

AFFIDAVIT OF ARTHUR SNOW

THE STATE OF TEXAS

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COUNTY OF HAYS

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BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, personally appeared Arthur Snow, who, being duly sworn upon his oath according to law, said as follows:

1. My name is Arthur J. Snow, Jr. My date of birth is [REDACTED]. My address is [REDACTED]. I am over the age of 21 and competent to make this Affidavit. I have personal knowledge of the facts set forth in this Affidavit, and they are true and correct.
2. I have been in and out of jails and prisons for much of my life. From about December 2010 until about September 2011, I was an inmate at the Stevenson Unit in Cuero, Texas. At the time, I was serving time for forgery. My TDCJ number is #01534438.
3. Prison can be a dangerous, chaotic, and violent place. It is common for inmates to join or form allegiances with gangs for protection, or to feel like they belong to part of a group. Often, prison gangs form along racial divides.
4. I was brought up to be prejudiced against black people. As a kid, I remember my grandparents using the word "nigger" to describe black people. They used the term so casually. As a result of my upbringing, I adopted the same values and beliefs I was taught. I didn't know any other way to be, and so when I went to prison, I joined the Aryan Brotherhood. The Aryan Brotherhood is a whites-only prison gang.
5. The Aryan Brotherhood has a hierarchical structure. Eventually, I became a respected member of the gang, and was seen by other inmates as sort-of a leader. As a result, new white inmates would sometimes approach me for services. For example, inmates could pay the Aryan Brotherhood to offer them protection from people or groups within the prison.
6. In about 2010, a white man named Jimmy Fennell ("Jimmy") approached me at the Stevenson Unit wanting the protection of the Aryan Brotherhood. Jimmy said he needed protection from the blacks and Mexicans at the prison. At the time, I didn't know anything about Jimmy. All I knew was that I had seen Jimmy around the prison and observed that he seemed out of his element. So, I cut a deal with Jimmy that he would pay the Aryan Brotherhood out of his commissary, and in exchange we would keep the blacks and Mexicans off of him and protect him from violence.

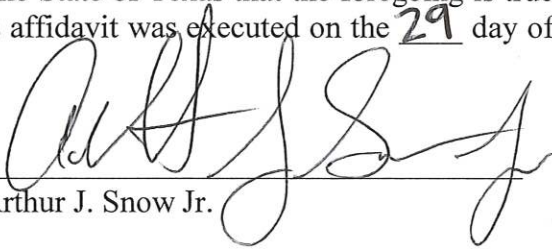


7. Jimmy and I were never really friends, but we occasionally made conversation. One conversation stands out very clearly in my mind. Jimmy and I were in the rec yard at the Stevenson Unit walking around the track and talking. He was talking about his ex-fiancé with a lot of hatred and resentment. Jimmy said his fiancé had been sleeping around with a black man behind his back. By the way Jimmy spoke about this experience, I could tell that it deeply angered him. Toward the end of the conversation Jimmy said confidently, "I had to kill my nigger-loving fiancé." My impression was that Jimmy felt safe, even proud, sharing this information with me because I was a member of the Aryan Brotherhood. I think Jimmy assumed that his confession would impress me and earn him credibility with the Aryan Brotherhood.
8. As I recall, people didn't really bother Jimmy anymore once they knew he was under our protection. However, one day a new inmate came onto the unit who said he knew Jimmy from time he spent in Williamson County. I do not recall this man's name, but the new inmate said that Jimmy was a former cop who had been convicted of raping a woman in his custody. I wanted to verify this, so I asked a guard at the prison to look Jimmy up and tell me who he was and what he was in for. After looking Jimmy up, the guard confirmed Jimmy's history.
9. After the news spread around the prison that Jimmy was a cop, and that he was a rapist, the Aryan Brotherhood couldn't protect Jimmy anymore. Then, Jimmy accused the Aryan Brotherhood of extorting him. Because the guards saw me as one of the leaders of the gang, Jimmy's accusations landed on me. As a result, I was ultimately moved to the Connally Unit where they send a lot of gang members.
10. A few years ago, I was in the Hays County Jail. While there I saw Jimmy's picture in the newspaper. His picture was juxtaposed next to a picture of a black man named Rodney Reed. This was the first time I had heard about Rodney Reed or his case. The article said that Rodney Reed had been convicted of murdering Jimmy Fennell's fiancé. That's when everything came together for me. I recalled my conversation in the rec yard with Jimmy. I realized that Rodney Reed was sitting in prison for a murder that Jimmy Fennell had confessed to me that he had committed. I had planned to come forward back then, but never did. At the time, I still had a heavy gang-mentality and decided that it was none of my business. On top of it all, I worried that even though Jimmy was a cop, I would be labeled a snitch.
11. In the years since I saw that newspaper article, though I was not a young man then, I finally started to grow up. I had grandkids. I started to look at the world differently. I let go of some of my prejudices. I looked at the situation differently and tried to put myself in Rodney Reed's shoes. When I did, it weighed on my conscience. Recently, after having again landed myself in the Hays County Jail, I saw another newspaper article about Jimmy Fennell and Rodney Reed. I knew I couldn't ignore this memory anymore. I decided that I had to come forward and tell someone what I knew.

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I have read and reviewed this 3-page affidavit. After reading each page, I initialed the bottom of each page.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Texas that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and that this affidavit was executed on the 29 day of October, 2019 in San Marcos, Texas.


Arthur J. Snow Jr.

Sworn to and subscribed before me on the 29TH day of October, 2019, by Arthur Snow.



Notary Public, State of Texas

