

THE STATE OF TEXAS ) (

## ARREST WARRANT AFFIDAVIT

COUNTY OF TARRANT ) (

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared the undersigned affiant, who after being duly sworn on oath deposes and says: My name is **DETECTIVE RB JACKSON #3953, FORT WORTH POLICE DEPARTMENT**, and I have good reason to believe and do believe that on or about the **16th of February 2020**, in Tarrant County, Texas, **DORY, REKEEM LACLINTON, A BLACK MALE, Date of Birth, 12-14-1994**, did then and there commit the offense of:

***CAPITAL MURDER OF PERSON UNDER 10 YEARS OLD***

§19.03(a)(8) PC – FX - 09990029

INTENTIONALLY OR KNOWINGLY CAUSE THE DEATH OF Zianne Essix, AN INDIVIDUAL UNDER TEN YEARS OF AGE BY blunt force trauma to the head/homicidal violence,

My belief is based upon the following facts and information:

The victim, Zianne Essix, is a black female, born on 01-08-2016. Zianne was 4 years of age during the commission of the offense.

The suspect, Rekeem L. Dory, is a 25 year-old, black male, born on 12-14-1994. Rekeem was 25 years of age during the commission of the offense. He is known to the victim as her biological father.

In the early morning hours of Monday, February 17, 2020, the victim's father, Rekeem Dory, called 911 for medical assistance (approximately 12:30 AM). Rekeem told the 911 operator that his 4 year old daughter, (Zianne), might be having a seizure and her lips were turning blue. Rekeem stated that Zianne was found in her bed and was not breathing. MedStar and Fort Worth Fire Department personnel responded to the scene located at 1005 E. Bessie St, Fort Worth, Texas. FWPD Officer Lopez #4627 was dispatched to the residence in reference to CPR in progress on a 4 year old child. FWPD report number 200013425 was generated.

Officer Lopez spoke with Rekeem about what happened. Rekeem stated that Zianne and her younger sister (2 years old) were playing on a small plastic slide in the playroom that morning (approximately 16 hours earlier). Zianne had fallen off the slide and hit her head on the floor. She had a knot on the front of her head that he had iced throughout the day.

MedStar transported Zianne to Cook Children's Medical Center in critical condition.

Cook Children's medical personnel found severe bruising all over Zianne's body. Medical personnel believed those bruises were inconsistent with a single fall from a play slide. A list of the extensive abnormal bruising as compiled by CARE Nurse [REDACTED] is as follows: scattered circular bruising to her back, chest, bilateral arms (upper arms and forearms), and bilateral legs, extensive linear and diffuse bruising was noted to her lower back, right flank, entire buttocks, and extended down the full length of her upper right thigh. Zianne's forehead had at least 4 circular contusions: the right frontal, midline, left medial, and left lateral sides. Additional bruising included scattered bruising to the area between Zianne's left eye and her nose as well as a bruise to her right upper eyelid and an area of her left ear. Circular bruising was noted to Zianne's left shoulder – both in front and behind the joint. Abnormal bruising was also seen to Zianne's lower neck and a circular bruise to her right jaw.

Non-specific bruising was noted to her knees, elbows, tops of feet, and shins. (All bruising was photographed and cataloged).

I was currently at the hospital working on another case when I received a call from FWPd communications about this case.

I found the victim's father in the hallway at Cook Children's Medical Center ER area. He was being consoled by the hospital chaplain. The father was later identified as, Dory, Rekeem, B/M, 12-14-94.

I sat down and spoke with Rekeem about what happened. (This interview was audio recorded). Rekeem stated that day, (Sunday, February 16, 2020), was "cleaning day". Both of his daughters were to get up and help clean the house. Rekeem has a two year old daughter along with Zianne (the victim). Rekeem stated that Zianne and her little sister were playing in the playroom and Zianne had fallen off the slide onto a hard floor. Zianne was found with a large knot on her forehead. They thought Zianne was fine. Rekeem said that his youngest daughter has fallen off the slide "plenty of times" and has always been "ok". Rekeem applied a cold compress to Zianne's head throughout the day. Rekeem stated that Zianne "was fine" after a little while and was told to continue cleaning up. Zianne was not helping like she should so Rekeem gave Zianne a whipping. He struck her 6 times with his belt, "6 licks", and then instructed her to stand in the playroom and do breathing exercises as punishment for not helping clean up.

Rekeem's wife, [REDACTED] left the house around 2:30 PM and took their two year old daughter with her to Dallas. At approximately 4:30 PM, Rekeem stated that Zianne pooped and peed on herself while standing in the playroom. He gave her a bath and she was instructed to resume standing in the playroom for punishment. Rekeem's wife, Tykeyah, and their two year old daughter returned back home at approximately 10:30 PM. Rekeem went into the playroom and Zianne had soiled herself again. He asked Zianne, "Why didn't you go to the restroom?" Zianne replied, "because I wanted to". Rekeem said that he bathed Zianne again and then put her to bed. Rekeem and [REDACTED] sat down to watch TV. They heard a scream. [REDACTED] entered the children's bedroom and found the two year old sleeping. She found Zianne in her bed and her lips were blue. Zianne was not breathing. [REDACTED] yelled to Rekeem to call 911 and she began CPR.

On February 18, 2020, I met with Rekeem for a follow up interview at my office located at [REDACTED] Fort Worth, TX. (This conversation was audio and video recorded). Rekeem told me that Zianne's biological mother was currently in prison for three counts of child endangerment. Rekeem found out he was the biological father of Zianne in August 2018 and in January 2019 took custody of her after the mother was arrested. Rekeem and his family moved from Waco, TX to Fort Worth in December 2019. While living in Waco, Rekeem trained as a boxer. He stated he hasn't done much training since moving to Fort Worth.

Rekeem reiterated the morning incident when Zianne fell off the play slide and hit her head as well as Zianne getting into trouble for not helping clean up (she received 6 licks). The following are excerpts from his interview:

- "Mom ([REDACTED]) got finished getting [REDACTED] ready and Zianne was going to stay with me because she got into trouble. I think they left around 2:30pm and once they left it was just me and Zianne. So, periodically I would go in there and we would sit on the floor, cause I'm not gonna lie, I can't stand for 15 minutes and hold the ice pack to your head. So, we would sit on the floor. I would sit criss-cross-applesauce and she would sit on my lap and I would hold the icepack to her head for 15 minutes and I would still have her do her breathing exercises and I would do it with her, because it would calm me down also. I told her to stand back up. She would be like, "yes sir". But, she seemed fine. She was saying yes sir, no sir, like normal. I just thought she was upset that she didn't get to go with [REDACTED] and mommy. So, I just thought it was normal. I was going back and forth doing laundry, turning on Netflix, and I think I had turned on 2K (NBA basketball game) but I found out my Playstation Plus account had expired, so I turned that off and put on Netflix."

- “Around 4:30 PM to 5:00 PM, is when I went back there (playroom). And, whenever I would go back there, because I went back there four times before 4:30 PM, I would let her know if you need to use the restroom, both doors are open. You’re in trouble, but both doors are open. You can go use the restroom. Go to the potty, ok. Because there have been times when we first got her, she would poop and pee herself, but we got her potty trained and she’s a big girl. She started using the bathroom by herself. Coco (Tykeyah’s nickname) taught her how to wipe front to back and then wipe the toilet off.”
- “Around 4:30 PM to 5:00 PM, I went back there and I started smelling something funny you know, like poop. And I was like, Zianne, did you use the restroom on yourself? She was like “no, I just farted”. So, I looked and she had pooped and peed on herself. She’s done this before. She’s done this for attention, you know, she’s done it because she’s angry. I just thought she was regressing. So, I was like Zianne I told you four times go to the restroom. Why didn’t you go to the restroom? “I was just farting”. Ok, so I bathed her.”
- “So, every 30 minutes I would get the towel from the freezer, sit down criss-cross applesauce, and she would sit on my lap. I would ice her head and we would both do breathing exercises. When the towel wasn’t frozen anymore, I would put it back in the freezer and go back to the living room. We did that all day and all night until mom got back. I was expecting mom to get back around 8:00 PM or 8:30 PM but I guess it lasted longer. She got back around 10:30 PM and (2 year old) was asleep in the car. I think 10:00 PM was the last time I had went back to ice Zianne’s head but the big lump on her head wasn’t getting any better. That’s another thing, now that I’m thinking about it, that’s another thing I should have thought about.”
- “Basically, my wife got (2 year old) out of the car and she was asleep. She put her in the bed. Whenever my wife put (2 year old) to bed I went into the playroom to let Zianne know that it was time to go to bed and I was maybe going to ice her head again but when I went in there, there was a puddle at her feet and she peed herself. There’s you know, strike 2. She peed on herself and I asked her, why did you pee on yourself? She was like, “because I wanted to”. And by this point because you’ve already peed and boo boo’d on yourself, I’m overwhelmed, I’m ready for you to get in bed, I’m ready for you to get in bed and we start a fresh tomorrow. So, I bathed her real fast, got her bed clothes on, and put her in the bed.” “She was quiet, she was quiet when I bathed her”.
- Rekeem reiterated his story of hearing the scream and [REDACTED] finding Zianne in the bedroom. Zianne’s lips were blue. 911 was called. Medical personnel arrived to perform lifesaving measures. Zianne was transported to the hospital.

On February 18, 2020 at 6:06 PM, approximately six hours after this interview, Zianne was pronounced deceased. Medical doctors stated that a fall from the height of the Little Tykes slide (approximately 28 inches) was not consistent with her injuries and subsequent death.

On March 13, 2020, I obtained a search warrant for the Dory residence located at [REDACTED] which was signed into effect by Fort Worth Municipal Judge C. Tyler Atkinson. Detective L. Dickerson #3772 and I met with Crime Scene Officer T. Lee #2527 at the location and discussed what we would be looking to collect. I also coordinated with the FWPD Operations and Surveillance Team (OST) to provide surveillance on the residence that morning prior to the search warrant.

At approximately 9:30 AM, Officer E. Bounds #3931 and his team observed the parents, (Rekeem and [REDACTED]), of the deceased child exit the front door of their home at 1005 E. Bessie St and get into a 2013 black Ford Explorer, LP: [REDACTED], registered to [REDACTED]

One of the items listed in the signed search warrant was for cell phones. It is reasonable to believe that Rekeem and [REDACTED] had taken their personal cell phones with them as they left the residence and entered their

vehicle. I believed there to be information on these cell phones related the offense of Injury to a Child/Capital Murder.

FWRPD Officers A. Reyna #3904 and C. Cox #4067 working in the FWRPD Criminal Tracking Unit (CTU), in full FWRPD CTU uniforms and marked FWRPD police vehicles conducted an investigatory traffic stop based on reasonable suspicion that items named in the search warrant would be inside the Dory vehicle (ie, cell phones). In order to prevent the destruction of evidence on these phones, a traffic stop was conducted on the 1500 block of E. Vickery. The vehicle was occupied by Rekeem and [REDACTED]. They were advised about the search warrant for their home and asked to accompany Officers back to the house to meet with me in order to facilitate the search warrant without having to damage the home in order to get inside.

Rekeem and [REDACTED] agreed to accompany Officers back to the home at [REDACTED] and gave Officers their house key to use in order to open the front door.

During the traffic stop, Officers looked inside the black Ford Explorer and saw 3 cell phones. One was in the driver's side door pocket and two phones were in the front passenger side door pocket.

- Black Samsung Galaxy S9+, [REDACTED] (Driver's side door pocket)
- Silver iPhone 6S Plus, [REDACTED] (front passenger side door pocket)
- Black iPhone 8 Plus, [REDACTED] (front passenger side door pocket)

Officers seized the cell phones and handed them over to me once I made it to the search warrant location ([REDACTED]).

Crime Scene Officer Lee took photographs of each room in the house along with administering (Bluestar) – a latent bloodstain reagent. Officer Lee administered Bluestar in the playroom and the bathroom. Blood was located in multiple locations on the floor of the playroom as well as in the bathtub around the drain and the bathroom sink. These samples have been sent to the FWRPD Lab for analysis and identification.

On March 25, 2020, 213<sup>th</sup> District Court Judge Chris Wolfe signed a probable cause search warrant for the three phones listed above to be forensically searched. I then took the three cell phones to the FWRPD Digital Forensics Unit located at 1000 Calvert St for examination. Approximately 10 days later, the FWRPD Digital Forensics Unit provided me with the analysis of each phone.

I found the following:

- Black Samsung Galaxy S9+, [REDACTED] belongs to [REDACTED] (primary user). This phone contained a number of items of interest in this case.
  - February 14, 2020 at 7:19 PM (2 days before the 911 call) a video capture shows a close up of Zianne. Zianne appears to be in pristine condition having no bruises on her face, neck, or arms.
  - February 16, 2020 at 8:25 PM (the evening Zianne was home alone with Rekeem); incoming phone call from [REDACTED] (Rekeem's phone). Phone call lasts 17 minutes.
  - February 17, 2020 at 12:30 AM (early morning); outgoing emergency phone call to 911. Phone call lasted 7 minutes.
  - February 21, 2020 at 8:49 AM (three days after Zianne's death); outgoing phone call to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] – Rekeem's mother); This phone call has an accompanied digital recording of the call. This phone call/recording lasts for approximately 88 minutes. [REDACTED]

stated that she had uploaded an app on her phone to record phone conversations, mostly to record her CPS phone calls).

- The voices on this phone conversation can be identified as Rekeem Dory, [REDACTED] (Rekeem's biological mother), and [REDACTED] (Rekeem's step father). Through the conversation it becomes clear that [REDACTED] is paying for Rekeem's criminal attorney.
  - Excerpts from the recorded conversation:
    - At 5 minutes: Rekeem – *“a little four year old girl is dead due to the neglect of, you know, her parents”*.
    - At 7 minutes: Rekeem – *“we all have to be on the same page and work together to get through this. As of right now, everything is ok, there is no charges”*.
    - At 10 minutes: Rekeem – *“like I told her, my mother and father are the reason we aren't in prison right now...we're in the hospital, in the chaplain thing, and they've got cameras everywhere, so of course it wasn't smart for me to be talking to you about that stuff”*.
    - At 14 minutes: Rekeem – *“me and Zianne really didn't see eye-to-eye, almost never. I never really had that type of connection that I connected with her like that. I really didn't”*.
    - At 49 minutes: Rick Lacy – *“you know why I didn't go back and look at her face? (look at Zianne at the hospital) It's because, god forbid Rekeem, that was [REDACTED] ([REDACTED] is Rekeem's 5 year old son who lives with his mother in Waco). God forbid if that was [REDACTED] Not only would you need a lawyer, I would need one, cause somebody got to go”. “You, anybody, somebody got to go”, “Somebody would have to answer to me”*.
    - At 1 hour 6 minutes: [REDACTED] - *“There's only one person that can get you out of this”*. (speaking about God)
    - At 1 hour 9 minutes: [REDACTED] - *“all of this was no accident”*.
- Black iPhone 8 Plus, [REDACTED], TextNow: lilbait32, email: [REDACTED] phone number: [REDACTED] belongs to Rekeem Dory
  - February 16, 2020 at 1:10 AM; receives email from Sony Entertainment (Sony Playstation account); email states Rekeem's subscription has ended due to payment failure. The email is shown as “read” and was placed into a “high priority” folder.
  - February 16, 2020 at 8:24 PM; outgoing call to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] s phone number); phone call lasts for 17 minutes 44 seconds.
  - GPS location of this device: 02-14-20 at 5:12 PM until 02-17-20 at 1:26 AM; Latitude [REDACTED], Longitude - [REDACTED]; (1000 block of [REDACTED], Fort Worth, TX).

On April 14, 2020, I met with Dr. Jamye Coffman (Medical Director CARE Team Cook Children's Medical Center). We reviewed the photos taken by CARE Nurse Caitlyn Bastable on the night Zianne was brought into the hospital and noted the numerous bruises. We also reviewed the medical records compiled during Zianne's time at the hospital. Dr. Coffman stated that Zianne died from lack of blood/oxygen to the brain associated with brain swelling. Body was of a slightly below normal temperature upon arrival to hospital.

On April 28, 2020, I met with [REDACTED] (Rekeem's wife) at my office to discuss the circumstances surrounding Zianne's death. She was accompanied by her attorney, [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] stated around 9:30 AM (on the day of the incident) she heard a "loud thud and then crying". She went into the playroom and found Zianne holding her head and crying. Zianne told [REDACTED] she had fallen off the slide. After a few moments Zianne said she was ok. [REDACTED] confirmed Zianne had gotten into trouble for not helping clean up that morning and was not allowed to go with her and her little sister to visit [REDACTED]'s aunt and cousin in Desoto, TX. She believed Zianne had received a whipping from Rekeem that morning for not helping clean up. [REDACTED] stated she did not witness the punishment, but believed she heard possibly 3 licks given to Zianne in the back room.

Before [REDACTED] left the house, Zianne was in the playroom doing her "breathing exercises". [REDACTED] asked Zianne, "You know why you're not going, right?" Zianne said yes. [REDACTED] asked her, "Why?" Zianne said, "Because I didn't help clean up". [REDACTED] told Zianne that was correct but, "When I get back, you and (two year old daughter) are gonna take a bath, I'm gonna read you a story, and we're going to start over because tomorrow is a new day." [REDACTED] told Zianne that she loved her.

[REDACTED] and her two year old daughter left the house around 2:30 PM. They arrived at [REDACTED]'s aunt's house in Desoto sometime after 3:00 PM. [REDACTED] visited with her family until approximately 4:30 PM. She left her daughter with her family and drove to a "Birthworker Paint Night Party" that was being hosted in Lancaster, TX.

[REDACTED] visited and networked with multiple women at the party that evening. The party was hosted by a woman named [REDACTED]. I spoke with Ms. [REDACTED] (recorded phone conversation), who confirmed that [REDACTED] attended the party from approximately 4:00 PM – 8:00 PM. During the time [REDACTED] was at the party, Rekeem had messaged her via Snapchat saying Zianne had "peed and pooped on herself" at home.

[REDACTED] left the party at approximately 8:00 PM and drove back to her aunt's house in Desoto. She visited with her family, watched part of a movie, and had some dinner. At approximately 8:30 PM, while visiting with her family, [REDACTED] received a phone call from Rekeem. Rekeem seemed "annoyed". He began asking [REDACTED] where she was at and when she would be home. [REDACTED] stated that Rekeem was also talking about Zianne soiling herself. [REDACTED] told Rekeem that she would buy Zianne some new shorts. At approximately 10:00 PM she and her daughter left the aunt's house to drive back to their home on [REDACTED] Fort Worth, TX.

[REDACTED] told me that it had been months since the last time Zianne had soiled herself. She stated Zianne was known to soil herself in the past if she was mad or upset.

[REDACTED]'s two year old daughter was asleep in the car when they arrived home. She picked her up and carried her to the front door. [REDACTED] said she was expecting Zianne to run out to her saying, "mommy!", but as she opened the front door, she was immediately confronted by Rekeem. He told her that Zianne had urinated on herself again and he was going to have to give her another bath. [REDACTED] carried [REDACTED] into her bedroom. As [REDACTED] was walking down the hallway, Rekeem was on her right side, sidestepping next to her (blocking [REDACTED]'s view into the playroom). [REDACTED] entered the girls' bedroom (which is at the end of the hall on the right). There were clothes on her daughter's bed. Rekeem picked them up and threw them on the floor. He then moved to the bedroom doorway. [REDACTED] laid her daughter in her bed. She then used her phone and texted her cousin saying she had made it home. She remembers Rekeem mentioning something about Zianne slipping and falling on her pee (urine). [REDACTED] asked him if Zianne was ok. Rekeem said, "yeah, yeah, I'm going to give her a bath and cleanup."

As [REDACTED] was exiting her daughters' bedroom and walking down the hallway, Rekeem was walking/side stepping next to her blocking her vision of the playroom. The door was open but Rekeem was blocking the doorway. She thought he was being weird. She believed Zianne was in the playroom but she did not physically see her. [REDACTED] did not insist on seeing Zianne because she "did not want to get into it with Rekeem". She never heard Zianne make a sound that night. [REDACTED] went to the living room and sat down on the couch. She got on her phone and was looking at it. She heard water running in the bathroom and the door closed. She then heard the door open and could hear Rekeem saying something (she believed he was talking to Zianne). After a few moments Rekeem walked into the living room and sat down on the end of the couch.

An unknown time elapsed and [REDACTED] heard a cry. She knew it was her two year old daughter. She was expecting her to get up out of bed and come into the living room to look for her mother. After a few moments [REDACTED] decided to go check on her. She walked into the bedroom and turned on the light. Her two year old was sleeping. She looked over at Zianne and her lips were blue. [REDACTED] yelled for Rekeem to dial 911 while she began CPR.

[REDACTED] stated once she made it to the hospital, after all the emergency workers left her home, she was questioned by investigators from the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS). While speaking with DFPS investigators they were asking questions about "all the bruising on Zianne". She told me she was thinking, "What bruising? What are they talking about?". Once [REDACTED] was able to go back to the hospital room that Zianne was in, she pulled back the sheet to expose Zianne's body. [REDACTED] saw bruising all over Zianne. [REDACTED] thought, "What the fuck! Where did all these bruises come from?"

[REDACTED] stated, "I had so many questions that I wanted to ask him (Rekeem) but I'm not even gonna lie, I didn't want the answers right then because I felt like I would have reacted".

I asked [REDACTED] what a normal day was like for Rekeem. What does he do all day and night? [REDACTED] stated, "sleep or play the game or workout". [REDACTED] stated she was referring to the Sony Playstation. She said his favorite game is "2K" (NBA basketball game). Rekeem typically wakes up between 12:00 PM and 1:00 PM depending on if he, "stayed up all night playing the game (2K)".

Towards the end of the interview, I asked [REDACTED] what she believed happened to Zianne. She stated, "I don't even want to fathom it." "I think he probably got super frustrated with Zianne possibly peeing and pooping on herself and whipped her too hard... I don't know." "I wish my baby was here so I could ask her."

[REDACTED] stated everything she told me was the truth. Her attorney confirmed that what [REDACTED] had told me was the same that she had told the attorney. (This interview was audio and video recorded)

On May 7, 2020, I traveled to Waco, Texas in order to look for Rekeem for a follow up interview. I was told he was possibly staying with family there. I came in contact with Rekeem's step brother. He stated he could email Rekeem to let him know that I wanted to speak with him. I received a text message the next morning from Rekeem stating I should contact his attorney for any further communications.

On May 9, 2020, I learned the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office had made a final determination in the death of Zianne Essix. Dr. Susan Roe – Tarrant County Deputy Medical Examiner ruled the cause of death as homicidal violence and the manner of death was ruled a homicide.

Due to Rekeem Dory being the only person with the victim at the time she sustained her injuries; his failure to provide a reason for the victim being injured that is consistent with the medical examiner's findings; and numerous inconsistencies of the events surrounding the victim's injuries, clearly indicates that Rekeem Dory is responsible for the death of the victim, Zianne Essix.

Due to the aforementioned facts and information being related to me as a result of this investigation, I have reason to believe and do believe, **Dory, Rekeem L., a black male, Date of Birth, 12-14-1994**, did commit the offense of, **CAPITAL MURDER PERSON UNDER 10 YEARS OLD**, against the laws of the State of Texas as defined in the penal code.

WHEREFORE, I request that an arrest warrant issue for the suspect hereinbefore designated according to the laws of this State.

WITNESS my signature this, the 11<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2020.

*[Handwritten Signature]* #3953

AFFIANT

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME this the 11 day of MAY, 2020.

*[Handwritten Signature]*

MAGISTRATE IN AND FOR TARRANT COUNTY, TEXAS

C. TYLER ATKINSON

PRINTED NAME

JUDGE, FT WORTH MUNICIPAL COURT

TITLE AND OFFICE HELD BY MAGISTRATE

