

COUNTY COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK  
COUNTY OF SUFFOLK

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PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

Index Nos. 1535-88/1290-88

—against—

MARTIN H. TANKLEFF,

**AFFIDAVIT**

Defendant.  
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**JOSEPH J. GUARASCIO**, being duly sworn deposes and says that,

1. My name is Joseph John Guarascio. My father is Joseph Creedon. During a visit to New York in April of 2004 my father told me that killed Marty Tankleff's parents.

2. In early April of 2004, I had seen a television program about the Tankleff case that said that my father might be involved, so while I was visiting my father I asked him about the Tankleff case. Over the course a couple of days my father told me lots of details about how he and Peter Kent murdered Seymour and Arlene Tankleff. He also said that Glenn Harris, who drove the car, knew about the murders.

3. My Aunt Mimi (my uncle John Guarascio's wife) died on April 12, 2004. At the time I was living in Florida with my Mom, Terry Covais, my little sister Crystal and my step dad Leonard Covais. After we heard that my Aunt Mimi had died, me, my mom and my sister went to New York for the funeral.

4. During the trip I made plans to see my father who lives in New York. I had just met my father a few weeks before when he had come to Florida. Seeing my father in Florida was the first time I had seen him in about 9 years. Since I had just seen my dad in Florida, I was excited about getting to see him again in New York.

5. That first day with my father in New York was a good time. I saw family I had never really known and everyone treated us really well. We ended up staying at my aunt Maryann's house that night. I slept on the couch in the living room.

6. The next day, my father and I went out to get bagels for everyone at my Aunt's house. We brought the bagels back to the house and after breakfast my dad suggested that he and I go together to see his mother, my grandmother who I had not seen for ten years.

7. At my Grandmother's house I saw my Grandmother and my Uncle Jimmy, my father's brother. After a while my dad took me to show me his room. In his room he showed me a large safe. It was a 3 to 4 foot tall combination safe on the left side of the room as you walk in. My father opened the safe and showed me a whole bunch of jewelry that was still in a display case. There was also money stacked about 4-6 inches high all along the bottom of the safe. He told me that one day the stuff in the safe would all be mine. The entire time I was with him he was asking me to come and live with him and to leave my mother. At first I was impressed by his money, his cars and his Harley motorcycle.

8. My father also showed me papers which he had in a folder in his closet. He told me that the papers were from a private investigator and had all sorts of information about my family, like all our social security numbers and the fact that my step father worked for Boeing. He told me that he knew that we had lived in Seattle. This made me feel weird because I remembered when we were living in Seattle and at the time my mom was still afraid of my father. My father called our home in Seattle and my mother was very upset.

9. Under the bed in the same room he pulled out a black bag with a zipper. He showed me a gun which I thought was a 357 pistol, some hand cuffs and leg shackles. He told me that this was for Glenn Harris if Harris testified. He also showed me 3 or 4 other guns which he had hidden under the mattress. I was stunned. I had heard that my father may seem like a nice guy but that in reality he was not. I was beginning to see that the things that I had heard about him were true.

10. After we left my grandmother's house we stopped by a drug store by an old school in Seldon. We then went back to my Aunt's house. I asked my father if he was worried about the Tankleff case. He told me that his attorney assured him that he had nothing to worry about. I remember him laughing about the investigator I had seen on T.V. who I now know to be Jay Salpeter. My father said "he is nothing and has nothing." I also remember him saying that if he was worried, he would not stay here.

11. The next day my dad and I were driving around and I asked him, "Did you really do that?" We both knew that I meant the Tankleff murders. He said "Yeah, I did it." Over the course of the day he slowly began to tell me more and more about the murders and I began to ask more and more questions. He began to explain to me how the murders occurred. He said that it was him, Peter Kent and Glen Harris. He told me that Harris knew that they were going to kill people. According to my father, Joseph Creedon, he and Peter Kent waited outside of the house until Jerry Steuerman gave them a signal. My father told me that brought a cable from a bicycle brake line with him that he had stripped of the black plastic cover. He told me that he used the cable to choke him, which I understood to be Mr. Tankleff. He also told me that they (he did not say who) hit Mr. Tankleff with a snub nose .38 special. He told me that it was Kent who stabbed the "lady," which I understood to be Mrs. Tankleff. According to my father Kent stabbed "her" by or in the bed. He then told me that he had to go back into the house after they left because they had forgotten something. He also said that at some point he went up some steps and looked

into Marty's room and saw he was asleep.

12. My father told me that after they left Harris threw a pipe that they used out of the car. My father said they then went back to the home or house of a guy named "Ronnie Reefer" and burned their clothes in his basement. My dad said that the basement is the same place where he tortured people. I remember him telling me that he burned someone with a lighter and that he never heard anyone scream so loud.

13. When my father told me that he had killed the Tankleff's, I just didn't know what do because I was so scared and shocked. I didn't tell anyone about this because I was afraid of my father and what he might do to me or my mother. After many months of holding this inside, In February of 2005, my mom found me crying in bed one night and asked me what was wrong. At that point I told my mother everything and it felt very good to get it off my chest. The next day, my mom called the investigator working for Marty Tankleff. Several days later investigator Jay Salpeter came down to Florida, spoke with me, and I told him the same things that I told my mother. The day after that, I met with the attorneys for Marty Tankleff and they asked me to tell them what happened, which I did. They told me they would be in touch with me in the future to give a signed statement.

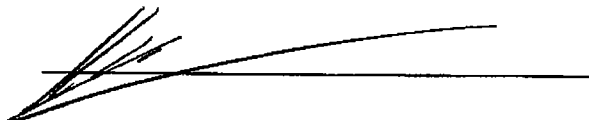
14. I am now in the Law Offices of Bruce Barket where I am giving this statement voluntarily, no one has made any promises or made any threats to induce me to give this statement, which I am giving of my own free will because it is the truth and what happened.

I have given this statement to Bruce Barket and Jay Salpeter and Barry Pollack. Mr. Barket typed it for me. I have read it and had it read to me paragraph by paragraph. It is the truth. I understand that any false statement I make in this statement would constitute a crime.

  
JOSEPH J. GUARASCIO July 28, 2005

I was born on 7/8/88

Sworn to Me This 28<sup>th</sup> Day of July, 2005 in the County of Nassau, State of New York



BRUCE A. BARKET  
Notary Public, State of New York  
No. 02BA4989173  
Qualified in Nassau County  
Commission Expires December 2, 2009