

STATEMENT OF : **MARY BROOKS TODD**
SEX : **FEMALE**
DATE OF BIRTH : **24th November 1955**
AGE : **57 YEARS OLD**
NATIONALITY : **AMERICAN**
PASSPORT : **503416633**
ADDRESS : **1771 BITTERROOT DR,**
MARION,
MONTANA
USA
LANGUAGE SPOKEN : **ENGLISH**

1 I am the biological mother of the deceased, Shane Truman Todd ("Shane").

2 I have been blessed with four wonderful sons. Shane, aged 31, was my eldest son, then came John (29 years old), followed by Chet (25 years old) and Dylan (21 years old). Shane and his brothers were not only brothers, but also best friends with one another.

3 Many of the statements I make will bear much similarity to those of my husband's, Rick Todd, as we were together for the majority of the events.

4 My relationship with Shane is as close as a mother and son could be, especially during the last 6 months before his death, where we were more open in our conversations. Shane always tried to explain his work to me but much of what he does, I did not understand. He just did it anyway. However, in a personal way, we were very close.

5 We moved to Pomona when Shane was three.

6 Shane was a unique individual, somewhat of a renaissance man. Not only was he brilliant, he was also athletic and witty. I have never met a person who did not respect Shane. Since Shane's death, the Singapore police have tried to characterise Shane as a depressed person. This could not be further from the truth. Shane loved life and lived it to the fullest.

7 Shane came to Singapore about a year and a half ago to work as an Engineer for IME. At first, he was very excited to be in Singapore. He enjoyed working for Patrick, who was his immediate superior. However, things started to plunge at about six to eight months ago when he was transferred to a different division within the IME. He told me that his new scope of work was out of his field of expertise.

8 About two months prior to his death, Shane had constantly made statements in his conversations with Rick and I that seemed to suggest that his life was in some form of danger. He mentioned that he was afraid for his life and instructed me to call the US Embassy if I did not hear anything from him. I then told him that he was going to be fine. He also told me that he may not be able to see me again and, if he was able to get out of the mess, he would give all the glory to God. I did not truly understand what he was talking about. In retrospect, I wish I had asked more questions.

9 From the brief accounts given, I came to the understanding that Shane had corresponded with a Chinese company that he was extremely uncomfortable with. He told us that he was being asked by the IME to collaborate with a Chinese company, and this extreme discomfort was because he felt like he was being asked to compromise the US security. He felt that he, was also in danger.

10 There have been only two incidents in his 31 years of life where Shane sought help for depression and anxiety. One was in 2003, when Shane was at the University of Florida where he worked on his Masters degree, served in the

US Air Force, worked as a Resident Assistant (RA), and played rugby. He went on anti-depressant medication. He did not eat well and did not exercise. With the help of the family, he managed to overcome his depression.

11 Since 2003 to 2011, Shane chose to take care of his mental state through a healthy diet, coupled with exercise and vitamins intake.

12 The second time Shane called to tell me he needed help was in April 2012. I asked Shane if it was anything like the episode in 2003. His reply was:

"No, I am not depressed, I am anxious because hate my job, I'm being asked to do things that compromise US security, and I feel my life is in danger."

13 I asked Shane if he wanted me to fly to Singapore. His father also wanted him to leave. He assured me that it was not necessary. Shane told us that he could not do that because if he were to prematurely terminate his contract, he would not be able to get a job in the States. The industry is all connected and companies would know that he did not do it right. He had to give 60 days' notice, which he did in March 2012.

14 He was also worried about his bonus money if he left the company early. When I asked what his physical symptoms were, Shane told me that he was having trouble focusing, his hands were shaking more than normal, his sleep was being interrupted, and he was not as motivated. As Shane did not want his anxiety to escalate, he sought the help from one Dr. Nelson Lee.

15 When we were in Singapore in to pick up Shane's body, my son John and I spoke with Dr. Lee. Dr. Lee had told me that out of all of his patients, Shane

would be the least likely to commit suicide. This is the full extent of Shane's history with depression.

16 Shane came to the point where he knew that if he did not serve in his 60-day notice with IME he would be forced to do something that he would regret the rest of his life.

17 I was proud of Shane for his decision to quit IME, and I continued to encourage him to do the right thing. After Shane turned in his resignation, he told me that Dr Patrick Lo asked him to stay, otherwise he would not receive his bonus of \$22,000. Thus Shane agreed to stay another month so he could receive the bonus. Sadly, I am of the belief that this decision cost Shane his life.

18 Eversince Shane expressed his fear of being murdered and upon his return to Singapore from Veeco training in January 2012, he kept in touch and communicated at least weekly with me via Skype.

19 As the skype video did not work very well, we simply had audio coverage most of the time. We also communicated via email and Facebook. Shane told us about his girlfriend, whom he had dated since he arrived in Singapore. He sent us pictures of her and spoke very fondly of her.

20 During our weekly chats, Shane had also told us that he was extremely upset because the room that IME had promised him for the MOCVD machine had been changed to a smaller room. He told us that the smaller room would not work for the machine. Shane said he could not understand this decision made by Patrick Lo. Each time we talked to Shane, he became increasingly upset with what was going on at IME.

21 Shane told us that he was meeting with a Chinese company whose personnel spoke mainly in Mandarin. Shane felt extremely uncomfortable with his interaction with this company, and said that he was being asked to compromise US security. Shane told us that he refused to comply.

22 That is when he started telling us that his life was being threatened. On several occasions, Shane said, "Coming to Singapore was the worst mistake of my life." He also said, "If God gets me out of Singapore alive, I will give Him all the honor and glory." In almost every conversation we had, Shane told us that he was afraid he would never see us again. Shane became so worried for his life that he told us he would call us every week, if for some reason we did not hear from him within the week, we were to email him immediately, if he did not call back, we were to call the US Embassy.

23 Rick and I pleaded with Shane again to leave Singapore right away. Rick said, "Shane, if you truly feel that your life is in danger, you need to come home right now." Shane told us that he was a professional, and that he had agreed in his contract to give 60 days' notice. He felt it would look bad to other companies if he did not keep his word. He was also worried about getting his money out of Singapore. During this time Shane sent me an email that he had composed to his former Ph.D advisor, John Bowers, telling him of his dissatisfaction with IME.

24 I now produce, at **Tab 1**, the email correspondence between Shane and Bowers which Shane composed, together with my help.

25 Sometime in early June 2012 before his death, Shane (who had been looking for jobs in the US) received a job offer from Nuvotronics in Virginia, US.

26 On Sunday, 24th June 2012 at about 7.30am (MST), I checked my Facebook account and noticed that Shirley, Shane's girlfriend, had sent me a message, asking me to send her my contact number. I replied to her and about an hour later, I received her call. She was crying hysterically and told me that Shane had hung himself. I then left a message on my husband's phone to ask him to return my call. About an hour or so later, my husband returned my call and I told him the news. At that point of time, Rick was in Denver. I then told him that I will get our two sons and myself over to meet him in Denver and we could then make our way to Singapore.

27 We arrived in Singapore late evening on 27th June 2012. We met Traci Goins who took us to the police station. Rick told Traci before meeting the police that Shane was extremely anxious because he was afraid that he was going to be murdered. Traci then called the US Embassy for advice. They advised her that we should trust the police and tell them everything.

28 On that same evening of 29th June 2012, I met IO Khaldun at the police station in Singapore. My husband and Traci Goins from the US Embassy were with me. There, I was firstly told of the existence of a suicide note, then informed by IO Muhd Khaldun with regards to the circumstances of my son's death. IO Khaldun began our meeting by reading a detailed description of how Shane hung himself. It was an extremely detailed and complex explanation, that included holes and bolts drilled in the wall, attached to ropes and pulleys slung around the toilet and over the door to form a noose. Next, IO Khaldun told us that Shane wrote a suicide note on his computer. He informed us that no one had read the note before. As he handed us a printed copy of the note, IO Khaldun asked for permission for a copy to be given to Tracy and one for himself. From the moment I read that supposed suicide note, I knew that my son did not take his own life rather his life was taken from him.

29 I now produce, at **Tab 2**, the breakdown of the suicide note that I have prepared.

30 I would like to say that Shane does not have the writing style on the suicide note. It seemed very formal and cold. The letter had words and phrases that I had never heard Shane use before. It is my belief that if he had written it, it was under duress or under the influence of somebody. It was not his style of writing – it was not the way he talks and was too formal. Shane would have been broken-hearted and he would have expressed himself more eloquently. There were also examples used that did not fit our family. I handed the note back to IO Khaldun and told him, “My son did not write this note.” After the note was read, IO Khaldun returned Shane’s personal belongings to us. He told us that they were going to keep Shane’s cell phone, his laptop computer, and his diary. We found out later that IO Khaldun went back to Shane’s apartment and got a second computer before we had a chance to go to Shane’s apartment.

31 I was then shown Shane’s diary which had been retrieved from his house. I was able to confirm that it was Shane’s handwriting. However, I was not sure if the ‘Post-It’ notes which contained the ‘password’ was written by him.

32 On 29th June 2012, I visited Shane’s apartment with my family for the first time. The apartment did not look like a crime scene at all. The apartment door was left wide open, with no tape cordoning off the area. I found this odd.

33 Upon entering the apartment, I noticed that his apartment looked normal, like a place that had been packed up. There were clean and folded clothes on the couch, dirty clothes piled up in front of the washer and some clothes in the dryer.

34 The bathroom in the apartment was also not how IO Muhd Khaldun had described it to us: the toilet was in the wrong place and the marble wall was in perfect condition (with no holes, screws or ropes). I also noticed that the door was a standard size, with a towel hanging neatly from the towel rack. There was an upright chair in the bedroom, about 5 feet from the bathroom door, and a plastic bag on the floor of the doorway.

35 IO Khaldun and another man then came over and assured us that they would explain everything to us. At first, they denied all the details I had vividly remembered him reading to us. He told me that I must have misunderstood what he said. I was puzzled and asked IO Khaldun for a copy or transcript of what he had read previously, so that I could compare what I remembered with physical evidence. He then told me that he could not do so because the investigations were still ongoing. I then called Traci Goins (from the US Embassy, and who was with me during the first meeting with IO Muhd Khaldun) and asked her if she had the same understanding as I did. She answered, "Yes".

36 IO Khaldun then tried to explain the discrepancies by using three different scenarios of how Shane could have hung himself. He insisted that Shane used a wide strap like on a computer bag to hang himself. My son, John, also tried to re-create these scenarios, but it became obvious that none of them were feasible. I asked Khal if the police had taken pictures of Shane hanging from the door. Khal said they had not taken pictures of him hanging because they were more worried about saving his life. This did not make sense because we had been told that Shane had been dead for at least one to two days when he was found. Pictures were taken of Shane's body lying on the bedroom floor. We were not allowed to see these pictures.

37 I had many questions that IO Muhd Khaldun had no answers to. The two gentlemen eventually left with the promise that they would call us within the next few days to explain what really happened. However, they never got back to me.

38 By then, the police had removed Shane's laptops and mobile phone from the apartment. We then spent the rest of the day packing up his personal belongings, including a hard drive that the police did not remove from his apartment. However, I was unaware at that time that it was a hard drive. I had thought that it was a speaker but it was Rick who realized that it was in fact a hard drive. We did not access it and immediately had it flown to Southern California to be analysed by a computer forensics expert, one Mr Ashraf Masoud with Data-Chasers. It took several weeks to get the results, but when we did we started to piece together what happened to our son.

39 Shane's external networked hard drive that we believe could have been backed up wirelessly through a LAN that Dylan also found in Shane's apartment. We discovered that on June 22, Shane extensively backed up his data three times, late-morning, afternoon, and evening. The evidence suggests that highly technical material was accessed from Shane's computer on June 23 at 3:29AM, and then again there was a power point presentation created and erased on June 27, four days after Shane's death. There was no suicide note found on Shane's external hard drive.

40 I felt that there were many things unanswered. The following are some questions to consider: Why was the bruising on Shane's body not included in the autopsy report? Why was it reported that Shane hung himself with a messed strap, when Shirley, the pathologist, and the pictures of Shane's neck indicate the instrument used was a thin cord or wire? Why does the autopsy indicate that

Shane was killed within seconds, when hanging takes from four to eight minutes to die?

41 Why did the written explanation of how Shane hung himself not match the physical evidence of Shane's bathroom? Why were we told that Shane jumped off a chair to hang himself? He was 6'1". We have pictures of Shane's standard size bathroom door. If he had jumped off a chair, his feet would be touching the ground. Why wouldn't the police allow us to compare the wireless back up hard drive that we found in Shane's apartment with Shane's two computers? Why, if this is a true investigation, would the police not welcome all the evidence we have compiled?

42 I now produce, at **Tab 3**, the email we sent to SPF telling them that we were willing to fly to Singapore to compare the hard drive with the computers.

43 While IO Khaldun was at Shane's apartment, my husband Rick, and I gave him the information that Shane had seen a Consultant Psychiatrist to seek help for his anxiety. Rick had given IO Khaldun the information about Dr. Lee, and the pills prescribed to Shane by Dr. Lee. We encouraged IO Khaldun to call Dr. Lee himself because at this point, we still had some confidence that the police would do a thorough investigation.

44 IO Khaldun did end up calling Dr. Lee months later, and Dr. Lee sent him a medical report about his visit with Shane. In this letter, Dr. Lee expressed that Shane was not suicidal and had written, among other things, the following:

"He (Shane) however did not feel that life held no meaning nor were there any suicidal ideations expressed."

"He was relevant and coherent and there did not appear to be any psychotic signs or symptoms. He did not express that life held little meaning nor was he suicidal then."

45 The last communication I had with Shane was via email on June 20, 2012. He said that he would be calling me soon. On June 22, Shane's friends and fellow employees had a going away luncheon for him. They took a short video of Shane. That afternoon Shane wrote a cheerful thank you email telling everyone how to stay in touch with him.

46 To the best of our knowledge, the last people to see Shane alive were the two men that lived and worked on the bottom floor of Shane's apartment complex. They saw Shane on Friday, June 22 at 8:00pm when Shane delivered their mail to them. No one reported seeing Shane Saturday or Sunday.

47 When I asked Shane's girlfriend, Shirley, what happened and what she saw that incredulous afternoon.

48 She told me that she and Shane had made plans to do something together that Saturday. By Sunday, when she had not heard from Shane, and he was not returning any of her text messages, she got worried and thought he might be sick or something. She went to Shane's apartment. Upon her arrival, Shirley found Shane's front door was unlocked. The lights were out in the living room, but she continued to Shane's bedroom because she saw the light shining under his bedroom door. Shirley told me that she found Shane's body was hanging on the outside of his bathroom door. His eyes were shut. His face was white. He was hanging from a small wire around his neck, with about eight inches exposed and slung over the top of the bathroom door. His body was leaning forward, his face was looking straight out, his feet on the ground. Shirley

screamed and ran out of the room. She then went back in to see if what she had seen was real. Shirley pushed Shane several times. His cold body did not move. Shane's hands and arm were pooled with blood, dangling at his sides. Hard snot was coming out of his nose.

49 Shane's body was shipped back to the US. Before his funeral, Rick had Todd Memorial Chapel take several photographs of the ligation on Shane's neck, his bruised hands and forehead. More were taken of Shane at the viewing. Two doctors present at the viewing said they believed the bruises were defensive wounds.

50 Sometime in August we received the autopsy and toxicology report indicating that Shane's death was caused by hanging due to asphyxiation. Rick sent the reports and the pictures of Shane's body to Dr. Adelstein.

51 According to his report, the physical marks on Shane's body are not consistent with hanging, rather they are consistent with garroting. The severe bruising on his hands, knuckles, fingertips and neck, along with the bump on his head indicate that Shane fought for his life. According to the autopsy, Shane's death came within seconds. Hanging takes from 4 to 8 minutes.

52 Shane had never communicated to us that he wanted to end his life. Even when he had depression that time, I had asked him if he was suicidal, to which he replied that he would never commit suicide.

53 So, hanging himself is not something my son will do willingly.

54 I do not believe my son had killed himself.

55 I now declare that this statement (signed by me and consisting of 13 pages) is true to the best of my knowledge and belief. I make this statement knowing that if it is tendered in evidence, I may be liable to prosecution if I have willfully stated, in it, anything that I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

MARY BROOKS TODD

Mary Brooks Todd

NAME AND SIGNATURE

5/2013

DATE