

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF HABERSHAM COUNTY 34  
STATE OF GEORGIA

STATE OF GEORGIA,

v.

VALERIE LYN RYALS,

Defendant.

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Book Page Recorded  
David C. Wall

CRIMINAL ACTION

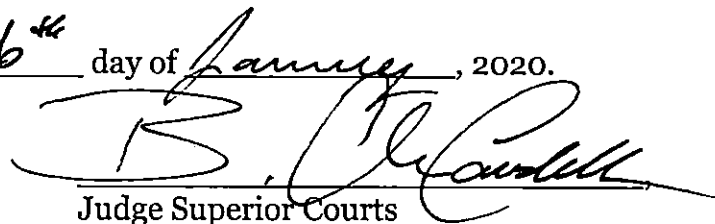
WARRANT NO(S): 20MW-0012

ORDER SCHEDULING BOND HEARING

It appearing to the Court that the Initial Appearance for the above stated Defendant was held on January 6, 2020, in the Habersham County Magistrate Court;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 17-6-1(c)(1), said Defendant be brought before this Court regarding the issue of bail on January 31, 2020, at 2:30 o'clock p.m., in Courtroom 2A at the Habersham County Courthouse, Clarkesville, Georgia, Honorable B. Chan Caudell, Judge, Superior Courts, Mountain Judicial Circuit presiding.

SO ORDERED, this the 6<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2020.



Judge Superior Courts  
Mountain Judicial Circuit

- OR: Clerk, Habersham County Superior Court
- CC: George Christian, District Attorney
- Drew Powell, Public Defender
- Habersham County Sheriff
- Valerie Lyn Ryals, Defendant

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF HABERSHAM COUNTY  
STATE OF GEORGIA

HABERSHAM COUNTY  
CLERK OF COURT

2020 JAN 13 PM 4: 49

STATE OF GEORGIA,

v.

VALERIE LYN RYALS,

Defendant.

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WARRANT NO.: 20MW-0012

Book Page Recorded  
Aggravated Assault

RECEIVED

JAN 13 2020

B. Chan Caudell  
Judge of Superior Court

CONSENT BOND ORDER

THE PARTIES HAVING CONSENTED TO THIS ORDER, NOW THEREFORE, it is hereby ORDERED that the Defendant, Valerie Lyn Ryals shall be granted Bond and bond be set in the aggregate amount of: Five Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$5,000.00) for the above pending charges. Defendant having requested to be released on bond and after consideration of testimony presented and the States consenting to the same, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AND ADJUDGED, that Defendant shall be entitled to release and such bond conditioned as follows:

- (a) Defendant shall not violate the laws of any local, state, or federal government during such times as she is released on Bond.
- (b) Defendant shall not consume or be in the possession of any alcohol or any other illegal substances;
- (c) Defendant shall be equipped with an Electronic Home Monitoring ("EHM") device and shall incur any costs associated with installation and all monthly fees, and Defendant shall follow all conditions of the Electronic Home Monitoring Program ("EHMP") of the monitoring company, which shall be ProntoTrak. ProntoTrak shall provide real-time location monitoring to the District Attorney as well as counsel for the Defendant, and the GPS monitor shall be affixed and active prior to the Defendant's release from custody;
- (d) Any violation of the rules and regulations of the monitoring program may result in the return of Defendant to the Habersham County Detention Center;
- (e) Defendant shall have no contact, directly or indirectly, in any manner, with the alleged victim, Matthew Ryals. Defendant shall not go with-in 500 yards of the alleged victim, his workplace or his residence located off of Golf Course Road, Demorest Georgia with the

exception of picking up and dropping off her children at their respective schools, which are as follows:

- (i) Demorest Elementary School, 3116 Demorest Mt. Airy Highway, Demorest, Georgia, 30535; and
- (ii) Hilliard A. Wilbanks Middle School, 3115 Demorest Mt. Airy Highway, Demorest, Georgia, 30535.

While picking up or dropping off children at their respectful schools, Defendant shall remain in her vehicle at all times and shall not exit her vehicle for any purpose;

- (f) Defendant does hereby waive her Fourth Amendment rights against search and seizure during such time she remains out on bond;
- (g) Defendant shall not possess a firearm, nor shall she reside in any location in which firearms are present, and Defendant shall immediately advise the District Attorney and the Court in the event that she has a firearm permit; and
- (h) Any further provisions and/or conditions as this Honorable Court deems just and proper under the circumstances.

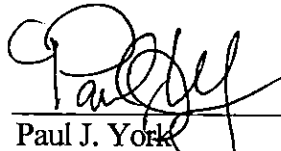
SO ORDERED this 13th day of January, 2020.



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Hon. B. Chan Caudell, Judge  
Superior Courts,  
Mountain Judicial Circuit

Prepared and consented to by:



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Paul J. York  
Attorney for Defendant

Consented to by:



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Meredith Davis (WITH EXPRESS PERMISSION)  
Assistant District Attorney  
Mountain Judicial Circuit

**CRIMINAL WARRANT  
WARRANT AFFIDAVIT  
GEORGIA, HABERSHAM COUNTY**

Personally came Deputy Christopher G. Carter, who on oath says that, to the best of affiant's knowledge and belief that Valerie Lyn Ryals did, in the County aforesaid, commit the offense of, TO WIT AGGRAVATED STALKING, on or between 01/04/2020 and 01/04/2020, between the hours of 9:00 AM and 5:15 PM in HABERSHAM County, Georgia; 624 Highway 197 N the place of and against the laws of the State of Georgia.

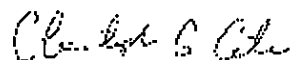
OCGA- 16-5-91

Said offense being described as:

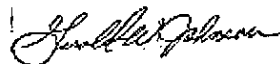
TO WIT: Defendant (Valerie Lyn Rhyls contacted Victim (Charles Matthew Rhyls) by following him to 624 Highway 197 N and texting him stating that she sees him. Valerie bonded out prior date (01/03/2020) with bond conditions to not have any contact with Victim (Charles Matthew Rhyls).

Contrary to the laws of this state and thus deponent makes this affidavit that a warrant may issue for his/her arrest.

Sworn to and subscribed before me, this 04th, January 2020.



Affiant



Magistrate, Habersham County Georgia

20 JAN 5 7:58:41

Book Page Recorded  
David C. Wall

2020 JAN 14 AM 11: 22

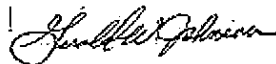
HABERSHAM COUNTY  
CLERK OF COURT

**WARRANT  
GEORGIA, HABERSHAM COUNTY**

To and sheriff, Deputy Sheriff, Coroner, constable, Marshall or other Law enforcement Officer of Georgia- Greetings:

For sufficient causes made known to me in the above affidavit and from other oral testimony given under oath, you are hereby commanded to arrest Valerie Lyn Ryals, the Defendant named in the foregoing affidavit charged by the prosecutor therein with the offense of against the laws of this State as enunciated in this affidavit and bring him/her before me or some other Judicial Officer of this State to be dealt with as the law directs. Herein fail not.

This 04th January, 2020.



Magistrate, Habersham County Georgia

**WITNESS LIST**

Gerald W. Johnson  
MAGISTRATE JUDGE  
Habersham County, Georgia

PROSECUTOR  
Deputy Christopher G. Carter  
HABERSHAM SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
1000 DETENTION DRIVE  
CLARKESVILLE, GA 30523

202000316

**WARRANT NUMBER:**  
20MW-0012.F

**CRIMINAL WARRANT**

THE STATE

vs.

Valerie Lyn Ryals  
246 Burrell St Cornelia, GA 30531

SSN#: 377-06-4291

DOB: 12/25/1988

OFFENSE: AGGRAVATED STALKING

CODE: OCGA 16-5-91

GEORGIA, HABERSHAM COUNTY

The above-named Defendant arrested this:

\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_,  
at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_\_ .M.

by

Arresting officer

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF HABERSHAM COUNTY  
STATE OF GEORGIA

HABERSHAM COUNTY  
CLERK OF COURT

MAR -9 PM 12:05

STATE OF GEORGIA,

v.

VALERIE LYN RYALS,

Defendant.

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WARRANT NO.: 2019W-00122  
UNINDICTED  
Book Page Recorded  
David C. Wall

**CONSENT BOND MODIFICATION**

COME NOW, Meredith Davis, Assistant District Attorney, Mountain Judicial Circuit, attorney for the State, and Paul J. York, attorney for the Defendant, in the above-referenced case, and after careful examination agree that the previous Bond signed in the above-captioned case on 13th day of January, 2020, should be modified as follows: the immediate removal and return of the Electronic Home Monitoring (“EHM”) device currently on Defendant’s person to ProntoTrak. All other remaining Bond provisions and conditions shall remain intact as originally signed.

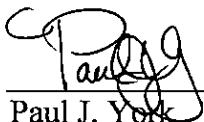
SO ORDERED, this 4th day of ~~March~~, 2020.




Hon. B. Chan Caudel, Judge  
Superior Courts,  
Mountain Judicial Circuit

Prepared and consented to by:

Consented to by:



Paul J. York  
Attorney for Defendant



Meredith Davis (WITH EXPRESS PERMISSION)  
Assistant District Attorney  
Mountain Judicial Circuit

- Or: Mr. David C. Wall, CSC Habersham
- Cc: Ms. Meredith Davis, ADA, Mtn. Judicial Cir.  
Mr. Paul J. York, Attorney for Defendant  
ProntoTrak Monitoring Solutions, Inc.

20WR 6022

State of Georgia, Habersham County

OR BOND HABERSHAM COUNTY CLERK OF COURT \*\* Bond conditions \*\* MAGISTRATE COURT STATE COURT SUPERIOR COURT WARRANT NUMBERS 20MWO012F

PROPERTY BOND \* Do not violate any laws \* Do not consume any drugs alcohol \* Do not have any contact at all with Matthew Ryals \* Shall have ankle monitor before release \* Any violation will result in re arrest

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS: Valerie Lyn Ryals PRINCIPLE, and Easy-Out Bonds SECURITY are held and firmly bound unto his Excellency, Brian Kemp, Governor of the State of Georgia and his successors in office, in the penal sum of \$5000.00 Dollars in cash or other equivalent security approved by the Sheriff of Habersham County for the true payment of which we bind ourselves, our heirs, executors, and administrators, jointly and severally, firmly by these presents.

The conditions and obligations of the above bond are such that if the above bound Principle shall appear in person for a hearing or trial to determine probable cause, arraignment or any other proceedings scheduled by the Courts of The Judicial Circuit from day to day and from term to term of said courts in order to answer the offense(s) of 1. Aggravated Stalking, 2., 3., 4., 5. and other conditions imposed by court order, attached hereto, shall not depart without first obtaining leave of the Court, then the above obligation and bond to be null and void, but otherwise to continue to remain in full force and effect.

In the event that the Court of Inquiry shall bind the Accused over for appearance before the Superior or State Court of Habersham County, and so doing shall reduce the bail under which the Accused is bound over to an amount less than the penal sum set forth above, then the Principle and Securities named herein shall be obligated without necessity for any new bond or amendment hereto to the Governor of the State of Georgia only in the reduced amount.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT THE DATE OF To be notified TIME HAS BEEN FIXED FOR YOUR APPEARANCE ON THE ABOVE CASE IN THE ABOVE INDICATED COURT OF HABERSHAM COUNTY, OR APPEARANCE NOTICES WILL BE MAILED TO THE DEFENDANT AT THE ADDRESS PROVIDED BELOW. ALL OTHER AND FURTHER NOTICE AND SERVICE OF PROCESS OF ANY KIND IS HEREBY WAIVED.

Personally appeared the above named security who, upon being sworn, deposes and says that he is security on the subject bond, that he owns in his own right and name, unencumbered by mortgage, lien or judgement, real estate lying within Habersham County described as EQUITY of Dollars, representing the amount of said bond. Security affirms that there are no other claims against said property not disclosed herein. We severally waive our rights to the benefits or Homestead Exemption laws of this state and the United States and the Constitution of the State of Georgia.

Principle's Home Address 246 Burrell St. Cornelia, GA 30531

Principle's Mailing Address

Home Phone 706-879-4831 Business Phone

Security's Home Address Easy-Out Bonds RECEIVED JAN 21 2020

Home Phone 706-776-4646 Business Phone

Sworn and subscribed before me this 14 day of January -20 20

J. Speed #41 Deputy Sheriff Security

Joey Terrell Sheriff Valerie Ryals Principle

IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR, YOUR BOND WILL BE FORFEITED AND A BENCH WARRANT WILL BE ISSUED FOR YOUR RE-ARREST. IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO KEEP INFORMED AS TO YOUR COURT DATE. IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO KEEP THE COURT ADVISED OF ANY CHANGES IN YOUR ADDRESS. I UNDERSTAND MY RESPONSIBILITY AS PRINCIPLE ON THIS BOND. Valerie Ryals

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF HABERSHAM COUNTY  
STATE OF GEORGIA

HABERSHAM COUNTY  
CLERK OF COURT

2020 JAN 13 PM 4: 49

STATE OF GEORGIA,

v.

VALERIE LYN RYALS,

Defendant.

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WARRANT NO.: 20MW-0012

Book Page Recorded  
Aggravated Stalking

RECEIVED

JAN 13 2020

B. Chan Caudell  
Judge of Superior Court

CONSENT BOND ORDER

THE PARTIES HAVING CONSENTED TO THIS ORDER, NOW THEREFORE, it is hereby ORDERED that the Defendant, Valerie Lyn Ryals shall be granted Bond and bond be set in the aggregate amount of: Five Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$5,000.00) for the above pending charges. Defendant having requested to be released on bond and after consideration of testimony presented and the States consenting to the same, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AND ADJUDGED, that Defendant shall be entitled to release and such bond conditioned as follows:

- (a) Defendant shall not violate the laws of any local, state, or federal government during such times as she is released on Bond.
- (b) Defendant shall not consume or be in the possession of any alcohol or any other illegal substances;
- (c) Defendant shall be equipped with an Electronic Home Monitoring ("EHM") device and shall incur any costs associated with installation and all monthly fees, and Defendant shall follow all conditions of the Electronic Home Monitoring Program ("EHMP") of the monitoring company, which shall be ProntoTrak. ProntoTrak shall provide real-time location monitoring to the District Attorney as well as counsel for the Defendant, and the GPS monitor shall be affixed and active prior to the Defendant's release from custody;
- (d) Any violation of the rules and regulations of the monitoring program may result in the return of Defendant to the Habersham County Detention Center;
- (e) Defendant shall have no contact, directly or indirectly, in any manner, with the alleged victim, Matthew Ryals. Defendant shall not go with-in 500 yards of the alleged victim, his workplace or his residence located off of Golf Course Road, Demorest Georgia with the

*\*Valerie Ryals*



exception of picking up and dropping off her children at their respective schools, which are as follows:

- (i) Demorest Elementary School, 3116 Demorest Mt. Airy Highway, Demorest, Georgia, 30535; and
- (ii) Hilliard A. Wilbanks Middle School, 3115 Demorest Mt. Airy Highway, Demorest, Georgia, 30535.

While picking up or dropping off children at their respectful schools, Defendant shall remain in her vehicle at all times and shall not exit her vehicle for any purpose;

- (f) Defendant does hereby waive her Fourth Amendment rights against search and seizure during such time she remains out on bond;
- (g) Defendant shall not possess a firearm, nor shall she reside in any location in which firearms are present, and Defendant shall immediately advise the District Attorney and the Court in the event that she has a firearm permit; and
- (h) Any further provisions and/or conditions as this Honorable Court deems just and proper under the circumstances.

SO ORDERED this 13th day of January, 2020.



Hon. B. Chan Caudell, Judge  
Superior Courts,  
Mountain Judicial Circuit

Prepared and consented to by:



Paul J. York  
Attorney for Defendant

Consented to by:



Meredith Davis (WITH EXPRESS PERMISSION)  
Assistant District Attorney  
Mountain Judicial Circuit

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF HABERSHAM COUNTY  
STATE OF GEORGIA

HABERSHAM COUNTY  
CLERK OF COURT

2020 MAR 12 AM 11:32

STATE OF GEORGIA

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v.

VALERIE LYN RYALS,  
Defendant.

WARRANT NO. 20MW-0012E

Filed & Recorded  
David C. Wall

**ORDER TO SET ASIDE AND NULLIFY "CONSENT" BOND**

**MODIFICATION ORDER FILED ON MARCH 9, 2020**

The Court, *sua sponte*, held a conference call on the March 10, 2020. Present on the call were the undersigned, District Attorney George Christian, Assistant District Attorney Meredith Davis, and Defense Counsel Paul J. York. The Court's reporter recorded the proceedings and will provide a transcript that will be filed in this case upon its completion.

The Court conducted the conference call because it received concerns from ADA Davis on Monday, March 9, 2020, that the Consent Bond Modification Order dated the March 4, 2020, but filed on March 9, 2020, was invalid. During the call, ADA Davis stated that she did not consent to the bond modification. Moreover, ADA Davis said that she did not give Defense Counsel York permission to sign her name to the Order. Defense Counsel York responded by admitting that he signed the Order without permission from ADA Davis. A copy of the subject Order is attached as Exhibit 1.

This Court also has concerns about what is purported to be its signature. The signature does not resemble this Court's signature. The Court does not recall signing the Order. The date the Order was purportedly signed, March 4, 2020, the undersigned was not in the circuit and was unavailable to sign the Order. Moreover, it is the custom,

practice, and routine of this Court to not sign a proposed consent order unless both parties' signatures are present. Additionally, this Court dates each order that it signs without exception. This Court does not sign an order that does not reflect the actual date it was signed by the Court. Defense Counsel York stated in the conference call that he presented the Order to the Court on Monday. This Court understood that Mr. York was referring to Monday March 2, 2020. Out of an abundance of caution, this Court had the security tapes reviewed for Monday, March 2 and Monday, March 9, 2020. Mr. York was not seen in court on either of those days.

Accordingly, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that the "Consent Bond Modification Order" dated the 4<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020, and filed the 9<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020, is hereby set aside as a nullity. The bond order and conditions of bond, including the requirement that the Defendant wear an Electric Home Monitoring device, are reinstated in full.

**SO ORDERED**, this 12<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020.



Hon. B. Chan Caudell  
Superior Court Judge  
Mountain Judicial Circuit

OR: David Wall, Habersham County Clerk of Court  
CC: George R. Christian, District Attorney  
Meredith N. Davis, Assistant District Attorney  
Paul J. York, Esq  
State Bar of Georgia, Attn: Jenny K. Mittelman, Esq.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF HABERSHAM COUNTY  
STATE OF GEORGIA

HABERSHAM COUNTY  
CLERK OF COURT

2020 MAR -9 PM 12:05

STATE OF GEORGIA,

v.

VALERIE LYN RYALS,

Defendant.

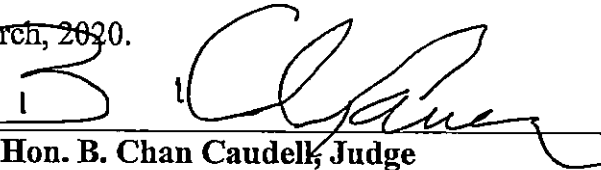
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WARRANT NO.: 2019AW-00222  
UNINDICTED  
Book Page Recorded  
David C. Wall

**CONSENT BOND MODIFICATION**

COME NOW, Meredith Davis, Assistant District Attorney, Mountain Judicial Circuit, attorney for the State, and Paul J. York, attorney for the Defendant, in the above-referenced case, and after careful examination agree that the previous Bond signed in the above-captioned case on 13th day of January, 2020, should be modified as follows: the immediate removal and return of the Electronic Home Monitoring ("EHM") device currently on Defendant's person to ProntoTrak. All other remaining Bond provisions and conditions shall remain intact as originally signed.

SO ORDERED, this 4th day of March, 2020.



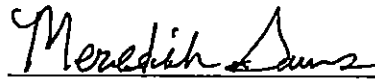
Hon. B. Chan Caudell, Judge  
Superior Courts,  
Mountain Judicial Circuit

Prepared and consented to by:

Consented to by:



Paul J. York  
Attorney for Defendant



Meredith Davis (WITH EXPRESS PERMISSION)  
Assistant District Attorney  
Mountain Judicial Circuit

Or: Mr. David C. Wall, CSC Habersham  
Cc: Ms. Meredith Davis, ADA, Mtn. Judicial Cir.  
Mr. Paul J. York, Attorney for Defendant  
ProntoTrak Monitoring Solutions, Inc.

**EXHIBIT**

1

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF HABERSHAM COUNTY

STATE OF GEORGIA

STATE OF GEORGIA :  
 :  
v. : WARRANT NO. 20MW0012F  
 :  
VALERIE LYNN RYALS :  
..... :  
 : TELEPHONE CONFERENCE HEARING  
 :  
 : March 10, 2020  
 : Stephens County Courthouse

BEFORE: HONORABLE B. CHAN CAUDELL  
Superior Court Judge, Mountain Circuit  
Post Office Box 485  
Clarkesville, Georgia 30523

APPEARANCES:

On behalf of the State:  
Ms. Meredith N. Davis  
Assistant District Attorney and  
Mr. George R. Christian  
District Attorney  
70 North Alexander Street, Suite 208  
Toccoa, Georgia 30577

On behalf of the Defendant:  
Mr. Paul Jason York  
York Law, LLC  
Post Office Box 38  
Cornelia, Georgia 30531

Reported by:  
Lisa P.S. Short  
Certified Court Reporter  
135 Glover Road  
Cleveland, Georgia 30528  
706-969-8906

P R O C E E D I N G S

1  
2 THE COURT: Let me just go ahead and say I've got Ms.  
3 Short here to record and make a record of the phone call,  
4 and she has styled this State of Georgia versus Valerie  
5 Lynn Ryals. And just, Mr. York, Ms. Davis has just  
6 brought to the Court's attention a consent bond  
7 modification order, and she and I have not spoken about  
8 it. We tried to get in touch with you yesterday afternoon  
9 but were unsuccessful.

10 MR. YORK: And I saw your text, Your Honor, last  
11 night. I did not put two and two together about it being  
12 about this. I didn't want to call you at home because I  
13 didn't think it was anything that -- of this nature, that  
14 serious. That's why I didn't contact you back.

15 THE COURT: Okay.

16 MR. YORK: And I -- and I was with a client this  
17 morning, so I apologize for that.

18 THE COURT: Okay. All right. Well, I just want to  
19 make clear that there's been no ex parte communications  
20 about it, but, of course, she gave it to Ms. Dorsey. I've  
21 looked at the consent bond modification order. I've got  
22 some questions about it, and I think Ms. Davis --

23 MR. YORK: Your Honor, can I --

24 THE COURT: Ms. Davis does as well.

25 MR. YORK: -- tell you, at least, what my

1 understanding of what went on?

2 THE COURT: Well, sure. Sure. I think that's what  
3 we're --

4 MR. YORK: I'd be happy to answer any questions.  
5 Whatever you want to do.

6 THE COURT: Okay. Well, I would just be frank with  
7 you. That doesn't look like my signature, but, I mean,  
8 you know, I couldn't swear that it's not, but I don't --  
9 it doesn't look like my signature.

10 MR. YORK: If I can get into it, it is yours, and I  
11 could tell you when it occurred. I can do all that.

12 THE COURT: Okay. When did it occur?

13 MR. YORK: Let me just -- let me just start at the  
14 beginning, Judge. Okay?

15 THE COURT: All right.

16 MR. YORK: My client got arrested for supposedly  
17 hitting her husband in the face, family violence battery,  
18 which is a misdemeanor, obviously. She gets bond. She  
19 gets out. Bond conditions say she can't have any contact  
20 with him. Two days later, she gets arrested again -- this  
21 is all around the first of the year -- for supposedly  
22 stalking him, aggravated stalking, for violating the bond  
23 conditions. And the basis of that is he claimed that she  
24 followed him around, but, really and truly, there's some  
25 text message he showed police saying it was from her phone

1           that was the reason why they arrested her. That is my  
2           understanding of what the basis of the whole charge was.

3           So I told -- I found out that Ms. Davis was working  
4           the case through Mr. Staples. I contacted her, and I  
5           said, look, I'm going to get her cell phone records to  
6           clear this up, you know, and even -- because I believe  
7           that she's telling the truth, that she didn't do this. So  
8           I got -- I sent off to Sprint, subpoenaed those records to  
9           come to me. When -- because she has a Boost Mobile phone,  
10          like a, you know, Straight Talk kind of phone, but you  
11          don't have a plan, you just buy minutes or whatever, but  
12          Sprint owns that company. I guess they don't have -- they  
13          don't have invoices. They just pay monthly, one flat fee,  
14          and they get all the benefits, I guess.

15          Well, when I got it from Sprint on the end of -- the  
16          middle or to the end of February, it came to me in the  
17          format of a -- of an Excel spreadsheet, okay, which is --  
18          I've never seen before. And I assumed that was because it  
19          was Boost. But I sent the same email that I received,  
20          just forwarded it to Ms. Davis. And, of course, you know,  
21          she came back to me, and I understood. She said, well,  
22          you know, it's an Excel spreadsheet. There's not some  
23          other format you could send me? Because, you know, I  
24          don't know that she hadn't doctored this or whatever. And  
25          I said, okay, look. The best thing we can do is let me go



1 to Sprint, and let me get them to send it directly to you.  
2 That way, you know it's not been tampered with.

3 So I did that. And at that point, Ms. Davis and I  
4 were talking about this case, and, I mean, she saw what I  
5 saw, that there were no calls or texts from -- originating  
6 from my client's phone to her husband on the date in  
7 question. So I -- you know, at that point, we're not  
8 talking about -- at least in my mind, we're talking on the  
9 phone. It's not a matter of if we're going to end up not  
10 even pursuing this case. She hadn't been indicted. But,  
11 I mean, all I needed -- because she's paying \$380 every  
12 two weeks to get an ankle monitor for something she didn't  
13 do. So I was trying to get that taken off of her.

14 I talked to Ms. Davis about it. And at the time, I  
15 know that they've got a lot going on, you know, with jury  
16 trials, back-to-back weeks of it. They're very busy. And  
17 she told me she was going to be on leave late last week.  
18 And I -- I didn't want to -- I didn't want to bother her  
19 with it. You know, I wanted to be more persistent, but I  
20 didn't out of respect for her. And so, I left it alone  
21 and -- but, you know, I've got these people coming to my  
22 office from the Jehovah's Witness church bothering me  
23 incessantly about this thing.

24 So what I did was this. On -- you know, at least in  
25 my mind, this conversation that Ms. Davis and I had prior

1 to last week, week before, you know, it -- we were all in  
2 agreement that this didn't occur. This wasn't going to be  
3 pursued. We can get these bond conditions removed once  
4 she got back from leave and got back in, you know, working  
5 this week. So what I did on the 2nd, you had civil  
6 motions, and I stepped in there for two minutes and got  
7 that thing signed with the understanding I wasn't going to  
8 file it until I talked to her when she got back.

9 Now, that was a mistake on my part, but, I mean, it  
10 wasn't a matter -- I say that, Judge, but in the same  
11 breath, like, I don't -- I felt like it was never a matter  
12 of whether or not she was going to sign off on it. It was  
13 just a matter of when she was going to sign off on in  
14 through our conversations. Now, she may say something  
15 different, but I never understood her to say -- and even  
16 in an email, I -- you know, we had a conversation one time  
17 about this case, and I said -- I thought she told me to  
18 bring Ms. Ryals to court with me on Monday in Judge  
19 Smith's courtroom, and we'd dismiss it. And I really  
20 didn't understand that, so I emailed her and asked her, is  
21 that true? Is that really what you want me to do?

22 And she said -- she went back. She said, no, you  
23 know, we don't have to do that. I said -- she said she  
24 had to be in court on Monday, but that, you know, we don't  
25 have to -- we don't have to have -- there's no indictment.

1           So to have the case dismissed, you don't have to be in  
2           court.

3           So I'm thinking the whole time it's just a matter of  
4           when it's going to be dismissed, you know. But in the  
5           meantime, we kept talking about getting this ankle monitor  
6           off of her. So Monday when I walked into Judge Smith's  
7           courtroom, you know, I waited around, and I saw Meredith.  
8           I went over there and talked to her. And I asked her, I  
9           said, you know, what can we do about getting this ankle  
10          monitor off of her?

11          And she says -- you know, what she said to me was, I  
12          have to let the victim know. I'll do that the next break.

13          Well, Judge Smith took a break at 12:00. I watched  
14          her leave the courtroom. And when -- and I asked -- I did  
15          say to her whenever she said she was going to call him on  
16          a break, I said, you probably won't get him on the phone.  
17          And she said, no, he generally answers.

18          So when she left, she came back, and she said nothing  
19          to me. I thought we were good. I just assumed she talked  
20          to him. Was that a bad assumption on my part? I guess.  
21          But at the same time, I thought she had talked to him. If  
22          there was an issue, I would know about it. So at that  
23          point, I thought we were good to go. That's what I -- and  
24          I thought that's what happened.

25          So, you know --

1 THE COURT: So --

2 MR. YORK: -- you know, I had no reason to believe  
3 that we weren't in agreement that the ankle monitor wasn't  
4 going to come off. We were just waiting for her to get  
5 back from leave and her to find the time to do it. And I  
6 thought we'd done that whenever she said she was going to  
7 contact Mr. Ryals yesterday.

8 THE COURT: So you sign -- all right. So you signed  
9 her name? She didn't sign her name.

10 MR. YORK: Who? Yours?

11 THE COURT: No, her name. Ms. Davis' name.

12 MR. YORK: I did sign her name.

13 THE COURT: You signed her name.

14 MR. YORK: I did.

15 THE COURT: Right. Okay. And the order is dated the  
16 4th of March.

17 MR. YORK: Well, it was the 2nd. Well, you were in -  
18 - you were in Habersham County on the bench on the 2nd,  
19 and that's when -- that's when I -- I know that's the date  
20 because that's my son's birthday. So that's when I had it  
21 signed. But, you know, and look, I have to say, I knew  
22 that I was going to wait on Meredith to get back before I  
23 filed it, but my thought was this. I've got a client  
24 that's got \$380 come out of her pocket every two weeks,  
25 and she's a single mother of two children. I just

1 thought, well, when she gets back and when she gives me  
2 the green light that I have it ready. I'll go file it and  
3 be done, you know. That was my thought. I thought I was  
4 going to file it before.

5 I mean, I thought we had that hammered out yesterday  
6 where she gave me the green light. At least, when she  
7 didn't come back and tell me that Mr. Ryals had any -- she  
8 had any problem with that talking to him. That's what I  
9 assumed. Bad assumption on my part, I guess, but --

10 THE COURT: Well, let's let Ms. Davis be heard.

11 MR. YORK: I believe Ms. Davis when she tells me  
12 she's going to go out there at break and call him.

13 THE COURT: Well, let's let Ms. Davis be heard. She  
14 and Mr. Christian are there on the other line. Ms. Davis?

15 ASSISTANT D.A. DAVIS: Yes, Your Honor. Mr. York  
16 sent me the phone records, and like he said, the way he  
17 sent them to me, I said, can you send me something that's  
18 in a different format? Because the argument can be made  
19 that your client just deleted the calls that were made to  
20 the victim. He had Sprint -- they actually sent me the  
21 records on March 2. I didn't get those 'til March 2.

22 Mr. York called me on Wednesday. I actually answered  
23 the phone out in -- where Irma sits in the front of the  
24 office because I was doing something with her. And Mr.  
25 York asked me about did he need to be in court on Monday.

1 And I said no. And he said, well, I just thought that I  
2 needed to be there to get this resolved on Monday. And I  
3 said, no, I have to sit down and have a conversation with  
4 my victim about these phone calls before I can agree to  
5 anything. And so, I said, you don't need to be there on  
6 Monday. And that is how we left the conversation was I  
7 said, I have to have -- sit down and have a conversation  
8 with my victim about these records before I can agree to  
9 do anything.

10 MR. YORK: I don't recall that, but...

11 ASSISTANT D.A. DAVIS: Okay. On March 6, Your Honor,  
12 Mr. York sent me an email on March -- Friday, March 6, and  
13 it said, Meredith, I hate to bug you with this case again  
14 as I know your entire office is working like crazy for the  
15 upcoming trial calendars for both judges. However, if I  
16 don't at least try and get the ankle monitor removed from  
17 Ms. Ryals, I am almost certain an entire Jehovah's Witness  
18 church congregation will be out to lynch me. Truly, I  
19 have had the preacher, several people that referred to  
20 themselves as elders, and others associated with the  
21 church come to my office over the last week ready to rip  
22 me apart about this matter.

23 Anyway, at least to show everyone that I am trying to  
24 do something for my client, attached is a consent bond  
25 modification for you to review and let me know if you

1           might be amenable. All it would do is allow Valerie to  
2           remove the ankle monitor. According to Pronto Track, they  
3           will probate and refund any money overpaid by Ms. Ryals.  
4           My client is a single mother of two and having to pay for  
5           the ankle monitor every two weeks is killing her. Let me  
6           know what you think. Thanks, and sorry for bothering you  
7           again.

8           He sent this to me on Friday, March 6, asking for me  
9           to agree to remove her ankle monitor. I have --

10          MR. YORK: I don't deny that one bit.

11          THE COURT: Okay. All right. Well, let her finish.  
12          No, no, Mr. York. Let her finish. She wasn't finished.

13          MR. YORK: Sorry.

14          ASSISTANT D.A. DAVIS: Your Honor, I did not respond  
15          to that email because I was off on Friday, and I was in  
16          court with Judge Smith first thing on Monday morning. Mr.  
17          York came up to me and said, did you see the email about  
18          Ms. Ryals?

19          I said, I saw that you emailed me. I have not had a  
20          chance to respond. I can't do anything until I talk to  
21          the victim. I can try and get with the victim at a break,  
22          but I can't agree to anything until I talk to the victim.

23          THE COURT: So this was --

24          ASSISTANT D.A. DAVIS: I said --

25          THE COURT: This was yesterday?

1           ASSISTANT D.A. DAVIS: Yes, this was yesterday. I  
2 specifically said, I cannot agree to anything until I talk  
3 to the victim. It is a violation of their Victim Bill of  
4 Rights if I do not notify them of these types of bond  
5 modifications, and I wanted to discuss the phone calls  
6 with the victim at the same time. That was the end of it.  
7 I saw Mr. York leave the courtroom, come back in the  
8 courtroom, then he left, and that was the end.

9           I did not know about anything until my investigator  
10 texted me while I was in court at around 2:30 and said, I  
11 just received an email from Pronto Track, which is the  
12 ankle monitoring company, saying that they removed the  
13 ankle monitor from Ms. Ryals today. And I said, I have no  
14 idea what you're talking about. I did not agree to  
15 anything. At that time, she said, they said that they did  
16 it by order of the court. And I said, can you please get  
17 a copy of that? I have no idea what they're talking  
18 about.

19           So she sent me a copy of this consent bond  
20 modification that is dated for the ankle monitor to be  
21 removed, and it is -- said so ordered this 4th day of  
22 March. It has B -- I guess Caudell on it. And it has my  
23 name signed with express permission.

24           I did not agree to do this. I had no idea that this  
25 was being done. I hadn't even read Mr. York's email



1 because we had been in court all day. I didn't even read  
2 it until after I had learned that there was an order out  
3 there. So at that time, I responded to Mr. York and said,  
4 why is there an order out there -- consent bond  
5 modification order out there with my signature on it? He  
6 was still emailing me on Friday after -- on Friday at --  
7 it looks like 3:06 p.m. asking for me to agree to remove  
8 her ankle monitor, and that was -- that was two days after  
9 this order had already been signed with my name on it.

10 THE COURT: And before -- before it was actually  
11 filed?

12 ASSISTANT D.A. DAVIS: Yes.

13 THE COURT: Which shows it was --

14 MR. YORK: I wasn't going to file it until I -- I  
15 mean, she and I are on different wavelengths, Your Honor.  
16 And I'm not saying -- what she's saying is true. I sent  
17 that email. I don't deny it one bit. But, like, when I  
18 had had conversation with her throughout the week and the  
19 week before and before that, my understanding was if we  
20 had definitive proof that there was no text from my client  
21 to Mr. Ryals, it's obvious Mr. Ryals lied to have my  
22 client arrested. I mean, I thought we both were in  
23 agreement with that.

24 You know, she never -- I'll say this. Maybe she  
25 never explicitly told me that that's what she thought, but

1 I never -- I didn't think anything different because I  
2 would say it, and she wouldn't agree with me, I wouldn't  
3 say, but she would say, yeah, well, look, you know, give  
4 me that stuff from Sprint, and then we'll get it done.  
5 So, like, you know, I don't know --

6 THE COURT: Look, I -- look --

7 MR. YORK: I understood her to say, I have to let the  
8 victim know. I'll do that at the break.

9 ASSISTANT D.A. DAVIS: Your Honor --

10 MR. YORK: That was the last barrier we had.

11 THE COURT: Look, I -- look, Mr. York --

12 MR. YORK: (Inaudible.)

13 THE COURT: Mr. York --

14 MR. YORK: -- she'd let me know when she came back  
15 in. When the break came --

16 THE COURT: Mr. York --

17 MR. YORK: -- I watched Ms. Davis get up and go  
18 outside. She may not have gone to call him, but that's  
19 where I assumed she was going.

20 THE COURT: Mr. York --

21 MR. YORK: So --

22 THE COURT: Mr. York --

23 MR. YORK: When she came back in, I didn't hear  
24 anything from her. I just assumed that we were good to  
25 go. That's what I thought.

1 THE COURT: I --

2 MR. YORK: I may be taking --

3 THE COURT: I --

4 MR. YORK: (Inaudible) -- assumption, but I don't  
5 remember her ever telling me that she had to have a sit  
6 down with him and tell him this.

7 THE COURT: No, no, no, no. Hold on. Hold on.

8 MR. YORK: My client said the man lied.

9 THE COURT: Can you hear me? Mr. York, can you hear  
10 me?

11 MR. YORK: Yes, sir. Yes, sir. I can.

12 THE COURT: I'm trying to talk.

13 MR. YORK: I'm sorry. I didn't -- I'm sorry. I  
14 didn't know that.

15 THE COURT: This is serious. This is very -- at a  
16 minimal level, it's very disappointing, but it may be more  
17 serious than that. I mean, this may -- could rise to a  
18 level of perpetrating a fraud on the Court. I don't know.  
19 I'd like to hear from Mr. Christian, get his thoughts on  
20 this.

21 DISTRICT ATTORNEY CHRISTIAN: Your Honor, it seems to  
22 me that on March 2, if the Court was in session in  
23 Habersham County and signed a document, it's clear that  
24 the State, Ms. Davis, our office, had not agreed to  
25 anything at that point in time when that order was

1 presented to the Court. I don't know why it was dated the  
2 4th. When you look at the original consent bond  
3 modification, all -- it looks like the same pen was used  
4 for all three signatures. And I don't know if the same  
5 pen was handed to Your Honor to sign this document or not,  
6 but nonetheless --

7 THE COURT: Mr. Christian -- and, Mr. Christian, I  
8 apologize for interrupting you, but -- and this -- because  
9 this is relevant to what you're talking about. I make a  
10 habit of never signing a document, particularly an order,  
11 unless I put a date on it. I never, never, would sign an  
12 order and leave it without a date. All right? So -- and  
13 I was in Atlanta on the 4th.

14 But, okay. Let's just assume that I had signed a  
15 document without -- an order without a date, which would  
16 be probably the first time ever, but I wouldn't sign it  
17 unless it's consented to by both parties, and both parties  
18 have already signed it. In other words, I wouldn't sign  
19 it with just one signature on it. So I -- if I signed it,  
20 then it had both signatures on it.

21 DISTRICT ATTORNEY CHRISTIAN: Yes, Your Honor. And  
22 so, you know, the 4th is really an issue for us, but I  
23 think even more so is the email from Mr. York to Ms. Davis  
24 on Friday, March 6, in which he says that he's attached a  
25 consent bond modification for you to review and let me

1 know if you might be amenable to it. And this is --  
2 that's Friday, the 6th, after he's telling the Court today  
3 that on March 2, he had the permission of Ms. Davis to  
4 sign this for him and she was in agreement about this bond  
5 modification. Why in the world would he be asking her on  
6 Friday to look at this consent bond modification to see if  
7 you're amenable to it? That doesn't make any sense at all  
8 to us.

9 We do believe it's fraudulent, and it is -- it is  
10 troublesome. It -- well, our perspective, it's at least a  
11 Bar issue and, at most, a cause for a referral to the GBI  
12 for investigation.

13 THE COURT: I -- may I ask a question? In that email  
14 that came to Ms. Davis on Friday, was there an attached  
15 bond modification order to that email?

16 ASSISTANT D.A. DAVIS: Yes, there was, Your Honor.

17 THE COURT: And it was blank?

18 ASSISTANT D.A. DAVIS: And it would be -- no, it  
19 wasn't blank. Well, it was. It was blank in the sense of  
20 it was the same document that has all these signatures on  
21 it except the signatures were not on it. I can forward  
22 you a copy of the email. But he attached a consent bond  
23 modification order that has the same wording as the one  
24 that was allegedly signed. All of that is in there, but  
25 the date is blank, and Your Honor's signature part is

1 blank. His signature part is blank, and my signature part  
2 is blank.

3 THE COURT: Okay. Anything else you want to say, Mr.  
4 York, Mr. Christian, Ms. Davis?

5 MR. YORK: No. I mean, like, I'll say this. I sent  
6 that email to her Friday with -- I mean, look. I had no --  
7 -- I had no reason to believe that this wasn't going to  
8 happen. I felt like, for whatever reason, that Ms. Davis  
9 couldn't get to us, and I was just trying to -- I admit I  
10 -- I knew that the evidence would show -- look, it is  
11 what it is. I -- look, I have nothing else to say other  
12 than, you know, I knew when I got the thing signed on that  
13 Monday that that was -- you know, I damn sure -- I wasn't  
14 going to do anything with it as far as filing the thing  
15 until I thought I had the okay from Meredith. And I  
16 obviously made a mistake. I thought I did, and I didn't.

17 ASSISTANT D.A. DAVIS: And, Mr. York, I hope you  
18 understand that the fact that you presented something to  
19 the Court --

20 MR. YORK: I know this. I'm --

21 THE COURT: Let her -- let her finish, Mr. York. Let  
22 her finish.

23 MR. YORK: (Inaudible.) I'm not going to sit here  
24 and deny that, but that was --

25 ASSISTANT D.A. DAVIS: I'm just -- I'm just saying

1 the fact that you would present a document to the Court  
2 that has my signature on it with express permission, that  
3 you presented something to the Court as though I agreed to  
4 it -- according to you, even though it's dated the 4th,  
5 which makes no sense to me, you say you had the Judge sign  
6 it on the 2nd. I don't know why it's dated the 4th. Five  
7 days before you sent me this email asking me for -- to  
8 review it.

9 MR. YORK: But, Meredith, tell me when we talked  
10 before, was there ever any -- did you ever lead me to  
11 believe before that that there was any reason to think  
12 that the evidence I provided you wasn't going to lead to  
13 what -- what's going to happen?

14 ASSISTANT D.A. DAVIS: I told you I had to sit down  
15 and have a conversation with the victim because for all I  
16 know, he's going to say your client had more than that one  
17 phone, but that's -- that's not even the point. The point  
18 is that you --

19 MR. YORK: I concluded. I get all that. I know what  
20 the point is. I understand that. I do. And I'm not  
21 sitting here -- I get what this is all about. It's got  
22 nothing to do with whether or not that charge gets  
23 dismissed. I get it. And, you know, I guess I just -- I  
24 don't know. I thought I understood -- I just thought -- I  
25 understood differently.

1               How I went about doing it, I'm not going to sit here  
2 and say that that was the best way to do things. It was  
3 not. It was stupid.

4               ASSISTANT D.A. DAVIS: Let me ask you this, Mr. York.  
5 Did you ever specifically request from me my permission to  
6 sign for me?

7               MR. YORK: No, I did not.

8               ASSISTANT D.A. DAVIS: Did you -- okay.

9               THE COURT: Okay. All right. Well, I've got some  
10 decisions to make, I guess. And, I mean, I think Mr.  
11 Christian is correct that, Mr. York, at a minimum, this is  
12 going to be a Bar referral.

13              MR. YORK: Understood.

14              THE COURT: You know, this is serious.

15              MR. YORK: I understand.

16              THE COURT: Okay. All right. Anybody else want to  
17 say anything?

18              ASSISTANT D.A. DAVIS: No, sir, Your Honor. Thank  
19 you.

20              THE COURT: All right. Thank you all.

21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26

(Proceedings concluded.)



CERTIFICATE

STATE OF GEORGIA

COUNTY OF STEPHENS

I, Lisa P.S. Short, Certified Court Reporter, 2475, hereby certify that the foregoing transcript consisting of pages 2 through 20 was taken down by me and transcribed under my supervision, and that the same is a true, accurate and complete transcript.

I further certify that I am a disinterested party to this action and that I am neither of kin nor counsel to any of the parties hereto.

This certification is expressly withdrawn and denied upon disassembly, photocopying, or duplication in any manner or upon certification of the foregoing transcript or any part thereof by any person or entity other than by me. This certification is further expressly withdrawn and denied absent my original signature and original seal appearing hereon below.

In witness whereof, I hereby affix my hand on this the 12TH day of MARCH, 2020.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa P.S. Short". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "L".

Lisa P.S. Short, CCR-2475