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42

**INTERVIEW WITH**

**Q=Sgt. Leon**

**Q1=Sgt. Cortez**

**A=**

Man: (Unintelligible) . Okay.

Q: All right.

A: (Unintelligible).

Q: Uh, actually, let me see your wristband here.

A: Okay.

Q: I know they have you handcuffed 'cause of your classification...

A: Yeah, 'cause...

Q: ...level.

A: ...of my classification level.

Q: So you're...

A: Yeah.

Q: Let me find your name...

A: Yeah. (Unintelligible).

Q: ...on this list here.

A: (Unintelligible).

43 Q: First of all, you know you're not in any trouble.  
44  
45 A: No? Okay.  
46  
47 Q: (Unintelligible). Okay, bud. Um, this is Sergeant Cortez. I'm Sergeant Leon.  
48 We're both from the Sheriff's Office.  
49  
50 Man: Right.  
51  
52 Q: We're here just kinda, um, followin' up on what happened. Were you housed  
53 in here when...  
54  
55 A: Yeah, I was housed, but, uh, the only - the only thing I seen was the - a CO  
56 comin' in tryin' to save him.  
57  
58 Q: Okay. And we're not here to wit- I just wanted to know if you were here when  
59 it happened.  
60  
61 A: Yeah, I was.  
62  
63 Q: So...  
64  
65 A: I was in Cell 27.  
66  
67 Q: All right. And - and so somebody's already interviewed you, I think?  
68  
69 A: Yeah. I was interviewed, like, about a week ago...  
70  
71 Q: Okay.  
72  
73 A: ...or somethin'...  
74  
75 Q: All right.  
76  
77 A: ...or whenever it was. I don't remember exactly what date.  
78  
79 Q: Right. Yeah. And you say you're in what cell?  
80  
81 A: 27.  
82  
83 Q: Mm-kay. And is that the same cell you were in when it ha- when the incident  
84 happened?

85  
86 A: Yes, sir.  
87  
88 Q: Okay. Um, the reason we're here is how would you describe the tone inside  
89 the dorm, inside the (unintelligible)?  
90  
91 A: Right now?  
92  
93 Q: Yeah.  
94  
95 Man: (Unintelligible).  
96  
97 A: Fair. Good. Good.  
98  
99 Man: (Unintelligible).  
100  
101 A: Fair. Good.  
102  
103 Q: How's that? Can you ju- tell me about that?  
104  
105 A: Well, I haven't been inside that dorm, uh, too m- uh, very much longer.  
106  
107 Q: Mm-kay.  
108  
109 A: I mean, I only ha- I've only been there since 8-5, so I mean...  
110  
111 Q: Okay.  
112  
113 A: I mean, there's been altercations. I've been - I had a altercation with somebody  
114 in there.  
115  
116 Q: Okay.  
117  
118 A: We got into a fight, but that was it. We squashed it and that was it. And the  
119 guy picked up - the guy I got in a fight with got in a fight with my cellie, and  
120 he ended up gettin' rolled up.  
121  
122 Q: Okay.  
123  
124 A: So I think it's fair. That's how I think it is, fair.  
125  
126 Q: Ho- how would you describe it since - since, uh, inmate Tyree died?

127  
128 A: Uh, fair.  
129  
130 Q: Fair?  
131  
132 A: Yeah.  
133  
134 Q: And how are you y- how are you - you, uh - how do you feel that you're being  
135 treated by the officers in there?  
136  
137 A: Okay.  
138  
139 Q: Okay?  
140  
141 A: Okay. I just - my toilet's kinda messed up on it. And, uh, I can't - I don't know  
142 when the, uh - wh- what do you call 'em, the fixers, the work orders, or  
143 whatever...  
144  
145 Q: Yeah.  
146  
147 A: ...you know, how they fix it. I don't know when they're gonna come back and  
148 fix our toilet.  
149  
150 Q: Have you told...  
151  
152 A: I...  
153  
154 Q: ...'em though?  
155  
156 A: Yes.  
157  
158 Q: (Unintelligible).  
159  
160 A: Yes.  
161  
162 Q: Uh...  
163  
164 A: Yes. I think they...  
165  
166 Q: So you're just waiting for the plumber?  
167  
168 A: Exactly.

169

170 Q: The county pl- plumber to show up?

171

172 A: Exactly. The plumber. That's what I - the word I was lookin' for.

173

174 Q: Yeah. What's the problem with your toilet?

175

176 A: Well you know when you push the button?

177

178 Q: Mm-hm.

179

180 A: It - it - it overlapped or somethin' where the water pressure just keeps goin'  
181 and goin'.

182

183 Q: Oh.

184

185 A: So the officer had to turn our water pressure off.

186

187 Q: Okay.

188

189 A: So we can't flush the toilet. The only way you get a courtesy flush if he turns  
190 the water pressure back on.

191

192 Q: Right.

193

194 A: But when you push that button, it's supposed to go flush, and then the re- the  
195 rest...

196

197 Q: Right.

198

199 A: ...of the water rinses back up. It doesn't do that. It just keeps flushin'...

200

201 Q: So it's, like, sticking?

202

203 A: ...and flushin' and flushin' and flushin'.

204

205 Man: (Unintelligible).

206

207 Man: It's, like, sticking open, (unintelligible).

208

209 A: Yeah.

210

211 Man: (Unintelligible).  
212  
213 A: So the button's messed up.  
214  
215 Man: Yeah.  
216  
217 A: So each time you push that button, you try to turn it off by pushin' it won't  
218 even - it just - you just push it and that's it. And it won't - i- the water pressure  
219 won't turn off.  
220  
221 Q: Mm-kay. Other than the, uh, investigators, has anyone else talked to you about  
222 what happened...  
223  
224 Man: (Unintelligible).  
225  
226 Q: ...to Tyree?  
227  
228 A: No. I didn't even know the guy. I tried talkin' to him...  
229  
230 Man: (Unintelligible).  
231  
232 A: ...a few times before it happened out in yard, exchanged a couple words or  
233 somethin', but...  
234  
235 Q: Mm-hm.  
236  
237 A: ...uh, you know, he - he kept goin' ins- inside the trash can and...  
238  
239 Man: (Unintelligible).  
240  
241 A: ...stuff, so I didn't really talk to him too much.  
242  
243 Q: Okay.  
244  
245 A: He would dig through the trash cans. He'd dig through trash, you know...  
246  
247 Q: Yeah.  
248  
249 A: ...he - he would go in trash bags in front of the CO...  
250  
251 Q: Yeah.  
252

253 A: ...and the CO would tell him not to do it. He wouldn't do it, but he'd keep doin'  
254 it.

255  
256 Q: Yeah.

257  
258 A: So, I don't know.

259  
260 Q: Kinda like what you might picture, like, homeless people doin', you know?

261  
262 A: Like a bum, yeah.

263  
264 Q: Okay. Um, so since then no s- other than the - the detectives, no one else has  
265 approached you about what happened?

266  
267 A: No, s- that's it.

268  
269 Q: No? All right.

270  
271 A: I don't talk about it.

272  
273 Q: Mm-kay.

274  
275 A: (Unintelligible).

276  
277 Q: And no other inmates have ap- approached you about - has anybody tried to  
278 get you to, uh...

279  
280 A: To talk about it?

281  
282 Q: ...say anything different?

283  
284 A: No. No.

285  
286 Q: No?

287  
288 A: No.

289  
290 Q: No one's tried...

291  
292 A: I jus- I keep to myself in there. I don't really talk to too many pe- I watch TV,  
293 I mean, I socialize, but that's about it.

294

295 Q: Okay. Have any officers approached you about it, any correctional deputies?  
296  
297 A: Nope.  
298  
299 Q: No? How would you describe the - kinda, like, the...  
300  
301 Man: (Unintelligible).  
302  
303 Q: ...the dorm atmosphere since...  
304  
305 A: (Unintelligible) fair.  
306  
307 Q: ...it happened?  
308  
309 A: I think it's fair. Everyone gets along, yeah. They're not - they're not really  
310 hangin' on to tragedies. Um...  
311  
312 Q: Yeah.  
313  
314 A: ...I don't talk to mental health about it 'cause I don't got a problem  
315 (nintelligible)...  
316  
317 Q: Right.  
318  
319 A: ...what I'm sayin'? I mean, if I had a problem with it...  
320  
321 Q: Yeah.  
322  
323 A: ...I'd be, like - I'd be goin' to mental health or a Chaplin or...  
324  
325 Q: Yeah.  
326  
327 A: ...whoever, you know? But I don't.  
328  
329 Q: How about the officers, the deputies in there?  
330  
331 A: Nah, I don't talk to officers about it.  
332  
333 Q: Uh, how have they - how - how's their attitude been towards you or the rest of  
334 the people in there?  
335  
336 A: Everything's been fair.



337  
338 Q: Everything's been fair?  
339  
340 A: Yeah.  
341  
342 Q: You've been gettin' enough out time?  
343  
344 A: Yeah. Yeah.  
345  
346 Q: Has the dorm?  
347  
348 A: Yeah.  
349  
350 Q: Yeah?  
351  
352 A: Yeah.  
353  
354 Q: Okay. About how many ti- how many hours a night do you get out?  
355  
356 A: Well last night we got out one hour. So they - th- they've been just split our  
357 program.  
358  
359 Q: Mm-hm.  
360  
361 A: Before I used - we used to get two hours...  
362  
363 Man: (Unintelligible).  
364  
365 A: ...two hours and a half, maybe almost three...  
366  
367 Man: You wanna bring those out?  
368  
369 Q: Mm-hm.  
370  
371 A: ...with both programs...  
372  
373 Q: Yeah.  
374  
375 A: ...now they're splittin' our programs, so they come and they do one. They do  
376 either the bottom or top...  
377  
378 Woman: (Unintelligible).

379  
380 A: ...level...  
381  
382 Q: Mm-hm.  
383  
384 A: ...one at a time.  
385  
386 Q: Mm-kay.  
387  
388 A: So...  
389  
390 Q: Do you guys know why they're doin' that?  
391  
392 A: I don't know why.  
393  
394 Q: Okay.  
395  
396 A: I don't question it. I just go with the program.  
397  
398 Q: Okay. All right.  
399  
400 Man: (Unintelligible).  
401  
402 Q: If you had a concern in there about i- uh, anybody's attitude about what  
403 happened, would...  
404  
405 A: Mm-hm.  
406  
407 Q: ...you tell us?  
408  
409 Woman: (Unintelligible).  
410  
411 A: Yeah, I would.  
412  
413 Q: Okay.  
414  
415 Woman: (Unintelligible).  
416  
417 Q: Are you familiar with the phones? Do they (unintelligible)?  
418  
419 A: I don't use the phones. I don't know how.  
420

421 Q: Okay.  
422  
423 A: I don't use 'em. I've tried to usin' 'em before, and I don't know how you do 'em,  
424 so any- anyways, I can't make no collect calls to my family.  
425  
426 Q: (Unintelligible).  
427  
428 A: They would check my calls, so I'm...  
429  
430 Q: Mm-kay.  
431  
432 A: ...done with that.  
433  
434 Q: Are you familiar with the Internal Affairs process?  
435  
436 A: Uh, what is that?  
437  
438 Q: It's basically - in- in- Internal Affairs basically investigators similar to us,  
439 though we - we're not Internal Affairs investigators, we're criminal  
440 investigators.  
441  
442 A: Okay.  
443  
444 Q: But Internal Affairs investigators, they investigate complaints.  
445  
446 A: Oh no. I never...  
447  
448 Q: So...  
449  
450 A: ...I never even - no.  
451  
452 Q: ...w- did you know that next to the phones there's a number to their office that  
453 they'll take your collect call?  
454  
455 A: Oh, okay. Yeah. I - like I said, I don't know how to use the phones.  
456  
457 Q: Right.  
458  
459 Man: (Unintelligible).  
460  
461 Q: Have you ever had to, like, file a grievance or anything at all for any reason?  
462

463 A: Uh, if I did, I don't remember.  
464  
465 Q: Okay. What about a Inmate Request Form?  
466  
467 A: Yes. I've been usin' those. I've been tryin' to get a hold of my family  
468 (unintelligible), uh, Chaplin, uh, somethin'. I - I forget her name, but  
469 she does...  
470  
471 Q: Okay.  
472  
473 A: ...she does phone calls.  
474  
475 Q: Okay.  
476  
477 A: So I've been tryin' to get a hold of my family. I've been - you know, it's really  
478 hard for - I'm a drug addict...  
479  
480 Q: Okay.  
481  
482 A: ...out there, you know? I go straight - I - when I get out, I don't even report to  
483 probation.  
484  
485 Man: (Unintelligible).  
486  
487 A: So I go - I go straight to usin' drugs. That's my problem.  
488  
489 Q: Yeah.  
490  
491 A: Yeah. So if I could just, you know, go and report to my probation officer and  
492 maybe just cool it with the drugs, I'd be all right.  
493  
494 Man: Oh, I know.  
495  
496 Q: Yeah.  
497  
498 A: But otherwise...  
499  
500 Man: (Unintelligible).  
501  
502 A: ...you know, I'll be doin' the same thing, in and outta jail.  
503

504 Q: Yeah. When you've been in there, have you seen, uh, sergeants go into the  
505 dorm just to kinda check on things?  
506  
507 A: Just to walk. They do their walks.  
508  
509 Q: Their walks?  
510  
511 A: The - the - what is it their hour- hourly count or whatever?  
512  
513 Man: (Unintelligible).  
514  
515 Q: The sergeants do...  
516  
517 A: Uh...  
518  
519 Q: ...or the officers?  
520  
521 A: ...no, not the sergeant, our officers.  
522  
523 Q: Have you ever seen the sergeants go in?  
524  
525 Man: (Unintelligible).  
526  
527 A: Like, in and out, just, like...  
528  
529 Q: Yeah.  
530  
531 A: ...real quick.  
532  
533 Q: Have you ever had occasion to talk to any of 'em?  
534  
535 A: Nah, I don't talk to 'em. Nah.  
536  
537 Q: No?  
538  
539 A: No.  
540  
541 Q: If you had a problem would you feel...  
542  
543 A: Uh, yes, I would.  
544  
545 Q: ...comfortable?

546  
547 A: Yes, I would. I would tell...  
548  
549 Q: Okay.  
550  
551 A: ...'em.  
552  
553 Q: All right. And if anything was goin' on, would you feel comfortable telling us  
554 right now?  
555  
556 A: Yeah.  
557  
558 Q: Okay.  
559  
560 A: Any - any other questions you got, I'll answer 'em.  
561  
562 Q: Yeah.  
563  
564 Man: (Unintelligible).  
565  
566 A: You know, just...  
567  
568 Q: Well really, it's just tryin' to, you know, kinda get the tone for what's goin' on.  
569 And...  
570  
571 A: Yeah.  
572  
573 Man: (Unintelligible).  
574  
575 Q: And, uh, just checking in...  
576  
577 A: Okay.  
578  
579 Q: ...so to speak. Yeah. Anythi- any complaints at all that you have?  
580  
581 A: None.  
582  
583 Man: (Unintelligible).  
584  
585 Q: None? (Unintelligible).  
586  
587 A: I just wanna to do my time, get up, and get outta here.

588

589 Q: Okay. That makes sense.

590

591 A: I'm tryin' - I'm tryin' to go back to Texas. Yeah.

592

593 Q: Okay.

594

595 A: That's what I'm tryin' to do.

596

597 Q: Okay. No, I - I get it.

598

599 A: I had a job in Waxahachie, Texas before my uncle died.

600

601 Q: Okay.

602

603 A: I was a...

604

605 Q: What'd you do?

606

607 A: I was a busboy at a restaurant. It was called . It was a sushi bar and grill.

608

609 Q: Mm-hm.

610

611 A: And they liked me. They hellas liked me. Uh, when I told 'em I had to leave  
612 and go...

613

614 Q1: Yeah.

615

616 A: ...they like, "Huh?" They were like, "What? You gotta g- leave?" I was like,  
617 "Yeah, I gotta go." I was their best bus boy they...

618

619 Q: Yeah.

620

621 A: ...ever had. I was, like...

622

623 Q: So you plan on goin' back?

624

625 A: Yeah.

626

627 Q: Is that your plan?

628

629 A: Yeah. Yeah.

630

631 Q: It's important to have a plan.

632

633 A: I don't know if I'll get the same job back...

634

635 Q: Yeah, I know.

636

637 A: ...but I wanna go back to Waxahachie...

638

639 Q: Yeah.

640

641 A: ...Texas is where...

642

643 Q: Yeah. I know.

644

645 A: ...I'm tryin' to go to, yeah.

646

647 Q: Well hopefully, you know, when you get out you don't relapse.

648

649 Woman: (Unintelligible).

650

651 A: Yeah. That's (unintelligible) plannin' to do. That's - those are my - those are,  
652 like, my goals I'm tryin' to...

653

654 Q: Yeah, I know.

655

656 A: ...set, but with me, you never know.

657

658 Man: That might be it.

659

660 A: Know what I'm sayin'? I...

661

662 Q: Yeah.

663

664 A: 'Cause as soon as I get out, I jus- I switch it up.

665

666 Q: Yeah.

667

668 A: I will - (unintelligible) out, well, you know what? I'm not gonna report.

669

670 Q: You know...

671



672 A: (Unintelligible).  
673  
674 Q: ...at least you're bein' honest with yourself, and you know (unintelligible).  
675  
676 A: That's how I am (unintelligible).  
677  
678 Q: Yeah.  
679  
680 A: Yeah.  
681  
682 Q: Anything you wanna ask?  
683  
684 Q1: No. I'm fine.  
685  
686 Q: Anything you wanna ask of us?  
687  
688 A: Nah.  
689  
690 Q: Any concerns? No?  
691  
692 A: Nah.  
693  
694 Q: You feel good?  
695  
696 A: Yeah.  
697  
698 Q: All right. How about if we check to make sure it's clear for you to go back and  
699 then...  
700  
701 A: That's good.  
702  
703 Q: ...you can hang out in your cell.  
704  
705 A: That's good. Thank you...  
706  
707 Q: All right.  
708  
709 A: ...sir.  
710  
711 Q: Um, you're welcome.  
712  
713 A: All right.

714

715 Q: Thank you.

716

717 Woman: (Unintelligible).

718

719 A: I wish I could help you out with more but...

720

721 Q: Well...

722

723 A: ...you know - all right.

724

725 Q: Uh, e- you've actually helped a great deal.

726

727 A: Yeah. I feel real bad that had happened...

728

729 Q: Yeah.

730

731 A: ...you know, (unintelligible). None of us know what - what to expect.

732

733 Q: Right.

734

735 A: I don't know.

736

737

738 This transcript has been reviewed with the audio recording submitted and it is an accurate  
739 transcription.

740 Signed \_\_\_\_\_