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County of Erie

JOEL A. GIAMBRA
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
MICHAEL WEINER, M.S., M.B.A.
COMMISSIONER

FORENSIC MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE
JOSEPH W. LIEBERGALL, Ph.D.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 7, 2003

HON. Mark G. Farrell
Amherst Town Court

RE: JEREMY PERKINS
DOB: 12-20-74

Dear Judge Farrell:

Pursuant to your request for a mental health evaluation, Jeremy Perkins was evaluated by the undersigned on the 3rd of April 2003. This examination took place on the Forensic Special Housing Floor. Present at the examination in addition to Mr. Perkins and the examiner was his attorney, Mr. Nucherino. The examination, itself, consisted of reviewing his current adjustment, obtaining history from this defendant, performing a mental status examination, discussion of the charges and Court procedures and formulation of a Forensic opinion.

Currently, Mr. Perkins is, indeed, cooperative in terms of taking medication; he is adjusting on the Housing Unit, socializing with the other inmates and not creating any kind of behavioral problems.

History, in brief, indicates that he stems from an intact family; he has one younger sister and apparently progressed normally through school, with the exception of repeating the 1st Grade. His general demeanor, however, is such that history provided by him may be somewhat questionable. In any event, he notes obtaining a regular high school diploma, noted participating in certain extra-curricular activities in school that also stems from a background in which the Church of Scientology has been emphasized, and as a result of this, the onset of a Schizophrenic illness was not dealt with in an appropriate manner. It is unclear how long this illness has been active, but, again, no definitive treatment has been afforded to this man.

On mental status examination, he is calm, pleasant and cooperative. He answered questions that were directed to him and was, for the most part, lucid and able to give an account of himself. At times his associations are somewhat loose and his responses are rather vague and tangential. He did not acknowledge hallucinations and was not presenting with organized delusions. However, at various times, it is quite clear that he

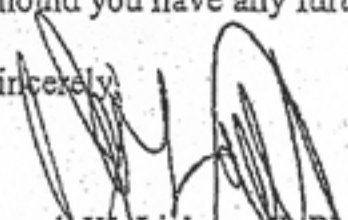
has thought that people have been trying to harm him and that he has had a relationship with one particular person over several lifetimes and has had thoughts that he is Jesus Christ. It is clear that his behavior over the past year has become increasingly odd, eccentric and, no doubt, clearly driven by an underlying psychotic process.

Regarding his actual charges, Mr. Perkins is able to clearly describe what the nature of the charge is that is resulting in his confinement. He was aware of Mr. Nucherino's presence and that Mr. Nucherino was his attorney. He evidenced a degree of cooperation and promised to follow his attorney's instructions. He was clear as to the role of the Judge who he stated, "decides the overall case...what the verdict is". He understood the attorney's job was to determine "what to tell the Judge". The Prosecutor, he stated, "Does me in...". He understood that generally the trial is to find him guilty or innocent and was able to discuss the implication of a plea and he understood the issue of an insanity defense.

It is clear at this point that Mr. Perkins still is in the throes of an active psychotic mental illness. However, he maintains a cognitive understanding of the events and Court procedures. He is able to discuss alternatives with his attorney and while the depth of his emotional capacity is somewhat lacking, it is the opinion of this examiner that he nevertheless retains the capacity to understand the proceedings and to assist in his defense.

Should you have any further questions, please feel free to contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,



Joseph W. Liebergall, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Licensed Psychologist

JWL:sdm



County of Erie

JOEL A. GIAMBRA
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

April 10, 2003

DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
MICHAEL WEINER, M.S., M.B.A.
COMMISSIONER

FORENSIC MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE
JOSEPH W. LIEBERGALL, Ph.D.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Hon. Mark G. Farrell
Amherst Town Court

RE: JEREMY PERKINS
DOB: 12/20/74

Dear Justice Farrell:

On this date, I did evaluate Mr. Jeremy Perkins, here at the Erie County Holding Center, per your recent request for a psychiatric assessment according to Article 730 of the Criminal Procedure Law.

Mr. Perkins presents as a 28-year-old (DOB: 12/20/71), single, white male from Buffalo, New York, who has done some work for his father's construction business. He currently understands that he is charged with Murder in the Second Degree. He did note a prior arrest for Trespassing at the University of Buffalo at some point last year, wherein he was in custody at the Holding Center for some two weeks. He notes some schooling at ECC, but was vague in regard to why he did not continue his education. He denies ever being in a mental hospital, suffering from active medical problems, or harboring suicidal ideation. There is no history of a seizure disorder or allergies to medicine. He denies drug or alcohol abuse.

In this current interview, he was calm, appropriate and in good contact. He was lucid and emotionally responsive, while denying hallucinations or delusions. He was well oriented with an intact memory and seemed to be of at least average intelligence, with the ability to think in an abstract manner preserved. He was also reasonably familiar with the roles of various court figures and court procedures. He had an explanation for the events leading to his arrest, which were at least reasonable and rational.

When I initially saw him on March 27th, he was much more perplexed and had been responding to auditory hallucinations and was obviously grossly psychotic. At this point, he seems to have responded quite well to the use of antipsychotic medication in the form of Risperdal 2 mg., twice a day. He was also questioned about his relationship with his attorney, Mr. John Nuchereno, who was in attendance during the course of this evaluation. Neither the attorney nor Mr. Perkins felt that there were any problems between the two of them that were at issue with their working together.

Thus, I am concluding that this man has been suffering from a longstanding, chronic Paranoid Schizophrenia, which has now been reasonably stabilized with the use of psychotropic medication, and he is certainly capable of going forward with the adjudication process.

However, if questions arise in the future, please don't hesitate to contact me at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely yours,

Brian S. Joseph, M.D.
Chief, Psychiatric Services

BSJ:kmd

Forensic Mental Health
County of Erie
Hospital