

September 7, 2010

#### STATEMENT OF JULIA NICHOLSON

##### Preflight activities:

My mother is Kathleen Nicholson. My mother obtained a flying certificate for my birthday. My boyfriend, Matt Grove, attends the University of Arizona.

I was wearing a sweatshirt, jeans and tie shoes. There was no baggage in the airplane. The pilot provided a preflight explanation of what we were going to be doing, and he told me I would be handling the controls after we became airborne. He said the flight would last about 1/2 hour. It took the pilot 5 to 10 minutes to check out the airplane, following which I climbed into the cockpit and the pilot pulled the airplane out of the hangar. The pilot showed me the flight controls and assisted me in securing my seatbelt. I remember getting into the airplane and taxiing out to the runway.

##### Takeoff:

After we taxied out for takeoff, I remember the pilot running up the engine for "a minute or two." I had my hands on the control stick, and I think my feet were off the rudders during the takeoff. I was expecting to be able to handle the control stick once we became airborne. I remember on the takeoff roll we were traveling very fast. The pilot pulled on the stick and we went up into the air.

##### Inflight:

I remember taking off and beginning a right circling turn. I remember seconds later the pilot turned right. I remember thinking that the bank was really steep and that we were nearly perpendicular to the ground. I recall thinking "it does not look right." I do not remember the accident.

#### STATEMENT OF KATHLEEN NICHOLSON

Kathleen Nicholson purchased the Discovery Flight ride for her daughter at a silent auction. It was valued at [REDACTED] Julia had never before been in a light airplane. I heard Matt Grove state that he overheard other pilots saying that the accident pilot and another pilot did that maneuver all the time. He stated, "He and another pilot did that maneuver all the time." The maneuver was, after taking off, making a right turn and flying over our heads.