IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA IN AND FOR PASCO COUNTY CASE NO. 2014CF005586CFAXWS-3

STATE OF FLORIDA,

Plaintiff,

-VS-

:

ADAM MATOS,

:

Defendant.

PROCEEDINGS: MOTION TO CONTINUE/MOTION TO COMPEL

BEFORE: HONORABLE MARY HANDSEL

Circuit Judge

DATE: July 27, 2017

PLACE TAKEN: Pasco County Government Center

7530 Little Road

New Port Richey, FL 34654

REPORTED BY: Maria A. Fortner, RPR

Notary Public

State of Florida at Large

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1 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S 2 THE COURT: Are you ready for Matos? Do you 3 want to go ahead and do Matos real quick? MR. SARABIA: Sure, Judge. 5 THE COURT: Not that it's going to be quick, 6 but it will get half these people out of my 7 courtroom. At least it will look like I have less 8 people to do. 9 All right. We're here on Adam Matos. 10 this is 14-5586. 11 Are we going to bring Mr. Matos out? 12 THE BAILIFF: He's on his way up. It will 13 take a moment. 14 THE COURT: We can put him straight to the 15 podium. 16 (Defendant Present.) 17 THE COURT: Hi, Mr. Matos. How are you? 18 THE DEFENDANT: Good. How are you doing? 19 THE COURT: Good. You've come over on a day 20 that we weren't normally set. They asked me to set 21 this between the last time I saw you and the next 22 time I'm supposed to see you. So that's why you're 23 here. 24 I don't know if your lawyers have had an 25 opportunity to talk to you a lot about it, but they filed a motion to continue, we're going to talk about that; and then the State moved the hearing that we had set for next week up so that you don't have to come two times in like ten days. Okay?

THE DEFENDANT: Okay.

THE COURT: So we're going to do one and then we'll do the other. Okay?

We'll proceed with the Defense's motion to continue first. I did receive a copy of it.

Defense?

MR. LIVERMORE: Yes, ma'am. One of the reasons we're here this early as opposed to closer to the trial date is because of all of the planning and the number of witnesses and the jurors being impaneled.

We have a number of issues, and there's probably one more that is not listed on here. The first issue that's not listed is the fact that we still don't have jury instructions. I don't know what the status of that is. I know that the Supreme Court proposed a set. The rules or the instructions committee proposed another set and as far as I know neither one of them has been approved yet. So we are at that point where we don't have any instructions.

Additionally, there's still a pending -- we have an expert who we have retained to determine, if they can, the competency of the son We have three witnesses that are currently -- two of them are listed by the State who currently we have been unable to locate, the third possible penalty witness that is now gone missing too. And I just found out that the witness listed by the State in Kansas is now being uncooperative. That deposition is set for next week.

So in light of those factors we're asking the Court to continue it at this point to avoid a whole lot of problems as far as we waited until the last minute to move.

THE COURT: State?

MR. SARABIA: Judge, first I'll address the things they put in their motion. I would note they mentioned the defendant's mother and being out of contact with defendant's mother.

The defendant has had a face-to-face conversation with his mother as recently as July 13th of this year. So this month. What's that, two weeks ago? I believe she was with his brother and sister-in-law. I think they're living in Texas. She was relaying that I think she was going

back to wherever she lives in California, mentioning people that she associates with there, and that was only two weeks ago.

THE COURT: Was this on jail calls?

MR. SARABIA: Yes. On the jail FaceTime conversations.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. LIVERMORE: She was also in contact with defendant on July 4th, so twice within the same month, and we are here, it's only July 27th.

So clearly within that time we've all known about the trial. She appears to be very loving towards Mr. Matos in wanting to help Mr. Matos. So I can't imagine that she's going to dodge the defense team if they have attempted to procure her or are aware of the situation. So I don't think that that is a valid reason for a continuance.

I'm not sure who the two witnesses are they're talking about. I think that they should put that on the record, because it is possible that we've had contact with them. We've talked to a lot of the witnesses just in the past five to seven days.

THE COURT: Witnesses, Defense, that we're talking of the two guilt phase witnesses.

MR. LIVERMORE: The guilt phase witness that

1 we have been unable to contact is Mr. Engram. 2 THE COURT: Mr. Engram? 3 MR. LIVERMORE: James Engram, yes. THE COURT: Okay. 5 I don't think he would be a MR. SARABIA: 6 quilt phase witness. I think he would be more of a 7 penalty phase witness. MR. LIVERMORE: Well, they listed him, and 8 9 they listed a conversation he had. 10 MR. SARABIA: He is a listed witness. He has 11 had conversations with Mr. Matos over his 12 incarceration. Since he wasn't listed, I didn't go 13 looking for him on the phone calls. 14 I know Mr. Matos has been in communication 15 with him while in custody. Mr. Engram also seems 16 sympathetic to Mr. Matos. So my recollection is 17 that he was living in Pennsylvania. 18 I was unable to prepare for that witness since 19 he wasn't listed in the motion, but I'm sure with a 20 little bit of leg work he could be located. We can 21 certainly attempt that. And I still don't know who 22 the second witness is. 23 MR. LIVERMORE: The person is a possible 24 penalty witness. We haven't been able to find him. 25 So I'm not in a position to list him at this point.

THE COURT: Well, you said there's two quilt 1 2 phase witnesses, and one penalty phase witness his 3 mother. MR. LIVERMORE: Right. Well, mother is also a listed witness. Those are the two listed 5 6 witnesses, Engram and mother. 7 THE COURT: Okay. So Engram and the mother is 8 the guilt phase witnesses you're talking about? 9 MR. LIVERMORE: Right. 10 THE COURT: And mother is also the penalty 11 phase witness you're talking about? 12 MR. LIVERMORE: Correct. Correct. THE COURT: Okay. All right. So we've 13 14 already heard about the mother and we just heard 15 about Mr. Engram. 16 All right. And then the jury instructions. 17 State, what else? 18 MR. SARABIA: Judge, it says Defendant has 19 retained an expert to evaluate whether the 20 defendant's son is competent to testify in this 21 case and is waiting the result of the evaluation. 22 I had contact with the child's guardian within 23 the past three hours, maybe four hours. They don't 24 know anything about this. No one has contacted 25 them about it. There's been nothing set up with

the Defense. So this is the first that I've heard about that.

I don't know how they would intend to do that and whether they would even be allowed to do that. I don't think that the guardian would be very excited to let that happen.

And certainly it doesn't appear to be a reason to continue the trial. If the witness is able to testify competently at trial like any child witness, then we expect that he will testify. If he is not, then I'm sure that the Court will not allow him to testify.

THE COURT: Is he even listed as a witness?

MR. SARABIA: He has been listed as a witness
and he was deposed by Mr. Hendry I want to say a
year and a half ago.

THE COURT: Oh, okay.

MR. SARABIA: And I would note that he said that his father killed his mother. So that is not new information.

THE COURT: Okay. I was interested in this one too, because I didn't know if the child had ever been listed or if the child was deposed, but those two things got answered.

So I don't even understand this witness to

1 determine whether a child is competent when the 2 child has already been deposed by the Public 3 Defender's Office. MR. LIVERMORE: Well, the deposition is what 5 we're using to determine whether or not -- the 6 child has autism spectrum disorder, and we have an 7 expert in autism who is evaluating the deposition. 8 When we're done with that, we may try to have 9 him evaluated personally by the doctor. 10 everybody is going to object and we've got to fight 11 that later, but right now I'm waiting on the 12 results of the review of what we do have in public 13 record of him, of the child. 14 THE COURT: Well, number one: State, are you 15 putting this child on the witness stand in this 16 trial? 17 MR. SARABIA: We will be evaluating that up 18 until the trial. If he's competent to testify, if 19 we feel he's competent, then absolutely. 20 THE COURT: But we don't have anything that's 21 saying he's incompetent at this time? 22 MR. SARABIA: Correct. 23 THE COURT: Okav. 24 MR. SARABIA: There has never been, to my 25 knowledge, any kind of indication --

1 THE COURT: When was he deposed? MR. LIVERMORE: Don Hendry was still in the 2 3 office then. THE COURT: Right. So over a year. 5 MR. LIVERMORE: It was a while ago. 6 THE COURT: Almost a year. 7 MR. LIVERMORE: Correct. 8 MR. SARABIA: I want to say it was in mid to 9 late 2015. 10 THE COURT: Okay. 11 MR. LABRUZZO: No. It had to be before 12 April of 2015. 13 MR. SARABIA: No? 14 MR. LABRUZZO: 2016. THE COURT: So sometime 2015, before April of 15 16 2016, right? 17 MR. SARABIA: Correct. I may be able to pull 18 that up for you quickly, Judge. 19 THE COURT: All right. State, anything else? 20 It's a while ago. You don't have to have an 21 exact date for me. 22 MR. SARABIA: In terms of the jury 23 instructions, Judge, the jury instructions for 24 murder haven't change to my knowledge for many, 25 many years.

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We're all dealing with a new death penalty statute, but I think that the law and the Supreme Court were very clear on what the law is in that regard.

And even if we don't have form jury instructions, I think that the Court would easily be able to instruct the jury on what the proper legal tests are for them to go through.

THE COURT: Well, if we go to trial on September 18, we will be the ninth murder case to go in this circuit under the new law. So I can guarantee you I will have instructions that have been used and tweaked and looked at and reviewed by both — both by the Public Defender's Office, because there's a case next week set for trial, a resentencing that they are using jury instructions that have been promulgated by the jury instruction committee, and they have been approved through the Public Defender's Office, and everybody agreed to them and they're going to trial next week.

So they are going to have a two-week trial with these jury instructions that you say we don't have. So other people in your office are using jury instructions.

MR. LIVERMORE: Well, I haven't had that

confirmed yet whether they are agreeing, but I do know that the Supreme Court has not approved them. And if everybody wants to take that chance, then that's the thing.

We're doing this motion now --

THE COURT: I understand.

MR. LIVERMORE: -- so, you know, we have it early enough that nobody has to prepare.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. LIVERMORE: If we want to ram it through, then we'll go through it.

THE COURT: Well, I'm not ramming anything through. As I indicated, by the time we go to trial in September and by the time we get to jury instructions on the death penalty part, that's not even saying that we'll get to there. So first we've got to get there.

MR. LIVERMORE: Uh-huh.

THE COURT: First we have to have a guilt phase. And if he's found guilty, which he sits here as an innocent person, the State has to prove his guilt, by the time we get there, if we get there, we will be the ninth case in the circuit to go that I know of, it might be more by that time just in our circuit, not in any other circuit, and

my understanding is that we'll have jury instructions by the end of August.

MR. LIVERMORE: Okay.

THE COURT: Or so I was told. And so I'm not too concerned about the jury instruction part of it. If I was the first one to go, I might be a little concerned. But I also know that there's been at least four within the state that have already gone with jury instructions, either retrials, resentencings, trials or resentencings.

And so by the time we get there, notwithstanding our circuit alone, we'll have dozens of cases that have already gone under a set of instructions. So if there's any issues with these instructions, I'll guarantee you I'll have heard about them by then, whether the jury didn't understand or somehow they got confused.

You know, because that's all that could be wrong. And we're talking about just the interrogatories and what the jury has to be told. And we've already, you know, kind of tweaked a little bit of the jury instructions of saying, you know, whether it's their opinion or whether it's their verdict, and we, you know, looked at some of the wording in there.

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And we can all look at them, and you could object to me using any of them at all. But, you know, we can still work on any of the small language that we might have to work on.

But jury instructions is not of any concern of mine. I'm not the first and I most certainly not even be the second. So jury instructions are not a problem.

We just got back from the judges conference, we had the refresher course. We all have a copy of them. We've all gone over them. We spent three days on them. I think most of the circuit court judges feel pretty comfortable with the instructions the way the Supreme Court is going to, you know, look at them. Whether there's a word here or a word there, everybody has their opinion, but I don't think the overall instructions are that big of a deal.

So as to worrying about the instructions, I'm not worried about the instructions, and I don't think it's ramming through. Again, I'm not the first, and I'll have lots and lots of other cases to have been looked at by then.

So the other issue becomes the witnesses and this child victim. And I consider him a child

victim only because whoever did this he was there for it, so he witnessed this. And it's his family that are the victims in this case, so I consider him a victim.

As to the two guilt phase witnesses, it appears that your client has access to these individuals. So from what the State tells me and what your client just shook his head for, he's had direct contact with his mom in less than seven days.

So any mitigation expert that you would have had hired, I assume should have, could have, and would have already spoken to her. And we don't need her as long as the mitigation expert speaks to her.

And it seems to me that Mr. Matos has easy access to his mom. She can testify if you want her at guilt phase — I mean at guilt phase or penalty phase. We can do it if she stays in Texas or California or wherever it is and testifies by videotape, face—to—face, Face Timing us here in the courtroom, I have no problem with that. We can have her live. She can answer questions. She can be cross—examined. And if she has a heart problem, she never has to leave the state to fly here.

I've done it many, many times as a prosecutor and I've done it a couple of times as a judge, and there's no real drawback to it in these type of cases as long as she's live and able to testify.

If it's only for penalty phase, she can talk to the mitigation expert and the mitigation expert can, you know, tell that. I mean that's allowed under the law. So I'm not worried about the mom.

It doesn't seem like Mr. Engram is anybody that the State's worried about.

MR. SARABIA: And neither one of these witnesses are witness we would intend to call during the guilt phase, Judge.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. SARABIA: I know they were listed on the guilt phase. And that mostly, particularly in Mr. Engram's case, to do with, he had some contact with Mr. Matos while Mr. Matos was fleeing from law enforcement.

THE COURT: But you didn't plan on calling him as a witness?

MR. SARABIA: No, Judge.

THE COURT: So at this point the State is not asking for a continuance if Mr. Engram is not available. Has he been deposed?

MR. SARABIA: No.

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THE COURT: All right. And it seems like the only person who's had contact with him is the defendant from the jail.

MR. SARABIA: Correct. We did have some phone conversations with him probably more a year and a half ago, but Mr. Matos has had more recent contact with him.

THE COURT: So again if this is a witness that if you want, it seems like your client has more access to him than the State.

And so on those two, as to those witnesses, the motion to continue is denied; as to the jury instructions denied; and as to the child victim at this point denied, because I don't have any reason to believe that the child is not competent to testify.

You had a depo over a year ago with this child. If there was some expert that needed to be called and things that needed to be done, you've had over a year and a half to do it. So you're telling me that you have an expert that might perhaps decide that he's incompetent and then he wants to evaluate him.

You did a depo. I mean it doesn't seem to me

that you're claiming that he's incompetent, and the State hasn't -- I mean the State might call him and might not call him. So I think it's a motion in limine once you have an expert opinion, and then I'll decide whether he's competent to testify.

MR. MICHAILOS: Judge, if I may briefly?

THE COURT: Sure.

MR. MICHAILOS: With regard to that issue, that deposition obviously was captured by videotape, it's recorded. I've seen it, so has Mr. Livermore, and Mr. Sarabia I'm assuming has seen it as well.

In this videotaped deposition the child struggles and for the first 20 minutes has a hard time going past putting him name on the record.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. MICHAILOS: In all the CPI records, the child has never been truth qualified. And it's stated clearly in black and white by all the experts who talked to this child that he could not be truth-qualified, which is I think the second factor in a child or any witness being qualified incompetent to testify, is that they know the difference between a falsity and reality.

As far as the State has attributed to the

child by Mr. Sarabia, it's clear the child at some point rambles on, "My daddy killed mommy." Nowhere is it made clear that the child saw a homicide, saw anything other than the fact — it could be that the child was told that daddy killed mommy.

THE COURT: Uh-huh.

MR. MICHAILOS: So these statements are just thrown out there. That's why this expert has reviewed both the videotape, and the State also submitted additional evidence, an audiotape that's more recent, about a month or two ago where the child is heard making statements in a room with his aunt, and that's also been given to the expert. So that's what that expert opinion would be based on, whether or not the Court grants the expert leave to actually evaluate the child. But I think we clearly believe there's definitely an issue with regard to the child not being competent.

THE COURT: That's a motion in limine. File it. I got plenty of time between now and September. I'll be happy to hear it. I'm not even sure I need an expert witness to testify if you have CPI people and other psychologists that have interviewed the child to make a decision.

But that's a motion in limine. That's not a

motion to continue. I got time between now and the trial date to hear a motion in limine. A motion to strike a witness, a motion to declare incompetent, any of those things. I'll hear any of those.

MR. MICHAILOS: I have one other issue, Judge, that was not included in the motion for continuance, so obviously we were surprised by the State's -- we were not aware of the communication between the mother and Mr. Matos. But regardless --

THE COURT: Well, let me make this clear.

He's right there, he's your client, you might want
to ask him before you file a motion.

MR. MICHAILOS: I understand. Judge, it is very likely we're going to list an additional expert to testify in the trial phase of this case.

Because of confidentiality I cannot give you specifics or the reasons why that expert has not been listed as of yet, but it is very likely that --

THE COURT: Guilt or penalty?

MR. MICHAILOS: Guilt.

THE COURT: Okay. And you're going to list an expert in what area of the law? I'm not granting a continuance because you tell me you're going to

file an additional witness list. 1 MR. MICHAILOS: Right. And i understand. 2 3 just want to give you a heads up. You know, because I know a notice is going to be sent out for 5 jury selection and --6 THE COURT: I'm telling you we've been working 7 8 MR. MICHAILOS: It would be based on 9 psychology, it would be a psychologist or a 10 psychiatrist. 11 THE COURT: Okay. We've been working on this 12 case from day one. I've had numerous court 13 hearings. 14 MR. MICHAILOS: I understand. 15 THE COURT: File your witness, tell me what 16 he's going to say, the State can move to strike, 17 the State can move to strike them because whatever 18 they're going to say isn't relevant or admissible. 19 I did it in a couple of other cases with some 20 other psychologists in some other cases, since I 21 don't know what this person is going to testify to. 22 It does not sound like you're telling me that 23 you're going to claim insanity. 24 MR. MICHAILOS: 25 THE COURT: You haven't said the words.

MR. MICHAILOS: No.

THE COURT: So, then, now you're getting into whether you're going to get into, you know, smaller areas of his culpability. So I can't tell you I'd even allow that person to testify or not because you haven't listed them and said what they're going to testify to. But as soon as you do, Mr. Sarabia seems to be working at a very fast pace over there, knows things that you don't even know. I'm sure you're good with him listing whoever he wants to list, but you're asking him to do it by a certain date. Right?

MR. SARABIA: Absolutely, Judge. This is definitely the first we've heard of that.

THE COURT: We have pretrial motions. All motions have got to be filed by September 6th. I would ask that any witnesses that you're going to add, I would expect that you would add by the end of August. That's all I can say.

This case is a 2014 case. There's nothing about this case that not all of us don't already know. There's nothing new that's come up. It's not like Mr. Matos went to the state hospital and then came back and then went back like some other cases. I mean he's been in the jail. You've had

access to him the whole time. You've been on this case from the beginning. If you're going to list an expert, list him.

Give me a reason that I would allow it, of course, in the guilt phase. I mean, of course, you're going to list your penalty phase witnesses that is going to include a doctor. But I'm sure the State can be prepared and ready to go wherever you list that person.

But I'm not going to grant a continuance on a case that is more than two and a half years old when you're telling me that you might list a witness that might testify to something that I can't even figure out what they're going to testify to yet.

So at this point the motion to continue is denied. We have a pretrial and a motion, all pending motions on September 6th. We have the trial on September 18th.

And in the meantime I will get with all my other judges in the circuit and the State and I will have proposed jury instructions ready to go for the penalty phase to give to you just so you can review them in case we get there. We may not ever get there, so it won't matter. But if we get

there, you'll have them way ahead of time. Other
than that, the motion to continue is denied.

All right. State, you're here on a motion for some compel pass code.

MR. SARABIA: Correct.

THE COURT: Defense, have you had an opportunity to look over the pass code motion?

MR. MICHAILOS: I have, Your Honor.

THE COURT: And what's your status on that?

MR. MICHAILOS: Judge, I think the motion is

moot. Mr. Matos indicated to me that he would

waive any Fifth Amendment rights he had to privacy

regarding this pass code and volunteer it if he had

present memory of it, but he indicates he does not.

This is the first time that it's been requested of him. I know he was interviewed by law enforcement early on when he was arrested. He waived his Miranda rights. He was never asked about this pass code probably because this is pretty new case law, I guess. But at this point in time he does not remember this pass code. I think it was one that he had on the phone temporarily.

My understanding is he didn't have the phone more than five months, and during most of the use of this phone he did not use a pass code. So there

1 was one on there, I'm assuming there was one on 2 there when it was taken into custody, but he 3 doesn't remember what that temporary pass code was. THE COURT: State? 5 MR. SARABIA: Well, Judge, we'd ask that you 6 grant the motion. And then if he puts on the 7 record that he doesn't remember, then you could hold him in contempt if you don't believe him. 8 9 Other than that, that ends that issue. 10 I would note in terms of waiving his Miranda 11 rights, he did; but then he reinvoked them prior to 12 questioning, it would have gotten to the point of a 13 pass code for his phone. So it didn't come up not 14 for negligence on the part of the detectives. 15 THE COURT: Can you all approach. 16 17 (Thereupon a discussion was held off the record.) 18 record. 19 (Open Court.) 20 THE COURT: I have it off. You can talk to 21 him right there. It's not being picked up. 22 off. I'll turn it off. 23 Are we ready? 24 I am, Judge. MR. MICHAILOS: 25 THE COURT: Okay. So does he want to waive

the right to them getting into his phone?

MR. MICHAILOS: He indicates at this time he does not, Judge.

THE COURT: So then, Mr. Matos, I need you to provide them the pass code, because they've already gotten the search warrant to seize the phone and they have a right to the pass code.

So do you have the pass code?

THE DEFENDANT: No, Your Honor, I do not. I don't remember it.

THE COURT: Okay.

THE DEFENDANT: It's been three years since I've seen my cellphone, and I just — that's something that wasn't really on my mind for the past three years. I've been too concerned with other matters.

THE COURT: Okay. So at this time the defendant is refusing to provide the pass code.

So since I've already signed a search warrant to allow the State to look at the phone and gather the information, I'll go ahead and indicate that they can use any means available to bypass the code because the defendant is refusing to provide the code on court order.

So as indicated I will allow the State, since

they already have secured a search warrant of the phone, that they can use any means necessary in order to bypass the lock on the pass code and get access to the phone.

As I indicated at the bench, I have Googled on my laptop here how to bypass the code on a 5s, and there's a little tutorial available on YouTube under the YouTube.com Watch, and it says how to bypass the IOS 7.0.2 pass code lock and access iPhones 5s.

Now, granted it was just put on there in July of 2017, but I'll allow you to use any means necessary, including YouTube videos, since the defendant is refusing to provide the pass code at this time.

Of course, the State, if you do obtain anything from the phone, you will provide it in discovery, correct?

MR. SARABIA: Absolutely, Judge.

THE COURT: Okay. Anything other than that?

MR. SARABIA: No, Judge.

THE COURT: All right. So based on that, I think we are finished with Mr. Matos' case. And the next court hearing is now set for September 6th at 1:30. Okay? Thank you.

CERTIFICATE OF COURT REPORTER

STATE	OF	FLORIDA	:
COUNTY	OE	PASCO	;

I, MARIA FORTNER, Registered Professional
Reporter for the Sixth Judicial Circuit, do hereby
certify that I was authorized to and did
stenographically report the foregoing proceedings and
that the transcript is a true and correct record.

DATED this 31st day of July, 2017.

/S MARIA A. FORTNER

MARIA A. FORTNER, RPR