



**South Carolina
Law Enforcement Division**

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MEMORANDUM OF INTERVIEW

TO: File # 31-21-0061
FROM: Senior Special Agent David H. Owen *DHO*
RE: Follow up Interview with Alex Murdaugh
COUNTY: Colleton

Name: Richard Alexander "Alex" Murdaugh
Address: 4147 Moselle Road, Islandton, SC 29929
Phone: 803-942-1227
DOB: [REDACTED]
SSN: Not Obtained
Employer: Peters, Murdaugh, Parker, Eltzroth and Detrick, PA

On June 10, 2021, South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) Senior Special Agent (SS/A) David Owen and SS/A Jeff Croft conducted a follow up interview with Richard Alexander Murdaugh, herein after referred to as Alex, while seated in SS/A Owen's cruiser, parked at John Marvin Murdaugh's property (Alex's younger brother) in Hampton County. *Agent's Note: There is no known physical address for this property. However, John Marvin Murdaugh (John Marvin) provided directions via Apple Maps Pin Drop, which was [REDACTED] Attorney Jim Griffin was*

also present. On June 7, 2021, Alex found his wife Margaret B. “Maggie” Murdaugh (Maggie) and their son, Paul T. Murdaugh (Paul) dead from gunshot wounds on the family property. The audio-recorded interview began at approximately 1:54 p.m.

Agent’s Note: This Memorandum of Interview is a summary as documented by SS/A Owen. It is not a verbatim account of the recorded interview.

SS/A Owen previously conducted an interview with Alex in the early morning hours of June 8, 2021. The following is additional information provided by Alex.

Alex stated that Maggie and their older son, Richard A. Murdaugh, Jr., (Buster) went to the ball game the previous weekend. *Agent’s Note: It was later determined the ball game was the South Carolina Gamecock Baseball game in Columbia.* Alex could not remember what he did on Monday, June 7, 2021, other than going to work at his law firm in Hampton. He stated he was probably dragging from the weekend. He normally messes around his farm in the mornings before going to work. Alex did not know what time he left his house that morning or who was at the house before he left. He was sure Maggie was there and was not sure if his housekeeper, Blanca Simpson had arrived yet. She did not have set hours.

When at his office, Alex worked on “big motions” for a Dominion Energy case. He also worked on motions for a case which he was a defendant in that involved Paul’s boat crash case for a hearing that was coming up that following Thursday (June 10, 2021), and he worked on some other “junk.” At the end of the day, Alex left the office “a little bit earlier than normal because” Paul “was coming home.” Paul had an apartment in Columbia while he attended the University of South Carolina. He spent the previous weekend with friends in Charleston. Paul also worked for his uncle, John Marvin. After Paul left Charleston on that Sunday, he stayed with John Marvin at his residence. *Agent’s Note: SS/A Owen knew John Marvin’s residence to be in the Bluffton area.* After work on Monday, Paul returned home to Moselle, referring to the family farm at 4147 Moselle Road, Islandton, SC 29929. He planned to come home to replant sunflower fields the next day with Alex and he needed to prepare for the planting. Alex and Paul also did other things such as ride around the farm and looked at “food plots” and for hogs.

Alex was not sure of the time that he and Paul were together on the farm, but thought it was somewhere in around 5:00 p.m. He stated it was “broad daylight...it wasn’t dusk, dark, or late.” They rode around the dove field to see how the corn was doing, around the duck pond and just the property in general. They took turns with target practice with a .22 caliber magnum gun. Alex stated that Maggie, who had a doctor’s appointment on Charleston, was not home at the time. He and Paul rode around for more than an hour. Paul was his normal self.

At some point after riding around, Maggie arrived home. They ate dinner as a family. Alex stated that Paul suffered from high blood pressure and recently suffered swollen feet. Maggie was worried sick. Paul did not like to go to the doctor, so they discussed that issue. After dinner, Maggie left and went to the kennels and Alex did not exactly know where Paul went. He assumed Paul left because of what happened. Alex was not sure how Maggie got to the kennels, but she would normally use a “buggy” or a “4-wheeler.” It was very common for her to walk to the kennels. Paul was not much of a walker and would drive or ride much of the others means of transportation. Alex stayed the at house, watched TV, looked at his phone and fell asleep on the couch. He did not know exactly what time he woke up and advised SS/A Owen to refer to Alex’s phone for actual times. *Agent’s Note: During the interview, Alex gave voluntary consent for a forensic exam of his cell phone.*

Alex believed the first thing he did when woke from the nap was to call Maggie to let her know that he was going to visit his mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Murdaugh. Alex knew that he called Maggie who did not answer, then he sent her a text. He was not sure if he called Paul. Alex stated that it was kind of crazy, but “I’m certain I heard them pull up.” When asked, Alex stated it was his impression that a vehicle had pulled up. He stated that people do not just come to their property, which led him to believe it was Maggie and/ or Paul, but it was not them. He stated that could not tell what type of vehicle he heard.

When Alex went outside, he saw something run from his vehicle. He did state that a wild cat lives in the area and believed it may have been the cat. He did not believe it was a person. He left his residence and went to visit his mother at Almeda (Varnville, SC). While there, he spoke with his mother’s caretaker, Shelly (Mushelle Smith). As he returned home to Moselle, Alex returned a call to his brother, John Marvin, called his friend Chris Wilson and spoke with his son, Buster who was with his girlfriend in Rock Hill, SC.

Once Alex returned to Moselle, no one was in the residence. He went to the kennels and found Maggie and Paul. When he arrived, he did not see anyone else or any vehicles at or leaving the area.

Alex could not think of anyone that would go to that extreme to harm Maggie or Paul.

In respect to Paul and the boat incident, Alex stated that all the threats that he knew of against Paul were in-person confrontation. People would come up to him in public and make comments or had questions about him operating the boat that night.

As a parent, the biggest problem Alex had with Paul was his irresponsibility. He left clothes, guns, and boats, across the state. He would not even take clothes with him when he went off because he had left them everywhere.

Alex stated that all guns present at his residence on that Monday was what he owned, minus the one shotgun that he retrieved which was taken as evidence the night of June 7, 2021. Paul had a 300 Blackout rifle, which was allegedly stolen time ago. Since then, he would use Buster's rifle to shoot hogs. Alex gave Buster and Paul each one, several years ago. Sometimes Paul would have a shotgun too, but mostly it was a rifle. They did not keep guns at the kennels, but there were always guns there. They were all bad about leaving guns at the kennels, but Paul was the worst. Paul always left guns everywhere. "It was not unusual for guns to be out there."

Alex knew a 300 Blackout rifle was used in the homicides. He stated that one was not kept at the kennels. The missing rifle was not reported stolen, because Alex was not convinced it was actually stolen as opposed to lost. Alex was certain that a replacement rifle was purchased for the missing rifle. "I know we replaced it." Buster's rifle was black, and Paul's was tan.

During follow up questioning, Alex stated that when he and Paul returned to the house, Maggie was there, and they ate dinner as a family. After dinner, Alex laid down. "I'm not sure," when Maggie and Paul left the house. When he woke from his nap, no one was in the house. He stated the last time he saw Maggie and Paul alive was at dinner.

When Alex returned to the kennels and found Maggie and Paul, Alex attempted to turn Paul over in the direction away from the kennels, which is when Paul's phone fell from his pocket.

Paul was right-handed. He usually had his phone was in hand, in his pocket, or his truck. When Paul's phone came out of his pocket, Alex stated, "I did not try to open it." Alex stated he had in his mind not to "mess anything up." "I tried not to." Maggie normally carried her phone anywhere she could.

SS/A Croft mentioned that Alex saw a traumatic picture that night. Alex appeared to begin to cry and stated, "It was just so bad...I did him so bad...such a good boy too."

Alex asked that SS/A Owen speak with the Branstetters, Maggie's family, as soon as possible, to provide them with an update on the investigation, which SS/A Owen stated that he would. *Agent's Note: After the interview and off camera, Alex contacted the Branstetters. SS/A Owen attempted to stand next to near Alex during the conversation; however, Alex walked off to continue his conversation. When the conversation ended and Alex returned to SS/A Owen, Alex commented that the Branstetters were satisfied with the information provided to Alex by SS/A Owen.*

SS/A Owen obtained voluntary consent from Alex Murdaugh to collect Buccal (DNA) samples. SS/A Croft collected the samples from Alex and then sealed them in envelopes.

The interview concluded at approximately 3:03 p.m.