

AFFIDAVIT OF JOSEPH WILKES

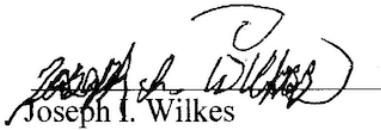
STATE OF OHIO
COUNTY OF WARREN, SS:

I, Joseph Wilkes, have personal knowledge of the following information, and depose and state under oath as follows:

1. I pled guilty to aggravated murder on September 27th, 1999, for causing the death of Yvonne Layne on March 31st, 1999.
2. I accepted a plea bargain in exchange for my testimony against David G. Thorne.
3. I agreed to testify against David G. Thorne, because I was informed that David had spoken to detectives from the Alliance Police Department, and had implicated me for this crime, and had "asked for immunity in order to give evidence on me".
4. I found out later that this was not true, that David had not even mentioned me to the detectives, and had in fact not been interviewed by them since my arrest. I felt betrayed by David, believing he'd turned me in for this crime, so I gave a statement against him.
5. My initial plea to this crime was not guilty. I changed my plea on the advise of court appointed counsel, Steven LoDico, Esq. and Wayne Graham, Esq.
6. I was advised that all that was needed to convict me of this crime was a statement made against me. I was told that I would be charged with the crime, and that I would be convicted and put to death. I was told that if I would testify against David Thorne, that I would be spared the death penalty, and would likely be given a sentence of thirty years. I was willing to make this deal to save my own life. I agreed to do so, believing that David had made a similar deal to testify against me.
7. In the statements I gave to the detectives on July 14th and on July 15th, 1999 and the guilty plea I entered on September 27, 1999, I said that I committed the crime against Yvonne Layne at the request of David Thorne, and for a payment of \$300.00 from him. I also testified to this during his trial. The statements I made against David Thorne are false.

8. David Thorne did not ask me to murder Yvonne Layne. He did not offer me money to murder Yvonne Layne. At no time did I ever discuss with David Thorne anything about causing the death of Yvonne Layne.
9. The statements I made against David Thorne, both before and during his trial, were based on information given to me by the detectives. I testified on the stand that the detectives "told me what to say and how I did it and was showing me pictures". I further testified that the detectives told me how I committed the crime. "They came to me. They were the ones that stated to me."
10. To the best of my knowledge, David Thorne and Yvonne Layne had a good relationship. David Thorne never expressed to me, nor discussed with anyone in my presence, any concerns about paying child support, or having contact with his son.
11. I confessed to a crime that I did not commit, and implicated David Thorne in a crime that he had no involvement in, because I was afraid, and I felt that I had no other option.
12. I understand that my statement against David Thorne caused his arrest and led to his conviction, and I am making this statement of my own free will, so that the truth will be known.

Further I sayeth naught.


Joseph I. Wilkes

Sworn and subscribed in my presence this 18th day of July, 2001.


Notary Public

ROBERT BEDNARCZUK, Attorney at Law
NOTARY PUBLIC, STATE OF OHIO
My Commission has no expiration
date. Section 147.03 R. C.