



NORTH CAROLINA
BAR FOUNDATION

Middle School Mock Trial Case

State of Utopia vs. Jayden Jackson

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**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF UTOPIA
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF MARICOPA**

STATE OF
UTOPIA,

Prosecution

vs.

No. CR 20-10546

JAYDEN C.
JACKSON

Defendant.

STIPULATED FACTS

Three students – Jayden Jackson and siblings Reece Anderson and Taylor Anderson – leave the campus of West High School for lunch in Jayden’s Jeep. The lunch hour is only 50 minutes.

West High does not have a closed campus and allows students to freely leave campus.

Nevertheless, to discourage students from leaving, the school has a strict parental notification policy regarding absences or tardies after a lunch period. A student’s parents are contacted when a student receives two absences or tardies following a lunch period in any semester.

Following lunch at a fast-food restaurant, the three students begin the drive back to campus.

They are going to be running it close in terms of time. Taylor Anderson says that they have to hurry as Taylor already has one tardy and does not want to have their parents notified that they left campus and came back late. Jayden says not to worry.

The students turn eastbound onto Elm Street, which runs along the north side of the campus. The student parking lot is on Magnolia, which is on the east side of the campus. The speed limit on

1 Elm is 30 mph for residential traffic. There is not a marked crosswalk at the corner of Elm and
2 Magnolia, but 100 yards from the corner is a sign that says, “Caution: Pedestrians.”

3

4 As the car approaches Magnolia, Jayden sees another car in the middle of the street with its left
5 turn signal flashing. Jayden moves to the far right to pass and make a right turn onto Magnolia.

6 Jayden also reaches to change the radio station, which Taylor had requested. Reece yells “Watch
7 out!” Jayden looks up and sees that a student walking their bike is emerging from in front of the

8 car with the turn signal heading toward campus. Jayden slams on the brakes and swerves right to
9 avoid the student. After the Jeep hits and runs up the curb, it rolls over. The Jeep misses the

10 student, but slides and crashes into the traffic signal pole. Jayden and Reece are hurt but survive;

11 both were restrained by their seat belts in the front bucket seats of the Jeep. However, Taylor was
12 sitting in the back and was not wearing a seat belt.

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14 Taylor was ejected from the car and killed.

15

16 The State has charged Jayden Jackson with negligent homicide in the death of Taylor Anderson.

THE LAW

Utopia Revised Statutes 13 – 1102 Negligent Homicide; classification

- A. A person commits negligent homicide if, with criminal negligence, such person causes the death of another person.
- B. Negligent homicide is a class 4 felony.

Utopia Revised Statutes 13 – 105 Definitions

In this title, unless the context otherwise requires:

- 6. “Culpable mental state” means intentionally, knowingly, recklessly or with criminal negligence as those terms are thusly defined:
 - a. “Intentionally” or “with the intent of” means, with respect to a result or to conduct described by statute defining an offense, that a person’s objective is to cause that result or to engage in that conduct.
 - b. “Knowingly” means, with respect to conduct or to a circumstance described by a statute defining an offense, that a person is aware or believes that his or her conduct is of that nature or that the circumstance exists. It does not require any knowledge of the unlawfulness of the act or omission.
 - c. “Recklessly” means, with respect to a result or to a circumstance described by statute defining an offense, that a person is aware of and consciously disregards a substantial and unjustifiable risk that the result will occur or that the circumstance exists. The risk must be of such nature and degree that disregard of such risk constitutes a gross deviation from the standard of conduct that a reasonable person would observe in that situation. A person who creates such a risk but is unaware of such risk solely by reason of voluntary intoxication also acts recklessly with respect to such risk.
 - d. “Criminal negligence” means, with respect to a result or to a circumstance described by statute defining an offense, that a person fails to perceive a substantial and unjustifiable risk that the result will occur or that the circumstance exists. The risk must be of such nature and degree that the failure to perceive it constitutes a gross deviation from the standard of care that a reasonable person would observe in that situation.

“The general rule is that negligent homicide is a lesser included offense of manslaughter. In *State v. Parker*, 128 Utop. 107, 624 P.2d 304 (App. 1980), *vacated in part on other grounds*, 128 Utop. 97, 624 P.2d 294 (1981), the Court of Appeals determined that the only difference between

manslaughter and negligent homicide is an accused's mental state at the time of the incident. *See also State v. Montoya*, 125 Utop. 155, 608 P.2d 92 (App. 1980). Manslaughter is established where a person, aware of a substantial and unjustifiable risk that his or her conduct will cause the death of another, consciously disregards that risk. Negligent homicide is established where a person fails to perceive the substantial and unjustifiable risk that his or her conduct will cause the death of another. The element of the greater not found in the lesser is awareness of the risk."

***State v. Fisher*, 141 Utop. 227, 247, 686 P.2d 750, 770 (1984)**

"While it is true that in a criminal prosecution for negligent homicide the contributory negligence of the deceased is not a defense, *State v. Nerison*, 28 Wash. App. 659, 661, n. 1, 625 P.2d 735, 737, n.1 (1981), the trier of fact may still consider the decedent's conduct when determining whether the defendant's act was criminally negligent. *See Wren v. State*, 577 P.2d 235, 238 (Alaska 1978); *Williams v. State*, 554 P.2d 842, 845 (Okl. Cr. App. 1976); *State v. Nerison*, *supra*. In the instant case, the decedent's conduct may be relevant because her failure to yield the right of way could relieve the defendant of criminal responsibility. For example, the defendant might prove he expected the victim to yield and, therefore, did not slow down as he approached the intersection. The jury might therefore conclude that the defendant's failure to slow down was not criminal negligence, i.e., 'a gross deviation from the standard of care that a responsible person would observe in the situation.' ARS 13 – 105(6)(d)."

***State v. Shumway*, 137 Utop. 585, 588, 672 P.2d 929, 932 (1983)**

"The state has the burden of proving the defendant guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. In civil cases, it is only necessary to prove that a fact is more likely true than not or that its truth is highly probable. In criminal cases such as this, the state's proof must be more powerful than that. It must be proof beyond a reasonable doubt.

Proof beyond a reasonable doubt is proof that leaves you firmly convinced of the defendant's guilt. There are very few things in this world that we know with absolute certainty, and in criminal cases the law does not require proof that overcomes every doubt. If, based on your consideration of the evidence, you are firmly convinced that the defendant is guilty of the crime charged, you must find him/her guilty. If, on the other hand, you think there is a real possibility that he/she is not guilty, you must give him/her the benefit of the doubt and find him/her not guilty."

***State v. Portillo*, 182 Utop.592, 596, 898 P.2d 970, 974 (2015) quoting Federal Judicial Center, *PATTERN CRIMINAL JURY INSTRUCTIONS 17-18 (Instruction 21) (2008)*. This instruction was mandated to be given in all criminal cases in Utopia after January 1, 2017.**

STATE WITNESSES:

- 1. Robin Jones**
- 2. Gray Martin**
- 3. Officer Alex Demlong**

DEFENSE WITNESSES:

- 1. Jayden Jackson**
- 2. Reece Anderson**
- 3. Tracy Roller**

AFFIDAVIT OF ROBIN JONES

1. My name is Robin Jones. I am sixty-five (65) years old. I reside at 3103 N. Saguaro, which is approximately three blocks from West High School. I have lived in my current location for thirty years. My two grown children both attended West High School.
2. The neighborhood around West High School is residential. There are longstanding neighborhoods on three sides of the school, across from Elm, Cholla, and Cutler streets. Magnolia, which runs along the front of the campus, is a normal cross street.
3. The speed limit on Elm, Cholla, and Cutler streets is 30 miles per hour. The speed limit on Magnolia is 40 miles per hour.
4. Over the years, the traffic around the high school has grown enormously. It seems like every student gets a car these days when they turn sixteen years old. Students always seem to be coming and going from the school between about 7:30 in the morning and about 4:00 in the afternoon. At my house, I often hear the squeal of tires and the roar of engines from the students while I tend to my yard.
5. Around lunchtime, from approximately 11:00 am to 1:30 pm, the number of students racing to and from the high school is enormous. Other neighbors and I have complained to the principal and the school board about our belief that the safety of the surrounding neighborhoods is comprised when the students try to hurry off campus to eat lunch and then return. I am so concerned that I generally try to never drive by the school at this time. This means I am limited in not leaving or returning to my house during this period of the day, which is very frustrating. Obviously, sometimes I cannot avoid driving at this time, but I sure try.
6. On October 18, 2020, I had a doctor's appointment at 1:30 pm. I tried to get a later one but would not have been able to see the doctor for three days unless I took this appointment. As a result, I was leaving my house around 12:50 to 12:55 to go to the doctor. I went down to Elm and made a right turn to go down to Magnolia.
7. I drove to the corner of Elm and Magnolia and stopped to turn left onto Magnolia. Elm is a normal residential street with no line down the middle of the road. I stopped in the middle of the street to wait for the traffic on Magnolia to allow me to turn left. It was around 1:00 in the afternoon, probably a few minutes before the hour. The sun was shining, and it was a pretty October day in Utopia. I remember I was thinking we were actually enjoying almost fall-like conditions.
8. As I waited to turn left, a student began to cross Elm walking their bicycle. The student had been standing on the corner when I stopped and looked to see what I was going to do. Since I had to wait for the traffic to stop before I could turn left, I signaled they could cross. There is not a marked crosswalk at this corner. In fact,

there are no marked crosswalks at any of the corners around the West High campus. Nevertheless, there are signs on all the surrounding streets that say to watch out for pedestrians. There is one on Elm about half a block before the intersection with Magnolia.

9. At about this time, I don't know if I heard or sensed a car coming behind me. I looked up in my rear-view mirror and saw a white Jeep coming very fast behind me. My first thought was, "They are going too fast – I bet it is kids going to the high school". The entrance to the parking lot is on Magnolia and so students often travel fast down Elm so they can turn on Magnolia and go to the parking lot. As I watched the car – and it all happened so fast, maybe a few seconds – I thought to myself, "I sure hope they stop and don't rear end my car!".
10. I quickly looked forward to see if I could turn, and saw that the student with the bike was just then crossing in front of my car and were almost to the corner. At that moment, I heard an awful squeal of brakes and tires. I was sure I was going to be hit! I closed my eyes. The next thing I knew I heard a terrible crash, but I did not feel anything.
11. I opened my eyes and saw the student with their bike still in the street just a foot or so from my car. I also saw the Jeep where it apparently crashed into the traffic signal pole. The Jeep was lying on its left side and was almost all on the sidewalk. I sat in my car, literally shaking. I do not know how long I just sat in my car and stared. Several students came to the Jeep and helped the occupants from the car. They all looked like students.
12. The police and fire department arrived in what seemed like just minutes. I felt in a daze. I believe some of the students in the car were taken to the hospital. I do not know what happened to them.
13. I spoke to a police officer who told me I could move my car from Elm. I told the police everything I could remember about the accident. It all happened so fast. The police took my name and said they would contact me if they needed anything else.
14. In 2019 my daughter Katherine was seriously injured in an automobile accident in Tempe. She was hit by a nineteen-year-old ASU student who was intoxicated. Luckily, Katherine is fine now except for some lingering back pain. However, for a while, we thought she was going to be paralyzed. Young people never seem to realize the fact that an automobile can be a dangerous weapon.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.

Robin Jones

AFFIDAVIT OF GRAY MARTIN

1. My name is Gray Martin. I was born on April 12, 2003. I am a senior at West High School.
2. I am a classmate of Jayden Jackson and Reece Anderson. We are all in the same grade and have gone to the same school since third grade. I am a friend of Jayden Jackson. We used to be really close in elementary school and our freshman year at West High. However, over the course of high school we have not done as much together as we used to. I know Reece also, but we have never been close friends. I also knew Reece's sister Taylor a little. But, Taylor was younger than we were and so I never paid much attention to them.
3. I live about half a mile from school and usually ride my bike. I also usually go home for lunch because I can chill out and watch TV. My parents are not home during the day and so I have the house to myself. It only takes about 5-10 minutes to go each way, depending on how long I have to wait to cross Elm because of the traffic.
4. Classes at West High are fifty minutes in length. They begin at five minutes past the hour and end at five minutes before the hour. This allows us ten minutes to go from one class to another. My lunch period is from 12:05 to 12:55. However my next class does not start until 1:05. So, I usually stay at home until about 12:50 before hopping on my bike and going back. I have never been tardy returning from lunch this year.
5. When we were freshman, both Jayden Jackson and I rode our bikes to school. Jayden lives about a quarter mile or so further from the school than I do. Jayden used to come over and we would ride together to school. Jayden would often come over for lunch. However, as I said, we do not hang out together as much since freshman year. Also, I do not think Jayden has ridden a bike home for lunch since Jayden got the Jeep as a sixteenth birthday present.
6. Many kids leave campus for lunch. Most go out for food and complain about how little time they have. That is because they go to fast food places that are far away. Also, they sit around, talk until the last minute, and then are late if they hit a red light. I don't think getting back in time is so hard, but everyone thinks I am a geek for going home for lunch.
7. On October 18, 2020, I went home for lunch. I watched two episodes of "The Simpsons" on Hulu and ate a cheese sandwich.
8. I left home on my bike and rode to the corner of Elm and Magnolia across from school. I reached the corner and got off my bike to cross the street. You have to be careful at the streets around the school because there are a lot of students driving around, especially around lunchtime.

9. I looked and saw a car stopping to turn left. I was going to wait until they were gone, when the old person who was driving signaled me to cross. I started to walk my bike across the street. I was looking no place in particular and just thinking about how I really did not want to go to my next class, which was Physics.
10. I was about two-thirds of the way across the street and just passing the old person's car when I looked up. I froze because I saw Jayden's Jeep speeding towards me. I did not see Jayden, who I think was bent down. I thought "Jayden, please don't hit me!"
11. The next thing I remember is seeing Jayden looking up at me and the car swerving up on the curb by the school. The car seemed to bounce and start to swerve again. It was almost to me, and I still thought I was going to be hit. Then it flipped on its side and slid past me. It made a horrible screeching sound. I could not believe I was not hit, not even my bike.
12. I saw the car go by me and slam into the pole on the corner that held the streetlight. Everything happened so fast and yet it seemed like slow motion. I ran across the rest of the street and threw down my bike. I ran to the Jeep with a group of other students. I was going to give Jayden a piece of my mind – they almost killed me!
13. When we got to the car, Jayden was helping Reece from the car. Reece's arm was hurt and it looked like Jayden's head was cut. Reece was yelling for Taylor, but I did not see Taylor anywhere and figured Reece was confused from the crash. However, some kids pointed out that Taylor was in the grass back where the car flipped. I never saw Taylor leave the car.
14. The police and fire department arrived and took Jayden, Reece, and Taylor away. I told them I saw the whole thing. I was not going to tell them that Jayden almost hit me because I did not want to get him in trouble. But the old person in the car told them about me and so I had to come clean and tell them how close it really was.
15. I don't know why the car flipped. I honestly thought Jayden was going to swerve back into the street and hit me.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.

Gray Martin

AFFIDAVIT OF OFFICER ALEX DEMLONG

1. My name is Alex Demlong. I am police officer with the City of Utopia Police Department. My badge number is 4672. I have been a police officer for fourteen (14) years.
2. I was trained in accident investigation techniques at the time of my initial training at the Utopia Police Academy. I have also received advanced training in accident investigation at the Utopia Department of Public Safety Accident Investigation Institute in 2009. I became a certified accident reconstructionist by the National Safety Council in 2012 following completion of the appropriate class and field work. I teach a course in accident investigation skills to new recruits at the Utopia Regional Police Academy.
3. I have investigated hundreds of traffic accidents during my career as a Utopia Police officer and now am part of a special group that is called to investigate rollover accidents. I became a part of this special “rollover group” in 2016.
4. I received a call at 13:25 on October 18, 2020, to report to the corner of Magnolia and Elm near West High School. Officers on the scene had reported a single car rollover with serious injuries and I was dispatched conduct the accident investigation. Apparently, the officers at the scene believed that one or more of the injured parties may not survive and criminal charges might be filed.
5. Upon my arrival at the scene, I took measurements of the skid marks and evaluated the other physical evidence such as the vehicle itself. I also interviewed witnesses to the accident including but not limited to Gray Martin, Robin Jones, and several high school students.
6. I also traveled to the hospital and interviewed Reece Anderson. Reece Anderson told me that Taylor was sitting forward in the back seat asking Jayden to change the radio station right before the accident. Taylor was not wearing a seat belt. Reece looked up and saw the pedestrian and bike and yelled, “Watch out!” Reece said Jayden yelled “Oh No” and the next thing Reece remembers, they were rolling over and hitting the pole. Reece does not remember Taylor being thrown from the car.
7. I also interviewed Jayden Jackson at the hospital with their parents’ permission. Jayden stated they were driving down Elm returning to school from lunch, Jayden driving a white Jeep received as a 16th birthday present. Taylor was worried about being late to their next class and having their parents notified that they had left campus under the school policy. Jayden told Taylor not to worry, that they would be back in time. Jayden felt they had plenty of time.
8. Jayden does not know exactly how fast the car was going on Elm but is sure it was not faster than traffic normally goes on the street. Jayden insisted they were not speeding. Based on my field investigation, I cited Jayden at the hospital for

speeding.

9. With regard to the accident, Jayden stated it was simply an unfortunate accident. Jayden was changing the radio station for Taylor when Reece yelled “Watch Out.” Jayden looked and saw Gray Martin crossing the street. Jayden put on the brakes and the car pulled to the side and hit the curb. Jayden was turning back into the road when the car rolled over and slid into the pole.
10. From the length of the skid marks, the damage to the vehicle, the distance the vehicle rolled, and based on my training, I calculated the speed of the Jeep to be between 47 and 50 miles per hour immediately before the accident. This is substantially above the 30- mile per hour speed limit for a residential street and a definitely hazardous speed so close to a high school with known high amount of pedestrian traffic.
11. There are several signs around the West High campus warning motorists to watch for and use caution because of pedestrians. The signs are large and a reflective yellow color. They read “Caution: Pedestrians.”
12. I have investigated several accidents in the last few years around West High School. In the last four years, 88% of the accidents in a five-mile radius around West High School have involved students who were speeding. The police force generally places officers a few blocks from the school every few months to ticket speeders. It is hoped this will slow everyone down. I must admit however that students are not the only ones receiving speeding tickets in this area. Many people use Elm as a regular thoroughfare and often travel at speeds near forty (40) miles an hour.
13. Based on all the information I gathered, the physical evidence, and my conversations with all the witnesses, I believe the accident occurred because Jayden Jackson was driving at a greatly excessive speed and was inattentive to their surroundings, which caused a situation to develop where there was a substantial and unjustified risk of harm to the people in the Jeep and anyone around it. When Reece screamed “Watch out!” Jayden Jackson panicked and jerked the wheel. The vehicle skidded at a high rate of speed and hit the curb causing the right-side wheels to lose contact with the ground. Jayden then attempted to quickly turn back to the right, which caused the unbalanced vehicle to tip even more. Given the rate of speed and the jerky movements, Jayden Jackson lost control of the vehicle. The vehicle rolled over and slid into the pole.
14. I admit that studies indicate that the Jeep has a high center of gravity. However, the vehicle does not roll over by itself. It was the rate of speed and inattentiveness that caused Jayden Jackson to lose control of the vehicle. In losing control, there were quick changes of direction that may have contributed to the vehicle rolling over.

15. As part of my investigation, I also checked Jayden Jackson's driving record. In 2018, at the age of 16, Jayden received a speeding ticket for going 48 miles an hour in a 35 mile an hour zone. Jayden went to traffic safety school and the violation was erased. The ticket was given at a location about 30 miles from West High School in Mesa.
16. After completing our investigation, the Utopia Police Department arrested Jayden Jackson on November 15, 2020, for manslaughter and negligent homicide.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.

Officer Alex Demlong, Utopia P.D.

AFFIDAVIT OF JAYDEN JACKSON

1. My name is Jayden Jackson. I was born on October 3, 2002. I am a senior at West High School. On October 18, 2020, I was involved in a motor vehicle accident while driving my 2017 Jeep Wrangler. I was eighteen at the time of the accident.
2. I received my driver's license following my sixteenth birthday. My parents said they would buy me a car if I got an A in the full driver's education course at West High School. This class was both classwork and actual driving. I thought studying for the class was only for geeks. However, I willingly studied for the class in exchange for my parents buying me a Jeep Wrangler. It was a cool car. Since I got an A, my parents even let me choose the color (I chose white).
3. I am really a safe driver. Mr. Maxwell taught the driver education course at West High School. He was a very strict teacher, especially in the actual driving segment. We were drilled in defensive driving skills and techniques. We even took a field trip to Utopia International Raceway where a race driver friend of Mr. Maxwell's lectured to us. We were also allowed to drive a Tesla around the track. It was very cool.
4. I have received one ticket. A few months after I got my license, I received a speeding ticket in Mesa. I was leaving a friend's house and was late for getting home for dinner. I did not want to get in trouble with my parents since they have this thing about the whole family being home for dinner. I did not think I was speeding but the police officer said I was. It was terrible. My parents grounded me and took away the car for two months. I learned that nothing is worth getting a ticket.
5. I have driven to school since I reached sixteen and got the Jeep. It is an easy drive because I only live about a mile away. I know this is really close, but it is much better driving than riding my bike like I used to do. Also, now I can leave campus and go with my friends to lunch. Over the last few years, I must have driven to and from school about a thousand times. I could drive there with my eyes shut.
6. I really like West High School. It is a great school and a pretty campus. I am the Student Body President this year. I am planning to go to the University of Utopia next year and study astronomy. They have a great astronomy department. I am in the top 5% of my senior class. Until the accident, life was pretty wonderful.
7. I still cannot believe the accident really happened. Reece, Taylor, and I went to lunch like we had done a hundred times. It was a normal lunch and we had a good time. We left to return to school in plenty of time. We are all careful about that because of the school's parental notification policy for absences or tardies after a lunch period.
8. I was driving back to school on Jefferson Avenue. That is not the way we went to

the restaurant, but I thought it might be faster going back. Boy, was I wrong. About halfway to school, at the intersection of Jefferson and Main, the city was installing sewer pipe. They had the entire intersection closed. We had to turn around and detour. This made us a little late going back. Taylor already had one tardy write up and so was concerned that we would be late. I said not to worry. I was sure we could make it.

9. We made good time on the detour and turned onto Elm next to the school. I told everyone to gather their stuff so we could all go to class as soon as I turned onto Magnolia and went into the parking lot. As everyone was gathering their items, Taylor leaned up between the seats and asked me to change the radio station. I laughed and told Taylor that we were almost at the school, but I leaned down to change the radio anyway.
10. All of a sudden, Reece yelled "Watch out!" I looked up and saw Gray Martin crossing Elm in front of us. I had been looking that way just a second ago and I swear there was nothing but a car with its left turn signal flashing waiting to turn left. I had moved to the far right so I could go around the car and turn right onto Magnolia. I immediately put on the brakes pretty hard.
11. I do not think I turned the wheel. I only remember putting on the brakes. Anyway, the car seemed to swerve to the right and bumped up onto the curb. I knew from class that it would be harder to stop on uneven ground, so I was going to turn back onto the road and maybe try to do a U-turn and avoid everything. However, before I could do anything the car was airborne and we rolled. I don't know what happened. Once we rolled there was nothing I could do, and we went into the traffic pole.
12. When we hit the pole, I hit my head on the side window or support; I am not sure which one. It hurt some and started to bleed but that was the only injury I had. I was really lucky. My head was bleeding badly but it turned out not to be too serious. It looked worse than it was, and I only needed eight stitches.
13. After the accident, we had to stand up and climb out the passenger door window. I unhooked my seat belt and helped Reece out. There were several other students who helped. Reece was screaming "my shoulder hurts!". I looked for Taylor but did not see them. I figured Taylor must have climbed out the back of the car.
14. Once I was out of the car, several people made me lie down. The blood was going in my eyes. I asked about Reece and Taylor, and they said not to worry. The fire department was there very quickly and sent me to the hospital. They were concerned about neck injury and concussion and placed me on a backboard. Luckily, I did not suffer any such injuries.
15. In the hospital, my parents and I spoke to Officer Demlong. I stated everything I could remember about how the accident occurred. I learned that Reece was going

to be fine, but that Taylor was seriously injured. I was shocked. Apparently, Taylor had not been wearing a seat belt and was thrown out when the car rolled. I thought Taylor was wearing a seat belt. I always tell everyone to put on seat belts.

16. Officer Demlong cited me for speeding at the hospital. I do not believe I was speeding. I know the speed limit is 30 miles per hour and I feel that is how fast I was going. I was not in any hurry, and I was going just what everyone goes on Elm. I was paying attention to where we were going. There was nothing in front or behind us except for the left-signaling car. I do not know how Gray got in front of us. I never saw Gray until Reece screamed. I did everything I could to avoid an accident.
17. I know that there is a warning on the sun visor about the Jeep sometimes rolling over. I saw the warning because it is impossible to miss; it is right in front of you. However, I never paid much attention because I never took it offroad or anything. I only drove around town. I admit I never read the entire owner's manual. I only looked in it if I had a question about something. That is what the salesman said it was for.
18. I have known the Anderson family and Reece and Taylor since I was a little kid. Reece is probably my best friend. I am so sorry about Taylor's death. I cannot believe Taylor's dead. I know the Andersons think it is my fault, but I swear I was not speeding, and I did everything I could to avoid an accident. When the car rolled over there was nothing more I could do. I do not think I will ever be able to put this accident out of my mind.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.

Jayden Jackson

AFFIDAVIT OF REECE ANDERSON

1. My name is Reece Anderson. I was born on November 15, 1981. I am a senior at West High School. Taylor Anderson was my younger sibling. Taylor was born on January 12, 1984. We were both involved in a car accident on October 18, 2020, at the corner of Elm and Magnolia. I was seventeen at the time and Taylor was fifteen.
2. On October 18, 2020, Taylor and I went to lunch with Jayden Jackson. We all have lunch from 12:05 to 12:55. We left campus in Jayden's car, a Jeep Wrangler. We went to a Pizza Hut a few miles from campus and had a deep-dish pizza. We like to go there for lunch but sometimes we are almost late getting back to school because they are sometimes busy, and it takes 15-20 minutes just to cook the pizza after we order.
3. After lunch, we all got back in the car to return to school. I am not sure what time we left Pizza Hut, but I did not think we were really late. We try to keep a watch on the time because of our school's parental notification policy. To try to keep students from leaving campus for lunch and to ensure they return, our school has a strict policy that if you are tardy or absent to the class following your lunch period twice during a semester, your parents are contacted. Taylor had already been tardy once because Taylor's class after lunch was on the far side of the campus and a long way from the parking lot.
4. Our parents have told Taylor and me not to leave the school campus except to go home. I am sure they mean well but I do not believe they mean we cannot leave for lunch. The food at school is gross and everyone leaves for lunch, especially if you are a senior.
5. As we were driving back to school, we were driving back on Jefferson Street. At the intersection of Jefferson and Main Street the entire street was blocked because they were installing sewer pipe. We had to turn around and detour. Taylor commented that we needed to hurry. Taylor did not want Mom and Dad called by the school. Jayden told Taylor not to worry. Jayden said that we would be back in time no matter what.
6. It was almost 1 o'clock when we turned on Elm. That meant we just had to drive by the school to Magnolia and turn right so we could go in the parking lot. Taylor had moved forward in the back seat and asked Jayden to change the radio.
7. As Jayden was changing the radio, I looked forward and saw Gray Martin crossing the street in front of us. I have known both Gray and Jayden since third grade. I yelled "Watch out!" because I was not sure if Jayden had seen Gray and I was afraid. Jayden yelled "Oh No."
8. The next thing I remember is the car swerving quickly to the right and going on

the curb. Then it seemed to jerk back the other way and roll over. It all happened very fast. We were skidding and there was a lot of noise. I was screaming and I closed my eyes. We hit the pole that supports the traffic light but missed Gray Martin.

9. When we hit the pole, I jerked violently forward. I was wearing my seatbelt with a shoulder strap. The strap cut into my arm and really hurt. After the accident, I could hardly stand the pain in my shoulder and chest. I was eventually taken to the hospital. I had a bruised chest, a broken collarbone and some ligament tears in my shoulder. The doctor said this is because I was twisted in my seat when we hit but the seat belt kept me from getting hurt worse.
10. After the accident, I yelled for Taylor, but got no answer. Jayden and some other kids helped me out of the car and had me lay down. I started to get up because I wanted to see how Taylor and Jayden were, but the next thing I recall the fire department was there and they made me stay still and then sent me to the hospital in an ambulance.
11. Since the accident, I have learned that Taylor was thrown from the vehicle when we rolled. Taylor suffered massive head and internal injuries and died a week later on October 25, 2020. I cannot believe Taylor's dead. I just don't know why this happened.
12. I know that my parents blame Jayden for the accident. However, it was just an accident. We had all driven that street a thousand times. I don't know why the car rolled. I do not think we were going too fast. We might have been going over 30 miles per hour, but everyone does. It was a bright sunny day. There was no reason to go that slow.
13. I know there are a lot of kids that cross Elm to get to school. I often cross Elm on my way home. Most kids do not even go to the corner. But we never get hit. This was a freak thing.
14. I know Jayden feels terrible about this. Jayden would never have risked anyone getting hurt. Also, the car was totaled. Jayden loved that car. No way Jayden would take risks of an accident. Jayden is the only kid I know that actually took a driver education class at school. Jayden said it helped with insurance and made them a better driver. I think Jayden's parents required the class in exchange for the Jeep. Nevertheless, Jayden took the class very seriously and got an A.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.

Reece Anderson

AFFIDAVIT OF TRACY ROLLER

1. My name is Tracy Roller. I am the owner of Roller Accident Reconstruction. I am a certified accident reconstructionist. I also have extensive training and experience in biomechanics.
2. I graduated from the University of California at Los Angeles in 1996 with a degree in Mechanical Engineering, BSME. I received Biomechanics training in 2010 from the University of Utopia. I graduated from the Northwestern University Accident Reconstruction School in 2011 and received my certification in accident reconstruction.
3. I have received additional training in Automobile Vehicle Dynamics and training in Low-Speed Rear Collisions from the Society of American Engineers in 2013. I also attended Accidental Injury: Biomechanics and Prevention training in 2015 from the University of Southern California, School of Medicine.
4. I was hired by the parents of Jayden Jackson to investigate the rollover of a Jeep Wrangler on October 18, 2020. I am charging the Jacksons an hourly rate of \$200 per hour for my time and have charged them a total fee to date of \$7,500.
5. As part of my investigation, I visited the scene of the accident and reviewed the physical evidence and skid marks. I talked to Jayden Jackson and Reece Anderson. I also reviewed the accident report filed by the Utopia Police Department.
6. The primary issues to be investigated were: the speed of the vehicle, the sequence of events before the rollover, whether the rollover was foreseeable or preventable and whether the injuries and death of Taylor Anderson were the result of Jayden Jackson ignoring or failing to perceive a substantial and unjustified risk.
7. I accumulated the data necessary for my conclusions which included not only the items derived from my investigation but also information concerning the weight of the vehicle, statistical information concerning the center of gravity of the vehicle and comparable automobiles, and the opinions of the coroner concerning the injuries suffered by Taylor Anderson.
8. Calculations were performed by me to determine, among other things:
 - The velocity of the vehicle
 - Sequence of events leading to the accident
 - The forces exerted upon Taylor Anderson during the incident
 - The propensity of the vehicle to roll over on an uneven surface
9. As a result of my investigation and calculations, I have reached the following

conclusions:

- a. The speed of the vehicle prior to the accident was approximately 42-43 miles per hour
 - b. The normal speed of traffic on Elm during daylight hours is 40 miles per hour
 - c. A vehicle traveling at 30 miles per hour on Elm would be unsafe as it would impede normal traffic flow
 - d. The rolling over of the vehicle was not the responsibility or fault of the driver but is the result of an unusually high center of gravity which causes an unreasonably high likelihood of a rollover when the vehicle is sharply maneuvered on unequal ground.
10. It is my opinion that there was not a substantial or unjustified risk that Jayden Jackson's driving might cause injury or death to Taylor Anderson or anyone immediately prior to the accident. In fact, I believe that Jayden would have successfully avoided any mishap if not for the manufacturer of the vehicle constructing it to have a dangerously high center of gravity.
 11. Unfortunately, because the vehicle rolled over, the skid marks are not sufficient to determine whether, on the unequal ground of the curb and street, the vehicle would have been able to stop prior to entering the intersection of Magnolia and Elm.
 12. Officer Demlong is simply incorrect in concluding that the cause of the accident is unreasonable speed. Further, without the rollover, it is my opinion that Taylor Anderson would not have been thrown from the vehicle even considering that Taylor was not wearing a seat belt.
 13. There are warnings in the owner's manual and on the driver's sun visor stating that quick turns or such maneuvers should be avoided because it can cause the vehicle to roll over. However, I believe most people do not read or pay attention to these warnings. The manufacturer should not expect people to be careful about something that the manufacturer can eliminate by redesigning the car to have a lower center of gravity.
 14. I acknowledge that neither the U.S. government nor any court to my knowledge has found the Jeep to be unreasonably dangerous. Nevertheless, just because it has not happened yet does not mean it is not true.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.

Tracy Roller

EXHIBITS

TOP THREE VEHICLES AT RISK FOR ROLLOVER

The following vehicles are all placed on warning status by Consumer Reports because of the large numbers of rollover accidents in which they have been involved. It is believed that the high number of rollovers per 100 accidents is caused by each vehicles high center of gravity.

<u>AUTOMOBILE</u>	<u>ROLLOVER PERCENTAGE</u>
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- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Jeep Wrangler | 42 out of every 100 accidents |
| 2. Ford Bronco II | 39 out of every 100 accidents |
| 3. Isuzu Trooper | 38 out of every 100 accidents |

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DRIVER LICENSE REPORT

NAME: Jayden C. Jackson
LIC. NO. 562348771

MOVING VIOLATIONS:

Excessive Speed in violation of Utopia R.S. 28-701. December 27, 2018.

Completed Traffic School on February 17, 2018.

WEAR SEAT BELTS AT ALL TIMES – DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE

This utility vehicle handles and maneuvers differently from many passenger cars both on-road and off-road. You must drive it safely. As with other utility vehicles, if you make sudden sharp turns or abrupt maneuvers, you may cause this vehicle to go out of control and roll over or crash – you or your passengers may be seriously injured. Read the driving guidelines in the Owner's Manual.