

INTERVIEW SUMMARY OF ANNIE DOOKHAN

Location:	MDPH Lab, Jamaica Plain
Date and Time	December 22, 2011 at 1:15 PM
Interviewer	Steven Chilian, Deputy General Counsel Joel Buenaventura, Deputy General Counsel
Union Representation	Ann M. Looney, General Counsel Massachusetts Organization of State Engineers and Scientists

Ms. Annie Dookhan (AD) has worked as a Chemist II at the MDPH Drug Forensic Lab for the past eight years. She reports to Charles Salemi. Her main duties are to analyze unknown substances for the MDPH Drug Forensic Lab.

AD provided an overview of the protocol for obtaining samples of unknown substances for testing. An evidence officer would assign the samples to her. Chemists would routinely go to a room known as "the evidence office." Within the Evidence office, there was a room known as "the safe." Only the Evidence Officers had access to the safe. An evidence officer would provide the samples, and the chemist would take the sample into his or her possession. The case samples would be bar coded with a lab control number for identification. As part of this process, the evidence officer and the chemist would record the transfer of these samples in a log book. After transfer from the evidence officer but during testing, the chemist would place the samples into a personal locker adjacent to the chemist's laboratory bench. Only the chemist and the lab manager had keys to this locker. At any given time, there were about twenty to fifty samples kept in AD's locker until either she returned the samples after completion of testing or she had taken new samples from the evidence officer.

AD verified the security measures created for the MDPH Drug Forensic Lab. AD said that there was a palm print required for access to the evidence office. AD had access to the evidence office, but not the safe. If she was allowed into the safe, it would only be in the presence of one of the evidence officers. AD would go to the evidence office only to receive samples or if she needed assistance in looking up a drug name.

AD was asked to provide her recollection of the reported incident of June 2011. AD was also provided a copy of pages of the log book involving ninety affected samples dated June 14, 2011.

AD recalled meeting with Betsy O'Brien, Chuck Salemi, and Julie Nassif on June 21, 2011. AD had no recollection of how she obtained the samples in question. She did not remember which evidence officer gave the said samples to her.

When queried regarding the laboratory log book, which included the initials of the evidence officer "GP" and AD, AD verified her own initials. AD said that she may have

initialed receipt of the samples "after the fact." That is, although the lab book is dated that AD received the samples on June 14, 2011, she recalls that she likely initialed receipt of the samples on a later date. Although she acknowledged that there had been initials from the evidence officer "GP", she denied that it was her writing. However, AD indicated that "she writes that way."

AD acknowledged that there would likely be problems testifying regard to the ninety samples because of the aforementioned discrepancies in the log book. AD said that the samples would likely have been kept in her locker after receipt from the evidence officer and the testing process which include her initial test and a confirmatory test from another chemist in the lab.

AD recalls that she had not been questioned regarding the log book when she has given testimony in a criminal matter. AD said she would cooperate in identifying any cases in which she had been subpoenaed by the District Attorney if provided a copy of the affected sample numbers.



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Massachusetts State Police
Office of the Attorney General
One Ashburton Place, Room 1910
Boston, MA 02108

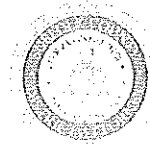
To: Lieutenant Colonel Francis J. Matthews *FM. 9.12.12*
Commanding, Division of Investigative Services

From: Detective Lieutenant Robert M. Irwin
Commanding, MSP-AGO Detective Unit

Subject: **Circumstances surrounding the interview of Annie Dookhan** [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Interview conducted on August
28, 2012 at approximately 1700 hours. Interview conducted by
Detective Captain Joseph Mason and Detective Lieutenant Robert
Irwin.

Case #: 2012-034-2589-0052

1. On August 28, 2012 at approximately 1700 Detective Captain Mason and this officer traveled in our unmarked state police vehicles to the residence of Annie Dookhan. Detective Captain Mason and I approached the front door and knocked but did not receive a response. We were standing in the driveway when a silver SUV drove up. Annie Dookhan stopped the car and exited her vehicle. Both Captain Mason and I identified ourselves, showed her our badges, and advised her where we were stationed. We told her we were hoping to talk to her regarding an investigation at the lab. She said sure but that she had her son with her. She said she would go through the garage and open the front door for us.
2. Once in the house Dookhan led us to her dining room table where she offered us a seat. We all took a seat at the table and Detective Captain Mason and I explained that we were doing an investigation. We advised her that as part of that investigation we wished to speak to her but that she didn't have to speak to us if



she didn't want. She said ok and then agreed to be interviewed. The interview was in a conversational tone throughout. Dookhan at times during the interview was smiling and at times had a tear or two. She, at all times, appeared alert and sober.

3. Approximately fifteen minutes into the interview Annie Dookhan's husband, [REDACTED] came home. Again, Detective Captain Mason and this officer introduced ourselves and shook his hand. He asked if everything was all right. We advised yes it was and that we only wanted to speak to his wife in regards to an investigation we were conducting. [REDACTED] Dookhan looked at his wife and she nodded to him and said everything is fine. [REDACTED] then offered us something to drink which we did not accept. [REDACTED] left the room at that time.
4. [REDACTED] Dookhan and his young son left approximately ten minutes later and did not return for approximately twenty minutes. The interview continued in a conversational tone. Upon [REDACTED] return he asked to speak to his wife in private. We advised him that they could do whatever they wished and to take all the time they needed. [REDACTED] and Annie left the room and went to another room out of our sight and hearing. Annie Dookhan returned to the table after a few minutes and again the interview continued.
5. A short time later, [REDACTED] Dookhan left the house again with his son. The interview was completed and as Annie Dookhan walked us to the door she related what she had spoken to her husband about in private. She said her husband asked her if she needed a lawyer. She told him no, that she was ok, and that she would speak to us. This officer left a printed piece of paper with our names and my cell number should she have any questions or concerns. Both Detective Captain Mason and I left without incident. As I drove out of the driveway I observed Annie Dookhan to be walking the family dog.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert M. Irwin
Detective Lieutenant, #1230
Massachusetts State Police
Office of the Attorney General



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Massachusetts State Police
Office of the Attorney General
One Ashburton Place, Room 1910
Boston, MA 02108

To: Lieutenant Colonel Francis J. Matthews *FJM* 9-12-12
Commanding, Division of Investigative Services

From: Detective Lieutenant Robert M. Irwin
Commanding, MSP-AGO Detective Unit

Subject: Interview of: Annie Dookhan
[REDACTED]

Interview conducted at her residence in [REDACTED] on August 28, 2012, at approximately 1700 hours. Interview conducted by Detective Captain Joseph Mason and Detective Lieutenant Robert Irwin.

Case #: 2012-034-2589-0052

1. Annie Dookhan resides with her husband [REDACTED] and their young son, [REDACTED]. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Biochemistry from UMass Boston, graduating in 2001. From December 2001-November 2003 she was employed as a chemist at the UMass Biological Lab in Jamaica Plain. From November 2003 through March 2012 she worked for DPH Jamaica Plain Drug Lab as a Chemist. She was first hired as a Chemist and did routine drug testing and Quality Control. She was upgraded to Chemist II on or around September 2004.
2. Dookhan resigned from the DPH lab in March of 2012, "pending an investigation." Dookhan admits she was at fault and responsible for the 90 samples that she removed from the Evidence Room in June 2011. She admits that the samples were not properly assigned to her, not entered into the computer by an Evidence Officer, and not entered into the Evidence Log Book.

3. Although Dookhan claims not to recall removing the bin of samples from the safe, she admits she must have done so, as it is the only logical explanation – she just does not remember. She denied having the code or key to the evidence safe. Dookhan admitted that after being questioned about the mishandling of the samples by Julie Nassif, the Director of Chemistry, Dookhan falsely filled in the blank entries in the Evidence Log Book and forged Gloria Phillip's initials on the 90 plus Log Book Entries. She stated that this was the only time she ever took samples improperly from the Evidence Office or falsified the Evidence Log Book. Dookhan was shown a copy of the Evidence Log Book for the date in question and she identified the entries that she had forged/postdated. Dookhan initialed the entries on the sheet that she had falsified.
4. Dookhan was then asked about her Tune Reports. A Tune Report shows that the mass spec is functioning correctly. Dookhan was asked if she had ever forged Chemist Nicole Medina's initials on any of those reports. Initially, she denied falsifying any Tune Reports and/or signing Nicole Medina's initials on them. Dookhan was then shown a falsified/forged Tune Report from June 10, 2011 at 15:53:50. She then stated, "I screwed up, it's my fault, I was not paying attention." When asked to explain, Dookhan then admitted to forging the initials deliberately. When asked why she did this, Dookhan stated, "There was no one available – no one has the time – I wanted to get the work done." Dookhan initialed the sheet we showed her to memorialize that she had forged Nicole Medina's initials on the June 10, 2011 Tune Report.
5. Dookhan was also asked about falsifying a Quality Control GC/MS Daily Injector Report. This procedure is to analyze a known amount and types of drugs to determine if the GC/MS is in proper working conditions. A report is generated with the results, and evaluated and signed off by the chemist as accepting the results. Initially, Dookhan stated that she would not do that because there was data to back up those reports. When she was shown a report from May 12, 2011 she stated that, "I got the work done, but not properly. I didn't follow the procedures and that was wrong." Dookhan admitted that the data she recorded on the report on May 12, 2011 was false and did not coincide with the data recorded from the instrument.
6. Dookhan stated that at some point Elizabeth O'Brien asked her to help out in the Evidence Office. Dookhan was then given access to the evidence data base. She routinely looked up data for Assistant District Attorneys who would call her directly, bypassing the proper protocol of going through the Evidence Office. She stated that this was her fault and she should have directed the ADAs to the office. When Dookhan was removed from lab duties following the June 2011 incident with the samples, she started directing the ADAs to follow the proper procedure by sending a form to the Evidence Office. Dookhan advised that no ADA, Police Officer, or anyone else asked her to do anything improper in her analysis or findings. She said they just wanted to get their case analyzed or get the information from the analysis. Dookhan advised that after being removed from the lab, she disobeyed orders and, on occasion, still looked up data. She stated her doing that was "wrong."

7. Initially, Dookhan denied doing anything improper in regards to her analyzing drug samples. Initially, she claimed that she performed a cocaine crystal test on every cocaine sample. Dookhan stated that she, "would never falsify because it's someone's life on the line." She was asked about "dry labbing" and if she had ever done that. Dookhan asked us what we thought "dry labbing" was – we advised that it was when a chemist looks at a sample and identifies it by sight instead of doing the proper testing; the chemist then states they did all the work they were required to do, but really they "dry labbed". Dookhan then said she didn't *think* she had "dry labbed." She was then confronted with the results of the recent BPD re-test. This was a re-test on a positive analysis for cocaine, which Dookhan was the chemist on, that had come back as negative on a recent re-test. We also explained to her that we had received information that there were other anomalies reported during the investigation which indicated she was not doing everything properly. Also, her number of samples analyzed were so high that she couldn't have performed all the required tests. She became sad and a slight tear came to her eye and she stated, "I screwed up big time. I messed up. I messed up bad, it's my fault. I don't want the lab to get in trouble." Dookhan then admitted to "dry labbing."
8. Dookhan then explained that she would routinely secure a large number of samples from evidence. She would then group them on her bench by the same suspected drug. Dookhan would lay out a number of samples from various cases. She would separate suspected cocaine in one area, suspected heroin in another area, and so on. She would also set aside unknowns. Dookhan would identify the drug by the type of suspected drug that was checked off on the control card. She then went on to explain that she would lay out about twenty-five samples of what she felt were the same type of drug. Dookhan would then actually test approximately five samples properly at her bench. She would then prepare all her cocaines, heroins, and other vials for mass/spec, for all of the samples. The samples that she did not properly test she would label as the drug she suspected it of being.
9. Dookhan stated that she properly tested all of the unknowns, because she had no idea what they were. She would then submit all the samples to mass/spec for confirmatory analysis. On occasion the samples would be returned from mass/spec because the drug was different from what she had said it was. She would initially try to "clean the sample up" by making a more concentrated sample or using more of the sample. If that did not work, she would intentionally "contaminate" the sample by preparing a vial using a known drug from a completed test stored at her bench. She stated that she "only contaminated samples a few times." Dookhan did not want samples sent back from mass/spec to remain improperly typed, as it would show that she had not completed the required preliminary tests on all the samples she sent to mass/spec. Dookhan explained that she did what she did in order to get more work done.
10. Prior to Dookhan being removed from the testing lab in June of 2011, she "dry labbed" for two to three years. She has no knowledge of anyone else in the lab using improper testing methods. She advises that she was not tipped by anyone in the lab in regards to the June 2011 samples being improperly obtained, not entered, and the forgery of the log book. Dookhan also advised that no one at the lab knew of her "dry labbing" or her intentional contamination of samples. She never confided in



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anyone about what she was doing. She also stated that she has no knowledge of 000074 anyone else in the lab not performing proper analysis.

Respectfully submitted,

#1230

Robert M. Irwin
Detective Lieutenant, #1230
Massachusetts State Police
Office of the Attorney General



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Massachusetts State Police
Office of the Attorney General
One Ashburton Place, Room 1910
Boston, MA 02108

To: Lieutenant Colonel Francis J. Matthews *FJM. 9-12-12*
Commanding, Division of Investigative Services

From: Detective Lieutenant Robert M. Irwin
Commanding, MSP-AGO Detective Unit

Subject: **Circumstances and conversation from phone calls both received and made to Annie Dookhan of [REDACTED]**
[REDACTED] All calls were conducted on August 30, 2012.

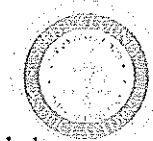
Case #: 2012-034-2589-0052

1. On Thursday August 30, 2012 this officer placed a call at approximately 0900 to the cell phone of Annie Dookhan [REDACTED]. The purpose of this call was a well-being check and as a notification that there could possibly be a press conference involving this investigation. This officer also wanted to advise Dookhan that she had some criminal exposure and that she should get an attorney. Dookhan did not answer the phone so I left a message identifying myself and requesting her to call my cell phone. I also knew through other interviews that Dookhan utilized text messaging so I also left a text message asking her to call my cell.
2. At approximately 1100 hours, I sent Lt. Michael Cooney and Trooper Tom Mahon to Dookhan's [REDACTED] address to conduct a well-being check. I was advised at approximately 1200 that there was no answer at the door. I subsequently called Dookhan on her cell phone and she answered. I identified myself and Dookhan said hello. She that she had seen my text and planned to call me back but was out with her son. I asked her how she was doing and she said



alright. I advised her that the lab had been shut down and she said she knew something like that would happen. I then advised her that there was going to be a press conference later that afternoon and that she and her family should be aware of it.

3. I advised Dookhan that we have not and would not give her name out to the press but she should be prepared as reporters have a way of learning that information. She then told me that the agreement she had with DPH when she resigned was that her name would not be given out. I told her that we would not give her name and neither would DPH, but she should be aware that reporters might come around her house.
4. I advised Dookhan that she should get an attorney and then consult with that attorney. She said she didn't know any attorneys and that she didn't have any money. I advised her that some attorneys will meet with her for a free initial consultation. She said she understood and would get back to me. I told her that if she got a lawyer, to give the lawyer my number and I would talk to the attorney. I told her to talk to her husband and he might be able to help with money for a lawyer. She told me they were in the process of a long divorce. She said that she didn't want to involve her family. She said she had told her husband about the samples not being logged but had not told him anything else about what had happened.
5. At approximately 1528 I received a call from Annie Dookhan's cell phone. I missed the call and at 1530 I called the phone back. Dookhan answered and I was advised that she was not at her home but that she had been told there was news media at her house. She asked why the news media were digging so hard. I told her that the lab had been closed and there had been a press conference. It was a news story. I then told her that there was some information that the media did not yet know about her including the contamination of samples and her turning a negative sample into a positive. I told her the media does not know the details and that will encourage them to try and get them. I told her we, the investigators, don't even know what cases this happened to. Dookhan replied that she knows this is a problem. She said she had told us that she would not be able to tell what cases that happened to and that it was a long time ago. She said that maybe if she saw the lab numbers and her notes, she might be able to tell. She also thanked me for my honesty and being upfront with her about the press and that she trusts me. I told her that she did not have to talk to the press and, if she has a problem at her house, to call the [REDACTED] PD. I asked her about a lawyer and she asked me what kind of lawyer she needed. I told her that she should talk to a criminal lawyer. She told me that is what her husband had told her today.
6. At approximately 1645 Annie Dookhan called my cell phone. I answered and Dookhan was crying, not hard, more of a whimper. She was despondent and looking for advice. She said she managed to get home when the press left the front of the house but that they were back again. She said she talked to a lawyer and he would not handle her case if she hasn't been charged. She asked me if she was being charged criminally. I told her that I didn't know and that decision was not mine to make. I did tell her that based on the investigation to this point she had some criminal exposure. She asked me what she would be charged with if she was charged. Again, I told her those decisions were not mine and that I could not give her an answer. I again told her that she should get a lawyer.



7. Dookhan began crying and sounded despondent. She said she never meant to hurt anybody. I told her I knew that and that she had made a mistake, but that didn't make her a bad person. I asked her if she had family in the area that she could be with. She said she was an only child, her parents were in [REDACTED] and the only family was a brother- and sister-in-law in [REDACTED]. I told her she should be with family.
8. Dookhan continued to cry. I asked her if she was alright and if she ever thought bad thoughts. She said that the harm she was causing people would go through her mind every now and then. When she said this she was crying and I wasn't sure if she said harm herself. I asked her to repeat it and she again mentioned the harm done to other people. I then asked her if she had thought of harming herself. She said no. I asked if she was sure and she said yes.
9. I then provided Dookhan with the telephone number for CPCS in [REDACTED]. I advised her that she should call that number right away and they could assist her in finding council. Dookhan advised that she had written the number down and that she would call it. I advised Dookhan that my phone is always on and she could call me at any time. She said she didn't want to be a pest, I told her it was ok. She said she was a worry wart. I asked her if she had anyone coming home to be with her and she said her husband was on his way home.

Respectfully submitted,

#1230

Robert M. Irwin
Detective Lieutenant, #1230
Massachusetts State Police
Office of the Attorney General



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Massachusetts State Police
Office of the Attorney General
One Ashburton Place, Room 1910
Boston, MA 02108

To: Lieutenant Colonel Francis J. Matthews *FM. 9.12.12.*
Commanding, Division of Investigative Services

From: Detective Lieutenant Robert M. Irwin
Commanding, MSP-AGO Detective Unit

Subject: Signed Statement of Annie Dookhan

Case #: 2012-034-2589-0052

1. On August 28, 2012 at the conclusion of the interview with Annie Dookhan, I wrote out a brief summary of portions of the interview between Annie Dookhan, detective Captain Mason and me. I had Annie Dookhan read the statement and asked if it was accurate. After she agreed that the statement was accurate I had her acknowledge such by signing at the bottom. Below is the complete content of the written statement. The original is currently secured with the case file kept by this officer.
2. I, Annie Dookhan, had taken out samples of safe and tested them without them being signed out as proper procedure. I also went in the Evidence Log book and postdated and filled the log book in. I signed my initials and an Evidence Officer's initials in the book. That was my mistake and I can't deny that. I also batched, put similar samples together, and tested some and not others; I "dry labbed." I have been doing it for about two to three years. At times, a few, I had to add to a sample that came back from Mass Spec to make it what I said it was. I would get the sample from a known sample. I would try to clean it, the original, up first but if it didn't I would need to take something, drugs, from another case. I intentionally turned a negative sample into a positive a few times.
3. Annie S. Dookhan 6:45p.m. 8-28-2012
I voluntarily signed this document, and it is true.
DLT RM Irwin 8/28/12 1845
DCPT JV Mason 8/28/12 1845 hrs



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Respectfully submitted,

Robert M. Irwin - #1230

Robert M. Irwin
Detective Lieutenant, #1230
Massachusetts State Police
Office of the Attorney General