

1 what's been marked as Defendant's Exhibit 31 and just  
 2 ask you to sort of glance through these, if you would.  
 3 A. Correct, I recognize these.  
 4 Q. What are those?  
 5 A. This is information from Sadler Clinic and Lab  
 6 Corp.  
 7 Q. And are those pretty much the records that you  
 8 submitted to Dr. Carter for her examination on January  
 9 the 3rd of 1999?  
 10 A. That's one of them, yes.  
 11 MS. TURNER: Pass the witness.  
 12 MR. TIFFIN: I have no further questions,  
 13 Your Honor.  
 14 THE COURT: Have a seat.  
 15 Call your next witness.  
 16 MR. TIFFIN: Dr. Joye Carter.  
 17 (AT THE BENCH, ON THE RECORD)  
 18 MR. TIFFIN: Judge, the Trotters  
 19 initially did not want to stay in for this. They have  
 20 changed their mind. You might want to take the jury  
 21 out, and I don't want you to be - I don't know what's  
 22 going to happen.  
 23 MS. TURNER: I don't think it's a good  
 24 idea.  
 25 THE COURT: It's going to get rough?

1 no point to it. And I would prefer that you leave.  
 2 Now, if you so choose and you desire to be here, I  
 3 cannot tolerate an emotional outburst. I'm not going  
 4 to go through that again. That was the key point of  
 5 error in the Crawford case, the only vote to overturn  
 6 that case, and it was an eight to one case. That one  
 7 vote was based upon an emotional outburst of a family  
 8 member during the trial. I do not think this is a  
 9 wise decision. I've been told you family members want  
 10 to stay. It's your option. It's your child. I fully  
 11 understand your decision either way, but I wish, Nan,  
 12 that you would confer with them for a moment and  
 13 express what my desire is. All right. I'll take just  
 14 a moment to let you talk to them.  
 15 (PAUSE)  
 16 THE COURT: All right. Anybody else?  
 17 Leave now.  
 18 Bring the jury back in.  
 19 (OPEN COURT, JURY PRESENT.  
 20 DEFENDANT PRESENT).  
 21 THE COURT: Let's proceed.  
 22  
 23  
 24  
 25

1 MS. TURNER: Yesterday was nothing.  
 2 THE COURT: How rough?  
 3 MR. CROW: The organs are removed from  
 4 her body and split.  
 5 THE COURT: These are photographs?  
 6 MS. TURNER: Autopsy shots, possibly the  
 7 rib cage exposed.  
 8 THE COURT: There's Pam. Where is  
 9 Nancy?  
 10 MR. TIFFIN: Nan's there.  
 11 MR. CROW: They're afraid of a  
 12 breakdown.  
 13 MS. TURNER: The ligature around the  
 14 neck.  
 15 (BENCH CONFERENCE ENDS)  
 16 THE COURT: Take the jury out.  
 17 (OPEN COURT, JURY NOT PRESENT,  
 18 DEFENDANT PRESENT)  
 19 THE COURT: All right. Let's be  
 20 seated.  
 21 Now, Dr. Carter is the Medical Examiner  
 22 who did the autopsy on Ms. Trotter. My experience is  
 23 this is going to be fairly vivid testimony, and you  
 24 family members who have elected to stay in the  
 25 courtroom, really, I'm advising you not to. There's

1 **DR. JOYE CARTER,**  
 2 having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:  
 3 **DIRECT EXAMINATION**  
 4 **BY MR. TIFFIN:**  
 5 Q. Would you state your full name, please?  
 6 A. My name is Joye Maureen Carter.  
 7 Q. What position do you hold, please, ma'am?  
 8 A. I'm the Chief Medical Examiner for Harris  
 9 County, Texas.  
 10 MR. TIFFIN: Can I have this marked,  
 11 Irene?  
 12 (STATE'S EXHIBIT NO. 265 WAS  
 13 MARKED FOR IDENTIFICATION)  
 14 Q. (BY MR. TIFFIN) Dr. Carter, I show you what's  
 15 been marked as State's Exhibit 265 and ask you if you  
 16 recognize that document?  
 17 A. Yes, I do.  
 18 Q. What is it?  
 19 A. It's a copy of my Curriculum Vitae.  
 20 MR. TIFFIN: Your Honor, I'm going to  
 21 submit and offer State's Exhibit 265 and tender to  
 22 counsel for inspection and offer Dr. Carter as an expert  
 23 witness in the field of forensic pathology.  
 24 MS. TURNER: No objections to 265.  
 25 THE COURT: Admitted. The Court so

1 designates the Doctor as an expert in the field of  
2 pathology.

3 Q. (BY MR. TIFFIN) Dr. Carter, tell the Jury  
4 what educational and professional training you have  
5 that qualifies you in the field of medical pathology.

6 A. I obtained my undergraduate degree in Biology  
7 and Chemistry from Wittenberg University, Springfield,  
8 Ohio. I obtained my medical degree from Howard  
9 University College of Medicine in Washington D.C. I  
10 performed an Internship in internal medicine in New York  
11 City. I performed a residency program in pathology,  
12 both anatomical and clinical pathology, at Howard  
13 University Hospital. Anatomical is the examination of  
14 the body to determine what diseases or injuries of the  
15 individual. Clinical pathology is used in the  
16 laboratory to make a diagnosis of drugs or disease  
17 through the body fluids. I then performed a forensic  
18 pathology fellowship in Miami, Florida. And after  
19 medical school, I was an officer in the United States  
20 Air Force. I was a Major in the Air Force. I obtained  
21 a Board Certification in the areas of anatomical  
22 pathology, clinical pathology and forensic pathology.

23 Q. Dr. Carter, do you likewise have expertise in  
24 the field of serology?

25 A. Yes, I've had training in serology as a

1 pathologist.

2 Q. What is forensic pathology, please?

3 A. Forensic pathology is a specialization of  
4 pathology. Pathology, itself, is a study of the  
5 disease, the basis of medicine. You add on forensic  
6 pathology, it is the medical, legal investigation of  
7 death where you look at injuries and diseases that  
8 leads to an individual's death.

9 Q. And could you also explain the field, what is  
10 serology, to the ladies and gentlemen of the Jury?

11 A. Serology is another specialized area where  
12 you examine the body fluids to determine whether or  
13 not you have human fluids and also in the areas of  
14 DNA.

15 Q. Does that also have to do with blood?

16 A. Yes, it does.

17 Q. So the jury is clear, a curriculum vitae, is  
18 that a resume?

19 A. It is a resume involving all of your  
20 education, background, lectures, training that you had.

21 Q. In your capacity as Medical Examiner, do you  
22 perform autopsies?

23 A. Yes, I do occasional autopsies.

24 Q. Do you perform autopsies for Montgomery  
25 County?

1 A. Yes, I do.

2 Q. How does that work exactly, since you are  
3 with the Harris County M.E.'s Office? How does that  
4 work?

5 A. There is a contract through the County  
6 Commissioners of Harris County to perform autopsies,  
7 perform examinations on persons who have died in  
8 Montgomery County.

9 Q. Could you please explain what an autopsy is?

10 A. An autopsy is a complete examination of the  
11 deceased body. Since pathologists are physicians and  
12 we do deal with the dead, we cannot obtain a history  
13 from those individuals. We must do a very careful  
14 examination of the body. That's what autopsy is. It  
15 involves both external examination of the outside of  
16 the body, as well as looking at the inside of the  
17 body, all the organs, documenting whether or not  
18 there's injury there and collecting body fluids,  
19 toxicology for that examination.

20 Q. Dr. Carter, during your career, approximately  
21 how many autopsies have you performed?

22 A. I performed over 2,000 autopsies during my  
23 career.

24 Q. Have you ever testified before as an expert in  
25 the area of forensic pathology?

1 A. Many times.

2 Q. I want to direct your attention back to  
3 January 3rd of 1999 and ask you if you conducted an  
4 autopsy on a person who was purportedly identified as  
5 Melissa Trotter?

6 A. Yes, I did.

7 Q. Does your office have any unique numbering  
8 system that ya'll assign to the particular bodies that  
9 come in there?

10 A. Yes, we do.

11 Q. Did you assign a number to the body that came  
12 in that purported to be Melissa Trotter's?

13 A. Yes, we did.

14 Q. What was that number, please?

15 A. That number was CC99-2.

16 Q. Now, during your, when you do an autopsy,  
17 after you do that, do you put your findings in some type  
18 of report?

19 A. Yes, the findings are dictated while the  
20 autopsy is being performed and then typed into a report.

21 Q. Are you the custodian of records for autopsy  
22 reports performed in the M.E.'s Office?

23 A. Yes, I am.

24 Q. I want to show you what - I'll get this  
25 marked, please.

1 (STATE'S EXHIBIT NO. 266 WAS  
2 MARKED FOR IDENTIFICATION.  
3 Q. (BY MR. TIFFIN) I will show you what's been  
4 marked as State's Exhibit No. 266 and ask you to look at  
5 that, if you recognize it?  
6 A. Yes, I do.  
7 Q. Is that record kept in the regular course of  
8 business at the Harris County Medical Examiner's Office?  
9 A. Yes, it is.  
10 Q. Did an employee or representative of the  
11 Harris Medical Examiner's Office make that record or  
12 transmit the information regarding acts and events,  
13 conditions, opinions or diagnoses in that record?  
14 A. Yes, they did.  
15 Q. Was it done at or near the time or reasonably  
16 soon after the event?  
17 A. Yes, it was.  
18 Q. And did the employee or representative who  
19 made the entries have actual knowledge of the event?  
20 A. Yes.  
21 Q. And this is a copy of the original; is that  
22 not true?  
23 A. Yes, it is.  
24 Q. Where is the original?  
25 A. The original report is actually with the

1 break down, change color and become very soft and  
2 lumpy.  
3 Q. Did you do an external examination of the  
4 body?  
5 A. Yes, I did.  
6 Q. And did you have any particular findings at  
7 that time?  
8 A. Yes. The body was presented clothed and  
9 there was an apparent injury to the neck, as well as a  
10 ligature tied around the neck.  
11 Q. I want to show you what's been marked as  
12 State's Exhibit Nos. 132 through 161, I believe,  
13 inclusive, and ask you if you would take a look at  
14 those and see if you recognize those.  
15 A. Yes, I do.  
16 Q. Do these fairly and accurately depict the  
17 events as recorded in each photo?  
18 A. Yes.  
19 MR. TIFFIN: Your Honor, at this time  
20 I'm going to offer State's Exhibits 132 through 161,  
21 inclusive, and tender those to counsel for inspection.  
22 (STATE'S EXHIBIT NOS. 267 THROUGH 271  
23 WERE MARKED FOR IDENTIFICATION)  
24 MS. TURNER: No objection.  
25 THE COURT: Admitted.

1 County, with the J.P. from Montgomery County.  
2 MR. TIFFIN: Your Honor, at this time,  
3 I'm going to offer State's Exhibit 266 and tender to  
4 counsel for inspection.  
5 MS. TURNER: We would object to 266 as  
6 it's improper bolstering. Dr. Joye Carter has not  
7 testified yet, and I believe, if it is ever going to be  
8 admitted, it is untimely being offered at this time and  
9 I object to it on that basis.  
10 THE COURT: Overruled. Admitted.  
11 Q. (BY MR. TIFFIN) Dr. Carter, take a look at  
12 what's been admitted as 266. Is there a number on that  
13 particular document, a Harris County Medical Examiner's  
14 number?  
15 A. Yes, sir, there is.  
16 Q. What is that?  
17 A. OC99-2.  
18 Q. When you conducted your autopsy on the person  
19 purportedly identified to you as Melissa Trotter, can  
20 you describe the general condition of the body when you  
21 began your autopsy?  
22 A. Yes, I can.  
23 Q. Would you please do that for us?  
24 A. The body was received in a state of moderate  
25 decomposition, that means the body tissue had begun to

1 Q. (BY MR. TIFFIN) In addition, Dr. Carter, I  
2 show you also what's been marked State's Exhibits 267,  
3 268, 269, 270, 271 and ask you to take a look at  
4 those, please, see if you recognize those.  
5 A. Yes, I recognize them all.  
6 Q. Do they fairly and accurately depict what they  
7 purport to show on those photographs?  
8 A. Yes, sir, they do.  
9 MR. TIFFIN: Your Honor, at this time,  
10 we offer State's Exhibits 267 through 271, inclusive,  
11 and tender to counsel for inspection.  
12 MS. TURNER: No objections to 267  
13 through 271.  
14 THE COURT: Be admitted.  
15 Q. (BY MR. TIFFIN) Dr. Carter, I'm going to  
16 place on the monitor here State's Exhibit No. 132 and  
17 ask you if you could, please, could you describe what  
18 that is.  
19 A. Yes. This is the body of the female that was  
20 later identified as Ms. Trotter. This is prior to the  
21 internal examination where I'm doing the external  
22 examination of the body. The body is still clad with a  
23 dark sweater here. There's decomposition of the face,  
24 and the body is laying in a position for photographs.  
25 Q. I want to show you what's been previously

1 admitted as State's Exhibit No. 152 and ask you to  
 2 take a look at that. Does that appear to be the same  
 3 sweater she's wearing there?  
 4 A. Yes, it does.  
 5 Q. I want to show you what's been marked as  
 6 State's Exhibit 133 and ask you if you can identify  
 7 that, please, ma'am?  
 8 A. This is another photograph of Ms. Trotter's  
 9 body. The Harris County number is on the chest area.  
 10 Q. That would be the 89-27  
 11 A. That's correct.  
 12 Q. And Dr. J.C. would be you?  
 13 A. That's correct.  
 14 Q. Anything else about that photograph that is  
 15 remarkable?  
 16 A. Well, this photograph is again showing the  
 17 sweater with outer garments with stripes on the sleeve  
 18 area and the marked decomposition of the face.  
 19 Q. We see it is decomposed here on the left side;  
 20 is that correct? Would that be a fair statement?  
 21 A. On the left side, it's darker in color and in  
 22 this photograph.  
 23 Q. What does that tell us?  
 24 A. The dark color usually indicates blood. Blood  
 25 breaks down or as we call, decomposition, it goes

1 the body breaking down, again, superficial vessels in  
 2 the skin which contain blood will get dark, and there  
 3 appears to be some fungal organisms gathering between  
 4 the layers of the skin tissue.  
 5 Q. This white sheet bag, is that how the body  
 6 arrived at the Medical Examiner's Office?  
 7 A. That's correct.  
 8 Q. I show you what's been marked as State's  
 9 Exhibit 135 and ask you to describe that for the jury,  
 10 please, ma'am.  
 11 A. This is another photograph of Ms. Trotter's  
 12 body. There's clothing on the body, but this is the  
 13 back. This is showing the back view. These are denim  
 14 jeans, the lower part or right side of the screen.  
 15 There is a rip in the jeans, showing red underwear  
 16 underneath, and the upper part is showing the back of  
 17 the sweater area and the top of the head.  
 18 Q. I show you what's previously been admitted as  
 19 State's Exhibit No. 165 and ask you if you recognize  
 20 that.  
 21 A. Yes, I do.  
 22 Q. Does that appear to be the jeans shown in that  
 23 photograph there?  
 24 A. Yes, they do.  
 25 Q. It's based on what?

1 through different chemical changes, becomes very dark to  
 2 black in color.  
 3 Q. Did you draw any blood from Ms. Trotter's  
 4 body?  
 5 A. We draw some fluids because of the condition  
 6 of the blood.  
 7 Q. Could you describe the condition of the blood?  
 8 A. Well, blood at one point in our bodies is  
 9 living tissue and it does die, it gets dark, and it  
 10 becomes very watery as the cellular portion separates.  
 11 Q. How long will it take for blood to break down  
 12 and become dark?  
 13 A. Usually in this part of the country, it can  
 14 take anywhere from several hours to a couple of days.  
 15 Q. I want to show you what's been marked as  
 16 State's Exhibit No. 134 and ask you what is that?  
 17 A. This also is a photograph of Ms. Trotter's  
 18 body, the lower part of the body. There's some exposure  
 19 of the abdomen or stomach area. Again, the body is  
 20 still clad. There's blue jeans on the body. The Harris  
 21 County number is on the lower part of the body. You see  
 22 some skin discoloration in the stomach area.  
 23 Q. What does that skin discoloration indicate to  
 24 you?  
 25 A. Again, this is part of the decomposition of

1 A. Based upon the rip that is in the jeans.  
 2 Q. I show you what's been marked as State's  
 3 Exhibit 136 and ask you to describe that for the ladies  
 4 and gentlemen of the jury, please?  
 5 A. Again, this is a photograph of Ms. Trotter's  
 6 body. This is the back of the body. This is the  
 7 lower portion, which has the feet on the right side,  
 8 and there was one black and white gym shoe or tennis  
 9 shoe associated with the left foot, and just a white  
 10 sock on the right foot.  
 11 Q. State's Exhibit 1377  
 12 A. This is a photograph of the clothing. We  
 13 have now at this point undressed Ms. Trotter's body.  
 14 We are photographing the clothing separately. And the  
 15 lower left corner is the outer garment, which is the  
 16 dark sweater.  
 17 Q. That would be here?  
 18 A. Yes, sir, above that in the top left portion  
 19 is a long-sleeved black sweater underneath the green  
 20 sweater.  
 21 Q. And --  
 22 A. Then the blue jeans I described earlier on the  
 23 right side of the photograph.  
 24 Q. What is this?  
 25 A. Also, in the far upper left is the bra that

1 was on the body, underneath the dark sweater.  
2 Q. The sweater you're referring to, the dark  
3 sweater, I show you what's been previously admitted as  
4 State's Exhibit 166. Does that appear to be the  
5 sweater?

6 A. Yes, it does.

7 Q. I show you what's been marked as State's 163  
8 and 164 and ask you if you recognize these?

9 A. Yes, I do.

10 Q. What are they?

11 A. It's the left tennis shoe that was  
12 associated with the left foot and the bra that was  
13 removed from Ms. Trotter's body.

14 Q. These things were taken off of Ms. Trotter's  
15 body?

16 A. That's correct.

17 MR. TIFFIN: I offer, Your Honor,  
18 State's Exhibits 163 and 164 and tender these to counsel  
19 for inspection.

20 MS. TURNER: No objection.

21 THE COURT: Admitted.

22 Q. (BY MR. TIFFIN) Dr. Carter, I show you what's  
23 been marked as State's Exhibit No. 138 and ask you to  
24 identify that, please, ma'am.

25 A. This is another photograph of the clothing

1 removed from Ms. Trotter's body. In the lower left  
2 corner, pointing out the sole of the gym shoe, and in  
3 the center of the denim blue jeans are the underwear  
4 that were removed from the body. The pockets of the  
5 jeans have been turned outward, which is normal  
6 procedure. And this is a photograph of the, those  
7 items.

8 Q. What is the red thing here in the middle?

9 A. That's the underwear, panties.

10 Q. I show you what's been previously marked as  
11 State's Exhibits 167 and 168 and ask you if you can  
12 identify these?

13 A. Yes, those are the socks and the pair of red  
14 underwear removed from Ms. Trotter's body.

15 MR. TIFFIN: At this time, we offer  
16 State's Exhibits 167 and 168 and tender those to  
17 counsel for inspection.

18 MS. TURNER: No objection.

19 THE COURT: Admitted.

20 Q. (BY MR. TIFFIN) Dr. Carter, once you remove  
21 the clothes of a person when you're conducting an  
22 autopsy, what's the next step?

23 A. Usually the body is photographed at that point  
24 without the clothes on.

25 Q. I want to show you what's been marked as

1 State's Exhibit No. 140 and ask you to identify that,  
2 please.

3 A. This is the now nude body of Ms. Trotter being  
4 photographed for documentation purposes. This is the  
5 front of the body, and you see the Medical Examiner  
6 number laying across the chest area.

7 Q. State's Exhibit No. 141?

8 A. This is a photograph of the lower part of the  
9 torso, the bottom part of the abdomen, pelvis and legs  
10 that is being photographed. This is the front of the  
11 body and again, the number appearing across the pelvic  
12 region.

13 Q. I want to take this and show you something, if  
14 you don't mind, ma'am. Up here when you're looking at  
15 it, you'll see greenish color around that. What does  
16 that indicate to you?

17 A. The greenish color is part of the  
18 decomposition. Again, blood goes through various color  
19 changes, green, black. There's also fungal, oral  
20 organisms that grow in superficial layers of tissue.

21 Q. You mentioned something about fungus growth.  
22 What does that indicate to you as a Medical Examiner,  
23 please, ma'am?

24 A. Fungal organisms will grow in a moist  
25 environment, usually darkened environment. There's

1 slow-growing organisms and you'll often find these on  
2 bodies that have been out in the environment where  
3 it's dark and dank and wet, and usually with several  
4 weeks' time have elapsed, you find these growing in  
5 the skin.

6 Q. Does that allow you to determine a time of  
7 death or assist you in determining a time of death?

8 A. It does assist us in engaging a time of  
9 death.

10 Q. I show you what's been marked as State's  
11 Exhibit No. 142. Describe that for the jury, please.

12 A. This is a photograph of Ms. Trotter's body.  
13 The body is face down. This is showing the back of the  
14 head and the neck region. Also, the upper part of the  
15 back. At this point, the bra is still in place, and  
16 you're seeing some discoloration of the skin and also --

17 Q. Right there where that mark is?

18 A. Yes, sir.

19 Also, part of the ligature is showing up  
20 on the neck area.

21 Q. Right there in that area?

22 A. That's correct.

23 Q. State's Exhibit No. 143, please, ma'am.

24 A. This is a close-up photograph of that same  
25 area. This is showing the ligature, which is a part

1 of a nylon stocking, parts of the pantyhose which is  
 2 tied around the neck with the knot portion in the  
 3 back. That's a close-up showing.  
 4 Q. What type of knot was this tagged with?  
 5 A. I describe it as a simple knot. Just the  
 6 material tied together. One loop.  
 7 Q. Like you would tie a shoe?  
 8 A. Right, just the two loops.  
 9 Q. Not a bow, but just a -  
 10 A. Just a knot.  
 11 Q. Regular knot?  
 12 This is a closer -- look at 144,  
 13 please?  
 14 A. Again, this is another photograph of the back.  
 15 This is the ligature. This is the knot area, and then  
 16 there are the two arms that come off which appear to be  
 17 part of the nylon hosiery.  
 18 Q. This is this area right here?  
 19 A. That's correct.  
 20 Q. Okay. 145 would be, are you attempting to  
 21 take the ligature off at this time?  
 22 A. Actually, what I'm doing in this photograph,  
 23 prior to removing the ligature, I like to see how tight  
 24 it is around the neck. I've inserted a pair of forceps  
 25 and -

1 darkening to facial skin. And the ligature is present  
 2 on the neck. And there is a dark discoloration below  
 3 the ligature on the front part of the neck.  
 4 Q. What does that indicate to you?  
 5 A. This dark discoloration indicates that there  
 6 had been some postmortem activity by insects and  
 7 animals. There is blood there. There's a lot of more  
 8 advanced decomposition in that area. There's a large  
 9 gaping defect there, may have been a point of prior  
 10 injury.  
 11 Q. Does she still have her bra on here?  
 12 A. Yes, she does.  
 13 Q. State's Exhibit 148, please explain what that  
 14 states to you.  
 15 A. Well, this photograph is again, this is taken  
 16 after the clothing has been removed and it's normal  
 17 procedure to photograph the back of the body.  
 18 Q. What are all these marks right here?  
 19 A. Well, some of these marks on the body are from  
 20 where the clothing was, you can see the imprint from  
 21 where the bra strap was. And you have just some  
 22 pressure marks from the body being in a certain  
 23 position, and you have this discoloration, which is part  
 24 of the decomposition with the mold growing and the blood  
 25 breaking down in the superficial layers of the skin.

1 Q. Right there?  
 2 A. That's the tip, and I'm demonstrating for the  
 3 documentation purposes this is very tightly applied  
 4 around the neck.  
 5 Q. Were you able to determine, once you removed  
 6 the ligature, the exact circumference of the knot?  
 7 A. Yes, the ligature was removed and the diameter  
 8 was measured at three and a half inches, three and a  
 9 half inches. We'll look at that in a second.  
 10 Q. Let me show you State's Exhibit No. 146. This  
 11 is, I think before the clothes were removed, can you  
 12 tell us what that is again?  
 13 A. This is actually part of the face region, the  
 14 lower portion of the photograph, and also the - looks  
 15 like part of the ligature showing up on this margin.  
 16 Q. Right there?  
 17 A. Going out in this area.  
 18 Q. Right in there, the ligature, is that what  
 19 you're talking about?  
 20 A. Yes, and going up to the tip of the root,  
 21 hair in the photograph.  
 22 Q. And 147?  
 23 A. This also is another view. This is the front  
 24 or anterior surface of Ms. Trotter's body. You can see  
 25 there is a lot of damage and decomposition change.

1 Q. Is the ligature also present?  
 2 A. Yes, sir.  
 3 Q. State's 149, could you describe for the jury  
 4 what you're doing here?  
 5 A. What I'm doing here for purposes of  
 6 documentation, I'm examining parts of the ligature  
 7 around the neck before it's taken off.  
 8 Q. I notice it fairly well, appears to be  
 9 fairly well wet, what is that?  
 10 A. I didn't hear you.  
 11 Q. It appears to be fairly wet.  
 12 A. Wet?  
 13 Q. Damp? What is that? I don't know how to  
 14 describe it.  
 15 A. Well, it is damp. It was damp and it's soiled  
 16 with body fluids. At this point, it appears to be  
 17 certainly some blood in this area and what we call  
 18 liquifying of the tissue from the neck, where the  
 19 anterior neck area is.  
 20 Q. State's Exhibit No. 150?  
 21 The ligature has been removed?  
 22 A. Yes, this is the back of the head and neck  
 23 region. This dark area, which is more on the right  
 24 side, was approximately where the knot was in the  
 25 ligature that was around the neck.

33

1 Q. Right here?

2 A. Yes, sir.

3 Q. Excuse me, had ya'll removed her hair at that

4 point in time? Had it been cut off?

5 A. I believe at that point, we had removed the

6 hair.

7 Q. Now, I show you what's been marked as State's

8 Exhibit 151, can you tell the ladies and gentlemen of

9 the jury what this is?

10 A. It's difficult to see, but this is actually

11 the examination I'm conducting of that defect in the

12 front of the neck.

13 Q. That would be right in here?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Okay. These are forceps?

16 A. These are forceps. And what I have done, at

17 that very tip of the dark area in the mid portion --

18 Q. Right here?

19 A. No, in the mid portion.

20 Q. Right here?

21 A. Up, right, I have explored this area. Where

22 the forceps are, I'm identifying that the blood vessels

23 are intact on the sides of the neck.

24 Q. Did you find anything remarkable about that

25 particular area?

1 Q. And based on receiving the additional

2 information, does that reinforce your earlier conclusion

3 that there might have been a sharp, forced injury to the

4 neck?

5 A. Yes, I did rethink from my earlier

6 observations of the body upon reading that.

7 Q. When you say a sharp, forced injury to the

8 neck, are we referring to something like a knife wound?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. A stab wound?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Cutting?

13 A. Yes, all those are all in the category of a

14 sharp wound.

15 Q. That would be indicated by -- that would be

16 indicated right in here, in this area right here?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Or is it difficult to tell because of the

19 gnawing?

20 A. It's difficult to tell because of the gnawing,

21 and also it's a dark photograph, but that was the area

22 of entrance. There is a division in the tissue there.

23 Q. I show you what's been marked as State's

24 Exhibit 152 and what does that indicate to you?

25 A. This is almost a side profile of the neck with

34

1 A. Yes. On first sight, it appeared there

2 might have been a sharp, forced injury that occurred

3 previously. And then some point later, there had been

4 animal activity. And there was -- I did document

5 there was tooth marks on the neck organs at this area,

6 and the blood vessels, the major blood vessels, the

7 jugular and carotid vessels, were intact, but had

8 animals gnawing on it.

9 Q. I believe you also said there, at first

10 glance, it appeared there had been some sharp, forced

11 injury?

12 A. Right, that's correct.

13 Q. I want to show you what's been -- whenever

14 you form an opinion about injuries, things of that

15 nature, do you form that opinion, based on the facts

16 and circumstances you've provided at the time; is that

17 correct?

18 A. Yes, you consider all the available

19 information.

20 Q. I want to show you what's been marked as

21 State's Exhibit 151 and ask you if you've seen this

22 before, if you've seen that before?

23 A. Yes, I have seen this before.

24 Q. And you've read that before; correct?

25 A. Yes, I have.

1 the chin, and on first glance, in my experience, it

2 looked like a sharp, forced injury or some type of

3 cutting wound of the neck.

4 Q. States 153?

5 A. This photograph is another picture of the

6 front of the body. At this point, the clothing, the bra

7 has not been removed, but this dark area is showing

8 where appears to have been previously blood and also the

9 animal activity, but appears to be a large wound on the

10 anterior surface of the neck.

11 Q. The ligature is still in place; right?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. 154?

14 A. Now, this photograph is showing the full

15 aspect of the wound to the neck with the chin pulled

16 more upright. I believe the ligature has been removed

17 at this point, and it's showing the extensiveness of

18 this wound in this area.

19 Q. 155, would that be a close up of what we just

20 described?

21 A. Yes, it is.

22 Q. 156?

23 A. This photograph is the ligature, which I have

24 now at this point removed from the body, away from where

25 the knot was tied, with the cut ends back together, and