

Victim: State of Arizona; Echard, Clayton

Defendant: Owens, Laura

Charge(s): Perjury; Tampering w/ Evidence


Date: 8/29/2024

Attempt Theft by Extortion

Detective: T. Boe #808

Attorney:

Approved by:

 #263

Victim: Mitchell, Stormy Lynn



Detective G. Gonzalez and I travelled to Conroe, Texas, on 8/27/2024 for a prearranged interview with (victim) Stormy Mitchell. This interview was arranged in response to a letter received by the Maricopa County Attorney's Office on July 1, 2024, from Stormy Mitchell. In this letter, Stormy references the case involving Laura Owens and Clayton Echard in Judge Mata's court.

Stormy states, in part, that Owens stole and doctored an ultrasound image of a pregnancy with twins in a pregnancy scam, attempting to pass the ultrasound off as her own. Stormy outlines how she learned about the doctored ultrasound and the personal grief and suffering this brought about. She states that Owens capitalized on (Stormy) and her husband's grief and used it to attempt to harm someone else with no regard to how it would cause pain to (Stormy), the person she took it from, let alone the person she was attempting to coerce. She stole the one precious memory they have of their twin babies together.

Detective Gonzalez and I met with Stormy at the Montgomery County Library in Conroe, Texas, on 8/27/2024, in a private conference room. The interview was audio recorded and began at approximately 1638 hrs (1438 hrs Arizona time). The following is a summary of the interview.

Stormy Lynn Mitchell:

I began by introducing myself and Detective Gonzalez. I told Stormy that our office was initially ordered by the court to conduct an investigation into Laura Owens. I explained that (the office)

hospital system. I asked if this was an image, a video, or both. Stormy said that it's an image.

Stormy said that in 2011 her first son was still born when she was 33 weeks pregnant. After that she started a blog to help process the grief and to let her friends and family know what happened. From there she started to post their journey. Stormy got pregnant again, with her son, who is now 12 years old. In 2014 Stormy got pregnant again. She kept posting about her pregnancy to keep people updated. At that point she uploaded this ultrasound to the blog, letting people know what happened. I asked when she uploaded the image. Stormy said it was a couple of weeks later and told me that she still has a copy of the blog. Stormy has removed the blog from being online after everything happened. She said that she hadn't realized that people outside of her family had been looking at it.

I asked how she found out about this. Stormy said that she was on Instagram and got a message from a stranger on the internet. This person told Stormy that (s)he listens to a "youtuber", and someone stole her ultrasound image. That person then provided screenshots of the blog that she had taken and screenshots of the "youtuber". Stormy was told to reach out to that person because he has a lot of information, and that this person is doing pregnancy scams. Stormy then went on YouTube and saw all the videos about it and saw her photo (ultrasound image). Stormy told us that she immediately recognized this as her ultrasound photo. Stormy then reached out to Dave Neal and told him that this is her ultrasound. I said that I have seen several ultrasounds in this case and asked what sets her ultrasound apart from others. Stormy said that she has not looked at other ones involved in this case. She said that she has tried not looking into anything in this case other than how she's involved. Stormy said that she and her husband had been trying to get pregnant for many years. They began trying after being married for 5 years and then 5 years later finally brought home a "living child". For them this is very celebrated. Stormy said she has been pregnant many times and each time it's been joyous and special. This pregnancy (2014) which is their last pregnancy, they were pregnant with twins. Stormy said she was told there was a very little chance that she could get pregnant because she had polycystic ovarian syndrome. Due to this, having the live son and then getting pregnant with twins was a huge deal. Stormy said they lost one of the twins a couple of weeks later. Stormy stated that this is the only photo that she has of them together, it's the only physical evidence that she has that being existed.

Stormy told us that when they lost their oldest son, she took pictures of him, and she held him. Stormy said that in the first miscarriage she bled, it was normal. This one was different, this time her body absorbed the baby. There was no bleeding, there was nothing. The only physical evidence that she has that this baby existed is the ultrasound picture. Stormy said that this is what makes it so special.

Stormy pointed out both babies in the photo. Stormy said that the header information was cut on the one that she posted. Stormy then showed us a screenshot from the blog. That image shows the LMP (Last Menstrual Period) and the gestational age.

Detective Gonzalez asked if they asked her for the gestational age or if they calculate that. Stormy said they calculate that by the size of the sac and also based on her last menstrual period. It's not information that she provided them with.

Stormy reviewed the images that she has of the ultrasounds and the blog. She then uploaded them to a flash drive that I supplied. I also took still shots of the framed ultrasound photograph. Stormy said that this is what it looked like and feels that it's easily identifiable. Detective Gonzalez asked if there was ever an ultrasound image or video where it has baby A and baby B labeled. Stormy said that she had not and if there's anything like that, it was created by someone else.

I asked Stormy if she looked at the (ultrasound) online. Stormy indicated that she did. I asked if she recalled what it had written on the top. Stormy said it had someone else's name on it. I asked if she recognized any of the other writing that was on it. Stormy indicated not. Stormy agreed that it was her ultrasound with someone else's information on it. All of her information was removed.

Detective Gonzalez showed Stormy an ultrasound and told her that it's what one of the victims was shown. Detective Gonzalez asked if she has ever seen that before. Stormy said that it looks like her ultrasound, it just looks like someone blurred it. Stormy pointed out the areas that appear blurred. Detective Gonzalez asked if her original has two other particular markings. Stormy said no; that one says "p". Detective Gonzalez showed another image and asked if that one is hers. Stormy said, that's hers, that's her blog. She said her blog says, "I still believe" and the name of the post is "Vanishing". Detective Gonzalez asked Stormy if she knows Laura Owens, or if she has ever talked to her before. Stormy said no, she has never heard of her prior to this. Detective Gonzalez asked when she found out about this. Stormy said that it was in March (later determined to have been in April). I told Stormy that I understand that she was notified by someone who was anonymous. Stormy said, yes. I asked how she found out about Dave Neal. Stormy said that's the person on YouTube that she was told about by the anonymous person. The person said that they think her ultrasound picture was stolen. They were able to find Stormy because they posted a screenshot of her blog with her name on it.

I asked if she had ever spoken to Dave Neal. Stormy said, not before that. I asked if she has spoken to him since. Stormy said, just via email. Dave provided Stormy with information concerning who Laura Owens is, that there was a fake ultrasound video, and that hers was

I asked Stormy how this has affected her. Stormy said that it's caused anxiety and fear. She fears that people are going to be able to find her. Stormy continued by telling us that by the little things that she has found out about Laura, she's afraid that she's going to be able to find her and hurt her family. It's also brought back all her feelings of grief, pain, and anxiety which she had previously been able to work through. Stormy told us that this is for her husband also, it's brought back the feelings that they had of loss. Stormy said they feel very vulnerable, and she is very afraid and sad. I asked if she's willing to aid in prosecution. Stormy said that she absolutely is.

I asked if she has had any contact with anyone in the internet world, other than Dave Neal. Stormy said that someone had messaged her after the first person with the same information. There was also a person named Megan Fox, a journalist who does stuff with Dave Neal, who asked her to write a letter. Stormy was also contacted by Clayton's lawyer, Gregg Woodnick. I asked what Mr. Woodnick talked to her about. Stormy said that he just asked who she was. Stormy said that she just wanted to know what she could do about this and how she can protect her family and herself. She emailed Mr. Woodnick, and they talked on the phone. He asked who she was and the circumstances around her ultrasound.

I asked Stormy if she had questions. Stormy asked what it looks like from here. I said the investigation is still in early stages. I explained that there is a lot of information online that needs to be examined. I said that this will be a time-consuming investigation and will take time.

The recording concluded at this time, there was no further relevant information.