why not?
A. I was face down.
Q. Okay. Any talking that was done was done by the tall man who came in first; is that correct?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. When they left your bedroom, how long did you wait before you felt like you could get up?
A. About a minute, not even. I didn't hear any noise, so I got up?
Q. So, you thought they were gone?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. Is that when you untied Arturo?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. And did he get up?
A. Yes, ma'am. He was bleeding a lot. He had a lot of blood all over.
Q. When did you realize that Baby Angelo wasn't in the room anymore?
A. As soon as I untied Arturo, I looked down and I didn't see Baby Angelo.
Q. So, what did you do next?
A. We went outside looking for him.
Q. And you said that when you went into the living room you saw something?
A. As we were -- as I untied Arturo and found out that Baby Angelo was not there, we were walking out the bedroom to the living room and they were coming back. They saw that we were untied and were walking, they left. So, we walked back to the bedroom.
Q. And how many persons did you see coming back?
A. One.
Q. Okay. And was it the tall man you saw the --
A. The first tall man.
Q. Okay. And was he inside your apartment or outside?
A. Inside my apartment.
Q. So, you walked into the living room --
A. And he was walking from the front door to the bedroom.
Q. Okay. He was coming toward the bedroom. And then what happened?
A. Me and Arturo turned back to the bedroom.
Q. Okay. And then what happened?
A. We didn't hear any noise, so we walked out and we started looking for Baby Angelo.
Q. Was that tall man gone?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. And the tall man, again, was the first man who came in the room that spoke with the funny accent and had the dark skin?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. Where did you go look for Baby Angelo?
A. There at the apartments and across the street.
Q. Okay.
A. I screamed out his name, but no response.
Q. And then did you call the police?
A. I think it was my neighbor that called the police.
Q. Okay. Do you remember making a 911 call?
A. No, I don't. It was too much for me.
Q. Do you remember the police coming out?
A. Yes.
Q. And you talked to them about what had happened?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. And you told them about Angelo and you remember them taking you to the hospital?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. And you did a rape kit there, didn't you?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. When the man was raping you, do you know whether he ejaculated? Did he finish?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. And how do you know that?
A. Because it ran between my legs.
Q. And after it was over when you got up, did you put your underwear back on?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. And some kind of clothes to go look for Baby Angelo?
A. I went outside naked. When I didn't find him, I came back inside and put on my clothes.
Q. Okay. Then what happened?
A. The police were there already.
Q. Okay.
A. Then the ambulance took me to a hospital.
Q. Okay. When the police came, do you remember
them asking you questions about the drug dealing?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. And you didn't tell them the truth about the fact that you and Arturo were dealing drugs?
A. No, ma'am. I lied.
Q. Why?
A. I was afraid.
Q. Did you tell them the truth about everything else?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. And are you telling the truth about everything else today?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. After this happened that night, what was the next few weeks like?
A. Second to this, terrible.
Q. Do you remember going down to the police station on October 1st, 1992?
A. Day after day, they would come and pick us up for about two to three weeks.
Q. And that first day on October lst, you quickly decided to go ahead and tell the police about the drug dealing, correct, that very next day, October 1st?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. And do you remember them asking you about who
your supplier was?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. And who did you tell them?
A. Chico.
Q. And do you remember them putting a trap on your phone that intercepted phone calls coming in?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. And they were monitoring all your calls?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. At some point did Angelita Rodriguez, Chico's wife, call you?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. And was she concerned?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. Okay. Did she call you and try to help you?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. And she actually came to your apartment, too, didn't she?
A. She did.
Q. Did Rudy come with her?
A. I don't remember, but $I$ do remember Angelita.
Q. And that was just a few days after what happened, wasn't it?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. Was Chico with her?
A. No, ma'am.
Q. Did you think that was strange?
A. I didn't think nothing of it. I was too far out.
Q. You were off on other things.

But he was a family friend, wasn't he, you
thought?
A. We thought.
Q. And so, Angelita comes to pay her respects and Chico doesn't come?
A. Chico didn't come.
Q. Did he ever call or ask if you needed anything?
A. No, ma'am.
Q. But Angelita did?
A. Yes.
Q. In fact, she called several times over the course of those weeks?
A. She went twice.
Q. Okay. In November, do you remember getting the call that they had found Angelo?
A. Sergeant Hernandez, yes, came to the apartment.
Q. Okay. And --
A. And he showed me some photographs of what my baby was wearing.
Q. Did he show you those clothes?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. And were you able to identify the clothing that he showed you?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. That was the clothes that Angelo was wearing when he was taken?
A. Yes, ma'am.

MS. TISE: May I approach? THE COURT: Yes.
Q. (By Ms. Tise) I'm going to show you what's been marked as State's Exhibit 61. Okay? And you have seen this picture before, $I$ believe. Okay? And $I$ want you to tell me if you recognize the clothing in this picture as Angelo's clothing (indicating). Okay?
A. Okay. Yes.

MS. TISE: Your Honor, at this time I will
offer State's Exhibit 61.
(State's Exhibit No. 61 Offered)

MR. CORNELIUS: No objection.

THE COURT: State's No. 61 is admitted.

Do you wish to publish that?
(State's Exhibit No. 61 Admitted)

MS. TISE: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Go ahead and publish it.
Q. (By Ms. Tise) I'm going to show you some
happier pictures. Taking a look at State's Exhibits 80 and 81. Can you tell me what we're looking at there (indicating)?
A. Looking at Baby Angelo and me and my baby.
Q. Okay.

MS. TISE: At this time, I'm going to offer

State's Exhibits 80 and 81.
(State's Exhibit No. 80 and 81 Offered)
MR. CORNELIUS: Objection to relevance, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Let's see. What's the
relevancy?
MS. TISE: Showing --

THE COURT: We already have one.
MS. TISE: Showing him alive.

THE COURT: We already have one.

MR. CORNELIUS: Yes.

THE COURT: I'm going to sustain as to 80 and 81 .
Q. (By Ms. Tise) I'm going to show you another photo. This one is marked State's Exhibit 84. I'll ask you if you've ever seen this person before (indicating)?
A. No, ma'am.
Q. Okay. Never came over to your house with Chico as far as you know?
A. No, ma'am.
Q. Never saw him or had contact with him as far as you know?
A. No, ma'am.

MS. TISE: That's State's Exhibit 84. And

I will offer it.
(State's Exhibit No. 84 Offered)

MR. CORNELIUS: Objection to relevance,
Your Honor.

MS. TISE: May we approach?

THE COURT: Yes.
(At the Bench, on the record)

MS. TISE: This is the co-defendant who will be identified later on in the trial.

THE COURT: As being there at the time?

MS. TISE: Yes. It's the tall man. And I'm offering the photo because $I$ want to ask her about his skin color.

THE COURT: Okay. All right. I will allow that over objection.
(Open court, defendant and jury present)
THE COURT: So, State's Exhibit 84 is
admitted over objection.
(State's Exhibit No. 84 Admitted)
Q. (By Ms. Tise) This man in State's Exhibit 84
that you have not seen before --
MS. TISE: Judge, may I publish it? THE COURT: Yes.
Q. (By Ms. Tise) Can you tell me how you would describe his skin color?
A. Dark, black.
Q. Okay. I want you to take a look across the courtroom and tell me if you see the person that you know to be Chico or Obel Cruz-Garcia in this courtroom.
A. Yes.
Q. Can you point him out for the jury and tell them what he's wearing?
A. He's wearing a suit, gray suit.
Q. Okay.

MS. TISE: Your Honor, may the record reflect the witness has identified the defendant, Obel Cruz-Garcia?

THE COURT: The record will so reflect.
Q. (By Ms. Tise) And how would you describe his skin color?
A. Dark, black.
Q. I'm sorry?
A. Dark, black.
Q. After this happened, Diana, and after you buried your son, what happened with you and Arturo?
A. We left. I couldn't live with so many memories. Everywhere $I$ turned, there were memories of my son.
Q. Where did you go?
A. I went to San Antonio for a couple of months and then we moved to the Valley, which we are stationed there.
Q. And you live there now?
A. Yes.
Q. And Arturo found work?
A. Yes.
Q. And what did he do for most of those years?
A. For the past 15 years, he worked as an oil
field floor-hand on rigs.
Q. So, he worked on oil rigs?
A. Yes.
Q. Oil patch?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. And did you work?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. What did you do?
A. Provider.
Q. Okay. Tell us what you mean by that.
A. A provider is taking care of people who need help to provide for them but they can't do what we can
do for them.
Q. Is this like in the home healthcare industry, you were a home healthcare worker?
A. Yes, ma'am. I was not a maid. I was a provider for people that are handicapped, elderly people that need help.
Q. Okay. So, you help take care of them in their homes?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. Did you and Arturo ever have anything to do with drugs again?
A. No, ma'am.
Q. Did you ever see Chico ever again?
A. No, ma'am.

MS. TISE: I will pass the witness.
THE COURT: Thank you, Ms. Tise.
Mr. Cornelius, you may proceed.
MR. CORNELIUS: Yes, Your Honor. Could I
have just one second?
THE COURT: Yes.
(Brief pause)
MR. CORNELIUS: May I proceed?
THE COURT: Yes.

## CROSS-EXAMINATION

BY MR. CORNELIUS:
Q. Ms. Garcia, my name is Skip Cornelius. We've never met or discussed this case or anything else before, have we?
A. No, sir.
Q. Okay. I'm one of the lawyers in the case, so I have a right to ask you some questions. Okay?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. If you don't understand my questions or $I$ haven't phrased them very well, just say so and $I$ will rephrase them. Okay?

At the time years ago when you were selling drugs, what kind of drugs were you selling?
A. Cocaine.
Q. Only cocaine?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. Powder or crack or both?
A. Powder.
Q. Powder.

And what did it sell for back in 1992?
A. What we were selling was $\$ 10, \$ 20$.
Q. For how much?
A. A little bit.
Q. A little bit was 10 or $\$ 20$ ?
A. Yes.
Q. Was it -- how was it packaged?
A. Little plastic bags.
Q. Who packaged it?
A. Arturo.
Q. So, when you got it, it came in a larger baggie or something. How did it come to you?
A. I don't know because $I$ didn't prepare it. I wasn't -- he wasn't giving it to me. He gave me the small packages.
Q. Okay. And then where did you keep it?
A. In the location we lived in.
Q. At the house where all this occurred?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. And where in the house?
A. Just in the cabinets.
Q. Pardon?
A. Just in the cabinets.
Q. In the cabinets.

And people would come by and you would sell
them a 10 or a 20?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. All right. And that's how you made a living?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. And for how long did y'all do that?
A. For about a year-and-a-half or two.
Q. Okay. Then what was done with the money?
A. Paid bills.
Q. Okay. But who got the money? You got the money or Arturo got the money? Who got the money?
A. Both.
Q. Both.

All right. And you said you got those drugs from Chico?
A. Correction.
Q. Did you say "correct" or "correction"?
A. Correct.
Q. Correct.

Okay. The whole year-and-a-half, or however long it was that you were selling drugs, they always came from Chico?
A. Yes.
Q. And did you have to buy them from Chico or he gave them to you to sell?
A. Had to buy from Chico.
Q. And so, how much did you pay for them?
A. I don't know. I never deal with him.
Q. Okay. How many times did you see Chico?
A. Quite a few times.
Q. And what do you mean by "quite a few"?
A. A couple of times. I had met his wife. Yes, we saw them a couple of times.
Q. Okay. Well, in a year-and-a-half, what does that mean, "a couple of times"?
A. Maybe once or twice a week. Maybe more, maybe less.
Q. And in all the time that you saw him, was it always at your apartment or his apartment or did you see him other places?
A. My apartment, other places.
Q. Only once at his apartment?
A. Before we moved to the other place, yes.
Q. Okay. Approximately how many times did he come to your apartment?
A. Once or twice a week.
Q. And when he came over there, what did he come over there for?
A. He would speak with Arturo.
Q. Was it for drugs?
A. He would speak with Arturo. I wouldn't know.
Q. So, you never actually talked to him?
A. Yes.
Q. Yes, you did talk to him?
A. Yes.
Q. So, how many times would you say you talked to him?
A. A few times.
Q. A few?
A. A few times.
Q. Okay. How many does that mean? Is that once or twice a week?
A. Once or twice a week.
Q. For a year-and-a-half?
A. Yes.
Q. Was there -- did anything happen in this drug transaction that would cause Chico to be mad at you?
A. I didn't know he was mad at us or at me.
Q. So, you know of no reason why he would be mad at you?
A. $\quad \mathrm{N} O$.
Q. How about somebody else, was somebody else mad at you?
A. No.
Q. Was there some sort of a problem with the drug relationship between Arturo and someone?
A. Not that $I$ know of, no.
Q. This was not Arturo's child, though, correct?
A. No.
Q. No, I'm incorrect, or, no, it wasn't his child?
A. No. You are correct, it was not his child.
Q. Okay. So, as far as you know, you weren't crossways with anyone?
A. I was not crossways with nobody.
Q. Okay. How did you meet Chico?
A. Through some friends.
Q. What would be the circumstance for you to have met him? Did it have to do with drugs or something social or what?
A. I wouldn't know, sir, because Arturo met him through friends and $I$ met him through Arturo.
Q. Okay. So, you actually met him through Arturo?
A. Yes.
Q. When you say someone is black, does that just mean darker skin than yours'?
A. Yes.
Q. Okay. So, pretty much anybody that has darker skin than yours you call them black?
A. Yes.
Q. Okay. The big tall man that you described, the first one that came into the -- into your bedroom, you said he was a black man?
A. Yes.
Q. But you're not implying that that means he's of African descent, just darker skin. I mean, I don't know. I'm asking you.
A. I'm trying to answer this.
Q. Okay.
A. There is a difference between not knowing people from the other side of -- I don't know Dominicans, Puerto Rico, I don't know the difference between all of them. I know me, my color, your color, and African-Americans.
Q. Okay. Well, I'm not trying to tell you what to say.
A. It's just that I'm not familiar with all of the people. I'm not familiar with a lot of people that are not from -- I've never been around other people.
Q. Okay.
A. I'm sorry.
Q. There's nothing to be sorry for, but tell me if I'm understanding this correctly. If I'm not, just correct me. Because, you know, I don't know, I wasn't there. You know, I don't know anything about this case. You know that, right? You've never seen me before, right?
A. No.
Q. Okay. When you describe somebody as being a black man are you just saying they're darker than you are, it doesn't necessarily mean they are African descent or they're Hispanic or they just have a deep sun tan. You are just saying they are darker than you; is that what you're saying?
A. There is a difference between dark and dark and black.
Q. Okay. What is that difference to you?
A. There is darker than us. We're brownish. And they are darker brownish. So, to me they are black.
Q. Okay. Well, are you saying that you are considering yourself to be brown and this person was darker than you so they're black?
A. Yes.
Q. Okay. But you are not saying that they were necessarily of African descent, I guess. Is that what you're saying?
A. I'm sorry. I don't understand how to -- how to answer that. I already did to the best of my knowledge. That's how I answered it.
Q. Okay. I will move on.

Both of the men that you saw that night -well, let me back up. Strike that.

The second man that entered your bedroom that night, did you ever see his skin at all?
A. No.
Q. So, you never said he's black or brown or white or anything?
A. Not if $I$ recall. I only saw a gun and a hand coming out of the doorway.
Q. Okay. So, as far as you recall, you never told anybody it was two black men or two of any color because you only saw actually one of them, right?
A. I did say it. I said there were two persons in that room.
Q. Yeah. Did you ever say what color they were?
A. I don't recall.
Q. All right. Do you remember the police, when you talked to them, asking you for a description of the men, to do the best you could to describe them?
A. Yes, I do remember.
Q. And you know why they would do that, because they're trying to catch them, right?
A. Right.
Q. Do you remember describing the -- well...
(Brief pause)
Q. (By Mr. Cornelius) The tall man that you've described that you told the jury about, do you remember saying that he had almost purple lips?
A. I do remember that, sir, yes.
Q. And did you tell us earlier today that that person didn't speak English very well or Spanish very well?
A. He had a very, very strange accent. I couldn't understand either -- or I couldn't understand Spanish
and $I$ couldn't understand his English.
Q. Do you think he was actually speaking Spanish or a language you just didn't understand?
A. I could only understand him when he told me to turn over.
Q. Okay. But you heard him talk?
A. Yes, I heard him talk, but $I$ couldn't make out what he was saying. Yes, I did hear. And I would recognize his voice, too.
Q. You would recognize his voice?
A. (Moves head up and down).
Q. And the other person, you say you didn't hear them talk?
A. No, sir.
Q. Did you give the police any description at all of the other man or did you just not see him?
A. I don't recall giving them any description of the other man.
Q. Okay. Did you say that Chico had been over to your apartment earlier that day?
A. Yes.
Q. Did you talk to him that day?
A. No.
Q. Did you see him?
A. No.
Q. Somebody just told you that he had been over?
A. Arturo.
Q. When he would come over to your apartment, would he leave drugs there?
A. No.
Q. No?
A. No. He would sell drugs, but he wouldn't leave drugs there. Unless that's the same, yes.
Q. Okay. All right. Where -- and I don't know if this happened or not, but if he sold Arturo drugs, where were they?
A. I don't recall him selling Arturo that day anything because we were not selling. At the time, we were not selling drugs.
Q. Y'all had already decided not to sell drugs?
A. Yes.
Q. Okay. So, basically, y'all didn't have any business transactions with Chico at that point, correct?
A. Correct.
Q. Was your husband upset about Chico coming over that day?
A. Not that $I$ know of.
Q. Did you tell the police that you had a 4, 000-dollar piece of jewelry taken on that occasion?
A. Yes.
Q. What was that jewelry?
A. It was Arturo's bracelet.
Q. Arturo's bracelet?
A. Yes.
Q. And were you wearing jewelry that night?
A. I don't recall.
Q. And do you know if Arturo was wearing jewelry

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that night?
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A. No.
Q. You say he was or was not?
A. No, he was not. He had it on top of the dresser. He had his bracelet and his wallet in the cabinet on top of the dresser.
Q. How about around his neck, did he have anything around his neck?
A. I don't recall.
Q. You're saying your purse was there, but it wasn't touched?
A. It wasn't touched. It was there on top of the table, the kitchen table.
Q. At the time that you got yourself untied and untied Arturo and you started out of the bedroom, you were going to look for your son, correct?
A. Yes.
Q. And you say that this man that you had seen was
coming back in, correct?
A. Right. He was walking back into the apartment, entering the front door, yes.
Q. And what did he do?
A. He turned back.
Q. The man just decided not to come in the apartment?
A. He just turned back and left.
Q. But y'all, instead of going outside, went back into the bedroom?
A. We walked back to the bedroom.
Q. And you already knew that your son was gone then, right?
A. Yes.
Q. And did you have clothes on then or not?
A. No.
Q. So, how long were you in the bedroom before you went back out to look for your son?
A. When I walked outside without no clothes, I looked around, $I$ came back inside and I put on clothes.
Q. So, when the police got there that night, you said you were afraid so you lied to them about the drugs?
A. Yes.
Q. You didn't have any drugs there, though, that
night, did you?
A. No.
Q. And you were concerned about your son, right?
A. Right.
Q. And you didn't have any idea who had taken him?
A. No.
Q. Did the police tell you that night, or maybe it was the next -- did you go to the police -- after you got out of the hospital, did you go to the police station?
A. They drove us to the police station, yes.
Q. So, was that during the daytime the next morning that you made it to the police station?
A. I'm sorry. I don't recall. I was too much in shock.
Q. Okay. That's fine. Whenever you made it to the police station, whenever that was, did the police sort of confront you with them thinking that this had to do with drugs, the police thinking that?
A. Yes.
Q. So, how long before you told them they were right or that you had at least --
A. That same day.
Q. Okay. How long did the police question you, though, before you admitted that you were in the drug
business?
A. Day-by-day.
Q. What does that mean, "day-by-day"?
A. Every day.
Q. Okay. I wasn't clear on my question. How long did the police talk to you and basically accuse you of being in the drug business before you finally admitted you were in the drug business?
A. I'm sorry. We went to the police station, we admitted it. They questioned us one day, two days, three days. Every day.
Q. Oh, okay. I got you.

But when you first went to the police station you denied it, correct?
A. Yes, we denied it.
Q. For how long did you deny it?
A. Not too long, sir. Not too long.
Q. And what is your recollection on that as to not too long?
A. Just like -- $I$ would say not even half a day.
Q. Okay. For less than half a day, right?
A. Right.
Q. Was it U.P. Hernandez that interviewed you? Do you remember that name?
A. Yes.
Q. And you denied it to him at the start, right?
A. Yes.
Q. And he didn't believe you, right?
A. No.
Q. And at some point that same day you decided to tell him the truth?
A. Yes.
Q. Not the same day your son was abducted, the next day, but the same day you got to the police station, right?
A. Sir, I'm sorry. My son was taken at night, they took me to the hospital. By the time $I$ knew, it was daylight. And that's when we started talking.

MR. CORNELIUS: Could I have a moment,

Judge?

THE COURT: Yes.
(Brief pause)

MR. CORNELIUS: A couple more questions, if I might.
Q. (By Mr. Cornelius) There's a photograph of a . 25 semiautomatic pistol in one of the drawers there at the house. Do you remember that gun?
A. That's mine. It was mine.
Q. Okay. And it was loaded, correct?
A. I don't know. Maybe.
Q. All right. So, you had a . 25 automatic. Were there any other guns at the house that may have been stolen?
A. Just the . 25 .
Q. Okay. And is there any reason why you didn't get that gun to try to go after your son?
A. No. I didn't think of it. I was too much in shock, like I told you. I untied myself, I was untying Arturo, I saw my son wasn't there. I never stopped and think of getting a gun. And I'm not a violent person.
Q. Okay. Did Arturo know that you had a gun?
A. Yes, he knew.
Q. All right. You said that there was no conflict in the drug -- in your drug-selling life. And yet, you told the jury earlier that you had another break in. I don't know when that was, but it was sometime before this one, right?
A. Right.
Q. When was that?
A. Not too long before we moved to that place.
Q. Give us -- just think about it for a minute. Give us your best guesstimate. I know you probably didn't write the dates down, but how long had it been since you had that break-in at your other place until September 30th, 1992, which is the date that this
occurred?
A. A few months, sir.
Q. A few months.
A. I would say very few months. Like at the most three, two or three months.
Q. Okay. Was anything taken in that break-in?
A. Rephrase the question. What break-in? The first one or the second one?
Q. The first one. I'm sorry I didn't make that clear. The first one.
A. No, not that $I$ remember.
Q. Were your drawers pulled out and all your stuff gone through?
A. Everything was the same way as the second time.
Q. Okay. And when you say nothing was taken, no drugs were taken, no money, nothing?
A. Oh, God, please help me remember. Yes, I think so.
Q. Tell me what you think.
A. Yes, I think there were drugs taken.
Q. Okay. What about money?
A. Yes.
Q. And is that why you didn't report it to the police because you didn't want to tell them that your drug money and drugs were taken?
A. That's right.
Q. Did you ever gain any understanding as to who did that?
A. No, sir.

MR. CORNELIUS: Pass the witness, Judge.

THE COURT: Thank you.

Ms. Tise, do you have anything else?

MS. TISE: No further questions, Judge.

THE COURT: May this witness be excused subject to recall?

MR. CORNELIUS: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Subject to recall. Okay. You may step down, Ms. Garcia. You are excused subject to recall.

Call your next, please.

THE WITNESS: Thank you.
MR. WOOD: The State calls Arturo

Rodriguez.

May we approach just briefly?

THE COURT: Yes.
(At the Bench, on the record)

MR. WOOD: I think we need like a
five-minute break.

THE COURT: Okay.
(Open court, defendant and jury present)

THE COURT: We're going to take a five-minute break.

So, Deputy, can we have the jury taken out?

I want to remind you before you go out that you should not talk amongst yourselves or with anyone else on any subject connected with the trial or to form or express any opinion thereon until the end of the trial. Okay? We'll be back at 4:30.
(Recess)

THE BAILIFF: The witness has not been sworn.
(Witness sworn)

THE COURT: Mr. Rodriguez, please keep your voice up and speak into the microphone.

You may proceed, Mr. Wood.

MR. WOOD: Thank you, Your Honor. JOSE ARTURO RODRIGUEZ,
having been first duly sworn, testified through the interpreter as follows:

## DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. WOOD:
Q. Good afternoon, Mr. Rodriguez.
A. Good afternoon, sir.
Q. Can you introduce yourself with your name, please?
A. My name?
Q. Yes.
A. Jose Arturo Rodriguez.
Q. And, Mr. Rodriguez, do most people call you

Arturo?
A. Some don't. Some of them call me Chaparro or Shorty.
Q. I want to ask you, Mr. Rodriguez, a little bit about your family. Okay?
A. My family, yes.
Q. Tell me, who is your wife?
A. Diana Rodriguez. I mean Diana Garcia.
Q. How long have you and Diana been together?
A. About 26 or 27 , more or less.
Q. Do you and Diana have any kids together?
A. No.
Q. Where do you currently live, Mr. Rodriguez?
A. In Rio Grande City.
Q. How long have you lived there?
A. About two years, more or less.
Q. Where are you from originally?
A. From Mexico.
Q. Are you currently working at this time?
A. Right at this time, no.
Q. What kind of work have you done in the past?
A. In the oil field.
Q. Do you have a disability that prevents you from working now?
A. Yes. I have diabetes, high blood pressure, and cholesterol.
Q. Mr. Rodriguez, at some point did you live here in Houston?
A. Yes. I was here for about 10 to 15 years --
Q. What --
A. -- around there.
Q. I'm sorry. What brought you to Houston?
A. Well, before $I$ was illegal and then $I$ got my papers and $I$ went to california and one of my brothers was the one that got my papers for me. He is a citizen.
Q. Did he live here in Houston?
A. No. He lived in California.
Q. And then how did you end up in Houston?
A. Because I went to Mexico -- that's when I got my papers -- and then $I$ came back here to look for work.
Q. At some point when you were living in Houston, is that when you met Diana?
A. When I came here, I lived with another woman, she died, and $I$ went to California for some time. And then $I$ came over here and during that time was when $I$
met her.
Q. How did you meet Diana?
A. At a dance.
Q. At some point, did you and Diana start living together?
A. No. A year more or less.
Q. Are you saying that you started living together after a year, more or less?
A. More or less.
Q. And during that time that you and Diana lived together here in Houston, did Baby Angelo live with you guys, too?
A. No. At that time, no. When $I$ met her, no.
Q. But later on, did he live with you guys?
A. Yes.
Q. Back then, when you were living in Houston, what kind of work were you doing?
A. At a radiator shop for cars.
Q. Did you work there at that radiator shop for a long time or a short time?
A. More or less about four to five years.
Q. At some point, Mr. Rodriguez, did you become involved with drugs?
A. Yes.
Q. How did that -- tell me how that happened.
A. Through friends, friends.
Q. And do you recall approximately when that happened?
A. During the time that $I$ was working at that shop, at the radiator shop.
Q. Mr. Rodriguez, were you using drugs?
A. At that time, yes.
Q. What kind of drugs?
A. Cocaine.
Q. At some point did you start selling cocaine?
A. Yes.
Q. In the beginning, did Diana know that you were using drugs?
A. No. I never did it in front of her.
Q. At some point, did she find out?
A. Yes.
Q. When you started selling drugs, did Diana become involved at some point?
A. Yes.
Q. How did that happen?
A. Well, just all of a sudden $I$ got involved in that.
Q. Do you remember, Mr. Rodriguez, why you guys started selling cocaine?
A. Just to live a better life.
Q. By a better life, do you mean so you could make more money or have nicer things, or what do you mean?
A. Yes.
Q. Both of those things?
A. Yes, to live better.
Q. Who were you involved in the selling of drugs with? Who was involved with you?
A. At that time, $I$ was purchasing it from someone else, but that person, we would just see each other at certain stores. And then later I got involved with that person, Chico.
Q. Mr. Rodriguez, do you see the person that you referred to as Chico here in the courtroom today?
A. Yes.
Q. Can you please point to that person and tell me something that that person is wearing?
A. With my hand?
Q. With your hand is fine, yes.
A. Right there (indicating).
Q. And tell me what the person that you've pointed out is wearing.
A. Like some headphones.

MR. WOOD: Your Honor, may the record reflect the witness has identified the defendant?

THE COURT: The record will so reflect.
Q. (By Mr. Wood) Mr. Rodriguez, it's been a while since you've seen Chico, hasn't it?
A. When I met him?
Q. Let me ask the question better.

Today, has it been a long time since you've seen Chico?
A. From today?
Q. Yes.
A. Yes.
Q. Mr. Rodriguez, I'm going to show you what's marked State's Exhibit No. 83. Do you recognize that (indicating) ?
A. Yes.
Q. Is that what you remember Chico looking like back when you lived in Houston?
A. Yes.
Q. Mr. Rodriguez, who is this guy (indicating)?
A. That's me.
Q. Is that what you looked like back then?
A. Yes.
Q. A little less gray hair?
A. And hair.
Q. When you started buying cocaine from the defendant, from Chico, is that the only person you were buying from?
A. Yes.
Q. Would you ever buy any other kind of drug to sell other than cocaine?
A. No.
Q. I want to visit with you a little bit about how that worked. Can you tell me how much cocaine you would usually buy from Chico?
A. Not a lot. About an ounce for a week or something.
Q. So, around an ounce a week or something like that?
A. Yes.
Q. Would he bring it to you or would you have to pick it up from him?
A. No. I had it there at home.
Q. So, when you would buy it from Chico, would he bring the cocaine to you and sell it to you at your place or would you have to go to his house?
A. At times he would bring it to me.
Q. I want to visit a little bit about your relationship with the defendant. Would you describe it as a friendly relationship?
A. Yes.
Q. So, it wasn't just a business relationship?
A. Yes.
Q. Did you come to know his wife, Angelita?
A. Yes.
Q. Did you and your wife, Diana, hang out with

Chico and Angelita?
A. Not frequently.
Q. When you would hang out, what kind of things would you do, if you remember?
A. Just talk about the business. That's all.
Q. Were Angelita and Diana friends as well?
A. Yes, they got along well.
Q. Did Chico come to know Baby Angelo as well?
A. Yes.
Q. At some point during your friendship with the defendant and Angelita, did you rent an apartment for them?
A. No.
Q. Do you remember you and Diana helping them out with an apartment ever?
A. No.
Q. Do you remember back during that time where Chico and Angelita lived?
A. No.
Q. How long would you say that you and Diana sold cocaine for Chico?
A. Not a lot. For about three years.
Q. At some point, did you decide to stop selling the drugs?
A. Yes.
Q. Why was that?
A. Because the accused would bother me a lot with the beeper.
Q. When you say "the beeper," did you carry a beeper with you during that time?
A. Well, I wouldn't carry it. It was my wife, Diana.
Q. So, did Chico give you this beeper?
A. No. I purchased it.
Q. Okay. And so, are you saying that Chico would contact you and Diana on the beeper a lot?
A. I would be playing Bingo, and he would bother me. And also at the dance.
Q. Do you remember at some point when you and Diana thought that the police were watching y'all?
A. Yes.
Q. Tell me about that.
A. Okay. Where we lived, there was a park where they would play ball, the school kids. And all the time there was a car looking toward my apartment.
Q. What did you think about that?
A. That the police were watching me.
Q. Did you get scared that something was going to happen?
A. Yes.
Q. How did Chico react when you told him you were going to stop selling drugs for him?
A. He didn't like it very much.
Q. And did he say anything to you -- well, let me back up.

Why do you think that he didn't like it very much?
A. I could see it in his face. I could see it in his features.
Q. Did he ever say anything to you?
A. About that, no.
Q. Leading up to September of 1992 , had you had any real problems with Chico at that point?
A. No.
Q. Had he ever threatened you or your family in any way?
A. No.
Q. At some point after you stopped selling cocaine for him, was there a time that he left some drugs at your house?
A. No.
Q. So, there hadn't really been any fight or
anything that he was upset about up to that point; is that right?
A. No.
Q. Mr. Rodriguez, $I$ want to direct your attention to September 30th, 1992.
A. I didn't understand the question.
Q. Well, I haven't asked one yet. I will ask the question. At that time, were you and Diana living at an apartment off of Fairway?
A. Yes.
Q. And was Angelo living there with you?
A. Yes.
Q. On that day, do you remember what you were doing that day?
A. Yes.
Q. Tell me what you were doing.
A. I was working and selling cocaine.
Q. Were you still selling cocaine -- well, let me back up.

Do you remember that September 30th, 1992, was the day that Angelo went missing?
A. I didn't understand you very well.
Q. September $30 t h$, 1992, do you remember that being the day that Angelo was kidnapped?
A. Yes.
Q. And that was a time that you were -- you and Diana were living off of Fairway, you said?
A. Yes.
Q. Now, at that point in time were you and Diana still selling cocaine?
A. I didn't understand your question very well.
Q. At that time were you and Diana still selling cocaine?
A. In '92?
Q. On the day that Angelo went missing.
A. No, not any more.
Q. On the night that everything happened, what were you doing?
A. Sleeping.
Q. Before you went to sleep, what had you been doing?
A. I was watching TV and $I$ set it to turn off in 20 to 30 minutes.
Q. And could you set your TV to do that back then?
A. Yes. I had set it so it would turn off.
Q. Who else was in the apartment when you went to bed?
A. Before or at that moment?
Q. At the time that you went to bed.
A. No one.
Q. Where -- was Diana and Angelo there?
A. Yes.
Q. And what were they doing?
A. He was already asleep. Both of them were.
Q. Where was Angelo sleeping?
A. In the living room.
Q. Was he -- where was Diana sleeping?
A. On the bed.
Q. Do you remember if Angelo was sleeping in the floor of your bedroom or in the living room?
A. We left him sleeping in the living room and then later on he went over there beside our bed on the floor.
Q. At some point after you went to sleep, do you remember a sound or something waking you up?
A. Before?
Q. I guess after you went to sleep.
A. No.
Q. What woke you up?
A. When $I$ was already asleep, it was the noise at the door through which they came in.
Q. And what noise did you hear? What did it sound like?
A. Like a kick or something.
Q. When you heard that sound, what did you do next?
A. I got up to see what had happened in the living room.
Q. Did you leave the bedroom and go into the living room?
A. Yes.
Q. What did you see when you left your bedroom?
A. A person that was pointing at me with a gun.
Q. Was it dark in your apartment or was it light in your apartment?
A. Dark-dark? No.
Q. So, was it dark?
A. I don't remember that very well.
Q. Okay. Was it nighttime when this was
happening?
A. Like 11:00, like 11:30.
Q. Did you get a good look or were you able to look at the person that was pointing the gun at you?
A. No.
Q. What do you remember about that person that was pointing the gun?
A. That his face was covered.
Q. What was his face covered with?
A. With some type of mask, the type that you wear
when it's cold.
Q. Do you remember if it was a dark mask or a light-colored mask?
A. It was like black or blue.
Q. And, Mr. Rodriguez, were you able to look -- to see any part of that person's face at all or tell anything about his face?
A. No.
Q. Was the person short or tall, or could you tell?
A. He was tall.
Q. Would you say he was a lot taller than you or how would you describe him?
A. Yes, tall.
Q. Were you able to tell anything else about that person?
A. The color of the person.
Q. And what do you remember about that, the color of the person?
A. Like a colored person.
Q. Was the person dark-skinned or light-skinned?
A. Darker than me.
Q. When you encountered that person in the living room, was the person saying anything to you?
A. Yes.
Q. Do you remember anything about what the person was saying?
A. Yes. To go back, to go back.
Q. And did you feel threatened at that point?
A. Yes.
Q. Mr. Rodriguez, at that time, did you see more than one person or just the tall person?
A. At that moment, $I$ saw another person that was raping my wife.
Q. Okay. Was that -- and I will visit with you about that; but $I$ want to first ask you a couple more questions.
When the person was telling you to get back, could you tell anything about that person's voice?
A. Yes. It was a person that was saying almost everything to me in English.
Q. Was it clear English -- well, let me ask another question.
Do you speak -- or did you speak any

English back then in 1992 ?
A. No.
Q. How did you know what the person was telling you or saying to you?
A. Because I couldn't understand what he was telling me.
Q. You said that the person was saying to get back, get back. Was -- were they saying that in English or Spanish?
A. I don't remember very well if it was in English or Spanish, but that instance one understands that you need to go.
Q. Was the person coming towards you?
A. Yes.
Q. Did the person -- did you think that the person had an accent or no accent?
A. Yes, accent.
Q. Was the accent different than yours?
A. Yes.
Q. Was it an accent like mine or something different?
A. No, different.
Q. Okay. Did you think that the person was Spanish or Hispanic or did you know?
A. He wasn't Hispanic. He was like from Central America or something.
Q. So, his accent was different than your accent?
A. Yes.
Q. What do you remember happening next, Mr. Rodriguez?
A. At that moment they knelt me by the bed, they
tied me up with a cord, maybe from the alarm clock or from the phone, and they put a cloth or a rag or something on my mouth. At that moment, I looked like this (indicating). Everything was very fast. I saw -I saw the person, the accused, at that moment raping my wife.
Q. Were you able to see the other person that had come into the apartment?
A. At that moment what $I$ recall, I saw like two people. That's all. The one that was beating me and the one that was raping my wife.
Q. Okay. I want to visit with you about the person that was beating you. What were you being beaten with, do you know?
A. With a gun.
Q. Where were you being struck?
A. At the edge of the bed. I was like kneeling.
Q. And is this after you had been tied up?
A. I think that it was when they tied me up.
Q. Okay. And what part of your body were you being hit with the gun?
A. My head.
Q. Were you hit just one time or many times?
A. About two to three times. And here, the side of my ribs (indicating).
Q. Were you also being kicked or just hit?
A. Kicked me -- first they were beating me with the gun and then they kicked me.
Q. When you say "they," what do you mean? Was it one person or more than one person?
A. One person.
Q. Was it the person that you described as being tall?
A. Yes.
Q. The one that was wearing the mask that you described; is that right?
A. Yes.
Q. Okay. During the time that you were being beaten, did you stay down there on the floor?
A. Yes.
Q. While you were being beaten, was the person that was beating you saying anything to you?
A. Yes, like in English.
Q. Was it the same voice that you heard before in the living room?
A. Yes.
Q. During the time that you were being beaten, were you always awake or did you lose consciousness at any point?
A. As $I$ was being beaten?
Q. Yes.
A. No, I did not lose consciousness, but $I$ was all bloody.
Q. Do you remember if they ever -- if the person ever put anything over your head?
A. Yes. The pillowcase.
Q. Was the pillowcase put over your head after your mouth was tied up or do you remember?
A. That pillowcase was put over me at the moment that $I$ was looking around like this as they were raping my wife.
Q. Okay. Mr. Rodriguez, I want to ask you: From where you were, could you tell that someone was raping or sexually assaulting your wife?
A. Yes, I do remember.
Q. Was she making any sounds or crying out in any way?
A. I do not remember.
Q. Okay. Now, you couldn't -- or could you actually see who was doing that to your wife?
A. I didn't see the person. I just saw the mask.
Q. So, was the other person in the room also wearing a mask?
A. Yes.
Q. So, did you believe that both of the people
inside of the bedroom were wearing masks?
A. Yes.
Q. Do you know where Angelo was while you were being beaten?
A. Right next to me.
Q. And do you recall what he was doing or was he saying anything?
A. Who? The little boy?
Q. Angelo.
A. No. He was asleep. He didn't even know what was going on.
Q. The second person in the room that you said was raping your wife, do you remember him ever saying anything?
A. That person did not speak.
Q. Mr. Rodriguez, how long do you think that this happened? How long do you think this went on?
A. Seconds.
Q. Do you think it all happened very quickly?
A. Yes.
Q. How did it end?
A. It ended that $I$ felt Baby Angelo, that they took Baby Angelo like by the arm or something.
Q. Could you see that or how do you know that?
A. I didn't see it. I just felt it and heard it.
Q. Okay. How was it that you -- let me back up. Were you tied up still at the point with the cord?
A. Yes.
Q. How did you get loose from it?
A. Because my wife at the moment that they left with the baby, she took off the pillowcase. And at that moment, $I$ got loose and $I$ went out running looking for the child, all full of blood, and I didn't see him.
Q. Was the bedroom that you guys were in, was it a mess? Had they gone through the bedroom?
A. Everything.
Q. Do you remember if any of your personnel belongings were missing that night?
A. Yes.
Q. What was missing, do you remember?
A. My passport and a bracelet that I had. That's all that $I$ can recall.
Q. Do you remember if your wallet was missing that night or do you know?
A. I don't recall. I just know that my passport was missing.
Q. Do you remember Diana eventually calling 911?
A. That, I do not recall.
Q. Okay. Tell us a little bit about what your
injuries were afterwards.
A. That night?
Q. Yes.
A. The beating that they gave me on the head and then a kick that they gave me to my ribs.
Q. Were you treated by the ambulance that came there to look at you?
A. It wasn't an ambulance. It was firemen.
Q. Okay.
A. And I was very scared and I told them not to treat me, just to leave me alone.
Q. Okay. So, did they bandage you up and they left?
A. No, nothing.
Q. Okay. Afterwards, do you remember talking to the police?
A. I don't remember if -- later a Hispanic man did arrive, a policeman, and his last name was Hernandez.
Q. And do you remember talking to him?
A. Yes. He investigated how everything had happened.
Q. And you and Diana went down to the police station, didn't you?
A. That night? No. Later.
Q. And, in fact, you went down to the police
station several times in those weeks following?
A. About two to three weeks every day downtown. I don't remember how long, but more or less.
Q. Arturo, at first you and Diana weren't honest with the police about selling drugs, were you?
A. I didn't understand you.
Q. At first when the police asked you, you and Diana weren't truthful about selling drugs, were you?
A. Not that night. Later when we went to give a statement and everything.
Q. And why didn't you tell them that night about the drugs?
A. I don't remember.
Q. But you remember telling the police soon after that?
A. Yes.
Q. When you went down to the police station and gave a statement --
A. Yes.
Q. -- do you remember that that statement was to Officer Hernandez?
A. I don't recall if it was to Hernandez or someone else.
Q. All right. Do you remember the day that Angelo's body was found?
A. About a month, more or less.
Q. And what were you doing that day when you found out the news?
A. At home in my apartment.
Q. Arturo, after the night that Angelo was taken, did the defendant, Chico, ever come and see you and Diana again?
A. No.
Q. Did he ever call and check on Angelo?
A. No.
Q. In fact, after that night, did you ever see him again?
A. No.
Q. Is this the first time that you have seen him since that time?
A. Right now?
Q. Yes.
A. Yes.

MR. WOOD: I pass the witness.
THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Wood.
We're going to break for the day. It's
5:25 and we've had a full day of testimony.
And so, jurors, I'm going to admonish you that you are reminded you should not talk amongst yourselves or with anyone else on any subject connected

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with this trial or to form or express any opinion
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thereon until the end of the trial.

Let's get started again at 10:00 in the morning. And if you could all plan to be here by, you know, maybe ten minutes till. We'll plan to start right on time at 10:00. Okay?

And so, Deputy --
THE BAILIFF: Yes, Your Honor.
THE COURT: -- go ahead and take the jury out.

THE BAILIFF: All rise.
(Open court, defendant present, no jury)
THE COURT: Mr. Rodriguez, you are ordered to return tomorrow at 9:50. We'll be starting with your testimony. Okay?

THE WITNESS: Okay.
THE COURT: All right. See y'all tomorrow at 10:00.

MR. CORNELIUS: Yes, ma'am. (Proceedings recessed)

## REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

THE STATE OF TEXAS ) COUNTY OF HARRIS )

I, Mary Ann Rodriguez, Official Court Reporter in and for the 337 th District Court of Harris County, State of Texas, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing contains a true and correct transcription of all portions of evidence and other proceedings requested in writing by counsel for the parties to be included in this volume of the Reporter's Record, in the above-styled and numbered cause, all of which occurred in open court or in chambers and were reported by me.

I further certify that this Reporter's Record of the proceedings truly and correctly reflects the exhibits, if any, admitted by the respective parties.

WITNESS MY OFFICIAL HAND this the 3rd day of October, 2013.
$\frac{\text { /s/ Mary Ann Rodriguez }}{\text { Mary Ann Rodriguez, Texas CSR } 3047}$
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