

# CALUMET COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

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File Number

Complaint No.  
05-0157-955

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**TYPE OF ACTIVITY:**      **Second Interview of:**

**Lori A. Dassey**

**DOB 10/20/61**

**Two Rivers, WI 54241**

**Telephone number:** [REDACTED]

**DATE OF ACTIVITY:**      **02/01/06**

**REPORTING OFFICER:**    **Inv. Mark Wiegert**

On 02/01/06 at approximately 1500 hours, I (Inv. WIEGERT of the CALUMET COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT), along with DCI Special Agent TOM FASSBENDER, went to LORI DASSEY's residence in the City of Two Rivers.

Upon arrival, LORI invited us into the residence and we spoke with her in the dining room area of her residence. We informed LORI we wished to speak with her in regards to her ex-husband, STEVEN AVERY. LORI states as long as she has been divorced, he still scares "the hell out of me." I informed LORI we had information that she had written some letters to STEVEN while he was in prison. LORI stated she, in fact, had written some letters. I told LORI we had information that the letters were threatening in nature in regards to the children and possibly in reference to her hurting herself. LORI stated she wrote him the letters because he wanted to know what was going on in the house. She states she basically used him as a way to vent especially when the kids were misbehaving. She states she would write in letters just like other parents do when they talk to their husband and say things such as why did I ever have children.

I asked LORI if she had ever stated anything in the letters about wanting to commit suicide or harm the kids. She stated she does not recall anything like that. Again, she stated she was just venting to STEVEN about the kids misbehaving. LORI did state to me that she might have said in one of the letters that if the kids keep it up, she is going to kill the S-O-B's. She stated it was just normal talk again as a husband and wife would talk. LORI indicated to me this was all prior to her divorce.

LORI stated once she was divorced, she no longer really had any contact with STEVEN. LORI stated that STEVEN's mother would pick the kids up and take them to visit STEVEN in prison and then the kids would come home with cards and letters. The cards and letters would state things such as STEVEN wanting to kill her and stuff.

I asked LORI what spurned the divorce to which LORI stated it was STEVEN's idea and STEVEN told her he wanted her out and wanted to get a divorce. LORI did tell me she had

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thought about divorcing STEVEN earlier; however, she was scared to and she knew if she started the divorce on her own, he would eventually hurt her.

LORI indicates that while STEVEN was in prison, he would have other people watching her. LORI states when she would move to a new house, she would get pictures of the new house in the mail from STEVEN; that's how she knew she was being watched.

LORI did state that while she was married to STEVEN, she had ended up at the DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CENTER on several occasions. At that time, according to LORI, the DOMESTIC VOILENCE CENTER was in a secret location in Manitowoc County. According to LORI, STEVEN had found out somehow where the DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CENTER was and showed up there. She states he had to be removed from the DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CENTER on one occasion back in either 1983 or 1984.

We asked LORI if anybody in STEVEN's family knew about the domestic abuse going on to which LORI stated she believes they did but they would never tell the truth about the abuse. LORI did tell me she had confided in her parents, EARL and PEARL [REDACTED], of [REDACTED] Two Rivers, telephone number [REDACTED] LORI also stated her sisters knew the abuse was going on.

LORI also told me she informed BETH [REDACTED] (ph) who is her friend that lives on [REDACTED] [REDACTED] in Two Rivers about STEVEN abusing her. BETH would have been her closest friend at the time.

LORI stated the last time she had been at the AVERY compound would have been around Labor Day weekend for BOBBY's graduation. She stated the only reason they went to the graduation is because her current husband is BOBBY's father.

I asked LORI if STEVEN has given her any problems since he has gotten out of prison. LORI states that since STEVEN was out of prison, for the most part, he has left her alone. She states she avoids him at all costs. The only one she knows who has regular contact with him would be her daughter, JENNIFER. LORI states she did learn from JENNIFER that BARBARA had been making comments about the letters that STEVEN had sent from prison. Apparently BARBARA told JENNIFER that if her mom (meaning LORI) thinks she is getting STEVEN by the letters, they have letters that she (meaning LORI) had sent to him. Again, LORI basically laughed it off and stated those letters she had sent to STEVEN were letters she was writing because she was venting and using STEVEN as a venting board.

Agent FASSBENDER asked LORI if she had ever heard anything about STEVEN and [REDACTED] having a relationship. LORI states the only thing she heard was a rumor that STEVEN and [REDACTED] had a thing going. LORI also stated to us she heard humors that STEVEN had beaten the crap out of his girlfriend, JODI.

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LORI did tell us that on one occasion, STEVEN and CHARLES had come over to her residence. She states STEVEN had wanted to discuss with JENNIFER her probation status. JENNIFER did not want to listen to STEVEN and at one point, was going to get up off the couch and leave. LORI stated STEVEN grabbed JENNIFER, held her down on the couch and was yelling at her and CHARLES had to step in. AGENT FASSBENDER asked LORI what she meant by step in to which she stated CHARLES had to basically pull STEVEN off of JENNIFER. According to LORI, this would have happened sometime last year at her house.

LORI did tell us that on one occasion, JENNIFER had come home from STEVEN's house and had hickeys on her neck. LORI questioned JENNIFER as to what they were at which time JENNIFER stated her dad had done this to her because he thinks it is funny. LORI states she did not question JENNIFER anymore on it for fear of what she might hear.

Agent FASSBENDER then asked LORI if J [REDACTED] R [REDACTED] used to live with them. LORI states J [REDACTED], in fact, did live with them around 1983 or 1984. J [REDACTED] would help with the kids because she (meaning LORI) was pregnant. LORI states STEVEN was a good friend of the [REDACTED] who J [REDACTED] was before she had gotten married. She did state J [REDACTED] did not like STEVEN or how STEVEN handled the kids. LORI stated J [REDACTED] was somewhat scared of STEVEN because you never knew what would set the man off (meaning STEVEN). According to LORI, J [REDACTED] had never confided in her or said anything about what STEVEN had done to her.

We questioned LORI about her knowledge of STEVEN being arrested for the sexual assault for which he was eventually exonerated. LORI stated she was aware that STEVEN did not do the rape. LORI did state to us, however, that PENNY BEERNTSEN saved her life. She believes if STEVEN had not gone to prison, she would be dead.

We asked LORI about what STEVEN had said about the prior offense when he had forced the police officer's daughter off the road. According to LORI, STEVEN was pissed off at the woman because she had been starting rumors about him standing out in front of his house naked. LORI stated she believes now STEVEN must have been watching this woman as she had driven by. STEVEN did eventually admit to forcing the lady off the road after he was arrested.

We asked LORI if she knew what the pictures or the letters would be about that are in the sealed file at the MANITOWOC COUNTY COURTHOUSE reference her divorce. LORI states she is not sure; however, she did send him several pictures of herself in the nude and doing different types of things. STEVEN even took some of those pictures and sent them to her parents. She states other than that, she does not know what those pictures would be about.

At that time, we thanked LORI for her cooperation and ended the interview at 1730 hours.

Investigation continues.

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Inv. Mark Wiegert  
Calumet Co. Sheriff's Dept.  
MW/bdg

CC: District Attorney