

D. Information About the Victims, Judy Mayo & Melissa Moody, Needed to Understand the Testimony in this Case.

Judy Ann Runyon was born in Columbus Ohio, on October 11, 1944. She was 46 years old at the time of her death on September 5, 1991. Her mother, Marie Legg, was born in West Virginia in 1920. Marie had seven children by various men. The oldest, Eugene Edmond, was the product of a rape. He was shot to death in a bar fight in Arizona in 1969, when he was 31 years old. At some point Marie married Pete Runyon. During that marriage, Marie gave birth to four children: Charlotte, Rita, David and Judy. When Pete and Marie separated, Pete had custody of the children. According to Judy, Pete raped her when she was about nine years old.

Marie married her third husband, Jesse S. Cummings ("Jess"), in 1953, in Solome, Arizona. Marie and Jess had two children, Jessie James Cummings, born in California in 1955, and Debbie Cummings, born in Oklahoma in 1961. Because Judy felt traumatized by her birth father having raped her, at some point Judy began using Cummings as her last name and considered Jess to be her father.

In this family system, it is common for several generations to live in the same household. Adult children often lived with their parents, or at least in close proximity. This extended family lived a nomadic existence, pulling up stakes and moving frequently. These moves were often triggered by the hope that better jobs could be found in a new location, and some were prompted by having worn out their welcome where they had been living. Members of this extended family owned various old trucks, pickups and travel trailers. They loaded their material possessions in these vehicles, sometimes transporting trucks on top of trucks, and caravanned down the highway to their next destination like a modern-day band of gypsies.

Judy married James Henry Moody ("Tinky") around 1959, when she was just 15 or 16 years old. Tinky was almost 20 years older than her, and was on Social Security Disability due to a mental defect. During her marriage to Tinky, Judy gave birth to eight children fathered by various men who were mostly relatives of Tinky.

In the early 1960s, Judy and her husband were living in Arizona near Jessie's parents. Her

three oldest children, Sadie (born in 1960), Henry (born in 1962) and James (born in 1965), were born there. By the end of the 60s, Judy and her family were living in Visalia County, California. Judy's parents and other relatives lived nearby much of the time. Sherry Cummings as a child lived in the vicinity of Judy and her family in California. Sherry is only a little younger than Judy's sons, Henry and James Moody, and she would hang around them as a child. Not long after Sherry married her first husband, John Rowe, in 1982, Sherry and John lived for a period of time in a tent in Judy's backyard in California.

In 1979, the State of California removed from Judy's home four of her children: Cindy (born in 1967), Linda (born in 1970), Howard (born in 1973) and Alice (born in 1976). The children were removed due to neglect, malnutrition and abuse. They were placed in the care of foster parents, George and Margaret Edmonds, who raised the children. The Edmonds report that all four children were believed to have been sexually molested by their father and their older brothers, James and Henry. Judy and Tinky had their parental rights to these children terminated in California. See *Guardianship of Cindy Mae Moody, Linda May Moody, Alice Cristina Moody & Howard Calvin Moody*, Tulare County [California] Superior Court, Nos. 20207, 20208, 20209.

Judy's youngest child, Melissa Moody, was born on March 7, 1980. According to the foster parents of Melissa's siblings, Judy was in the county jail at the time of Melissa's birth. In June of 1983, Judy applied for Welfare benefits in Oklahoma, but apparently moved to Arkansas instead. Tinky died in Arkansas in May 1987. Henry, who was 25 years old, was living at home at the time. A month later, Judy and her brood moved to Tupelo, Oklahoma, where her half-sister Debbie Cummings Smith (who was married to Jimmy Smith at the time) was living.

In Tupelo, Judy became close friends with Ella Faye Potter who was living with Robert Cogburn in Tupelo. On May 7, 1988, Judy married Eugene Mayo, a mentally retarded man who was 22 years younger than Judy. In 1989, Judy's household moved to Caney, Oklahoma, and then to a small two-bedroom home in Tushka around 1990. From time to time, James Moody and his wife, Mildred Moody, lived in Judy's household. Henry began dating Shirley Cunningham, and they had a daughter, Natasha, in 1990. Shirley also had a son, Brandon, who was born around 1987. Henry,

Shirley and her two children also lived with Judy much of the time.

One of Judy's most distinguishing traits is her obesity. She reportedly weighed as much as 350 lbs. during her lifetime. At trial, Sherry testified that Judy weighed 300 lb. at the time of her death. One of Judy's most notable skills was shoplifting. Relatives and friends report they tried to stay as far away from Judy as they could in a store. They knew she would inevitably leave the store with numerous items tucked under her clothing, or in a large purse which she carried for that purpose. Judy also was known to take things from the homes of friends and relatives for no apparent reason. Some relatives think Judy may have been a kleptomaniac. When confronted by relatives about having taken something from their home, Judy often just returned the item.

Melissa was eleven at the time of her death. She was in the fourth grade at Tushka Elementary School. She often came to school in dirty and worn clothing, sometimes smelling so bad that she was ostracized and teased by classmates. She was behind her classmates in her academic abilities. Although she was not a disruptive student, she clearly had emotional problems.

One of her best friends was Lisa Cathey, who is a year younger than Melissa. She attended school with Melissa, and is the daughter of Judy's close friends Pat and Wayne Cathey. Another was Linda Potter, the daughter of Judy's friend Ella Faye Potter. Linda is a year younger than Melissa and went to school with her when they both lived in Tupelo. Melissa saw both girls often, and they would stay overnight at each other's homes.

Melissa is consistently described as a "mama's girl." Judy was still breast feeding her when Melissa started school, and even at age 11 Melissa still liked to sit on her mother's lap. If Judy would leave Melissa at someone's house for awhile, Melissa would be ever alert for the sounds of her mother's return. Melissa is recalled as a active child who did not like to sit still. At the time of her death, she had entered the sassy, back-talking stage which characterizes the adolescent rebellion of many youth. This was partly the reason Melissa did not get along well with Anita.

Melissa had not yet begun menstruating at the time of her death. She and her girlfriends were looking forward to that with eager anticipation, and at times would play make believe about having their periods. Melissa's friends doubt that she was sexually activity, because Melissa had