# HUMAN PERFORMANCE FACTORS ATTACHMENT

**Pickup Truck Driver Interview**

**Rochester, IN**

**HWY19MH0003**

(42 pages)

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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| Investigation of: | |
| PICKUP TRUCK AND SCHOOL BUS CRASH ROCHESTER, INDIANA OCTOBER 30, 2018 | Accident No.: DCA19MH003 |

Interview of: ALYSSA L. SHEPHERD

Fulton County Sheriff's Office
Rochester, Indiana

Tuesday,
October 30, 2018

APPEARANCES:

MICHELLE JUMPER, Detective
Indiana State Police

DANNY SAIZ, Attorney
(On behalf of Ms. Shepherd)

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I N T E R V I E W

(9:24 a.m.)

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER #1: Sure.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER #2: Hopefully it won't take too long.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER #1: Okay.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER #2: Thank you.

DET. JUMPER: Hi.

MS. SHEPHERD: Hi.

DET. JUMPER: I've got another guy that's coming in, that's going to sit in here with me. Okay.

MS. SHEPHERD: Okay.

DET. JUMPER: I'm with the State Police.

MS. SHEPHERD: Okay.

DET. JUMPER: And we're investigating the crash of this morning, and I'm one of the investigators. So I come back and do interviews. So, I'm going to -- I'll probably have to talk louder, just so they can hear me in the -- because it's recorded.

MS. SHEPHERD: Okay.

INTERVIEW OF ALYSSA L. SHEPHERD

BY DET. JUMPER:

Q. Are you okay? Did you get hurt at all?

A. My hips hurt. That's all right.

Q. Your, your what hurt? Your --

A. My hips.

Q. Your hips?

A. Yeah. But that's okay.

Q. Okay. Did you go to the hospital?

A. No.
Q. You didn't go at all?
A. I went to get blood work.
Q. Okay.
A. To see, like --
Q. Did they check you out, or --
A. -- I'm -- no, but I didn't want to.
Q. You think maybe after you leave here you might go back?
A. I don't think so.
Q. Was this lady your aunt?
A. Yeah.
Q. Okay. Okay. She -- they said she works at probation. She looked familiar, but I didn't know who that was. Okay.
A. Yeah.
Q. What is your first name?
A. Alyssa.
Q. Alyssa. Okay. I thought that's what you said, but I didn't want to be wrong. How do you spell your name?
A. A L Y S S A.
Q. A L Y S S A.
A. Yeah.
Q. What's your middle initial?
A. L.
Q. What does that stand for?
A. Leigh.

Q. L E E?
A. L E I G H.
Q. Oh. Half the time I guess. Okay. Your last name?
A. Shepherd, S H E P H E R D.
Q. A R D?
A. E R D. Sorry, I'm --
Q. That's okay.
A. -- shaken.
Q. Well, I try to guess half the time. What's your address?
A. [redacted]
Q. Is that Rochester?
A. Yeah.
Q. Is it [redacted]
A. Yeah.
Q. Okay. What's your phone number?
A. You want my cell phone?
Q. Yeah.
A. Because they have it.
Q. Yeah. Yeah.
A. And they told -- okay. [redacted] --
Q. Okay.
A. -- [redacted] --
Q. Okay.
A. -- [redacted]
Q. And what is your cell phone carrier? Like Spring, AT&T --

A. AT&T.
Q. Okay. AT&T. Do you -- and we'll get into that in a little bit. Do you have a passcode on it? I know you said they have it.
A. Yeah, I do have a passcode.
Q. Okay. We'll talk about that in a little bit.
A. Okay.
Q. Yeah, I mean, if you don't mind.
A. It's [redacted].
Q. [redacted].
A. Yeah.
Q. So, that's it. Just a number password.
A. Yeah. That's my daughter's birthday.
Q. Okay. Oh, how many kids do you have?
A. Two.
Q. How old are they?
A. Three and two.
Q. So, you have a two-year-old and a three-year-old. Boys or girls?
A. My three-year-old is a girl. And my two-year-old is a boy.
Q. Oh, okay. And her birthday must be [redacted].
A. Yeah.
Q. Okay. Where do you work?
A. At [redacted].
Q. Faith -- is that right out on --
A. It's on [redacted].

Q. -- what street?
A. It's on [redacted]. It's a church.
Q. It seems like I've seen it. Is it right on that main road?
A. Yeah. It's by [redacted].
Q. Yeah. That's what I was picturing. Wasn't that all redone not that long ago?
A. Yeah.
Q. It's kind of been redone --
A. Yeah.
Q. -- maybe, or something?
A. Yeah.
Q. What do you do there?
A. I'm a children's director.
Q. Okay.
A. Children's ministry director.
Q. Okay.
A. It's just part-time.
Q. Okay. Are you married?
A. Yeah.
Q. Okay. Who is your husband?
A. [redacted]
Q. [redacted]
A. [redacted]
Q. Oh, better ask.
A. Yeah, [redacted].

Q. How long have you guys been married?
A. Four years.
Q. Okay. And he lives there with you?
A. Yeah.
Q. Okay. Where does he work?
A. It's called [redacted]. It -- we own the company. It's [redacted]
[redacted]--
Q. [redacted] --
A. [redacted] -- [redacted]--
Q. [redacted] --
A. [redacted].
Q. Did you say you guys own the company?
A. Yeah.
Q. Oh, okay. What do you guys do there?
A. We build trailers and cabinets and stuff from aluminum.
Q. Okay. And where is that located at?
A. That's where I was actually leaving. It was Talma Fasteners -- the old Talma Fastener building.
Q. Okay. Talma. It's in Talma.
A. Uh-huh.
Q. Okay. Okay. And -- well, and any time I interview someone -- and you're not under arrest or any trouble with me --
A. You're calming.
Q. Yeah. Well, maybe that's why they sent me. I have to read people their rights. It's not like on TV. It's just that -- so

you know your rights and --
A. Uh-huh.
Q. -- it doesn't mean, like on TV, that you're under arrest or anything. And I'm not trying to trick you. It's just that -- something we do.
A. Okay.
Q. How long do you think you've been here this morning?
A. In here?
Q. Yeah, back here.
A. I don't know. It feels like 20, 30 minutes.
Q. Okay.
A. But I don't really know.
Q. Okay. It's like around 9:30.
A. Okay.
Q. Yeah, it's 9:29 right now. Let me see what the date is. The 30th. Okay. I do this a lot of times just so people can read along --
A. Uh-huh.
Q. -- because it's weird having me read it to you. Before we ask you any questions, you must understand your rights. You have the right to remain silent. Anything you say can and will be used against you in court. You have the right to talk to a lawyer for advice before we ask you any questions and to have him with you during questioning. If you cannot afford a lawyer, one will be appointed for you before questioning if you wish. If you decide

to answer questions now, without a lawyer present, you will still have the right to stop answering at any time. You also have the right to stop answering at any time until you talk to a lawyer. If you're a juvenile, you have the right to talk to your parents. You're -- how old are you?

A. I'm 24.

Q. Okay. You just look really young, that's all.

A. I know.

Q. You don't look --

A. I never leave the house in my pajamas.

Q. Yeah. So, then, this part is the waiver. I've read this statement of my rights and I understand what my rights are. I am willing to make a statement and answer questions, and I do not want a lawyer at this time. I understand and know what I'm doing. No promises or threats have been made to me and no pressure or coercion of any kind has been used against me. And then --

A. What do you recommend?

Q. I'm not allowed to recommend.

A. Oh, really.

Q. What -- yeah.

A. My sister-in-law is a lawyer. That's why I was wondering.

Q. Yeah. Well, right now we're just trying to get the basics of what happened --

A. Uh-huh.

Q. -- where we can sit down on camera and just talk about the

morning, like what happened, where you were going, and that stuff.
A. Okay.
Q. So, that's really what I'm, what I'm here for.
A. Okay.
Q. So, this is your, your rights. And then it just asks for your signature that you understand them.
A. Uh-huh.
Q. And then this part would be if you were a juvenile. So --
A. Okay.
Q. And I crossed that out. So -- just that you understand your rights.
A. Okay. It's so hard to write right now.
Q. Okay.
A. So, this does not look like my --
Q. Okay.
A. -- writing.
Q. It's okay. I can't give legal advice. I'm not allowed to do that. All I can do is just present this information. And just basically getting this information, and just where you were going and coming from and that kind of stuff. So, just some basic questions.
A. Okay.
Q. If we get to a question you don't want to answer, that's what that means. You don't have to answer --
A. Okay.

Q. -- questions if you don't want to.
A. Okay.
Q. That's kind of what that means, that you -- you know, you have rights. So, I can't make you do anything.
A. Okay.
Q. Okay. So, what time did you leave this morning? Do you remember?
A. It was like barely about four. I don't know. Like, we were supposed to be at Talma at seven, at our building. So we left -- my husband drove there. So, like we left in time to get there.
Q. Uh-huh. Okay. So, you were supposed to be at Talma at seven.
A. Yeah.
Q. Okay.
A. I mean, we were behind, but --
Q. What's your vehicle?
A. The Toyota Tacoma.
Q. Okay. What color is it?
A. It's like tan.
Q. Tan. He drove.
A. Well, he drove to Talma.
Q. Uh-huh. Okay.
A. Then I drove from there.
Q. Neil drove northbound. Right. That would be north, wouldn't it.

A. I --
Q. Like from your house to up there.
A. I don't know. I live kind of towards Athens.
Q. Okay.
A. So, like, we'd have to take 14 to 25. I don't really know.
Q. Okay. Yeah. That would be northbound.
A. Okay.
Q. So, you went west first and then you went north.
A. Okay.
Q. Okay. So, you got to Tacoma -- or Tacoma -- you go to Talma by what time? Did you make it by seven?
A. We were probably like five after.
Q. Okay. So, 7:05. And then --
A. I'm just estimating.
Q. That's okay. That's okay. What -- how long were you there?
A. Oh, I just like dropped him off.
Q. Okay.
A. Like, talked to my kids for a couple minutes. I sent my mom a message saying, hey, I'm heading to take my brother to school, or whatever I said. Because my, my parents are in the hospital right now. So --
Q. Oh, wow. Both of them?
A. No. Sorry.
Q. That's okay. It's okay. Just take your time. I may interrupt just to try to sidetrack you a little bit --

A. Yeah.
Q. -- but just --
A. No, I -- because my dad -- well, he's been my dad since I was two, so he's like my dad --
Q. Sure.
A. -- but he had bypass surgery.
Q. Okay.
A. So my mom was there. She's headed back now.
Q. Okay. So, where was he at to have bypass surgery?
A. In Fort Wayne.
Q. Okay. That was supposed to be today?
A. Well, he found out like yesterday that he was going to have it. And they told him that he could do it like in the next couple days, or that he could go home for like a week or two and come back. But I think that they were going to do it -- I don't know now, but --
Q. Right.
A. -- they were going to do it --
Q. But it's possible it could be today or tomorrow?
A. Yeah.
Q. Okay. Okay. And that's stepdad.
A. Yeah.
Q. But he's who raised you, it sounds like.
A. Yeah. I have my dad, but it was like an every other weekend thing, too. You know, so that's my --

Q. Sure. That's who raised you.
A. Yeah.
Q. What's his name?
A. Jason Hudkins.
Q. Jason Hudkins. How do spell that?
A. It's H U D K I N S.
Q. Uh-huh. And where does he live?
A. In Rochester.
Q. Okay. With mom.
A. Yeah.
Q. And what's mom's name?
A. Amanda.
Q. Same as his?
A. Yeah.
Q. All right. Okay. So, you dropped Neil off around, around 7:05.
A. Yeah.
Q. And did you have other people in the car with you at that point?
A. Yeah. I had my two kids and my brother.
Q. Okay. Okay. When the crash happened, did you have all them?
A. Uh-huh.
Q. Okay. Two kids and brother. How old is your brother?
A. He's 12.
Q. Okay. And he -- you took your brother because --

A. Yeah.
Q. -- mom is in Fort Wayne.
A. Uh-huh.
Q. Okay. And where were you headed to? At that -- like, you left there southbound. Where does everybody -- where does he go to school?
A. Yeah. So, I was going to take him to my mom's house and he was going to get changed and get his stuff, and then I was going to take him to Riddle school.
Q. Okay. So, you were headed to mom's --
A. Yeah.
Q. -- at that point, before this happened?
A. Yeah. That's where I was supposed to be going .
Q. Okay. What's mom's address?
A. 921 Clover Street.
Q. Clover Street. Where is that at? Rochester?
A. Yeah.
Q. What part of town is that?
A. Are you familiar with our town?
Q. A little bit.
A. Okay. So, it's like kind of the lake. It's by Fansler Park. It's like close to the dam. It's kind of [indiscernible] a couple roads back.
Q. Uh-huh. Like behind the B&K --
A. Yeah.

Q. -- back in there?
A. Like -- yeah, a couple roads.
Q. So, kind of in that housing that's just off the side of the lake.
A. Yeah.
Q. Okay. Okay. I just can't -- I recognize the name, but I can't picture where it's at. So, it --
A. It like connects to Wabash -- Lincoln and Wabash.
Q. Yeah. I do.
A. Okay.
Q. So, you dropped him off. You're southbound. Do you remember anything --
A. No, I -- we obviously didn't get dropped off. But --
Q. Right. You, you dropped off your husband.
A. Oh, okay.
Q. And you took over driving. Then you start back -- I'm going to say southbound, because you're back towards Rochester.
A. Okay. Yeah.
Q. Okay. So, what's the last thing you remember?
A. So, when I was driving, um, I remember seeing a vehicle. And I did not know what it was. Like, I didn't see a stop sign -- like usually when I see a bus I like see a stop sign.
Q. Uh-huh.
A. So, I didn't -- I was like what is that. I had no clue what it was. So, like, what I remember was trying to figure out like

what heavy load it was.
Q. Uh-huh.
A. And then all the sudden I knew -- I do see kids. And I feel like -- you know, your memory is so crazy at this point. But I feel like I tried stopping, but it was like so too late.
Q. Okay.
A. Because I -- you know, you can't have brights on because the vehicles coming towards you.
Q. Uh-huh.
A. So, everything is so dark.
Q. Do you remember what was around you?
A. I remember I was by the trailer park.
Q. Okay. And that's why I was asking, just to see if you remember that.
A. Uh-huh.
Q. I'll put this to vibrate, just so it doesn't do anything crazy. Okay. So, you know you were by the trailer park.
A. Yeah.
Q. Do you know what that's called?
A. I have no clue.
Q. Okay. Do you remember how fast you were going?
A. No. I'm a slow driver. People make fun of me. But -- so, I don't know, because I -- it's so hard to remember everything. But, I believe I tried stopping. And I usually -- like, when I go there, I'm usually like driving 50 or lower.

Q. Yeah.
A. But --
Q. Do you know if the speed limit goes down right there or not?
A. I don't. I -- there's no sign I've --
Q. Okay.
A. -- seen.
Q. You think you tried stopping. But when you usually -- do you go through there every day? Is that --
A. Several days a week. Yeah.
Q. But not -- I mean, are you in that area at that time normally?
A. No.
Q. Or was today something a little bit different, or --
A. Yeah. So, my husband went and visited my stepdad last night in the hospital. And so he was heading back from Ohio with his dad. And so my brother took him home, so like his dad could go to Warsaw. And so my brother just took him home. So, his vehicle was at Talma because somebody needed to get material. And so I had to drive him to work.
Q. Okay. So, that's not normal?
A. No.
Q. You normally do not drive him to work.
A. No, I've had to like a couple times.
Q. Uh-huh.
A. But no.

Q. Okay. So, you don't make the trip at 7:00 in the morning every morning to Talma --
A. No.
Q. -- I guess that's just what I'm getting at.
A. No.
Q. Do you remember, was it dark?
A. It was very dark. I was using my brights up until I saw a vehicle.
Q. Okay. Were there any other vehicles behind you that you remember?
A. It's so hard remembering now like if it was after the accident, you know, that you saw vehicles --
Q. Uh-huh.
A. -- or if those were before.
Q. Okay.
A. So, I honestly don't know. I thought there was a vehicle behind me, but I'm like trying to think if --
Q. Uh-huh.
A. -- did I see it after the accident or did I see --
Q. And, I mean, it's indifferent. I just -- sometimes I ask those questions just to see if it sparks a memory or something else, you know. You do make several trips to Talma, though, throughout the week.
A. Uh-huh.
Q. Just not at seven in the morning.

A. Right.
Q. I'm not trying to reharp on that.
A. And --
Q. I just want to make sure I understood what you told me.
A. Yeah. I mean, I probably go there, I mean, several times a week. Yeah.
Q. So, you saw the, the vehicle.
A. I saw the vehicle, and I was trying to figure out what it was.
Q. Just trying to figure out -- okay. And this is going to be a big question. Do you -- were you on your phone --
A. No, I --
Q. -- talking?
A. No. My -- so, my phone --
Q. Messaging --
A. -- was like in my console. And so like I might have had, like, something open, but I wasn't on it. I hadn't texted anyone since --
Q. The parking lot? Okay.
A. So, I --
Q. Not on the phone like --
A. No.
Q. -- the speaker -- even though they have speakerphones or Bluetooth to the car or anything --
A. No.

Q. -- not talking to anybody?
A. Uh-uh.
Q. Not actively texting or looking at Facebook or --
A. No. I know -- I'm like this would be so much worse if something like that was happening.
Q. What about the kids? Anybody distracting you?
A. No. [redacted] and [redacted] were sleeping. And [redacted] was in the middle. We were just talking about schoolwork.
Q. Okay.
A. He was in the middle back. So, nobody was in my passenger seat.
Q. So, that's your little brother?
A. Yeah. His name is actually [redacted] too. But his middle name is [redacted].
Q. Okay.
A. So everyone calls him [redacted].
Q. Like [redacted]?
A. Yeah.
Q. Okay. Didn't see -- okay, not on the phone.
A. No.
Q. And that's what I was going to ask you.
A. They have it.
Q. You said that they have it.
A. Uh-huh.
Q. Anytime we -- you know, we're going to ask if you care if you

look at it.
A. Oh.
Q. And that is to try and eliminate -- make sure you weren't actively on the phone --
A. No. Yeah.
Q. -- or anything like that. So, that's my other form.
A. Okay.
Q. So, it's just like I read you your rights, to talk to you. I have a consent to search for your phone. Do you have a problem with that?
A. No.
Q. We can do that right now too.
A. How long --
Q. That way he can get it done quicker, and get it back to you.
A. I feel like it makes everything better.
Q. Okay. Yeah, anything, you know, that you're willing to do that about -- let's -- so much paperwork. Okay. So, this is about your phone.
A. Okay.
Q. We'll fill it in. I guess I can fill it in, if it's -- well, it's -- was it pink? I thought I saw it.
A. It's like --
Q. There's like a pink case.
A. It's in like a bluish case, but it's actually like a rose gold phone.

Q. Okay. So, rose gold. What kind of phone is that? An iPhone?
A. It's an iPhone.
Q. Okay. So, it's an iPhone. Which one is it? What model?
A. I think it's like a 7.
Q. Okay. I'll just -- might leave that like --
A. I think it's a 7.
Q. -- iPhone rose gold --
A. Yeah.
Q. -- and I'm going to go ahead and put the color, since I don't know -- which I don't know what the serial numbers are, and you probably don't either.
A. Uh-uh. No.
Q. Okay. This is if you're a juvenile -- as a parent, you have -- so, that would be if you're a juvenile.
A. Okay.
Q. So, we don't need that. So, this will be -- I'm going to read it to you anyway.
A. Uh-huh.
Q. You have the following constitutional rights. You have to require that a search warrant be obtained before any search of your property. You have the right to refuse to consent to a warrantless search. You have the right to talk to a lawyer before giving consent to a search. If you cannot afford a lawyer, one will be appointed for you. If you're a juvenile, you have the

right to talk with your parent or guardian before any consent to such search. I have read this statement of my rights and I understand what my rights are. I do not want a lawyer at this time. I consent to a warrantless search by officers with the Indiana State Police of the following described property -- right now we have an iPhone rose gold color --

A. Okay.

Q. -- located at -- I'm probably going to put the Fulton County Sheriff's Department, since that's where we are.

A. Okay.

Q. Because I think he can do it right here, with -- since we're doing this --

A. Uh-huh.

Q. -- and get it back to you. I'll let you know here in a minute.

A. Okay. That's nice.

Q. I authorize these officers to seize any article of property which they consider evidence. I understand and know what I am doing. No promises or threats have been made to me, and no pressure or coercion of any kind has been used against me. So, that's that one. Thank you. All right. So, let's see, not on the phone. Kids -- you've got two that were sleeping.

A. Uh-huh.

Q. The younger ones were sleeping.

A. Yeah.

Q. How are they doing?
A. I think they're fine.
Q. You think they're okay?
A. They don't really know.
Q. Okay. Where did they end up going?
A. They went to the Talma building -- our building.
Q. Did your husband come down and get them?
A. Yeah. He came and got them, and his employee took them back there.
Q. Oh, okay. So --
A. So my husband could stay.
Q. Okay. Did -- at work?
A. With me.
Q. Oh, with you.
A. Yeah.
Q. Where is he at right now?
A. I think he's here.
Q. Okay.
A. I saw him earlier, here.
Q. That's right. Okay. I saw a couple people out front. But I don't think that person I saw was your husband. I believe it was -- he was in an emergency management truck. Does that sound right? No. Okay. Drinking any alcohol this morning?
A. No.
Q. Okay. Doing any drugs this morning?

A. No.
Q. Doing any drugs this last weekend?
A. No.
Q. Anything that would be in your system like that?
A. No.
Q. And you said you went to the hospital and they took a blood draw.
A. Yeah.
Q. Is that to check for --
A. Yeah, to check for --
Q. -- drugs and alcohol?
A. -- that stuff.
Q. Okay. Okay. The vehicle. I got where you were going, I got the phone, drugs, alcohol. Okay. What's the first thing you remember after the crash happened? Did anybody say anything to you? Or --
A. Well, I didn't -- I don't know if it was like mental or not, but I couldn't get my door open. So, I don't know if it was like -- you know, because I didn't -- I don't know if it was like I really couldn't, because eventually I could. Or if like I was just so shaky that I couldn't get my door open.
Q. Uh-huh.
A. So, I didn't know what to do. And -- because I couldn't get out for a second. And so I was like searching for my phone, because last I remembered it was in my console and now I don't

know where it's at. So, I'm searching for my phone to call somebody to figure something out.
Q. Uh-huh.
A. So --
Q. When did you realize what was -- like, when did you realize that was a -- a bus that was there? Like --
A. I -- like, I saw kids.
Q. Okay.
A. And then there was a crash.
Q. It just happened so quick.
A. It so -- happened so fast. And all of a sudden like I'm trying to call some -- I'm like horribly a wreck, and I'll screaming and crying I hit kids, I hit kids. And I'm like searching for a phone to call somebody to do something.
Q. Okay.
A. And like, that's when I realized, like, the bus has children.
Q. Okay. And where did you find your phone?
A. It was in the floor somewhere.
Q. Yeah, sometimes they're really hard to find.
A. Yeah, I think --
Q. Yeah.
A. It took me a long time to find it. It feel -- it felt like a long time. In --
Q. Okay.
A. -- an emergency.

Q. Who was sitting beside you up front?
A. Nobody.
Q. No -- so, all three of them were in the back.
A. Yeah.
Q. All right. That's good. And you're not injured at all. Just the hips hurt.
A. Yeah. I had --
Q. From the seat belt?
A. I don't really know. Okay. So, I had surgery on this hip when I was 18. And so like it's been good since then. But it just feels like -- I don’t know, it --
Q. Were you wearing your seat belt?
A. Yeah.
Q. Okay. Everybody else was buckled?
A. Yeah.
Q. So, they were in the back.
A. Yeah. All three of them were.
Q. Who is the first person that came up and talked to you? Did you -- you made it out of the car --
A. I got out of the car for a second, and I was on the phone. So, I don't know what order I called everybody in.
Q. Okay.
A. But I know I called -- I tried calling 911, but it wasn't like getting through.
Q. Okay.

A. So, I called my friend Brittany. She works like -- she is dispatch.
Q. Okay.
A. And so I called her and I was talking to her and she was like did you call 911. And I'm like I tried calling 911 -- I don't know if I'm impatient or what, but it wasn't -- like, no one is picking up. And so I decided to call Brittany and she talked to me and she told me to get out my car. So, I got out of the car. People were already with everybody, so I didn't go to people.
Q. Uh-huh.
A. So, I didn't talk to anybody for a long time until like I think it was a fireman came to my car.
Q. Okay. Do you know, were you out then -- by then? Did you get out?
A. I got out for a second. But I got back in.
Q. Okay. So, you couldn't get out at first. You tried 911 but it wouldn't go through, so you called Brittany.
A. I also called my husband. That's Brittany Thompson. I don't know if you knew that.
Q. I know that name. She said she's a dispatcher. Did you just call her personal phone?
A. Yeah. I called her cell phone.
Q. Okay. Did she end up calling 911?
A. Yeah. I could hear her like on the phone and I don't know who -- if it was actually like the number 911 or like a person

there.
Q. Okay.
A. But she called. But I think people already had called.
Q. Uh-huh. Probably. Okay.
A. But I don't know if I called my husband then Brittany or Brittany then my husband. I don't know.
Q. Okay. So, one of the two.
A. Yeah.
Q. You can't remember -- you say you're typically a slow driver but you don't really know how fast you were going.
A. Not at that point. Because it's like around a curve, you know --
Q. Uh-huh.
A. -- so I slowed down. So, usually like when I'm leaving Talma -- like, the speed limit is low in the beginning and then it slowly increases. So, like -- you know, it's like 35 and then 45 and then 55. I don't know exactly --
Q. Okay. How far is Talma from Miser's trailer park? That trailer park that you were at. I don't remember how much further it is.
A. I don't know.
Q. Okay. If you don't know, that's fine.
A. I always think like it's my third-way mark to town.
Q. Uh-huh.
A. But I don't really know.

Q. I'm trying -- is there anything else you can think of that I haven't asked.

(Knock on door.)

DET. JUMPER: Come in.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER #3: Where is that passcode?

DET. JUMPER: Oh.

MS. SHEPHERD: It's [redacted].

DET. JUMPER: I'm sorry. [redacted].

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER #3: Okay. You got consent. Is that correct?

DET. JUMPER: Yes. Yeah.

MS. SHEPHERD: Uh-huh.

DET. JUMPER: Oh, yeah.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER #3: Sorry.

DET. JUMPER: You want it? To fill out the -- because we can't -- she didn't know which one it was. It was an iPhone 7.

MS. SHEPHERD: I think it's a 7.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER #3: Oh, that [indiscernible].

DET. JUMPER: Okay.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER #3: Thank you.

DET. JUMPER: Yeah. Have you talked to him at all?

MS. SHEPHERD: Uh-uh. No.

DET. JUMPER: Okay. He's my supervisor, and he's the one that does the phones.

MS. SHEPHERD: Okay.

DET. JUMPER: So that's why he, he was just waiting. I didn't know if he had -- was watching the interview or not, so --

MS. SHEPHERD: Okay.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER #3: Michelle?

DET. JUMPER: Yeah.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER #3: There's an attorney out here for her.

DET. JUMPER: Oh, okay. All right. Okay. Well, all right. That's okay.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER #3: She'll be right [indiscernible].

MS. SHEPHERD: It's probably my sister-in-law.

DET. JUMPER: It's okay. It's okay. You said you had a relative that's an attorney, didn't you?

MS. SHEPHERD: Yeah.

DET. JUMPER: That's probably who it is.

MS. SHEPHERD: Yeah.

DET. JUMPER: That's okay.

MS. SHEPHERD: It's my sister-in-law. She's an attorney, and her husband is a doctor. So it's like [indiscernible].

DET. JUMPER: Oh. Yeah, those are expensive things to have.

MS. SHEPHERD: I know.

DET. JUMPER: It's good to have family members that are -- that specialize in that.

MS. SHEPHERD: I know. I know. She's from South Bend, so I don't know how she's here.

DET. JUMPER: Maybe enough time has gone by. Because that's probably --

MS. SHEPHERD: Yeah. For [indiscernible].

DET. JUMPER: It's 9:50.

MR. SAIZ: Hi.

DET. JUMPER: Hi.

MR. SAIZ: Good morning.

DET. JUMPER: Is this who you were talking about?

MS. SHEPHERD: No.

DET. JUMPER: No?

MR. SAIZ: I'm Danny Saiz. And I represent Alyssa. And I'm here to terminate the interview.

DET. JUMPER: Sure. Okay.

MS. SHEPHERD: Oh.

DET. JUMPER: We were just talking. She said she's got a relative that's an attorney, and we thought maybe that's who had come. Because we think that enough time has gone by.

MR. SAIZ: Is she in custody?

DET. JUMPER: I don’t think so. No.

MR. SAIZ: Detained in any way?

DET. JUMPER: I don't believe so.

MR. SAIZ: Okay.

DET. JUMPER: That other gentleman is my supervisor. So, I would just -- I'll ask him real quick. But I --

MR. SAIZ: Did I say hello.

DET. JUMPER: Michelle Jumper. State Police.

MR. SAIZ: Hi, Michelle. I don't know if I -- I wasn't sure if we've met.

DET. JUMPER: I've seen your name on the sign.

MR. SAIZ: Yeah. Well, I --

DET. JUMPER: Yeah.

MR. SAIZ: -- you know, and the thing is is that I'm such a terrible politician, because I'll think I don't know somebody but I'm afraid -- I don't want to say have we met.

DET. JUMPER: I don't think so.

MR. SAIZ: Because then that's like, gee, wasn't I remarkable enough that you would remember me.

DET. JUMPER: I'm really bad at remembering names, so --

MR. SAIZ: Right.

DET. JUMPER: But I --

MS. SHEPHERD: Did my grandpa talk to you, or who?

MR. SAIZ: Yes.

MS. SHEPHERD: Okay.

MR. SAIZ: Jasper, Jasper and -- yeah. I know, I know your grandfather. And I know your parents.

MS. SHEPHERD: Okay.

MR. SAIZ: You don't know me. But that's okay.

MS. SHEPHERD: No, I'm like I didn't know I had an attorney.

MR. SAIZ: I just spoke with your mother outside.

DET. JUMPER: That's what she just said, well it's probably

my --

MS. SHEPHERD: I thought it was my sister-in-law. She's an attorney.

DET. JUMPER: Sister-in-law. Yeah.

MR. SAIZ: Right.

DET. JUMPER: That's why I said well, it's 9:50, she's probably had time to get here. So --

MS. SHEPHERD: Yeah.

MR. SAIZ: Okay.

DET. JUMPER: All right.

MR. SAIZ: So, I --

DET. JUMPER: Let me check --

MR. SAIZ: -- just if I could find out if she's detained.

DET. JUMPER: Yeah. I -- I -- we were just doing crash investigations. So --

MR. SAIZ: Okay.

DET. JUMPER: -- I'm just doing the interview, was all I was doing for the crash. So --

MR. SAIZ: All right. Fair enough.

MS. SHEPHERD: (Indiscernible).

MR. SAIZ: And we may pick up on it, may pick up on it.

DET. JUMPER: That's fine.

MR. SAIZ: On this interview. In other words, may resume.

DET. JUMPER: Yeah.

MR. SAIZ: But right now, in an abundance of caution --

DET. JUMPER: Sure. I understand that.
MR. SAIZ: Thank you.
DET. JUMPER: It's okay.
MS. SHEPHERD: I'm scared.
DET. JUMPER: It's okay. Yeah, you're kind of in a daze. She's very calm right now, probably just because I'm talking very softly to her and we're calm. So --
MR. SAIZ: I appreciate that.
DET. JUMPER: Yeah. Yeah. See, as soon as I leave, you're not going to be calm. I can see already.
MS. SHEPHERD: I like you.
DET. JUMPER: Yeah. It's okay. And that's why I said --
MR. SAIZ: Alyssa --
DET. JUMPER: -- that may why I'm the one that was in here.
MR. SAIZ: -- you have every right to everything you're feeling now. And it's going to be really hard for a while. Okay. It's going to be -- so, it's okay.
DET. JUMPER: It's okay to cry.
MR. SAIZ: But, I just want to get you out to your parents so that you get --
MS. SHEPHERD: I have a wad.
DET. JUMPER: Oh, you already have some. Okay.
MR. SAIZ: I, I want to get you out to your parents.
MS. SHEPHERD: Yeah.
MR. SAIZ: With your mom.

DET. JUMPER: Let me ask -- I'm, I'm sure but let me just make sure.

MR. SAIZ: Okay. Thank you.

DET. JUMPER: I don't -- I'm not going to -- I don't want to keep her from her mom. He said she's free to go.

MR. SAIZ: All right. Thank you.

DET. JUMPER: Okay.

MR. SAIZ: Okay.

MS. SHEPHERD: Okay. Can I get my phone later, then?

DET. JUMPER: I'm sorry?

MS. SHEPHERD: Can I get my phone later?

DET. JUMPER: Yeah. Probably.

MR. SAIZ: Yeah. Yeah. You know --

MS. SHEPHERD: (Indiscernible) my husband's phone.

DET. JUMPER: Is that what it is, your husband's phone?

MS. SHEPHERD: No, that's my phone. That flip phone [indiscernible].

(Whereupon, the interview was concluded.)

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

| | |
|---|---|
| IN THE MATTER OF: | PICKUP TRUCK AND SCHOOL BUS CRASH<br>ROCHESTER, INDIANA<br>OCTOBER 30, 2018<br>Interview of Alyssa L. Shepherd |
| ACCIDENT NO.: | HWY19MH003 |
| PLACE: | Rochester, Indiana |
| DATE: | October 30, 2018 |

was held according to the record, and that this is the original, complete, true and accurate transcript which has been transcribed to the best of my skill and ability.

Jane W. Gilliam
Transcriber