

1           But at this point here's what I will say based  
2 on Mr. Hicks' statements, which I take to be, in  
3 effect, avowals that he can lay a foundation for the  
4 fact that Ms. Yates is a nurse practitioner, and that  
5 this report was done by Nurse Practitioner Yates for  
6 the Easter Seals Blake Foundation, and that was done  
7 for the purposes, I take it, I'll hear about.

8           I will overrule the state's foundational  
9 objection to Nurse Practitioner Yates' report. I will  
10 say that it's pretty bare bones and simply lists  
11 categories, and as it stands it's not the most helpful  
12 report I've ever seen. But with that, for whatever  
13 value it may have, the foundational objection will be  
14 overruled at this point.

15           I will, therefore, deny or, well, either the  
16 defendant's motion to continue has been withdrawn, or  
17 if not withdrawn I'll rule on it. It's denied. We  
18 will go ahead today with the completion of the  
19 presentence hearing and with sentencing to proceed  
20 thereafter today. So with that, we will go ahead.

21           Ms. Ransom, you would like to call your next  
22 witness; is that correct?

23           MS. RANSOM: Yes, Your Honor. The State calls  
24 Agent Robert Edwards.

25           THE COURT: Agent Edwards, come forward

1 please. The clerk will administer the oath or  
2 affirmation.

3 (Witness sworn.)

4 THE COURT: Take the witness stand, please,  
5 sir. And, Agent Edwards, I'd like to make sure that we  
6 can all hear your answers when you give them, so when  
7 you answer, please speak into the microphone. You can  
8 adjust it, you can pull it towards you if you need to.

9 Ms. Ransom, you may proceed.

10  
11 AGENT ROBERT EDWARDS,

12 having been first duly sworn to state the truth, the  
13 whole truth, and nothing but the truth, testified as  
14 follows:

15 DIRECT EXAMINATION

16 BY MS. RANSOM:

17 Q. Good morning, sir.

18 A. Good morning. How are you?

19 Q. Can you please state your full name?

20 A. My name is Robert Edwards.

21 Q. And where do you work?

22 A. I am a special agent with Immigration and  
23 Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security  
24 Investigations.

25 Q. And how long have you worked there?

1 I joined Homeland Security Investigations approximately  
2 three years ago, I got advanced training in sex crime  
3 investigations and child exploitation investigations.

4 Q. Thanks. Sorry. I misunderstood.

5 And, if you know, approximately how many sex  
6 crimes involving children have you investigated over  
7 the past three years?

8 A. Cases? Dozens. As far as viewing images and  
9 child pornography videos, I've seen thousands.

10 Q. Were you involved in an investigation  
11 involving Leizza Adams?

12 A. I was.

13 Q. Is she present in the courtroom today?

14 A. She is.

15 Q. Would you please point to where she is and  
16 describe her clothing?

17 A. Yes. She's right behind you. She's wearing a  
18 long skirt with blue stripes and a maroon tank top, and  
19 she's got a ponytail.

20 MS. RANSOM: Your Honor, note identification  
21 for the record?

22 THE COURT: Yes, the record may so show.

23 Q. When did you become involved in an  
24 investigation involving Leizza Adams?

25 A. My agency received a tip in February 8th of

1 2017. It was a tip involving a video that was uploaded  
2 to the internet out of New Zealand. That tip was  
3 forwarded to the National Center for Missing and  
4 Exploited Children in Washington, DC, which then they  
5 started looking into the tip in order to send it out to  
6 the appropriate agency and geographical region. They  
7 were able to match the photo of the offender in the  
8 child pornography video to be that of Paul Adams,  
9 residing in Bisbee, Arizona. That's where we got the  
10 tip that day.

11 Q. And when you say video, is this a clip or a  
12 long video?

13 A. It's a long video. It runs approximately 9 --  
14 9 minutes and 17 seconds, I believe.

15 Q. Based upon your knowledge of the length, have  
16 you seen it?

17 A. I have seen it.

18 Q. And remind me how many videos and pictures  
19 have you seen in the course of your HSI involvement?

20 A. Thousands. Thousands.

21 Q. Is it easy to jumble things up based upon that  
22 volume?

23 A. It certainly is.

24 Q. Do you remember this video?

25 A. Specifically.

1 Q. Why?

2 A. So this video is one of the worst I've ever  
3 seen. There's a specific -- the act itself is  
4 difficult. There's also dialogue that goes along with  
5 the act, which had it stand out in my mind and  
6 continues to stand out in my mind.

7 Q. How -- what is the video depicting? Is it  
8 focused upon the perpetrator or the victim?

9 A. Predominantly the victim. The video, again,  
10 it runs approximately 9 minutes and 20 seconds in  
11 length. It shows the Adams' oldest daughter, M-1,  
12 laying there with no clothes on her bottom half. The  
13 camera is focused on the child's vagina, which you can  
14 also see the perpetrator, who is Paul Adams, rubbing  
15 his penis and rubbing his penis on M-1's vagina.

16 He attempts numerous times to insert his penis  
17 into M-1's vagina. At one point he then goes and  
18 attempts to orally stimulate the child. Approximately  
19 a minute and a half, two minutes Paul Adams is seen  
20 orally stimulating M-1. Once Paul Adams is done doing  
21 that, the rest of the video is turned over to M-1. M-1  
22 takes the cell phone from Paul Adams, and she records  
23 her own sexual assault at the hands of Paul Adams.

24 Q. And while the victim was forced to record her  
25 own sex assault, was she able to capture Paul Adams'

1 face?

2 A. She was. And screen shots were taken of Paul  
3 Adams' face from the video, and that's how the positive  
4 identification of Paul Adams was made.

5 Q. What did you do after identifying Paul Adams?

6 A. After -- so we received the tip. We  
7 identified Paul Adams through his Visa application  
8 picture on his passport, and then we also, there was an  
9 investigator familiar with Paul Adams from a previous  
10 investigation who had personal knowledge of Paul Adams  
11 during the investigation. He was also able to  
12 positively identify Paul Adams that day.

13 Q. Did you secure a search warrant?

14 A. We did.

15 Q. Did you personally go execute it immediately?

16 A. Myself, no. We had a team of agents go to the  
17 residence of Paul Adams and Leizza Adams. And then  
18 myself and a small team went to the Naco Border Patrol  
19 Station where we arrested Paul Adams on sight.

20 Q. Was Paul Adams working for Border Patrol at  
21 the time of his arrest?

22 A. He was, ma'am.

23 Q. Did you interview Paul Adams?

24 A. We did, extensively. During the interview,  
25 which took place inside the United States Border Patrol

Abuse started  
when MI  
5 or 6 yr

m-2 - 3-6  
weeks

1 station in Naco and then directly thereafter in my  
2 service vehicle, Paul Adams made some statements about  
3 the video, admitted to knowledge of the video, that he  
4 had made the video, and that he had been sexually  
5 assaulting not only M-1 but M-2 over the course of  
6 their life.

7 Q. How old was M-1 in February 2017 when all this  
8 came to light?

9 A. She was approximately a year old, however --

10 Q. I'm talking about M-1 right now.

11 A. I'm sorry. M-1. M-1, she was 11 years old at  
12 the time, if memory serves me correctly.

13 Q. And Paul Adams admitted to abusing her  
14 throughout the duration of her life?

15 A. He explained that he started abusing her  
16 approximately five years from the date that we put him  
17 in handcuffs.

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. So she was six, seven years old when the abuse  
20 started for her.

21 Q. And then how about M-2; how old was M-2?

22 A. M-2, again, when we served the search warrant,  
23 I believe she was approximately a year old at the time.  
24 However, videos and pictures I was able to find during  
25 the course of my search warrant show that her abuse

1 started approximately three to six weeks old.

2 Q. And did Paul Adams admit what he was doing to  
3 M-2 specifically, or did the photographs make that  
4 explicit?

5 A. A little bit of both.

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. So a lot of the videos and photographs that we  
8 found of M-2, it was Paul Adams' penis, erect penis,  
9 and then M-2's -- he was attempting to have oral sex  
10 with M-2, he was also attempting to have vaginal sex  
11 with M-2, and through Paul's own admissions during our  
12 interview after his arrest he said that he found it  
13 hard to have vaginal sex with M-2 because her body was  
14 so small, and his penis would not fit into her vagina.

15 Q. Did Mr. Adams admit as to where this abuse  
16 took place?

17 A. He did. He said it happened at the home in  
18 Bisbee, Arizona.

19 Q. Were his statements consistent with the video  
20 evidence you ultimately collected and viewed?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Did Paul Adams admit to any sexual misconduct  
23 with any other children in the household?

24 A. No.

25 Q. Was he asked?

1 A. He was.

2 Q. Were all the other children male?

3 A. They were. Four males and two females.

4 Q. Was there any discussion as to whether or not  
5 the children ever witnessed their siblings being  
6 abused?

7 A. There was. To my knowledge, the children were  
8 all forensically interviewed by child forensic  
9 interviewers. And the children were not aware of each  
10 other's abuses.

11 Q. Did Paul Adams say whether his wife knew what  
12 he was doing?

13 A. He said that -- and this is to quote Paul  
14 Adams during the interview -- he said that he has the  
15 perfect lifestyle. He was boasting on a chat group  
16 that he has the perfect lifestyle where he can have sex  
17 with his two daughters and his wife doesn't care and  
18 she knows.

19 Q. Was Paul Adams arrested at the conclusion of  
20 his interview?

21 A. He was.

22 Q. Did you then proceed to the Adams residence?

23 A. I did.

24 Q. Do you know about what time you arrived?

25 A. I must have got there maybe 7 or 8:00 o'clock

1 at night. I'm sorry, go ahead.

2 Q. This was in Bisbee, Arizona?

3 A. It was. I believe the address was 1625 Vista  
4 Grande in Bisbee.

5 Q. Can you recall the house, what it looked like?

6 A. I do, specifically.

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. As I got there, the house was already under  
9 search. There was stuff everywhere. It was very  
10 cluttered, disorganized. I had thought my agents had  
11 started to make that mess, and in reality that's how  
12 they found the home.

13 Q. What was the size of the home?

14 A. Approximately 1,600 square foot.

15 Q. Was it single-story, two-story?

16 A. A single-story ranch, standard Arizona style  
17 construction, thin walls, two-by-fours, drywall.

18 Q. What's the layout?

19 A. It was a very open concept style home. The  
20 living area, the dining area, and the kitchen were all  
21 open. The bedroom doors, you could see the bedroom  
22 doors from almost anywhere in the center of the house,  
23 very open concept.

24 Q. And did anyone involved in the investigation  
25 prepare a sketch of the layout?

1 A. They did.

2 Q. And did you provide that to my office for use  
3 at this hearing?

4 A. Yes, ma'am.

5 MS. RANSOM: I'll note for the record I'm  
6 handing a copy to defense counsel.

7 THE COURT: Thank you.

8 Q. I'm handing you what's been marked State's  
9 Exhibit 2. Can you please look at that document and  
10 let me know if you recognize it.

11 A. I do.

12 Q. And what is that document?

13 A. This is the standard Homeland Security  
14 Investigation sketch that we complete on every search  
15 warrant we conduct.

16 Q. Did you prepare this?

17 A. I did not. This was prepared by Special Agent  
18 Neal Wildgen, as notated in the top left corner.

19 Q. Did you or Neal save this in HSI records?

20 A. We did.

21 Q. Did you provide it to the State for use in  
22 these proceedings?

23 A. I did.

24 Q. And this is a true and correct copy of the  
25 sketch you provided to the State?

1 A. That is correct.

2 MS. RANSOM: Your Honor, I move to admit  
3 State's Exhibit 2.

4 THE COURT: Any objection?

5 MR. HICKS: No, Your Honor.

6 THE COURT: Exhibit 2 shall be marked and  
7 received.

8 Q. You mentioned the walls were thin. Why did  
9 you make that comment?

10 A. Well, we made that -- we noticed when we were  
11 there that while we were conducting our search warrant,  
12 we break into teams to tackle different areas of the  
13 house, and being since the house was so cluttered, it  
14 took an extensive amount of agents. We noticed that  
15 while we were searching, we could hear what was going  
16 on on the other side of the house while we were inside  
17 the other bedroom.

18 Q. All right. And were you able to communicate  
19 with agents during the search without radios?

20 A. We were.

21 Q. How did you do that?

22 A. Just by speaking; not yelling, just speaking  
23 to each other.

24 Q. Were any members of the household present  
25 during the search?

1 A. Yes, they were.

2 Q. Who was present?

3 A. Leizza Adams was present, as well as the six  
4 children. The six children were sequestered in one of  
5 the Homeland Security vehicles away from the house, but  
6 Leizza Adams was going about the house gathering things  
7 for the children.

8 Q. Did you know whether she had already been  
9 interviewed by the time you arrived?

10 A. I did. And she was.

11 Q. Did you know whether she was aware of why you  
12 were all there?

13 A. She was made aware at that time.

14 Q. And did you know what she was advised as to  
15 why agents were searching the home?

16 A. As far as I know, FBI agents spoke with her,  
17 and they explained to her that we were here on a tip of  
18 child exploitation being taken at the house.

19 Q. Okay. Do you know whether she knew it was her  
20 own children?

21 A. At that point she did.

22 Q. What was her demeanor when you were there?

23 A. Her demeanor was different than I expected it  
24 to be. I would expect, and in my previous occasions  
25 and past experiences the other parent is oftentimes

1 emotionally distressed, charged, sometimes combative  
2 with agents. Leizza Adams was not like that. She took  
3 it as this was normal, she took it as she was not  
4 surprised by the fact. In fact, I noticed that she was  
5 worrying more about trying to find where the children's  
6 backpacks were and where their instruments were for  
7 school the next day than actually comforting her  
8 children.

9 Q. Was she interacting with any of the children?

10 A. Very minimally. She was kind of ordering them  
11 around the house. When she couldn't find something,  
12 she would bring them in and kind of yelled at them to  
13 find where it was, and then they were being ushered  
14 back out of the house.

15 Q. Did you arrest Leizza Adams that night?

16 A. We did not.

17 Q. And why not?

18 A. At that time we did not have probable cause  
19 for arrest.

20 Q. Did you have any further interactions with  
21 Leizza Adams thereafter?

22 A. I did on a previous -- on a next occasion I  
23 was asked to serve subpoenas to her for the federal  
24 case against her husband, Paul Adams. I served her  
25 subpoena, she acknowledged her subpoena, and that was

1 it.

2 Q. You said you did not have probable cause to  
3 arrest Leizza Adams.

4 A. Correct.

5 Q. If she had admitted she knew the abuse was  
6 going on to agents, would you have arrested her?

7 A. Absolutely.

8 Q. What was your understanding as to what she had  
9 been asked about the abuse by agents at the scene?

10 A. It was, to my knowledge, she was asked if she  
11 had any idea that the abuse of the children was going  
12 on, to which she answered no.

13 Q. Okay. Aside from the subpoena, did you have  
14 any further interactions with Leizza Adams?

15 A. We conducted a free talk on behalf of the  
16 State on August 31st, and that was my next interaction  
17 with Leizza Adams.

18 Q. And that was approximately a year ago, 2017?

19 A. Actually almost a year ago, yes.

20 Q. What is a free talk?

21 A. A free talk is a situation where we bring in a  
22 defendant in a case, and we give them an opportunity to  
23 tell us the truth, you know, the whole truth, with  
24 certain safeguards. Those safeguards being that if the  
25 truth is told, the information will not be used against

1 you in a court of law. It kind of goes to the  
2 principle of a free talk. In that case we were very  
3 much interested in what Paul Adams, what his role was,  
4 what further information needed to be taken for the  
5 case against Paul Adams himself.

6 Q. And you were present for the whole free talk?

7 A. Yes, ma'am.

8 Q. And did you hear Ms. Adams receive the rules  
9 that she had to tell the truth in order to obtain the  
10 benefits of the free talk?

11 A. Yes, ma'am.

12 Q. Had you reviewed any of Leizza Adams'  
13 statements to other authorities before the free talk?

14 A. Before the free talk, no. I'm sorry, yes, I  
15 shared my reports with FBI agents and also Detective  
16 Borquez with CCSO.

17 Q. Were you able to familiarize yourself  
18 personally with her prior statements to the police  
19 before participating?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Did you understand her statements during the  
22 free talk to be generally consistent with what she had  
23 previously told authorities?

24 A. Again, I did not have a lot of knowledge on  
25 the interviews of Leizza Adams. I did read the

1 reports. There were some inconsistencies.

2 Q. What inconsistencies can you remember?

3 A. Specifically, she explained that she had  
4 certain rules regarding the children, specifically the  
5 daughters, how they were not allowed to be left alone  
6 with Paul Adams. As the free talk went on, an  
7 inconsistency grew within the free talk itself, where  
8 that was expanded to the scope of all the children,  
9 after being asked why that was specifically for only  
10 just the female children. She said that later in the  
11 free talk that that was actually for all the kids and  
12 not necessarily just the children -- not just the  
13 female daughters.

14 Q. Were there any inconsistencies regarding why  
15 she had this rule in the first place?

16 A. Inconsistencies?

17 Q. Was she ever asked why she had these rules  
18 about her own husband not being allowed around his  
19 kids?

20 A. She explained that she was a victim of sexual  
21 abuse herself, she did not want the same thing  
22 happening to her daughters that was -- that had  
23 happened to her as she grew up.

24 She also explained that there was an incident  
25 at what they refer to, the Adams family referred to as

1 the Dojo, which I believe was a karate place the kids  
2 participated in. There was an incident at the Dojo  
3 where Paul Adams was giving piggy back rides to some of  
4 the other children in the class, and some of the  
5 parents and even the instructor noticed that his hands  
6 were farther up the legs, more cupping the buttocks of  
7 the children more so than what was necessary, and they  
8 asked that he not return to the Dojo because of that  
9 incident.

10 Those are some of the reasons why Leizza Adams  
11 told us that she didn't allow Paul Adams to be around  
12 specifically her daughters.

13 Q. Did Leizza Adams report that she had been  
14 sexually abused by her own father?

15 A. At the time, no, she did not, not when talking  
16 to the FBI agents.

17 Q. So was it ever asked of her "If your father  
18 didn't abuse you, why would you keep Paul Adams away  
19 from his own children due to you being abused by a  
20 stranger?"

21 A. Correct. And her answers continued to change.  
22 At first it was it's just not right for a man to be  
23 touching a little girl like that. Again, we explained  
24 that it's their father. She said, no, it's not  
25 allowed. To the point where we specifically asked --

Leizza Knew

1 she brought up the fact that she wouldn't let the girls  
2 specifically sit on Paul Adams' lap. Paul Adams would  
3 let M-1 sit on his lap while they drove the vehicle  
4 into the property. She was 11 or so at the time, and  
5 she was more concerned with the fact that he was  
6 breaking -- he was allowing her to break the law. And  
7 then she also went back and said, well, now it's  
8 because I didn't want her sitting on his lap, it's not  
9 right for a girl to be sitting on the lap of a man.  
10 The inconsistencies went around that.

11 Q. During the free talk was she asked if she knew  
12 anything about sexual abuse in the home?

13 A. She was.

14 Q. Did she have an answer for that?

15 A. She said she had no knowledge of it.

16 Q. Were there any inconsistencies there?

17 A. There were inconsistencies. We later found  
18 out that she did have knowledge of the sexual abuse of  
19 at least one of the daughters. I believe Leizza Adams  
20 herself referenced that she knew in 2010.

21 Q. Did she tell you that during the free talk?

22 A. No.

23 Q. Was she ever equivocal at all about not  
24 knowing about the abuse during the free talk?

25 A. No.

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1 Q. Just adamant denials?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Any stories or versions of events with respect  
4 to her own personal knowledge?

5 A. Not to my knowledge.

6 Q. Okay. Did Mrs. Adams discuss anything that  
7 she had done personally during the free talk that gave  
8 you any concern?

9 A. She explained that shortly after we arrested  
10 Paul Adams that she was cleaning the house, as she  
11 said. During her cleaning of the house she dropped her  
12 cell phone, which became inoperable and was destroyed.  
13 She also found numerous documents and pornographic  
14 images. Basically she shredded that stuff, and she  
15 said herself she would shred anything that had Paul  
16 Adams' name on it and anything that had pornographic  
17 images on it.

18 Q. And she made clear this was after Paul Adams'  
19 arrest?

20 A. That is correct.

21 Q. Did you show anything to Leizza Adams during  
22 the free talk?

23 A. We did. So the original -- when we served the  
24 search warrant, we were able to find thousands of  
25 pieces of child pornography, many of it to include M-1

1 and M-2. We showed redacted images of some of the  
2 pieces of the child pornography to Leizza Adams in that  
3 free talk situation. Redacted photos meaning that we  
4 blur out any sexual organs; however, you can still see  
5 what's going on just by the position of the bodies.

6 Q. And did you show Leizza Adams photos, redacted  
7 photos, of both M-1 and M-2?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. What was her reaction?

10 A. Again, her reaction was not what I would have  
11 expected. Again, when we do this, most parents become  
12 enraged, upset, emotionally unstable. Leizza Adams  
13 didn't even bat an eye. She didn't move. I thumbed  
14 through approximately five to seven pictures that were  
15 redacted of M-1 and M-2. She really didn't have any  
16 questions, she didn't say anything, she just looked at  
17 them and kept moving on. It was emotionless.

18 Q. Any surprise even?

19 A. No, nothing.

20 Q. Okay. Were you present during the first day  
21 of this mitigation hearing?

22 A. I was.

23 Q. Did you hear any information during the first  
24 day of this mitigation hearing that surprised you?

25 A. Yes. I heard, I believe it was Border Patrol

1 Agent Warr, she explained that Leizza knew the abuse of  
2 one of her daughters as early 2010. 39

3 Q. And why did that surprise you?

4 A. Well, for numerous reasons. We've been asking  
5 since February of 2017 what she knew about the abuse of  
6 her daughters. Up to that point we were of the  
7 understanding she didn't know.

8 Q. Okay. After the first day of the mitigation  
9 hearing in this case were you asked to conduct any  
10 additional investigation?

11 A. I was.

12 Q. And have you, in fact, completed some  
13 additional investigation?

14 A. I have. I spoke to Bishop John Herrod, who  
15 was the Bishop at the ward in Bisbee where Paul and  
16 Leizza Adams went to church.

17 Q. Who provided you with the name of Bishop John  
18 Herrod?

19 A. That was, again, Agent Warr. She explained  
20 that he was there at that time.

21 Q. And this was based upon her testimony at the  
22 hearing?

23 A. Correct.

24 Q. And why did you want to speak with Mr. -- Dr.  
25 Herrod?

1           A. Dr. Herrod. I was curious as to what he knew,  
2 maybe where he could point us in the direction if there  
3 were additional victims. Basically we were curious to  
4 see what he knew about what Leizza knew about the abuse  
5 of M-1 and M-2.

6           Q. And that was because he was the bishop in  
7 2010?

8           A. That's correct.

9           Q. Were you able to locate Bishop Herrod?

10          A. We were.

11          Q. Was he surprised that you were speaking with  
12 him?

13          A. No, he wasn't. He later told me at the  
14 conclusion of my consensual interview with him that he  
15 expected me, and that Border Patrol Agent Warr had  
16 explained to Dr. Herrod that I'd likely be coming by to  
17 talk to him.

18          Q. Had you told Agent Warr to convey that  
19 information to Dr. Herrod?

20          A. Absolutely not.

21          Q. Would you have wanted her to?

22          A. No.

23          Q. Why not?

24          A. Well, there's an element of surprise that  
25 criminal investigators take when coming to speak with

1 people who may have information. The element of  
2 surprise helps that investigator get the real truth at  
3 onset versus a tale that has been conjured up in their  
4 head to minimize their involvement in said criminal  
5 activity.

6 Q. Did Bishop Herrod speak with you?

7 A. He did.

8 Q. Did he know Paul and Leizza Adams?

9 A. Yes, he did.

10 Q. How did he know them?

11 A. Again, Mr. Herrod explained that he was the  
12 bishop at the Bisbee ward from approximately 2010  
13 through 2012.

14 Q. Okay. Actually was he back to 2004 a bishop?

15 A. He was, correct.

16 Q. Okay. So definitely from the 2010 to 2012  
17 period?

18 A. For sure, yes.

19 Q. Did you ask him about the Adams family's  
20 reputation at the church?

21 A. I did. I asked, you know, what were they like  
22 at church, and he said that they were described by many  
23 people in the congregation as being off and weird.  
24 There was no indication of any sexual abuse from any of  
25 the church members, but they all had a feeling

1 something was off, as he described it.

2 Q. Did Bishop Herrod know of any actual  
3 misconduct between Paul Adams and his children?

4 A. He did.

5 Q. Okay. Did he talk to you about it?

6 A. He did. He explained to me that Paul Adams  
7 was taking a sort of counseling session, as Mr. Herrod  
8 explained. The counseling session described by him  
9 being that the bishop speaks with a member of the  
10 church about topics to see if they need any help.  
11 During one these sessions, Paul Adams admitted to  
12 Mr. Herrod that he had been sexually assaulting his  
13 oldest daughter M-1.

14 Once Mr. Herrod heard this, he had brought  
15 Leizza Adams into the same counseling session, so there  
16 were three of them in the counseling session at this  
17 point, and then Mr. Herrod had Paul turn and explain to  
18 Leizza exactly what he had just told him, to which Paul  
19 did, he explained his sexual molestation of M-1 to  
20 Leizza Adams in that counseling session.

21 Q. Did Bishop Herrod tell you approximately when  
22 this took place?

23 A. He described it to me it was between 2011,  
24 2012. It was on the tail end of his tenure in Bisbee  
25 as a Bishop.

1 Q. Okay. Did the Bishop, aside from actual  
2 sexual molestation or assaulting of M-1, did the Bishop  
3 have any further detail about what Paul Adams was doing  
4 with M-1?

5 A. He did. During the counseling session Paul  
6 Adams explained to Bishop Herrod that Paul Adams was  
7 visually -- he was taking video of M-1 orally  
8 stimulating Paul Adams. He said that he had taken  
9 video of this, and he's done it numerous times.

10 Q. And that information was conveyed to Leizza  
11 Adams?

12 A. Yes, it was.

13 Q. Did Bishop Herrod recall Leizza Adams'  
14 reaction to this news?

15 A. Again, Bishop Herrod had the same thought on  
16 it as I did. He said that she appeared emotionless; in  
17 fact, I believe he called her "emotionally dead" was  
18 his term for it.

19 Q. Did she express surprise?

20 A. No.

21 Q. Did Bishop Herrod explain why he brought  
22 Leizza Adams in the room?

23 A. He brought Leizza Adams into the room because  
24 he wanted, you know, he wanted the children to be safe,  
25 and he thought if he -- if Paul Adams told Leizza Adams

1 while Bishop Herrod was observing, that Leizza would  
2 either remove the children from the situation or at  
3 least, very least, keep the kids away from Paul.

4 Q. Did Bishop Herrod consider calling the police?

5 A. He did not. He did not.

6 Q. Did he give Leizza Adams the option of having  
7 Paul Adams turn himself in?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Did Leizza Adams respond as to what she  
10 planned to do?

11 A. Again, she responded that she will just do her  
12 best to keep the children away from Paul.

13 Q. Did Bishop Herrod understand that Leizza Adams  
14 was successful thereafter in keeping her kids away from  
15 him?

16 A. He believes that he was not. The counseling  
17 sessions continued with Paul Adams, to which Paul  
18 continued to explain that he was sexually assaulting  
19 his oldest daughter, M-1.

20 Q. And did Bishop Herrod bring Leizza Adams in  
21 again?

22 A. Yes. He didn't have a count but he said there  
23 were numerous times that he brought her in.

24 Q. So it wasn't just one time Leizza Adams heard  
25 this?

1 A. No. And he couldn't tell me the count. He  
2 said it was over numerous counseling sessions.

3 Q. Did Bishop Herrod say how long, the amount of  
4 time these counseling sessions transpired with Paul  
5 Adams where he would bring Leizza in?

6 A. As far as duration of the counseling session  
7 of minutes or --

8 Q. No.

9 A. -- over years?

10 Q. Yes.

11 A. It was over years. He said that when he left  
12 the Bisbee ward in 2012 he turned over the situation to  
13 the next bishop coming in, who I believe is Kim Mauzy,  
14 Bishop Kim Mauzy, who started in 2012 and was there  
15 through 2017.

16 Q. Okay. Did Bishop Herrod do anything after he  
17 was learning of all the these incidents with M-1 and  
18 Paul Adams?

19 A. Bishop Herrod explained to me that he  
20 consulted, as he referred to it -- and I mean no  
21 disrespect -- he called Mormon headquarters in Salt  
22 Lake City, Utah, and asked for legal advice as to what  
23 to do. The church conveyed that he needs to continue  
24 counseling sessions, and that there's no duty to report  
25 to authorities due to the clergy-penitent privilege.

1 Q. So Bishop Herrod, in bringing Leizza Adams  
2 back into the room each time, did he explain to you  
3 what he was hoping to accomplish?

4 A. He was hoping that Leizza Adams would fix the  
5 situation, that Leizza Adams would leave the house with  
6 the children, thus not letting them being the victim of  
7 sexual assault, continued sexual assault.

8 Q. Now, the information conveyed to you by Bishop  
9 Herrod related to the Mormon church, is there an  
10 ongoing criminal investigation related to that  
11 information?

12 A. Yes, there is.

13 Q. And are you here under a Touhy letter?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Have you been instructed not to --

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. -- discuss beyond that?

18 A. Yes, ma'am.

19 Q. Do you know if, as far as the disclosures  
20 between Paul Adams, Leizza Adams, and the Bishop, do  
21 you know if he conveyed that information to anyone else  
22 aside from who you've already identified, Bishop Mauzy  
23 and Salt Lake City?

24 A. You're talking of Mr. Herrod, who else he  
25 spoke to about it?

1 Q. Yes.

2 A. I do not have knowledge of that, no.

3 Q. Did Bishop Herrod talk about excommunication  
4 proceedings related to Paul Adams?

5 A. He did.

6 Q. Did he understand why Paul Adams was  
7 excommunicated?

8 A. He did. He said it was for the sexual  
9 molestation of his oldest and youngest daughter.

10 THE COURT: I'm sorry, repeat that, "of his  
11 oldest" --

12 THE WITNESS: And youngest daughter.

13 THE COURT: Oldest and youngest daughter.  
14 Thank you.

15 Q. Was the topic of Paul Adams being  
16 excommunicated from the church, did that come up during  
17 the course of your investigation?

18 A. It did.

19 Q. Do you know who brought that topic up?

20 A. I believe it was Leizza Adams during the free  
21 talk in August 31st of 2017.

22 Q. Did she explain why Paul Adams was  
23 excommunicated?

24 A. She told us it was because he was having a  
25 sexual relationship with his mother, and that was not

1 to Mormon church standards.

2 Q. So she didn't tell you it was due to  
3 molestation of M-1?

4 A. No.

5 Q. Did you have any cause to believe that Leizza  
6 Adams would know what went on in the excommunication  
7 proceedings?

8 A. Yes. Again, Bishop Herrod and the individuals  
9 I've interviewed have spoke to me about the hearing.  
10 Leizza Adams was present during the disciplinary  
11 hearing where Paul Adams was allowed to, as they said,  
12 plead his case before the disciplinary panel.

13 Q. Do you recall some of the testimony during the  
14 first day of our mitigation hearing regarding Mrs.  
15 Adams being fearful of Paul Adams?

16 A. Yes, I do.

17 Q. What do you recall from the first day? I know  
18 it's been a while.

19 A. Specifically, I remember again Border Patrol  
20 Agent Warr explaining on the stand that she was very  
21 close with Leizza Adams, and that Leizza Adams had  
22 confided in her that, you know, he was abusive to her  
23 and that she should leave but she can't. Border Patrol  
24 Agent Warr explained that she could help her get out,  
25 even bring other agents in to help move her out, get

1 her out of the situation, and I believe they were even  
2 talking about going to California.

3 Q. During the free talk with Leizza Adams, was  
4 the topic of domestic abuse brought up?

5 A. Not to my knowledge.

6 Q. If so you don't recollect it?

7 A. If so it was so minimal that we went past it.

8 Q. Do you recall Leizza Adams asserting that she  
9 was abused in any way by Paul Adams during the free  
10 talk?

11 A. No.

12 Q. Do you recall Leizza Adams claiming to be  
13 fearful of Paul Adams during the free talk?

14 A. No.

15 Q. Do you recall her asserting that she was able  
16 to enforce these rules in the household, in fact?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Based upon your investigation and interactions  
19 with Leizza Adams, did you perceive that she was in a  
20 domestic abuse relationship or situation?

21 A. I did not perceive that, no.

22 Q. Based upon your investigation and the  
23 testimony during the first day of the hearing, was  
24 Leizza Adams without resources to leave the environment  
25 that she was in?

1 A. No.

2 Q. Why do you say that?

3 A. She had the support of her friend, Border  
4 Patrol Agent Warr. Border Patrol Agent Warr had  
5 additional people willing to help out, the Mormon  
6 church itself was also available to Leizza Adams as a  
7 way to help, and the congregation that goes to that  
8 church.

9 Q. We were talking about the video that sparked  
10 the investigation at the outset of the --

11 A. Yes, ma'am.

12 Q. Is there audio in that video?

13 A. There is.

14 Q. In the course of your investigation did you  
15 preserve the audio of the video?

16 A. I did.

17 Q. Have you separated it from the actual video  
18 itself?

19 A. I have.

20 Q. Did you provide a copy of that to the state?

21 A. Yes, ma'am.

22 Q. It's on a thumb drive?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. I'm showing you a blue thumb drive. Do you  
25 recognize this thumb drive?

1 A. That is it, yes.

2 Q. Okay. How long is the audio?

3 A. It's approximately 9 minutes and 20 seconds.

4 Q. How many people are speaking on the audio?

5 A. There's two individuals.

6 Q. Do you recognize the voices?

7 A. I do. One of the individuals is M-1, and the  
8 other is Paul Adams.

9 Q. And you placed the audio on the thumb drive  
10 that I'm holding up in front of you?

11 A. I have.

12 Q. And you listened before the hearing today to  
13 confirm that this is, in fact, the audio of the video  
14 of Paul Adams molesting M-1 or raping M-1?

15 A. I did.

16 MS. RANSOM: Your Honor, before seeking  
17 admission, the State would like to insure that if  
18 admitted, this is filed under seal due to the  
19 confidential and graphic nature and privacy interests  
20 of the minor sexual assault victim.

21 THE COURT: Let's hear from the defense.  
22 Mr. Hicks, any objection to this thumb drive being  
23 offered under seal?

24 MR. HICKS: I do, Your Honor. I object to the  
25 playing of the thumb drive. There's witnesses in the

1 courtroom, there's people in the courtroom, there's  
2 news reporters in the courtroom.

3 THE COURT: There hasn't been a request at  
4 this point for the thumb drive to be played in open  
5 court. Right now there's simply a request to have it  
6 sealed, so that if it's offered, it's offered under  
7 seal. That's the way I understand it.

8 MR. HICKS: I have no objection to it. I do  
9 have an objection to her playing it.

10 THE COURT: Okay. Well, one thing at a time.  
11 So, yes, the thumb drive -- and just for clarification,  
12 Agent Edwards, I think you said this, but just to make  
13 absolutely sure, the thumb drive that Ms. Ransom has  
14 and is now holding up, that has no video component;  
15 correct?

16 THE WITNESS: That is correct, Your Honor, it  
17 has no visual depiction of child pornography, only  
18 audio, and it's password protected.

19 THE COURT: I'm sorry?

20 THE WITNESS: It's password protected as well.

21 THE COURT: So the thumb drive may be sealed.  
22 And has it been marked for identification? It will be  
23 marked for identification as, I'm sorry, 3? Okay.  
24 State's Exhibit 3 under seal. It's not in evidence at  
25 this point, it's simply been marked for identification

1 under seal.

2 And with that, Ms. Ransom, you may proceed.

3 MS. RANSOM: And, Your Honor, the State does  
4 move to admit it under seal and would ask Your Honor to  
5 review it in camera.

6 THE COURT: All right. Mr. Hicks?

7 MR. HICKS: Your Honor, I object to it being  
8 admitted. It's been marked. The only reason for this  
9 video to be reviewed or --

10 THE COURT: Not a video.

11 MR. HICKS: In camera or in court is simply to  
12 enrage or inflame the trier of fact as to the  
13 sentencing. We know what happened. And the only  
14 possible reason -- and for that reason, I mean, the  
15 prejudicial value of it, whatever the prejudicial value  
16 is, we stipulate that Paul Adams molested his daughter.  
17 But the prejudicial value of the court reviewing it far  
18 outweighs any educational value as far as sentencing.

19 THE COURT: Well, one thing comes to mind, and  
20 this relates to the earlier testimony that the walls,  
21 interior walls of the home were thin, if this exhibit,  
22 Exhibit 3, could be used to show that the statements  
23 made could be heard somewhere else within the house.  
24 But is there anything, Ms. Ransom, on that thumb drive  
25 that would indicate the presence of anyone other than

1 Paul Adams and the victim?

2 MS. RANSOM: Yes, Your Honor, in fact, there  
3 is, and that is the state's intent for offering for  
4 Your Honor's consideration. Again, due to the privacy  
5 of the victims and the nature of the assault, the state  
6 does not wish to publicize this to the public. It's  
7 asked to move to admit it and have Your Honor, who is  
8 going to be evaluating sentencing, consider it in  
9 camera and then hear additional testimony from this  
10 agent, who the state anticipates will note that you can  
11 hear during the video the presence of children, young  
12 children, laughing in the house, which shows how thin  
13 the walls were, as well as based upon his investigation  
14 where this assault took place, which is pertinent both  
15 to others in the house knowing and hearing it, and Ms.  
16 Adams' continued claims or attempts to minimize her  
17 knowledge of what was going on in her household.

18 THE COURT: So what someone could hear, pardon  
19 me, listening to the audio portion, in addition to  
20 what's going on between the perpetrator and the  
21 specific victim, is there can be heard laughter from  
22 other children?

23 MS. RANSOM: Yes, Your Honor, at one point --  
24 the agent would testify for himself, I wouldn't be  
25 providing the testimony, but based upon his reviewing

1 of the recording on multiple occasions, yes.

2 THE COURT: Is there any indication on the  
3 audio recording that Mrs. Adams can be heard, any  
4 statements that are attributed to her or any way of  
5 indicating whether she was in the house or not at the  
6 time?

7 MS. RANSOM: I would have to ask the agent  
8 that.

9 THE COURT: Okay.

10 MS. RANSOM: I think that the location where  
11 this act was perpetrated is somewhat telling in that  
12 respect.

13 THE COURT: I'll allow you to lay more  
14 foundation. If there's no indication that Mrs. Adams  
15 was present at the home at the time that the -- that  
16 Paul Adams was molesting his daughter, as heard on the  
17 recording, if there's no indication she was there, I  
18 would be inclined to sustain Mr. Hicks' objection. If  
19 there is some indication that she was there, then I  
20 would be inclined to overrule it. So you may go ahead  
21 and lay further foundation if you can.

22 Q. This audio that's been offered as State's  
23 Exhibit 3, Agent Edwards, you listened to it again  
24 before coming to testify today?

25 A. Yes, ma'am.

1 Q. Do you know, based upon your investigation,  
2 not only from the audio but also of the video, where in  
3 the household this act was committed?

4 A. Yes. We were able to observe certain things  
5 in the background and foreground of the video that  
6 indicate that the 9 minute 20 second video was created  
7 in the common area, right in the living room, appears  
8 to be on one of the couches.

9 Q. And in referencing I think it's admitted  
10 state's Exhibit 2, and I will provide a courtesy copy  
11 to the court.

12 THE COURT: That's the diagram. Thank you.

13 Q. Do you know which couch you believe the act  
14 was perpetrated upon?

15 A. Yeah. So, Your Honor, you have three couches  
16 there. Pictured in the middle it's going to be on the  
17 couch furthest to the left.

18 THE COURT: So near letter E.

19 THE WITNESS: One more left.

20 THE COURT: Okay.

21 THE WITNESS: Right there. Your Honor, we can  
22 reasonably say that because in the background there's a  
23 fireplace against the far wall, we can see said  
24 fireplace mantel. There was also a TV that was  
25 standing on the TV stand, and you can also see that TV.

1 That TV was right across from letter E on that wall.

2 THE COURT: All right. You may proceed.

3 Q. In the audio are Paul Adams and victim M-1  
4 speaking at a normal tone of voice?

5 A. At first they were whispering. As the video  
6 went on, M-1 speaks up. She's talking a little louder.  
7 Towards the end of the video she's pleading for him to  
8 stop. I wouldn't say at the top of her voice, but her  
9 voice is elevated.

10 Q. And do you have an understanding as to why  
11 they may have been whispering at the outset of the  
12 video?

13 A. I believe they were whispering because they  
14 didn't want anybody to hear what was going on.

15 Q. Is there an indication from the video that  
16 there are others in the household while this act is  
17 being perpetrated?

18 A. Yes, there are. There are numerous occasions  
19 throughout the video that you can hear people  
20 playing -- children playing in the background. You can  
21 hear specific sentences being said by said children.  
22 Being that this took place in the common area of the  
23 house, in the center of the home, those children could  
24 not have been very far to be picked up by the  
25 microphone on the camera that Paul Adams was using.

1 Q. During the course of your investigation, when  
2 Leizza Adams was describing her rules, what was one of  
3 her major rules?

4 A. That she never lets the children be alone  
5 without -- with Paul Adams. She's always there when  
6 the children are there with Paul Adams.

7 Q. Based upon what you heard when you were  
8 listening to the audio of this video, who do you think  
9 could have been in the household?

10 A. Leizza Adams, based on the fact that I hear  
11 the children in the background, other than M-1, who is  
12 being assaulted.

13 MS. RANSOM: Your Honor, based upon this  
14 additional foundation, the state moves to admit under  
15 seal and ask that Your Honor review in camera Exhibit  
16 3.

17 THE COURT: Mr. Hicks?

18 MR. HICKS: May I ask one question?

19 THE COURT: Yes, you may.

20 MR. HICKS: Did you hear Leizza Adams on the  
21 video?

22 THE WITNESS: No, sir.

23 MR. HICKS: No other questions.

24 THE COURT: Did you hear any other adult voice  
25 on the video or on the audio?

1 THE WITNESS: It's hard to say.

2 THE COURT: Other than Paul Adams, of course.

3 THE WITNESS: Yes, Your Honor. It's hard to  
4 say for certain. We do hear the voices of children.  
5 There are some voices that are garbled that we just  
6 cannot understand.

7 THE COURT: Did you hear any of the children  
8 whose vices you could hear, again, other than M-1, say  
9 something to someone who, by the words used, would have  
10 been or might have been an adult, such as, "Mommy, look  
11 what I have," or anything along those lines?

12 THE WITNESS: Your Honor, I cannot say with  
13 reasonable certainty.

14 THE COURT: Thank you.

15 Any additional foundational questions of the  
16 witness before I rule on the objection?

17 BY MS. RANSOM:

18 Q. Is it children mostly giggling or you can hear  
19 some sentences?

20 A. You can hear some sentences. In certain audio  
21 clips you can hear the sentences. I do not recall what  
22 was said by those children. They do appear to be  
23 relatively close to where the sexual assault was taking  
place because you can hear them playing.

25 Q. Are the noises made by the children followed

1 by these garbled sounds that you weren't able to  
2 discern?

3 A. That is correct. And it almost sounds like  
4 the Charlie Brown skits where you hear the children  
5 speaking, but the teachers are whatever.

6 Q. Based upon your personal experience of walking  
7 around the home, is it possible if someone was speaking  
8 in a low voice telling children to come into another  
9 room, that that could have been producing the garbled  
10 noise?

11 A. Yes, ma'am.

12 MS. RANSOM: Your Honor, the State does move  
13 to admit under seal and ask that Your Honor review in  
14 camera Exhibit 3.

15 THE COURT: Mr. Hicks, further record on that?

16 MR. HICKS: No, Your Honor. I renew my  
17 objection.

18 THE COURT: I'm going to sustain the  
19 objection. I think it's pretty obvious from what I've  
20 heard that the defendant's late husband molested this  
21 child as well as the younger daughter, and that clearly  
22 happened from Agent Edwards' testimony on the video,  
23 which, thank goodness, no one is asking me to take a  
24 look at. The audio wouldn't by itself show whether  
25 Mrs. Adams was there at the time that the acts were

1 done as shown on the video and as recorded on the  
2 audio. So I will sustain the objection. The exhibit  
3 will remain marked, it will remain sealed and will be  
4 available for review by a higher court, if necessary.

5 You may proceed.

6 BY MS. RANSOM:

7 Q. Based upon your analysis of the audio, would  
8 someone inside the house, even in another room, be able  
9 to hear the exchanges between Paul Adams and M-1?

10 A. Absolutely. Specifically, toward the end of  
11 the video where M-1 is raising her voice pleading with  
12 him to stop.

13 Q. Based upon your investigation, did the Adams  
14 family get a lot of visitors, adult visitors?

15 A. Adult visitors, not a lot. They had a few.

16 Q. So if that garbled audio in the home were an  
17 adult, based upon your investigation, who would that  
18 be?

19 A. It would be Leizza Adams.

20 Q. Based upon your investigation, did you, before  
21 hearing what you've heard on day one of the mitigation  
22 hearing, did you have any reason to question Leizza  
23 Adams' claims that she didn't know anything of the  
sexual abuse in her home?

25 A. No, I didn't.

1 Q. We did go over some of the inconsistencies  
2 that she provided. Did they give you cause for concern  
3 before she admitted to knowing to the probation officer  
4 of the abuse?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. What were those concerns?

7 A. Specifically, the rule where the children  
8 weren't allowed to sit on his lap. That's not normal  
9 for a parent-child relationship. You know, your  
10 daughter can sit on your lap and it's not abnormal  
11 among any other household. That rule, specifically,  
12 stuck out to me as cause for concern that there was  
13 something going on there more than what Leizza Adams  
14 had explained to us.

15 Q. How about you mentioned there was a red flag  
16 regarding Leizza Adams' own conduct after Paul Adams'  
17 arrest?

18 A. That is correct. Specifically, with the  
19 broken cell phone that she accidentally broke, as well  
20 as her shredding the documents that had anything with  
21 his name on it, to include pornographic images that she  
22 found. Instead of turning that over to investigators  
23 to further the investigation into Paul Adams, she took  
24 it upon herself to destroy said documents.

25 Q. Even though she dropped her cell phone, did

Sizza Crew

1 she provide the HSI with the broken cell phone?

2 A. No, she did not.

3 Q. And this was after Paul Adams' arrest?

4 A. That is correct.

5 Q. And as far as Bishop Herrod's description of  
6 the numerous times he brought Leizza Adams in to  
7 explain, remind me of the time frame that Leizza Adams  
8 heard about Paul Adams molesting M-1.

9 A. Again, through testimony that we heard from BP  
10 Agent Warr, she knew in 2010. Bishop Herrod explained  
11 to me that he explained to Leizza that it was happening  
12 starting in 2011, 2012 at the tail end of his tenure at  
13 the ward.

14 Q. Based upon your experience, do parents simply  
15 forget that their children are being molested by their  
16 spouse?

17 A. Absolutely not.

18 Q. would you have expected Leizza Adams to  
19 disclose that information to authorities during the  
20 course of your investigation?

21 A. At the earliest possible opportunity, yes.

22 Q. Do you think Leizza Adams knew what was  
23 happening to her daughters, M-1 and M-2?

24 A. Yes, I do.

25 MS. RANSOM: Nothing further at this time.

1 THE COURT: All right. Thank you. We will  
2 take a brief recess. We'll take ten minutes, come  
3 back, and upon resumption, Mr. Hicks, you may proceed  
4 with cross-examination. At recess.

5 (Recess held from 10:54 to 11:10 a.m.)

6 THE COURT: We are continuing with State of  
7 Arizona against Leizza Adams, CR-2017-425. Ms. Adams  
8 is present, both the attorneys are here, case detective  
9 is here, the CASA and the GAL for the victims are  
10 present, and Agent Edwards is on the stand. Yes?

11 MS. RANSOM: Just, sorry, very briefly.  
12 Because Ms. Prudhomme was identified in the defense's  
13 disclosures to me late last week and this morning as a  
14 likely witness, I had just asked her -- because I  
15 wasn't sure until recently that she may testify -- I  
16 just asked what her position was, and she asked to  
17 review her adult probation report, so she actually has  
18 a copy of the statement, and she may come up to the  
19 State's table to return it. She has the State's copy.  
20 I just want to make sure that was clear on the record.

21 THE COURT: Thank you.

22 Mr. Hicks, you may proceed with  
23 cross-examination.

24 MR. HICKS: Your Honor, may I stand here at  
25 the podium just so I can see him better?

1 THE COURT: Yes, that's fine.

2  
3 CROSS-EXAMINATION

4 BY MR. HICKS:

5 Q. Agent Edwards, there was some things that I  
6 didn't really understand exactly when you were  
7 testifying. I didn't understand on the issue of the  
8 phone, is it your understanding that the FBI or law  
9 enforcement took the phone from Leizza, took it and at  
10 a later time returned it, and sometime after that she  
11 broke it?

12 A. That is correct.

13 Q. Okay. But whatever was on the phone the FBI  
14 and/or the police or whoever wanted to get access to  
15 it, got access to it?

16 A. That is correct, sir.

17 Q. Okay. And the breaking of it occurred after  
18 it was returned?

19 A. If, in fact, it was the same phone, correct.

20 Q. As to her destroying everything that belonged  
21 to Paul Adams, is it unusual to destroy a spouse's  
22 things when that spouse has done the things like Paul  
23 Adams has done?

24 A. Yes, in my opinion it is. I believe that that  
25 stuff should have been turned over to authorities

1 instead of destroyed.

2 Q. If I told you I was in a trial about ten years  
3 ago where the law enforcement officer told the person  
4 with the photos that were in question to destroy them,  
5 even though there was a criminal trial going to come  
6 up, because the photos were pornographic and were on  
7 the phone, would that surprise you?

8 MS. RANSOM: Objection. Relevance, calls for  
9 speculation.

10 THE COURT: Well, it's a marginal relevance.  
11 I'll allow it, however. Overruled. You may answer if  
12 you can.

13 A. I would say policing has changed in the last  
14 ten years where that would not be recommended at all.

15 Q. No, it wasn't recommended then either but it  
16 happened; right?

17 A. I'm not sure if it did or not.

18 Q. Okay. But you took that to mean when she  
19 destroyed whatever belonged to Paul Adams, and  
20 including pornographic stuff, you took that to mean she  
21 was hiding evidence?

22 A. That is my belief.

23 Q. I thought I heard you being asked a question  
24 of is it your understanding -- let me ask you this.  
25 Did you record every session you had with Leizza Adams?

1           A.    So my interviews of Leizza Adams were limited.  
 2 I predominantly focused on Paul Adams. The reports  
 3 that I have read were conducted by other agents and  
 4 agencies regarding the interview of Leizza Adams with  
 5 the exception of the free talk on August 31st of 2017.

6           Q.    Okay. And I thought I heard the question  
 7 asked of Leizza, "Was Leizza sexually abused by her  
 8 father," and you kind of scurried all over the place  
 9 but you didn't answer that directly. Do you have any  
 10 information in any of those reports that Leizza was  
 11 sexually abused by her father?

12           A.    Leizza Adams explained that she was sexually  
 13 abused, I forget if it was by her father; she explained  
 14 to us that she was sexually abused.

15           Q.    Well, she explained to you she was sexually  
 16 abused, I understand that, but is there anything in any  
 17 report that says she was sexually abused by her father  
 18 that you're aware of?

19           A.    As of right now I do not recall.

20           Q.    You spoke with Dr. Herrod?

21           A.    That is correct, Bishop Herrod.

22           Q.    Bishop Herrod. Bishop Herrod is or at that  
 23 time was a bishop, he's also a medical doctor; correct?

24           A.    To my knowledge, yes.

25           Q.    And he has a practice and has had a practice

1 for many years in Sierra Vista?

2 A. I'm not sure.

3 Q. Did he tell you that he was at that time and  
4 up to today Leizza's doctor?

5 A. I believe he did mention that he was the  
6 doctor for Leizza Adams.

7 Q. Did he tell you at that time or at any time  
8 that he was also the doctor for Paul Adams?

9 A. I do not recall.

10 Q. I'm talking about the medical doctor.

11 A. Dr. Herrod, correct, I do not recall.

12 Q. Did Dr. Herrod describe Leizza's reaction to,  
13 when he explained or had Paul explain what he had done,  
14 in your report Dr. Herrod told you that Leizza's  
15 response, her emotional reaction, was not appropriate;  
16 correct?

17 A. That is correct.

18 Q. And he explained that the reaction that Leizza  
19 gave was that of someone who was "emotionally dead,"  
20 and you have that in quotation marks as his exact  
21 words?

22 A. That is correct.

23 Q. When you interviewed Leizza, you indicated on  
24 direct when you interviewed Leizza when Paul Adams was  
25 arrested that was your perception as well?

1 A. Again, I did not interview Leizza Adams at the  
2 onset of the arrest of Paul Adams. Again, that was  
3 handled b the FBI agent and one of my fellow Homeland  
4 Security Investigations agents. I reviewed the report  
5 from said interview.

6 Q. And did you interview Leizza at any time?

7 A. I did not. The only time I spoke to Leizza in  
8 an interview-type setting was the free talk on August  
9 31st of 2017.

10 Q. Did I hear you correct on direct that the  
11 perception that you got was, from reading some report  
12 by some agent that interviewed her, that the perception  
13 of that person was that she was emotionally dead?

14 A. That is correct. Not only the reports but in  
15 speaking to those agents as well.

16 Q. Okay. Now, you brought up this issue that Dr.  
17 Herrod had Leizza come in on several occasions and had  
18 Paul Adams tell her that he was and was continuing to  
19 molest their older daughter; correct?

20 A. That is correct, Leizza Adams was brought into  
21 numerous counseling sessions.

22 Q. You indicated that you did not hear that from  
23 Leizza prior to the hearing that began this sentencing  
hearing?

25 A. That's correct.

1 Q. And it was your understanding -- were you the  
2 agent that was approached by Leizza that told him that  
3 she wanted to tell him something?

4 A. No, that was the FBI agent from the earlier  
5 sentencing.

6 Q. You were here for that?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. That he told her to go to her attorney?

9 A. That's because criminal proceedings were  
10 already underway for Leizza Adams. It was more  
11 appropriate to go to the attorney versus going to the  
12 authorities at that point.

13 Q. That was after her attorney at that time and  
14 she had done a free talk?

15 A. I do not recall.

16 Q. Were you aware that me, Perry Hicks, had  
17 called the prosecutor in late November, early December  
18 and told her everything involving the correction to the  
19 free talk, and that Bishop Herrod, Dr. Herrod, had  
20 called her in, that she recalled that from her diary?

21 A. No, I was not made aware of that. This is the  
22 first time I'm hearing it.

23 MR. HICKS: Your Honor, I have an affidavit by  
24 myself here. I move for admission of it for purposes  
25 of this hearing.

1 THE COURT: The record may so show.

2 MR. HICKS: That's all I have Your Honor.

3 THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Hicks.

4 Redirect?

5 MS. RANSOM: Very briefly.

6

7 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

8 BY MS. RANSOM:

9 Q. Agent Edwards, I think you mentioned on the  
10 phone, did you have any indications after Paul Adams  
11 was arrested that he was attempting to communicate with  
12 Leizza Adams?

13 A. We did. We received jail mail regarding the  
14 attempted communication between Paul and Leizza Adams.

15 Q. Was there also any jail phone calls indicating  
16 that Paul Adams may have been either directly or  
17 indirectly attempting to get in contact with his wife?

18 A. Yes, either directly or through other members  
19 of the church.

20 Q. Is it possible that that dropped and broken  
21 phone had relevant information related to those events?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. I want to make sure I correct the record on  
24 something, probably because it was bad questioning on  
25 my part. The time frame of Bishop Herrod's

1 interactions with Paul and Leizza is 2010 to 2012;  
2 correct?

3 A. Through his own admission, yes.

4 Q. And I think at one point you said something to  
5 the effect of Bishop Herrod being -- or Paul Adams  
6 being excommunicated for his molestation of M-1 and  
7 M-2?

8 A. That is correct, I misspoke. He was being  
9 excommunicated for his molestation of M-1.

10 Q. Because M-2 was born after 2013?

11 A. That is correct.

12 MS. RANSOM: I just wanted to make sure the  
13 record was clear there. I don't have anything further.

14 THE COURT: Thank you. Thank you, Agent  
15 Edwards, you may go ahead and step down. If you hand  
16 me that marked exhibit, I'll pass it along to the  
17 clerk. Thank you. Be careful of the step as you go.  
18 I believe, Ms. Ransom, at least at this time you don't  
19 have any additional witnesses.

20 MS. RANSOM: True, Your Honor, yet.

21 THE COURT: Thank you.

22 Mr. Hicks, if you would like to call a  
23 rebuttal witness, you may.

24 MR. HICKS: I would call Adam Alcantara.

25 THE COURT: Mr. Alcantara, please come