

Nielsen: Commander Susan Nielsen, Adams County Sheriff's Office
Baessler: HR Manager Baessler Baessler, Adams County Sheriff's Office
[REDACTED] Cadet [REDACTED] Adams County Sheriff's Office

Nielsen This is Commander Susan Nielsen, today's date is September 7, 2018. The time is about 12:28. I'm in the Internal Affairs Interview Room at Headquarters with HR Manager Jenniferr Baessler and what's your first name?

[REDACTED]

Nielsen Cadet [REDACTED] correct?

[REDACTED]

Yes.

Nielsen Okay. Uh Cadet [REDACTED] can you talk to me about uh your experience here at the Adams County Sheriff's Office, like where you've been assigned and..

[REDACTED]

Umm...

Nielsen How long you've been here and all that.

[REDACTED]

I started with Adams County Sheriff's Office uh [REDACTED] Um, I loved it. Uh, the only reason I decided to make my move to the Academy is because I want..that was the ultimate goal was to become an officer.

Nielsen Mmm...hmm.

[REDACTED]

So, um it just was the next logical step. I loved it while I was there. Um...

Nielsen How much time did you work at the jail?

[REDACTED]

Uh a little over a year because I made my year mark and then I was testing for the Academy Cadet position. And so, I think there was a week and half or so gap between me starting the academy and no it was less than that because I worked the last week. So, uh [REDACTED] was when the first day of the academy. And, I think my last day of work was the very beginning of [REDACTED]. So, like [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Nielsen Okay.

[REDACTED]

I'm not really sure.

Nielsen That's okay, you don't have to be exact.

[REDACTED]

Laughing....

Nielsen Um, so what platoon were you on?

[REDACTED] Uh [REDACTED].

Nielsen So, it's [REDACTED]. So, all your old shift is on what now?

[REDACTED] I think they're on nights now cuz I started the academy right as we were switching over to nights.

Nielsen Who are your supervisors?

[REDACTED] Um, Sgt. Benson and Sgt. [REDACTED]

Nielsen Okay, that's who was your supervisor when you left?

[REDACTED] Yes ma'am.

Nielsen And how long have you worked under them?

[REDACTED] Um, I worked under Sgt. [REDACTED] a little longer than I worked under Sgt. Benson.

Nielsen Mmm hmm...about how long do you know?

[REDACTED] Uhh...as long as I was there?

Nielsen How do you want me to type that noise out? Laughter...just kidding.

[REDACTED] Sorry.

Nielsen I'm kidding...laughter. As long as he was there?

[REDACTED] Yeah.

Nielsen So when he started there...

[REDACTED] He he started on our shift and stayed on...

Nielsen That's where he's been the whole time?

[REDACTED] Yeah.

Nielsen Okay. Um, so you were a DS?

[REDACTED] Yes ma'am.

Nielsen Okay. Did you have much interaction with your sergeants?

[REDACTED] Uh yes.

Nielsen Talk to me about that, what was that like?

[REDACTED] Um, both super friendly. Um, [REDACTED] likes things by the book like any other sergeant would. Uh, strict. Um, if he sees something that he doesn't like that you're doing he talks to you about like any other...

Nielsen Mmm...hmm.

[REDACTED] Good supervisor would um. For the most part Ben...Sgt. Benson was just trying to learn how to be a sergeant I guess.

Nielsen Mmm...hmm.

[REDACTED] I think it was his first experience being a sergeant.

Nielsen Okay.

[REDACTED] Um, he came up to the towers a lot. Which was a little weird and out of the ordinary for sergeants.

Nielsen Why is that?

[REDACTED] I don't know, he just he hadn't been in them for a while according to him. He he said the last time he had been up to a tower there wasn't carpet in the tower. And I was like oh that's a really long time but.

Nielsen Are you talking about Benson or [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Uh Benson.

Nielsen Benson.

[REDACTED] Uh, [REDACTED] came up you know once or twice a month or if he was trying to watch how deputies were doing he'd come up and watch them for a little bit. Like the newer deputies.

Nielsen Mmm...hmm.

[REDACTED] And then go.

Nielsen Mmm...hmm.

[REDACTED] He wouldn't spend too much time up there. It seems like Benson kind of hung out. It was awkward.

Nielsen Was it, what do you mean awkward?

[REDACTED] Uh, like he didn't have anything better to do but sit in the tower and watch me work. Like maybe I was doing something that he didn't like or something. And he was watching to see how I worked.

Nielsen Did you talk to any other DS's about that?

[REDACTED] Um I believe so once or twice. I asked them if he went up to their towers and hung out like that. They were like no he comes by and then kinda leaves. I was like oh that's weird but okay.

Nielsen Yeah, that would be kinda weird if you're the only one huh?

[REDACTED] It felt like it.

Nielsen It felt like it? Did he ever did you guys every have any conversations when he was there or did he just sit there and watch your work?

[REDACTED] Um, I mean there was more just fill in the blank space conversations I guess?

Nielsen What does that mean?

[REDACTED] Um, how's your kids conversation.

Nielsen So, just generic conversation?

[REDACTED] Just generic cuz I felt awkward, it's like my supervisor's watching me I gotta make sure I don't do anything wrong...but.

Nielsen Never any personal conversations?

[REDACTED] Um, nothing memorable.

Nielsen Okay. The reason I'm asking this question is because I've heard that you had some issues or maybe it's what you're talking about with Sgt. Benson and um I'm kind of trying to figure out what that might have looked like. Um, if he ever said anything inappropriate to you or...

[REDACTED] Mmm...hmm.

Nielsen Made you feel...you said you felt awkward with him there may be why that was.

[REDACTED] Mmm...hmm.

Nielsen Just that he was there? If there was something behind that or what that was like for you?

[REDACTED] Um, so so you said that we were gonna talk about why I was in here?

Nielsen This is, we're talking about it now (laughing).

[REDACTED] So, is in in regards to...

Nielsen It's in regards to what I heard about how Sgt. Benson might have treated you? Or how maybe some conversations he might have had. I don't know that's why I want you to tell me.

[REDACTED] Do we know how this even got brought up or am I allowed to ask that?

Nielsen You worked at the Jail, I mean you know how things can get brought up over there and how rumors happen and I just want to make sure that we have the whole story about your your experience over there um. We want to know that it was a good experience. We don't like to hear that you felt awkward...

[REDACTED]

Mmm...hmm...

Nielsen

...around the supervisor.

[REDACTED]

Yeah.

Nielsen

We kinda want to know why that could have happened.

[REDACTED]

Gosh, huh. I don't know. It just seemed weird that he was always coming up there...but.

Nielsen

If there's something that you want to talk about or are uncomfortable I guarantee you this is the best place to talk about it. You can trust me 100%, you can trust Jennifer 100%. [REDACTED] it's really important that we hear about these things because we don't want supervisors acting inappropriately.

[REDACTED]

Yes ma'am I understand that.

Nielsen

Do you understand?

[REDACTED]

Yes ma'am.

Nielsen

So that's why it's important that you're really forthcoming with me.

[REDACTED]

Yes ma'am um (silence). I guess he made me uncomfortable cuz he was uh very flirtatious and it it made me feel like I wasn't able to um I don't know how to talk about this it's weird.

Nielsen

Just think about it, just think about it and then say what you want to say. Say how you felt, say how you feel.

[REDACTED]

I don't really want to to be completely honest with you (laughing).

Nielsen

I get that.

[REDACTED]

Right right now his his [REDACTED] so.

Nielsen

His [REDACTED] does not have...

[REDACTED]

Or not my [REDACTED]

Nielsen

His [REDACTED] has no idea this is going on. The only people that know are Jennifer, myself and the sheriff and undersheriff, and the jail command staff...some of them. It's it's it's so important.

Baessler

Maybe you can just start with like things you would talk about. So, he started coming up there would you talk about work or you know things that you talked about.

Nielsen Yeah, maybe how that went. It's okay [REDACTED] You know what I've been through the same thing. I know how it feels.

[REDACTED] Um, uh the first time I ever met Sgt. Benson uh I felt awkward around him.

Nielsen Yeah.

[REDACTED] Um cuz I met him while he was still a deputy. I was at the Adams County Fair and I had stopped and talked to a couple of the deputies that I worked with cuz they were out there. Um, and he was partnered with one of them out there. And he just he kept staring at me and not talking to me or saying anything as I was talking to the person he was partnered with. And then, a couple of other deputies came...this is really vague...because this was a year ago now.

Nielsen Sure.

[REDACTED] Um, he just kept staring at me and it and he bit his lip and it made me really uncomfortable so I wrapped up my conversation and went about my way. So, I was like oh okay he's kinda of a creepy dude whatever. Um, he just that was the first impression I ever had of him. Um, didn't really think anything of it and I never saw him again until he showed up and he was presented as our new sergeant.

Nielsen Mmm...hmm.

[REDACTED] I was like okay. That's um...

Nielsen Were you an employee when you saw him at the fairgrounds?

[REDACTED] Um, I was I was there just enjoying the fair.

Nielsen But were you an employee at the time?

[REDACTED] Yes ma'am.

Nielsen Okay.

[REDACTED] I had never met him before that that was my first interaction with him and he just seemed creepy.

Nielsen Were you guys introduced as an...did he were you introduced to him as an employee?

[REDACTED] Um, well I mean I was I don't remember exactly what we talked about to be completely fair. Um, but I'm very certain that he knew I was an Adams County employee. Cuz we were talking about I was talking about work which...

Nielsen About the sheriff's office?

[REDACTED] Um, I think it was Deputy [REDACTED] (question) that was with him? I was talking to one of the Deputies that I worked with in the jail.

Nielsen Okay.

[REDACTED] And I, we were talking about work because I don't hang out generally with people I work with outside of work so I don't have anything to talk to them about besides work. I generally like to keep my personal like a little personal.

Nielsen Mmm...hmm.

[REDACTED] Um...

Nielsen So he gets introduced to you as your new sergeant, and you're like okay. Then what happened after that?

[REDACTED] Um, to be honest I I didn't really have a very good reaction to that. I was like okay the creepy guy's my sergeant...awesome. I accepted it and I um didn't have any problem with it just was like please don't be creepy (laughing).

Nielsen Mmm...hmm.

[REDACTED] That was the thought going through my head. Um, um didn't really have um phhh...um really I sergeant uh he seemed to know what he was doing. He had a lot of uh fairly large knowledge base with criminal law obviously. Um, him Sergeant [REDACTED] and uh Deputy [REDACTED] set up a mock uh oral board for me so I could practice before I had my oral board for um academy cadet.

Nielsen That's good.

[REDACTED] That was for my second one cuz I tried once before and I didn't do very well on the oral board.

Nielsen It takes a couple times sometimes.

[REDACTED] Yeah, I got like gun shy and I was like uhhhh she was sitting on my oral board and I was like I just didn't know what to say for the...I was speechless. I was like uhhhhh, like uhhhhh.

Nielsen It happens.

[REDACTED] That was..that was not fun.

Nielsen Yeah.

[REDACTED] Um, so I've that's where I knew I needed to work on. They knew that I needed help in that area.

Nielsen Mmm...hmm.

[REDACTED] And I asked them. And they helped me by setting up the mock oral board um.

Nielsen Let's let's go back to when you first met him on shift and you said uh this is a creepy guy and I'll do what I can.

[REDACTED] Laughing...

Nielsen That's what I got from you right, is that what is was or?

[REDACTED] Well, I mean the first my first impression at the fair was that he was creepy. Cuz he was staring at my chest and biting his lip and it was, it was just weird.

Nielsen What did you think he what did you think that was about?

[REDACTED] Well I thought he was just being a caveman and I was just like...

Nielsen A caveman?

[REDACTED] Laughing..and I was just kinda like (laughing) uh.....

Nielsen Like when you say that I get an image of someone carrying a club and dragging you by the head and carrying you off, is that what you thought?

[REDACTED] Laughing...Oh my gosh uh. It's the bad stereo type of the general man like that's just the impression I got from him the first time I met him. So when I saw and the only other time I saw him is when he came to be our sergeant. I was like, just thought to myself oh okay. Well, he's obviously doing better if he got the sergeant position he must not give that impression to everybody. So maybe I just got a bad first impression. Maybe I was wearing a top that was too low cut or something. Maybe, that's why he was looking at me weird but it was still weird...um.

Nielsen So what was your second impression?

[REDACTED] He was just generally friendly to everybody, super nice um.

Nielsen I'm looking at you and I think there's something in there that you're trying to say.

[REDACTED] I, I think he had an unhealthy uh um attachment to me I guess.

Nielsen Why's that?

[REDACTED] Um, I don't know why I just said that um.

Nielsen Well, because that's how you felt.

[REDACTED] Um, well when he started making visits to the towers uh I would make it a point to talk to my floor deputies and like call them and try to make some type of conversation with them so I didn't feel like I was up there alone. Um, cuz there's no cameras up there.

Nielsen Mmm...hmm. Why would you need a camera up there?

[REDACTED] I don't know.

Nielsen Oh. Why would you why would you feel like maybe a camera would be helpful to you in that situation? [REDACTED] did he ever come on to you?

[REDACTED] (long quiet pause)....

Nielsen This is a safe environment right here.

[REDACTED] (long quiet pause)...

Nielsen What happened?

[REDACTED] I really don't want to be here right now.

Nielsen I understand that. It can't feel good to be where you are.

[REDACTED] Crying sounds...do I have to do this?

Nielsen Yes you do.

[REDACTED] Crying....

Nielsen I'm sorry that I have to tell you that you do...but you do.

[REDACTED] Crying...I don't want to be here.

Nielsen I know.

[REDACTED] Crying...

Nielsen I know, I know.

[REDACTED] My career is just beginning and I don't want to ruin it (crying).

Nielsen Your career is not ruined.

Baessler You're not going to.

Nielsen I promise you your career is not ruined.

Baessler It's super important to just be open and honest I think.

[REDACTED] I'm trying (crying) I swear ma'am.

Baessler I know you are. I'm just saying it's that's just like the most important...most important thing.

[REDACTED] When he'd be up in the tower people would call for him over the radio and he would tell them that he was out of the building sometimes. And then other times they'd ask for his location for a call and he would tell them oh I'll call you where you at and then call in from my tower phone. Like he didn't want to air over the radio where he was.

Nielsen Mmm...hmm.

[REDACTED] Which made it just made really creepy um.

Nielsen Did he ever touch you?

[REDACTED] Quiet pause....

Nielsen You can give me a nod to the affirmative or the negative if that helps.

[REDACTED] Quiet pause...I don't want to lie but I don't want to talk about this anymore.

Nielsen I'm so sorry [REDACTED] that you're in this position. I don't want you to lie either.

[REDACTED] Crying...

Nielsen Did he ever touch you? Your shaking your head yes.

[REDACTED] Quiet pause...

Nielsen Where did he touch you?

[REDACTED] Quiet pause...sigh. Sorry I still have pepper spray in my eyes.

Nielsen You don't have to apologize. When did you get pepper spray?

[REDACTED] Yesterday.

Nielsen And it's still in your eyes?

[REDACTED] Yeah I was too afraid to wash my face to be completely honest with you. So when I took a shower I went and leaned my head back and didn't touch my face anywhere.

Nielsen Laughter...that stuff's not comfortable is it?

[REDACTED] No, it's...

Nielsen It's like a big dog...

[REDACTED] It is awful. I I thought that I would like pepper spray more than taser. We haven't been tased yet cuz I have this thing about electricity going through my body. I'm like that doesn't sound like a good time I'd rather be pepper sprayed. Everybody told me no pepper spray hurts worse and it's lasts a while.

Nielsen Yeah, pepper spray...

[REDACTED] ...Like a five second ride of electricity you're done and it's over.

Nielsen Yeah.

[REDACTED] That makes sense but I still don't want electricity going through my body that doesn't sound normal.

Nielsen Yeah. When are you guys doing that?

[REDACTED] Um, so they have our class is the largest the largest class they've apparently ever held...

Nielsen Mmm...hmm.

[REDACTED] ...at [REDACTED] um. So, half the class Teams A & B, I'm on Team B. Uh we had our pepper spray day out there yesterday (laughing). Uh, I think someone said something about our tas..our taser day being the [REDACTED] of next month. But I really don't know...

Nielsen On [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Yeah, I really don't know if that's true.

Baessler [REDACTED].

Nielsen Oh, early [REDACTED] cuz I'll probably be doing something with [REDACTED] [REDACTED] or something.

Baessler We (inaudible) that day (laughter).

[REDACTED] Don't we no no we have trunk or treating on the schedule.

Nielsen Right, yeah. That's a pretty good time to have the kids come out.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Nielsen Yeah that's cute. So...

[REDACTED] How did this get brought up again, like why are we here right now?

Nielsen Um, I heard some rumor about it. And, we have to look into this stuff [REDACTED] And then the quicker that we talk about this the quicker you can get out of here.

[REDACTED] (Quiet pause)...

Nielsen Well what would help you?

[REDACTED] I really don't know ma'am I'm sorry. I'm not trying to be difficult I swear to God.

Nielsen I get that. You're not really being that difficult. I wanna I wanna help you get through this.

[REDACTED] (Quiet pause)...

Nielsen Think about it this way, when this is behind you and you get out of the academy all this is behind you. And you start from square one. It's all behind you you don't even have to think about what if I run into him. What if he's my supervisor...

[REDACTED] ...I will always have to think about it cuz there's no way that this isn't gonna get out and people aren't gonna know about it. And then my career is screwed.

Nielsen That's not true. That's not true. I can tell you that I personally...

[REDACTED] ...Cuz he's gonna tell people and I know he will...

Nielsen I don't know if he will.

[REDACTED] Yes he will (crying). That man can't keep his mouth shut to save his life.

Nielsen Where where does that come from that statement? Where does that come from?

[REDACTED] There were other uh investigations apparently going on and he wanted to talk about 'em and it's like well you're not supposed to talk about those. And, I have nothing to do with it so please don't talk to me about it.

Nielsen Were they involving him?

[REDACTED] Um, no. He just got put on the case because there was Sgt. [REDACTED] was on it and they took it from [REDACTED] and gave it to him. From what I re..this is what from I remember. I'm sorry if it's incorrect this is just what I was told and what I can remember. Um, to do with the the situation uh involving um one of our female deputies and her having um...oh God just about...I remember like trying to tune him out and just shoving myself deeper into my work so...

Nielsen ...Mmm...hmm.

[REDACTED] But I know the man is not capable of keeping his mouth shut. He's gotta tell somebody...

Nielsen ...Even if it's about him...he's gonna go talkin' about it?

[REDACTED] Mmm, I don't know. I really don't know him that well. I tried to avoid him when I could.

Nielsen Sure, I would say he probably is not gonna talk about it. I mean, I can't promise that's how it's gonna be obviously.

[REDACTED] Uh...

Nielsen But, I doubt very seriously that he'll talk about it. And I can promise you that nothings gonna get out of my office or out of Human Resources.

[REDACTED] I just don't feel like I have the right to say anything or do anything cuz, I mean the things that happened were half my fault.

Nielsen Okay.

[REDACTED] Cuz I let them happen.

Nielsen Well, there's a whole psychology behind all that stuff. And I'm sure you probably heard it.

[REDACTED] Yeah.

Nielsen Um, so I want you to put that thought out of your head. And we can sit and talk about it if you want to, the psychology.

[REDACTED] Sure, it will fill the awkward silence.

Nielsen Um, he's your supervisor. You're his subordinate, right?

[REDACTED] Yes ma'am.

Nielsen So, there's a certain um authority in that that isn't necessarily a dynamic in any kind of relationships outside of the work place, right?

[REDACTED] Yes ma'am.

Nielsen So, did you make decisions on your own probably so. But could those decisions have been influenced by other things, maybe so...probably so?

[REDACTED] It's the only reason those decisions happened.

Nielsen Well, talk to me about those. Did you guys have an encounter together?

[REDACTED] What do you mean by encounter?

Nielsen Um, anything sexual together?

[REDACTED] What do you mean by sexual?

Nielsen Intercourse?

[REDACTED] No intercourse.

Nielsen Okay. Did you guys touch each other?

[REDACTED] (Quiet pause)....

Nielsen There's that awkward silence...

[REDACTED] Laughing...a little squeaking noises about the only noises in the room.

Nielsen I'm not sure what that is.

[REDACTED] It's probably cuz the wind there's probably a vent it's messing with or something.

Nielsen You're probably right.

[REDACTED] Sorry, I (laughing) honestly would rather talk about anything else.

Nielsen You can give me a head nod to the affirmative or negative to that question, and then I'll ask my next question okay? Did you touch each other's private parts?

[REDACTED] Shaking head yes.

Nielsen Yes, you're shaking your head yes? Okay. So now, here's the hard part. Did you guys kiss?

[REDACTED] Yes...

Nielsen Yes? Okay.

[REDACTED] I feel really dirty right now. I want to leave this room so bad.

Nielsen I'm sorry. I'm sorry.

[REDACTED] Crying...

Nielsen Did he touch your breasts? You're shaking your head yes. Anything below the waist? Both parts or one part?

[REDACTED] Crying...

Nielsen Did he touch you below the waists? Inside of your clothes or outside of your clothes?

[REDACTED] Both.

Nielsen Both. Did you touch him below the waist?

[REDACTED] Crying...

Nielsen I know you want to just get up and run out the door [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] I want to run away so bad...

Nielsen ...I know I can see that. Did you touch him below the waist? You can nod yes, okay. Did you touch his penis?

[REDACTED] Not directly ma'am.

Nielsen Okay. Well describe that to me if you can please.

[REDACTED] Crying...um, I know um enough that I know he is pierced down there.

Nielsen Okay. Down where?

[REDACTED] On his uh....on his penis.

Nielsen Okay. Is that because you felt it or because he told you?

[REDACTED] Uh...cuz I felt it.

Nielsen Okay. Did he tell you about it before that?

[REDACTED] Um, uh I don't know he tried to lead into conversations that were inappropriate a couple times. And, I ignored him or started talking about something else or like I said I started talking to other people.

Nielsen Mmm...hmm. How many times did this happen?

[REDACTED] I don't know ma'am.

Nielsen More than once?

[REDACTED] Yes ma'am.

Nielsen More than five times?

[REDACTED] I'd say so yes.

Nielsen More than ten times?

[REDACTED] I'd I really don't wanna think about this it's it's something that I I specifically blocked out so I wouldn't have to think about this (crying).

Nielsen I'm sorry. Did he come and see you every night in the tower?

[REDACTED] Crying...for a while it seemed like it.

Nielsen But for how long do you think that was, how long?

[REDACTED] I would tell him that it didn't I didn't want to talk to him or he was making me uncomfortable. And that I didn't think it was appropriate and he's married and I'm with somebody, and I didn't like it. And, crying...It's so stupid.

Nielsen What's that?

[REDACTED] I said this is so stupid.

Nielsen What about when he touched you below the waist? Did he touch your vagina?

[REDACTED] Yes ma'am.

Nielsen Did he just touch it, or did he do anything sexual?

[REDACTED] Crying...I really can't talk anymore.

Nielsen Did he go inside of you?

[REDACTED] Yes ma'am.

Nielsen Digitally (inaudible)?

[REDACTED] Yes ma'am.

Nielsen Did that happen more than once?

[REDACTED] It happened twice.

Nielsen Okay. About how far apart was each occasion?

[REDACTED] Um, it happened closer to the time I was going to be leaving. Um, it seemed like he thought he had to like rush whatever it is that he was trying to do because I was going to be leaving soon.

Nielsen You said whatever it was he was trying to do what do you mean by that?

[REDACTED] He was trying to sleep with me in the tower.

Nielsen But that didn't happen?

[REDACTED] No ma'am.

Nielsen Okay. How come that didn't happen?

[REDACTED] Because I didn't want any part of him. I think he's gross and he is presence repulses me.

Nielsen Okay. So, when he touched you like that when he went inside did he have permission to do that?

[REDACTED] I didn't tell him to but I didn't stop him. I I mean I tried to stop him but he's....God I don't want to talk anymore.

Nielsen I need you to talk to me it's so important [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Crying...

Nielsen Did you tell him no, don't do that or did you grab a hold of his hand and try to?

[REDACTED] I grabbed a hold of his hand and I told him I didn't feel comfortable with it it wasn't right and (sigh)...

Nielsen What did he say?

[REDACTED] He told me it was okay that I wanted it. Um, (sigh..sigh) it was just between me and him. And no one else would ever know about it. And I told him I didn't want to. And...

Nielsen Was this the first time or the second time?

[REDACTED] I had this conversation with him a couple of times I guess. Not just regarding those times.

Nielsen What do you mean?

[REDACTED] He stopped talking to me for a while when I finally told one of our mutual friends that, hey can you tell your friend to stop flirting with me and stop hitting on me. I never told anybody any of these other things.

Nielsen Mmm...hmm.

[REDACTED] Just told them I was like he makes me uncomfortable he like flirts with me. Can you tell him to leave me alone? Like I'm not interested.

Nielsen Uh...huh.

[REDACTED] I'm not that kind of person. Then, um as far as I know his friend talked to him and he left me alone. He didn't even come up to the tower any more for a while. And then he started being flirty again and it progressed all over again and he started coming up there. And I thought well he already knows that I'm not interested in him that way. He's just being a friendly person. He's just a nice person. And, he started progressively coming up the tower more again and um we just had friendly conversations. I asked him about his daughter all the time cuz she had she had a problem with something on her face. It was a hematoma or something.

Nielsen Mmm...hmm.

[REDACTED] Um, I talked to him about that and then the conversation would I would ask him how his wife was like making it completely obvious I had no intentions of, of wanting to be flirty with him at all. I was just being a nice person and then the next time we talked it's the conversation oh well she won't touch me any more cuz she says it hurts to have sex with me cuz I'm too big. I was like okay. Well that sounds like a personal problem.

Nielsen (Inaudible) he make that statement before or after you had touchings, or before that or after?

[REDACTED] Um, how do I describe this? The first time he touched me, he was coming up behind me and he was rubbing my shoulders as I was sitting at the desk trying to work. And I did this and he was like what that doesn't feel good. And, I was like no I'm just trying to do something um.

Nielsen How long after you met him did that happen? After you met him as your sergeant?

[REDACTED] God, I don't know....I really I don't know.

Nielsen Was it a month, two months? You only worked for him for what about eight months you said?

[REDACTED] I..I really don't know how long it was. Whenever he got there. The first day he was there I was working there.

Nielsen Mmm...hmm.

[REDACTED] And he was there until I left.

Nielsen Did anything happened the first day he was there?

[REDACTED] No.

Nielsen Okay. How long did it take for him to...

[REDACTED] ...He would just awkwardly stare at me as I'd like walk by or. I mean it it felt awkward to me. I I don't...

Nielsen Sure.

[REDACTED] It just made me really uncomfortable the way he looked at me um (inaudible).

Um, well uh the last time I saw him was at [REDACTED] for the um the fair thing.

He was up there.

Nielsen The Vendor Fair?

[REDACTED] The Vendor Fair. Um, and I was there on my lunch because we had class...

Nielsen Oh.

[REDACTED] ...at the Government Center because that was going on.

Nielsen Mmm...hmm.

[REDACTED] Um, he apparently sent this to me on September 5th at 3:26. I made a second uh Instagram page uh to make an Instagram page for my truck.

Nielsen So, it just a link in a (inaudible).

[REDACTED] Um, I have him blocked on my Facebook and on my Instagram because he's um (inaudible) message me on those. Um, I have him blocked on my Facebook first cuz that's where he first uh messaged me trying to contact me. Trying to contact me uh regarding um...we were we he uh after the fair thing he had messaged me uh we were just talking it's like oh one of my coworkers I'll eventually end of working with you at some point.

Nielsen Mmm...hmm.

[REDACTED] Um, just friendly conversation and then he asked me if I could keep a secret. I was like um yeah I guess. Um, and then he asked me if he could me uh if he could keep me as a secret from his wife. And then that's when I blocked him. That was um my um conversation with him before he became my sergeant.

Nielsen Why would he want to keep you a secret from his wife at that point?

[REDACTED] Didn't ask. Didn't want to know.

Nielsen How much did you guys talk, like between you met him at the fair and the time he told you that? How many conversations you think you had?

[REDACTED] Uh...uh at the fair I didn't notice that he was married. I didn't look because I thought he was a creepy dude so...

Nielsen ...Sure.

[REDACTED] Um, then he was being friendly were having friendly normal every day conversa...I I deleted messages cuz I never wanted anybody to see that at the time I was with my boyfriend that I'm still with, and I don't want to be accused of anything. Um, fuck. Um, so I I'd just blocked him and deleted the messages. It was just normal conversation until he asked me if I could keep a secret and then asked if I could, if I would be a secret from his wife and as soon as I got that message I knew that he wanted something more than a friendship. And, that made me extremely uncomfortable so I blocked him.

Nielsen Mmm...hmm.

[REDACTED] I thought that was the end of it. And then the next time I saw him was when he was my sergeant. That was the interaction we had between those two times. That's why I knew that he was the creepy guy. That's why I was uncomfortable that we was going to end up being my boss.

Nielsen You had conversations after you met him before you met him at the fair?

[REDACTED] Met him at the fair, we didn't really talk I think we said hi to each other cuz I'd never met him before.

Nielsen Where where did you see him after that?

[REDACTED] I I didn't see him anywhere after that. He had just messaged he had added me on Facebook. I accepted the add cuz I really didn't realize who he was. At fir...I didn't realize as the creepy guy.

Nielsen Okay.

[REDACTED] Um, so he I hadn't no I hadn't started dating my current boyfriend yet. I was talking to him. We hadn't made it official whatever that sounds so stupid. I had, I had already met the guy I'm dating now and we were talking we weren't together. I'd brought my family to the fair with me. I had my little sister with me when I

was talking to my coworker. Um, no cuz she stayed with my parent's and I'd walked over to my my work friends and talked to them and I walked back um.

Nielsen

So after he met you at the fair did he friend you on Facebook?

[REDACTED]

Yes.

Nielsen

And you accepted friendship?

[REDACTED]

Yes.

Nielsen

Friendship request.

[REDACTED]

Yes.

Nielsen

So you guys conversated on Facebook. It was never in person?

[REDACTED]

It was never in person.

Nielsen

And then you didn't see him again until he became your sergeant at the jail?

[REDACTED]

And I didn't see him again until he became my sergeant at the jail. After the Facebook comment of him..sorry I'm trying to remember this the best to my ability but like like I said it's something that I put away in a box and...

Nielsen

...Mmm...hmm.

[REDACTED]

...lit on fire cuz I didn't ever want to think about it again. Um, so I after he made that comment cuz I, I he asked me if I I thought he was attractive. And I was like yeah you're an attractive man you look like you work out good for you. I was being nice at at this point I regret being nice, cuz I feel like that might have led him to believe that I wanted something from him uh. I feel really dirty right now um cuz if I would've just been mean to him this...

Nielsen

...Don't blame yourself [REDACTED] You had no idea what was coming.

[REDACTED]

Crying... I would have just been mean to him but I knew what his last name was and I knew who he was probably related to and I knew where I was trying to go and I didn't want to stir anything up so I figured the most non-horrible way to deal with this situation was to just act like it never happened and just not talk to him anymore.

Nielsen

Mmm...hmm.

[REDACTED]

Cuz if I told him off I mean somehow it was gonna come back to bite me or something and (sigh)....

Nielsen

Well it's not gonna come back to bite you.

[REDACTED] It's still gonna find a way to come back to bite me.

Nielsen No.

[REDACTED] So I, I did tell him he was an attractive man.

Nielsen Mmm...hmm.

[REDACTED] And, um...

Nielsen ...He is. Why would you lie?

[REDACTED] He he is an attractive person I'm not interested, never was um. I don't make a habit of being interested in taking that's just wrong and ugh um. So, I was, I was too nice to him. And that's my fault and. I thought it would just go away if I just blocked him. And I blocked him and I never talked to him again. He never, and still does not have my phone number to my knowledge.

Nielsen Well he sent you that text message.

[REDACTED] That's a message on Instagram.

Nielsen Oh okay.

[REDACTED] (Inaudible). So, I mean so I have a a I have...I was never into Instagram my current boyfriend has two Instagram accounts one for his truck one for his car. I made a personal one so I could try to be into the same things as him. Um, and then when I just recently bought my new truck it still has temp tags on it um. We made a page for mine with cutesy couple truck photos. Really lame sorry...

Nielsen ...Sounds pretty cool to me.

[REDACTED] (Laughing).

Nielsen I like trucks.

[REDACTED] I love my truck it's so nice.

Nielsen Yeah, I have a jeep I love my jeep.

[REDACTED] It's a used...I I bought it used but oh my god it's so nice got rid of my old truck.

Nielsen That's good.

[REDACTED] The sound of a diesel is just so much better than a gas.

Nielsen You're right.

[REDACTED] I don't care if it costs more. I like it (laughing).

Nielsen You're right.

[REDACTED] Oh why'd you buy that for what'd you gonna haul? My fat ass, that's what I'm gonna haul. (laughing) sorry.

Nielsen That's alright feel free to speak whatever you want.

[REDACTED] Um...

Nielsen So, you (inaudible) have an Instagram to...

[REDACTED] ...He, so at during his time working at the jail um he had messaged me on Instagram. And, at this point I know he's my boss I don't want to say anything rude. I know where I'm trying to go. I don't want anything to get in the way of that.

Nielsen Mmm...hmm.

[REDACTED] I don't I don't want to go there.

Nielsen Go there like?

[REDACTED] I don't want to tell him he's a fucking pervert and to leave me the fuck along cuz he's my immediate supervisor. And his dad is the person that's gonna be is hopefully gonna be my chief shortly.

Nielsen Well, he is your chief.

Baessler Did you guys talk about that all all, like what that meant or was there ever you know what I mean?

[REDACTED] I never, I, I don't think so.

Baessler Okay.

[REDACTED] I don't think so. Um, I'm trying to think chronologically um just other things are popping in cuz like I said put it in a box and I put it away.

Nielsen It's all popping out of the box huh?

[REDACTED] Yeah (laughing).

Nielsen I'm sorry. Let's talk about it all. Let's let's get it done and throw that box away.

[REDACTED] Oh God (crying). Um, ahh so before he became a sergeant at our jail um his wife actually worked, his pregnant wife while she was still pregnant worked on our shift because she was a patrol deputy from what I understand before. And she obviously can't be out on patrol and heavily pregnant. Um, and she was introduced to use because she was gonna be working on our shift for a while in one of the booths on light duty.

Nielsen Mmm...hmm.

[REDACTED] Um, it's safer um.

Nielsen She was working on Sergeant Benson's shift?

[REDACTED] Um, so he hadn't come to the jail yet.

Nielsen Oh okay, okay.

[REDACTED] So, she did work on our shift before he ever even came to the jail.

Nielsen Okay.

[REDACTED] Like I said I didn't see him between see him physically between the fair and um him becoming our sergeant.

Nielsen So you knew his wife through work?

[REDACTED] I knew he had a wife because of Facebook and cuz they recently married, fairly recently to my knowledge, fairly recently married. Like I bel...like there's pictures of their wedding all over the place and I was like okay I can be friends with this person. He's recently married there's no way he's gonna hit on me or be inappropriate. I just got the wrong vibe from him, I felt safe being his friend.

Nielsen Hmm...hmm.

[REDACTED] Cuz, I I was like you're recently married. You should have no issues.

Nielsen So did you check his Facebook out before you you accepted his friend request, did you see all that or just after?

[REDACTED] So, before you it so at least everybody that I've ever met here has their Facebook set to private so you're not really able to see anything until you accept their friend request.

Nielsen Yeah.

[REDACTED] So I mean I looked through some pictures after I accepted the friend request. I was like okay you know this is fine.

Nielsen Mmm...hmm.

[REDACTED] He's recently married. I don't have anything to worry about. There's no way he could have any problems. Um, wrong. Um um then that whole conversation escalated. That took I think it was...

Nielsen ...Which conversation was that?

[REDACTED] The the string of messages through Facebook.

Nielsen

Okay.

[REDACTED] It's just friendly chatting nothing and then he asked if I thought he was attractive. Cuz he doesn't feel attractive and I'm like well why don't you feel attractive. It was it was leading, he ugh thinking about it now I feel so fucking stupid. Um, cuz looking back at it is way easier than being in it. And you're like okay you know, I'll just answer these questions cuz...

Nielsen

...Sure...

[REDACTED] ...I'm a ditzy blond. Um huh...

Nielsen

If you are then she is...I'm kidding (laughing).

[REDACTED] Oh god. So, I mean looking back at it now I see how inappropriate the questions started to get and the conversation started to get. It's like he was leading me into saying things. I don't feel attractive any more...duh duh duh duh. I was like, no you're...do you think I'm attractive? Yeah, you're an attractive guy. Did you talk to you wife about it? Oh no, she doesn't want to talk to me about that kind of stuff and I was like oh, oh that's not cool. I didn't say anything regarding that I think I moved the conversation on to something else.

Nielsen

So, did your conversations gradually get to that comfort level where he could talk like that to you? Because I mean I...

[REDACTED] ...I never shared I never shared anything personal about me um. God uh, it all seems like it happened so fast and then as soon as I knew what was happening like as soon as I realized oh shit this persons like, definitely hitting on me cuz looking back at it now it's it was it was extremely obvious that he was hitting on me.

Nielsen

Mmm...hmm.

[REDACTED] And I didn't think of him that way and had no reason to. And so I didn't, I didn't see it. And I feel really really or felt really stupid. And I feel really stupid all over again um, but as soon as I got that message I knew that it was it was something that he wanted more and I definitely did not so blocked him. Didn't think anything of it um. I saw his wife and I was like oh you're the one that's married to the asshole because he's already trying as you're here pregnant after being newly

married he's already trying to hit on other women that he doesn't even know.

That's fantastic um. So that thought went through my head I never talked to her.

Nielsen

Mmm...hmm.

[REDACTED] Um, I had no reason to. I just felt bad, I remember feeling bad for her. Cuz I was like this guy's gonna drag you through the ringer and you're gonna have a baby with him so you're gonna be stuck with him for the rest of your life. I felt bad for her. And, she I never never had an even had a conversation with her um. And he was a sergeant. Um, God. I had a moment in time when I was still working at the jail where I was really vulnerable, um because me and the boyfriend were arguing. And, that's uh, that's when he started to start visiting the tower more often. Like he'd come up and you know casually have conversations with me and...

Nielsen

...Did you share that you were going through a hard time?

[REDACTED] I, I shared with my sergeants uh that I was having issues um, and that I was worried about them effecting work.

Nielsen

You told both sergeants that?

[REDACTED] Uh, yes ma'am.

Nielsen

Okay.

[REDACTED] They were both in the office when I brought this up.

Nielsen

Okay.

[REDACTED] I made myself such an easy target. So, I'm really angry right now.

Nielsen

It's okay. It's to be expected.

[REDACTED] Crying...

Nielsen

Want to take a break?

[REDACTED] If I could just to pee that would be awesome.

Nielsen

Let's take a break. It's 11:23...I mean it's 1323.

End of conversation

Typed: 10/01/2018

jmn

Nielsen: Commander Susan Nielsen, Adams County Sheriff's Office
Baessler: HR Manager Baessler Baessler, Adams County Sheriff's Office
[REDACTED] Cadet [REDACTED] Adams County Sheriff's Office

Nielsen We are back recording, it is 1330. So what I want to do is, I want to kind of set a timeline of events okay.

[REDACTED] Okay.

Nielsen And let's take it from when he came to the jail cuz we got we've established that you had an affair, he friended you on Facebook, you accepted his friends friend request and then you guys starting communicating via Facebook right?

[REDACTED] Yes ma'am.

Nielsen And then he started taking taking you some place you didn't want to go so you blocked him.

[REDACTED] Yes ma'am.

Nielsen Okay. So you he comes to the jail and you say oh it's the creepy guy from the fair.

[REDACTED] Yeah, I didn't say that to anybody.

Nielsen But you thought about it.

[REDACTED] That that's what my first thought was.

Nielsen Okay.

[REDACTED] It was like oh the serial cheater.

Nielsen Right. Then you knew he was a cheater from stuff on Facebook cuz he was hitting on you on Facebook.

[REDACTED] Cuz he was hitting on me on Facebook and I knew that that wasn't his first marriage.

Nielsen Okay. So he's your sergeant at the jail?

[REDACTED] Yup.

Nielsen And you're a DS in the tower?

[REDACTED] Yes ma'am.

Nielsen Where were you working mostly?

[REDACTED] Uh mostly A tower.

Nielsen Okay.

[REDACTED] That was my primary post. Um, he would even come visit me when I worked in Master Control where it's open so it's not like it really mattered where I was.

Nielsen Okay.

[REDACTED] After a certain point.

Nielsen How long had he worked at the jail when he started having these visits with you?

[REDACTED] It wasn't very long at all.

Nielsen Okay.

[REDACTED] I want to say it...probably look on video to see when he first started coming to the tower. Cuz, he was immediately flirty.

Nielsen Mmm...hmm.

[REDACTED] Uh, I wouldn't say he was immediately uncomfortably flirty it was more like making inappropriate jokes like we have a fucked up sense of humor at the jail.

Nielsen Sure.

[REDACTED] And, it's normal. You joke about things you wouldn't normally joke about with a regular every day person because they don't have the screwed up sense of humor I guess.

Nielsen That's exactly right.

[REDACTED] Uh, so it's it felt normal. It didn't feel out of the ordinary, it didn't feel inappropriate. Uh, looking back at it now it's like mmm ehh crossed that boundary a little bit. But, nothing ever that bothered me I guess. Just seemed like friendly joking around conversation.

Nielsen Okay.

[REDACTED] Um, and then he started coming up there more often and staying longer when he was up there. He would stay up there for an hour at a time when he'd come up. Like it was excessive, it was weird. And then, my coworkers would tell me was sarge up there the whole time? Yeah. Can you like call me or something next time?

Nielsen Hmm...mmm.

[REDACTED] Uh, we don't know why he was up there. You in trouble? No, I'm not in trouble.

Nielsen And, you mentioned earlier that when people tried to get ahold of him he'd say he was out of the building or...

[REDACTED] ...Yeah, he he'd say that he was Code 7. Um, he would say uh they'd ask him for location for a call and instead of giving them you know the call number which God I haven't been in the jail a long time 3310 or wherever you might be 3310 was the tower, in A tower.

Nielsen Hmm...mmm.

[REDACTED] Instead of doing that like everyone else would he would ask uh I'm busy at the moment or something vaguely to to that nature.

Nielsen Hmm...mmm.

[REDACTED] Um, and then ask them what their call sign is and ask them if it needed to be handled now or if he could call them later.

Nielsen Okay.

[REDACTED] This is over the radio.

Nielsen How long did that go on for?

[REDACTED] Um, that was uh sporadically like uh cuz it would people could call for him while he was up he was the sergeant. Everybody's calling for the sergeant when they have something go wrong and then he'd ask them a question or whatever. So, that happened a hand full of times that made like when I say handful I feel that's five times but. It happened a couple of times where he would say that. It was um...

Nielsen Gibe me a minute. (Commander Nielsen had to ask people located outside of the Interview Room to be quiet.) Sorry about that.

[REDACTED] No, you're fine.

Nielsen What were, you just thinking about something?

[REDACTED] Um, can't be I was I mean it just...

Nielsen ...So what we were talking about was...

[REDACTED] ...It would happen when he would be up in my tower.

Nielsen Uh huh.

[REDACTED] And like he didn't want to leave yet.

Nielsen Okay.

[REDACTED] If that makes sense. Or, at least that's what it seemed like.

Nielsen What were your conversations like when that happened?

[REDACTED] Towards the beginning, or towards the end of my time there?

Nielsen [REDACTED] Towards during the time he was redirecting phone calls or not taking them or. Um, that started...oh my God...like I said I, I'm trying to be as honest as possible but um...God...I'd be standing at the desk working. Cuz I'm working the whole time I'm trying to get to work. He's I'm a very, I like to stay busy I like to be doing all kinds of things all the time. Busy work it makes me happy. And, being in the tower there was always something for you to do or something for you to be watching. Um, so I enjoyed it so much. Um, he would be coming up behind me and ahh oh, putting his hand on my ass. Or, as I'd walk by him cuz he would sit in my chair sometimes, I'd be walking back and forth cuz...squirrel...um I'd pop back and forth and every time I'd walk past him, uh he'd like smack my butt as I went by. It was like okay uh.

Nielsen [REDACTED] What got into the point where he felt that was okay do you know?
The first time he, he decided it was the first time I can remember him smacking my butt was uh...God...he had an obsession with my fucking ass. I, I'm having a hard time separating from (sigh). Cuz I had the nicest ass he'd ever seen on a white girl.

Nielsen [REDACTED] Is that what he told you?
(Sigh) It's one of the many things he told me.

Nielsen [REDACTED] Was that before or after he hit you on the butt?

[REDACTED] Um...

Nielsen [REDACTED] ...First time.

[REDACTED] I want to say those kind of comments happened before. But a I mean those kind of comments continued after they started and.

Nielsen [REDACTED] What was your response to that?
I'd look at him and roll my eyes um. (Sigh) I'm so (sigh). Um, after I felt that the jokes starting to get progressively more personal and not just oh yeah that's a horrible funny joke you know. Jokes have sexual innuendos and stuff but as as I started to feel like they were more getting more personal and I couldn't give a specific example.

Nielsen [REDACTED] Okay.

[REDACTED] Um, trying to think of one. After it started getting like, I started to realize it was being flirty I told my floor deputies that you know hey if I come down to the grate and start talking to you it's probably because he's up here and I want him to go away. Like, I'm just trying to you know talk to you so...

Nielsen Mmm...hmm.

[REDACTED] ...I don't have to talk to him um. Like I tried to make it obvious that he was up there so he wouldn't feel I don't know comfortable.

Nielsen Mmm...hmm.

[REDACTED] Enough to stay up there cuz he's obviously trying to hide that he was up there.

Nielsen How long...

[REDACTED] ...Cuz he didn't come up through the floor and come up the stairs. He would come up through the top.

Nielsen Right.

[REDACTED] So the least amount of people would see him coming up.

Nielsen What what happened that he felt it was okay to hit you on the butt? Did he ask you if he could?

[REDACTED] He never asked before he did anything.

Nielsen Okay. Was it a surprise the first time he did it or were you avoiding...

[REDACTED] ...It was it was a shock, the first time he did it I turned around and almost hit him. Like that was my first thought was to hit him and then it's like, uh, hello stupid you're at work you cannot hit your boss. And, I just kinda looked at him stupid I had a stupid look I can't remember I, I just had a stupid look on my face. I couldn't bring myself to say anything.

Nielsen Hmm...mmm. Did he say anything when you looked at him?

[REDACTED] Um, uh he's all what you didn't like it?

Nielsen I mean how far um how long have you known him when that happened? How long had he been your sergeant?

[REDACTED] So, outside of the, like trying to rub my shoulders while I was sitting at the desk that was the next physical touch step.

Nielsen Mmm...hmm.

[REDACTED] Um.

Nielsen So the shoulder rub happened first or the butt smacking?

[REDACTED] The the shoulder rub happened first.

Nielsen Okay.

[REDACTED] Like I was up there working and I just popped in it's like he's the sergeant he can go wherever he wants. I didn't think anything of it. This is when he first started coming up to the towers.

Nielsen So, it was fairly fairly soon after he started working there?

[REDACTED] Yeah, fairly soon. Um, like I said it was with it as around maybe a little less than maybe a little more than but it was about a month.

Nielsen Okay.

[REDACTED] I really oh, like I said I never thought I would ever have to talk about this. I don't. I'm really not trying to be difficult ma'am sorry.

Nielsen I don't think you're being difficult.

[REDACTED] (Sigh).

Nielsen So he's worked up to the point where he's hitting you on the butt?

[REDACTED] Yeah.

Nielsen Okay, how long did that go on for?

[REDACTED] God, I really I don't have a really good sense of time about this. Like I said I tried as the best I could...

Nielsen Hmm...mmm.

[REDACTED] ...to just block it out cuz it felt uh, I felt like I didn't know what to do (crying) you know I felt like I was cheating on my boyfriend and I never cheated on anybody before. (inaudible)

Nielsen I know this is so hard.

[REDACTED] (Sigh).

Nielsen So, do you think that it happened a lot?

[REDACTED] Yeah.

Nielsen Yeah. And, and then it evolved into more than that?

[REDACTED] Um, I would be at a at a panel I you've been at the towers right?

Nielsen Hmm...mmm.

[REDACTED] I'd be in a panel, you've been in the towers right? I'd be at a panel, popping doors or something and he'd already be up there cuz I'd already popped him in um. I made him wait at the doors a long time hoping he'd go away sometimes but...

Nielsen ...Hmm...mmm.

[REDACTED] ...He would never go away so I just popped him him cuz that would be insubordination um. And, like I, I would be actively working like I'm not a lazy bump on a log. And, I'd be at a panel and he'd walk behind me, obviously he has to walk behind me, Um, walk behind like he was gonna walk past me and then he'd like, slide his hand across my ass and then leave it there as he stood there talking, trying to talk to me as I was trying to work. And, I'd be like I'm trying to work, I'm busy. He's like oh you too busy to talk? And I was like well yeah, I mean it's the middle of the day um. And he'd go and he'd sit on either my chair or the little chair at the table in the corner and he would just sit there and lean back and grab his belt like this (demonstration). Completely relaxed way too awkwardly comfortable for being at work. And he'd just watch me and watch me trying and having conversation. At this point, I knew it wasn't, you know it didn't feel friendly to me anymore it felt creepy obviously I knew it was creepy. Um, and he'd talk to me and, sometimes I would ignore him you know hoping he'd get the hint like without me being overly um, bitchy or something that I could get in trouble for.

Nielsen So you thought you'd get in trouble if you were a little more dominant in telling him...

[REDACTED] ...Yeah.

Nielsen ...Get out of my tower?

[REDACTED] I didn't think I could.

Nielsen Okay. How did you feel about that?

[REDACTED] Uh, trapped. I felt trapped.

Nielsen Okay. So he's coming up and sitting in the tower and sitting in...

[REDACTED] ...And he's like what you don't want to talk to me like, he has he would always ask like weird questions like sarcastic almost. Like what you don't want to talk to

me you don't like talking to me anymore? I'm like no I'm just busy I'm trying to work, um, fuck. And then um he would ask me questions, I don't remember exactly what they,, were but I would respond like sarcastically. Like I was trying to be kinda rude like, oh she's not friendly I don't want to talk to her anymore. Like I, I was trying to be unfriendly to, like tell it like to show like hey I'm not interested but I also respect you as my boss please don't fire me um. And, uh he was up there so often it felt like that it almost became normal so I started to feel more comfortable, I guess. And didn't really think anything of it anymore. I mean he was touching me inappropriately but I, my mind I was like well I won't have to put up with this any longer I'm gonna be leaving soon, I won't have to deal with this guy anymore, just ignore it and it'll go away.

Nielsen But it didn't?

[REDACTED] No.

Nielsen And what happened?

[REDACTED] Um (long pause), if I could have just told him to fuck off nothing...

Nielsen ...It's not your fault.

[REDACTED] Thank you (crying) (inaudible).

Nielsen No. It's not. At this point you said if if you could have told him to fuck off then...

[REDACTED] ...If I felt like I could've told him to fuck off I would have told him to fuck off. I wanted to hit him in the fucking face.

Nielsen Yeah.

[REDACTED] I wanted him to leave me the fuck alone (crying) um. So before it felt like it had started to essentially become normal um. I was good friends with one of our mutual friends that worked there and I told him it was like hey can you tell him to lay off a little bit like?

Nielsen Hmm...mmm.

[REDACTED] He's making me really uncomfortable. He's like well what is he doing? And I was like I mean he's not really I mean I lied. I said he's he hasn't really done anything he's just flirty and I just don't like the way he talks to me.

Nielsen Who is that mutual friend?

[REDACTED] (Sigh) fuck. He has so much going on right now I don't wanna...

Nielsen ...I know but you have to.

[REDACTED] Um, uh it was Deputy [REDACTED].

Nielsen Deputy [REDACTED]? [REDACTED]?

[REDACTED] Yes ma'am. He's uh training for patrol right now, he just got engaged. I don't want him to have to I should have never said anything to him.

Nielsen So did Deputy [REDACTED] ask Sgt. Benson to back off?

[REDACTED] As far as I know he did. He said he talked to him about um how he needs to be faithful to his wife or something. I don't really remember. Cuz I'd asked him later on if he had talked to him and he said yeah. And like I said, it he so the he didn't just talk to him the one time I didn't ask him to talk to him just the one time. I think I asked him a total of twice to talk to him.

Nielsen Okay.

[REDACTED] Um, I never told anybody anything other than he hit on me.

Nielsen Hmm...mmm.

[REDACTED] He flirted with me and came on to me a lot. I never told anybody that he touched me or anything cuz I knew that would make me look bad. Cuz in front of people I acted like nothing was going on. I treated him how I treated everybody else um. I tried to make it seem as normal as possible. But I would do stupid little things like call other towers or my floor deputies to talk about random shit that we didn't need to talk about just (crying) cuz I was trying to get somebody to notice that he was up there.

Nielsen Somebody to notice he was up there?

[REDACTED] (Crying).

Nielsen And nobody did?

[REDACTED] People did but they didn't...I want to go back to class I don't want to be here.

Nielsen We'll get you back there as soon as we can. So, Deputy [REDACTED] talked to Sgt. Benson and he sorta backed off for a little bit?

[REDACTED] Yeah, he just went back to being normal how I feel like he treats everybody else.

Nielsen Okay.

[REDACTED] And so I I I have an inappropriate sense of humor just like everybody else there. We joke about anything and everything um. So, I felt comfortable with him again

like thought it was gonna stop. So, I joked with him and treated him like I treat everybody else.

Nielsen

Hmm...mmm.

[REDACTED] I didn't think anything of it. And it's like that made him comfortable enough to come up and start talking to me again. Which, at first again I thought you know it's normal he's a sergeant, he's coming in to check up on how we're doing. He's coming in to watch the floor deputies cuz sometimes he'd come up there and stare through the windows and look at the inmates and watch the deputies do stuff and then he'd leave. Like some of the times he came up there it was completely work related I didn't feel hit on at all. And as time went on, the jokes got back to where they were he'd and he never asked. And then he got comfortable again and.

Nielsen

You said he never asked? Where where were you going with that?

[REDACTED] He had like I said he I felt like he had an attraction to my ass. Like...

Nielsen

...Hmm...hmm.

[REDACTED] ...Always wanting to put his touching it every time I'd walk by or he'd walk by me.

Nielsen

Okay. So before Deputy [REDACTED] talked to him had you guys kissed before that?

[REDACTED] No.

Nielsen

Okay.

[REDACTED] Like I said I...

Nielsen

So there was nothing more physical than the shoulder and the butt touching?

[REDACTED] Yeah.

Nielsen

Okay. And then the second time around when he got comfortable again being with you...

[REDACTED] It's like it happened faster the second time around.

Nielsen

Okay, explain that for me.

[REDACTED] Like I it didn't take as long for him to become inappropriate than it did the time before. Like the joking went like right back to the sexual innuendos. And I will admit I made sexual style jokes as well.

Nielsen

Hmm...mmm.

[REDACTED] Like I said, I didn't think anything of it. Looking back I feel so stupid and uh. I feel so stupid right now.

Nielsen You don't need to feel stupid. We can all look back at things in our lives and say what?

[REDACTED] So I made the jokes back. He made jokes you know it was fine um. And then instead of like just going back to the butt touching the first time we had like physical contact um that I can remember uh I was standing at the desk but had the computer. And I was doing something on the computer and he was talking to me and I was essentially ignoring him. And he knew I was ignoring him and he asked me why I was ignoring him. And I said I'm not ignoring you I'm just busy. Trying to just I'm like nothing was happening um. He came up behind me and my arms were it's a standing desk.

Nielsen Mmm...hmm.

[REDACTED] Essentially except for a few really tall chairs I'm standing at it um. He came up behind me and put his hands on the desk next to where my arms were at the desk like right outside of my arm.

Nielsen Hmm...hmm.

[REDACTED] And pressed his whole body up against mine um. And popped his head around my over my shoulder. (Inaudible).

Nielsen He's gonna (inaudible)?

[REDACTED] Yeah (inaudible).

Nielsen It's not your fault.

[REDACTED] It is my fault. I didn't tell anybody.

Nielsen When Sgt. Benson put his arms around you from behind he put his head over your shoulder?

[REDACTED] Yes.

Nielsen Did he put his chin on your shoulders, did he kiss you, what happened after that?

[REDACTED] I don't remember what he said but he..did he say...I don't remember if he said anything. I feel like he did but I don't remember what it was. It was in a whisper. He kissed my neck and put my earlobe in his mouth and sucked on it um. And I froze. I felt like I brought it on myself afterwards because I had been flirty. Not

intentionally I mean (crying) I wasn't coming on to him. But I guess my jokes could've been taken that way. It felt so violated and dirty and then he got called to something over the radio or something like right after that and he left. And I just remember crying and not. I don't want to talk anymore.

Nielsen I'm sorry.

[REDACTED] I just froze. I didn't say anything I didn't move.

Nielsen Did you pop him out of the tower, or did he pop himself out?

[REDACTED] Yeah, he like he's I don't remember what the call was who or what he went running out. I mean he ran through the tower and then he kinda just jogged I think he jogged down around the contact room and down the stairs and out the door. I think it was a code or something.

Nielsen And you let him out?

[REDACTED] Yeah, I turned around to the panel behind me and popped the doors or no, no. He popped himself out that day.

Nielsen Okay.

[REDACTED] Okay, I have OC under my nose.

Nielsen Do you want to go wash you face?

[REDACTED] No, it just makes it worse.

Nielsen Okay.

[REDACTED] I'll scrub my face with Dawn dish soap when I get home. Um, it's not in my eyes. Um, he had turned around and popped himself out that day. I, I froze.

Nielsen Did he come back that night? I assume this was night shift by the way. I'm assuming that was night shift or day shift?

[REDACTED] I, I really don't remember.

Nielsen Okay.

[REDACTED] It's it's so dark in the tower that, like I said I, I blocked all of this stuff out. I really couldn't even tell you, I couldn't tell you if it was night or day. Cuz, I mean on day shift I would go in while it was still dark and I'd leave while it was dark.

Nielsen So, how close was it...

[REDACTED] ...So I won't...

Nielsen How close was it to the time you were leaving to go to the academy when that happened?

[REDACTED] That happened uh, he had been there for a couple months I think?

Nielsen Okay.

[REDACTED] Really, really not sure. I don't...all I remember was freezing while he was there and then crying as soon as he left for like a second. I didn't cry very long like I had like a couple of tears and then I just threw myself into work and I just worked.

Nielsen Hmm...mmm. Do you remember if he worked the next day? Did he come to work the next day?

[REDACTED] Yes.

Nielsen How did you feel about coming to work the next day?

[REDACTED] I didn't want to go to work. I couldn't (crying) talk to anybody about it. I didn't know what to do.

Nielsen So the next day did he come see you?

[REDACTED] Um, I don't, I don't think so.

Nielsen Do you remember how long it was before you saw him in the tower again after that kissing? That earlobe incident?

[REDACTED] I think it was the next work week.

Nielsen The next work week? Take me there, what was that like?

[REDACTED] Uh, the next time he came in and sat on my tall chair. And stared at me with that smirk. He has a creepy smirk. Just I don't know how to describe it. Maybe I just thought it was creepy because I knew what he, he was at this point.

Nielsen Mmm...hmm.

[REDACTED] And I was working he kept trying to pull me back to sit down on his lap.

Nielsen Were there inmates out?

[REDACTED] Yeah. This is while I'm working there's inmates in the pods the deputies are doing...I'm I'm working. And there was never a time where it felt like it was, it was a time where he wouldn't feel comfortable enough to come up.

Nielsen So, when he tried to pull you on his lap was he successful in that?

[REDACTED] Not the first couple of times.

Nielsen Okay. And and in one visit or are you talking about over numerous visits?

[REDACTED] Um, I want to say the third time he tried on the first visit. I just I gave up.

Nielsen Mmm...hmm.

[REDACTED] And I just sat there for a second and then I popped right back up. I told him I'm busy like, I need to work...I'm working.

Nielsen Did he leave you alone after that on that visit?

[REDACTED] Um, I think, I think that time he left me alone for the rest of the day.

Nielsen Okay.

[REDACTED] There was another time very similar to that and then he like came back later on in the day and had to leave right away so nothing happened when he came back again. God you can probably look on camera and see how many times he came to wherever I was. And how long he was in there, he was in there forever. He would be up there for an hour at a time. Most times he came up at least it felt like an hour at least.

Nielsen So how did it evolve from when he was trying to pull you on to his lap?

[REDACTED] Um, that's I think right around the time I was having uh, relationship problems.

Nielsen Okay. Tell me about that?

[REDACTED] Um, I had, I had talked to them like I had I'd been (inaudible) like awkward and weird I think at work for a couple of days.

Nielsen You had been?

[REDACTED] I feel like I was.

Nielsen Okay.

[REDACTED] Like I assume I probably looked or acted different cuz I was sad.

Nielsen Mmm...hmm.

[REDACTED] I probably acted sad at work. I don't know how other people perceived me I didn't ask. I just knew that I'd probably was. Cuz I'm normally a really, at least at work I was normally really bubbly and you know. Not first thing in the morning obviously but as the day went on, I mean, I was rather loud and rather um vocal.

Nielsen What does that mean?

[REDACTED] I'm uh, I like to joke a lot I like to talk to people I.

Nielsen So, you're a goof ball?

[REDACTED] Yeah.

Nielsen Okay.

[REDACTED] For the most part. I'd say I probably am uh.

Nielsen So, were you behaving in that manner or were you quieter than normal?

[REDACTED] I was, I was a lot quieter than normal. That's why I say I probably, people probably noticed. And then things got to a point where they were bad enough between me and we uh, we broke up the beginning of this year for about a month.

Nielsen You talking about you and your boyfriend?

[REDACTED] Yeah. We were broke up for about a month, I think. And during that time I felt, so after I told 'em I felt powerless and unwanted and I've had all kinds of different emotions going on.

Nielsen After you told who what?

[REDACTED] Um, after I told the sergeants that um, the ex was uh at the time we got back together and now I'm gonna feel stupid all over again, um. He said that he was gonna get me fired and duh duh duh duh duh he was making threats so I, I made my sergeants aware of that. That he was being vindictive like he never gave me a specific of what he was gonna do.

Nielsen Mmm...hmm.

[REDACTED] That doesn't really really relate to this anyways. Um, and I, I had told them that you know I was trying not to bring it to work with me but that cuz Sgt. [REDACTED] had asked me you know if I was doing okay. Which is when I realized that I was acting different at work. I told him I was having issues with my boyfriend and I'd come down and talk to him about it later. When I got out from it was either a break or lunch break or something I, I came down to the sergeants office. I had like said something...God...I don't remember. I had said something and they both happened to be right there. I don't remember if it was in the briefing room or if it was in the office. Because I had talked to [REDACTED] twice about incidents going on. The second time Sgt. Benson wasn't there. The first time was Sgt. Benson was there and it was up in the briefing room. Cuz Sgt. [REDACTED] had asked me if I was doing okay and I said not really, me and the boyfriend had broke up duh duh

duh duh duh. It was a very short conversation. Benson was there for that. I wasn't talking to him, he was just there.

Nielsen

Hmm...mmm.

And then that night he came up to my tower and you know, asked me how I was doing and trying to be a caring friend is what I took it as and. Acting like he cared um, and he came up to me and asked me if I needed a hug. And I, got really emotional and I accepted the hug. I was feeling really vulnerable. And I, I hugged him. I said that sounds nice and then I hugged him when we were up in the tower. It's wasn't inappropriate at all no nothing, I just, it felt nice to feel like somebody cared that I was having a rough time.

Nielsen

Hmm...mmm.

Um, I didn't, and then I didn't spend too much time letting it affect me at work cuz it wasn't appropriate and um, so I went back to being like my normal self. And he was flirty and um, and I was flirty back because I was single and I was feeling rebellious and I was, I was verbally flirty back.

Nielsen

Hmm...mmm.

I remember being flirty at that time. That was, and but it was I never acted on it I never went up to him and grabbed him or anything like that. But I, I the way I talked was flirty um. Cuz I was newly single and I was trying not to think about him at all.

Nielsen

About who, your boyfriend?

Yeah about the boyfriend. And, he never tried uh, I was leaned up against the desk and he was leaning up against the panel and we were talking and I think the inmates were locked down. It was during a lunch hour so they were everyone was locked down for the most part. And one of the deputies was out to lunch. And we were sitting there talking. I was leaned up against the desk and, he came up to me and wrapped his arms around my waist and I still had my arms out like this (demonstration) on the desk. He gave me a hug. I'm like, oh you're sweet. And like then I hugged him back. I don't remember what we were talking about. And then he kissed me. And ,I like skooched out of in between the desk and him and I

was like okay, that's too far. That's inappropriate. We're at work, this is work.

He's all well what's work if you can't have a little fun?

Nielsen

When he kissed you, you, where did he kiss you?

[REDACTED]

On the mouth.

Nielsen

Did you kiss him back?

[REDACTED]

No.

Nielsen

Okay. So go on.

[REDACTED]

He tried to put his tongue in my mouth and that's when I, like it was like immediate like he wanted to make out with me right away. And it was really weird and, I felt good having someone flirt with m, and I felt good flirting with somebody else. But it was only ever verbal for me cuz it, it's nice to hear nice things about you. Have someone say nice things call you hot. Like it feels good especially when you're feeling like how I was feeling unwanted and unsexy and everything else. And, that was okay with me cuz that's what I wanted at the time um. I don't want to talk about this anymore. Um, so I'd like pushed away this is at the in between the desk and the panel that goes to 3 & 4. Um, and I'd like pushed and pulled myself out. And I attempted to and he'd put his hand on my hip and pushed me back. And then I pushed back again and walked aw..to the other panel. He's like where you going? And I was like away from you. Um, he was like what does that mean you don't like it? I was like I didn't say that but you are a married man and I am not interested. So I did tell him to fuck off but not those exact words. Um, he's all well that doesn't have to mean anything. I was like, then why did you bother getting married? And we kept talking and he I was walking around the tower cuz I think I had started to let the inmates out, and he was like walking close behind me so I'd start to walk a little faster then he'd stop, and I'd stop. And then he'd start walking until I'd start walking again. So I was trying to stay as far away from him as possible. And he's all like I gotta get going. I was like okay go. Like I was being I, I had this sarcastic asshole tone cuz I was very pissed and I didn't know how to be pissed uh and he left cuz he had work to do um. Next time he came up we talked and I told him I was like I'm okay with the being flirty whatever. I just I don't feel comfortable with you touching me. And he was like

okay I never want to do anything that you're not comfortable with that you don't, you don't want to happen duh duh duh duh duh. Um, I was like okay that's good cuz I don't, I was like it's fine that you come up here and we hang out . I think you're a cool person. He's all, I think you're really cool too and I like you. I was like, I don't like you like that. I was like, I don't care if you flirt with me I'll flirt back that's fine. I don't want anything more. He's like okay I understand, I understand. And then he, he would come up for a short amount of time when he'd come back through and then he'd go visit the other towers and we friendly flirted and it wasn't anything. And then he started coming up and hugging me from behind again and I would just ignore him. I didn't say anything I just let it happen. I didn't know what else to do. I felt like I couldn't do anything cuz he wasn't listening to me. And then his hands would start to wander, and I continued to work while he was groping me, um.

Nielsen When you say groping you, what do you mean by that? You motioned that he was touching your breasts, is that what was occurring? Anything else at that point?

[REDACTED] Well he's uh, whenever he had the opportunity to, his whole body was pressed up against me, mine.

Nielsen Okay. Did you notice anything about him when he pressed his body against you?

[REDACTED] Uh, I noticed that he was aroused.

Nielsen Okay.

[REDACTED] I could feel it behind me.

Nielsen Okay.

[REDACTED] For such a cocky dude, he had a small dick. Sorry, I'm going back to being angry. I'm so (inaudible) more angry with myself or him. Um, he'd do that, he'd always get called out something and I just waited for that to happen and I didn't say anything. Like when he'd make the the casual awkward conversation for what was happening. And, I would frequently walk from panel to panel like trying to avoid being touched I didn't want to be touched, and I didn't know how, cuz I'd already told him I told his friend to tell him for me. I didn't know what else to do. Um (whispered...God it was gross). And then uh, he did the the neck kissing

thing again from like being behind me, (whispered...God it was gross). Um, how I, I moaned, a little.

Nielsen Hmm...mmm. Did it feel good?

[REDACTED] It, it did.

Nielsen Okay.

[REDACTED] And I turned around and he said, "You like that?" and I uh, I said, yeah but it's not okay it's not right. He's all, "How can it not be right if it feels good?" And then he took my hand and, he uh placed it over his penis on his uh, over his pants um.

Nielsen You said over his pants?

[REDACTED] Yeah over it wasn't, I never, it was over his pants. He took my, he took my hand and placed it. He tried to put it in his pants and I pulled away so then he, he's a lot stronger than me. Um, I tried to pull my hand back away to where I'd had it which is one the panel cuz I'm up against the panel, he's in my very personal space.

Nielsen So, he's facing you at this time?

[REDACTED] Mmm...hmm. Cuz that I'd turned after he'd kissed my neck and I made the noise...

Nielsen Mmm...hmm.

[REDACTED] ...and I felt wrong for making the noise. Cuz after I made the noise I turned around we had that conversation of, of it was good how could it be wrong?

Nielsen Mmm...hmm.

[REDACTED] He, and then he grabbed my wrist, um my hand my wrist, um and tried to put my hand um down his pants. And I pulled away and he put it over his pants on himself uh. And then like leaned forward, and I'd turned my face away and left my hand there cuz I'd already tried to pull it away. And I had my faced turned this way (demonstration) so I wasn't looking at him after he leaned forward cuz I knew he was gonna try to kiss me again. And I, people who dip have this like nasty smelling breath, like their mouth is rotten. And I could feel his breath on the side of my face, and I could smell it. And then he kissed my neck again cuz I turned my face away. He said, "Do you like that?" and I didn't say anything. And

then he was like moving my hand for me on his, ugh...ooh I don't want to be here. Um, I kept my face that way I didn't say anything.

Nielsen

When you said he was moving your hand for you, for you, what what was that?

So he had like had my I don't I don't know how to explain it. He was holding my hand to himself.

Nielsen

To his penis?

Yes. And had his other arm still on the panel next to my arm that was on the panel on the outside of my arms. I, I didn't feel like I could get away and I, I just looked the other direction and could when he leaned forward cuz I knew he was gonna try and kiss me and I looked this way (demonstration). I could feel him breathing on me like he was waiting for me to turn my face again and then he just went to my neck again did this little, little kiss. So, like almost ugh (sigh). And he asked me why I didn't want to touch it. Cuz he was hold as he was holding my hand he was like doing this with his fingers (demonstration) over the top of my hand trying to get me like to move my hand around on him.

Nielsen

What did you tell him when he asked you why you didn't want to touch it?

I told him, this isn't right, you're married. I don't want to do this. He said it could just be our little secret.

Nielsen

Is that what you said, or he said?

That's what he said.

Nielsen

Okay.

I said I don't care, I didn't want to. He told me um, and this, and then he, he backed off and he leaned up against the desk that's behind him and I, stayed where I was. He's all, "Am I making you uncomfortable?" I said, yeah you are. I wasn't looking at him. I was still looking the other way. He's all, "I don't want to do anything that makes you uncomfortable that you don't want. Do you want this?" I said no I don't. It's wrong. He's all, I'ts not wrong, it's natural you're attracted to me and I'm attracted to you." I said you can be attracted to people and never touch them. And I looked back at him at this point. And, he asked me why I acted like I liked it then. I said well it felt good I mean it's wrong, but it felt good. He's all. "Well if it felt good it's not wrong." I said yes it is. we're at work

and you are a married man and you should not be up here. He's all, "Is that how you really feel?" And I was like yeah, that's how I feel. He's al, "Does that mean we can't be friends?" I was like we can still be friends like we still work together uh. Then it went back to the friendly swatting my ass as he'd walk by me when he'd come up there. Like he'd come back up there and we'd talk, and then it reverts back to him swatting my ass again, and I got irritated. I remember getting really irritated the first time he swatted my ass again. And I don't know what possessed me to do it, but I swatted his back and right after he hit mine and I was like it that what you like? Why do you like doing that? He's all, "I don't know, you don't like it?" I was like, no I'm trying to work. And I, I had like a sarcastic like snarky tone to my voice. And I had about this same look on my face (demonstration). I told him I was like, do you how many other girls do you hit on? Like, is this a regular thing for you like? He's all no I just really, really like you and duh duh duh duh duh duh duh duh. And I was like, you are just recently married why do you want anything to do with me? He's like, "You're just really hot & attractive and I told you this all the time and..." duh duh duh duh duh. I was, so this con, this conversation continued the next day cuz he came back the next day. And uh meanwhile I don't remember where I'm working cuz I started towards the end of me being there I started to get moved around to different um, DS locations a lot because we had new people in training and I needed to move so they could train there, and I could work another place. And then I kinda just accepted it as normal after that.

Nielsen

You said he came back the next shift after...

[REDACTED]

...After that conversation had started after I had swatted his ass back.

Nielsen

Uh...huh.

[REDACTED]

And we agreed that it would just be friendly, so we had this agreement several times and like I kept, kept having this conversation like once I'd get the balls to fucking talk to him and not just be afraid like an little fucking girl. Um, and I talked again and we talked again the next day on how we'd just be friends and we'd keep joking how we were joking and that didn't have to change and duh duh duh duh duh duh. Um, he came up again the next time I remember, after that him

coming up, and, he kissed me, and I kissed back, for uh. Cuz I, I was leaned up backwards against my desk and he came around was talking to me. He stayed over at the corner desk for a while. Sat there for a bit. I continued to work and I was back there with my arms crossed leaning up against the desk. We were talking and he walked over and, asked me why I was so frustrated and duh duh duh duh duh. He's all. "Welll you must be sexually frustrated" cuz he knew that me and hi...my boyfriend had were still not together. And I was like you know what yeah you're probably right. I mean, but I'll be fine. They sell toys. Like just having an awkwardly open conversation that you wouldn't have with a regular person I guess. It's an inappropriate conversation. He's all, why would you need to a toy when you can just use me? I was like cuz I don't want you that way. And then he kissed me and I kissed back. And then I pushed away cuz the feeling of him being a married man never left and I never, never felt right ever. And I thought he was gross. I don't know why I kissed back. It just, I felt lonely and whew. Then I walked away and he was like walking towards me around the tower and I was like do you have somewhere else to go be or something to go do? He's all yeah if you really don't want me up here. And I was like yeah, well you should probably go then. Like wow that's that's rude. It's like no it's not, I'm busy I'm trying to work. And he left again. And then in between that and the next encounter me and my boyfriend had gotten back together and we we hadn't gotten back together we were talking about things. This whole time we were living together so I'm still living with my boyfriend.

Nielsen

Mmm...hmm.

Uh, and we were talking again and I was really happy um. The next time he came up, I was talking about my boyfriend the whole time. You know we're starting to work things out and I feel so happy again. And he's like oh well me and my wife still aren't doing too good. And I was like well I hope that changes for you, you know um. But, and he kept being flirty and I stopped being flirty cuz I was like I'm completely committed I don't, I don't even want to flirt with you anymore. That's just so wrong, so gross, I can't believe I ever did that. And um huh um fuck. Uh, so he kept being flirty I kept I, I would make jokes back and forth like

sarcasm stuff. Nothing flirty anymore um, not purposely. And told, I told him that we got back together. He's all, "Does that mean I can't come up and visit you anymore?" I said you can still come up here you're my boss. Like do whatever the fuck you want. I didn't say fuck I said you can do whatever you want. Um, he goes, "Okay does that mean we can still have the same rules? Is this still Vegas?" I was like what do you mean Vegas? He's all, "Can we still, can I still talk to you about things?" And I was like sure if you feel comfortable talking to me about things you can still talk to me about things, um.

Nielsen

Did he tell you what he meant by Vegas?

Um, uh what he meant by Vegas was, um, that whatever happens here, whatever's said here, stays here. Meaning between me and him and no one else can I was like I, I told him that um I could still...I wouldn't tell anybody anything he told me, if he needed to talk to me about his problems and I was trying to be nice, too nice. I was being too nice. He'd come up and ask if he could have a hug while I was working. I'd give him a quick hug and I'd go to, push back and he would hold on tighter. I was like okay. I was like but I need to do this stuff. And so I'd turn around from the hug to do that and he'd come up and hug me, and start to feel around again. And I turned my head over my shoulder to look at him and I told him that that wasn't okay anymore.

Nielsen

He started to feel around on your body?

Yeah.

Nielsen

Your breasts?

Yeah.

Nielsen

Okay.

And, I turned, as I was turning around to look at him he...I always wore my shirt uh, tucked in. And he untucked my shirt and put his hand all the way up on to my breasts underneath my bra and everything. And I looked at him and I was like what are you doing? And I pushed his hand out and pushed him away. I was like we are at work, this is not okay. And he's all, "But you like it." And came up back behind me and was feeling around again. And I just stood there silently and looked this way (demonstration) cuz his head was closer this way. And I just

stood there and let him touch me and then he put his hand um, down over my pants.

Nielsen On the outside?

[REDACTED] Uh huh. Feeling with his fingers around, my uh, around my vagina. It was like rubbing where my um, where it is over my pants.

Nielsen Where what is over your pants?

[REDACTED] Oh my my cli...my clitoris.

Nielsen Okay.

[REDACTED] Um.

Nielsen Did you tell him to stop?

[REDACTED] No, I couldn't. Then he'd, he'd go cuz he had to go do work. Cuz we were at work.

Nielsen When you told him no um, that time, and you said this isn't right it's work. Did you ever tell him it wasn't right cuz it wasn't right? Or just cuz it was at work?

[REDACTED] Um.

Nielsen What I'm asking is, did you ever give him a reason to believe that if you weren't at work it would be okay?

[REDACTED] I said no we're at work.

Nielsen Mmm...hmm. You said no I mean that's that's good but...

[REDACTED] ...I, don't think I ever, I tried to keep talking about how it was work.

Nielsen Okay.

[REDACTED] And that it was just work. And uh (sigh). After he touched me like that um, was when I went back to uh our mutual friend again.

Nielsen Deputy [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Deputy [REDACTED] And, I'd asked him again, hey he's still hitting on me so it's making me really uncomfortable can you please talk to him. He's being a weirdo. I never, I never told anybody what was happening. I never told anybody anything.

Nielsen Did he ask?

[REDACTED] Yeah he asked. I said no nothing like that's happening, you know. Nothing inappropriate he's just, he won't stop flirting with me can you please talk to him again. Tell him I don't want anything to do with him. I'm not interested in him

like that. I want to just, our relationship to be work. That's it. I don't want him flirting with me anymore. I don't want any of that. He'd go what do you mean any of that? I told him nothing it just, he keeps flirting with me and I want him to leave me alone. He's like okay I'll take care of it. Um, I don't know if he ever talked to him again, but there wasn't a break in between that time. He just kept coming up there, and at this point I (sigh...crying) just gave up. And he came up and put his hand down my pants and I pulled it right back out, he put it right back in and I pulled it right back out, and then he left. And that happened a couple of times where he kept trying to put his hand in my pants.

Nielsen

Did you ever tell him no, or did he just pull it out?

I told him don't do that. I was always, I always pulled his, I tried to get his hand out physically. He always tried to resist at first, and then I'd get it out, and then he'd put it right back. And I'd let him and then it got to the point where I just kinda let him keep it there for a second, thinking he'd get what he wanted and he'd leave me the fuck alone (sigh). So, it happened where he came up and he tried to put his hand down my pants uh, the, I'd say the third time that happened, was where he actually uh, got down there and uh had his uh, one of his fingers inside of me. And, it was there for a couple of seconds. Every time this happened it was from behind me.

Nielsen

It was what?

From behind me.

Nielsen

From behind okay.

Cuz I didn't, I don't want to believe it was happening. I didn't want to believe it was real. I didn't want to, huh...just wanted to come to work and work. And he kissed me on the neck and I leaned my head I leaned my head back on to his shoulder, and he did the earlobe thing, again. And then I, pulled away because it started to feel good and it felt so wrong and I pulled away and said stop. Stop doing that I don't want to do this. This is not fun for me, I don't, I don't want to do this. This isn't right. I don't like this, I'm not enjoying this, this is not fun.

Nielsen

What did he do when you pulled his hand out that time?

[REDACTED] He came over to me after I said those things and kissed me (sigh). And, just kissed me on the lips. And then he turned my face and kissed me on the cheek, and let me go (sigh). He came back again the next time it happened, and it went through all the stages of being flirty and I was being flirty back. I don't know why. I'm not innocent, this is this is so stupid. This is my fault.

Nielsen Did you say you're not innocent?

[REDACTED] Yeah.

Nielsen Why would you say that?

[REDACTED] If I would've stood my ground it would have stopped.

Nielsen Stood your ground? You told him no right?

[REDACTED] Yeah.

Nielsen What could have you done differently by standing your ground?

[REDACTED] I don't know. I just feel like if I would have actually done something or said something to someone. I just, I felt like I had let it go so far that I was already too far, where no one was going to believe me, and if I said anything I would never...I felt at this point, that I had let it go too far. That if I said anything it would be a he said, she said, and that I would eventually, after basically being shunned by everybody, I'd eventually...they'd end of finding some way to fire me or something.

Nielsen Who would fire you?

[REDACTED] I would get fired. I don't, I don't know I didn't really think about it that hard. I just felt like I was so far in, that no one would believe me, and (crying), I felt like no one would believe me and I felt like I'd lose my job or I'd, I'd feel like I'd want to quit cuz I feel so uncomfortable with everybody around me, because I felt like everybody would hate me cuz everybody loved him as a Sergeant, cuz he was, he was a good boss just not to me. Then I, I thought to myself that, that you're trying to go to the academy, if you start some type of investigation or something you'll be stuck here. That you won't be able to go to the academy and then you have a black mark on your name and no one will ever take you in anyways, and you're gonna screw yourself. So I decided that I was just gonna accept it how it was, and try to get through until I made it into the academy and,

and then I wouldn't have to deal with him anymore because the only time I ever dealt with him was at work.

Nielsen

At the Jail?

[REDACTED] Yeah, at the Jail. And then when I came back that I'd be on the floor and I wouldn't be up in the towers any more. And even if he still was on my shift cuz I thought that he'd go right back out to patrol. That he'd become a sergeant and he'd be gone by the time I got back, and everything would be perfectly okay. I just needed to take it while I was there. So, so I could just get outta there and get through it. And I reasoned with myself, and told myself that I just needed to suck it up and let it happen until I could get outta there. Cuz I was gonna get outta there soon and it didn't matter. Um, so, I mean at this point he had started messaging me on my Instagram cuz he had added my Instagram before this had started. And to follow me on Instagram. And, after the first time he put his hand over my pants down there he started to message on there. You know asking me how I was, asking me, just like you, like the casual conversation you'd have with your partner. Like you'd have with a boyfriend or a husband. The casual kind of conversation you'd have you know. He'd ask, or tell me good morning beautiful, stuff like that and.

Nielsen

That was on Instagram?

[REDACTED] Yes.

Nielsen

And that stuff goes away right?

[REDACTED] Yes. Well I deleted it...

Nielsen

...You deleted it all?

[REDACTED] Yes, cuz I was with my boyfriend and I didn't want him to see someone hitting on me like that.

Nielsen

If it were necessary would we be able to download this stuff off your phone?

[REDACTED] I...

Nielsen

...To the...

[REDACTED] I don't believe so.

Nielsen

Well if we took it to like a forensic place to get stuff off would that be alright with you if it was necessary?

[REDACTED] I don't know if...

Nielsen ...I don't either. I don't know much about Instagram. I think what's the other one that dissolves? Snapchat?

[REDACTED] Snapchat.

Nielsen So I think Instagram leaves a footprint that probably the forensic people can probably get. If it were necessary, I'm just saying that's a possibility in the future.

[REDACTED] It was there was nothing ever on there besides one, or two or three good morning beautiful that would even look like flirting.

Nielsen Okay.

[REDACTED] Other than that, it was casual like hey how are you doing?

Nielsen Sure.

[REDACTED] I think I was asked if I was doing okay cuz I had been rear ended on my way to work uh.

Nielsen Remember what you said about he said she said?

[REDACTED] Yeah.

Nielsen If we could produce something off of that, that would just say well yeah this is...you understand what I'm saying?

[REDACTED] Yeah.

Nielsen You think that would be possible if that were necessary in the future?

[REDACTED] I don't know what they can do with technology. All I know is I can't...

Nielsen ...I'm telling you that they can. They can get stuff that's been deleted off your phone. We just need your permission to do so.

[REDACTED] (Sigh).

Nielsen I'm not saying today.

[REDACTED] I don't want to get this man in trouble. It's not my intention.

Nielsen You're not getting him in trouble. His decisions are, have gotten to where he is right now which is under investigation.

[REDACTED] I remember in like our conversations before things got so gross.

Nielsen Mmm...hmm.

[REDACTED] I'd asked him about a situation he had where he was accused of taking a teenage girl home in a patrol car and then having sex with her in said patrol car.

Nielsen Mmm...hmm.

[REDACTED] And he told me oh well that never happened and duh duh duh that was a story she made up. And duh duh duh duh duh he got really defensive. And I was like hmm you're really defensive for a person who didn't do that. That was what I thought to myself um. Uh, sorry that was random.

Nielsen That's okay. We'll, we'll cross that bridge if if we get there. I'm not even saying we're gonna get there. Um, it would it would certainly help. I'm, I'm not saying you're not credible at all. But it certainly would help add credibility to what you're saying.

[REDACTED] I don't want to add creditability to what I'm saying. I don't want to have to be talking about this at all.

Nielsen I get that. But you are, you are where you I mean it's out of your control. This is, I called you here...

[REDACTED] ...Yeah.

Nielsen I made you tell me what happened. You you didn't come to me right?

[REDACTED] Yeah, but I could have said...I, I didn't have to say anything but I said.

Nielsen Well you said enough without saying anything [REDACTED] that I knew something was up. So, the question I would have, would, eventually he's gonna come talk to me about this. What do you think he's gonna tell me?

[REDACTED] I, I don't think about the man. I tried as hard as I can not to think about...I don't know.

Nielsen Yeah. I'm asking you to think about him right now. Like what do you think?

[REDACTED] If he even admits to anything, that anything ever even happened...

Nielsen ...Uh...huh.

[REDACTED] I'm sure that he would just say that the whole thing was brought on be me, and that I came on to him and.

Nielsen Uh...huh.

[REDACTED] That guy is so unbelievably cocky.

Nielsen So, you told me earlier before we took a break that you'd felt a um, piercing of his penis?

[REDACTED] That's closer to the head of his penis.

Nielsen And were you inside of his pants when you felt that?

[REDACTED] Nope.

Nielsen So, you never went inside of his pants?

[REDACTED] Uh, once he got my hand and pushed it down. Every time I ever came in contact whether over his clothes it was because he took my hand and put it there. I had, I, I guess I could call it, God this sounds so lame, like passive resistance, like I wasn't really, like cuz I'd already tried to pull away and it didn't work. It didn't matter I was gonna end up doing it anyway. So it was, I just (sigh) I just let it happen.

Nielsen Mmm...hmm.

[REDACTED] Um, um one of the things that happened after closer to the end. I emailed myself from my work email about incidents that happened. If I can find it, really quick. Um (looking for emails)...No. It's downloading. No, that's not it.

Nielsen Cute dog tough.

[REDACTED] Yeah. Um, I know I emailed myself did I delete it?

Nielsen You email yourself from the county?

[REDACTED] Yup.

Nielsen How long ago was that?

[REDACTED] Um, within the last um, within the last two months that I was at the jail before I left to go to the academy. I emailed myself from my work email to my personal email.

Nielsen What did the emails say?

[REDACTED] Um, cuz I started documenting it. Or I, I just documented it the one time because I didn't know what else to do. Um, I just sent the one email. I don't know why I didn't keep doing it. Um because uh, after it progressed and got to where it was um, he kept trying to push me to have sex with him in the tower. And, um, he'd bent me over the railing in the tower try...and unbuttoned and started to unzip my pants and tried to get my pants down and I pulled them back up really quick and

pushed away from him. That was after he'd like tried to get to that point a couple of times that he'd never gotten that far. And I'd always, I'd always, I never really yelled at him no. Or, I never got aggressive, I'd just walk away from him and like play cat and mouse around the fucking tower.

Nielsen Hmm...mmm.

[REDACTED] Uh, and after that where he actually tried to get my pants off cuz he was being serious. I (sigh)...

Nielsen I want to be a devil's advocate here for just a second. It's not that I don't believe you but...it's not that I don't believe you, no but, so to bend somebody over that that's those bars are kinda high aren't they?

[REDACTED] Um.

Nielsen Like waist level? At least they are to me, I'm shorter than you.

[REDACTED] God...

Nielsen I'm just trying to picture it [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Yeah, I, I know I know, I know. Um, they hit me like right on my hip, like right above, or right on my hip.

Nielsen Okay.

[REDACTED] God...I don't remember being like bent over it. I remember like being, angled over it I guess uh.

Nielsen And he got your pants unbuttoned?

[REDACTED] He got 'em unbuttoned.

Nielsen And you didn't resist him?

[REDACTED] I was holding the pole I think.

Nielsen Did you know what was going on at that point?

[REDACTED] Yeah, I was, I was aware. Um, I it uh...it'd be uh. He did come up there a couple more times after the whole incident where he was trying to um, or did put his finger in me. That had happened where he got that far twice and I pulled away. It was only there for like a couple seconds and I pulled away and do that. Cuz he, before that he would unbutton 'em and then I'd pull right away and do that right away. And then he got to that point once for a couple seconds and then he came back and then he'd keep trying to do it again and again and I'd keep pulling away

and fighting him back. And then he got to that point a second time after that, and he was there for a couple seconds longer. And then I pushed him away buttoned back up and I kept saying we're at work, told him he needed to go work um. And before that um, he'd been blocked off my Instagram again. After the time I had told uh, Deputy [REDACTED] about having him leave me alone again. I blocked him off Instagram. So we had zero contact outside of being at work after that. Like not even friendly conversation. Cuz my boyfriend got pissed that my, someone I worked with kept trying to talk to me. And he's a married man, why is he trying to talk to you? I said I don't know, I don't know anything (sigh). I lied straight to his face. Pulled away, he kept saying well can just once cuz you're getting ready to leave soon? I said no I don't want to.

Nielsen What was he talking about when he said just once?

[REDACTED] Uh, he wanted to have sex with me in the tower.

Nielsen Like, intercourse?

[REDACTED] Yeah.

Nielsen Okay. Did he ever say that to you?

[REDACTED] Oh yeah.

Nielsen How did he say it to you?

[REDACTED] Um, he would walk up behind me um as we were doing the cat and mouse thing where I was like walking away from him. Uh, trying to keep working um. He'd come up behind me and push me a little bit, over the cuz how the (sigh)...

Nielsen ...The boards?

[REDACTED] How the boards are angled he'd push me up against it while I was trying to like do stuff. Cuz with the slider doors people hit the buttons and popped in an out to use the restroom.

Nielsen Mmm...hmm.

[REDACTED] So they can have privacy uh. And he'd bend me over that, and that and grabbed my hips and thrust himself up against me. Say see how easy this would be, it just pull your pants down just a little bit, how easy this would be? It's like and I told him yeah it would probably be pretty easy but I don't want to. Um, and then I'd walk away and he'd come back up and do that again and wouldn't say anything.

Nielsen Was he aroused each time he did that?

[REDACTED] I would only feel it, yes, I want to say, because when he'd push himself into me is when I could feel it.

Nielsen Mmm...hmm.

[REDACTED] Cuz he's not very well endowed.

Nielsen Mmm...hmm.

[REDACTED] Um, and then some of the times that he would do that he'd grab my hand back, or one of my hands back and put it on there, and I'd pull it right back off. I could feel that stupid why, why would you pierce that? Ugh! Um...

Nielsen How many times you think that happened? Where he put you...where he'd come up behind you over the board and tell you how easy it would be to do it?

[REDACTED] That started to happen uh, towards the end where he I, it almost seemed like he felt like he was running out of time to be able to try and get in my pants before I was going to be leaving. Cuz I'd already already, tested already gone through all that and just waiting for my official word. Um, I just kept saying this is work and I don't want to do this. Walking away from him (sigh).

Nielsen What do you think would happen if you were still working there?

[REDACTED] I would have quit. I would either quit or ask for a transfer. If I couldn't get a transfer, I probably would have quit.

Nielsen So, something I have not asked you is, I want you to describe...you, you refer to the tower a bunch of times. And I know what it looks like. But for someone who might listen to this sometime and doesn't know what we're talking about could you describe that environment for me?

[REDACTED] Um, it's a very, very dark place cuz there's no lights turned on within the room. There's lights on the other side of windows turned on. Windows that lead into the pods that you can see, oversee the inmates on daily activities um. That's the only lighting really into the room unless you turn the lights on. Which you don't do cuz you don't want the inmates to see you through the through the windows.

Nielsen Why?

[REDACTED] Um, you don't want them to be able to see when you're up there cuz, I'm, or see where you are when you're up there cuz you don't want them to notice that you're

not there and do, something that they're not supposed to do because you're not looking.

Nielsen Okay.

[REDACTED] Like getting in a fight or something, I don't know.

Nielsen Is there anything special about the windows up there?

[REDACTED] Uh, the windows are, are uh, one way.

Nielsen Okay.

[REDACTED] Um, so I can see them but they're not able to see me unless there's light um illuminating which then they can see an outline or a shadow of where I am.

Nielsen Can anybody see what's going on up there?

[REDACTED] Um, if you're standing uh, right in front of a grate that's down uh, down uh a short little tiny flight of stairs, if you're standing right in front of that open grate it leads into the sally port where the deputies are, where the deputy office is, and they can look up and see if you're right there.

Nielsen Right by the grate?

[REDACTED] Yeah, right by the grate. But unless you're right by the grate or standing at a specific spot like right at the desk with your desk little lamp on, they're not really able to see anything else up there besides like right up there maybe. And then if you're right down at the grate. It's very, very hard to see anything up there um. Or, the other way you can see in there if you wanted to would be out the hallway. The the only way to get in to the tower, um, if you were to be on the other side of those doors. Uh, you could see just a little bit into there, but still then the the most of the tower you're not able to see.

Nielsen How would I get to that area?

[REDACTED] Um, you would either have to come in through, so say you were at the front desk um Master Control would have to pop you through the doors to get back to the upper hallways that lead you towards the modules, upstairs in the secured part of the facility where the inmates are not normally at. Except when they come the mai...the one's that are cleared to do maintenance, e like pick up trash and stuff out there. That happens at night. Um, so, these are secured hallways uh and up there you can either walk to, into a uh a contact room. Or, if you walk through the

other side it takes you into an attorney area and then if you walk through the next door you're in the um, tower. If you were to take way to the contact room it take, after you go through the contact room and to the next door you go down a flight of stairs and then you in the sally port, which gives you access to all the pods or the deputy office. Or, the other door leading back out to another hallway that goes underneath the hallway you just came in. Um and the secured area of the facility where the inmates are going from place to place, as in courts or programs or whatever you need to do.

Nielsen So, if you were in the tower working, and someone coming through the hall or coming from the deputy's office would you be able to see them coming?

[REDACTED] I can see them, but they're not able to see me.

Nielsen So from inside the tower, you can see what's...

[REDACTED] ...I can see people coming in the upper hallway...

Nielsen Hmm...mmm.

[REDACTED] I can see people when they're at the lower hallway's door, through the window if they're standing in front of the window um. If I kneel down, cuz it's at an awkward angle um. But like I said unless you're right the grate or on the other side of thos,e uh windowed doors upstairs you can't see in to the tower at all.

Nielsen Okay. So, you could it's a tower is is what is that? What is that?

[REDACTED] Um, it's a place where you go to observe inmates from, I guess essentially a safe location where they can't get to you unless you pop them through doors.

Nielsen Hmm...mmm. You have to take an elevator there, or is there stairs?

[REDACTED] Uh, there's stairs, uh I believe there's an elevator in one of the other modules but not in uh the module I was in.

Nielsen Okay. Um, when you and Sgt. Benson had these encounters in the tower was it always um, up in the view of the windows? Or was there any other options like downstairs or?

[REDACTED] Um, he never approached me when I'd go down to the grates and would be ining in front of the grates, which I would do sometimes because I wanted him to go away.

Nielsen Mmm...hmm.

[REDACTED] Uh, he'd stay up where um, he never stood to close to the desk while the lamp was on cuz he didn't want the deputies to be able to look up and see him. He'd stand back and away.

Nielsen Did he ever tell you that's why he didn't stand there?

[REDACTED] No, he would just be staring down at the grate when people would be talking to me through it. So, when the deputies would uh fuck...um.

Nielsen What's wrong?.

[REDACTED] When the deputies would I was gonna (unintelligible) it out cuz I'm trying to think uh...the deputies would come to the grate down below, um, and talk to me through it cuz they were about to go to a pod or something. Uh, he would back away from me and stand back over in the corner like where it was darker.

Nielsen Hmm...mmm.

[REDACTED] So they wouldn't be able to see him.

Nielsen He never told you that's why he was doing it, you just observed that on your own?

[REDACTED] I just observed it on my own. It was obvious what he was doing.

Nielsen Okay.

[REDACTED] He didn't want people to know he was up there. I didn't want people to know he was up there unless they were gonna get him the hell out of there.

Nielsen Hmm...mmm.

[REDACTED] Cuz I didn't want people to think that I was doing anything with him. I didn't want people to think of me that way.

Nielsen Do you think you were doing anything with him?

[REDACTED] (Long pause)...I was just afraid that people would think that I was coming on to him.

Nielsen Even if you were, do you think it's okay what happened?

[REDACTED] No.

Nielsen Why?

[REDACTED] Cuz he's my boss.

Nielsen Have you done CRS yet?

[REDACTED] What do you mean?

Nielsen Have you gone to through the u,m law class yet? Colorado Revised Statutes Laws?

[REDACTED] Uh yes ma'am.

Nielsen What's that?

[REDACTED] Yes, yes ma'am.

Nielsen Do you think anything that happened with you, would fit in any kind of the uh laws being broken?

[REDACTED] Up to a certain point, yes.

Nielsen What do you mean up to a certain point?

[REDACTED] Um, after I started to feel like I had let it go so long, um I felt like nobody would believe me.

Nielsen Mmm...hmm.

[REDACTED] I didn't really fight back any more.

Nielsen What about today and looking back, looking back at what happened. Do you think there's a violation of law there?

[REDACTED] Um (long pause). Um, since I left the jail and started working there besides um, him sending me that on my not private uh Instagram page cuz I made the second one for my truck. I didn't know how he found it, I guess you can just search my name I don't know how all that works. I'm newer to Instagram.

Nielsen Mmm...hmm.

[REDACTED] Um, uh.

Nielsen Not since then, but during the timeframe?

[REDACTED] The only thing was I, I saw him, like at [REDACTED] cuz he came out cuz he's an instructor out there which I did not know. I never bothered to ask. I think he probably told me but I didn't remember, and I saw him out there and I was grossed out.

Nielsen Mmm...hmm.

[REDACTED] And I avoided him. I avoided talking to him. And he would come over, cuz he's there for firearms. He'd check, he'd pick up my gun after somebody else had already looked at it, and he was trying to show me something kinda smiling at me. I just felt uncomfortable.

Nielsen Mmm...hmm.

[REDACTED] He never said anything in appropriate or anything like that. He winked, he winked at me once while he was there and I rolled my eyes at him and left it alone. One of the other cadets asked me um, if I was okay and what the deal was. And I told her that he had come on to me before.

Nielsen Who was that?

[REDACTED] Uh, Cadet [REDACTED]

Nielsen [REDACTED] Does she work for us or somebody else?

[REDACTED] Uh, someone else.

Nielsen Do you know who?

[REDACTED] Oh God, now I feel like a bad friend. Uh...

Nielsen ...Laughter.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED].

Nielsen Okay.

[REDACTED] We've talked about it a zillion times but I don't know why I'm drawing a blank right now.

Nielsen When you guys were in the tower and he put his in your pants and you pulled out and told him no, do you think that violated any kind of statute?

[REDACTED] I guess, yeah.

Nielsen Okay. I think it might have too.

[REDACTED] Oh.

Nielsen Would you like to do anything with that?

[REDACTED] No, honestly I just want this all to go away. But it's not gonna go away.

Nielsen So, it's not gonna go away as far as I'm concerned. But you do have the option if you want to press charges.

[REDACTED] No, I don't. I don't. I don't wanna press charges.

Nielsen Okay. You don't want to press charges? You said you just want this to go away. It's gonna go away.

[REDACTED] I just want it to go away. I just want it to go away I don't wanna have to see his face, I don't want, but I know I'm gonna have to.

Nielsen Well you're not. You're not gonna have to see his face. So, what I'm gonna ask you we're gonna wrap things up here is uh to not talk to anybody about this.

[REDACTED] No. You don't have to worry about that cuz...

Nielsen ...Including him.

[REDACTED] No. Like I said I don't, he's still to this day does not have my phone number to my knowledge cause he's never uh tried to call me or contact me on my uh like through text message or the phone call.

Nielsen Hmm...mmm.

[REDACTED] Um, I mean he has the possibility of having access to it because it's record, Adams County record.

Nielsen Sure.

[REDACTED] Um, but I've never, he's asked me for my number before and I've never given it to him. I never wanted that kind of contact. The only time we've had contact outside of work is when he's added, and I had to accept cuz he....

Nielsen ...Hang on for a second. Finish up with what you were saying, about the records.

[REDACTED] Um, I'm sorry um...

Nielsen ...About your number, and you didn't have to contact him.

[REDACTED] Oh, the only time we ever had contact outside of work is when he hit me up on Instagram and I eventually blocked him from there, um, and that was it. And then he messaged me after seeing me at the, so leaving from the uh fair. I had apparently parked right next to his truck. I didn't know it was his truck and he pulled out and was standing there with his wife, talking to his wife. Um, I got in my truck as they were there and you know waited to back out because he was kinda blocking me. And, um we ended up side by side cuz he was turning. So we're on 120th heading westbound right before you go over the bridge um. Yeah right, yeah right after you go over the bridge to that stoplight right there at uh, that would be Sable and 120th.

Nielsen Mmm...hmm.

[REDACTED] And he was gonna turn uh left and I was gonna turn right to go back to the Government Center cuz I had just had my lunch break to go up there. And, we

made eye contact cuz I, cuz I was passing him cuz he was ahead of me and I was passing him. And I looked over and he went (inaudible).

Nielsen Mmm...hmm.

[REDACTED] And I rolled my eyes and just went about my way.

Nielsen Okay.

[REDACTED] And then, he sent me that.

Nielsen Okay.

[REDACTED] I just un, I just accepted the request for him to message me on there just so I could see what he had sent me to show you.

Nielsen Okay. We're gonna take another break we're just about done okay? Um it is about 1515 (3:15pm) be about 5-10 minutes.

[REDACTED] Okay.

Nielsen I'm not gonna lie to you. The Undersheriff knows that this is going on so I'm gonna go chat with him about it.

[REDACTED] Okay.

Nielsen And, then I will come back. Feel free to get yourself some water or something.

[REDACTED] Okay.

Nielsen And whatever refresh...there's some cold bottled water in the fridge, Judy can help you to it. It's 1515.

End of conversation

Typed: 10/02/2018

jmn

Nielsen: Commander Susan Nielsen, Adams County Sheriff's Office
Baessler: HR Manager Jennifer Baessler, Adams County Sheriff's Office
[REDACTED] Cadet [REDACTED] Adams County Sheriff's Office

Nielsen We're back on. It is 1325. So I wanted to talk to you about a few things. You talked several times about how you felt like you were trapped in the tower and how you walked around and he followed you around.

[REDACTED] Like a lost puppy.

Nielsen Okay. Um, did he ever tell you that he was gonna do anything if you didn't let him touch you?

[REDACTED] No.

Nielsen Did he ever give you the indication that he was going to?

[REDACTED] No.

Nielsen Why did you feel that way? Cuz you said that you said eventually that he's your boss and he could fire you right?

[REDACTED] Yeah.

Nielsen Did he well how did you get that indication?

[REDACTED] I had said no so many times and pushed him away so many times. And told a mutual friend to ask him to leave me alone and stop flirting with me, twice. And, he just I never I felt like he was never gonna go away. That he was never gonna stop no matter what I did. So, I might as well make it the least impact like the least amount of impact on myself as possible.

Nielsen Mmm...hmm. So, When he followed you around and you were in the tower can you put a word how that might have felt to you?

[REDACTED] How it might have what...

Nielsen ...Like how you felt, like. You said it before that you felt trapped that you couldn't go anywhere right?

[REDACTED] Yeah.

Nielsen But, is there a reason that you might have been trapped besides physical obvious reasons the doors were locked?

[REDACTED] I can't leave the tower unless a person comes up there to take over for me.

Nielsen But anything like his presence that made you feel that way?

[REDACTED] It made me not want to come to work.

Nielsen Sure.

[REDACTED] I love my job.

Nielsen Did you feel threatened at all ever? Cuz you say you love your job.

[REDACTED] He never made any threats about firing me or anything like that. That's just what I, I felt cuz it was so inappropriate and, I told him so many time we're at work...we're at work...we're at work. I said that at least every single time he came up there.

Nielsen Did you ever see him do anything retaliatory against anybody, any other employee where you thought well he's been this way towards this person he could be this way towards me too?

[REDACTED] Um, the incident where he was trying to share with me more than I wanted to know because I don't, I didn't want ever to be called in here to talk to anyone in IA. I was trying to avoid this ever from happening, as much as I could obviously. Um, um, there was an incident uh that that the situation he kept trying to talk to me about involved a female deputy um well ended up involving a couple more female deputies, but at the time I think it only involved the one female deputy and two male deputies. Or, one male deputy and one um DS that had been let go. And I'm sure you know exactly what I'm talking about.

Nielsen Mmm...hmm.

[REDACTED] Uh that's why your eyebrows are raised like that um. And uh, talked about uh, how he didn't believe her and she's always caused problems the whole time she's been with the agency and duh duh duh duh duh duh. And how he didn't want to have to uh take it over because oh what did he say...All I remember is, he never, it never seemed like he even looked into it. He just automatically took the side of the male side. Which to be completely fair, um I knew these individuals um, I knew what was going on for the most part and I didn't take sides over the first incident that happened with the DS cuz I wasn't there I don't know anything you know for a fact what happened.

Nielsen What about Sgt. Benson's behavior in that incident made you think that could be retaliatory or?

[REDACTED] Um, he was super relaxed um asked me if he, if he could could talk to me about it. Asked me if I could keep a secret and I was like I'm not gonna outta my way to tell anybody anything. But I don't really want to know.

Nielsen Hmm...mmm.

[REDACTED] He's all like I kinda want to talk to somebody. And I was like okay I guess you can talk to me um. And he said something about she she's gotta go um. Just another crazy female deputy. Like the little snarky comments that I, I was picking up on well, uh while I was still trying to work cuz this is the middle of the day. I like, I'm, I'm, the inmates are out I'm busy like I'm taking phone calls, I'm doing all my regular DS duties while he's talking. This, I think this conversation was after the lunch period? Cuz I just remember that inmates were out so it was either right before lunch or right after lunch. And, which lunch happens between 12:00 and 3:00 so everybody can have an hour for lunch um. He just seemd like he had picked a side on the matter previous to knowing any facts. Cuz he wasn't the starting person on it, it was Sgt. [REDACTED] And that he was upset that it got put over to him because he didn't feel like the guys did anything wrong and he felt like she was just making it up and. I just remember feeling again, that he was that stereotypical male persona that you know, people present whenever they're trying to prove a point on why men are evil, uh.

Nielsen Who presents that point?

[REDACTED] Um, sorry I was thinking about like recent politics with those stupid pink hats. Those people. The people I don't think are very smart so when when they talk about this this stereotypical male I'm being sarcastic. I don't think, didn't think that that type of man existed but here he comes mister uh, Sgt. Benson and he fits that that mold, I guess.

Nielsen Did you ever any time think that if you did not cooperate with him and him coming on to you...

[REDACTED] ...I felt like if I would have said something, then it would have been turned on me and I would have been let go.

Nielsen Okay, and you thought he had the power to do that?

[REDACTED] I knew that he had had instances before that involved other women where he got away scott free. And he obviously got away scott free cuz now he's in the position to become a sergeant. So obviously and that his, his daddy got him out of trouble and duh duh duh duh duh duh duh.

Nielsen Okay. Did he tell you that?

[REDACTED] Um, those were rumors that had been around.

Nielsen So, just rumors?

[REDACTED] Yeah.

Nielsen Okay. He never made any threat to you about getting you fired or getting an IA?

[REDACTED] He never made any threats to me, he never did that.

Nielsen Okay.

[REDACTED] It was, he was just uh, no he never made any threats to me um, I felt like I couldn't do anything which I guess isn't his fault? It's mine.

Nielsen Well how's that? So how, how is that?

[REDACTED] Looking back at it now, if I...

Nielsen ...He's your boss.

[REDACTED] I knew that if I would've gotten myself into a situation that would've got me here that I wouldn't be allowed to go on to where I wanted to go. And if I I thought that if I got there and then I'm underneath his dad that somehow I'd fuck up some type of way that it would be turned around to where I wouldn't have a job anymore.

Nielsen So you think his dad would have got in on it?

[REDACTED] I don't know, I didn't feel safe in in being able to talk about it to anybody.

Nielsen Okay.

[REDACTED] I didn't wanna tell anybody at work because I knew that they'd say something about it and that I'd be forced to talk about it like right now and I don't want to.

Nielsen Yeah.

[REDACTED] Um.

Nielsen So, I have to tell you that some representatives from our Detective Division have been watching this interview. I didn't know that until just, until I went out there.

[REDACTED] Hmm...mmm.

Nielsen Um, and there's some different opinions as to where this should go from my office. I mean, I'm gonna do the investigation as far as Internal Affairs goes.

[REDACTED] So, I've been being watched this whole time that's awesome.

Nielsen Yes ma'am. But that's traditionally what we do anyway, we record especially amongst in my office.

[REDACTED] So this has been being recorded.

Nielsen Hmm...mmm. Yeah there's cameras up there.

[REDACTED] I thought you said it was just being recorded right there.

Nielsen No, I flipped the switch on earlier.

[REDACTED] Oh.

Nielsen Um, anyway so the Detective Division has been here a couple of guys have been up here watching. Not the whole division. And the opinion is that, and I agree, that you have the power right now to stop this behavior.

[REDACTED] Hmm...mmm.

Nielsen Um, what he did he, he's your boss.

[REDACTED] Hmm...mmm.

Nielsen He used his position and you were somewhat coerced into participating in some activities that you didn't, you said you didn't want to participate in.

[REDACTED] No.

Nielsen Uh, which is against the law. And if you don't do anything about it, who's gonna be the next victim [REDACTED] Who, Who's that gonna be? You know you're just beginning your career and when you're at the time point in your career where I'm at, you can look back and go, yeah I stopped that guy from victimizing anybody else. Or, you can look back and go I wish I would have stopped that guy because he's on the news. Do you want him being a cop somewhere else if he makes it through this? Do you want him to be a cop where he can go victimize other people? Who knows what's happening to women he's been with on the streets, if anything. I can't say anything has like saying it hasn't. So what you asked me before is like would you have to testify. In this, in Internal Affairs stuff, you, you'd be done. But I really really think that we we need to consider going down

the criminal route in this. And then yes, you would have to probably testify. And I probably would to because I interviewed you. So we'd be there together.

[REDACTED] How could this even go criminal I...

Nielsen Because he broke the law.

[REDACTED] How, what.

Nielsen Unlawful sexual contact, maybe sexual assault.

[REDACTED] If I went that route people in my life would know about it, I would...

Nielsen Well only if, only if you told them. I mean you, I'm not gonna tell them. We don't publish that stuff. It's public information yes, but you have to know that you need to look for it.

[REDACTED] Any one of my coworkers would be able to pull it up if they wanted to.

Nielsen No.

[REDACTED] It's public information.

Nielsen No, I know. So the reports we have the capability of locking reports out and nobody can pull them up. Nobody can look at them.

[REDACTED] I didn't feel like I could stop it when it was happening. But looking back at it now, I had every opportunity to stop it and it's it's my fault that it happened. This isn't...

Nielsen Well, it's not your fault. I'm not gonna argue with you. I can't change the way you feel and I'm not gonna try to change the way you feel. I don't have those kind of licenses. It's not, it's not your fault. What I'm asking you to do is take a look at the future if you can.

[REDACTED] That's what I'm worried about.

Nielsen Not just your future but other, other women who encounter him. You told me yourself that you heard about his past behavior. So if if we don't stop it he's just going to continue right? Cuz he's continued up to you. You know I'm not sure that that the case isn't going to get filed anyway and then you know.

[REDACTED] What do you mean isn't going to get filed?

Nielsen Well they can always present the case to the District Attorney.

[REDACTED] So whether I want to or not?

Nielsen I'm not saying that. I'm not going to force you to do anything.

[REDACTED] (Inaudible).

Nielsen I just want you to think about it. You know think about you know the impact you could have on someone else's future that you don't even know, or you might know. There's always gonna be more conversations about this with people that make more money than I do probably. Higher ranked than I do and their smarter than me.

[REDACTED] No.

Nielsen I mean I can guarantee you what's gonna happen in Internal Affairs, I guarantee that.

[REDACTED] What's that?

Nielsen We're gonna investigate this. We're gonna interview people, and we're gonna adjudicate the case. And we're not gonna talk about it with anybody that doesn't need to know. If you hear from him between now and whatever he he...

[REDACTED] ...I I had to allow that message to cuz on the the message with the stupid little movie face um...

Nielsen Mmm...hmm.

[REDACTED] ...So the page is is public so he can follow it.

Nielsen Mmm...hmm.

[REDACTED] Because he can.

Nielsen It's on Instagram right now?

[REDACTED] Yeah. And I didn't I honestly didn't realize that he my truck page. And I honestly didn't realize that he had followed it because I have a whole bunch of people on there that I don't know.

Nielsen You can block him on that right?

[REDACTED] Yeah I can.

Nielsen Okay.

[REDACTED] And I'm going to.

Nielsen And and if he reaches out to you in any other way...

[REDACTED] ...And then so that was just on the (inaudible) so.

Nielsen Yeah.

[REDACTED] ...I I just didn't look at the message. I didn't want to see what it said but I wanted to look at it before I I let it go.

Nielsen He's not gonna need he's not gonna know that we talked to you until he needs to know.

[REDACTED] (Sigh).

Nielsen And I'll be straight up with you and you'll have the opportunity to come review this case um when it's over.

[REDACTED] Yeah. So he's gonna be able to watch the video that's...oh God.

Nielsen And he's gonna be able to see what he did to you. He's gonna be able to see how he made you feel. He's gonna be able to look at your face as you're talking to me. He's gonna be able to see all of that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (Sigh).

Nielsen So what do you think if if it were to go that way would you be willing to cooperate with that?

[REDACTED] I don't...uh.

Nielsen I know you don't want to but would you be willing to?

[REDACTED] What do you mean?

Nielsen Well you know they might want to sit down, so they might want to sit down with you and get some more information. I don't know that I mean I've probably covered it pretty well with you um.

[REDACTED] Would I ever have to talk about this again, ever...ever...

Nielsen ...It would be a subpoena in court where you might have to testify.

[REDACTED] (Heavy sigh).

Nielsen We just need you just want to know if you would cooperate with that. And you're a police officer; you're about to be a police officer. Testifying in court's part of your job (inaudible).

[REDACTED] Yeah no that doesn't bother me at all because...

Nielsen ...Even as a victim sometimes right cuz cops get assaulted and they have to go testify and talk about the impact and I mean all kinds of bad things happen.

[REDACTED] ...That's fine. This is something I allowed to happen to me though it's just gonna me look bad.

Nielsen No, I disagree with you. I don't think you look bad. I don't think you look bad for a second. I think what you told me about Sgt. Benson makes him look really bad but I don't think you look bad. And I'm just a Commander, I'm not a judge I'm not a jury.

[REDACTED] I just want this to go away.

Nielsen Yeah. You're gonna see yourself a million times when you hit the street [REDACTED] People saying exactly what you're saying. So think about it okay? And if you want to talk about it you can call me, you can call Jennifer. Jennifer's probably gonna be able to hook you up maybe with some counseling. You can talk to a counselor.

Baessler (Inaudible).

Nielsen You gotta get this off your plate.

[REDACTED] It was until now.

Nielsen No it wasn't, it was in that box. You said you to take shit out, it was still there it was just in a box bursting to come out. It was obvious when you sat down at this table that you had something you needed to talk to use about. About the first three minutes of our interview I knew that you had something to tell me.

[REDACTED] Cuz it was the first thing that popped in my head...

Nielsen ...Right.

[REDACTED] ...As soon as soon as they said that IA wanted to talk to me.

Nielsen Yup.

[REDACTED] Then when I was talking to the person who drove me here um I was like I have no idea what it's about you know.

Nielsen Mmm...hmm.

[REDACTED] Maybe it's about one of the fights I saw or something they go yeah that's usually what it's about especially if you didn't get a letter. And I was like, yeah I didn't get a letter or anything.

Nielsen Remember the first thing you told me when we were sitting in my office waiting for Jennifer?

[REDACTED] Yeah.

Nielsen What was it?

[REDACTED] Oh gosh.

Nielsen You said I didn't do anything wrong. Remember that?

[REDACTED] Yeah.

Nielsen Right. So keep that in mind okay?

[REDACTED] I feel like I did. I feel filthy.

Nielsen You didn't.

[REDACTED] I feel.

Nielsen You didn't do anything wrong.

[REDACTED] God.

Nielsen So, probably Commander...

[REDACTED] ...I don't want to lose my job.

Nielsen You're not gonna lose your job, no way. I can promise you you're not gonna lose your job because of anything that we talked about today. I would stake my life on it.

[REDACTED] That's the reason this happened is because I'm afraid of losing my job.

Nielsen That's what you said. But you're not. You know and for the future you know that you can come straight to IA, you can come straight to HR or the Sheriff, or the Undersheriff or the Commander or a Chief. You can anybody about these things. And there's not retaliation. There's no talking about it. There's only dealing with it. Okay, remember that? And and you could always come to me. My cell phone is on my business card you can call me anytime. And I'll make sure you have that before you leave. So think about the whole other side and and I'll let Commander [REDACTED] know that you and I have talked about that and let him know that he can contact you and talk about it with you further. Okay?

[REDACTED] I don't want to press any charges. I don't wanna have to ever talk about this again.

Nielsen Okay.

[REDACTED] I didn't want to talk about it today.

Nielsen And, I 'll I'll let him know that's your stance.

[REDACTED] I just want to act like it never happened.

Nielsen Unfortunately, [REDACTED] things happen to us in our lives that I would...there's things that happened to me in my life that I wish that never happened. And I wish

I could just wash off the slate and you can't. You know when I was your age I didn't deal with a lot of stuff I should have dealt with and I'm dealing with it now. I'm not kidding. Okay? Do you have any questions? I'm sure you have a million of them.

[REDACTED] Um, is there anything I can do to not have to ever talk about this again?

Nielsen I can't promise you that.

[REDACTED] We just went through all the classes on how these interviews go and everything like that.

Nielsen Yeah. On Internal Affairs interviews?

[REDACTED] No, not necessarily.

Nielsen Or just interviews in general?

[REDACTED] Like forensic interviews.

Nielsen Uh huh.

[REDACTED] We just had the DA instructor.

Nielsen I'm gonna have Commander [REDACTED] follow up with you in a few days okay? I'm gonna let this sink in and let you think about it. Like I said don't you know...

[REDACTED] ...I just don't want to be put in a situation where I have to talk to anybody about this as far as my personal life or anybody at work to know about...

Nielsen No one at work is gonna know, I know. They can talk to me and I'll tell them all day what you told me as long as it's within policy & procedure and the law. You told me the story. You told Jennifer the story. Okay?

[REDACTED] I'm just I know people are gonna look me different cuz I know it's gonna get out and (inaudible).

Nielsen What would you say if I told you it's not just you [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] What do you mean?

Nielsen That's all I'm gonna say. But what if what if that were the case?

[REDACTED] Honestly as fucked up as it sounds I'd probably feel better. I wouldn't feel like such a fucking idiot.

Nielsen It's not just you.

[REDACTED] Yeah, but you're just telling me that to make me feel better.

Nielsen I don't lie. I don't lie. I don't make stuff up. It's not just you.

[REDACTED] I don't know what that means and I.

Nielsen That's exactly what it means.

[REDACTED] So there's someone else within Adams County, County worker that has had interaction with him?

Nielsen Yes.

[REDACTED] That's been inappropriate?

Nielsen That's all I'm gonna say. You're not the only one.

[REDACTED] I...

Nielsen ...I can't say anymore [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] But someone else...oh God no...how do I get across what I'm saying. I want to say um.

Nielsen So remember I I told you that I heard through the grapevine that something happened with you?

[REDACTED] Hmm...mmm.

Nielsen Do you think that this the grapevine came to me and told me that?

[REDACTED] I wanna know who told you that.

Nielsen You're not gonna know.

[REDACTED] I wanna know so bad.

Nielsen You're not gonna know. But just know...

[REDACTED] ...And now I know you're gonna talk to Deputy [REDACTED] and I don't wanna lose him as a friend cuz he thinks I'm a snitch or something.

Nielsen You know we can we can pose that to him that you didn't have an option to come talk to me.

[REDACTED] I didn't.

Nielsen You didn't. You didn't. Don't worry about that part.

[REDACTED] That's all I worry about I don't (inaudible).

Nielsen Don't worry about that part. I'll cover that for you. Okay?

[REDACTED] Okay.

Nielsen Closing the (inaudible) 1550.

End of conversation

Case Number: 2018-32

Interview of: Cadet [REDACTED] (Video 3)

Page 13

Typed: 10/03/2018

Jmn