

State of Michigan 78th Judicial District 27th Judicial Circuit	AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF COMPLAINT	Case No: District: Circuit:
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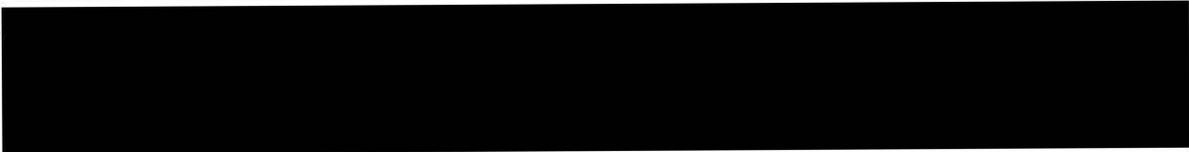
THE COMPLAINING WITNESS, ON INFORMATION AND BELIEF, SAYS:

1. Richard Atwood was last seen by family and friends on Wednesday, 08/10/1983 and has not been heard from since. The complainant, Karen Atwood, who is the mother of Richard Atwood, contacted family and known friends of her son and nobody reported having any contact with Richard Atwood after 08/10/1983. Richard Atwood's car was also reported missing, a 1975 brown in color two door Pontiac Trans-Am, VIN #21087S5N573787, MI REG# 490CNJ. The missing person report was made to the Michigan State Police on 8/22/1983. Karen Atwood indicated on the Missing Person Verification form Richard Atwood had no clothing missing or any other items missing to suggest he had moved somewhere else.
2. Debra Cain was Richard Atwood's girlfriend. The last time she saw Atwood was the morning of August 10, 1983. Atwood was pumping gas in White Cloud, Michigan. After seeing Atwood, she went shopping with her sister. She returned to her and Atwood's trailer around 2:00 p.m., where she noticed Atwood's waders, fishing pole, and bag were missing. There were no other items missing which would suggest he was leaving long term.
3. Walter Felos last saw Atwood on August 10, 1983 around noon at the White Cloud High School. Atwood was driving his 1975 brown Trans-Am. Walter Sanders and Roy Snell Jr. were in the car. Atwood told Felos he would come back after he dropped his passengers off in town. Atwood never returned.
4. Walter Sanders admitted that he was riding in Atwood's vehicle with Atwood and Roy Snell Jr. on August 10, 1983. He claims Atwood dropped him off and continued on with Roy Snell Jr.
5. Several years later, Sanders told detectives that at some point while he was with Atwood and Roy Snell Jr., Atwood exited the vehicle. While Atwood was out, Roy Snell Jr. pulled out a gun and said "let's rob Ricky."
6. On August 22, 1983, Atwood's parents, Karen and Gordon Atwood, reported Richard Atwood as missing. No one has reported seeing Atwood since August 10, 1983
7. Detectives have checked all 50 states, the State Department, and Canada for evidence that Atwood has renewed or obtained identification since August of 1983 and is living elsewhere. Detectives have found no evidence suggesting Atwood is still alive. Detectives also checked with credit bureaus and did not find any evidence that Atwood has been alive since August 1983. Detectives also checked with credit

- bureaus and the Kent County Friend of Court where Atwood was paying child support and found no records after August 1983.
8. On October 17, 1983 Atwood's vehicle was recovered at the East Leonard Service Station in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The East Leonard Service Station owner, John Vanderwoude, reported that a tow request was made by a person who identified himself as "Mike Roberts" at the Gateway Motel on 28th Street on August 11, 1983.
 9. D/Sgt. Fred Prysbe and Glen Moore of the Michigan State Police Crime Lab examined Atwood's vehicle on October 19, 1983. They found human blood and tissue in the driver's seat, center console, and trunk of the vehicle.
 10. Detectives obtained a DNA sample from Atwood's parents. DNA analysis indicates the biological material obtained from Atwood's car came from a male and that Karen and Gordon Atwood are the biological parents. Further DNA comparisons were done eliminating Atwood's brothers Kurt and Gordon as being the source of the found material.
 11. Dorothy Bazan worked at the Gateway Hotel on August 10 and 11, 1983. Bazan did not recall anyone who looked like Atwood. Hotel records indicate a person checked into the Gateway Motel with the name of "Mike Roberts" from Cleveland, OH.
 - a. Detectives seized the hotel registration card, which bore the signature of "Mike Roberts." Handwriting samples were obtained from Roy Snell Jr. Lab specialist Bruce DeKraker opined the known handwriting samples from Roy Snell Jr. were of no use for comparison because Roy Snell Jr. intentionally distorted them.
 - b. 
 - c. Gail Rushlo, who also worked at the Gateway Motel, verified the phone call records seized in 1983 by Detective Sergeant Miller were maintained by the Gateway Motel.
 12. In 1984, JB Martin told detectives that he and Roy Snell Jr. went to Grand Rapids to visit Juliette aka Candy McKinney. While in McKinney's home, another man asked Roy Snell Jr. about the Trans-Am that he used to have. Roy Snell Jr. seemed taken back by the comment.
 13. JB Martin and Roy Snell Jr. stayed at a motel during the trip to visit McKinney. Roy Snell Jr. signed the motel receipt with the name "Bob". Roy Snell Jr. told JB Martin he never leaves his name to be found.

14. A few months later, JB Martin told detectives Roy Snell Jr. admitted to killing Atwood. JB Martin said Roy Snell Jr. told him: "Yea I killed him but if I hadn't done it someone else would have."
15. Cornellia Rollston was living with Roy Snell Jr. around the summer of 1983. She said Roy Snell Jr. frequently carried a pistol, which was probably a .38 caliber. Rollston recalled an incident where Roy Snell Jr. and her brother got into an altercation and a gun came out.
16. Nolan Gant told detectives he was lodged in a cell next to Roy Snell Jr. After officers obtained handwriting samples from Roy Snell Jr., he told Gant that he had killed a guy for his dope money. Roy Snell Jr. told him he shot the guy, placed him in the trunk of the car, and then buried him. Roy Snell Jr. also told him that he disposed of the vehicle by using a false name and calling a wrecker. Gant subsequently said he did not remember any conversations with Roy Snell Jr., but he had no reason to lie previously.
17. Roy Snell was interviewed by Detective sergeant Miller and acknowledged he was in the car with Walter Sanders and Richard Atwood.
18. Cigarette butts from Richard Atwood's vehicle were recovered. These cigarette butts were sent to the Michigan State Police Lab and the DNA results returned identifying Roy Snell.
19. Roy Snell was the last person known to be with Richard Atwood. Roy Snell asked Walter Sanders if he wanted to rob Richard Atwood and displayed a handgun. Roy Snell told JB Martin he killed Richard Atwood. Roy Snell told Nolan Gant about killing a guy and putting him in the trunk, which is consistent to the blood/ DNA evidence and is consistent with Roy Snell's statement to Nolan Gant.

20.



NEWAYGO COUNTY
 18TH DISTRICT COURT
 2020 MAR 11 PM 1:33

Reviewed on: 3-11-2020

Scott Rios
 Det./Sgt. Scott Rios—Affiant
 Newaygo County Sheriff's Deputy

W. C. Bell

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Subscribed and Sworn before me on: 3-11-20
 Date

J. Moore
 Honorable _____
 Judge/Magistrate – 54A District Court
78th (2)