

No. F4-22-1590

THE STATE OF TEXAS VS. Betsy Robinson

CASE # 22-03053

COMPLAINT - MURDER - CORYELL COUNTY, TEXAS:

IN THE NAME AND BY AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

I, Sgt. J. Bowman, being duly sworn, do state upon my oath that I have good reason to believe and do believe based upon the following information:

On April 8, 2022, the Gatesville Police Department entered Elizabeth Ann Romero into TCIC as a missing person after her family had lost contact with her. Ms. Romero lived in Waco but frequented the Gatesville area and the last known location for Mrs. Romero's cell phone ping on her phone on April 2, 2022, which showed the area near Memorial Drive in Gatesville. The Romero family later received information that Elizabeth may be at 809 Moccasin Bend Road and family members went to the location to check on her. The Coryell County Sheriff's Office conducted a "welfare check of the location at the request of the Waco Police Department which had subsequently got involved in the case as a missing person. The Coryell County Sheriff's Office also started an investigation into Ms. Romero's disappearance. On May 10, 2022, The Coryell County Sheriff's Office received a tip that Ms. Romero had been murdered at 809 Moccasin Bend and loaded her body in a blue pickup and dumped off a bridge and returned to the house in about 10 minutes. It was reported that Jessica Robinson and Erin Finchum were involved in the murder of Elizabeth Ramos and that Jessica shot Elizabeth at 809 Moccasin Bend Drive. A subsequent search of the area by the Coryell County Sheriff's Office and other agencies using specially trained dogs has been unable to locate a body.

Waco Police Department obtained a search warrant for Elizabeth's cell phone records and Facebook Page.

On 5/19/2022 Texas and Southwestern Cattle Ranger Marvin Wills came to the office to report he had a cooperating individual stating that Jessica had murdered Elizabeth at 809 Moccasin Bend and Erin Finchum was involved.

Erin Bailey Finchum is the full name and Ms. Finchum sometimes goes by "Bailey".

On 5/19/2022 Jessica Colleen Robinson was arrested for Class B Theft of lumber in which Elizabeth was also involved which occurred on March 31, 2022, and both women were identified to be in Betsy Robinson's truck which Jessica frequently drives. Jessica was interviewed about the offenses but denied involvement. Betsy Robinson is Jessica's mother who lives in the rock house with her disabled husband Lonnie Robinson.

On 5/19/2022 Erin Finchum was arrested on an unrelated charge of Assault causing Bodily Injury. Erin was interviewed but denied any knowledge.

On 5/19/2022 Betsy Robinson was interviewed by Texas Ranger Adam Russell and Coryell County Investigators Sgt. John Bowman and Sgt. Stewart Crossman. Betsy admitted that her daughter Jessica shot Elizabeth at the house at 809 Moccasin Bend, but she does not know where the body was dumped. Betsy Robinson gave consent to search the pickup, which bears Texas License Plate GBH8364. The pickup is a 2001 Blue Chevrolet Pickup and during the search Sgt. Mike Cundiff collected some swabs from stains in the bed of the truck as well as a necklace with hair, beer cans, and a cell phone. Texas Ranger Adam Russell tested the swabs with Siemens Hemastix which is a reagent to detect blood. One of the swabs that Ranger Russell tested presumptive positive for blood.

On 5/19/2022 Erin Finchum was interviewed again and admitted that she was present when Jessica shot Elizabeth with a revolver somewhere in the upper chest twice while in the living room at 809 Moccasin Bend Road, Gatesville, Texas.

During the course of the investigation investigators conducted multiple interviews with witnesses that were present during the incident.

An interview was conducted with Jimmy Rutherford who advised that he was present on the property when Jessica assaulted Elizabeth, committed robbery by stealing Elizabeth phone, using a large, serrated knife and holding it to Elizabeth's throat, a second assault that took place outside of the residence, and then he witnessed Erin Bailey Finchum arrive at the residence. Jimmy confirms that Erin and Jessica meet outside of the residence and speak for a short time before they enter the Betsy's residence together. Jimmy reports that he enters Erin's boyfriend, Robert Justin Branham's truck and ask him to give him a ride to his vehicle, which was at another property. Jimmy confirmed that Robert and Erin were waiting for a phone call to come to the house. In a later interview with Jimmy he confirmed that he heard Betsy talking to Elizabeth in the bathroom about the missing money from the sale of the lumber. Jimmy also advises prior to him leaving, he saw Jessica outside of the residence with a handgun. Jimmy told Jessica she did not want to do this in front of her parents, referring to shooting Elizabeth. Jessica replied that her dad, Lonnie Robinson, was the one who told her where the gun was. Jimmy later advises that Erin did return to the truck and ask Robert Justin Branham for her cigarettes and her purse because she was going to here for a while. Jimmy and Robert then left.

Betsy reported during multiple interviews that Erin enters the residence, sits next to Elizabeth on the couch and they all converse about the lumber theft. Betsy stated that Jessica had Elizabeth's phone and that she was showing Erin and her the messages in regards to the lumber theft and they all confronted Elizabeth about her lies. Betsy admits that she had also took Elizabeth into her bathroom and had her strip down like an inmate so she could search her person and property for the money she received from the lumber sale. Betsy added that she also witnessed Jessica with the large knife in the living room. Betsy also admits that she did at one time

make a statement to Elizabeth about Jimmy being there to "dig a hole for a Mexican." Betsy says she also witnessed the assaults that Jimmy describes, but admits she never contacted police. Betsy admits to seeing Jessica with a gun prior to the shooting and again did not contact the police. Betsy advises she was present when Elizabeth was shot by Jessica, admits to not performing any life saving measures, not contacting law enforcement, or Emergency Medical Services. Betsy says she Elizabeth dies quickly on her couch. Betsy admitted that she told both Erin and Jessica to get a trash bag to prevent blood from going everywhere. Betsy says that she did notice a bloody footprint left behind and that she used a mop to clean it up. Betsy also admits that she located two revolvers inside Jessica's trailer, she removed them wrapped them in clean adult urine pads and placed them in a trash bag. Betsy says she was planning on throwing the guns away but decided to tell law enforcement what she had done and where they were hidden. During the search of Betsy's residence two revolvers were located in a urine pad inside a black trash bag. Betsy admits to telling Cody Ayers and Jessica that she wants the couch, Elizabeth was shot on, taken out of the house as soon as possible. Betsy adds that she believes Cody uses a reciprocating saw to cut up the couch and take part of it out to the burn pit and the other part was left inside the house, but later taken to the back porch of the residence, and finally taken to the burn pit by Cody Ayers. Cody Ayers admits to moving part of the couch to the burn pit. Betsy confirms that after the shooting, Erin remained at the residence for a short time, but she was not sure what she did. Betsy relayed Erin asks for permission to leave, she calls Robert and asked him to return to pick her up, and then she leaves the residence. Betsy adds that she did later try and make contact with Robert and Erin at Robert's house. Betsy admits she also went back at a later date, picked up Erin, and went to Anthony Cospers' house to speak to them in regard to the murder of Elizabeth.

A follow up interview with Anthony was conducted. Anthony admits that Erin did tell him that she was present during the murder of Elizabeth and that she assisted Jessica by placing Elizabeth's body into a "rubber made tote". Anthony did indicate that Erin claims she was under duress when she decided to assist with Elizabeth's body.

Interviews with Erin were conducted during this investigation. Erin admits that she was present when Elizabeth was shot by Jessica, and admits to not providing any life saving measures, or contacting law enforcement. Erin says that when she left with Robert that they drove past the Sheriff's Office and Police Department but she never stopped to report the crime she observed. Erin denies assisting Jessica during the murder and all accusations of her assisting with moving Elizabeth's body.

During the course of this investigation investigators have discovered that Betsy calls Jessica advises her that Elizabeth was at her residence and that she had messages showing Elizabeth was lying about fixing the lumber theft with the contractor. Betsy forwards Jessica some of these messages to Robert Justin Branham's phone due to Jessica being with Erin and Robert at Robert's house located at 320 Apache Road. Jessica admits to seeing these messages, decides to leave and return to Betsy's house. Jessica

admits that she enters the residence and confronts Elizabeth about the lies in regards to the lumber theft. Jessica admits she commits robbery by assaulting Elizabeth and taking her phone. Betsy confirms this assault and so does Jimmy Rutherford. Jimmy confirms that he sees Jessica commit aggravated assault by placing a large serrated knife to Elizabeth's throat and claiming she was going to kill Elizabeth, with Betsy being present. Jimmy also confirms he takes the knife and throws it into the sink. Jimmy states Erin arrives at the house with Robert, exits the truck and goes and conspires with Jessica outside of the residence, before coming back to the truck and retrieving her cigarettes and purse. Betsy confirms that Erin, Jessica and her all go through Elizabeth's stolen phone and review the messages from Elizabeth to the contractor over the lumber. Betsy admits that all parties confront Elizabeth about her lies and they continue to question Elizabeth. It is clear due to the probable cause described in this affidavit Elizabeth was not free to leave. Jessica admits that she asked her father Lonnie about where the gun was and he made it available to her by telling her where it was located. Erin, Betsy and Jessica all admit that they are present inside the living room where Elizabeth was sitting on the couch, when Jessica raised the firearm and shot Elizabeth two times. All three parties admit to not making any attempts to preform life saving measures, nor did they make any attempt to contact law enforcement or emergency medical services.

And I charge that heretofore, and before the making and filing of this complaint, on or about the 1st day of April, A.D., 2022, in Coryell County and State of Texas, Betsy Robinson, Defendant, did then and there intentionally and knowingly commit or attempt to commit an act clearly dangerous to human life, Kidnapping and Robbery, that caused the death of Elizabeth Ann Romero, hereafter styled the complainant, and the defendant was then and there in the course of intentionally and knowingly committing a felony, namely Kidnapping and Robbery, and the death of the complainant was caused while the defendant was in the course of and in furtherance of the commission or attempt of the felony.

AGAINST THE PEACE AND DIGNITY OF THE STATE.

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Complainant

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME BY Sgt. John Bowman, a credible person, this 23rd day of August, A.D., 2022.

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Justice of Peace, Coryell County, Texas

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PCT.

PC 19.02  
Murder  
1st Degree Felony

