

CASE NO.: CR-FP-11-0300

DEPT. NO.: II

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IN THE FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF ELKO

THE STATE OF NEVADA,

Plaintiff,

vs.

KODY CREE PATTEN,

Defendant.

THE STATE OF NEVADA'S:

1. NOTICE PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF SUPREME COURT RULE 250 OF THE STATE'S INTENT, IN THE EVENT THAT THE DEFENDANT KODY CREE PATTEN IS CONVICTED OF FIRST DEGREE MURDER, TO SEEK THE IMPOSITION OF THE PENALTY OF DEATH; AND

2. CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE WITH RESPECT THERETO

Notice

comes now the state of Nevada, the Plaintiff in the aboveentitled cause, by and through its Counsel Of Record the Elko County District Attorney's Office, and by this pleading would place the Defendant, Kody Cree Patten, on notice that in the event that he is convicted in the above-entitled cause of the offense of Murder In The First Degree, A Category A Felony As Defined By NRS 200.030, under any theory of that offense pleaded against him in the Third Criminal

Affirmation Pursuant to N	RS 239B.030 Page 1 of 22
SSN Does Appear SSN Does Not Appear	KC.

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Information filed in the above-entitled cause on the 9th day of August, 2011, that it is the State's intent to seek the imposition of the penalty of death under the provisions of NRS 200.030.4(a), and NRS 200.033.

Specification Of The Aggravating Circumstance(s) <u>Upon Which The State Intends To Rely</u>

In the event that the Defendant Kody Cree Patten is convicted of the offense of First Degree Murder in the above-entitled cause, the aggravating circumstance which the State intends to rely upon is that specified in NRS 200.033.4(a) which provides in pertinent part that:

The only circumstances by which murder of the first degree may be aggravated are:

- ... 4. The murder was committed while the person was engaged, alone or with others, in the commission of, or an attempt to commit or flight after committing or attempting to commit ... kidnapping in the first degree, and the person charged:
- (a) Killed or attempted to kill the person murdered; or
- (b) Knew or had reason to know that life would be taken or lethal force used.

Recitation Of The Factual Basis For This Notice

The State, in accordance with the Supreme Court Rule 250.4(c), would recite the following facts – i.e. testimony and evidence developed during the investigation of the events which have given rise to the prosecution of Kody Cree Patten and/or the litigation of the Preliminary Hearing upon which the State would be relying to support the imposition of the penalty of death:

1. The Testimony Of Celia Costanzo:

- a. She was familiar with Kody Cree Patten, and that Micaela Costanzo (hereinafter simply "Micaela"), the Decedent named in the Third Criminal Information filed against Kody Cree Patten on the 9th day of August, 2011, Ms. Celia Costanzo's sixteen (16) years old daughter, and Kody Cree Patten had been friends when they were children up until approximately a year and a half or two years prior to Micaela's death, because she had, from approximately 2002, lived in the same apartment complex where Kody Cree Patten and his parents, who managed the apartment complex where she had been living in which occurred approximately a year prior to Micaela's death.
- b. As of Thursday the 3rd day of March, 2011, Micaela was a student at the West Wendover, Nevada Junior/Senior High School (hereinafter simply the "School"), and was participating in the extracurricular activity of Track at the School.
 - That on Thursday the 3rd day of March, 2011, it was Celia
 Costanzo's expectation that Micaela would walk home from the
 School after Track practice; and
 - 2. Celia Costanzo had previously made an appointment for Micaela

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to see a personal trainer at 8:00 o'clock p.m. that night.

- That at approximately 6:00 o'clock p.m. Mountain Standard Time¹. 3. which is the time used by the residents of West Wendover, Nevada, Celia Costanzo commenced looking for Micaela when she could not contact her by telephone or otherwise, she was unable to make contact with her or locate Micaela, and that the 3rd of March, 2011, when she dropped her off at School was the last time Celia Costanzo ever saw Micaela.
- That when she had taken Micaela to school on the morning of the 3rd of C. March, 2011, one of the garments that Micaela had been wearing was a grey sweatshirt.
- The Testimony Of Tyler Peterson And Tiffany Rasmussen: 2.

That:

Shortly after Track practice on afternoon of the 3rd of March, 2011, Micaela a. Costanzo, in the company of one Tyler Peterson, the girls' Track coach at the School, and a classmate, Tiffany Rasmussen, were engaged in a conversation at the rear of the School, at which time Tyler Peterson observed Kody Cree Patten, with whom he was familiar, drive up behind the School in a white sport utility vehicle, specifically a Chevrolet Trailblazer, which the State established through testimony of one Wendi

All references to time in the recitation of facts/evidence upon which the State is relying is, unless otherwise noted, to Mountain Standard Time - the time utilized by the residents of West Wendover, Nevada.

Murphy was hers and that she lent the vehicle to Kody Cree Patten on the 3rd of March, 2011; Kody Cree Patten parked the vehicle behind the School and went towards the School;

- b. Eventually, Tiffany Rasmussen and Micaela ended up in the girls' locker room at the School and Tiffany Rasmussen, at approximately 5:00 p.m., parted company with Micaela, at which time Micaela was alone in the locker room.
- 3. The Testimony Of Wendi Murphy:

- a. She had lent to Kody Cree Patten during the Noon hour on the 3rd of March, 2011, her Chevrolet Trailblazer, the exterior of which was clean when she surrendered it to him; that she expected the Trailblazer to be returned to her at approximately 5:00 o'clock p.m. on the 3rd of March, 2011; that it was returned to her at approximately 8:45 p.m. on the evening of March 3rd, 2011, at the residence of one Kandace Christiansen and Jeff Patten located in Wendover, Utah; and that at the time Kody Cree Patten returned the vehicle, he was accompanied by Toni Collette Fratto;
- b. That the next morning she noticed that the vehicle's exterior was dusty;
 and
- c. That on the morning of the 4th of March, 2011, she observed a package of

metal picture hanging wire which she did not believe had been in her vehicle when she lent it to Kody Cree Patten on the 3rd day of March, 2011.

- 1. The State, with respect to the issue of the presence of the wire in Wendi Murphy's vehicle on the morning of the 4th of March, 2011, would reserve the right call Jason Abrams, an Officer with the West Wendover Police Department who observed it in the vehicle on or about the 4th day of March, 2011, and/or Renee Armstrong and/or Victor Ruvalcaba of the Washoe County Crime Laboratory who, the State believes and avers, photographically recorded the wire's presence in the vehicle when it was forensically searched on or about the 6th day of March, 2011; and/or the testimony of Det. Donald Burnum who eventually secured the wire from the vehicle pursuant to a search warrant on the 30th day of June, 2011.
- 4. The Testimony Of Travis Landon And Jerome Reamer:

- a. The School, as of March 2011, was equipped with a video surveillancesystem;
- b. That the system captured, and there was preserved, images of Kody

 Cree Patten leaving the School on March 3rd, 2011, through a door in the

 rear thereof at *approximately* 5:09 p.m., and, further, captured imagery of

Micaela leaving the School, alone, on the 3rd of March, 2011, through the same door of the School from which Kody Cree Patten had departed at approximately 5:12 p.m.

5. The Testimony Of Kiearra Murphy:

That:

a. At approximately 5:30 p.m. on the 3rd of March, 2011, she observed Kody

Cree Patten driving her mother's (Wendi Murphy's) Trailblazer north on a

dirt road between Tibbets Boulevard in Wendover, Nevada which is near

the School, and West Wendover Boulevard; that she observed the

vehicle reach Wendover Boulevard and turn west which would take him

out of town.

6. The Testimony Of Michael "Mick" Moore:

- a. On Saturday the 5th day of March, 2011, Michael "Mick" Moore, was voluntarily participating in a search which had by then been initiated for Micaela;
- b. That he came upon an area some five (5) miles west of the City of West Wendover near some railroad tracks and observed what appeared to him to be some fresh tracks in the area off the dirt road he had been traveling on;
- c. That upon his inspection of the area on foot, he ultimately discovered

- what appeared to him to freshly turned dirt covered in tumbleweeds and what appeared to him to be blood on the ground in the area; and
- d. He then left to make contact with law enforcement and lead them back to the site he had discovered.
- 7. The Testimony Of Ronald Supp And Det. Donald Burnum:

- a. On the 5th of March, 2011, Ronald Supp, Chief of the West Wendover

 Nevada Police Department, who as well was participating in the search

 for Micaela, was contacted by Michael "Mick" Moore who led him

 back to the site described in Paragraph 6 above;
- b. That, using a shovel, Chief Supp dug approximately two shovels full of dirt from the disturbed area pointed out to him by Mr. Moore which exposed what he perceived to be flesh;
- d. Chief Supp thereafter directed his subordinates, Det. Burnum amongst them, to secure the scene which Det. Burnum proceeded to do with assistance from his colleagues; and
- e. Chief Supp then contacted the Elko County Sheriff's Department to request that they take charge of the investigation as the location of the suspected crime scene was in the County as opposed to the City of West Wendover, Nevada;
- f. Chief Supp was also present on the morning of the 6th of March, 2011,

when representatives of the Washoe County Crime Lab arrived to conduct the excavation of what appeared to be a grave at the site located by Mr. Moore on the 5th day of March, 2011, as described above;

- g. That, during the course of the investigation, Det. Burnum recovered a military entrenching tool from underneath the residence of Claude and Cassie Fratto situated in West Wendover, Nevada where Kody Cree Patten had been living as of the 3rd day of March, 2011; and
- h. That on the 18th of March, 2011, Det. Burnum recovered from a gravel pit some three miles northeast of the City of West Wendover, Nevada in the County of Tooele, Utah, what appeared to be, and were later identified by Celia Costanzo, the burned remnants of Micaela's black polka dotted back pack, the remnants of a notebook, a house key belonging to Micaela and a charm in the shape of a panda bear that belonged to Micaela and was attached to her key ring.
 - a. He also recovered the burned remnants of a folding knife.
- 8. The Testimony Of Renee Armstrong (Formerly Thomson) And Victor Ruvalcaba:

That:

a. On the 6th day of March, 2011, Renee Armstrong and Victor Ruvalcaba, Evidence Technicians from the Washoe County Crime Lab, arrived at the suspected crime scene approximately five miles west of West Wendover, Nevada;

- b. That the apparent grave site discovered by Mr. Moore on the 5th day of March, 2011, was excavated and found to contain the partially clothed remains of Micaela.
 - 1. Specifically, the clothing had been removed from her upper body.
- c. That Micaela had trapped between her right arm and her torso a grey sweatshirt; and
- d. That there was around her right forearm two of what are commonly called "zip-ties", plastic binding devices, which were connected together end-to-end to form a circle.
 - 1. Additionally on each of her wrists there were what appeared to be the end of the sleeves of a sweatshirt.
- e. That after being fully excavated, Micaela's remains were placed in a body bag for transportation to the Washoe County Coroner's Office;
- f. That Ms. Armstrong attended the Autopsy of Micaela's remains conducted on or about the 8th of March, 2011, at the Washoe County Coroner's Office in Reno, Nevada; and
- g. When the sweatshirt trapped between Micaela's right arm and her torso was removed therefrom and examined, it was discovered that:
 - 1. The sleeves of the sweatshirt were in a knot; and
 - 2. The end of the sleeves had been cut or severed from the

sweatshirt, which were, as noted above, still upon Micaela's wrists at the time her remains were recovered at the site some five miles west of West Wendover, Nevada as described above.

- h. That the zip-ties that were around Micaela's forearm were recovered and preserved as well.
- 9. The Testimony Of Dr. Ellen Clark:

- a. She is a certified forensic pathologist and that she performed an autopsy upon the remains of Micaela on or about the 8th day of March, 2011;
- b. That after conducting that her examination of Micaela's remains, she concluded that Micaela died as a result of:
 - Exsanguination due to multiple stab and slash wounds of her face and neck and that she had suffered blunt force trauma and asphyxia injury; and
 - 2. That these injuries included:
 - As noted above, multiple stab and slash wounds of her face and neck, and the exanguination/hemorrhage associated with said stab and slash wounds;
 - b. That Micaela suffered a stab wound on the right side of her neck that transected her right jugular vein;
 - c. Sharp force injuries to her head, and larynx and thyroid

cartilage;

- d. That a number of the slash and stab wounds were consistent with the use of a knife to inflict those injuries; and
- e. Micaela also suffered blunt force trauma to her head, face and back.
- 3. That upon examination of the entrenching tool recovered by Det.

 Burnum, see supra, Dr. Clark found the serrated edge of the shovel blade of the entrenching tool to be consistent with some, or at least one, "patterned" slashing injury or injuries on Micaela's neck which has a "scalloped" feature to the wound(s); and
- 4. That Micaela had evidence of blunt force trauma to her upper back or shoulder which was consistent with being struck with the flat of a shovel.
- 10. The Testimony Of Detective Kevin McKinney And/Or Special Agent James Bonich:

That:

- a. On the 6th and/or 7th days of March, 2011, Det. Kevin McKinney of the Elko County Sheriff's Office, and Special Agent James Bonich of the FBI, conducted a digitally recorded interview of Kody Cree Patten.
 - Kody Cree Patten had appeared for the interview in question with his father, Kip Patten, at the West Wendover Police Department.
- b. During the course of the interview, Kody Cree Patten initially advised Det.

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McKinney and Agent Bonich that he (Kody Cree Patten) had picked Micaela up at school and given her a ride home; that he (Kody Cree Patten) had dropped Micaela off at her home and left; that he (Kody Cree Patten) had received a text message from Micaela advising that she wanted to talk to him and, after initially meeting her on foot near Micaela's apartment complex; he (Kody Cree Patten) had returned to the Fratto residence where he was residing, obtained the Trailblazer, returned and picked up Micaela again and went to the gravel pits; while there, he (Kody Cree Patten) and Micaela had gotten into an argument; Micaela had asked to be let out of the vehicle; Micaela had gotten out of the vehicle; and he (Kody Cree Patten) had driven away and never saw Micaela again.

- c. Eventually, there came a time during the interview at which Det.
 McKinney and Agent Bonich concluded that there was probable cause to detain Kody Cree Patten; they then Mirandized Kody Cree Patten, a process which his father, Kip Patten, participated in; and Kody Cree Patten eventually concluded to waive his Miranda rights and executed a written waiver thereof.
- d. That thereafter Kody Cree Patten related to Det. McKinney and Agent Bonich that:
 - 1. He (Kody Cree Patten) had picked up Micaela after Track practice

- on Thursday the 3rd of March, 2011, and drove with her to the area with Micaela where her body was eventually discovered;
- 2. That he (Kody Cree Patten) had gotten into an argument with Micaela over her announced desire to resume a romantic relationship which they had had at a time in the past;
- 3. That the argument between he (Kody Cree Patten) and Micaela had escalated to include pushing i.e. that Micaela had commenced hitting and pushing him (Kody Cree Patten) and that he (Kody Cree Patten) pushed Micaela causing her to fall and strike her head on the bumper of the vehicle, in essence momentarily stunning Micaela;
- 4. That Micaela got up and was angry and commenced hitting him (Kody Cree Patten), in response to which he (Kody Cree Patten) pushed Micaela again, she fell down and struck her head upon a rock causing Micaela to suffer a seizure of some sort;
- 5. That at that point he (Kody Cree Patten) panicked, secured a shovel which he had in the vehicle and struck Micaela with it causing a laceration of Micaela's neck;
- 6. He (Kody Cree Patten) then dug a hole and placed Micaela's body into the hole;
- 7. That after he (Kody Cree Patten) had placed Micaela's body into

the hole he had dug, she started making a noise; this panicked him (Kody Cree Patten) further; and he (Kody Cree Patten) plunged the pick end of the shovel into Micaela's neck to cause her to cease making the noise he was hearing;

- 8. At that point Micaela stopped moving and he (Kody Cree Patten), after cutting Micaela's shirt from her person in order to cause her to decompose faster, buried Micaela; and
- 9. Took her clothes to a different location and burned them.
- e. On the 8th day of March, 2011, Det. McKinney and Agent Bonich conducted a second *Mirandized* interview of Kody Cree Patten during the course of which:
 - 1. Kody Cree Patten advised Det. McKinney and Agent Bonich that:
 - a. He (Kody Cree Patten) had initially picked up Micaela at the School; he had dropped Micaela off at a location near Micaela's apartment complex; that he (Kody Cree Patten) had left and went to the Fratto residence; and then returned, picked up Micalea, again at a location near her apartment complex; and had then driven with Micaela to the gravel pit west of West Wendover; and
 - b. That Micaela had her backpack with her when he (Kody
 Cree Patten) picked her up near her apartment complex.

 Kody Cree Patten further provided additional information about where he (Kody Cree Patten) had burned the backpack and its contents.

11. <u>The Testimony Of Kip Patten:</u>

Kip Patten testified At Kody Cree Patten's Preliminary Hearing that:

- a. During the interview of Kody Cree Patten on the 6th and 7th days of March, 2011, there came a time when he was left alone with Kody Cree Patten and that, during that time, Kody Cree Patten had informed him that:
 - 1. Kody Cree Patten and Micaela had gone to the gravel pits at the "west end of town" to talk;
 - That an argument had ensued during which Kody Cree Patten and
 Micaela were pushing one another;
 - That Micaela had fallen and struck her head upon a rock and had suffered a seizure;
 - 4. That Kody Cree Patten had panicked in response thereto; and then struck Micaela in the neck with a shovel; and
 - 5. That Kody Cree Patten had thereafter buried Micaela.
- b. That in subsequent conversations between Kip Patten and Kody Cree

 Patten conducted on or after the 13th day of April, 2011, at the Elko

 County Jail through the medium of text messages on a cellular telephone

screen or written notes held up to the window of the visiting room, Kody

Cree Patten had conveyed to Kip Patten that:

- Toni Collette Fratto had been present at, and participated in the killing of Micaela;
 - That Toni Collette Fratto had participated in cutting Micaela's throat and that a knife was used to do so;
 - That Kody Cree Patten and Toni Collette Fratto had thereafter burned Micaela's belongings including a lanyard with keys on it.
- 12. The Testimony Of Suzanne Harmon And Stephen Gresko:

- a. Suzanne Harmon, a Criminalist employed by the Washoe County Crime
 Lab, on the 17th of June, 2011, conducted a forensic examination of a
 number of items of physical evidence collected in connection with the
 investigation of this matter, amongst them the sweatshirt recovered
 from Micaela's remains at the Autopsy by Renee Armstrong;
 - That the purpose of her examination was to collect samples, potentially containing DNA, from the evidence for later DNA Examination;
 - 2. That one of the samples she collected was a swab from the inside of the knotted sleeves of the aforementioned sweatshirt which she

ultimately marked and identified for later examination as Swab "C3" which she later re-entered into the Lab's evidence system for later DNA Analysis by one of the DNA Analysts employed by the Lab;

- b. That thereafter Stephen Gresko, a DNA Analyst employed by the Lab, withdrew, amongst other things, Swab "C3" from the Lab's evidence vault and when he when he analyzed "C3" and compared it against the known DNA Samples recovered from Kody Cree Patten he determined that Y STR DNA analysis of "C3", the swab collected by Suzanne Harmon from the inside of the knotted sleeves of the aforementioned sweatshirt, was determined to:
 - Contain a partial dominant Y DNA profile, which profile matched
 Kody Cree Patten's Y DNA sample reflected in Kody Cree
 Patten's DNA reference sample, from which Mr. Gresko concluded that:
 - a. "Kody Cree Patten or any of his male paternal biological relatives cannot be excluded as the source of the partial DNA from C3 sweatshirt swabs. Based upon the US Y-STR Database, the frequency of this matching DNA pattern is approximately 1 in 676 males in the Caucasian population, 1 in 936 miles in the African American population, and 1 in 561

 males in the Hispanic population".

The above represents a recitation of the testimony and evidence upon which the State would be relying in its pursuit of the imposition of the penalty of death in the event that Kody Cree Patten is convicted of First Degree Murder, A Felony under any of the theories of that offense with which he is currently charged.

Further the State would allege and aver, as described above, that there is clear evidence, as summarized above, from which it can be inferred, beyond a reasonable doubt, that Micaela Costanzo was killed during the perpetration of a first degree kidnapping of her person and/or that the Defendant, Kody Cree Patten, knew or had reason to know that lethal force would be employed during the perpetration of said kidnapping.

Reservation Of The Right To Supplement This Notice

In filing this pleading the State would seek to reserve the right to supplement this Notice should further evidence, which the State is not now aware of, come to light – such as further forensic evidence, which would further support this

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Notice, should the Court permit the same (See Supreme Court Rule 250.4(d)).

Dated this 24 day of August, 2011.

MARK TORVINEN
State Bar Number: 551
Elko County District Attorney

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Karen Cracraft, hereby certify that I am an employee of the Elko County District Attorney's Office, and that on the add day of August, 2011, a true and correct copy (or true and correct copies in the case of multiple addressees) of the foregoing;

THE STATE OF NEVADA'S:

- 1. NOTICE PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF SUPREME COURT RULE 250 OF THE STATE'S INTENT, IN THE EVENT THAT THE DEFENDANT KODY CREE PATTEN IS CONVICTED OF FIRST DEGREE MURDER, TO SEEK THE IMPOSITION OF THE PENALTY OF DEATH; AND
- 2. CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE WITH RESPECT THERETO;

was/were served upon the addressee(s) identified hereafter in the following manner:

That a copy was delivered to the Chambers of the above-entitled Court at the following address:

District Court – Dept. II Elko County Court House Elko, Nevada. 89801

Pursuant to the provisions of NRS 178.589², a true and correct copy of this pleading was transmitted by facsimile to the following individuals at the following facsimile numbers:

1. Mr. John Ohlson via facsimile number: 775-323-2705;

NRS 178.589 provides that:

- 1. Except when personal service of a person is ordered by the court or required by specific statute, a person who is represented by an attorney may be lawfully served with any motion, notice or other legal document by means of a facsimile machine if:
- (a) The document is transmitted to the office of the attorney representing the person; and
- (b) The facsimile machine is operational and is maintained by the attorney representing the person or the employer of that attorney.
- 2. In addition to any other document required by the court, a person who uses a facsimile machine pursuant to subsection 1 to serve any motion, notice or other legal document that is required to be filed with the court shall attach to or include with the original document filed with the court a copy of the confirmation report or other comparable evidence of the transmittal of the legal document.
- 3. Service of any motion, notice or other legal document by facsimile machine after 5 p.m. on the day that the document is transmitted shall be deemed delivered on the next judicial day. The time of transmittal set forth in this subsection is determined according to the time at the location of the recipient of the legal document.
- 4. Service of any motion, notice or other legal document by facsimile machine as authorized by this section is supplemental to and does not affect the validity of any other manner of service authorized by law.
- 5. As used in this section:
- (a) "Facsimile machine" means a device that sends or receives a reproduction or facsimile of a document or photograph which is transmitted electronically or telephonically by telecommunications lines.
- (b) "Person" includes, without limitation, a government, governmental agency or political subdivision of a government.

- Mr. Jeffrey Kump via facsimile number: 738-0187; 2.
- Mr. John P. Springgate via facsimile number: 775-323-3869; and 3.
- 4, Lockie And Macfarlan via facsimile number: 738-1928;

proof of the transmission of which is attached to the original of this pleading filed with the Court.

That thereafter two true and correct copies of this pleading were mailed by first class mail, postage prepaid, to the Defendant's Counsel of Record at the following addresses:

> Mr. John Ohlson 275 Hill Street, Suite 230 Reno, Nevada 89501

> > And

Mr. Jeffrey Kump 217 Idaho Street Elko, Nevada 89801

Administrative Caseworker