

Office of the
Federal Public Defender
Districts of Colorado and Wyoming

Tracy R. Huckle, Wyoming Branch Supervisor
Mary V. Butterton, Senior Litigator

Virginia L. Grady, Federal Public Defender
Matthew K. Belcher, First Assistant

O. Dean Sanderford, Chief, Appeals
John C. Arceci, Senior Counsel

January 7, 2022

Ethan Collins
Register No. 29901-509
c/o Federal Detention Center
9595 West Quincy Avenue
Littleton, CO 80123

Re: *U.S. v. Collins*, Case No. 21-cr-00053-RM

Dear Mr. Collins:

Enclosed for your review and records is a copy of the Presentence Investigation Report (Document 55) that the Probation Office prepared and filed in your case. Mr. Kraut will be in contact with you to review it, but please feel free to contact him at (303) 294-7002 if you have questions in the meantime.

Sincerely,

Mary Unrein

Digitally signed by Mary
Unrein
Date: 2022.01.07 13:37:41
-07'00'

Mary Unrein, Legal Assistant to
DAVID A. KRAUT
Assistant Federal Public Defender

/meu
Enclosure

Cheyenne, Wyoming
214 W. Lincolnway, Suite 31A
Cheyenne, WY 82001
Phone: 307-772-2781
Fax: 307-772-2788

Denver, Colorado
633 17th Street, Suite 1000
Denver, CO 80202
Phone: 303-294-7002
Fax: 303-294-1192

Casper, Wyoming
Ewing T. Kerr Federal Building
111 South Wolcott Street, Room 312
Casper, WY 82601
Phone: 307-772-2781
Fax: 307-772-2786

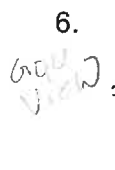
www.cofpd.org

PART A. THE OFFENSE

Charge(s) and Conviction(s)

1. On February 17, 2021, a six-count Indictment (Doc. No. 4) was filed in the District of Colorado charging the defendant in Counts 1 through 3 with Possessing an Unregistered Firearm - Silencer, in violation of 26 U.S.C. §§ 5841, 5861(d) and 5871; and in Counts 4 through 6 with Possessing Silencers without Serial Numbers, in violation of 26 U.S.C. §§ 5841, 5861(i) and 5871. A forfeiture allegation was included.
2. On November 23, 2021, the defendant pleaded guilty to Count 1 of the Indictment. Pursuant to the Rule 11(c)(1)(A) Plea Agreement (Doc. No. 53), the defendant agrees to waive certain appellate rights; recommend that the Court impose a term of supervised release of three years to follow any term of imprisonment; not object to specific special conditions of supervised release, if recommended by probation, and as outlined in the Plea Agreement; and agrees to the forfeiture of the three silencers taken from the defendant's home on January 29, 2021.
3. In exchange for the defendant's plea of guilty and waiver of certain appellate rights, the Government agrees not to bring other charges against the defendant based on information currently known to the United States Attorney's Office, District of Colorado concerning the information the defendant proffered to Customs and Border Protection during a January 2021 employment polygraph and further agrees not to bring charges against any other person for the silencers located in the defendant's apartment on January 29, 2021. The Government agrees to move to dismiss Counts 2 through 6 of the Indictment and recommend the Court grant the defendant full credit for acceptance of responsibility unless he engages in obstructive conduct.
4. **At the Rule 11 hearing, the defendant's plea of guilty to Count 1 of the Indictment was accepted but the Court deferred approval of the Plea Agreement until the time of sentencing.**
5. The defendant is currently detained at the Federal Detention Center (FDC), in Littleton, Colorado. He is not considered a management concern, and he has no disciplinary history to date.

The Offense Conduct

6.  The probation officer reviewed the investigative materials in the possession of the United States Attorney's Office and discussed the case with the Assistant United States Attorney and Federal Bureau of Investigation Special Agent Brian Schmitt. Based on that investigation, the probation officer believes that the statement of facts filed by the parties provides an accurate description of the offense conduct.
7. The statement of facts is set forth below, followed by additional information which the probation officer believes is relevant to sentencing.
8. The parties stipulate that the following facts are true and correct:
9. "On or about January 29, 2021, special agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and other law enforcement officers executed a search warrant at the home of Ethan Collins in Centennial, Colorado. During execution of the search warrant, agents located

Identifying Data:

Date of Birth: March 20, 1991
Age: 30
Race: White
Hispanic Origin: Non-Hispanic origin
Sex: Male

SSN#: 250-85-8133
FBI#: J074DCJWM
USM#: 29901-509
State ID#: None assigned
PACTS#: 7385153
Other ID No.: Utah driver's license: 230043176 (valid, expires 03/20/2025)

Education: Some college
Dependents: None
Citizenship: United States
Place of Birth: Columbia, South Carolina

Alternate IDs: Date of Birth: 03/10/1991



Restrictions on Use and Redisclosure of Presentence Investigation Report. Disclosure of this presentence investigation report to the Federal Bureau of Prisons and redisclosure by the Bureau of Prisons is authorized by the United States District Court solely to assist administering the offender's prison sentence (i.e., classification, designation, programming, sentence calculation, pre-release planning, escape apprehension, prison disturbance response, sentence commutation, or pardon) and other limited purposes, including deportation proceedings and federal investigations directly related to terrorist activities. If this presentence investigation report is redisclosed by the Federal Bureau of Prisons upon completion of its sentence administration function, the report must be returned to the Federal Bureau of Prisons or destroyed. It is the policy of the federal judiciary and the Department of Justice that further redisclosure of the presentence investigation report is prohibited without the consent of the sentencing judge.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF COLORADO
PROBATION OFFICE



LAVETRA A. MORGAN
Chief U.S. Probation Officer

Byron G. Rogers U.S. Courthouse
1929 Stout Street, Suite C-120
Denver, CO 80294-0101
Phone: (303) 844-5424

212 North Wahsatch Avenue, Suite 300
Colorado Springs, CO 80903-3476
Phone: (719) 471-3387

ELIZABETH MILLER
Deputy Chief U.S. Probation Officer

400 Rood Avenue, Room 309
Grand Junction, CO 81501-2520
Phone: (970) 245-5396

La Plata County Courthouse
Suite 130
1060 E. 2nd Avenue
Durango, CO 81301
Phone: (970) 385-9564

January 7, 2022

RESPOND TO: Denver

David Kraut
Attorney at Law
633 17th Street, Suite 1000
Denver, CO 80202

Re: Ethan Collins
Case No. 1:21CR00053-1

Dear Choose an item. Kraut:

This is an electronic filing of the presentence report in the above case which is also available to the Assistant U.S. Attorney. It will be necessary for you to provide the report to the defendant.

Objections to the presentence report, as provided in Rule 32(f) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, shall be filed electronically by January 21, 2022. Motions for upward or downward departure and sentencing variances shall be filed as prescribed by the Local Rules of Practice of the United States District Court for the District of Colorado. Objections to the presentence report shall not be included in or combined with a motion for departure or a motion for variance. Other documents related to sentencing, including letters, reports, or other documents pertaining to the defendant, should be provided to the probation office no later than 10 days before sentencing and will be filed electronically by our office no later than 7 days before sentencing.

The presentence report will be submitted electronically to the Court no later than February 2, 2022, with an addendum setting forth any unresolved objections, grounds for those objections, and my comments on those objections. The addendum to the report will be available in CM/ECF at that time. If there are no objections or additions, an addendum will not be prepared.

Please call me at 303-335-2509 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

s/Michelle Means
Michelle Means
United States Probation Officer

cc: Andrea Lee Surratt, AUSA

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLORADO

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
)
 vs.) PRESENTENCE INVESTIGATION REPORT
)
) Docket No.: 1082 1:21CR00053-1
 ETHAN JEFFREY COLLINS)
 a/k/a: Ethan Collins)

Prepared for: The Honorable Raymond P. Moore
United States District Judge

Prepared by: Michelle D. Means
United States Probation Officer
Denver, CO
303-335-2509

Assistant U.S. Attorney
Andrea Lee Surratt
1801 California Street, Suite 1600
Denver, CO 80202
303-454-0124

Defense Counsel
David Andrew Kraut
633 17th Street, Suite 1000
Denver, CO 80202
303-294-7002

Sentence Date: February 11, 2022 3:00 PM

Offense: **Count 1:** Possessing an Unregistered Firearm - Silencer
26 U.S.C. §§ 5841, 5861(d) and 5871
Not more than 10 years imprisonment/\$10,000 fine
(Class C Felony)

Release Status: Arrested February 8, 2021, in the District of Utah, by special agents with the Federal Bureau of Investigations. Transferred in custody to the District of Colorado, and remains detained. Total of 368 days presentence confinement as of February 11, 2022. Credit for time served is determined by the Bureau of Prisons, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3585.

Detainers: None.

Codefendants: None.

Related Cases: None.

DATE REPORT PREPARED: January 6, 2022

3. You must refrain from any unlawful use of a controlled substance. It is recommended that the mandatory drug testing provision of 18 U.S.C. § 3563(a) be suspended because the presentence report indicates a low risk of future substance abuse by the defendant.
4. You must cooperate in the collection of DNA as directed by the probation officer.

STANDARD CONDITIONS:

The standard conditions adopted by this court pursuant to General Order 2020-20 apply.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS:

The following special conditions of supervision are recommended pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3583(d). The recommended special conditions are reasonably related to the factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a)(1) and (a)(2) and involve only such deprivations of liberty or property as are reasonably necessary to accomplish the statutory goals of sentencing. Further, the recommended special conditions are appropriate based on the nature and circumstances of the offense and the history and characteristics of this particular defendant.

1. You must participate in a program of mental health treatment approved by the probation officer and follow the rules and regulations of such program. The probation officer, in consultation with the treatment provider, will supervise your participation in the program as to modality, duration, and intensity. You must pay for the cost of treatment based on your ability to pay.
2. You must submit your person, property, house, residence, papers, computers (as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 1030(e)(1)), other electronic communications or data storage devices or media, or office, to a search conducted by a United States probation officer. Failure to submit to search may be grounds for revocation of release. You must warn any other occupants that the premises may be subject to searches pursuant to this condition. An officer may conduct a search pursuant to this condition only when reasonable suspicion exists that you have violated a condition of your supervision and that the areas to be searched contain evidence of this violation. Any search must be conducted at a reasonable time and in a reasonable manner.
3. Your use of personally or family-owned, leased, or rented computers and Internet capable devices will be limited to those computers and devices you request in advance to use and which the probation officer authorizes. Authorization of any such computer or device shall be based on the ability of the computer or device to be effectively monitored by monitoring software utilized by the Probation Office. You must disclose any username(s) or identification(s) and password(s) for all authorized computers or Internet capable devices to the probation officer and keep that disclosure complete and up to date.
4. Your use of other computers and Internet capable devices is prohibited, except to the extent that such other computers or devices need to be accessed (i) for emergencies; (ii) for completion of routine transactions at commercial, health, or religious "brick and mortar" establishments; (iii) for the completion of employment duties and responsibilities; (iv) for voting and census reporting; or (v) as otherwise approved by the probation officer. The probation officer shall approve use of such other computer or device, absent reasonable suspicion that the defendant is using such computer or device to circumvent the monitoring of his personal or family-owned, leased or rented computer or device.

No Education?
no email
no youtube

5. You must allow the probation officer to install software/hardware designed to monitor activities on any personally or family-owned, leased, or rented computer or Internet capable device you are authorized by the probation officer to use. This monitoring may record any and all activity on the device, including the capture of keystrokes, application information, Internet use history, email correspondence, and chat conversations. You must not attempt to remove, tamper with, reverse engineer, or in any way circumvent the software/hardware.

JUSTIFICATION

In January 2021, after failing multiple polygraph examinations during a job interview with the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Agency (CBP), the defendant spoke at length with the polygraph examiner about a plan he had been researching to sabotage the electrical power grid in Colorado. The defendant admitted to the examiner he had conducted online research, scouted locations, and took pictures of power facilities, had a detailed plan saved to his computer hard drive, and shared further antigovernment sentiments. He reported attending rallies and sharing his plans to an antigovernment group. The examiner became alarmed with their discussion, reported his concerns, and as a result, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) began an investigation.

On January 29, 2021, FBI agents conducted a search of the basement apartment in which the defendant lived, and three silencers, none of which had serial numbers, were located. The defendant admitted he made the silencers (though there is now a dispute as to whether he owned all three or only the one on which his fingerprints were found). Regardless, none of the silencers were registered to the defendant as required. At the time of the search, law enforcement also located numerous firearms, ammunition, and ballistic vests and helmets. A warrant was issued for the defendant, though he would not be located until six days later, in Utah. Before his arrest, law enforcement returned to the Colorado residence and learned the defendant had moved out the same day of the initial search. They were notified by the owners of the residence that the defendant had left further items, which were magazines and ammunition, and bags containing chemicals and unknown substances. The owners believed the bags contained items the defendant used to make fireworks. These items were later determined by a bomb squad to pose a danger to the public and were destroyed.

The defendant was arrested in Utah on February 8, 2021. A search of his vehicle revealed a sporting rifle with no serial number, a handgun, a semiautomatic rifle, loaded and unloaded magazines, and ammunition. No firearm licenses were ever issued to the defendant. A forensic evaluation conducted on the defendant's computers revealed files containing information about Google map locations for sites such as Buckley Air Force Base, FBI facilities, Denver Police Department/substations, power facilities, and the National Guard Armory; anti-surveillance equipment, circuit board construction and hacking tools; and extremist groups.

The defendant has no prior criminal history. He was raised by both parents in an intact home, and he was primarily home schooled through graduation. He took some online college courses. The defendant reported feeling ostracized and bullied through his school years. Since his arrest, the defendant has been psychologically evaluated and diagnosed with Autism and Depression. The defendant has expressed to the Probation Officer that learning of his diagnosis of Autism has provided some relief to him as he did not know why "growing up was always hard, I felt outside." The defendant has no substance abuse issues. He recognized his love for planes at an early age and earned private and commercial pilot certificates. However, between 2017 and 2019, he bounced between multiple airline companies and schools and was terminated twice. The defendant reported working for Boutique Air in October 2019, and this appeared to be

stable employment until the pandemic hit in March 2020, and his salary was cut, and he became more isolated. It appears this is when the defendant began researching some of the beliefs and plans which he shared with the polygraph examiner.

It would not be possible (or fair) for the Probation Officer to attempt to assess the legitimacy or seriousness of the statements the defendant made to the polygraph examiner. However, because of the degree and detail to which he offered, these statements, understandably, could not be overlooked by the examiner. What came to fruition from his statements, was a federal criminal case involving the defendant's possession of at least one unregistered silencer. In investigating the case, law enforcement located several firearms (also not registered to the defendant, but recognizing he is not a prohibited possessor of firearms), magazines and ammunition, ballistic vests and helmets, and chemicals and substances that were later determined to have posed a potential danger to the public. When these types of items are located amongst the property of an individual who previously made the statements he made, the overall picture extends past a simple series of thoughts, beliefs, and statements. Further, a forensic evaluation of the defendant's computers revealed actual searches for power facilities, Air Forces bases, and law enforcement facilities. While no one will know (but the defendant) how serious the defendant had considered implementing his plans, the Probation Officer believes discovery materials reflect that at a minimum, he was taking some active steps toward a terrifying plan to hurt the community. ?

Given the concerns noted above, the Probation Officer has not recommended a variant sentence, and has recommended a sentence of 24 months imprisonment. The Probation Officer has no doubt that the defendant's parents will be able to provide a more stable residence and environment to him than where he was before, and it is encouraging to see that his mother has located future employers and mental health providers for her son - areas which are crucial to ensure the defendant's success within the community. However, an appropriate sentence also needs to reflect the seriousness of the offense, to promote respect for the law, to provide just punishment for the offense, and afford adequate deterrence to criminal conduct, which is why the 24-month sentence was ultimately recommended.

A three-year term of supervised release is recommended. Because of the defendant's history and characteristics, a condition requiring mental health treatment is recommended. The nature of the instant offense involves the defendant's possession of an unregistered silencer. He was also found in possession of numerous firearms, both in his residence and in his vehicle. Given the possible risks to others while on supervised release, a search condition is recommended. One way of controlling risk posed by certain types of defendants is a search condition that would allow a search by the probation officer. While searches are not the Probation Office's preferred supervision tool, there are instances where they may be necessary to protect the public, the probation officer, or the offender. A search condition, by itself, may provide an element of deterrence for a defendant and will permit the Probation Office to intervene quickly when there is a reasonable suspicion that a defendant has engaged in criminal conduct or otherwise violated conditions of release.

As detailed above, evidence of the defendant's search for government agencies, power grid identifiers, anti-surveillance equipment, hacking tools, and extremist groups were found on his computers. Based on this information as well as the detailed information he shared to the polygraph examiner, the defendant could potentially pose a threat to others. As such, special conditions for monitoring computer usage and limiting computer access, and authorizing search are recommended. All such conditions are necessary to adequately monitor the defendant and his risk to the community.

A fine is not recommended but the special assessment total of \$100 is required by statute.

RIGHT TO APPEAL

The Court may wish to advise the defendant of his right to appeal the sentence.

VOLUNTARY SURRENDER

It is recommended that the defendant be remanded to the custody of the United States Marshal.

Respectfully Submitted,

s/ Michelle D. Means

MICHELLE D. MEANS
UNITED STATES PROBATION OFFICER

Approved:

s/Kyla Hamilton

KYLA HAMILTON
SUPERVISING UNITED STATES PROBATION OFFICER

15. The defendant also identified Data Centers for the state of Colorado as another target. He found the locations through IP addresses found on the Colorado Department of Revenue website. He denied hacking into the site but stated he was good with computers. The data centers were targeted because they contained all the Colorado driver's license information for the state of Colorado, and if the centers were taken down, driver's license information would not be available to law enforcement. The defendant also identified Denver police stations as potential targets so it would be difficult for law enforcement to respond to his planned power outage if their facilities were not operational.
16. The defendant told the polygraph examiner that because of the COVID-19 shutdowns and restrictions, his hours as a pilot had been cut and his salary had been reduced by 55 percent. He acknowledged that the COVID-19 restrictions had caused an increase in his anger toward both the government and law enforcement, and that he began formulating his plan to disrupt the power grid around the time the COVID-19 shutdowns began.
17. The defendant shared his admiration for the terrorist group ISIS because they had the courage and conviction to bring their vision of a society into existence through force. While he strongly disagreed with their ideology and their use of torture, rape, and murder, he admired that they took decisive action and were able to form their own society. He discussed the bombing in downtown Nashville that occurred on Christmas day 2020, and felt that the bomber, whom he described as a genius, was not a terrorist because he did not target innocent civilians. He shared his opinion on the plot to kidnap Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer, stating that those plotting to kidnap the Governor would be justified in doing so if they arrested her and put her on trial for violating their rights as American citizens.
18. The defendant stated he believed that somebody who targets only the government or law enforcement should not be considered a terrorist and only those who intentionally target innocent civilians are terrorists. He considers himself as a patriot, not a terrorist. He admitted he had spent a lot of time thinking about how easy it would be to shutdown major infrastructure, which might be necessary in the case of a tyrannical government.
19. The defendant reported attending rallies in the Denver area with the United American Defense Force (UADF) in the summer of 2020. He wore a ballistic vest and helmet and received some training from UADF which improved his marksmanship. He stopped his association with UADF as he felt they did not hold the same anti-government views as he does.
20. The defendant told the polygraph examiner that in October 2020, he started communicating with an antigovernment group called the Council of Colorado, a group he found through the messaging app "Signal." He met with some of the members in person. He described the group as poorly organized and found that when he suggested a plan to take down the Denver power grid, the other members were not supportive, and the idea was not discussed again.
21. On January 19, 2021, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Special Agent (SA) Brian Schmitt spoke with the defendant and arranged a time to meet and discuss statements made (noted above) during his job interview with the CBP. Though a meeting was originally scheduled, the defendant later declined to meet, stating a preference to meet in the presence of a lawyer.

three firearms silencers, none of which were registered to the defendant in the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record. Each of the three silencers meets the definition of firearm silencer in 18 U.S.C. § 921(a)(24) in that they are each a device for 'silencing, muffling, of diminishing the report of a portable firearm . . . '

10. "The silencer that forms the basis for Count One, the count of conviction, was located on a bookshelf in the defendant's home. The defendant admits that he knowingly possessed this silencer. The other two silencers were located in yellow bike bags in the defendant's bedroom. The defendant does not admit knowing possession of these latter two silencers."

Additional Information

11. According to discovery materials, the defendant came to the attention of federal law enforcement during a polygraph examination with the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Agency (CBP). In May 2020, the defendant applied for a position with CBP as an Aviation Interdiction Agent, and as part of the hiring process, he was subject to a polygraph examination on January 11, 2021. After failing three separate polygraph examinations, the defendant was interviewed by the polygraph examiner regarding statements he made before and during the examination.
12. Among other things, the defendant told the polygraph examiner that in early 2020, he began researching and formulating a plan to sabotage ("take down") the electrical power grid in Denver, Colorado. He admitted to studying power transmission lines and towers to determine what weaknesses they had. While he believed some type of powerful explosion would be needed to destroy them, he did not have access to such explosives. He studied power grid maps and blueprints found on open source websites on the internet, and he was able to identify several key locations he believed could be disrupted and blackout Denver and cut 80 percent of power to the state of Colorado. The defendant believed that the power stations he identified operated using General Electric Natural Gas turbines and could be disabled by throwing a wrench or some other large metallic object into the turbine. He acknowledged that his experience as a pilot provided him with familiarity with turbines.
13. The defendant told the polygraph examiner he scouted some of the key locations he identified and took pictures of power facilities in the Denver area using the camera on his phone. He told the examiner he had a detailed plan saved to his computer hard drive, but had no definite date for the attack on the power grid. He described his plan in detail, including the number of personnel and vehicles (72 people and 11 vehicles, split into teams) he believed he would need. Each team would operate independently and would not be in communication during the attack so they could not provide information to law enforcement about the other teams. One part of the defendant's plan was to create a distraction, an explosion on a freeway that would draw law enforcement resources away from the real targets.
14. The defendant identified the Federal Reserve building in Denver as a potential target. The Federal Reserve was targeted because he believed the actions taken by the Federal Reserve in the past year, which he described as printing 30 percent of all money in circulation, was intended to create inflation that would cripple the U.S. economy and leave much of the country in poverty.

29. On the same day, law enforcement conducted a search of the Centennial residence and discovered two white grocery bags in the backyard next to a storage shed. Several of the bags had tags on them from Ammoniumnitrateforsale.com. The bags contained the following: two pound bag of Sulfur Powder, five pound bag of Potassium Nitrate, bottles of 70% Isopropyl Alcohol, eight rocket motors with fuel, matches, red/black wire, glass jars, and two containers with a white substance. Bomb technicians with the FBI and Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office Bomb Squad examined the chemicals and made the determination they posed a danger to the public and properly disposed of them.
30. On February 8, 2021, law enforcement met with Jacob Wesley, who stated he met the defendant through his roommate, Zack Wells. According to Jacob, he met up with the defendant on New Year's Eve 2020. They decided to drive to downtown Denver, in the defendant's vehicle, where the defendant made a firework and tried to fire it off in a parking garage downtown. They drove around downtown, and Jacob recalled the defendant drove them up to several government buildings. They returned to a residence in Littleton where he built another firework and fired it off in the cul-de-sac. Jacob recalled being at the defendant's home in Centennial about a month or two before New Year's. They started talking about firearms and the defendant allowed Jacob to hold his AR-15 rifle and mid-sized AK47 style snipe rifle. He stated they talked about silencers and the defendant showed him one of his silencers. The defendant talked about having three silencers, but Jacob only saw one. The defendant told Jacob he had a tactical vest with chest plates and that he always carried some type of weapon on him for protection. *I don't remember this*
31. The defendant's parents contacted TFO Garard on February 8, 2021, having received his contact information from their son, Kelvin. They explained the defendant's delicate state of mind and believed he should receive a mental health evaluation. They stated he was likely in hiding and they were worried for him, and though they did not have contact with him at the time, would try to get the defendant to meet with the FBI once he was located.
32. On February 8, 2021, FBI Special Agent Jeremy Knudsen was walking in Monticello, Utah, when he observed a gray Volkswagen Passat with Colorado plates in the area. SA Knudsen was aware the FBI was attempting to locate a vehicle matching that description. The vehicle pulled up to him and the driver rolled down the window, asking for directions to Lloyd's Lake. SA Knudsen noted the driver appeared to match the description of the wanted individual. He gave directions to the driver, knowing it would end at a dead end. Local law enforcement was dispatched to the area, and the defendant was arrested without incident. A search of his vehicle, pursuant to a warrant, occurred on February 26, 2021. Among the many items in his vehicle, a sporting rifle with no serial number, a Smith & Wesson 9mm handgun, a Romarm Model P.S.L. 7.62x54mm semiautomatic rifle, loaded and unloaded magazines, ammunition and a computer were located and seized.
33. No firearm licenses were issued in the defendant's name. ?
34. According to a Report of Examination, conducted April 13, 2021, by Rocky Mountain Regional Computer Forensics Laboratory, an examination of a laptop computer seized from the defendant revealed files containing information about firearms; Google map locations; explosives; and power grid identifiers. An examination of a tablet computer revealed files containing information about firearms; Google map locations for sites such as Buckley Air Force Base, FBI facilities, Denver Police Department/substations, power

22. When law enforcement determined the defendant resided at 6853 South Cherry Street, in Centennial, Colorado, a search was executed on January 29, 2021. Law enforcement located the following items: three firearms silencers; numerous firearms; almost 2000 rounds of various ammunition; ballistic vests and helmets; and two phones and one computer. The silencers did not have serial numbers.
23. At the time of the search warrant, the defendant was asked if he had any registration paperwork for the silencers discovered in his room and the living area of the basement. He stated he did not have paperwork, and built them himself. (The Probation Officer has reviewed a video clip of this exchange, provided by the Government.) During the search, law enforcement spoke with the defendant's brother, Kelvin Collins, who was present. He stated that some of the ammunition was his.
24. During the search, the owner of the home, Susan Nicholas, confirmed the defendant rented a room in the basement. The owner added that the defendant's brother was staying with him at the time of the search. She noted that neither she nor her family owned the weapons, ammunition, computers, phones, or any of the items located in the defendant's room.
25. A forensic review of one of the phones found in the defendant's basement residence revealed a photograph from November 2020 that depicts multiple firearms, a silencer, and a case designed to carry two additional silencers.
26. A federal warrant for the defendant's arrest was issued February 2, 2021. No recent air travel out of Denver International Airport or Idaho Falls Regional Airport were located for the defendant. Special Agents in Oregon and Utah also conducted intermittent surveillance of addresses in those areas in an effort to locate the defendant or observe his vehicle.
27. The defendant's brother, Kelvin, had ongoing text communication with FBI Task Force Officer (TFO) Nathan Garard between February 1 and February 8, 2021. TFO Garard was hoping to learn the location of the defendant and determine ownership of the seized silencers and associated firearms. According to the transcript, Kelvin reported the silencers were his, that he purchased them the summer before when he had a job that involved eliminating squirrels and birds. He stated he could provide proof if need be, to which TFO Garard asked that he do so. Kelvin sent a photograph of what appeared to be two AK-47s with silencers attached. Serial numbers were not visible. Kelvin was asked to provide proof of which weapons of his had silencers specifically configured, and to provide further proof of which weapons were his and which were the defendants. When asked, Kelvin was not willing to meet in person with law enforcement to confirm his ownership of any of the weapons and/or silencers seized. He requested "full federal immunity" before he would allow attorneys to inspect the serial numbers of his weapons, which he insisted would remain in his possession.
28. On February 4, 2021, the homeowners of the Centennial residence were contacted by law enforcement and reported that the defendant moved out January 29, 2021, after the search was conducted. When it was discovered that he left some belongings behind, the homeowner put them in her backyard. One of the boxes contained magazines and ammunition. In another part of the backyard, she placed two white shopping bags that were previously stored in their shed. She believed these bags contained items that the defendant used to make fireworks.

acquaintance was interviewed by law enforcement and stated the defendant talked about having three silencers, but the individual only saw one. Matching fingerprints were only located on the silencer found on the bookshelf, but as noted above, the additional two silencers were found in his bedroom. There are also photos on his brother's Facebook account which appear to be of the yellow bike bags, suggesting they belonged to his brother.

Image flow
bags
without items
that belonged
to my brother

- | | | |
|-----|---|-----------------------|
| 43. | USSG §2K2.1 App. Note 5 provides limited direction – “For purposes of calculating the number of firearms under subsection (b)(1), count only those firearms that were unlawfully sought to be obtained, unlawfully possessed, ...” | |
| 44. | The Probation Officer has reviewed <i>U.S. v. Gambino-Zavala</i> , 539 F.3d 1221 (10 th Cir. 2008), which discusses actual possession versus constructive possession. Based on her review of this 10 th Circuit case, an enhancement for the possession of three silencers was added. As the offense involved the possession of three silencers, two levels are added. USSG §2K2.1(b)(1)(A). ¹ | <u>+2</u> |
| 45. | Victim Related Adjustment: None. | <u>0</u> |
| 46. | Adjustment for Role in the Offense: None. | <u>0</u> |
| 47. | Adjustment for Obstruction of Justice: None. | <u>0</u> |
| 48. | Adjusted Offense Level (Subtotal): | <u>20</u> |
| 49. | Chapter Four Enhancement: None. | <u>0</u> |
| 50. | Acceptance of Responsibility: The defendant has clearly demonstrated acceptance of responsibility for the offense. Accordingly, the offense level is decreased by two levels. USSG §3E1.1(a). | <u>-2</u> |
| 51. | Acceptance of Responsibility: The defendant has assisted authorities in the investigation or prosecution of the defendant's own misconduct by timely notifying authorities of the intention to enter a plea of guilty. Accordingly, the offense level is decreased by one additional level. USSG §3E1.1(b). | <u>-1</u> |
| 52. | Total Offense Level: | <u>17²</u> |

¹ The Probation Officer notes that according to discovery materials, none of the silencers contained serial numbers. An adjustment, pursuant to §2K2.1(b)(4)(B), was not applied given the Court's ruling in *U.S. v. Laughrin*, 438 F.3d 1245 (10th Cir. 2006) that “both the Second and Ninth Circuits have held that the clear language of USSG § 2K2.1(b)(4) prohibits its application when the defendant possessed a weapon that had never borne a serial number.”

² Should the Court determine that an enhancement for three silencers does not apply, the Total Offense Level would be 15.

facilities, and the National Guard Armory; anti-surveillance equipment, circuit board construction and hacking tools; and extremist groups Boogaloo and 3 percenters.

35. Contained within discovery materials are pictures from the Facebook account of Kelvin Collins, dated in 2014 and 2015, of yellow bicycle bags which appear similar to the bicycle bags found in the defendant's room, and which contained two silencers. According to laboratory reports, the silencer found on the bookshelf in the living room had the defendant's fingerprints, while no prints suitable for comparison were located on the other two silencers.

Victim Impact

36. There are no identifiable victims in this offense.

Adjustment for Obstruction of Justice

37. The probation officer has no information indicating the defendant impeded or obstructed justice.

Adjustment for Acceptance of Responsibility

38. The defendant was interviewed by the probation officer and agreed to the stipulated facts outlined in the Plea Agreement. Upon advice from counsel, the defendant did not discuss further details of the offense with the probation officer. Based upon the defendant's plea of guilty and admission to the stipulated facts, the adjustment for acceptance of responsibility appears appropriate.

Offense Level Computation

39. The 2021 Guidelines Manual, incorporating all guideline amendments, was used to determine the defendant's offense level. USSG §1B1.11.

Count 1: Possessing an Unregistered Firearm - Silencer

40. **Base Offense Level:** The guideline for a violation of 26 U.S.C. § 5861(d) is USSG §2K2.1. The base offense level is 18 as the offense involved a silencer which is a firearm described in 26 U.S.C. § 5845(a). USSG §2K2.1(a)(5). **18**
41. **Specific Offense Characteristics:** During a search of the defendant's residential area, law enforcement located three silencers, none of which had serial numbers or were registered to the defendant. One silencer was found on a bookshelf in the defendant's basement living area (and he admits that he knowingly possessed this silencer), and the other two silencers were located in yellow bike bags in the defendant's bedroom. The defendant does not admit knowing possession of these latter two silencers.
42. A two-level enhancement, pursuant to §2K2.1(b)(1)(A), applies if the offense involved three or more silencers. The parties disagree as to the application of this enhancement. Discovery materials reveal that the defendant lived in the basement, but at the time of the search of the residence, his brother was also present. When asked by law enforcement officers, the defendant stated he did not have paperwork for them, and admitted he made the silencers. An

a week. Kelvin, age 33, is described as a “drifter,” and was last in Utah. According to the defendant, when Kelvin was 18, he left home and has acted similarly to the young man depicted in the movie, “Into the Wild.” The defendant noted Kelvin is “very educated and smart but likes to wander. My parents are trying to get him to settle down. I’ve been told not to have a lot of contact with him.” Trent, age 29, resides in Salt Lake City, Utah. He is employed in outreach for the Church of Latter Day Saints, and works with offenders to find employment opportunities. The defendant added that since his arrest, Trent “gives me pointers,” and has visited him in custody once.

63. Mrs. Collins described Kelvin as an “organic farmer” who typically lives in the western part of the United States. While Kelvin may come “in and out of their house, Ethan has learned who he can and cannot listen to.”

Marital

64. The defendant has never been married and does not have any children. He reported he had a girlfriend, Roseanna Marie, for about four months before his arrest. He suspects she may now be married.

Home and Neighborhood

65. At the time he committed the instant offense, the defendant was living in Centennial, Colorado. He explained that he met the owner of the home, Susan Nicholas, through the local LDS church. He resided in the basement apartment of the home for about one year. He noted that Susan would leave food for him, and “if she ever forgives me, I may write her later.”
66. Upon release from custody, the defendant plans to live with his parents at 1929 Leander Drive, in West Columbia, South Carolina, a home they have owned since 1997. The defendant reported his father may own a firearm. Mrs. Collins reported that any firearms they own have been removed from the home, and will not be returned to the home while the defendant is under supervision.
67. The defendant's parents agree that it would be best for their son if he lives with them once he is released from custody. Mrs. Collins noted that while living with them, the defendant would no longer be isolated from his family and friends. They know business owners who will employ the defendant, and Mrs. Collins has located mental health providers who will treat him.³ The defendant will go to church weekly with them and be supported by this “extended family.” The Collins expressed a willingness to cooperate with the supervising officer should special conditions be imposed that allow for searches of their residence and/or the defendant's internet capable devices.
68. A home inspection was requested December 15, 2021, with the District of South Carolina. Once the inspection has occurred, any information received will be updated in the Addendum.
69. If the defendant receives a prison sentence, he requests designation to a Bureau of Prisons facility in Colorado. His parents agree with this recommendation because they

³ Attached are letters submitted to the Probation Office, by defense counsel, from mental health providers willing to provide treatment to the defendant and business owners who are willing to provide future employment opportunities to the defendant once he is released from custody.

PART B. THE DEFENDANT'S CRIMINAL HISTORY

Juvenile Adjudication(s)

53. None.

Adult Criminal Conviction(s)

54. None.

Criminal History Computation

55. The criminal convictions above result in a subtotal criminal history score of zero.
56. The total criminal history score is zero. According to the sentencing table in USSG Chapter 5, Part A, a criminal history score of zero establishes a criminal history category of I.

Pending Charges

57. None.

PART C. OFFENDER CHARACTERISTICS

58. The following information was obtained during a December 9, 2021, interview with the defendant and his attorney. Information provided by the defendant was verified by his parents, Max and Lora.

Personal and Family Data

59. The defendant was born March 20, 1991, in Columbia, South Carolina, to Max Collins, age 59, and Lora Carver, age 61. The defendant described his parents as "happily" married, and they reside in West Columbia, South Carolina. His father is a chiropractor who owns his practice, but is in the process of downsizing. While his mother was not employed outside of the home as the defendant and his siblings grew up, once they left the home, she worked in housecleaning and midwifery "off and on." He noted his parents are healthy, and his father participates in triathlons. *ed and hiking trips*
60. The defendant and his family are members of the Church of Latter-Day Saints (LDS). The defendant noted that his parents and siblings are all "active" church members, while he stopped attending church last year. He believes that because he "pushed" his faith away it is a "big cause" of his current situation. He denied any childhood incidents of abuse, adding that he has "good parents; my needs were met," and describing his family as "pretty great." None of his family members use drugs or drink alcohol.
61. The defendant expressed disappointment in himself because of his current criminal charges. He stated that his parents have remained supportive of him, and added, "I don't deserve them." He talks to his parents daily, and his parents reported they visited him at FDC on December 19, 2021.
62. The defendant has three siblings. His sister, Manike Pipkin, age 34, resides in Monticello, Utah. She is not employed outside of the home, and he and Manike talk once

The defendant's father explained that his son has "had a love for flying since he was 5, and this has been stripped from his life. His behavior resulted in him losing his license."

Substance Abuse

76. The defendant does not drink alcohol and has never used illicit drugs.

Educational, Vocational and Special Skills

77. The defendant reported he was homeschooled for most of his school years. During high school, he attended "online school," and received his diploma in 2009. He explained his social contact mostly occurred within the church, though he felt "bullied and ostracized." He recalled starting a paintball club in the church. "Thinking back, I was isolated. I did my own thing." He explained that there are not many LDS members in South Carolina.
78. The defendant explained he knew from a young age that he wanted to be a pilot. At 14, he joined the Civilian Air Patrol, and described this as a "good opportunity" to pursue his interests in flying.
79. At 19, the defendant traveled to the United Kingdom for a church mission trip and stayed there for two years before returning to South Carolina.
80. At 21, after returning home from his mission trip, the defendant's father introduced him to Janson Finkbeiner, owner of South Carolina Avionics Services. While the defendant was paid for work he did in the hangar, he simultaneously received hands-on flight instruction. He described Janson as his "mentor." In 2014, the defendant earned his private pilot certificate (license). According to documentation from Mr. Finkbeiner, and dated November 15, 2018, the defendant's duties consisted of avionics installation and repair on general aviation and corporate aircraft. Mr. Finkbeiner noted the defendant was timely and dedicated. (According to defense counsel, Mrs. Collins has recently learned Mr. Finkbeiner would rehire the defendant to work in the hangars, though not on the airplanes themselves due to the felony conviction.)
81. The defendant earned his commercial pilot certificate from USAeroFlight in Greenville, South Carolina, in 2017.
82. According to the defendant and defense counsel, the defendant has agreed to not contest the revocation of his pilot licenses by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). However, he explained that his flight credentials were in his vehicle, in a briefcase, at the time of his arrest. The credentials cannot be found. He understands that it is likely he will never be re-issued a license to fly, though he wishes he could fly again.
83. The defendant reported that in 2015, he began taking online college-level courses through the Pathway Program, offered by BYU-Idaho. He took several general courses, while living at home.
84. If incarcerated, the defendant would like to participate in HVAC or plumbing training through the BOP.

have heard that South Carolina prisons are horrible. Mrs. Collins feels the defendant would be safer if he is incarcerated in a Colorado prison (though they hope he is not sentenced to additional prison time). She added that during his current time incarcerated, the defendant is "trying to make the best of it. He's trying to organize a business class with fellow inmates." The defendant noted that he had made a Christmas tree in his cell from blankets that impressed some of the staff.

Physical Condition

70. The defendant is 5'11", weighs 170 pounds, and has blue eyes and blond hair. He has no tattoos. He reported he injured his knee at 12, while jumping on a trampoline. His father told him he likely sustained an IT band (iliotibial band) injury. He recently "tweaked" it again, and it hurts at times.
71. According to the defendant, when he was housed in a Salt Lake City jail (awaiting transfer to Colorado), he was punched in the head by his cellmate. When he was transferred to a jail in Las Vegas, Nevada, he had clear liquid coming from his ear and was told it was spinal fluid and he had likely sustained a concussion. He experienced vertigo in Las Vegas, but that has improved. He stated that the area around his temple is still tender.
72. Due to an oversight, the defendant was not asked about contracting COVID-19, or receiving a vaccine. *I received it.*

Mental and Emotional Health

73. At the request of defense counsel, the defendant underwent a forensic neuropsychological evaluation in July 2021, by psychologists with Emerge, in Glendale, Colorado. (This report is attached in its entirety, and because of its thoroughness and length – 54 pages – it is not fully summarized here.) The defendant was diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder Level 2, requiring substantial support and Major Depressive Disorder, Moderate with Anxious Distress. It was recommended the defendant participate in a therapeutic group for men with Autism Spectrum Disorder, consult with a psychiatrist for medication management, and attend individual psychotherapy "focused on improving his relationships and emotional insight as well as management of autism and symptoms associated with his history of depression."
74. The defendant reported that prior to his arrest, he has never participated in mental health treatment. He described himself as "a pretty happy person most of my life." However, he added that "growing up was always hard, I felt outside." He described multiple incidents of being bullied. The defendant noted that receiving the diagnosis for autism was "helpful," and he is now reading books about autism. "I don't understand how I didn't know sooner." He is willing to participate in mental health treatment.
75. The defendant's mother described her son's conduct as "an anomaly and totally out of character." She notes that during 2020 and 2021, the defendant was living in a basement apartment in Colorado, away from family and friends; his girlfriend had just broken up with him; money was "stripped from him, he was going without eating;" and he was absorbed with watching YouTube videos. Ms. Collins stated she believes the defendant's job interview with CBP "turned into a seven hour interrogation. I don't know what came out of his mouth." She recognizes law enforcement found "things he should not have had" in his residence, and that she does not expect him "to get off Scot free."

94. The defendant reported that his father has a friend who may offer him a job in HVAC or plumbing.

Military History

95. None.

Financial Condition: Ability to Pay

96. The defendant reported he has less than \$500 in a checking account. He owns a 2013 Volkswagen Passat, valued at about \$8,000, which his father is storing for him. He stated that while he has no student debt, he owes his parents \$3,000 and plans to pay them back. According to an Experian credit report, the defendant has a credit card with a balance of \$353, and is 90 days past due.
97. Title 18 U.S.C. § 3572 states that in determining whether to impose a fine, the Court shall consider, in addition to the factors set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a), additional factors such as the defendant's income, earning capacity, and financial resources; the burden that the fine will impose upon the defendant, and any person who is financially dependent on the defendant, or any other person (including a government) that would be responsible for the welfare of any person financially dependent on the defendant, relative to the burden that alternative punishments would impose; any pecuniary loss inflicted upon others as a result of the offense; whether restitution is ordered or made and the amount of such restitution; the need to deprive the defendant of illegally obtained gains from the offense; the expected costs to the government of any imprisonment, supervised release, or probation component of the sentence; and whether the defendant can pass on to consumers or other persons the expense of the fine.
98. Pursuant to Application Note 3 of §5E1.2, the fact that a defendant is represented by (or was determined to be eligible for) assigned counsel is a significant indicator of present inability to pay any fine.
99. The defendant does not appear to have the ability to pay a fine.

PART D. SENTENCING OPTIONS

Custody

100. **Statutory Provisions:** The maximum term of imprisonment is 10 years. 26 U.S.C. §§ 5861(d) and 5871.
101. **Guideline Provisions:** Based upon a total offense level of 17 and a criminal history category of I, the guideline imprisonment range is 24 months to 30 months.

Impact of Plea Agreement

102. The defendant pleaded guilty to Count 1 of the Indictment, and all relevant conduct was considered in the guideline calculations. However, the parties disagree as to the guideline calculations. Pursuant to the Plea Agreement, the defendant agrees to recommend that the Court impose a three year term of supervised release and not object to specific special conditions of supervised release, if recommended by probation, as outlined in the Plea Agreement.

Employment Record

85. At the time of his arrest for the instant offense, the defendant was employed with Boutique Air, owned by American Airlines. He was hired in October 2019, as a pilot. He initially lived in a "crew house" in Denver while participating in the two-month training program. By Christmas 2019, he reported earning a \$65,000 salary, which allowed him to pay off his student loan and save money.
86. According to the defendant, in March 2020, which was the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the owner chose to cut salaries instead of positions. The defendant's pay became \$35,000, and he was only guaranteed 76 hours a month at \$15 an hour. He described this situation as stressful and isolating. He could not see his family, and experienced financial difficulties.
87. During the summer of 2020, the defendant decided to apply for a position with the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Agency (CBP). He believed a pilot position with CBP would provide him with "stability" and allow him to "be a change for good." He felt this type of government job, for a pilot, would be "COVID proof." He noted that this agency did not require a college degree. The defendant was excited when he was invited for an interview in Tucson, Arizona, in January 2021. He added, "I love this country. COVID motivated me to be more impactful."
88. The defendant was employed by Upper Limit Aviation in Salt Lake City between August and November 2019, as a flight instructor. He explained that this employer had few students, and he was "practically starving. I made no money." Documentation received verifies his employment as Fixed Wing Certified Flight Instructor, earning \$40 an hour. The following was written - "For the short time he was employed, he was mostly on time and likeable to the students being taught. He was knowledgeable in the areas needed to accomplish his work." "Employee quit job to accept new position elsewhere."
89. Between June and August 2019, the defendant lived at home in South Carolina, and helped his mother renovate a mobile home. He also earned money working with a cousin in photography.
90. The defendant reported employment with Sunrise Aviation, in Ormond Beach, Florida, between December 2018 and June 2019. He was employed as an instructor. He admitted he was terminated after an incident when a student steered the plane off the runway. The defendant added that while he was able to "save the plane," and get it back onto the runway quickly, he reported the incident and was terminated.
91. Between March and October 2018, the defendant was employed as an instructor for Greenville Aviation, a flight school in Greenville, South Carolina. He reported earning \$40 an hour, and was let go due to a "paperwork issue."
92. In 2017, the defendant moved to Maryland and took training courses through Trident Aviation. However, after three months he "incurred a lot of debt and decided to pull the plug. They had no intent on helping me." He returned to USAeroFlight to finish training to be a flight instructor.
93. Verification has been requested for all reported employment, and any replies received are noted above. All other requests are pending.

PART E. FACTORS THAT MAY WARRANT DEPARTURE

112. The probation officer has not identified any factors that would warrant a departure from the applicable sentencing guideline range.

PART F. FACTORS THAT MAY WARRANT A SENTENCE OUTSIDE OF THE ADVISORY GUIDELINE SYSTEM

113. The probation officer has not identified any factors that would warrant a variance from the applicable sentencing guideline range.

Respectfully Submitted,

s/ Michelle D. Means

MICHELLE D. MEANS
UNITED STATES PROBATION OFFICER

Approved:

s/Kyla Hamilton

KYLA HAMILTON
SUPERVISING UNITED STATES PROBATION OFFICER

Supervised Release

103. **Statutory Provisions:** The Court may impose a term of supervised release of not more than three years. 18 U.S.C. § 3583(b)(2).
104. **Guideline Provisions:** Since the offense is a Class C Felony, the guideline range for a term of supervised release is 1 year to 3 years. USSG §5D1.2(a)(2).

Probation

105. **Statutory Provisions:** The defendant is eligible for not less than one nor more than five years' probation because the offense is a Class C Felony. 18 U.S.C. § 3561(c)(1). One of the following must be imposed as a condition of probation unless extraordinary circumstances exist: a fine, restitution, or community service. 18 U.S.C. § 3563(a)(2).
106. **Guideline Provisions:** Since the applicable guideline range is in Zone D of the Sentencing Table, the defendant is ineligible for probation. USSG §5B1.1, comment. (n.2).

Fines

107. **Statutory Provisions:** The maximum fine is \$10,000. 18 U.S.C. § 3571(b) and 26 U.S.C. § 5871.
108. A special assessment of \$100 is mandatory. 18 U.S.C. § 3013.
109. **Guideline Provisions:** The fine range for this offense is from \$10,000 to \$95,000. USSG §5E1.2(c)(3). However, since statute sets a maximum fine of \$10,000, this is used as the guideline fine.
110. Costs of prosecution shall be imposed on the defendant as required by statute. USSG §5E1.5. In determining whether to impose a fine and the amount of such fine, the Court shall consider, among other factors, the expected costs to the government of any term of probation, or term of imprisonment and term of supervised release imposed. USSG §5E1.2(d)(7) and 18 U.S.C. § 3572(a)(6). These costs may include drug and alcohol treatment, electronic monitoring, and/or contract confinement costs. The most recent advisory from the Administrative Office of the United States Courts, dated July 1, 2019, provides the following monthly cost data:

	<u>Bureau of Prisons Facilities</u>	<u>Residential Re-entry Centers</u>	<u>Supervision by Probation Officer</u>
Daily	\$103.00	\$95.00	\$12.00
Monthly	\$3,121.00	\$2,874.00	\$373.00
Annually	\$37,448.00	\$34,493.00	\$4,472.00

Restitution

111. Restitution is not an issue.

SENTENCING RECOMMENDATION

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLORADO
UNITED STATES V. ETHAN JEFFREY COLLINS, DKT. 1082 1:21CR00053-1**

TOTAL OFFENSE LEVEL 17
CRIMINAL HISTORY CATEGORY I

	<u>Statutory Provisions</u>	<u>Guideline Provisions</u>	<u>Recommended Sentence</u>
CUSTODY:	Ct. 1: 0 years-10 years	24 months-30 months	24 months
SUPERVISED RELEASE:	Ct. 1: 0 years-3 years	Ct. 1: 1 year-3 years	3 years
PROBATION:	1 year-5 years	Ineligible	Not recommended
FINE:	Ct. 1: \$10,000	\$10,000	Not recommended
SPECIAL ASSESSMENT:	Ct. 1: \$100	Ct. 1: \$100	Ct. 1: \$100

RESTITUTION

Restitution is not an issue.

FORFEITURE

Pursuant to Rule 32.2 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, the defendant must forfeit interest in the following property to the United States: the three silencers taken from the defendant's home on January 29, 2021.

CONDITIONS OF SUPERVISION

MANDATORY CONDITIONS:

The following conditions of supervision are recommended as mandated pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3583(d).

1. You must not commit another federal, state, or local crime.
2. You must not unlawfully possess a controlled substance.

EXHIBIT A
(Sentencing Recommendation)

EXHIBIT B
(Mental Health Treatment)

Maya Rake, MSW, LISW-CP, LLC
2221 Bull Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201
(803)605-9956 Phone / (803)753-9906 Fax
mayarakeliswcp@gmail.com
South Carolina License # 10118

December 27, 2021

Judge Moore

State of Colorado

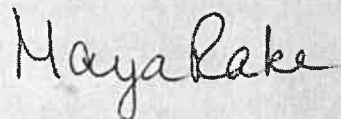
Re: Ethan Collins

Dear Judge Moore,

I am a licensed independent social worker in clinical private practice. Previously, I was a program therapist in a partial hospital program. From 1994 to 1998, I worked with a board certified forensic psychologist, doing assessments and therapy. As of this writing I have over 4,550 hours of direct client contact, with diverse clients. I am trained in and have experience using several different therapy modalities including Cognitive Behavior Therapy (CBT), Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT) in which I am certified, and Transactional Analysis, among others.

I am willing to take Ethan Collins as a client for assessment and therapy.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Maya Rake".

Maya Rake, MSW, LISW-CP

LAURA TRUESDALE COUNSELING SERVICES, LLC

LAURA L. TRUESDALE, LISW-CP, LAC, MAC

LTRUESDALELISWCP@GMAIL.COM

December 21, 2021

RE: Ethan Collins

Dear Judge Moore:

Lora Collins reached out to me inquiring about my interest and availability to treat her son, Ethan upon his release from incarceration. I am a licensed social worker and licensed addiction counselor in private practice located in Columbia, South Carolina. My area of expertise is in treating depression, anxiety, substance use disorders and trauma. I am willing to be placed on a list of providers for Ethan. I have worked with court ordered clients in the past and am willing to communicate with any professional (with consent or mandate) regarding ongoing therapy. Acceptance for services would be based on the client professional fit as the therapeutic rapport is essential for successful therapy. I am more than willing to meet with Ethan and determine if we would be a good fit. If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me at (803)399-0858 or https://sendSAFE.to/truesdaleliswcp@gmail.com

Sincerely:


Laura L. Truesdale, LISWCP, LAC, MAC

Hello Laura,

Thank you for reaching out regarding your son. I'd be willing to work with him, as I do have some experience with persons in custody, I was a federal law enforcement officer for 8 years in the bay area California. I want to advise you in making your decision, I am currently earning post-graduate hours under the license of another Psychologist here in South Carolina. Her name is Dr. Mary-Catherine Riner (Psy#1471), so my authority to provide Psychological Counseling rests under her license, however, I can provide all the same services to your son that a fully licensed Psychologist can provide. In this case, where your son is currently incarcerated, he may need some Psychological testing, which would be to help in determining any personality disorders or psychopathology. I would provide this in addition to Cognitive Behavioral and Trauma-based therapies. All that being said, I would be willing to be placed on the court-appointed referral list for counseling for this client.

Please let me know if there is any additional information you may need from me.

Take care and happy holidays!

Matt McKeithan PsyD.

Psychological Assistant (PSB# 9402475)

Eastside Christian Counseling

(831) 316-8531

mattpmckeithan@gmail.com

<https://www.eastsidechristiancounseling.org/>



Thursday November 15th, 2018

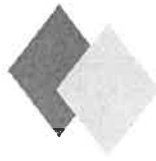
To whom it may concern

This is a letter of recommendation for Ethan Collins who was previously employed with South Carolina Avionics Services for approximately 1 year. His duties consisted of introductory level avionics installation and repair on general aviation and corporate aircraft. Ethan was very timely and dedicated to all the work he performed in the company as well as excellent integrity and comradery around the work place. We would employ Ethan in the future if he so chose. If you have any questions please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

Janson Finkbeiner

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Janson Finkbeiner', is written over a light blue horizontal line.



SHULL HEATING & AIR, LLC

Heat when you need it. Cool when you want it.

December 13, 2021

Dear Judge,

My name is Gary Shull. My wife and I are the owners of a HVAC business in West Columbia, South Carolina.

We are writing on behalf of **Ethan Collins**. Should he decide to accept our job offer when released, he has a position awaiting him in West Columbia, South Carolina. We are looking forward to a speedy release.

Thank you for your time. Please feel free to contact me any time at **803-238-7795**.

Sincerely,

Gary Shull

Gary Shull
Shull Heating & Air, LLC

451 Chapel Road · West Columbia · South Carolina · 29172

Phone (803)238-7795

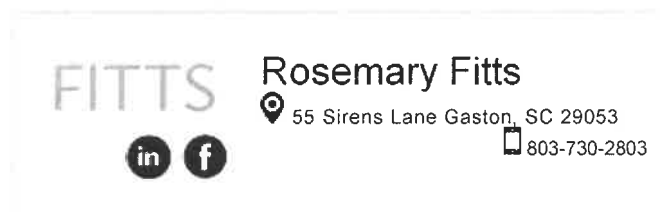
From: **Rosemary Fitts** <rfitts@thefittscompany.com>

Date: Fri, Dec 10, 2021 at 4:30 PM

To: Judge Moore

Ethan Collins has employment opportunity with The Fitts Company upon release

Many Thanks,



I, Jesse Sturgess, owner and operator of Sturgess Customs LLC. in Lexington South Carolina, would be willing to hire Ethan Collins upon his release to work for my company. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me at 803-705-0341. Also, our address is 4262 Augusta Rd, Lexington, SC 29073. Thanks for your time.

Jesse Sturgess (Owner)

Electrical Contractor
Lic #: RBE 2112



December 10, 2021

Ralph Corduan
Worker Bee/Technicians
Ralphrcorduan@Gmail.com

Regarding: Ethan Collins

Limited Liability Company
West Columbia, SC 29170

803•463•4888

Good afternoon David,

My name is Ralph Corduan and I am the owner of The Honey Do Company, LLC here in Columbia, SC. Thank you for being there for Ethan – a young man I think a lot of.

Lora, his Mom, told me that there is a real possibility for Ethan to be placed somewhere where he can gain an education in the trades. If he is in fact able to go to classes to qualify for and then pass the electrician's licensing exam, I would be proud to hire him as a full time employee.

ELECTRICAL

If you have any questions or need further information please feel free to contact me.

PLUMBING

Respectfully,

Ralph R Corduan
Honey Do Company, LLC
Owner

**GENERAL
MAINTENANCE**

EXHIBIT C
(Forensic Neuropsychological Report)

Exhibit S

Defense Interview Memorandum & Photo
Gavin Mortonegg
May 20, 2021

Office of the
Federal Public Defender
Districts of Colorado and Wyoming

Tracy R. Huckle, Wyoming Branch Supervisor
Mary V. Butterson, Senior Litigator

Virginia L. Grady, Federal Public Defender
Matthew K. Belcher, First Assistant

O. Dean Sanderford, Chief, Appeals
Veronica S. Rossman, Senior Counsel

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 20, 2021

TO: David Kraut

FROM: Jacqueline Silbermann

CASE: U.S. v. Ethan Collins 21-cr-53-RM

RE: Gavin Morgenegg
720-314-9362

On May 17, 2021, I interviewed Gavin Morgenegg over the phone regarding our client, Ethan Collins. I informed Gavin that I am an investigator with the Office of the Federal Public Defender and that our office currently represents Ethan Collins. The following is a summary of the interview I conducted with Gavin:

- Gavin met Ethan in spring 2020 through their church. Gavin and Ethan are both members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Aurora YSA (young single adult) ward. Before the pandemic began and the church went under lockdown, Gavin and Ethan were paired up by random to minister together in local neighborhoods. Because of the lockdown, Gavin and Ethan did not meet in person until May or June of 2020; they were in contact via text message during the lockdown, though.
- Gavin and Ethan got to know one another a little bit through conversations they had while ministering. They discovered they were both interested in engineering and tinkering with things. Gavin learned that Ethan was a pilot and thought he might be interested in model rockets. Gavin is into model rockets and shared what he knew about them with Ethan.
- Gavin first learned about model rockets through a teacher he had in middle school. When he was a freshman in high school, he really got into rockets and would build them and take them out to shoot in fields. Gavin received model rockets, in particular, Estes Rockets, for birthday presents when he was younger.

Cheyenne, Wyoming
214 W. Lincolnway, Suite 31A
Cheyenne, WY 82001
Phone: 307 772 2781
Fax: 307 772 2788

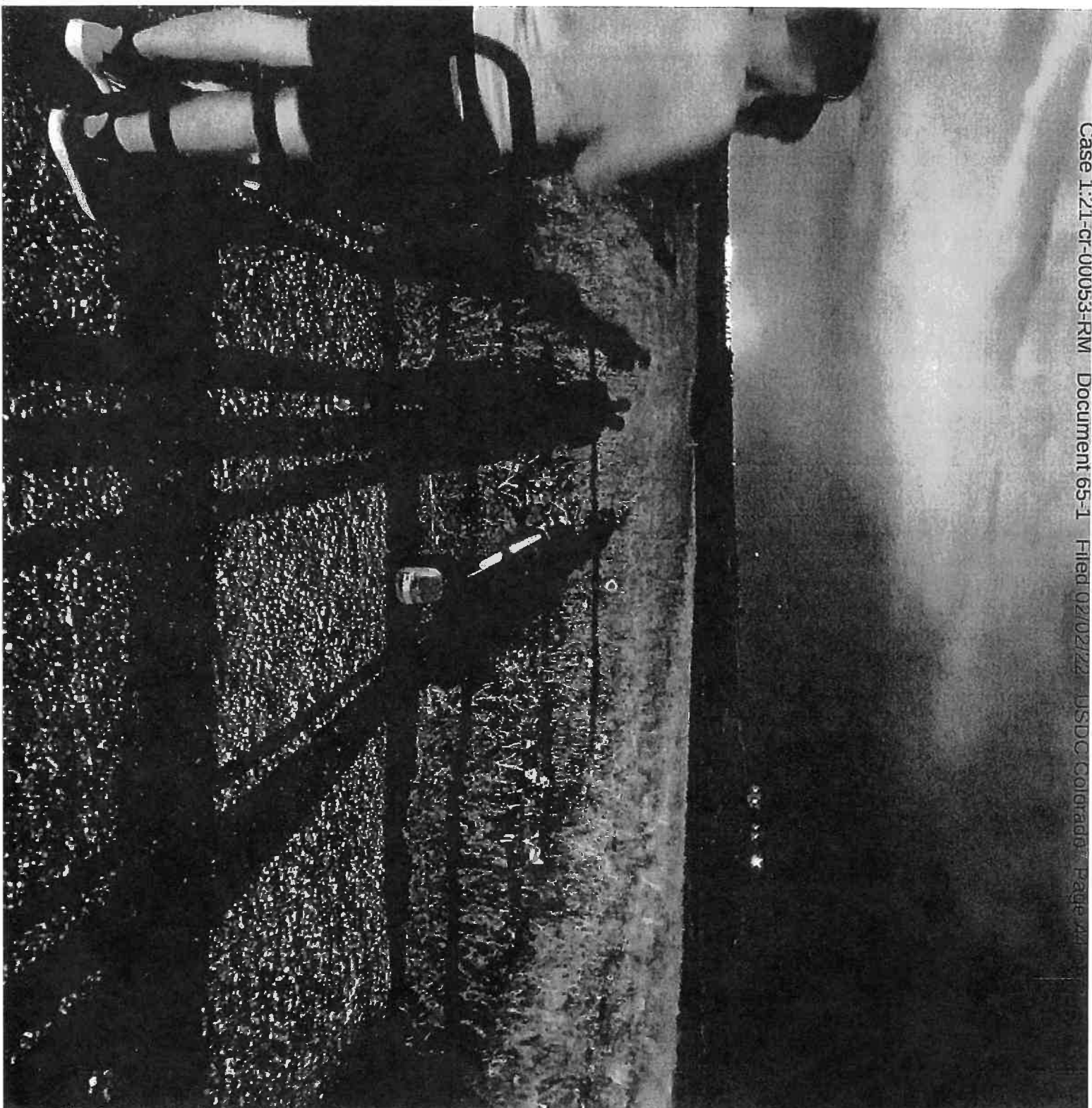
Denver, Colorado
433 17th Street, Suite 1000
Denver, CO 80202
Phone: 303 294-7002
Fax: 303 294-1192

Casper, Wyoming
Ewing T. Kerr Federal Building
111 South Wolcott Street, Room 312
Casper, WY 82601
Phone: 307 772 2781
Fax: 307 772 2788

- The hobby rockets Gavin makes are sugar rockets that use powdered sugar and potassium nitrate, which is found in stump remover, as propellant or fuel. They are made using PVC pipes and are relatively low-power. They are rockets, so they make a big noise when they are launched but they are harmless as long as you are smart and use them safely.
- Ethan and Gavin talked about model rockets frequently and Gavin invited Ethan to build rockets and shoot them off with him. Gavin remembers shooting rockets off with Ethan once, maybe twice during the summer of 2020. They wanted to do it more but at the end of the summer, Gavin left for college and they didn't get the chance.
- Gavin and Ethan talked about all kinds of rocket-related topics; they thought of various ways to get them to fly farther, payloads, and alternative fuel sources, like using dextrose instead of sucrose/sugar. They discussed how to store propellant – it has to be very dry and it should be stored in a dry space, like a cooler or an oven. Propellant can be put in an oven at a very low temperature to evaporate all the water out of it. They talked about using a blender to get the potassium nitrate down to the right size. Ethan and Gavin spent a lot of time discussing the ins and outs of model rockets. Gavin doesn't recall if Ethan mentioned any other fuel sources he wanted to try in the rockets.
- The day Gavin and Ethan shot rockets off together, Gavin got off work early, around 3 or 4 pm, and Ethan picked him up at his parents' house; Gavin lived with his parents and didn't have his own car. They went to Walmart to get the supplies they needed but Walmart did not have the potassium nitrate, so they went to Home Depot to try to find it. Home Depot did not have the potassium nitrate either, but they were able to get PVC pipes, end caps, and cat litter there. Finally, they went to Lowe's and found stump remover, which contains potassium nitrate. Gavin can't remember if they bought powdered sugar while they were out or if he had it at home.
- Ethan and Gavin went back to Gavin's house to construct their rockets after getting all the supplies. Ethan brought a coffee grinder with him from home so they could blend down the larger potassium nitrate granules into a powder to mix with the powdered sugar. They set up a work area on the deck in Gavin's backyard to build their rockets. They used the PVC casings and end caps, added nozzles, and glued straws to the rocket motor tubes. They used a wooden stick to pack the cat litter and propellant into the PVC casings. They used the straws on their rockets so they could feed a hanger or marshmallow wire through to point and hold the rocket upwards when they launched it. They referenced a YouTube video (<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=12fR9neVnS8>) to get the correct ratio of ingredients.
- Gavin's mom, Becca, and his brothers, Owen (16) and Jack (13), went with him and Ethan to shoot off the rockets. They drove out east of Denver to an open space to launch the rockets.
- Ethan and Gavin tried to make their own fuses for their rockets from old fireworks. One of the fuses worked but the other didn't. They had a propane torch and used that to heat the rocket with the bad fuse.
- Gavin doesn't have any pictures of the rockets he and Gavin built but his mom took pictures of him and Ethan while they were launching their rockets. He will contact her and forward any photos she has to me.
- Gavin doesn't know if there are rules for shooting rockets in the Denver area. It is legal to shoot rockets in authorized areas, like the one he and Ethan went to east of Denver. As long as you are being smart with your rockets, they are safe. There are risks, such as getting hit in the eye, so you have to be cautious.
- After Gavin moved out of state for college at the end of summer, he and Ethan lost touch.

- Gavin wanted to be Ethan's friend because he knew that Ethan didn't have many friends in town. Ethan mentioned a couple other friends in conversation, but Gavin never met any of them.
- There was nothing about Ethan that seemed unusual or strange to Gavin. Gavin thinks Ethan is awesome and he liked that Ethan was as interested in his rocket hobby as he was.
- Gavin recalls Ethan being upset about the mask mandate during the pandemic, like many people were. When their church reopened after the lockdown, Ethan showed up in a gas mask as a way to make fun of the mandate. Gavin knew from conversations with Ethan that Ethan took his personal liberties seriously and would be upset if they were taken away.
- Ethan uses the website www.nakka-rocketry.net for amateur rocket building information.

End of Memorandum



Property	Value	
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To the Honorable Judge Moore,

My Name is Cory Jones, and I've been a licensed massage therapist for over 11 years. I am respectfully writing to provide you personal information in regards to Ethan Collins, prior to his sentencing. I've, personally, known Ethan for over 23 years, and when I heard about the charges facing him, I was absolutely shocked in disbelief that he would ever have a desire to commit such a ridiculous crime.

Within the last 6 years, Ethan has been a tremendously positive and hard working example to me through his scholastic endeavors, and especially with how long and hard he had worked to accomplish the task of completing his pilot's training, and became a professional pilot and captain.

In the last 4 years alone, since I moved to South Carolina, he has bent over backwards, to help me find, not only work helping local churches out with photography, but he even went out of his way to help me pay for a round trip flight back out to Idaho, out of his own pocket, when my father had a heart attack, and I was between jobs at the time.

It absolutely meant the world to my dad and sisters to have me back there to help while we were dealing with his recovery. He had even offered to send me money for a rental car, and send my wife out as well, since she at that time hadn't met my father yet.

And that's just one example of many years of positivity Ethan has brought to my life and my family's lives.

When you look at the sum of Ethan's life, please consider it as a whole. For the good people who know Ethan, this is a clear transgression that is very far from his normal characteristic state of being. Ethan is an amazing human being and I look forward to having him home as part of my family and community as soon as possible. Thank you for your time, and have a blessed day.

Sincerely,

Cory Jones, Travel Content Creator, Jay Bird Media

September 22, 2021

The Honorable Judge Moore,

I am grateful for this opportunity to share my personal information about Ethan, who is my nephew. I have known him his entire life. My two older children are close to his age, so each time that we traveled from Florida or Idaho, where we were living, we were always excited to hear Ethan update us on what he had been doing. He was regularly assisting those in need individually, along with his family, church members and scouting troop, in addition to working hard in school.

When we attended church with him and his family, I saw his respectful, compassionate behavior toward others and his quick response to help whenever or wherever needed. I saw this same behavior consistently toward his parents, siblings, grandparents, my family, neighbors and friends throughout his life. Often on my visits, I was able to see him work hard on projects with his immediate family, grandparents and extended family. He loved being in grandpa's diesel mechanic shop learning from grandpa and his dad. I saw how he returned his gratitude toward his grandpa when he suffered through mesothelioma and passed in 1996.

Our mom, his grandma, is still alive but has suffered with the progression of dementia for the past 17 years. In 2011 she, accidentally, over-medicated herself because of her dementia. At the request of my family, I traveled to SC from Idaho in the Fall to help the family adjust her diet to see if we could get her off the medications for her Type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure and high cholesterol. As a personal trainer and nutritional coach, I had been able to help others do the same with their doctor's help, so we thought it was worthwhile to try. I stayed a month to get them setup then returned to Idaho. Within six months of being consistent with her diet, her doctor was able to take her

Lyle E. Shamo
President, England London South Mission 2009-2012
9603 South Daisy Meadow Circle
South Jordan, UT 84095

To the Honorable Judge Moore:

I am respectfully writing you regarding Ethan Jeffrey Collins whose legal case is presently before your court. I have been acquainted with Ethan since September 2010 when he came to serve a two-year volunteer mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the England London South Mission. Since 2012, I have seen Ethan only a handful of times and visited with him once by telephone. My wife and myself grew to love Ethan during our service together in London. We knew him to be a kind, sober, and soft-spoken young man who loved His Savior and desired to serve with and love the people of southern England.

Since you may not be acquainted with our missionary program, let me explain to you what is required of a young man who serves a two-year mission at his own expense. Before coming on an LDS mission, young men must undergo extensive interviews and background checks. They must be obedient to authority, demonstrate love, and render service to their fellow men. They must not drink, smoke, or partake of any strong or addictive substances. They must be honest and trustworthy. They must be morally clean and firmly committed to the principles taught by Jesus Christ. They must pass a medical examination, undergo a criminal background check to see if any charges have ever been filed against them, and submit to the church a clean driving record from their local state and county authorities. In short, they must be physically, mentally, and emotionally able to fulfill the specific call and its related duties. Ethan Collins passed all these requirements.

While on his mission, Ethan was interviewed by me every six weeks. I not only checked for his continued worthiness and obedience to mission rules, but I also listened intently while he discussed with me his relationships with his companions, his feelings about the areas and the people where he was directed to serve, and I generally asked all my missionaries to share with me any meaningful experiences they might have had with those whom they taught. I cannot remember anything specific, but I have a clear mental picture of Ethan. He was always a warm, loving, gentle, and conscientious young man. Ethan served in various areas of our mission, but for some time he served in the slums of London among people from the humblest of circumstances among a racially diverse populace. Eighty to ninety percent of the people Ethan taught during that time were people of color. If he had even once showed any animosity toward them, he would have been severely reprimanded and maybe sent home. Ethan never showed any animosity toward any other person in the years I knew him. Ethan frequently changed companionships; I never heard any complaints about his ability to get along with them. Ethan never engaged in any political discussions. I knew nothing about any of his political leanings. In the time I was intimately acquainted with him, he was just a warm and loving young man in whom there were no complaints. The Ethan Collins I knew would not seek to harm anyone.

Your honor, I dare not influence your decision, but I do hope I can offer you a different picture of Ethan than what you might read in a simple, legal brief. I pray the Lord will bless you to render Ethan a just and fair sentence.

Lyle E Shamo, President England London South Mission, 2009-2012

Manike Pipkin
264 W 100 N
Monticello, UT 84535

November 17, 2021

To the Honorable Judge Moore,

I'm writing to tell you a little bit about Ethan Collins. I am his older sister by 4 years. I have been involved in Ethan's life for his whole 30 year life. I have been a homemaker for the last 12 years. Ethan and I have collaborated on some business plans over the years.

I've admired Ethan's fun, happy, and outgoing personality as we've grown up together. My children have also loved having him as an uncle. He's visited often and has always been welcome at my in-laws for holiday dinners.

As he's pursued his career, I've also seen determination and honesty. We've worked together to build up the Young Eagles program in Monticello and give kids in this rural area the chance to learn how to fly and start a career. The high altitude is challenging but makes skilled pilots. He was also constantly looking for more ways to provide services that Monticello residents needed.

I remember a story he told me about teaching some difficult students in Florida. The students wanted Ethan to sign them off and certify that they knew the material and had passed flight tests even though they hadn't. They were rather rude about it. They weren't used to being told no because of their wealth and status. Ethan refused to comply with their demands. He told me to do so would have put his students lives and any other persons lives around them at risk, whether on the plane with them or on the ground. He stood his ground and wouldn't allow his students to cheat. This is just one of the times he's made me proud.

I'm not sure he was aware of all the laws on gun accessories, but I'm sure he'll correct himself going forward. His behavior in prison has made me proud. He's called me almost weekly and written letters to the whole family. Whatever the court's decision, I believe Ethan will stay humble and grow through the experience. I will be so glad to have him home though. Thank you for your time to read this and consider Ethan's situation.

Sincerely,
Manike Pipkin

The Honorable Judge Moore:

We are respectfully writing this letter to provide you with personal information about Ethan Collins prior to his being sentenced. We have known Ethan since the early 1990s. Our first acquaintance was his attendance at the same church that we attend. We also have had a personal relationship with Ethan and his family since he was a very young boy. In the years that we have known him, he has always demonstrated a firm commitment to what in the Deep South is referred to as gentlemanly behavior, and since that time we have only known him as a very well-behaved young boy and young man.

As university professors, we also had Ethan as a student and were also aware that he had become an accomplished pilot and has always demonstrated a sincere belief in our founding documents about which we had many personal communications. We are puzzled as to what behavior could have caused his current legal entanglement as all we were ever witness to was a young man who stood apart from many of his generation who are so cavalier about the many freedoms and opportunities that this great Republic provides its citizens.

The young man we know has always demonstrated a very positive influence on all that he has come in contact with. Whatever the transgression that he is charged with is such a radical departure from the behavior we have observed over three decades. Ethan is a remarkable human being and we hope that his legal troubles will soon be far behind him so that he may return to his loving family as soon as possible.

Respectfully,

Dr. and Mrs. Robert D. Hutchins

The Honorable Judge Moore US District Court Judge

I'm respectfully writing to you regarding Ethan Collins prior to sentencing. I've known him my entire life and have been the recipient of his kindness many times. One experience that comes to mind is from a hot, humid day in South Carolina. As I cleaned the dash of my car, Ethan stopped to help me finish the job. Although this was a simple act of love, it stands out in my mind to this day.

Throughout his life, I have known Ethan as a positive, resilient, and service-minded individual. As teenagers, we joined the Civil Air Patrol together. This organization is the official auxiliary of the United States Air Force, and their mission is to "...search for and find the lost, provide comfort in times of disaster and work to keep the homeland safe."

In 2015, Ethan had the opportunity to act on his desire to serve and offer relief. He flew for an organization called Aerobridge to deliver needed supplies to disaster-stricken areas after flooding connected to Hurricane Juquin. In more recent years, I heard him talk about flying for Doctors Without Borders and the Border Patrol, among other mission-driven organizations.

These interests show his charitable and patriotic nature over the majority of his life. It seems to me that he recognizes the error of the path he was on and will not return to it. Even if his mistakes prevent him from flying again, I think he will still give much service to his community and the nation.

C. Trent Collins | Job Coach Trainer

Welfare and Self-Reliance Services, Welfare Square, SLC, UT

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Office: 801-240-7202

carvertrentcollins@ChurchofJesusChrist.org

Walter E. Martin, Jr.

P. O. Box 145
Denmark, SC 29042
Cell (803) 378-0066

October 12, 2021

To whom it may concern:

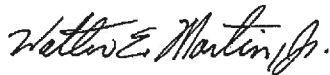
Dear Sir:

I have been asked to provide a character reference for Ethan Collins, whom I knew from 2012 to 2018 while serving with Aerobridge, Inc. Aerobridge is a national Volunteer Organization Active in Disasters and I am the state field director for South Carolina.

I became acquainted with Ethan when he volunteered for ground support prior to receiving his Private Pilot certification. Ethan participated in the annual National Disaster Medical System exercise in South Carolina in Greenville, South Carolina flying simulated, ambulatory patients after a regional disaster. Ethan participated in the training and preparatory meetings this exercise required. Ethan participated enthusiastically and at his own expense for both the aircraft and fuel. His support for the overall exercise goals and his fellow pilots enhanced our organization's ability to meet its objectives.

In October 2015, our state found itself challenged by historic floods that required Aerobridge's unique capabilities. Ethan flew relief supplies to flooded low-country counties in support of local emergency management authorities. He did these missions cheerfully and at his own expense. Based upon my experience with Ethan, he was a valuable asset that made our tasks more achievable.

Sincerely,



Walter E. Martin, Jr.

William G Stidom

4024 Florentine Road
West Columbia, SC 29170
(803) 446-6068

September 18, 2021

To whom it may concern:

Dear Sir:

I have been asked to provide a character reference for Ethan Collins, whom I have known for over 20 years.

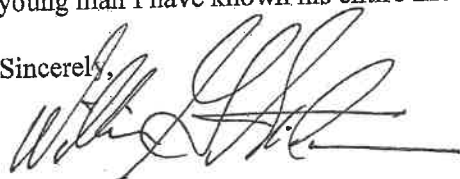
I have known Ethan since he was a small child and his family before his birth. His family and mine are members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Ethan was a Boy Scout in the troop I served as Aviation Merit Badge Counselor. I had the honor of giving Ethan his first flight and helped him earn his Aviation Merit Badge. Ethan served in leadership positions in the troop and earned his Eagle Scout. Ethan epitomized the standards and expectations of an Eagle Scout—a position less than 2% of all scouts attain.

Ethan asked my help in working towards and ultimately receiving his Private Pilot certification and later matriculation for his Commercial certificate as well.

I served as an officer in the United States Navy for 6 years—being honorably discharged as a Lieutenant. Years later, in the aftermath of 9/11, I volunteered my services to the South Carolina State Guard, retiring in 2016 as Colonel and Commander of the First Brigade. I know something about judging character in normal and stressful circumstances.

Ethan is a hardworking and faithful member of my faith. He voluntarily served a 2-year mission for the church at his own expense. One does not have to be a member of our faith to appreciate his dedication to its principles and love of his fellow man. It is inconceivable to me that the young man I have known his entire life could be a threat to Our Country.

Sincerely,



William G. (Greg) Stidom

To the Honorable Judge Moore,

I am Michael Ketcham. My occupation is Owner/Operated Truck driver. Twenty years experience, along with eight years in Army. I also served in Church with many different positions. One of the positions in Church was working with young men while Ethan Collins was there.

I have known Ethan since he was 12 years old. He and my kids were good friends. I was impressed with Ethan. He would not allow bullying of younger youth. Always friendly to everyone, especially the shy youth. He was trying to get everyone involved in whatever was going on, and he usually succeeded in it.

I remember when we decided to start doing road side cleanup for our small town Pine Ridge SC. We ended up doing two streets, 4 miles, Ethan was always there. He was in Boy Scouts and is an Eagle Scout. He was always there when service projects were needing done, whether it was big or small, he was there.

Ethan Collins served a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. For two years, he served in Great Britain. He returned honorably.

Ethan is a friend of my family. He has been in my opinion a force for good. So for approximately seventeen years or so, I have known Ethan to be an upstanding person. He has my respect.

Michael Ketcham
1679 Busbee Road
Gaston SC 29053

To the Honorable Judge Moore,

My name is Kevin Jones, the owner of Ultimate Landscaping. I have known Ethan all of his life and his family. One of my greatest memories of Ethan is when his family came to visit us in Idaho and before they left , I gave all the children a role of silver dollars. Ethan is the only one that came up to me to express his appreciation. He said, "Thank you Uncle Kevin." As he looked at it with admiration, I looked at him as a young man thinking he was the only one that said thank you. I have always remembered that. I have always held a high opinion of him in that regard to what kind of young man he was going to turn out to be. And to this day, he has not failed me.

Signed,

Kevin Jones

The Honorable Judge Moore

I am a middle aged father of 3 who makes his living with real estate investments. I've had the privilege of knowing Ethan Collins since he lived in Greenville SC several years ago. He was a member of my church congregation. Ethan was always eager to help others and a genuinely happy and pleasant young man to spend time with. I've had him in my home and trust him around my family. In October of 2016 he and I volunteered to help clean up after a hurricane struck the coast of South Carolina. This involved traveling 4-5 hours there, working all day, camping overnight and working the next day. It was a pleasure to work alongside Ethan who was happy to be helping his fellowman in whatever way he could. I've kept in touch with him intermittently since he moved away from our area and was shocked to read media accounts of his behaviour. This does not seem consistent with the young man I know and leaves me thinking there surely must be more to the story. I hope that the goodness of his heart and past good actions will be a factor in whatever outcome there is from his trial. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,
Andrew Thornal
4 Zelma Dr
Greenville SC
864-561-1854
athornal@gmail.com

To the Honorable Judge Moore,

I am gratefully writing to give a personal account of my relationship with Ethan Collins. I have known him and his family since I was 7 years old. I am now a resident physician at a small family medicine program in rural Alabama. Over the years Ethan has been a dear friend and source of encouragement.

It has been a struggle for me to stick through the long journey of becoming a doctor, many hours studying and setting aside countless opportunities. Ethan has shared a similar commitment and endurance in becoming a pilot, a goal he has worked towards since we were teenagers. Last October (2020) Ethan invited me to stay with him for the month so I could do a rotation at a hospital in Denver. We were able to go hiking and visit a few parks on weekends off work. A much needed time in the midst of intense study and work schedules. We enjoyed catching up and conversing over ways we could use our professional positions to serve our communities. Although we are both still in the launching phases of our careers, ideas like staffing a small airport in a rural area to fly medical missions, demonstrate the compassion and character Ethan possesses. This time was refreshing to me personally. Seeing another man pressing through a difficult process in hopes of being able to serve others on a larger scale, renewed my own passion. He has been a man of integrity in his work and has a desire to serve others.

Many professionals lose passion in their work. I've struggled myself. Ethan has been a strong example to me of positivity in the face of trying circumstances. He has always been quick to offer a solution with a willingness to help.

Sincerely,

Austin Robinson DO

Jon Bradley Pipkin

P.O box 475

Monticello Ut 84535

(435) 419 0679

jonbradleypipkin@gmail.com

26th October 2021

United States Airforce

Staff Sergeant New Mexico Air National Guard

2251 Air Guard Road

Albuquerque NM 87117

To the Honorable Judge Moore

I'm respectfully writing to provide you personal information about Ethan Collins prior to his sentencing. I have known Ethan since 2008. He became my brother in law. Not only has Ethan been a mentor to my kids, but he is deeply involved in volunteering at church events and even served a full time mission for his church.

I think he is amazing at what he does. There are very few people I trust to fly my family around. He is very passionate about what he does and very dedicated. He has spent time living with us. He was always so dedicated to his work, but always so willing to teach my children as well, to take a moment and be their uncle and play with them, even if it meant he would be up a little later still working or studying.

He has always been a very passionate, humble, dedicated, active, caring, and willing person. He has always been willing to help others while here in Monticello. He always helped with service activities like cutting firewood or helping people move. He always was willing to go.

Sincerely,

Jon Bradley Pipkin

September 19, 2021

The Honorable Judge Moore,

I've known Ethan Collins for 16 years. I'm a retired United Parcel Service international pilot on Boeing 757/767 and flew in the U.S. Army on AH-64 Apache Attack helicopters. I like to feel I had something to do mentoring Ethan while he was learning to fly and his desire to make a career of flying.

I met Ethan through his dad, Dr. Collins, a Boy Scout leader. Although in different troops, Ethan and my son are both Eagle Scouts. I've spent several summer days with Ethan, Dr. Collins at Scout Camp on our local lake with the Boy Scouts. I would take my boat to teach kids to water ski and Ethan was often with me. Ethan is a very respectful, helpful and a great scout. We would go diving in Key West and at our lake with Ethan, Dr. Collins and Ethan's family came too. Ethan is a bright young man and willing to give a helping hand anyway he could. My son, Ethan and his brothers would go hiking in N.C., they came back with great stories. Ethan was a true Scout and lives up to the Scout motto, Be Prepared.

I have followed Ethan's flying career through texts and social media posts. He is on his way to having a great career and doing everything right. It is not believable to me to think that Ethan is charged with anything nefarious. Ethan comes from a family who are well respected and law-abiding citizens.

I would trust my life in Ethan's hands.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Chris Powers

Chris Powers
1600 Marina Rd. #326A
Irmo, SC 29063
803-422-9572

The Honorable Judge Moore,

I'm respectfully writing to provide you personal information about Ethan Collins prior to his sentencing. I have known Ethan since 2002 when I first started seeing his father for chiropractic care. We have been friends ever since then.

To be honest I was shocked to hear about the situation Ethan is in. He has always been one of the most honest and trustworthy friends I have in my life, no doubt because of his wholesome upbringing by loving parents and siblings. Ethan has always aspired to do something great in aviation/aerospace. I watched him go from the books, to flying lessons, to giving lessons, to captain at an airline in a fairly short period of time. He put in a lot of heavy lifting to get as far as he did with aviation and left nothing but positive impressions on others along the way. Last May of 2020 I had the honor of having Ethan in my jumpseat on a quick flight to Denver, one of the most memorable flights of my career and what turned out to be my last flight just before I got furloughed due to the airlines economic challenges. I will never forget that and I know he won't either.

I have missed talking with and seeing Ethan over the last year and he will continue to be missed during the length of time he serves. Ethan has been a positive influence on his students, friends, family, and myself. I know he has left a positive footprint in the aviation community through his students who are, by now, flying at the airlines and those whom he has helped to guide spiritually through his faith.

I can speak for all who know Ethan when I say that this situation is a 90 degree deviation that is far from his normal modes of operation in life. I sincerely hope that consideration will be given to his life as a whole. Ethan is a great human being and I hope to see him back home picking up where he left off very soon. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Cristiaan Mestler
cristiaan@web.de
803.201.5779

Dear Honorable Judge Moore,

My name is Duriya Dalal and I'm respectfully writing to provide you personal information about Ethan Collins. My family has known Ethan for about 25 years. He is our neighbor but also a close family friend. To be honest I was shocked to hear about the charges.

During my years of knowing Ethan, I have experienced an individual who shows up earlier than asked, works hard, and carried themselves in a polite, respectable manner. In addition, Ethan Collins is a family-person who always presented themselves with levelheadedness and grace.

Over the years I have seen Ethan to be a tremendous asset to my family and our community. Ethan was always willing to lend a helping hand to anyone in the neighborhood, even if he was busy, he would shuffle his schedule to help. He was always helpful to take care of our house while we were away and never once asked for payment rather, he just helped out of the kindness in his heart.

My husband and I are not very technological savvy and Ethan came to our home and spent countless hours helping us set up our computer and get everything set up. He would always check back in to make sure everything was running well and would come update the computer so we never had to worry about that. That's the man I know Ethan to be. Always ready to lend a helping hand to those who needed it.

Those are just a few examples over the many years of knowing Ethan of his positivity and helpfulness. When you look at the sum of Ethan's life, please consider it on a whole. For people who know Ethan this is a clear transgression that is far from his normal state. Ethan is an amazing human being and I look forward to having him back in our community soon. Thank you for your time.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you should require any further information.

Sincerely,

Duriya Dalal

803-917-4929 | sdalal786@aol.com

September 29, 2021

To the Honorable Judge Moore,

I'm Esther Collins and writing to you on behalf of Ethan Collins. I'm Ethan's aunt. I retired from Computer Programming in 2017. Since then, I've been a full-time caregiver and POA to my mom, Alice Collins. Mom was diagnosed with dementia in 2011. Alice is Ethan's grandmother. Alice has 7 children, 19 grandchildren, and 8 great-grandchildren. Also, I'm a seasonal insurance agent holding licenses in South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia, Florida, and Tennessee. I have been continuously employed for 45 years working in the United States and Internationally.

I have known Ethan since his birth 30 years ago. Over the years, Ethan has demonstrated his love and devotion for his family and especially for his Grandmother Collins. My mom has always loved adventures, so when Ethan has taken her flying, only sheer joy was on her face, never fear. Watching Ethan interact with my mom has made me so happy. Once he helped her hold a baby rabbit. First Ethan calmed the little rabbit down then gently laid it on mom's shoulder. Mom was in bunny heaven. Ethan would visit mom often taking her on walks. They both love being outdoors. Ethan and mom have enjoyed many shared meals and good conversation.

Additionally, I witnessed Ethan's community services as a Boy Scout, LDS Church member, where he has held leadership positions, as well as serving on a church mission in England. I have watched his compassionate and gentle care with patients in his father's Chiropractic practice.

It is sad and painful for me to know Ethan is in prison. He is a unique member of our family and we miss him. I hope my letter has given you a glimpse of Ethan in our family unit and community. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Esther Y. Collins
Esther Y. Collins
300 Martreb Place
Lexington, SC 29072
803-521-9384

To the Honorable Judge Moore,

We are respectfully writing to provide you personal information about Ethan Collins prior to his sentencing.

Our family has known Ethan since he came to Maryland to obtain flight training and associated flight hours to obtain pilot qualifications. Ethan spent many Sundays with our family and we came to consider him as one of our "other" children. He always very helpful with any projects that we had going on and wanted to know if he could do anything in return for our family. He never expected anything to just be handed to him and he demonstrated a great passion for wanting to help others and be of service.

As a member of the church that we belong, Ethan always offered to assist and spent many hours helping those that were in need with moving, yard work, or whatever need was identified. He also worked with the missionaries in our church in trying to help others to find hope through having faith in Jesus Christ.

We believe Ethan to be an honorable young man with a passion for helping others and wanting to do the right thing.

Sincerely,
Eric and LaneAnn Vanderlinden

Mark Andrew Collin
22 Willow Hurst Ct
Columbia, SC 29209
803-386-1486

The Honorable Judge Moore

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter relating to Ethan Collins, my nephew. I have had the privilege of watching him grow up and mature into an amazing young man. As he grew I started having children of my own. Each of my four children were drawn to him due to his happy, energetic, and caring personality.

They watched Ethan set a great example by going on a church mission to serve others. My children were able to hear about him reaching out to others in need and helping them find peace in their lives through Jesus Christ. As he shared his experiences with them when he returned, they were able to see how much two years serving the Lord can have a positive effect on him because of his willingness to grow.

Another example that he set for my children was sharing his dream with them about becoming a pilot. They grew up with him talking, planning, and ultimately making that dream come true. They saw him work very hard to achieve all his goals that he set along the way.

Thank you again for your time,
Mark Collins

Thank you for allowing me to tell you about Ethan Collins. I was sad to learn of his current situation – actually I was a bit taken back because he had always been a kind-hearted, respectful person. I first met Ethan when he was just a boy while visiting his father in a professional setting. Over the years our relationship grew from professional to personal friendships – including the children. Ethan grew up in a loving home, going to church and involved in church activities. As he grew older, there were many occasions he volunteered to come to the aid of others, helping around the house, doing chores which involved strenuous physical labor. Most every fall Ethan came to our home as well, volunteering to chop and stack wood, other times delivering wood and yet other times chopping wood, loading it on a trailer and sharing it with acquaintances who were in need of firewood.

In all my association with him I always thought of Ethan as a “tender” person more so than a “macho” individual.

Growing up Ethan enjoyed camping and hiking in the mountains of North Carolina. There were many camping trips Ethan accompanied us and he was always helpful and considerate to the younger, less experienced hikers.

I have always been fond of Ethan and hope he will be back home soon – smiling with his crooked little smile.

Ralph Corduan

October 10, 2021

To Judge Moore concerning Ethan Collins:

I have known Ethan his entire life, his young years, his teenage years, and most of his adult years. I feel like I know his character and integrity pretty well. We went to the same church, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. For 25 years, he never missed a Sunday.

He participated in many activities in the church growing up. Basketball, scouts, campouts, father and son campouts, service projects, assisting the widows, delivering food to the needy. He volunteered to go to Georgia to help the flood victims. He worked with Aerobridge to do food drops for flood victims. He, also, went to Florida to help with hurricane relief. He knows how to be compassionate.

I was his bishop and scout leader at church. I watched him progress to be the highest ranking a scout, to be an Eagle Scout. His project was to build a small park for his community. He organized and supervised it. He built a picnic shelter with a table and made a small hiking trail for exercise around the park.

Ethan really knows how to give service to his church and his community. He served a two year mission for the church in England at his own expense. That shows a lot about his character and integrity. I hope he can come home soon to continue to give service to his church, community and family. He would be a great asset to us all.

Rocco Del Priore
625 Ramblin Road
West Columbia SC
29170

To the Honorable Judge Moore,

My name is Sally Vieira and I'm a mother of two kids ages four & five, a Disney Cast Member and a Licensed Realtor for Columbia & Sumter, SC. I was fortunate enough to meet Ethan Collins while I was dating his cousin, Cory Jones. I've known Ethan for roughly 3 years now. When I heard from Cory what Ethan did, I was very shocked and in complete disbelief that it actually happened, so much in fact, that I started researching the case to see it for my own eyes. Cory and I are no longer dating but when I found out that the family was gathering affidavits for Ethan's character, I asked if I could write one as well for Ethan because good people like him are truly hard to find now days and he has been very missed while he has been away.

I was able to hang out and eat dinner with Ethan and his family many different times. The first day I met Ethan, I was no one to him but he treated me like I was family. The amount of respect, kindness, and generosity that he shows daily is very rare. He is the kind of person that would give you the shirt off of his back if it was freezing outside and you didn't have your own. There was one time specifically where Cory and I were having some financial issues due to me being the only one with a job for a time. Cory's father started having some issues with work and due to him working too much and his health declining rapidly we decided to fly out Cory to help his dad with work. We spoke to Ethan about helping us schedule a flight since we didn't know much about the insurance on the said flight. Ethan not only walked me through booking the flight with all the details but trusted me enough to PayPal me a \$100.00 to take care of some of Cory's finances. I sent it back to him and told him thanks for being so willing to help but I had it under control for now.

We occasionally chatted online about him visiting Cory and I in Sumter, SC, and doing a cookout with us. He unfortunately moved and we didn't get to. I may not have known Ethan as long as some others have; but the way he treated me and the willingness he had to help someone that he hadn't known that long, really spoke to me and I had to write this to help him like he was willing to help me. Thank you for taking the time to read of the Ethan that I know. What he did recently is very out of character for him and I hope in the recent months we are able to see and be part of Ethan's life again soon and him and his family can put this all behind them.

Sincerely,

Sally Vieira

The Honorable Judge Moore

Regarding: Ethan Collins

I am writing on behalf of Ethan Collins, whom I have known since 2012. He had just returned home from an honorable mission for our church; The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. He became my friend and later a friend of my family.

The first thing that came to my mind when I heard of Ethan's situation was, "That doesn't sound like him at all." He had helped me prepare for my own mission for the church. I remember times when we would hang out and simply talk about life. After returning from my mission trip, he was there to hang out again with me. When I got married, he came from Columbia, South Carolina to Montgomery, Alabama to be my best man. Instead of doing the stereotypical thing for a bachelor party, we went to the movies instead. He assisted with the wedding cake to make sure it was gluten-free.

After I got divorced in 2016, he was there for me to get me back on my feet. He would always listen when I needed help. He gave me a temporary job and allowed me to stay with him and his family while I worked there. He helped me through my depression. He would come to have dinner at my family's place on multiple occasions and would assist in various service projects around the house.

When he started taking aviation classes, he would keep me informed of his progress and I supported him. He was constantly optimistic and positive any time I saw him. I knew that he struggled to find a girlfriend, but he never let being alone get him down.

I know that Ethan Collins is a good man who will be there for his friends. He is one of my personal heroes and I always looked forward to any time he could contact me. I look forward to being able to see him again at the earliest convenience. I owe him so much and he deserves the opportunity for me to help him back. Even if this is all I can do for him right now, I am proud to do this for him. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Trevor Harris

The Honorable Judge Moore
US District Court Judge

As the Godmother of Ethan Collins, I am respectfully writing to provide you personal information about this young man. I have known him since he was five years old with interaction from that time until now. He calls me his "British Auntie"! Honestly I was shocked and heartbroken to hear of his plight since this is not the Ethan Collins I know so well.

It is with great joy that I have been privileged to watch Ethan grow up and develop into a fine young man. When he was just a little boy, he would continually remind me what he was going to be when he "grew up!" He would demonstrate this desire from deep inside him by raising his arms and pretending to "fly" like an airplane around the room - all the engine noises included. More than anything else he wanted to fly airplanes and one day become a commercial airline pilot at Captain status. He would draw me a picture of his dream to take home and ask me to pray for him.

Over the years he worked hard, studied, stayed on his computer for hours looking at how an airplane was made, how it worked and even designed a Wing Tip that I understand drew the interest of some major aircraft manufacturers. He would call me so excited and share his hopes and dreams as they began to materialize. I was so proud of him. He was always a tender hearted and very kind person and I often watched with sadness as I saw him suffer at the hands of bullies who were jealous of his achievements.

Ethan let go of what he wanted to do and put God and others first by taking two years away from home and family to serve on a mission. He called me so excited to tell me his mission was taking him to England! We stayed in touch during that time. Once back in the USA, Ethan concentrated on studying and taking his flight exams, passing each one until he received his Captain wings. He always told me he would fly me to England one day. On this particular day he told me, "Auntie Viv, now I CAN fly you across the Pond to see your family!" I told him, "Ethan, success has crowned your effort."

Thank you sir for your time.

Yours sincerely,

Viv Young

Debra Lewis,
30 Grange Court
Sharpsburg Ga. 30277
10/17/21

Regarding: Ethan Collins

Dear Judge Moore,

I've known Ethan Collins for the past 10 years prior to his arrest. I first met him and his family in church and worked closely with him and his parents in his father's chiropractic business for several years. He had recently returned from serving a two year proselyting mission for our church that he paid for with his own funds. Ethan was actively involved in helping out when we ran into computer or mechanical issues with equipment in the office. His talents and skills made him extremely valuable not only in the office but at home. He was also very involved in helping his aged and widowed grandmother with chores or household needs around her home. He seemed to enjoy helping others and was pleasant to be around. I thought of him as my own son and admired his ability to admit mistakes and forgive others quickly. He, in my opinion, is a highly intelligent young man with a childlike heart. He even dated my daughter for a time and I had hoped he would become my son-in-law at some future time. He was always courteous to me and my family and very personable. Always asking me how everyone was doing and if there was anything he could do to help. I was proud of him for obtaining his pilot's license after much study and training.

I was very surprised and shocked to hear about his arrest. When his father told me about the charges, I thought for sure it was a joke, a mistake. Surely no one could believe Ethan was guilty of such a crime. What young man doesn't like to inflate his ego by bragging on his intellect and abilities..? That's what I thought about this whole unfortunate circumstance. I thought this mistake would quickly be resolved and he would return to his normal lifestyle very soon. That I am even writing this letter in his behalf is so unbelievable. For people who know Ethan know he has an innocent heart and is not guilty of malicious intent to harm others. I know him to be very patriot and a defender of the constitution of the USA. Ethan's closeness to family and loyalty to God are among the many virtues I admire about him. His family have an impeccable reputation in the community and at church. They are God fearing people and have contributed much time and resources to helping others, especially those less fortunate. Ethan is greatly missed and I look forward to having him back home with his loving family to continue learning and growing and serving others. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Debra Lewis, Wellness Coach

To the Honorable Judge Moore,

I am writing this letter on behalf of my nephew Ethan Collins. Because he is my nephew, I have known him his whole life and he was always a dear sweet, mild natured boy. As a man he has had the same gentle and quiet spirit.

The last time I saw Ethan was over a July Fourth holiday at my house. My granddaughter came to spend the day with us. She was three years old then and she connected with Ethan right away. They had such a good time together. He was so very patient and kind with her. My sister and I enjoyed watching him entertain her. My granddaughter soaked up every second of attention that he gave her and she certainly isn't lacking in that area as she is the only granddaughter on both sides of her family. She simply enjoyed her visit with Ethan.

To this very day I am completely confused as to how Ethan has found himself on this terrible path. When my sister called to tell me of the crisis he was in, I could not believe it. I thought she must have named Ethan accidentally. I thought she must have meant someone else. My response was "Ethan?" When I told my family, their response was the same "Ethan?" just as mine had been when my sister had told me. To say that I was surprised or shocked isn't a clear description of how I felt when my sister told what was happening. Complete disbelief and stunned would be a better description. And when I say stunned, I'm relating it to how I understand people feel after being hit with a stun gun as it continues to shock you after the initial impact. To this day, I am still confused and find it very difficult to believe that Ethan is in this situation. Given the opportunity I know he would have made better choices.

In my mind, I can see him smile, I can still hear him laugh and I can still hear him say, "Hi Aunt Jaimie." These things I cherish and miss more than words can say. I am very much looking forward to those things again.

Thank you for your time.

Jaimie Rudder

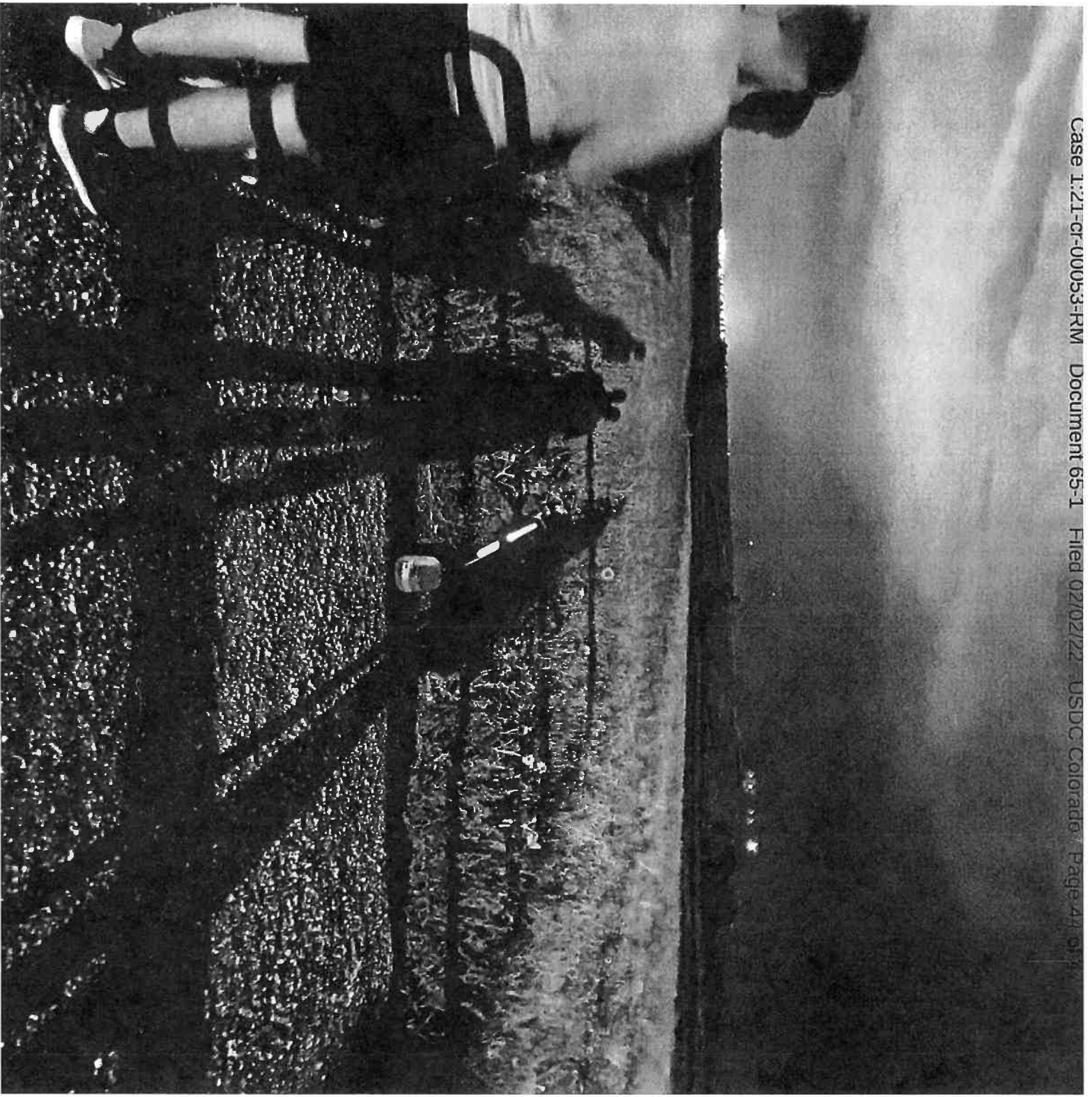


Exhibit T

Photograph
Mr. Collins and Parents

Property	Value	>
Year		
Genre		
Origin		
Directors		
Producers		
Writers		
Publisher		
Content provider		
Media created	7/24/2020 9:44 PM	
Encoded by		
Author URL		
Promotion URL		
Copyright		
Content		
Parental rating		
Parental rating reason		
Composers		
Conductors		
Period		
Mood		>

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- Gavin wanted to be Ethan's friend because he knew that Ethan didn't have many friends in town. Ethan mentioned a couple other friends in conversation, but Gavin never met any of them.
- There was nothing about Ethan that seemed unusual or strange to Gavin. Gavin thinks Ethan is awesome and he liked that Ethan was as interested in his rocket hobby as he was.
- Gavin recalls Ethan being upset about the mask mandate during the pandemic, like many people were. When their church reopened after the lockdown, Ethan showed up in a gas mask as a way to make fun of the mandate. Gavin knew from conversations with Ethan that Ethan took his personal liberties seriously and would be upset if they were taken away.
- Ethan uses the website www.nakka-rocketry.net for amateur rocket building information.

End of Memorandum

- The hobby rockets Gavin makes are sugar rockets that use powdered sugar and potassium nitrate, which is found in stump remover, as propellant or fuel. They are made using PVC pipes and are relatively low-power. They are rockets, so they make a big noise when they are launched but they are harmless as long as you are smart and use them safely.
- Ethan and Gavin talked about model rockets frequently and Gavin invited Ethan to build rockets and shoot them off with him. Gavin remembers shooting rockets off with Ethan once, maybe twice during the summer of 2020. They wanted to do it more but at the end of the summer, Gavin left for college and they didn't get the chance.
- Gavin and Ethan talked about all kinds of rocket-related topics; they thought of various ways to get them to fly farther, payloads, and alternative fuel sources, like using dextrose instead of sucrose/sugar. They discussed how to store propellant – it has to be very dry and it should be stored in a dry space, like a cooler or an oven. Propellant can be put in an oven at a very low temperature to evaporate all the water out of it. They talked about using a blender to get the potassium nitrate down to the right size. Ethan and Gavin spent a lot of time discussing the ins and outs of model rockets. Gavin doesn't recall if Ethan mentioned any other fuel sources he wanted to try in the rockets.
- The day Gavin and Ethan shot rockets off together, Gavin got off work early, around 3 or 4 pm, and Ethan picked him up at his parents' house; Gavin lived with his parents and didn't have his own car. They went to Walmart to get the supplies they needed but Walmart did not have the potassium nitrate, so they went to Home Depot to try to find it. Home Depot did not have the potassium nitrate either, but they were able to get PVC pipes, end caps, and cat litter there. Finally, they went to Lowe's and found stump remover, which contains potassium nitrate. Gavin can't remember if they bought powdered sugar while they were out or if he had it at home.
- Ethan and Gavin went back to Gavin's house to construct their rockets after getting all the supplies. Ethan brought a coffee grinder with him from home so they could blend down the larger potassium nitrate granules into a powder to mix with the powdered sugar. They set up a work area on the deck in Gavin's backyard to build their rockets. They used the PVC casings and end caps, added nozzles, and glued straws to the rocket motor tubes. They used a wooden stick to pack the cat litter and propellant into the PVC casings. They used the straws on their rockets so they could feed a hanger or marshmallow wire through to point and hold the rocket upwards when they launched it. They referenced a YouTube video (<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=12fR9neVnS8>) to get the correct ratio of ingredients.
- Gavin's mom, Becca, and his brothers, Owen (16) and Jack (13), went with him and Ethan to shoot off the rockets. They drove out east of Denver to an open space to launch the rockets.
- Ethan and Gavin tried to make their own fuses for their rockets from old fireworks. One of the fuses worked but the other didn't. They had a propane torch and used that to heat the rocket with the bad fuse.
- Gavin doesn't have any pictures of the rockets he and Gavin built but his mom took pictures of him and Ethan while they were launching their rockets. He will contact her and forward any photos she has to me.
- Gavin doesn't know if there are rules for shooting rockets in the Denver area. It is legal to shoot rockets in authorized areas, like the one he and Ethan went to east of Denver. As long as you are being smart with your rockets, they are safe. There are risks, such as getting hit in the eye, so you have to be cautious.
- After Gavin moved out of state for college at the end of summer, he and Ethan lost touch.

Office of the
Federal Public Defender
Districts of Colorado and Wyoming

Tracy R. Hucke, Wyoming Branch Supervisor
Mary V. Butterson, Senior Litigator

Virginia L. Grady, Federal Public Defender
Matthew K. Belcher, First Assistant

O. Dean Sanderford, Chief, Appeals
Veronica S. Rossman, Senior Counsel

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 20, 2021

TO: David Kraut

FROM: Jacqueline Silbermann

CASE: U.S. v. Ethan Collins 21-cr-53-RM

RE: Gavin Morgenegg
720-314-9362

On May 17, 2021, I interviewed Gavin Morgenegg over the phone regarding our client, Ethan Collins. I informed Gavin that I am an investigator with the Office of the Federal Public Defender and that our office currently represents Ethan Collins. The following is a summary of the interview I conducted with Gavin:

- Gavin met Ethan in spring 2020 through their church. Gavin and Ethan are both members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Aurora YSA (young single adult) ward. Before the pandemic began and the church went under lockdown, Gavin and Ethan were paired up by random to minister together in local neighborhoods. Because of the lockdown, Gavin and Ethan did not meet in person until May or June of 2020; they were in contact via text message during the lockdown, though.
- Gavin and Ethan got to know one another a little bit through conversations they had while ministering. They discovered they were both interested in engineering and tinkering with things. Gavin learned that Ethan was a pilot and thought he might be interested in model rockets. Gavin is into model rockets and shared what he knew about them with Ethan.
- Gavin first learned about model rockets through a teacher he had in middle school. When he was a freshman in high school, he really got into rockets and would build them and take them out to shoot in fields. Gavin received model rockets, in particular, Estes Rockets, for birthday presents when he was younger.

Cheyenne, Wyoming
214 W. Lincolnway, Suite 41A
Cheyenne, WY 82001
Phone: 307 772 2731
Fax: 307 772 2758

Denver, Colorado
633 17th Street, Suite 1000
Denver, CO 80202
Phone: 303 294 7002
Fax: 303 294 1192

Casper, Wyoming
Ewing T. Kerr Federal Building
111 South Wolcott Street, Room 512
Casper, WY 82601
Phone: 307 772 2731
Fax: 307 772 2758

Exhibit S

Defense Interview Memorandum & Photo
Gavin Mortonegg
May 20, 2021

To the Honorable Judge Moore,

My Name is Cory Jones, and I've been a licensed massage therapist for over 11 years. I am respectfully writing to provide you personal information in regards to Ethan Collins, prior to his sentencing. I've, personally, known Ethan for over 23 years, and when I heard about the charges facing him, I was absolutely shocked in disbelief that he would ever have a desire to commit such a ridiculous crime.

Within the last 6 years, Ethan has been a tremendously positive and hard working example to me through his scholastic endeavors, and especially with how long and hard he had worked to accomplish the task of completing his pilot's training, and became a professional pilot and captain.

In the last 4 years alone, since I moved to South Carolina, he has bent over backwards, to help me find, not only work helping local churches out with photography, but he even went out of his way to help me pay for a round trip flight back out to Idaho, out of his own pocket, when my father had a heart attack, and I was between jobs at the time.

It absolutely meant the world to my dad and sisters to have me back there to help while we were dealing with his recovery. He had even offered to send me money for a rental car, and send my wife out as well, since she at that time hadn't met my father yet.

And that's just one example of many years of positivity Ethan has brought to my life and my family's lives.

When you look at the sum of Ethan's life, please consider it as a whole. For the good people who know Ethan, this is a clear transgression that is very far from his normal characteristic state of being. Ethan is an amazing human being and I look forward to having him home as part of my family and community as soon as possible. Thank you for your time, and have a blessed day.

Sincerely,

Cory Jones, Travel Content Creator, Jay Bird Media

September 22, 2021

The Honorable Judge Moore,

I am grateful for this opportunity to share my personal information about Ethan, who is my nephew. I have known him his entire life. My two older children are close to his age, so each time that we traveled from Florida or Idaho, where we were living, we were always excited to hear Ethan update us on what he had been doing. He was regularly assisting those in need individually, along with his family, church members and scouting troop, in addition to working hard in school.

When we attended church with him and his family, I saw his respectful, compassionate behavior toward others and his quick response to help whenever or wherever needed. I saw this same behavior consistently toward his parents, siblings, grandparents, my family, neighbors and friends throughout his life. Often on my visits, I was able to see him work hard on projects with his immediate family, grandparents and extended family. He loved being in grandpa's diesel mechanic shop learning from grandpa and his dad. I saw how he returned his gratitude toward his grandpa when he suffered through mesothelioma and passed in 1996.

Our mom, his grandma, is still alive but has suffered with the progression of dementia for the past 17 years. In 2011 she, accidentally, over-medicated herself because of her dementia. At the request of my family, I traveled to SC from Idaho in the Fall to help the family adjust her diet to see if we could get her off the medications for her Type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure and high cholesterol. As a personal trainer and nutritional coach, I had been able to help others do the same with their doctor's help, so we thought it was worthwhile to try. I stayed a month to get them setup then returned to Idaho. Within six months of being consistent with her diet, her doctor was able to take her

off all three medications. However, with her dementia, she still needed daily help. So Ethan's mom and dad brought her to me in Idaho in June of 2012. It was a difficult decision for our family and everyone greatly missed having her in SC, Ethan especially. He had been unwavering in stopping in to see her. Missing her terribly, Ethan and his family came out in January of 2013 to see her and help. For two weeks, I watched how he lovingly cared for her alongside his parents. Mom was very happy to see them. She loves the boys so much.

We were able to return her to SC in the fall of 2013. When I relocated to SC in 2017, I once again observed how Ethan would stop by regularly to shower her with love and compassion.

Sincerely,

Cathy Collins Hoskins
2480 Lorentz Drive, Sumter, SC 29154
(803) 406-8844

Lyle E. Shamo
President, England London South Mission 2009-2012
9603 South Daisy Meadow Circle
South Jordan, UT 84095

To the Honorable Judge Moore:

I am respectfully writing you regarding Ethan Jeffrey Collins whose legal case is presently before your court. I have been acquainted with Ethan since September 2010 when he came to serve a two-year volunteer mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the England London South Mission. Since 2012, I have seen Ethan only a handful of times and visited with him once by telephone. My wife and myself grew to love Ethan during our service together in London. We knew him to be a kind, sober, and soft-spoken young man who loved His Savior and desired to serve with and love the people of southern England.

Since you may not be acquainted with our missionary program, let me explain to you what is required of a young man who serves a two-year mission at his own expense. Before coming on an LDS mission, young men must undergo extensive interviews and background checks. They must be obedient to authority, demonstrate love, and render service to their fellow men. They must not drink, smoke, or partake of any strong or addictive substances. They must be honest and trustworthy. They must be morally clean and firmly committed to the principles taught by Jesus Christ. They must pass a medical examination, undergo a criminal background check to see if any charges have ever been filed against them, and submit to the church a clean driving record from their local state and county authorities. In short, they must be physically, mentally, and emotionally able to fulfill the specific call and its related duties. Ethan Collins passed all these requirements.

While on his mission, Ethan was interviewed by me every six weeks. I not only checked for his continued worthiness and obedience to mission rules, but I also listened intently while he discussed with me his relationships with his companions, his feelings about the areas and the people where he was directed to serve, and I generally asked all my missionaries to share with me any meaningful experiences they might have had with those whom they taught. I cannot remember anything specific, but I have a clear mental picture of Ethan. He was always a warm, loving, gentle, and conscientious young man. Ethan served in various areas of our mission, but for some time he served in the slums of London among people from the humblest of circumstances among a racially diverse populace. Eighty to ninety percent of the people Ethan taught during that time were people of color. If he had even once showed any animosity toward them, he would have been severely reprimanded and maybe sent home. Ethan never showed any animosity toward any other person in the years I knew him. Ethan frequently changed companionships; I never heard any complaints about his ability to get along with them. Ethan never engaged in any political discussions. I knew nothing about any of his political leanings. In the time I was intimately acquainted with him, he was just a warm and loving young man in whom there were no complaints. The Ethan Collins I knew would not seek to harm anyone.

Your honor, I dare not influence your decision, but I do hope I can offer you a different picture of Ethan than what you might read in a simple, legal brief. I pray the Lord will bless you to render Ethan a just and fair sentence.

Lyle E Shamo, President England London South Mission, 2009-2012

Manike Pipkin
264 W 100 N
Monticello, UT 84535

November 17, 2021

To the Honorable Judge Moore,

I'm writing to tell you a little bit about Ethan Collins. I am his older sister by 4 years. I have been involved in Ethan's life for his whole 30 year life. I have been a homemaker for the last 12 years. Ethan and I have collaborated on some business plans over the years.

I've admired Ethan's fun, happy, and outgoing personality as we've grown up together. My children have also loved having him as an uncle. He's visited often and has always been welcome at my in-laws for holiday dinners.

As he's pursued his career, I've also seen determination and honesty. We've worked together to build up the Young Eagles program in Monticello and give kids in this rural area the chance to learn how to fly and start a career. The high altitude is challenging but makes skilled pilots. He was also constantly looking for more ways to provide services that Monticello residents needed.

I remember a story he told me about teaching some difficult students in Florida. The students wanted Ethan to sign them off and certify that they knew the material and had passed flight tests even though they hadn't. They were rather rude about it. They weren't used to being told no because of their wealth and status. Ethan refused to comply with their demands. He told me to do so would have put his students lives and any other persons lives around them at risk, whether on the plane with them or on the ground. He stood his ground and wouldn't allow his students to cheat. This is just one of the times he's made me proud.

I'm not sure he was aware of all the laws on gun accessories, but I'm sure he'll correct himself going forward. His behavior in prison has made me proud. He's called me almost weekly and written letters to the whole family. Whatever the court's decision, I believe Ethan will stay humble and grow through the experience. I will be so glad to have him home though. Thank you for your time to read this and consider Ethan's situation.

Sincerely,
Manike Pipkin

The Honorable Judge Moore:

We are respectfully writing this letter to provide you with personal information about Ethan Collins prior to his being sentenced. We have known Ethan since the early 1990s. Our first acquaintance was his attendance at the same church that we attend. We also have had a personal relationship with Ethan and his family since he was a very young boy. In the years that we have known him, he has always demonstrated a firm commitment to what in the Deep South is referred to as gentlemanly behavior, and since that time we have only known him as a very well-behaved young boy and young man.

As university professors, we also had Ethan as a student and were also aware that he had become an accomplished pilot and has always demonstrated a sincere belief in our founding documents about which we had many personal communications. We are puzzled as to what behavior could have caused his current legal entanglement as all we were ever witness to was a young man who stood apart from many of his generation who are so cavalier about the many freedoms and opportunities that this great Republic provides its citizens.

The young man we know has always demonstrated a very positive influence on all that he has come in contact with. Whatever the transgression that he is charged with is such a radical departure from the behavior we have observed over three decades. Ethan is a remarkable human being and we hope that his legal troubles will soon be far behind him so that he may return to his loving family as soon as possible.

Respectfully,

Dr. and Mrs. Robert D. Hutchins

The Honorable Judge Moore US District Court Judge

I'm respectfully writing to you regarding Ethan Collins prior to sentencing. I've known him my entire life and have been the recipient of his kindness many times. One experience that comes to mind is from a hot, humid day in South Carolina. As I cleaned the dash of my car, Ethan stopped to help me finish the job. Although this was a simple act of love, it stands out in my mind to this day.

Throughout his life, I have known Ethan as a positive, resilient, and service-minded individual. As teenagers, we joined the Civil Air Patrol together. This organization is the official auxiliary of the United States Air Force, and their mission is to "...search for and find the lost, provide comfort in times of disaster and work to keep the homeland safe."

In 2015, Ethan had the opportunity to act on his desire to serve and offer relief. He flew for an organization called Aerobridge to deliver needed supplies to disaster-stricken areas after flooding connected to Hurricane Juquin. In more recent years, I heard him talk about flying for Doctors Without Borders and the Border Patrol, among other mission-driven organizations.

These interests show his charitable and patriotic nature over the majority of his life. It seems to me that he recognizes the error of the path he was on and will not return to it. Even if his mistakes prevent him from flying again, I think he will still give much service to his community and the nation.

C. Trent Collins | Job Coach Trainer

Welfare and Self-Reliance Services, Welfare Square, SLC, UT

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Office: 801-240-7202

carvertrentcollins@ChurchofJesusChrist.org

Walter E. Martin, Jr.

P. O. Box 145
Denmark, SC 29042
Cell (803) 378-0066

October 12, 2021

To whom it may concern:

Dear Sir:

I have been asked to provide a character reference for Ethan Collins, whom I knew from 2012 to 2018 while serving with Aerobridge, Inc. Aerobridge is a national Volunteer Organization Active in Disasters and I am the state field director for South Carolina.

I became acquainted with Ethan when he volunteered for ground support prior to receiving his Private Pilot certification. Ethan participated in the annual National Disaster Medical System exercise in South Carolina in Greenville, South Carolina flying simulated, ambulatory patients after a regional disaster. Ethan participated in the training and preparatory meetings this exercise required. Ethan participated enthusiastically and at his own expense for both the aircraft and fuel. His support for the overall exercise goals and his fellow pilots enhanced our organization's ability to meet its objectives.

In October 2015, our state found itself challenged by historic floods that required Aerobridge's unique capabilities. Ethan flew relief supplies to flooded low-country counties in support of local emergency management authorities. He did these missions cheerfully and at his own expense. Based upon my experience with Ethan, he was a valuable asset that made our tasks more achievable.

Sincerely,



Walter E. Martin, Jr.

William G Stidom

4024 Florentine Road
West Columbia, SC 29170
(803) 446-6068

September 18, 2021

To whom it may concern:

Dear Sir:

I have been asked to provide a character reference for Ethan Collins, whom I have known for over 20 years.

I have known Ethan since he was a small child and his family before his birth. His family and mine are members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Ethan was a Boy Scout in the troop I served as Aviation Merit Badge Counselor. I had the honor of giving Ethan his first flight and helped him earn his Aviation Merit Badge. Ethan served in leadership positions in the troop and earned his Eagle Scout. Ethan epitomized the standards and expectations of an Eagle Scout—a position less than 2% of all scouts attain.

Ethan asked my help in working towards and ultimately receiving his Private Pilot certification and later matriculation for his Commercial certificate as well.

I served as an officer in the United States Navy for 6 years—being honorably discharged as a Lieutenant. Years later, in the aftermath of 9/11, I volunteered my services to the South Carolina State Guard, retiring in 2016 as Colonel and Commander of the First Brigade. I know something about judging character in normal and stressful circumstances.

Ethan is a hardworking and faithful member of my faith. He voluntarily served a 2-year mission for the church at his own expense. One does not have to be a member of our faith to appreciate his dedication to its principles and love of his fellow man. It is inconceivable to me that the young man I have known his entire life could be a threat to Our Country.

Sincerely,



William G. (Greg) Stidom

To the Honorable Judge Moore,

I am Michael Ketcham. My occupation is Owner/Operated Truck driver. Twenty years experience, along with eight years in Army. I also served in Church with many different positions. One of the positions in Church was working with young men while Ethan Collins was there.

I have known Ethan since he was 12 years old. He and my kids were good friends. I was impressed with Ethan. He would not allow bullying of younger youth. Always friendly to everyone, especially the shy youth. He was trying to get everyone involved in whatever was going on, and he usually succeeded in it.

I remember when we decided to start doing road side cleanup for our small town Pine Ridge SC. We ended up doing two streets, 4 miles, Ethan was always there. He was in Boy Scouts and is an Eagle Scout. He was always there when service projects were needing done, whether it was big or small, he was there.

Ethan Collins served a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. For two years, he served in Great Britain. He returned honorably.

Ethan is a friend of my family. He has been in my opinion a force for good. So for approximately seventeen years or so, I have known Ethan to be an upstanding person. He has my respect.

Michael Ketcham
1679 Busbee Road
Gaston SC 29053

The Honorable Judge Moore

I am a middle aged father of 3 who makes his living with real estate investments. I've had the privilege of knowing Ethan Collins since he lived in Greenville SC several years ago. He was a member of my church congregation. Ethan was always eager to help others and a genuinely happy and pleasant young man to spend time with. I've had him in my home and trust him around my family. In October of 2016 he and I volunteered to help clean up after a hurricane struck the coast of South Carolina. This involved traveling 4-5 hours there, working all day, camping overnight and working the next day. It was a pleasure to work alongside Ethan who was happy to be helping his fellowman in whatever way he could. I've kept in touch with him intermittently since he moved away from our area and was shocked to read media accounts of his behaviour. This does not seem consistent with the young man I know and leaves me thinking there surely must be more to the story. I hope that the goodness of his heart and past good actions will be a factor in whatever outcome there is from his trial. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,
Andrew Thornal
4 Zelma Dr
Greenville SC
864-561-1854
athornal@gmail.com

To the Honorable Judge Moore,

I am gratefully writing to give a personal account of my relationship with Ethan Collins. I have known him and his family since I was 7 years old. I am now a resident physician at a small family medicine program in rural Alabama. Over the years Ethan has been a dear friend and source of encouragement.

It has been a struggle for me to stick through the long journey of becoming a doctor, many hours studying and setting aside countless opportunities. Ethan has shared a similar commitment and endurance in becoming a pilot, a goal he has worked towards since we were teenagers. Last October (2020) Ethan invited me to stay with him for the month so I could do a rotation at a hospital in Denver. We were able to go hiking and visit a few parks on weekends off work. A much needed time in the midst of intense study and work schedules. We enjoyed catching up and conversing over ways we could use our professional positions to serve our communities. Although we are both still in the launching phases of our careers, ideas like staffing a small airport in a rural area to fly medical missions, demonstrate the compassion and character Ethan possesses. This time was refreshing to me personally. Seeing another man pressing through a difficult process in hopes of being able to serve others on a larger scale, renewed my own passion. He has been a man of integrity in his work and has a desire to serve others.

Many professionals lose passion in their work. I've struggled myself. Ethan has been a strong example to me of positivity in the face of trying circumstances. He has always been quick to offer a solution with a willingness to help.

Sincerely,
Austin Robinson DO

Jon Bradley Pipkin

P.O box 475
Monticello Ut 84535
(435) 419 0679
jonbradleypipkin@gmail.com
26th October 2021

United States Airforce

Staff Sergeant New Mexico Air National Guard
2251 Air Guard Road
Albuquerque NM 87117

To the Honorable Judge Moore

I'm respectfully writing to provide you personal information about Ethan Collins prior to his sentencing. I have known Ethan since 2008. He became my brother in law. Not only has Ethan been a mentor to my kids, but he is deeply involved in volunteering at church events and even served a full time mission for his church.

I think he is amazing at what he does. There are very few people I trust to fly my family around. He is very passionate about what he does and very dedicated. He has spent time living with us. He was always so dedicated to his work, but always so willing to teach my children as well, to take a moment and be their uncle and play with them, even if it meant he would be up a little later still working or studying.

He has always been a very passionate, humble, dedicated, active, caring, and willing person. He has always been willing to help others while here in Monticello. He always helped with service activities like cutting firewood or helping people move. He always was willing to go.

Sincerely,

Jon Bradley Pipkin

September 19, 2021

The Honorable Judge Moore,

I've known Ethan Collins for 16 years. I'm a retired United Parcel Service international pilot on Boeing 757/767 and flew in the U.S. Army on AH-64 Apache Attack helicopters. I like to feel I had something to do mentoring Ethan while he was learning to fly and his desire to make a career of flying.

I met Ethan through his dad, Dr. Collins, a Boy Scout leader. Although in different troops, Ethan and my son are both Eagle Scouts. I've spent several summer days with Ethan, Dr. Collins at Scout Camp on our local lake with the Boy Scouts. I would take my boat to teach kids to water ski and Ethan was often with me. Ethan is a very respectful, helpful and a great scout. We would go diving in Key West and at our lake with Ethan, Dr. Collins and Ethan's family came too. Ethan is a bright young man and willing to give a helping hand anyway he could. My son, Ethan and his brothers would go hiking in N.C., they came back with great stories. Ethan was a true Scout and lives up to the Scout motto, Be Prepared.

I have followed Ethan's flying career through texts and social media posts. He is on his way to having a great career and doing everything right. It is not believable to me to think that Ethan is charged with anything nefarious. Ethan comes from a family who are well respected and law-abiding citizens.

I would trust my life in Ethan's hands.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Chris Powers

Chris Powers

1600 Marina Rd. #326A

Irmo, SC 29063

803-422-9572

The Honorable Judge Moore,

I'm respectfully writing to provide you personal information about Ethan Collins prior to his sentencing. I have known Ethan since 2002 when I first started seeing his father for chiropractic care. We have been friends ever since then.

To be honest I was shocked to hear about the situation Ethan is in. He has always been one of the most honest and trustworthy friends I have in my life, no doubt because of his wholesome upbringing by loving parents and siblings. Ethan has always aspired to do something great in aviation/aerospace. I watched him go from the books, to flying lessons, to giving lessons, to captain at an airline in a fairly short period of time. He put in a lot of heavy lifting to get as far as he did with aviation and left nothing but positive impressions on others along the way. Last May of 2020 I had the honor of having Ethan in my jumpseat on a quick flight to Denver, one of the most memorable flights of my career and what turned out to be my last flight just before I got furloughed due to the airlines economic challenges. I will never forget that and I know he won't either.

I have missed talking with and seeing Ethan over the last year and he will continue to be missed during the length of time he serves. Ethan has been a positive influence on his students, friends, family, and myself. I know he has left a positive footprint in the aviation community through his students who are, by now, flying at the airlines and those whom he has helped to guide spiritually through his faith.

I can speak for all who know Ethan when I say that this situation is a 90 degree deviation that is far from his normal modes of operation in life. I sincerely hope that consideration will be given to his life as a whole. Ethan is a great human being and I hope to see him back home picking up where he left off very soon. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Cristiaan Mestler
cristiaan@web.de
803.201.5779

Dear Honorable Judge Moore,

My name is Duriya Dalal and I'm respectfully writing to provide you personal information about Ethan Collins. My family has known Ethan for about 25 years. He is our neighbor but also a close family friend. To be honest I was shocked to hear about the charges.

During my years of knowing Ethan, I have experienced an individual who shows up earlier than asked, works hard, and carried themselves in a polite, respectable manner. In addition, Ethan Collins is a family-person who always presented themselves with levelheadedness and grace.

Over the years I have seen Ethan to be a tremendous asset to my family and our community. Ethan was always willing to lend a helping hand to anyone in the neighborhood, even if he was busy, he would shuffle his schedule to help. He was always helpful to take care of our house while we were away and never once asked for payment rather, he just helped out of the kindness in his heart.

My husband and I are not very technological savvy and Ethan came to our home and spent countless hours helping us set up our computer and get everything set up. He would always check back in to make sure everything was running well and would come update the computer so we never had to worry about that. That's the man I know Ethan to be. Always ready to lend a helping hand to those who needed it.

Those are just a few examples over the many years of knowing Ethan of his positivity and helpfulness. When you look at the sum of Ethan's life, please consider it on a whole. For people who know Ethan this is a clear transgression that is far from his normal state. Ethan is an amazing human being and I look forward to having him back in our community soon. Thank you for your time.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you should require any further information.

Sincerely,

Duriya Dalal

803-917-4929 | sdalal786@aol.com

To the Honorable Judge Moore,

My name is Kevin Jones, the owner of Ultimate Landscaping. I have known Ethan all of his life and his family. One of my greatest memories of Ethan is when his family came to visit us in Idaho and before they left , I gave all the children a role of silver dollars. Ethan is the only one that came up to me to express his appreciation. He said, "Thank you Uncle Kevin." As he looked at it with admiration, I looked at him as a young man thinking he was the only one that said thank you. I have always remembered that. I have always held a high opinion of him in that regard to what kind of young man he was going to turn out to be. And to this day, he has not failed me.

Signed,

Kevin Jones

September 29, 2021

To the Honorable Judge Moore,

I'm Esther Collins and writing to you on behalf of Ethan Collins. I'm Ethan's aunt. I retired from Computer Programming in 2017. Since then, I've been a full-time caregiver and POA to my mom, Alice Collins. Mom was diagnosed with dementia in 2011. Alice is Ethan's grandmother. Alice has 7 children, 19 grandchildren, and 8 great-grandchildren. Also, I'm a seasonal insurance agent holding licenses in South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia, Florida, and Tennessee. I have been continuously employed for 45 years working in the United States and Internationally.

I have known Ethan since his birth 30 years ago. Over the years, Ethan has demonstrated his love and devotion for his family and especially for his Grandmother Collins. My mom has always loved adventures, so when Ethan has taken her flying, only sheer joy was on her face, never fear. Watching Ethan interact with my mom has made me so happy. Once he helped her hold a baby rabbit. First Ethan calmed the little rabbit down then gently laid it on mom's shoulder. Mom was in bunny heaven. Ethan would visit mom often taking her on walks. They both love being outdoors. Ethan and mom have enjoyed many shared meals and good conversation.

Additionally, I witnessed Ethan's community services as a Boy Scout, LDS Church member, where he has held leadership positions, as well as serving on a church mission in England. I have watched his compassionate and gentle care with patients in his father's Chiropractic practice.

It is sad and painful for me to know Ethan is in prison. He is a unique member of our family and we miss him. I hope my letter has given you a glimpse of Ethan in our family unit and community. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Esther Y. Collins
Esther Y. Collins
300 Martreb Place
Lexington, SC 29072
803-521-9384

To the Honorable Judge Moore,

We are respectfully writing to provide you personal information about Ethan Collins prior to his sentencing.

Our family has known Ethan since he came to Maryland to obtain flight training and associated flight hours to obtain pilot qualifications. Ethan spent many Sundays with our family and we came to consider him as one of our "other" children. He always very helpful with any projects that we had going on and wanted to know if he could do anything in return for our family. He never expected anything to just be handed to him and he demonstrated a great passion for wanting to help others and be of service.

As a member of the church that we belong, Ethan always offered to assist and spent many hours helping those that were in need with moving, yard work, or whatever need was identified. He also worked with the missionaries in our church in trying to help others to find hope through having faith in Jesus Christ.

We believe Ethan to be an honorable young man with a passion for helping others and wanting to do the right thing.

Sincerely,
Eric and LaneAnn Vanderlinden

Mark Andrew Collin
22 Willow Hurst Ct
Columbia, SC 29209
803-386-1486

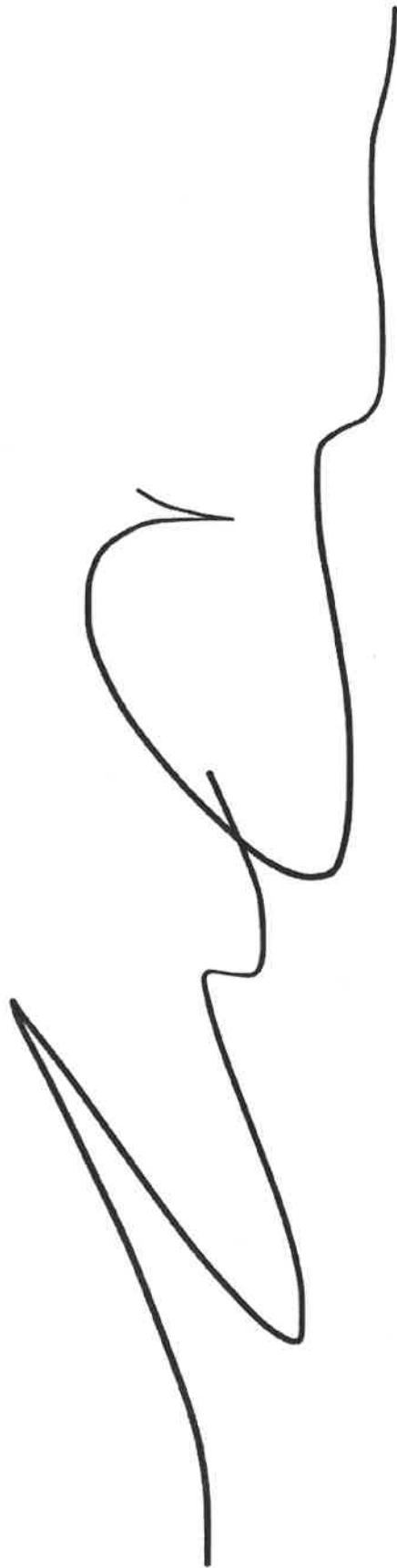
The Honorable Judge Moore

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter relating to Ethan Collins, my nephew. I have had the privilege of watching him grow up and mature into an amazing young man. As he grew I started having children of my own. Each of my four children were drawn to him due to his happy, energetic, and caring personality.

They watched Ethan set a great example by going on a church mission to serve others. My children were able to hear about him reaching out to others in need and helping them find peace in their lives through Jesus Christ. As he shared his experiences with them when he returned, they were able to see how much two years serving the Lord can have a positive effect on him because of his willingness to grow.

Another example that he set for my children was sharing his dream with them about becoming a pilot. They grew up with him talking, planning, and ultimately making that dream come true. They saw him work very hard to achieve all his goals that he set along the way.

Thank you again for your time,
Mark Collins



Thank you for allowing me to tell you about Ethan Collins. I was sad to learn of his current situation – actually I was a bit taken back because he had always been a kind-hearted, respectful person. I first met Ethan when he was just a boy while visiting his father in a professional setting. Over the years our relationship grew from professional to personal friendships – including the children. Ethan grew up in a loving home, going to church and involved in church activities. As he grew older, there were many occasions he volunteered to come to the aid of others, helping around the house, doing chores which involved strenuous physical labor. Most every fall Ethan came to our home as well, volunteering to chop and stack wood, other times delivering wood and yet other times chopping wood, loading it on a trailer and sharing it with acquaintances who were in need of firewood.

In all my association with him I always thought of Ethan as a “tender” person more so than a “macho” individual.

Growing up Ethan enjoyed camping and hiking in the mountains of North Carolina. There were many camping trips Ethan accompanied us and he was always helpful and considerate to the younger, less experienced hikers.

I have always been fond of Ethan and hope he will be back home soon – smiling with his crooked little smile.

Ralph Corduan

October 10, 2021

To Judge Moore concerning Ethan Collins:

I have known Ethan his entire life, his young years, his teenage years, and most of his adult years. I feel like I know his character and integrity pretty well. We went to the same church, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. For 25 years, he never missed a Sunday.

He participated in many activities in the church growing up. Basketball, scouts, campouts, father and son campouts, service projects, assisting the widows, delivering food to the needy. He volunteered to go to Georgia to help the flood victims. He worked with Aerobridge to do food drops for flood victims. He, also, went to Florida to help with hurricane relief. He knows how to be compassionate.

I was his bishop and scout leader at church. I watched him progress to be the highest ranking a scout, to be an Eagle Scout. His project was to build a small park for his community. He organized and supervised it. He built a picnic shelter with a table and made a small hiking trail for exercise around the park.

Ethan really knows how to give service to his church and his community. He served a two year mission for the church in England at his own expense. That shows a lot about his character and integrity. I hope he can come home soon to continue to give service to his church, community and family. He would be a great asset to us all.

Rocco Del Priore
625 Ramblin Road
West Columbia SC
29170

To the Honorable Judge Moore,

My name is Sally Vieira and I'm a mother of two kids ages four & five, a Disney Cast Member and a Licensed Realtor for Columbia & Sumter, SC. I was fortunate enough to meet Ethan Collins while I was dating his cousin, Cory Jones. I've known Ethan for roughly 3 years now. When I heard from Cory what Ethan did, I was very shocked and in complete disbelief that it actually happened, so much in fact, that I started researching the case to see it for my own eyes. Cory and I are no longer dating but when I found out that the family was gathering affidavits for Ethan's character, I asked if I could write one as well for Ethan because good people like him are truly hard to find now days and he has been very missed while he has been away.

I was able to hang out and eat dinner with Ethan and his family many different times. The first day I met Ethan, I was no one to him but he treated me like I was family. The amount of respect, kindness, and generosity that he shows daily is very rare. He is the kind of person that would give you the shirt off of his back if it was freezing outside and you didn't have your own. There was one time specifically where Cory and I were having some financial issues due to me being the only one with a job for a time. Cory's father started having some issues with work and due to him working too much and his health declining rapidly we decided to fly out Cory to help his dad with work. We spoke to Ethan about helping us schedule a flight since we didn't know much about the insurance on the said flight. Ethan not only walked me through booking the flight with all the details but trusted me enough to PayPal me a \$100.00 to take care of some of Cory's finances. I sent it back to him and told him thanks for being so willing to help but I had it under control for now.

We occasionally chatted online about him visiting Cory and I in Sumter, SC, and doing a cookout with us. He unfortunately moved and we didn't get to. I may not have known Ethan as long as some others have; but the way he treated me and the willingness he had to help someone that he hadn't known that long, really spoke to me and I had to write this to help him like he was willing to help me. Thank you for taking the time to read of the Ethan that I know. What he did recently is very out of character for him and I hope in the recent months we are able to see and be part of Ethan's life again soon and him and his family can put this all behind them.

Sincerely,

Sally Vieira

The Honorable Judge Moore

Regarding: Ethan Collins

I am writing on behalf of Ethan Collins, whom I have known since 2012. He had just returned home from an honorable mission for our church; The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. He became my friend and later a friend of my family.

The first thing that came to my mind when I heard of Ethan's situation was, "That doesn't sound like him at all." He had helped me prepare for my own mission for the church. I remember times when we would hang out and simply talk about life. After returning from my mission trip, he was there to hang out again with me. When I got married, he came from Columbia, South Carolina to Montgomery, Alabama to be my best man. Instead of doing the stereotypical thing for a bachelor party, we went to the movies instead. He assisted with the wedding cake to make sure it was gluten-free.

After I got divorced in 2016, he was there for me to get me back on my feet. He would always listen when I needed help. He gave me a temporary job and allowed me to stay with him and his family while I worked there. He helped me through my depression. He would come to have dinner at my family's place on multiple occasions and would assist in various service projects around the house.

When he started taking aviation classes, he would keep me informed of his progress and I supported him. He was constantly optimistic and positive any time I saw him. I knew that he struggled to find a girlfriend, but he never let being alone get him down.

I know that Ethan Collins is a good man who will be there for his friends. He is one of my personal heroes and I always looked forward to any time he could contact me. I look forward to being able to see him again at the earliest convenience. I owe him so much and he deserves the opportunity for me to help him back. Even if this is all I can do for him right now, I am proud to do this for him. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Trevor Harris

The Honorable Judge Moore
US District Court Judge

As the Godmother of Ethan Collins, I am respectfully writing to provide you personal information about this young man. I have known him since he was five years old with interaction from that time until now. He calls me his "British Auntie"! Honestly I was shocked and heartbroken to hear of his plight since this is not the Ethan Collins I know so well.

It is with great joy that I have been privileged to watch Ethan grow up and develop into a fine young man. When he was just a little boy, he would continually remind me what he was going to be when he "grew up!" He would demonstrate this desire from deep inside him by raising his arms and pretending to "fly" like an airplane around the room - all the engine noises included. More than anything else he wanted to fly airplanes and one day become a commercial airline pilot at Captain status. He would draw me a picture of his dream to take home and ask me to pray for him.

Over the years he worked hard, studied, stayed on his computer for hours looking at how an airplane was made, how it worked and even designed a Wing Tip that I understand drew the interest of some major aircraft manufacturers. He would call me so excited and share his hopes and dreams as they began to materialize. I was so proud of him. He was always a tender hearted and very kind person and I often watched with sadness as I saw him suffer at the hands of bullies who were jealous of his achievements.

Ethan let go of what he wanted to do and put God and others first by taking two years away from home and family to serve on a mission. He called me so excited to tell me his mission was taking him to England! We stayed in touch during that time. Once back in the USA, Ethan concentrated on studying and taking his flight exams, passing each one until he received his Captain wings. He always told me he would fly me to England one day. On this particular day he told me, "Auntie Viv, now I CAN fly you across the Pond to see your family!" I told him, "Ethan, success has crowned your effort."

Thank you sir for your time.

Yours sincerely,

Viv Young

Debra Lewis,
30 Grange Court
Sharpsburg Ga. 30277
10/17/21

Regarding: Ethan Collins

Dear Judge Moore,

I've known Ethan Collins for the past 10 years prior to his arrest. I first met him and his family in church and worked closely with him and his parents in his father's chiropractic business for several years. He had recently returned from serving a two year proselyting mission for our church that he paid for with his own funds. Ethan was actively involved in helping out when we ran into computer or mechanical issues with equipment in the office. His talents and skills made him extremely valuable not only in the office but at home. He was also very involved in helping his aged and widowed grandmother with chores or household needs around her home. He seemed to enjoy helping others and was pleasant to be around. I thought of him as my own son and admired his ability to admit mistakes and forgive others quickly. He, in my opinion, is a highly intelligent young man with a childlike heart. He even dated my daughter for a time and I had hoped he would become my son-in-law at some future time. He was always courteous to me and my family and very personable. Always asking me how everyone was doing and if there was anything he could do to help. I was proud of him for obtaining his pilot's license after much study and training.

I was very surprised and shocked to hear about his arrest. When his father told me about the charges, I thought for sure it was a joke, a mistake. Surely no one could believe Ethan was guilty of such a crime. What young man doesn't like to inflate his ego by bragging on his intellect and abilities..? That's what I thought about this whole unfortunate circumstance. I thought this mistake would quickly be resolved and he would return to his normal lifestyle very soon. That I am even writing this letter in his behalf is so unbelievable. For people who know Ethan know he has an innocent heart and is not guilty of malicious intent to harm others. I know him to be very patriot and a defender of the constitution of the USA. Ethan's closeness to family and loyalty to God are among the many virtues I admire about him. His family have an impeccable reputation in the community and at church. They are God fearing people and have contributed much time and resources to helping others, especially those less fortunate. Ethan is greatly missed and I look forward to having him back home with his loving family to continue learning and growing and serving others. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Debra Lewis, Wellness Coach

To the Honorable Judge Moore,

I am writing this letter on behalf of my nephew Ethan Collins. Because he is my nephew, I have known him his whole life and he was always a dear sweet, mild natured boy. As a man he has had the same gentle and quiet spirit.

The last time I saw Ethan was over a July Fourth holiday at my house. My granddaughter came to spend the day with us. She was three years old then and she connected with Ethan right away. They had such a good time together. He was so very patient and kind with her. My sister and I enjoyed watching him entertain her. My granddaughter soaked up every second of attention that he gave her and she certainly isn't lacking in that area as she is the only granddaughter on both sides of her family. She simply enjoyed her visit with Ethan.

To this very day I am completely confused as to how Ethan has found himself on this terrible path. When my sister called to tell me of the crisis he was in, I could not believe it. I thought she must have named Ethan accidentally. I thought she must have meant someone else. My response was "Ethan?" When I told my family, their response was the same "Ethan?" just as mine had been when my sister had told me. To say that I was surprised or shocked isn't a clear description of how I felt when my sister told what was happening. Complete disbelief and stunned would be a better description. And when I say stunned, I'm relating it to how I understand people feel after being hit with a stun gun as it continues to shock you after the initial impact. To this day, I am still confused and find it very difficult to believe that Ethan is in this situation. Given the opportunity I know he would have made better choices.

In my mind, I can see him smile, I can still hear him laugh and I can still hear him say, "Hi Aunt Jaimie." These things I cherish and miss more than words can say. I am very much looking forward to those things again.

Thank you for your time.

Jaimie Rudder



400 S. Colorado Blvd. Ste. 860, Glendale, Colorado 80246
Phone: 303-322-9000 – Fax: 303-322-9001

Collins, Ethan Jeffrey

Forensic Neuropsychological Evaluation

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FORENSIC NEUROPSYCHOLOGICAL EVALUATION (Confidential: For Professional Use Only)

IDENTIFYING INFORMATION

Name: Ethan Jeffrey Collins

Age: 30 years, 5 months

Handedness: Right

Occupation: Commercial pilot

IMPORTANT DATES

Date of Birth: 3/20/1991

Date(s) of Testing: 7/2/2021 & 7/30/2021

Date of Report: 9/15/2021

REASON FOR REFERRAL

Mr. Collins was referred for this evaluation by his attorney David Kraut to understand his cognitive, psychological, behavioral, and social profile and/or difficulties as they may relate to recent arrest and criminal charges. The criminal complaint issued on 2/2/2021 included the unlawful possession and manufacture of firearm silencers¹ and possession of firearm silencers without serial number.^{2 3} Mr. Kraut specifically requested evaluation for autism given his observations of Mr. Collins.

LEGAL HISTORY

Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) reports indicate that in early 2020, Mr. Collins began researching and developing a plan to sabotage the electrical power grid in Denver, CO. He disclosed that he studied transmission lines and towers to assess for weaknesses. Because of the steel structure, he indicated that he believed a powerful explosion would be required but did not have access to explosives.⁴ Mr. Collins studied power grid maps, identified several key locations, and scouted some of them, taking pictures of power facilities in the Denver area using his phone camera.⁵

While Mr. Collins initially stated he was not going to proceed with his plan due to concern for loss of civilian life and his desire to target only government and law enforcement, he later disclosed his reason was that he did not have the necessary manpower and support to complete his plan. He did not have a definitive date for his attempt but indicated it needed to coincide with a snowstorm to cover up his actions.⁵

¹ INV_00000134

² INV_00000135

³ INV_00000136

⁴ INV_00000002

⁵ INV_00000003

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Mr. Collins also identified the Federal Reserve in Denver as a possible target due to its role in printing money and creation of inflation,⁵ which would cripple the U.S. economy and lead to poverty for many citizens.⁶

Data Centers were another target identified by Mr. Collins as he indicated that taking them down would prohibit law enforcement use of driver's license information to identify people.⁶ He also identified Denver police stations in order to prohibit their ability to respond to his planned power outage.⁶

In March 2020, Mr. Collins attended a Black Lives Matter protest in Denver, CO to express his displeasure with law enforcement and opposition to Red Flag Laws, Civil asset forfeiture and other issues.⁷

Mr. Collins began attending rallies with United American Defense Fund (UADF). He received firearms training and improved his marksmanship. However, Mr. Collins discontinued his association with UADF due to their lack of anti-government views and being "pro-police."⁷

Mr. Collins began communicating with a small anti-government group called the Council of Colorado in October 2020 under the alias "Mr. Echo" in a messaging app called "Signal." The group supported small government. He described the group as "Boogaloo Boys," being disorganized and having no "real" leadership. He was disappointed with the group for engaging in talk but not enough action. The members of the group were not supportive of his plan to take down the Denver power grid.⁷

Mr. Collins reportedly expressed his admiration for ISIS due to their "courage and conviction" to bring their "vision" through force and decisive action. However, he disagreed with their ideology and use of torture, rape and murder.^{7 8} He described the Nashville Christmas Day 2020 bomber as a "genius" and characterized him as not a terrorist because innocent civilians were not targeted.⁸

Mr. Collins applied for a position with CBP's Air and Marine Operations (AMO). A polygraph examination was part of the hiring process. Mr. Collins failed three separate polygraph examinations and on 1/11/2021, was interviewed regarding statements made before and during the terrorism polygraph test. On 1/12/2021 the matter was referred to the FBI based on Mr. Collins' disclosure of actions related to planning an attack on critical infrastructure and ideological support of targeted violence.⁴

Mr. Collins indicated that because of COVID-19 shutdowns and restrictions, his employment as a pilot was negatively impacted; his hours were cut, and salary reduced by

⁶ INV_00000004

⁷ INV_00000005

⁸ INV_00000006

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55%. He distrusted the government and law enforcement, and such restrictions caused an increase in anger toward both.⁹

Mr. Collins reportedly believes that if an individual targets only the government or law enforcement, they should not be considered a terrorist as this term is reserved only for those who intentionally target innocent civilians. He considers himself a patriot but did at one time in an interview state that he felt he was a terrorist.⁶ He has spent a significant amount of time considering how easy a shutdown of major infrastructure would be which he indicated may be necessary for a tyrannical government. However, he reportedly was not sure if the country had reached this point yet, stating if it has not yet “it will soon.”⁸

On 2/2/2021, the United States District Court for Colorado issued an arrest warrant for Mr. Collins. The criminal complaint included the unlawful possession and manufacture of firearm silencers¹⁰ and possession of firearm silencers without serial number.^{11 12}

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Key background information, and medical and academic history were provided by Mr. Collins and his parents through clinical interviews, questionnaires, rating scales and review of records. Except for second grade, Mr. Collins was consistently home-schooled by his parents and there were no educational records provided outside of parent report.

Parent Interview

Mr. Collins’ parents completed a clinical intake on 8/9/2021 via telehealth to provide relevant background and developmental history as well as their perceptions of Mr. Collins’ behavioral and interpersonal functioning. Mr. and Mrs. Max Collins have been married since December of 1984 and have four children, Menike, 34, Kelvin, 33, Mr. Collins, 30, and Trent, 29. Mr. Max Collins has been a practicing chiropractor for approximately 35 years and Mrs. Collins has a degree in interior design; however, she reportedly discontinued working outside of the home upon becoming ill during her first pregnancy.

Ethan Collins was born full term in a rural suburb of Columbia, South Carolina. Mrs. Collins delivered via natural delivery at home with the assistance of a midwife. Mrs. Collins noted that she was nutritionally weak during pregnancy and that Mr. Collins was born at only 5 ½ pounds. His father reported that he was born breech with a contracture in his left leg. Due to this “clubbing,” he did not walk independently until 4 years of age and often hopped and scooted around. Mr. Max Collins stated that he implemented physical therapy techniques with Mr. Collins daily to improve his mobility. The family did not seek formal medical care for their children and preferred naturalistic and alternative approaches to care and development. Additionally, Mr. Max Collins and his colleagues were part of an

⁹ INV_00000782

¹⁰ INV_00000134

¹¹ INV_00000135

¹² INV_00000136

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integrated care team and provided consultation regarding any medical concerns that arose. The family felt as though this level of care was sufficient. His father also noted that Mr. Collins suffered from metabolic challenges and had difficulties with feeding and gastrointestinal problems since infancy. Mrs. Collins recalled regretting seeking counsel from a pediatrician briefly who instructed her to feed Mr. Collins on a regular schedule rather than when he was hungry. She further reported that Mr. Collins was considered “failure to thrive” based on the opinion of her mother-in-law.

Mr. Collins and his siblings were homeschooled by Mrs. Collins for most of their schooling; however, Mrs. Collins noted that Mr. Collins attended public school for 2nd grade. Mrs. Collins noted that she volunteered at the school and observed concerning behaviors, particularly by school staff, and did not feel comfortable with the children continuing in that setting; however, she noted that all children were on the honor roll for the year that they attended school. Socially, the family was very involved in their church community and home-school co-ops. The children attended weekly play dates and monthly field trips with other children. They attended church youth groups once per week and Mr. Collins and his brothers were in cub scouts.

Mr. Collins’ parents described him as “obsessed” with flying since he was a young child. They noted that he was always particularly interested in computer technology. Mr. and Mrs. Collins stated that they did not allow Mr. Collins and his siblings to have a computer, but given his love of flight, he could have a computerized flight simulator. They recalled that he was so “fixated” on his flight simulator that his instructors were “amazed” at how much he knew. Mr. Max Collins reported that Mr. Collins has always journaled his thoughts and created detailed plans, particularly related to creating new technology. He explained that Mr. Collins kept “notebook after notebook” of little inventions that he wanted to put together and even created his own aircraft within his flight simulator. He later came up with a wing design that he sought a patent for. Mr. and Mrs. Collins reported that Mr. Collins was contacted by the agency, Space X, to discuss his design and he was encouraged by the company to pursue additional education if he wanted to be employed in that field. Additionally, Mr. Collins’ parents recalled that he hacked into computers at church to “show them how easy it was to hack into their phones and how to fix it.” According to Mrs. Collins, Mr. Collins did not understand why this made other church members uncomfortable, and Mr. Collins was unable to communicate that he was just trying to help them.

Mr. Collins’ parents reported that they did not often directly observe his early interactions with peers but stated that he did not appear to have any conflicts socially as a younger child. His mother and father recalled that his primary difficulties with peers began at approximately 12 years old when he entered the Young Men’s program in their church. Mrs. Collins believes that the other children saw Mr. Collins as “competition” as she perceived him to be very gregarious and good looking. He was described as more “nerdy”

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than athletic. His parents noted that when he is challenged or nervous in social situations, he will stutter. Mrs. Collins indicated that she did not perceive Mr. Collins as having difficulties socially and stuttering around others until his early 20's, but Mr. Collins' brother, Kelvin, reported to them that these problems had been occurring much earlier. Notably, Mr. and Mrs. Collins stated that Mr. Collins and his siblings were all rejected by peers in the church. Mr. Collins reported that the other children in the church bullied them and made comments such as, "Stay away from the Collins' because they're weird." Mrs. Collins explained that none of the children developed "best" friendships in which they would go to each other's houses. Mr. Max Collins decided to move his practice into the home to assist Mrs. Collins with raising their children, which he believed provided them with more opportunities to interact with peers. The family completed service trips, traveled, and enjoyed outdoor activities (e.g., biking, hiking, rock climbing).

Mr. Collins' parents stated that he continued to have social difficulties beyond early adolescence and recalled that he had issues with his travel partner on a 2-year church mission to England in High school. Mrs. Collins stated that the other boy told Mr. Collins, "You won't ever be a pilot, you are too stupid." At 28 years old, his parents reported that he was put in a headlock by a peer while talking to a girl he liked at a church brunch. Mr. Collins reportedly used profanity during the incident and got in trouble although his peer did not. Mrs. Collins stated that Mr. Collins called her crying and indicated that he felt humiliated and did not know what he had done wrong. Mr. Max Collins reportedly talked him out of pressing charges and to let the incident go. He was referred for counseling to address anger management following this incident. Mr. Collins later reported that his father is highly averse to conflict.

Mr. and Mrs. Collins reported that Mr. Collins also struggled with romantic relationships as he indicated that he had asked every female member of the church choir out and was turned down. Mrs. Collins expressed her confusion and frustration to the interviewer regarding the fact that none of the girls wanted to date her son. In 2020, Mr. Collins' challenges increased when the girl he was dating ended their relationship because he used profanity in front of her family and reportedly refused to apologize. He attempted to meet other girls after the relationship ended but was not having success. In addition to his social and dating struggles, Mr. Collins' parents reported that he was struggling financially due to the COVID-19 pandemic and his flight hours having been cut significantly. Mr. Max Collins stated that Mr. Collins was having to borrow money from him to survive financially.

The Collins family are members of the Church of Latter-Day Saints (LDS, Mormon) in which young adults typically marry young with respect to church teachings for not having sex before marriage. Hence, it is noteworthy that Mr. Collins never married, and never sustained dating in a church culture that strongly promotes these pursuits.

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It is clear from the interview that Mr. and Mrs. Collins deeply love their children and are distraught and perplexed at how Mr. Collins ended up in such legal trouble. Because Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is highly genetic and frequently ensues from traits or manifestation of ASD in the parents, observations of Mr. and Mrs. Collins are respectfully provided as they shed light on characteristics of ASD seen in Mr. Collins (discussed further below). These observations are especially important given the lack of school records which would otherwise have provided information on Mr. Collins' academic and social development.

Information provided in the parent interview exemplified notable problems in communication skills and understanding of social relationships which are the cardinal characteristics of ASD. For example, Mrs. Collins often interrupted others during the interview and the interviewer had to interrupt her on multiple occasions to provide opportunities for Mr. Max Collins to complete his comments. Both of Mr. Collins' parents appeared to have poor insight into why Mr. Collins, as well as his siblings, were considered "different" and often teased by the other children in the community. They admitted that their children were not accepted by peers in their church community but rejected public school as a forum for them to meet other kids. Mr. and Mrs. Collins also did not seek professional support to assist in addressing these long-standing social difficulties.

Mrs. Collins lacks awareness about dating relationships as when she stated the other girls in the church choir were all overweight and should have been excited to date Mr. Collins who was attractive as if intimate connections are solely premised on physical appearance. Moreover, Mr. Max Collins appeared to lack insight regarding his professional relationships with his colleagues in the integrated care setting who were not formally contracted to evaluate or treat Mr. Collins as a pediatrician would be. While it is noteworthy that Mrs. Collins regretted following the pediatrician's advice to feed Mr. Collins on a schedule when he was an infant, it doesn't appear that she attempted to follow-up with any pediatrician regarding her observations that the feeding schedule was not working for Mr. Collins. Instead, Mr. and Mrs. Collins tragically elected not to have Mr. Collins regularly see a pediatrician who would likely have suspected that he has autism.

Interview with Mr. Collins

Information obtained from Mr. Collins during clinical interview points to chronic problems with relationships (both professional and social), difficulty discerning the intent of other people and making judicious choices and maturing as an adult. Specifically, Mr. Collins has seemingly repeatedly been gullible and exploited as a result. These are all characteristics of ASD illuminated in Mr. Collins' history.

Mr. Collins began the interview by reporting that he was diagnosed with Covid-19 in December of 2019. He reported that he had been in lock down for 3 days at the Englewood Federal Detention Center (FDC). Mr. Collins commented that he feels as though he has led a "sheltered" life and described his life as he was growing up as "perfect," but that he did

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not realize this at the time as he has now learned that “people will screw you.” He indicated that he tries to be a good person and help others with the expectation that they will share the same values but indicated that he does not believe that this is the case. Mr. Collins then changed the topic by stating, “I love my job.”

When asked about school, he reported that he and his siblings completed home-school and online school programs because the schools near his hometown were “rubbish;” however, he indicated that he would have liked to attend school upon entering high school but was “too afraid” to go against his parents. He indicated that he wanted to attend for “social aspects” and felt as though he was “missing out on things.” Mr. Collins recalled that he often “did his own thing” and played paint ball once per month as a teenager. He noted that he went to England for 2 years when he was 19 years old. Following his England trip, Mr. Collins reportedly lived with his parents and got a job related to aircraft electronics to save money for college. He then began learning to fly airplanes from an acquaintance and remained living with his parents until he was 28 years old. He went to flight school in 2017 and earned his commercial rating in March of 2018. He then volunteered as a flight attendant for an oil company while working to earn a certification to become a flight instructor.

Mr. Collins subsequently described a string of jobs that he had but was not able to keep. He reportedly worked for a company in Maryland, but Mr. Collins reported that after several months of working there, he did not feel that the company was looking out for his best interests and stated that he felt the company was “using him” to increase their instructor hours. He reported that he then got a job in Greenville, SC, but was let go due to “paperwork issues.” He earned his teaching instrument rating at the Greenville Aviation Flight School in October of 2018 before working at the Flight school of Greenville for 2 months and then quitting due to lack of hours. Mr. Collins then reported that he moved to Florida and obtained another flight instructor job which let him go after 6 months due to an error by one of his students on a flight. Mr. Collins reported that he lost his focus while supervising the student during a landing. It should be noted that airplane landings are among the most challenging aspects of flying a plane so Mr. Collins’ loss of focus during this time was critical.

Mr. Collins also recalled an incident in which another member of his church placed him in a headlock and he “got in trouble” for swearing. He indicated that he was encouraged by an acquaintance who used to be a police officer that he should have pressed charges but was convinced not to by a Bishop in his church. He returned to South Carolina to live with his parents as he was unable to find a job. In September of 2019, he began working at Upper Limit Aviation in Salt Lake City, Utah. He resigned from this job in November of 2019 due to having limited hours and began working for Boutique Air. In January of 2020, he became Line Captain. In March of 2020, his paycheck was “cut in half” because of the Covid-19 pandemic and Mr. Collins lamented leaving the company stating, “I can’t believe I squandered such a good opportunity.”

Mr. Collins then described his involvement in attending riots occurring as part of the Black Lives Matter movement. He noted that he attended protests and riots on his days off out of

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“curiosity” but then did not like that the protestors were burning private property and that police officers were “getting away with murder.” After attending the protests, he noted that he began obtaining guns “just in case” for “self-protection.” He stated that he also bought three months of supplies to keep in his car.

Mr. Collins described asking a police officer his opinion on what was going on and began to “feed into those things.” He stated that he “ran into some gun toting fanatics” and the United America Defense Force which he described as “rednecks [who] kept people from destroying private property. When asked if these individuals would be considered vigilantes, Mr. Collins laughed and stated that he “should have just stayed out of it.” He indicated that he believes there are “lies on both sides” and that people, including himself, got “riled up.” He mentioned having a girlfriend in March of 2020 that was involved in the Latter Day Saints church but that she “disappeared” in May of 2020. He stated that he was “in his own little box” and did not know how bad the Covid-19 pandemic was. He described himself as a “proud gun owner” and wanted others to “come check out” his guns but that it “all wasn’t real.” He indicated that “someone was playing a game” and his comments were written out of “boredom and anger.” With regards to the suppressors, he was in possession of, he indicated that his older brother had given it to him and did not think that he would discuss this with the interviewing Border Patrol Agent. Mr. Collins indicated frustration that he was trying to interview for a better job due to his pay cut and he “trusted” the Border Agent interviewing him. With no awareness that the agent was following up on Mr. Collins’ failed lie detector test, he willingly shared incriminating information because the interviewer invited him to, “Get it off his chest.” He stated that he didn’t realize the interviewer was “baiting” him.

Mr. Collins’ language was also significant for many symptoms of autism. Specifically, he readily used stereotyped phrases (overused phrases that are often inconsistent with the context), he evidenced grammatical errors, and he almost never asked questions of the interviewers. Mr. Collins’ speech was very quiet and almost inaudible at times, and he regularly engaged in tangential comments.

RECORDS REVIEWED

The following records were reviewed prior to writing this report. All records received may not have been able to be reviewed within the time constraint. Some records provided may not have been legible due to poor quality of faxing or copying or video/audio quality. This expert reserves the right to revise her opinions, as necessary, pending receipt of additional information. These opinions are made to a reasonable degree of clinical, neuropsychological, and behavior analytic certainty.

- Files, Webpages, and “Fragments” from Dell Laptop (36 files)
- iPhone Apple iOS Full File system 2021-02-12 Report.pdf
- LG Phone Evidence 2021-02-06 Report.pdf (51 pages)
- SanDisk External HD files (24 files)
- Windows Surface Pro Files (167 Files) and Webpages (9 files)
- Video Footage (INV_00000336.MOV & INV_00000337.MOV)

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- .pdf Records INV_001-854

Law Enforcement Interviews with Mr. Collins' Family / Acquaintances

An undisclosed acquaintance of Mr. Collins' was interviewed by an FBI agent on 2/9/2021. He met Mr. Collins through Mr. Collins' roommate, Zack Wells. This acquaintance described Mr. Collins as a "mix of an anarchist and a conservative."¹³ ¹⁴ He described his few interactions with Mr. Collins as "kind of awkward and sometimes creepy" and described Mr. Collins overall as seeming "socially weird."¹⁴

In communication with the FBI, Mr. Collins' brother Kelvin Collins indicated that he felt the case against his brother was a waste of time¹⁵ and was "simply a case of a socially awkward guy"¹⁵ who had spent the previous year focused on negative news and the state of the world, which he indicated was pretty reasonable in the context of 2020. He described his brother as bullied and socially awkward since his early teen years. As a Mormon, his brother's social circles were limited. Additionally, he indicated his brother is a 30-year-old virgin which was "unheard of" in their faith and that his brother took it "personally." Though his brother had been focused on "wargames," a reference to his illegal behavior, he felt that his brother was returning to normal. Given his brother's social awkwardness, Kelvin indicated he hope it was "obvious" to all that there was no way Mr. Collins could have recruited the people required to execute his plans and he did not have any coconspirators. Kelvin also elaborated that he thought Mr. Collins went to the interview looking for a way out of his negative situation, but his "social awkwardness and being awful at resisting interrogation snowballed" into the current situation.¹⁶

Notes Believed to be Written by Mr. Collins on Yellow Legal Pad

Several notes, some of which were unclear as to their meaning, were reviewed. These notes were significant for what appeared to be a brainstorming quality on a variety of topics.

One such entry titled, "How to become a normal person?" highlights Mr. Collins' challenges with feeling different and abnormal. A list of activities is provided beneath this title (Figure 1) including go to college, get a part-time job, date, get a pet, an apartment, go to church, go to the temple, go by an alias, work on [indecipherable].¹⁷ This expert has encountered other adults with ASD who've made similar lists to try and coach themselves through life.

¹³ INV_00000233

¹⁴ INV_00000234

¹⁵ INV_00000243

¹⁶ INV_00000244

¹⁷ INV_00000449

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How to become a normal person?

- Go to College
- Get a part time job
- Date →
- Get a pet
- own apartment →
- Go to church -
- Go to the temple
- Go by car - Alices -
- Work on Day wop

Figure 1 List "How to become a normal person" (INV_00000449)

Mr. Collins also wrote notes on how to handle the federal case against him (Figure 2), writing "research how a federal criminal case is structured" and notes to "prove their system is corrupt by comparing with the [indecipherable]." He appeared to write loose attempts at planning an escape including "get computer infected with ransomware and them have it taken to forensics" and "plan a getaway [sic] to a touristy part of Mexico."¹⁸

¹⁸ INV_00000450
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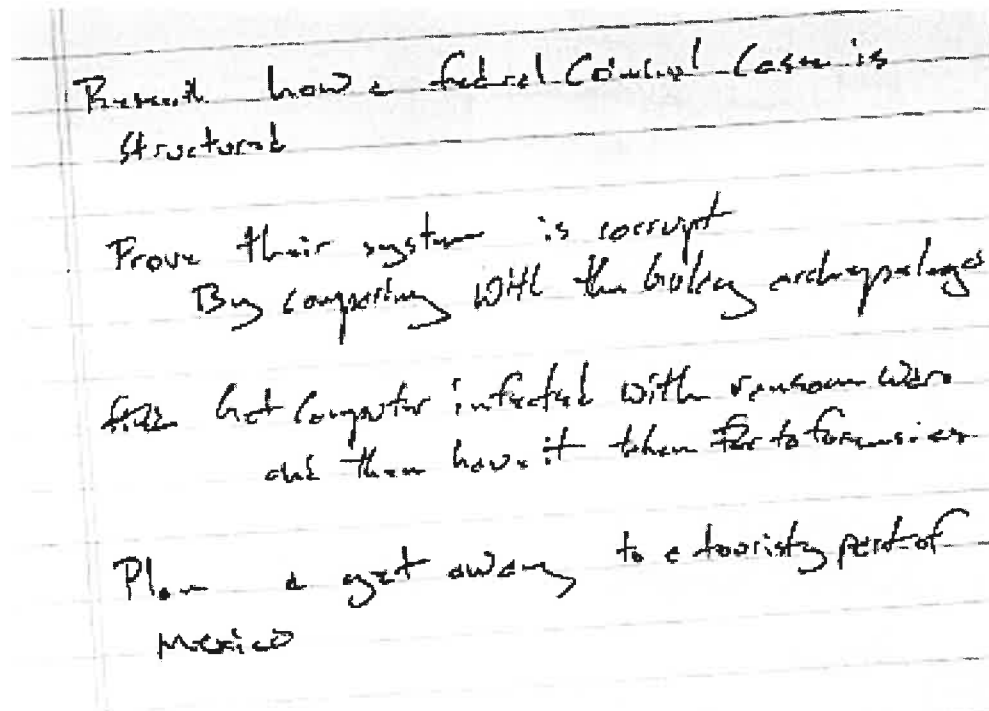


Figure 2 "Research how a federal criminal case is structured" INV000450

Notes Believed to be Written by Mr. Collins in Spiral Bound Notebook

Mr. Collins wrote about "Operation: Delta Eagle" in a spiral notebook. The objective of the operation was described as "seize equipment from police and national guard." A Secondary objective was to "destroy coms, trans, power, fuel depots, payroll." Notes also indicate "12 am – for riots to peak" and "possible explosion fuel truck."¹⁹

Several sketches of "targets" were included in the spiral notebook.²⁰ ²¹What appears to be a to-do list specifies "Replace current police force with semi-professional force that answers to the people." Listed items to achieve this goal included: find ex-military men to lead, find young 18–21-year-olds, start a 3-digit phone number, hire ex-military and police/fire/EMT.²²

Mr. Collins notebook included other activity lists that included such items as "cause a huge disturbance protest" and "take out comm antennas...power generator and phone & optic lines" as well as "introduce noxious gas block exits." Vehicle and tools needed were in a list and included but were not limited to "armored trucks from Wells Fargo," "disposable large vehicles," Napalm, a bulldozer, and rocket flares.²³

¹⁹ INV_00000451

²⁰ INV_00000452-INV00000469

²¹ INV_00000471

²² INV_00000470

²³ INV_00000478

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There is no evidence that Mr. Collins is remotely grounded in the reality of what monstrous logistics these endeavors would require. As such, it is reasonable to construe these notes as akin to fantasy like what might be depicted in comic books, video games, or action movies. Clearly, treating these ideas as fantasies is compatible with Mr. Collins repeated statements that he would not want people hurt.

Notes Believed to be Written by Mr. Collins in Bound Journal

In a bound notebook, Mr. Collins wrote a “Memorandum of Understanding Letter of Mutual Aid.” The book includes a list of people and what appears to be organizations.²⁴

The book contains purpose statements for the document including to “act as a defense for... civil forfeiture, police brutality, detainment, warrantless search and seizure, personal protection against government intuition.” There is a note “to only be used in case of threat of life, liberty, or property.” Mr. Collins writes notes that are apparently instructive: “Do not let them in, Do not let them search, Do not give ID, Do not escalate, Stall-take their time, Play dumb, record everything, Wait for reinforcements.” A note states to “declare mayday on various channels, location, disposition, time, assistance needed.” Also, a note instructs “have a dead man switch to transmit location.”²⁵

It is the opinion of this expert that these notes are akin to a list of stereotyped ideas as opposed to a coherent, realistic plan with any reasonable chance of implementation. Stereotypy is a characteristic of autism whereby such individuals repeat phrases they’ve heard without adequate understanding of their meaning or appropriate contextual use. As such, they are attempting to communicate as best they can using repeated phrases they’ve acquired in their lexical repertoire. Such stereotypy is not necessarily obviously odd but clearly recognizable to an autism expert.

Journal Entry Dated 2/6/2021

A journal entry dated 2/6/2021 is believed to be written by Mr. Collins. In this entry, Mr. Collins refers to recent events in a paranoid fashion, citing a “character assignation of Donald Trump” and “fake Global virus” that gave an “excuse to lockdown those who disagreed with them in the US!”²⁶

Mr. Collins wrote that he thought the things he said at his job interview with Customs and Border Patrol were only for the “polygraph test.” He lamented that the FBI raided his apartment, took his computer, cell phone and some gun magazines and that “they” were “after” him for what he said, that he had made some “initial plans” to shut down the government of Colorado by taking out infrastructure including the power grid, police stations and the federal reserve. He wrote, “because of what I said I am now on the run.”

²⁶ It is noteworthy that Mr. Collins lacks minimal social awareness

²⁴ INV_00000429

²⁵ INV_00000430

²⁶ INV_00000433

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Mr. Collins described having to quit his “cushy” airline job. He indicated that his dad did not know how to help and that his brother Kelvin was trying to talk with the authorities. Mr. Collins was trying to figure out what to do; his first instinct being to leave the country. He wrote that “they” were also “after” people he knew from the previous year. Plans are described for the rest of his day including going for a hike and studying manned spaceflight design principles. He closed with “I was in school but alas my whole life has changed.”²⁶

Mr. Collins statements in the below entry (Figure 3) are further evidence of language consistent with ASD. Specifically, he describes his job with Boutique Air as “cushy” despite an enormous pay cut recently. Most people don’t report their job as “cushy” when they are woefully underemployed to the extent that they’re seeking employment elsewhere. It is also noteworthy that there is an absence of any emotion in this journal entry despite description of multiple highly alarming and distressing events. The absence of emotion in an individual’s language is another characteristic of autism. Instead, the piece includes largely flat descriptions of what he’s experienced including poor solutions of going for a hike and studying manned spaceflight following his apartment twice being raided by the FBI.

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02/06/21

Well, it's been our luck of a first two months of 2021
lot of crazy things happened last year Political and
Character assassination of Donald Trump
a fake Global virus that gave governments an excuse
to lockdown those who disagreed with them In the US!
I went to a job interview for Customs and Border Patrol
thought things I said only were for the polygraph test
Well they went to the FBI who raided my apartment
twice - They took my computer and cell phone and
some gym magazines. They are after me
for what I said that I had made some initial
plans to shutdown the government of Colorado by taking
out infrastructure such as the power grid and communication
and many police stations and the federal reserve.
because of what I said I am now on the run.)
~~had~~ had to quit my evening airline job
At least I think so they didn't tell my landlord why
they came the second time but wouldn't say why they
showed up Dad says he doesn't know how to help me
I totally understand. Kelvin is staying in town trying
to talk to them. I'm trying to figure out what to do
my first instinct is to leave the country they are also
after people I know from last year
I think I'll go for a hike today and then
study my master's special flight design principles
I was in school too but alas my whole life has
changed

Figure 3 Journal Entry Dated 2/6/2021 (INV_00000433)

Content Found on Mr. Collins' SanDisk External Hard Drive

Mr. Collins' SanDisk external hard drive device contained videos seemingly on illegal entry. Among these were videos by electronicsNmore on how to "Mold ANY Key in

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Minutes (Including Do Not Copy & High Security),²⁷ a 1987 video on “B and E; A to Z How to get in anywhere, anytime,”²⁸ a video on breaking into an electronic SentrySafe,²⁹ footage from Defcon 19 presentation on DIY NDE (Nondestructive Entry),³⁰ a video on hacking into a CMI safe with a digital lock,³¹ a Defcon presentation on “safe-cracking,”³² a presentation on “Breaking in BAD (I’m the one who doesn’t knock),”³³ a video titled “Drive It Like You HACKED It,”³⁴ and a video from 6/3/2017 testing the strength of a Champion Safe against that of a Liberty safe via a tractor pull.³⁵ A presentation from Defcon 18 (2010) on “Attack the Key Own the Lock” was also on the hard drive³⁶ as well as a presentation titled “TrueCrack Password cracking for TrueCrypt volume files”³⁷ and a book on “The Metasploit Framework.”³⁸ The extent of these materials all on the topic illegal entry is consistent with the restricted interests characteristic of autism. Specifically, there is ample evidence that Mr. Collins intensely or repetitively pursues an idea in a frequently nonfunctional and perseverative manner.

Memes and images found on his hard drive also highlight Mr. Collins’ preoccupation with his interests and lack of understanding of the seriousness of commentary regarding violence. (See Figure 4 & Figure 5)

²⁷ 36595.mp4.mpg

²⁸ 36596.mp4.mpg

²⁹ 36597.mp4.mpg

³⁰ 36598.mp4.mpg

³¹ 36599.mp4.mpg

³² 37552.mp4.mpg

³³ 37553.mp4.mpg

³⁴ 37554.mp4.mpg

³⁵ 36600.mp4.mpg

³⁶ 42208.pdf

³⁷ 664299.pdf

³⁸ 709355.pdf

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Imagine jumping some hippie and he turns out to be an undercover boogaloo goon and lights you up with some green tip 5.56 in front of the Starbucks



Figure 4 Image from Mr. Collins' Hard Drive³⁹

My FBI agent watching me order 5,000lbs of fertilizer knowing damn well I don't live on a farm



Figure 5 Image from Mr. Collins' Hard Drive⁴⁰

In addition, a Facebook post made by Mr. Collins, also found on his hard drive, appears to reflect his beliefs that citizens were under threat from a tyrannical government and law enforcement and must protect themselves. (See Figure 6)

³⁹ 37244.jpg

⁴⁰ 45929.jpg

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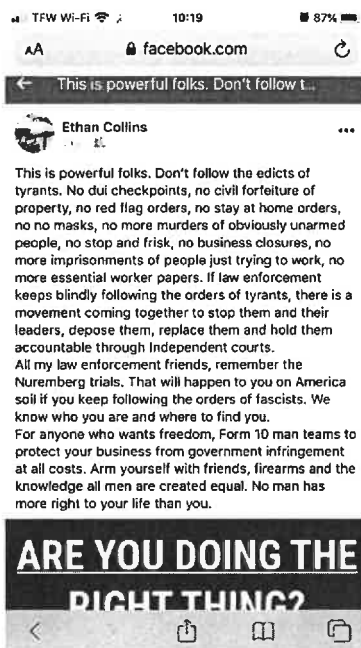


Figure 6 Image from Mr. Collins' Hard Drive⁴¹

Video Footage of Mr. Collins' Arrest Dated 2/8/2021 (INV 00000336.MOV)

A 15 minute, 45 second video of Mr. Collins' arrest was available for review. The footage shows the approach of a police vehicle across several minutes. The video is dated 2/8/2021 and includes a timestamp. At approximately 4:44 pm, officers approach Mr. Collins' parked brown VW Passat in what appears to be a remote area. Footage, which appears to be a body camera, shows another officer speaking with Mr. Collins, who is in his car. The conversation is not easily audible due to the distance between the officers and audible wind. In addition to the officer wearing a body camera, another officer is watching the interaction from behind a second police vehicle. At approximately 4:46p, the officer wearing the body camera asks, "no visible weapons?"

At approximately 4:48p, the officer who approached Mr. Collins can be heard asking him if he had any interaction with law enforcement in the past month. After Mr. Collins responds, "yes," he is asked to tell the officer about the interaction. Mr. Collins' responses are not decipherable from the footage available due to distance, him being in his car, and the presence of wind.

At approximately 4:49p, Mr. Collins is asked to exit his vehicle and does so. He goes to the rear of the vehicle assisted by an officer, with another nearby. The officer with the camera approaches and asks, "where's the gun?" Mr. Collins cooperatively informs, that there is one in the black bag. Mr. Collins asks, "Is this public property? Is this why you guys came to get me or follow me or whatever?" Mr. Collins' inquiry about whether they are on public property reflects poor insight regarding the relational authority of the FBI.

⁴¹ 197815.png
Collins, Ethan

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Despite his arrest, Mr. Collins' affect is blunted consistent with autism. The officer responds that the area is a city park, to which Mr. Collins responds, "OK" and that he was trying to "not get stuck." There is snow on the road.

At approximately 4:50p, Mr. Collins cooperates with being handcuffed. The presence of wind in the microphone makes it difficult to decipher some of his exchange with the officer handcuffing him. After being handcuffed, a conversation continues with another officer who appears to identify himself as FBI and Mr. Collins is told that he will be going to jail. At around 4:51p, Mr. Collins abruptly shifts the topic asking, "Can you guys take the car back to my sister's place?" When told that it would be towed and impounded, he pleads, "They live right here, it's just, it's super close." He's told again that it will be towed and impounded. He then turns to a second officer nearby and repeats, "Could you please get them to park it?" Again, he is told it is going to be impounded and towed. Amazingly, Mr. Collins unrealistically begs, "I understand, but it's super convenient." He is again told that it will be towed and impounded. This is another example of Mr. Collins perseverating on an idea despite repeated denials of his request.

At approximately 4:55p, after about 4 minutes of pleading unrealistically, Mr. Collins consents for the officer to drive his car to an impound lot. This appears to be related to the location and poor conditions for a tow truck. Mr. Collins is then taken from the site of the arrest.

Video Inventory of Mr. Collins' car Dated 2/8/2021 (INV 00000337.MOV)

A 37 minute, 8 second video inventory of Mr. Collins' car was completed. Mr. Collins' car's condition is noteworthy for significant disorganization despite the apparently thorough packing that was completed. Garbage is strewn about the floorboards of the car and items were haphazardly thrown into the backseat of the vehicle. The following items were observed to be removed during the video; an officer narrated what he believed he discovered in the vehicle, listed below. Please note that specific identification of these items is beyond the scope of this evaluation. The names of items are those provided by the officer(s) in the video:

- Coat
- 2 Sleeping bags
- Bedding roll
- Tie
- Scarf
- Backpack
 - Survival kit
 - Knife
 - First Aid Kit
 - Tools
 - Flashlight
- Floorboard with garbage
- Barrel Rifle

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- Sterilite
- Water
- 2 fully loaded AR magazines
- Empty multi-tool holder
- Several Loose bullets
- Baofeng (walkie talkie type of radio)
- Bedroll
- Apparent scale
- Gun
- Belt
- Spray Can of what appears to be oil
- Rifle Plates, believed to be some type of body armor
- Hydrocodone – Mr. Collins' Prescription
- Several food items including but not limited to: Ramen, Peanut butter, canned foods, beans, freeze dried food
- Umbrella
- USB cable
- Brown leather-bound
- Laptop – Screen with crack
- Yellow pad / clipboard
- Book “Growing Gourmet and Medicinal Mushrooms”
- Laser aperture
- Charger
- Bayonet – Officer indicated some uncertainty
- Black
- Multiple firearms
- Remote Pilot License
- Black zipped bag
 - Books
 - Bag with stack of printed papers
- Book “Manned Spacecraft Design Principles”
- Digital Tire Gauge
- Aviation Headset
- Sunglasses
- Gloves
- Shirt
- Flight Bag
 - Deodorant
 - Toothbrush
 - Shaving Cream
 - Eyeglasses
 - Portable Battery Pack
 - Boutique Air Crew Member Identification

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- Cash – mostly singles - \$19.00
- 1 Pistol, 2 Rifles (one in trunk, one in backseat of car)
- 10 round magazine
- Fully loaded ammunition drum
- Laptop Bag
- Water bladder
- Chargers
- Tent
- Pot
- Gas Mask
- Helmet
- Power station
- Ammunition
- Vest
- Camping Gear
- Solar Panel
- Broken Watch
- Apple
- Spot Locator
- “A bunch of cords...USB to whatever that antenna is”
- Tent floor protection
- Survival kit
- User manuals
- Some perishable food including a package of hot dogs, nuts, tortillas, apples, honey ham
- Brita filter

During the inventory, an officer wearing the video camera commented, “Just... survival like he’s ready to go out...last...camping...or...” He also noted, “The bedding stinks!” He also noted that the perishable food “already stinks though.” The perishable food was disposed of by officers while all other items were returned to Mr. Collins’ car. While disorganization is not a defining characteristic of autism, it typically co-occurs in individuals on the autism spectrum.

Text message records Dated November 2020 through January 2021

A review of Mr. Collins’ exchanges with a variety of people via text message was conducted to obtain a sample of his interpersonal communication skills. Mr. Collins is noted to make several attempts to convince a few of the people, including his brother Kelvin, to create a self-sustaining community with him. He even sends property options and receives messages back from at least one other person entertaining the idea. He mentions researching obtaining a town charter for this idea. It is unclear if conversations happened in person or via phone to solidify any real plans; however, in the exchanges, others simply send a few links to property back or comment on it being a good idea, but do not express solid interest despite his repeated attempts to continue bringing it up.

Collins, Ethan

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September 15, 2021

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In the context of several exchanges, Mr. Collins seems to very casually tell multiple people that he is being tracked and asked to speak with federal authorities. For example, someone asks him how he's doing, and he immediately says that he was interrogated by the FBI. When the person inquires as to why, Mr. Collins casually responds, "violent crime and my connection to terrorism, lol"⁴² It is inaccurate that Mr. Collins participated in violent crime and this statement again points to painfully poor insight regarding the implications of brandishing such a provocative phrase.

In another exchange Mr. Collins is again discussing his involvement with an FBI investigation and he abruptly switches to discussing healthy meal prepping options. These tangential comments found in multiple pieces of evidence are reasonably construed as Mr. Collins' failure to maintain set whereby he abruptly shifts his focus without warning and in a nonfunctional way. Additionally, another friend appears to be seriously encouraging him to contact a lawyer and provides him with someone to contact. Mr. Collins dismisses this and references that the lawyer would cost three thousand dollars so he just, "looked up online on legal websites."⁴³ Mr. Collins' responses indicate clear examples of social naivete and indicate Mr. Collins' complete failure in interpreting the gravity of the situation as well as the inappropriateness of discussing such a serious topic with multiple acquaintances though text messaging. These examples are further evidence of Mr. Collins' impairments in communication and poor understanding of social relationships.

Mr. Collins also appears to be communicating with others who are reinforcing and encouraging his ideas/interests of creating guns and stock piling equipment.⁴⁴ An exchange with his mother indicates that she shares and/or encourages ideologies against, and disillusionment with, the government. Mrs. Collins copies a post she made on social media into a text message to Mr. Collins in which she states, "my suggestion is that we united, learn the eternal principals of freedom and defend them with our lives if we have to."⁴⁵ Exposure to these types of ideals and encouragements would make it difficult, if not impossible, for an individual struggling with undiagnosed, untreated, and unrecognized autism (discussed further below) to appropriately discern what to take seriously and what to disregard.

TESTS ADMINISTERED

Adaptive Behavior Assessment System, Third Edition (ABAS-3), Parent Form
 Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule, Second Edition (ADOS-2), Module 4
 Behavior Rating Inventory of Executive Function, Second Edition (BRIEF-2)
 Conners Continuous Performance Test, Third Edition (CPT-3)
 Delis Kaplan Executive Function System (D-KEFS), Select Subtests
 Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory, Third Edition (MMPI-3)

⁴² iPhone records p. 3228-3229

⁴³ iPhone records, p. 3208

⁴⁴ iPhone records, p. 3436

⁴⁵ iPhone records, p. 3329

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CPT-3 Continued

Variable Type	Measure	T-score	Guideline	Interpretation
Detectability	d'	57	High Average	Some difficulty differentiating targets from non-targets.
Error Type	Omissions	52	Average	Average rate of missed targets.
	Commissions	54	Average	Average rate of incorrect responses to non-targets.
	Perseverations	45	Average	Average rate of random, repetitive, or anticipatory responses.
Reaction Time Statistics	HRT	52	Average	Average mean response speed.
	HRT SD	49	Average	Average consistency in reaction times.
	Variability	39	Low	Good performance; below average variability in reaction time consistency.
	HRT Block Change	47	Average	Average change in response speed in later blocks.
	HRT ISI Change	55	High Average	Slight reduction in response speed at longer ISIs.

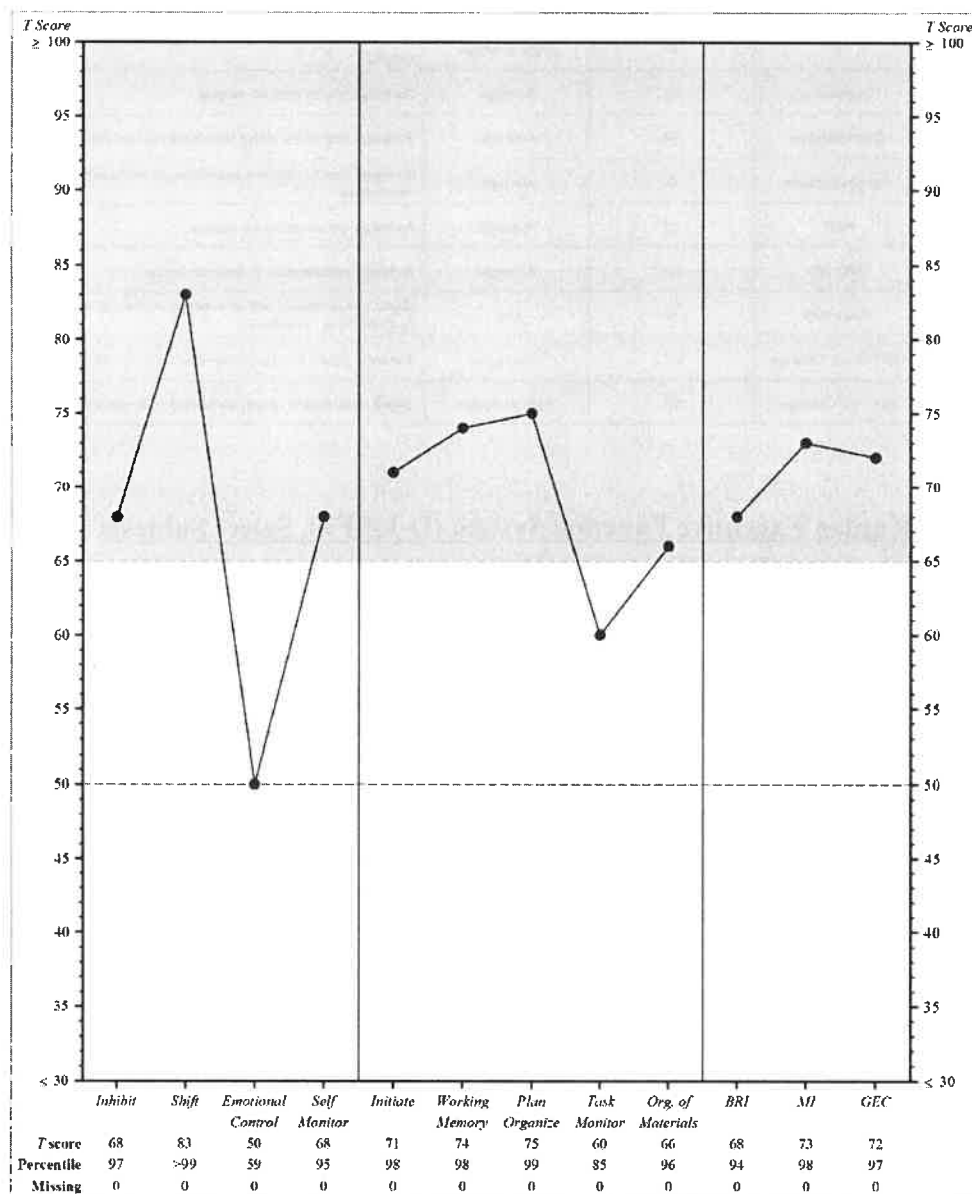
Delis Kaplan Executive Function System (D-KEFS), Select Subtests

Verbal Fluency Test	Scaled Score	Qualitative Descriptor
Letter Fluency Total Correct	3	Exceptionally Low
Category Fluency Total Correct	1	Exceptionally Low
Category Switching Total Correct	3	Exceptionally Low
Category Switching Total Switching Accuracy	4	Below Average
Color-Word Interference Test	Scaled Score	Qualitative Descriptor
Color Naming	1	Exceptionally Low
Word Reading	7	Low Average
Inhibition	1	Exceptionally Low

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Behavior Rating Inventory of Executive Function, Second Edition (BRIEF-2)

Ethan Collins (self)



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Social Responsiveness Scale, Second Edition (SRS-2)
Scales of Independent Behavior, Revised (SIB-R)
Validity Indicator Profile (VIP) Verbal Scales and Nonverbal Scales
Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale, Fourth Edition (WAIS-IV)
Wisconsin Card Sorting Test (WCST)
Clinical Interview with Mr. Collins
Clinical Interview with Mr. Collins' parents, Max and Lora Collins
Clinical Observations of Mr. Collins
Review of Records

BEHAVIORAL OBSERVATIONS AND MENTAL STATUS

Date: 7/2/2021, ~10am-4pm

Completed by: Helena Huckabee, Ph.D., BCBA

Location: Federal Detention Center, Englewood, CO (FDC)

Mr. Collins presented as a tall, Caucasian man with short-cropped blond hair wearing tan prison garb. His demeanor was significant for frequently expressing lament, self-deprecating statements, and often crying. As such, his mood was depressed. He appeared tired and yawned often. Mr. Collins reported having lost 20 pounds since his arrest and he looked slender. Initially, he exhibited some distrust as when he repeatedly checked there were, "No trick questions?" In time, this suspicion subsided, and Mr. Collins appeared comfortable with the examiner. Mr. Collins' affect was consistently restricted, and his facial expressions were typically devoid of emotion except when he was crying.

Mr. Collins spoke in sentences although his language was remarkable in several ways. Specifically, his communication often did not make sense and the examiner had to ask clarifying questions to maintain understanding. He struggled to say what he meant requiring patience on behalf of the examiner as well as some scaffolding of his communication (suggesting possible words he was searching for) to assist him. Mr. Collins exhibited numerous instances of stereotyped language such as remarking, "Time is money!" in an awkward and cliched manner. Mr. Collins sometimes echoed the examiner as well as when he echoed, "Let's try that one!". He rarely asked the examiner questions and the inquiries he did make were awkward as when he inquired, "How long have you been a psychologist?" in an apparent attempt to be friendly. Mr. Collins' speech was unremarkable in volume, rhythm, tone, and speed.

Mr. Collins evidenced subtle challenges with receptive language that are not obviously odd to the casual observer. However, he frequently needed instructions repeated or rephrased to permit understanding as when he was administered the Symbol Search subtest of the WAIS-IV. On another measure (VIP), Mr. Collins clarified that he had just circled "1" and got one of the sample items wrong again reflecting trouble initially understanding the task instructions. Mr. Collins' eye contact was adequate, but his social reciprocity was weak especially for someone of his intellect (discussed further below). He reported, however, that he hates making eye contact. Mr. Collins also expressed frustration with being unable to discern who's trustworthy, a chronic history of dating failures, and ongoing conflict with Collins, Ethan

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peers at his church, in the community, and most recently in prison. He reported that his cellmate noticed Mr. Collins' stereotypy stating, "You have a different vocabulary."

Mr. Collins was verbally disinhibited. As discussed elsewhere, he frequently narrated his thoughts or actions without any regard for whether someone was listening. When asked an open-ended question, Mr. Collins typically kept talking without hesitation until the examiner indicated his answer was sufficient or offered the next question. Mr. Collins exhibited no awareness that he was regularly droning on. Mr. Collins' verbal disinhibition is like how his mother frequently interrupted others and had to be instructed to stop talking to permit others' input.

Mr. Collins exhibited right hand dominance for fine motor tasks. No obvious abnormalities were noted in his gross or fine motor skills.

Psychological Testing

Date/Time: 7/2/2021 & 7/30/2021

Completed by: Helena Huckabee, Ph.D., BCBA-D, Abigail Wischkaemper, Ph.D., BCBA

Location: Englewood Federal Detention Center (FDC)

Mr. Collins' testing was completed across two days. Primary testing was completed on the initial testing day and a second day was allocated to completion of additional questionnaires and computerized assessment (i.e., Conners CPT).

Observations on the initial day of testing indicate that Mr. Collins is currently suffering from depression and evidences some emotional scars from his history of inability to discern who is trustworthy. Specifically, he repeatedly referenced regret in believing the Border Control Agent was trying to help him when he invited Mr. Collins to "get it off his chest" regarding his radical ideological fantasies. With repeated reassurance, however, good rapport was readily established, and Mr. Collins consistently and politely cooperated with all measures over the course of six uninterrupted hours without food, water, or even a bathroom break for Mr. Collins.

On the second half-day of testing administered by Dr. Wischkaemper, Mr. Collins entered the visitation room visibly upset and carrying a very large legal book. He apologized to the examiner for crying and stated that he becomes upset at "unannounced legal visits" because he is concerned it will be more "bad news." After several minutes, Mr. Collins relaxed and was very cooperative with the examiner. He worked very slowly and was noted to be very talkative as he often made comments while completing the activities. For example, while completing the questionnaires, Mr. Collins often commented on his responses to the items and engaged with the examiner. While completing the CPT, he made multiple attempts to "figure out" the test by asking the examiner if it was "intuitive" and changing based on his responses. He made comments indicating he was frustrated that he was missing the targets on the program; however, his tone was light-hearted.

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When responding to items inquiring about his social interactions, Mr. Collins commented that he has difficulty with social interactions and often misreads situations or feels uncomfortable around others, particularly individuals his own age. He pointed out that there have been several instances in which he has “read the situation poorly” or “said the wrong thing” to someone while at the FDC which has caused other inmates to become angry with him and resulted in an altercation. Mr. Collins also stated that he often has a difficult time “letting things go” and can obsess over fixing something or figuring something out. He pointed to the legal book and stated that he was sure that he was “annoying” his lawyer because he sends him a list of questions weekly and is being too “bossy.” He also recalled a time in flight school when another person in school repeatedly took the plane he had reserved before he could get there. He stated that he attempted to talk to his instructor but when they wouldn’t do anything about it, he slept in the airport hangar for two weeks so that he could get there before the other person.

Given Mr. Collins’ overall cooperation, adequate motivation, and responsiveness to direction from the examiner throughout the current test administrations, these test results are considered a valid reflection of his current cognitive and psychological functioning.

TEST RESULTS AND INTERPRETATION

Detailed standardized score reports can be found in the Appendix at the end of this report. Qualitative test results are presented in the following sections. Qualitative range descriptors used below are those suggested by the American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology. These descriptors are used across all measures to maintain consistency and for ease of interpretation. For this reason, the descriptors used below may differ from the test-specific descriptors reported in the Appendix. Qualitative descriptors correspond to the following standardized score ranges:

Qualitative Descriptors of Standardized Score Ranges

Qualitative Descriptors (M/SD)	Standard Scores (100/15)	T-Scores (50/10)	Scaled Scores (10/3)	Z-Scores (0/1)	Percentile Ranks	Percent Included
Exceptionally High	≥ 130	≥ 70	≥ 16	≥ +2.00	≥ 98	2.2
Above Average	120 – 129	63 – 69	14 – 15	+1.33 – +1.99	91 – 97	6.7
High Average	110 – 119	57 – 62	12 – 13	+0.67 – +1.32	75 – 90	16.1
Average	90 – 109	43 – 56	8 – 11	-0.67 – +0.66	25 – 74	50.0
Low Average	80 – 89	37 – 42	6 – 7	-1.33 – -0.68	9 – 24	16.1
Below Average	70 – 79	30 – 36	4 – 5	-2.00 – -1.34	2 – 8	6.7
Exceptionally Low	< 70	< 30	< 4	< -2.00	< 2	2.2

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*Note: Means and standard deviations are listed for each standardized metric in the column header. Qualitative ranges are based on descriptive classifications from the following article: Guilmette, T. J., Sweet, J. J., Hebben, N., Koltai, D. E., Mahone, M., Spiegler, B. J., Conference Participants (2020). American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology consensus conference statement on uniform labeling of performance test scores. *The Clinical Neuropsychologist*, 34(3), 437-453.

Assessment Validity

Mr. Collins completed a performance validity test, the Verbal Subtest of the Validity Indicator Profile (VIP), to assess the extent of his effort on tests of cognitive and neuropsychological functioning. The format of the VIP is structured more like a test of cognitive ability. Items on the VIP become increasingly more difficult, and the test measures whether the examinee demonstrated a predictable decrease in performance as the difficulty increased. Mr. Collins' results of the VIP indicate valid and compliant responding on both the nonverbal and verbal subtests. Furthermore, the MMPI-3 includes scales that measure response style, as well as the validity of an examinee's responses. Results indicate that Mr. Collins approached the MMPI-3 in an honest and open manner, with no measurable inclination toward minimizing or exaggerating his current symptoms or psychological distress. The VIP and the MMPI-3 were administered on different testing days indicating valid responding across the evaluation. Based on the results of validity measures, as well as clinical observations consistent with evidence of motivation to do his best, it is reasonable to conclude that the findings across the current evaluation are a valid representation of Mr. Collins' skills, abilities, and symptoms.

Intellectual Functioning

Mr. Collins' intellectual abilities were assessed using the Wechsler Adult Intelligence Test, Fourth Edition (WAIS-IV) as part of this evaluation to determine cognitive strengths and weaknesses. The WAIS-IV is a measure of intelligence, or thinking and reasoning skills, that yields a Full Scale IQ score as well as Index scores across the domains of Verbal Comprehension (the interaction of basic language skills with complex problem solving and reasoning), Perceptual Reasoning (nonverbal and visual-spatial reasoning), Working Memory (holding information in conscious awareness while using it to perform and complete a cognitive task) and Processing Speed (the capacity to process information quickly and efficiently). The table below summarizes Mr. Collins' Index scores on this test, and his subtest scores are presented in detail in the Appendix.

Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale – Fourth Edition (WAIS-IV)

WAIS Index Name	Standard Score*	Percentile Rank	Qualitative Descriptor
Full Scale IQ (FSIQ)	102	55	Average
General Ability Scale (GAI)	114	82	High Average
Verbal Comprehension Index (VCI)	114	82	High Average
Perceptual Reasoning Index (PRI)	111	77	High Average
Working Memory Index (WMI)	89	23	Low Average
Processing Speed Index (PSI)	81	10	Low Average

***Standard Scores have a mean of 100 and a standard deviation of 15.**

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Mr. Collins' FSIQ is in the Average range. His scores on the WMI and PSI were in the Low Average range. His Processing Speed Index was greater than 1.5 standard deviations below his Verbal Comprehension Index and Perceptual Reasoning Index scores. As such, his GAI at the 82nd percentile and in the High Average range is a more accurate representation of his intellectual functioning as this index is less sensitive to the influence of working memory and processing speed.

Mr. Collins' High Average scores on the Verbal Comprehension Index (VCI) is comprised of his performance on subtests measuring abstract verbal reasoning (Similarities 63rd percentile), word knowledge and verbal concept formation (Vocabulary 75th percentile), and his ability to acquire, retain, and retrieve factual knowledge (Information 95th percentile). While all subtests were average to above average for his age, Mr. Collins demonstrated a strength with regards to his general fund of knowledge and facts (Information 95th percentile).

Mr. Collins also performed in the High Average range on the Perceptual Reasoning Index (PRI) which is comprised of subtests which measure nonverbal reasoning and problem-solving abilities. He scored above average with regards to his ability to analyze abstract visual stimuli (Block Design and Visual Puzzles both at the 84th percentile). He performed in the Average range on a task requiring reasoning, knowledge of relationships between concepts, and visual intelligence (Matrix Reasoning 50th percentile).

His Low Average Working Memory Index (WMI) score is comprised of consistent scores. He achieved an Average score on a test that required him to perform mental arithmetic based on word problems (Arithmetic 25th percentile) and an Average score on a test of his ability to remember and manipulate strings of digits (Digit Span 25th percentile). His score on the Digit Span subtest in particular is considered a statistically significant weakness.

Mr. Collins' Processing Speed Index (PSI) score is in the Low Average range. He achieved a Low Average score on a test of simple mental processing speed that requires only linear visual scanning (Symbol Search 9th percentile), and a Low Average score on a test that requires more complex mental transpositions and graphomotor responses (Coding 16th percentile). Mr. Collins therefore processes information more slowly than expected for his age. Mr. Collins' scores on both subtests comprising the PSI are considered statistically significant weaknesses.

Mr. Collins' lower scores on the WMI and PSI indicate weaknesses with regards to sustaining attention, concentrating, exerting mental control, and processing simple information quickly. These deficits will likely make it more difficult for him to exert mental energy towards learning and understanding complex tasks or concepts. While Mr. Collins has managed to achieve commendable ratings as a pilot, the skills required in flying are repetitive and he can learn them with practice especially since aviation has long been an interest of his.

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Attention

Mr. Collins' attention was tested with the Conners Continuous Performance Test, Third Edition (CPT-3), a computerized test of sustained attention in the absence of immediate reinforcement. His overall performance on this test was within normal limits; however, he notably demonstrated some difficulty differentiating targets from non-targets and a slight reduction in response speed at longer intervals.

Executive Functioning

Mr. Collins' executive functioning was measured using selected subtests of the Delis-Kaplan Executive Function System (D-KEFS) and Wisconsin Card Sorting Test (WCST). Executive processes include planning; organization; self-monitoring; efficient and creative problem-solving; the ability to initiate, maintain, and inhibit behavioral sequences as needed; and the ability to modify a course of thought or action in response to changes in environmental demands. Mr. Collins' Exceptionally Low and Below Average performance on the Verbal Fluency subtests indicates difficulty with regards to rapid retrieval of verbal information (i.e., word finding) while monitoring responses with regards to specific rules he must follow during the task. Mr. Collins' performance on the WISC-IV Verbal Comprehension Index indicates that his deficits in this area are unlikely to be due to poor word knowledge; rather, results are consistent with his reduced ability to process and perform tasks efficiently as evidenced by his poorer score on the Processing Speed Index. Additionally, his Exceptionally Low performance on the Color-Word Interference tasks, particularly color naming and Inhibition tasks, are consistent with his difficulties rapidly retrieving information and monitoring behavior. Notably, Mr. Collins performed better on a task requiring basic word-reading skills as his score was in the Low Average range.

Regrettably, results of the WCST did not save following computerized administration apparently due to the absence of internet or cellular data connection in the detention center.

Mr. Collins, his mother, and his father completed the Behavior Rating Inventory of Executive Function, Second Edition (BRIEF-2) to provide additional information regarding Mr. Collins' use of executive functions during the course of his daily activities.

Mr. Collins' father's responses on the BRIEF-2 were within the normal range and suggest that he does not perceive Mr. Collins to be exhibiting difficulties with executive functioning. Mrs. Collins' responses to the BRIEF-2 suggest that she perceives Mr. Collins to struggle with some aspects of executive functioning. Specifically, her responses produced elevated scores on the Self-Monitor scale (T = 63), the Emotional Control Scale (T = 74) the Organization of Materials scale (T = 67) and the Behavior Regulation Index (T = 64). This pattern of scores indicates that Mr. Collins lacks awareness of the impact of his own behavior on other people and outcomes to situations, has problems with emotional expression and regulating his own emotional responses, and can be described as having difficulty keeping his belongings reasonably well organized and available when needed to complete a task efficiently. Mrs. Collins' perception of Mr. Collins' executive functioning

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is consistent with evidence from multiple sources including video evidence of Mr. Collins' car that showed his personal possessions to be in complete disarray.

Mr. Collins' own perception of his executive functioning skills yielded elevated scores in the Inhibit scale (T = 68), Shift scale (T = 83), Self-Monitor scale (T = 68), Initiate scale (T = 71), Working Memory scale (T = 74), Plan/organize scale (T = 75), Task Monitor scale (T = 60), Organization of Materials (T = 66), the Behavioral Regulation Index (T= 68), Metacognition Index (T = 73), and the Global Executive Composite (T=72). This means Mr. Collins identifies as having difficulties with his ability to assess the effect his behaviors have on others, begin tasks or activities, and generate problem-solving strategies, remembering and keeping track of tasks or materials needed to complete a task or activity, and has difficulty identifying and correcting mistakes during behaviors. These results are consistent with Mr. Collins' history of repeatedly losing his job and being fired. Overall, it is reasonable to conclude that Mr. Collins evidences notable weaknesses in Executive Functioning skills.

Communication and Social Interaction

To further understand the nature of Mr. Collins' difficulties in social interactions, he was evaluated for Autism Spectrum Disorder. His social reciprocity and communication skills were assessed through clinical observation, standardized rating scales, clinical interview, and the Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule (ADOS-2), Module 4.

The ADOS-2 is a semi-structured, standardized assessment of communication and social interaction based on standardized tasks. Mr. Collins' language was significant for being devoid of emotional content, even during instances which obviously pull for some emotion. His language also included instances of oddly repeating phrases such as, "with a smile on their/her face". He reported that he's been told that he repeats himself a lot. Mr. Collins exhibited an absence of empathy such as when the examiner reported that she missed her family, he responded in a non sequitur manner that he never used his vacation.

Mr. Collins responded to questions in conversation and shared information about himself but had difficulty engaging in a comfortable back and forth dialogue as he was often difficult to interrupt and tended to dominate the conversation. Mr. Collins reported having had difficulty getting along with people his "whole life". He further elaborated that he has "no idea how to talk to anyone my age." Mr. Collins stated that he likes to be left alone particularly as he often has conflict. With self-awareness, Mr. Collins confessed, "I'm awkward" and further admitted, "I haven't had a very successful dating life." With insight regarding evidence that he's gullible Mr. Collins reported, "I know I'm a pushover." Seemingly suggesting someone unloaded the illegal silencers on him intentionally, Mr. Collins remarked, "I should have just said no (to the silencers). It was a gift. He didn't expect me to get angry."

There is ample evidence that Mr. Collins lacks understanding about key relationships. When asked how he can tell if someone is his friend he commented, "they don't always tell me what I want to hear." This woefully inadequate understanding would explain how

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he foolishly interpreted that the Border Patrol Agent was trustworthy with his personally incriminating information. In describing why some people get married, Mr. Collins naively reported that, “it provides a legal document to provide stability for raising children.” With further evidence of social ignorance, Mr. Collins reported that being married would provide, “someone to tell you when you’re wrong and doing stupid things” but it might be difficult to, “figure out what the other person wants.”

Mr. Collins, his mother, and his father completed the Social Responsiveness Scale-Adult, Second Edition (SRS-A). Mr. Collins and Mrs. Collins’ responses produced an overall Total score in the Severe range with T-scores of 69 and 75 respectively. Scores in this range indicate deficiencies in reciprocal social behavior that lead to enduring interference with everyday social interactions. In contrast, Mrs. Collins’ ratings indicate that she believes Mr. Collins is not having difficulties with regards to social skills or restricted and repetitive interests as her overall Total score was within normal limits (T = 57). She does, however, believe that Mr. Collins is exhibiting some difficulty with regards to social motivation as her score was slightly elevated (T = 64).

Overall, Mr. Collins’ long history of impairment in social awareness and communication is entirely consistent with a diagnosis of **Autism Spectrum Disorder (F84.0) Level 2, without impairment in language or intellectual functioning, requiring substantial support**. Mr. Collins’ diagnosis of Autism would likely have been diagnosed earlier if he had attended public school and regularly received medical care from a pediatrician.

Given Mr. Collins’ strong intellectual ability, it is more likely than not that he would have been only ASD Level 1, or lost the diagnosis entirely, had he received a timely diagnosis, educational supports and accommodations, and effective early intervention. Autism Spectrum Disorder Level 2 includes characteristics present in Mr. Collins including but not necessarily limited to:

- Marked impairment in verbal (has his own vocabulary) and nonverbal communication (hates eye contact)
- Abnormal reactions to social overtures from others (cussed out his girlfriend’s uncle upon meeting her family for the first time)
- Limited initiation of social interactions (one initiation to this expert in a 6 hour time period)

Emotional Functioning

Mr. Collins’ emotional and interpersonal functioning were evaluated with the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory, Third Edition (MMPI-3), a self-report inventory designed to address a wide variety of psychological and personality constructs. The MMPI-3 includes scales that measure response style, as well as the validity of an examinee’s responses. Mr. Collins approached this test in an honest and open manner, with no measurable inclination toward minimizing or exaggerating his current symptoms or psychological distress. Thus, results of these measures are taken as a valid representation of his psychological functioning; however, his responses were slightly elevated on the

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Combined Response Inconsistency (CRIN; T = 72) and Variable Response Inconsistency (VRIN; T = 72) scales which are measures of response consistency among items of similar content. These scores suggest that there is *some* evidence of response inconsistency. Results can still be interpreted, but with some caution as Mr. Collins may have responded carelessly to some items. In addition, Mr. Collins has some difficulty with understanding language as discussed above. These results are presented in the Appendix at the end of this report.

Mr. Collins' responses were elevated on the Emotional Internalizing Dysfunction (EID; T = 65), Low Positive Emotions (RC2; T = 65) and Ideas of Persecution (RC6; T = 63). These are clinical scales which represent significant emotional distress as he is currently exhibiting a lack of positive emotional experiences and is suspicious and distrustful of others. These results are consistent with symptoms of **Depression** and distrust as already mentioned in Behavioral Observations discussed above. On the Specific Problems (SP) scales, Mr. Collins endorsed elevated levels of neurological or physical complaints (NUC; T = 66), feelings of helplessness/hopelessness (HLP; T = 75), having difficulties dealing with matters that arise effectively (NFC; T = 66), and anxiety-related symptoms (ARX; T = 62). Mr. Collins also responded to items producing elevated scores with regards to being shy, easily embarrassed, and uncomfortable around others (SHY; T = 77) consistent with his diagnosis of **Autism Spectrum Disorder** as discussed.

Mr. Collins' scores on the Personality Psychopathology Five (PSY-5) Scales were all within normal limits and indicate he does not demonstrate an overly aggressive/assertive pattern of behavior, does not experience unusual beliefs or perceptions, is able to constrain his behaviors, is not prone to experiencing negative emotions and does not generally experience a lack of positive emotions. These results provide evidence that Mr. Collins does not have characterological flaws that indicate a likelihood of hurting others. There is no evidence of Conduct Disorder or Antisocial Disorder and no prior history of criminal activity.

Adaptive Functioning

Mr. and Mrs. Collins completed the Adaptive Behavior Assessment System, Third Edition (ABAS-3) to assess Mr. Collins' adaptive behavior skills in the areas of Communication, Daily Living Skills, and Socialization. Mr. Collins' Adaptive Behavior Composite score, which represents his overall ability to function independently, is in the Average range across both Mr. and Mrs. Collins' ratings. Mr. and Mrs. Collins' ratings were consistently in the Average range with regards to his Practical Skills (i.e., caring for himself and his home surroundings) and Conceptual skills (i.e., exchanging information with others through verbal and written methods and engage in self-directed behaviors).

Mr. and Mrs. Collins' results differed with regards to ratings of his social skills (i.e., his ability to relate to others and engage in recreational/fun activities). Specifically, Mrs. Collins' ratings produced a score in the Low Average range and Mr. Collins' ratings produced scores in the Average range. Similar differences were noted in Mr. and Mrs. Collins' rating of Mr. Collins' Executive Functioning skills whereby Mr. Collins does not

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perceive weaknesses, but Mrs. Collins does. Low Average Adaptive Behavior skills is consistent with Mr. Collins' history of living at home until he was 28 years old, repeatedly being fired from his job, and never dating successfully.

Mr. Collins completed the Scales of Independent Behavior, Revised (SIB-R). The SIB-R is a comprehensive, norm-referenced assessment of adaptive and maladaptive behaviors used to determine a person's level of functioning in key areas such as motor skills, social interaction and communication, and personal living skills, community living skills. Mr. Collins' responses yielded a Broad Independent Scale score in the Exceptionally High range, indicating that he does not perceive himself as having limitations or difficulties with regards to adaptive living skills. Unfortunately, Mr. Collins' responses on the SIB-R reflect poor insight and incongruity in his self-perception as elsewhere in this report there is ample evidence that Mr. Collins has long struggled to establish and sustain both professional and social relationships as well as struggled to live independently and be gainfully employed.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Ethan Jeffrey Collins is a 30-year-old male who was referred for psychological evaluation by his lawyer, David Kraut, due to concerns that Mr. Collins may have Autism based on Mr. Kraut's observations and experience with others on the autism spectrum. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Mr. Collins carelessly became involved with apparently radical individuals promoting extreme political and social views including distrust and suspicion of government. On 2/2/2021, the United States District Court for Colorado issued an arrest warrant for Mr. Collins. The criminal complaint included the unlawful possession and manufacture of firearm silencers⁴⁶ and possession of firearm silencers without serial number.^{47 48}

Mr. Collins was born as the third of four children to Mr. and Mrs. Max and Lora Collins. The Collins' opted for naturalistic and homeopathic interventions for Mr. Collins drawing on Mr. Collins' expertise in the chiropractic field with only minimal involvement from a pediatrician. The family is strongly involved in the Mormon church as Mr. Collins grew up participating in church functions as well as Boy Scouts. Notably, Mr. Collins was entirely home-schooled except for a brief stint in public school for grade 2. Mr. Collins reported feeling like he was missing out especially in high school, but he did not want to oppose his parents. Particularly beginning around age 12, and coincident with the onset of puberty, Mr. Collins experienced significant peer conflict and rejection. He had no real social relationships and was unable to date despite repeatedly asking girls out. Mr. and Mrs. Collins remained perplexed at his social difficulties but noted the rest of their children experienced similar rejection. They did not seek professional assistance and no medical or educational records were available for review as part of this evaluation.

Mr. Collins' history as an adult is significant for a long-standing interest in aviation. He pursued his passion for flying but seemingly was frequently taken advantage of as a student

⁴⁶ INV_00000134

⁴⁷ INV_00000135

⁴⁸ INV_00000136

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pilot and apparently financially exploited as he struggled to obtain necessary flight time and training. He frequently had to borrow money from his father and lived at home until he was 28 years of age. Mr. Collins successfully obtained several commendable ratings as a pilot including instrument rating, multi-engine rating, and ultimately his commercial pilot's license. He ultimately landed a full-time position with Boutique Air in Colorado but took offense when his hours and pay were cut during the pandemic.

With added time on his hands in 2020, coupled with dangerous social ignorance, Mr. Collins recklessly became involved with radical groups and toyed with their often-opposing ideologies including distrust of the government. He documented strange and unrealistic plans including possibly living with others in some sort of commune as well as attempting to knock out the Denver power grid. On 2/2/2021, the United States District Court for Colorado issued an arrest warrant for Mr. Collins. The criminal complaint included the unlawful possession and manufacture of firearm silencers⁴⁹ and possession of firearm silencers without serial number.^{50 51}

Results of this evaluation indicate that Mr. Collins has generally High Average intellectual ability with a General Ability Index at the 82nd percentile coupled with Low Average Processing Speed and Working Memory. Mr. Collins' Exceptionally Low and Below Average performance on Verbal Fluency subtests indicates difficulty regarding rapid retrieval of verbal information (i.e., word finding) while monitoring responses with regards to specific rules. In addition, results are consistent with reduced ability to process and perform tasks efficiently as evidenced by weak Processing Speed. His Exceptionally Low performance on some measures of Executive Functioning, are consistent with difficulties rapidly retrieving information and monitoring behavior.

Assessment of Mr. Collins' communication and social skills indicates findings that are indeed consistent with a diagnosis of **Autism Spectrum Disorder (F84.0) Level 2, requiring substantial support**. Mr. Collins' diagnosis of Autism would likely have been diagnosed earlier if he had attended public school and received medical care from a pediatrician. Mr. Collins' diagnosis of autism explains chronic difficulties with peer conflict, social rejection, and inability to discern individuals who are trustworthy. Mr. Collins has tremendous regret that he threw away his career as a pilot and now suffers from **Major Depressive Disorder, Moderate (F32.1) with Anxious Distress**. There is no evidence that Mr. Collins poses an ongoing threat to the safety of himself or others in the community. He does not have Conduct Disorder or Antisocial Personality Disorder.

CONCLUSIONS

While understandably alarming, Mr. Collins' history of affiliation with radical groups, including individuals who are paranoid or distrusting of the government, is consistent and explained by the long-standing presence of Autism Spectrum Disorder with accompanying impairments in communication and social judgment. As a result of having undiagnosed,

⁴⁹ INV_00000134

⁵⁰ INV_00000135

⁵¹ INV_00000136

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untreated, and unaccommodated autism, Mr. Collins is currently unable to effectively discern who are trustworthy individuals and communicate or interact in a manner that keeps himself safe and provides for his needs. These deficits explain his failure to leave home until age 28, repeated peer conflict, and inability to sustain dating relationships despite numerous attempts. Mr. Collins' diagnosis with autism went undetected owing to his High Average intellectual ability, history of consistent home-schooling, absence of regular care by any pediatrician, and failure to seek professional assistance despite chronic social rejection and inability to emancipate.

Evidence indicates that Mr. Collins does not pose an ongoing threat to the safety of himself or others in the community. He does not have Conduct Disorder or Antisocial Personality Disorder. Autism is accompanied by restricted interests and repetitive behaviors. When these interests are prosocial, such as learning to fly planes, individuals with autism can increase their independence and become professionally successful. When such interests involve radical ideologies, in the absence of timely diagnosis and without any essential support, individuals with autism can get frighteningly off-course. It is essential that Mr. Collins and his family be willing and engaged in learning about autism and how it has affected their family as its etiology is primarily genetic. Mr. Collins needs individual and group therapies, as well as ongoing professional support, to help ensure he remains gainfully employed, establishes safe and appropriate social connections, and effectively discerns when others are trustworthy.

DIAGNOSTIC IMPRESSIONS

Autism Spectrum Disorder (F84.0) Level 2, requiring substantial support

Major Depressive Disorder, Moderate (F32.1) with Anxious Distress

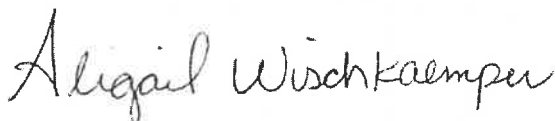
RECOMMENDATIONS

1. It is recommended that Mr. Collins participate in a men's group with treatment targeted at navigating relationships with others and processing challenges associated with being an adult male with late diagnosis with Autism Spectrum Disorder. An effective therapeutic group for men with ASD would minimally target the following deficits:
 - a. Recognizing and reading non-vocal communication cues
 - b. Navigating dating and intimacy
 - c. Effective professional and interpersonal interactions
 - d. Making and maintaining friendships
 - e. Managing emotional reactions
 - f. Discerning safe and trustworthy people
2. Mr. Collins may find the following books helpful in understanding and addressing some of the challenges he experiences with Autism Spectrum Disorder

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- a. Beck, Victoria A. *Confronting Autism: The Aurora on the Dark Side of Venus: A Practical Guide to Hope, Knowledge, and Empowerment*. New Destiny Educational Products, 1999.
 - b. Kim, Cynthia. *Nerdy, Shy, and Socially Inappropriate: A User Guide to an Asperger Life*. Kingsley Publ., 2015.
 - c. Shore, Stephen M. *Beyond the Wall: Personal Experiences with Autism and Asperger Syndrome*. Autism Asperger Pub., 2004.
 - d. Simone, Rudy, and Temple Grandin. *Asperger's on the Job: Must-Have Advice for People with Asperger's or High Functioning Autism, and Their Employers, Educators, and Advocates*. Future Horizons, 2010.
 - e. Williams, Donna. *Nobody Nowhere: The Extraordinary Autobiography of an Autistic*. Perennial, 2002.
 - f. Wylie, Philip. *Very Late Diagnosis of Asperger Syndrome: Autism Spectrum Disorder*. Jessica Kingsley Publishers.
3. Given his diagnosis of depression, it is recommended that Mr. Collins consult with a psychiatrist on medication management for associated symptoms as needed.
 4. Mr. Collins would benefit from participation in individual psychotherapy focused on improving his relationships and emotional insight as well as management of autism and symptoms associated with his history of depression.

It has been our pleasure to work with and to meet Mr. Collins. Please feel free to contact Emerge at 303-322-9000 with any questions you may have.



Abigail Wischkaemper, Ph.D., BCBA
Licensed Psychologist #5437
Board Certified Behavior Analyst #1-14-17488



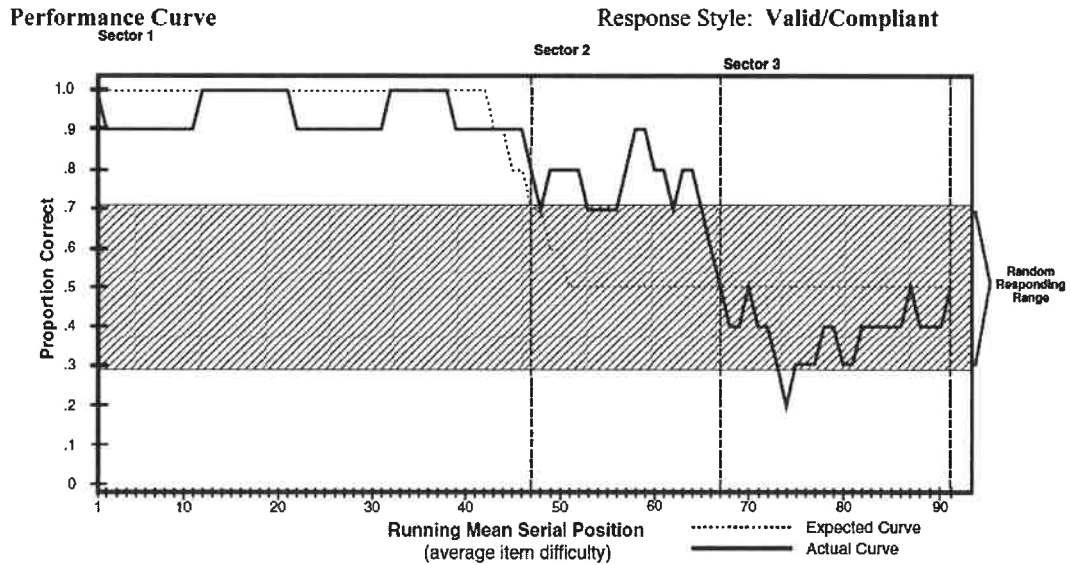
Helena Huckabee, Ph.D., BCBA-D
Clinical Neuropsychologist #2868
Board Certified Behavior Analyst - Doctoral #1-04-1507

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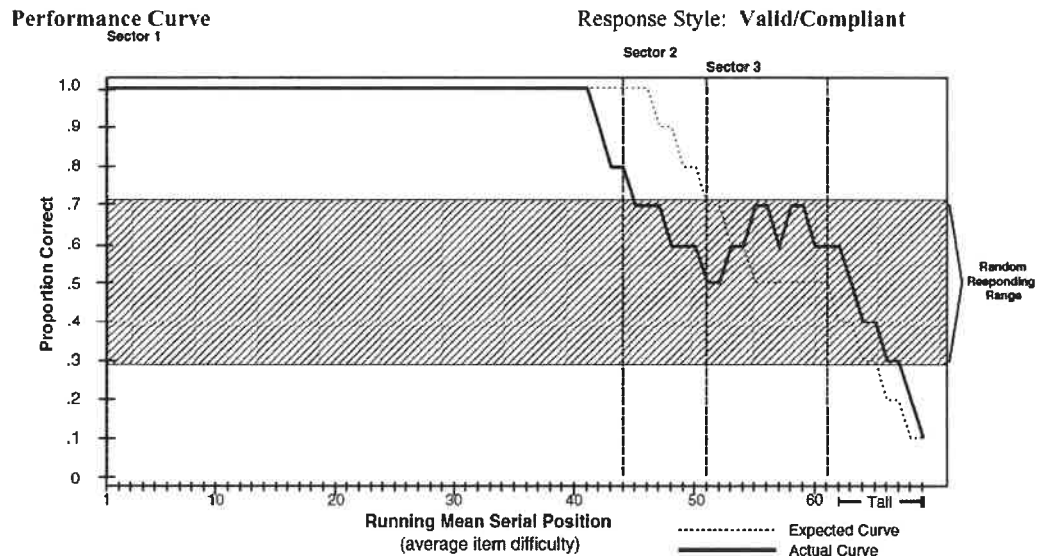
APPENDIX A: TEST SCORES

Validity Indicator Profile (VIP) Verbal Scales and Nonverbal Scales

NONVERBAL SUBTEST



VERBAL SUBTEST

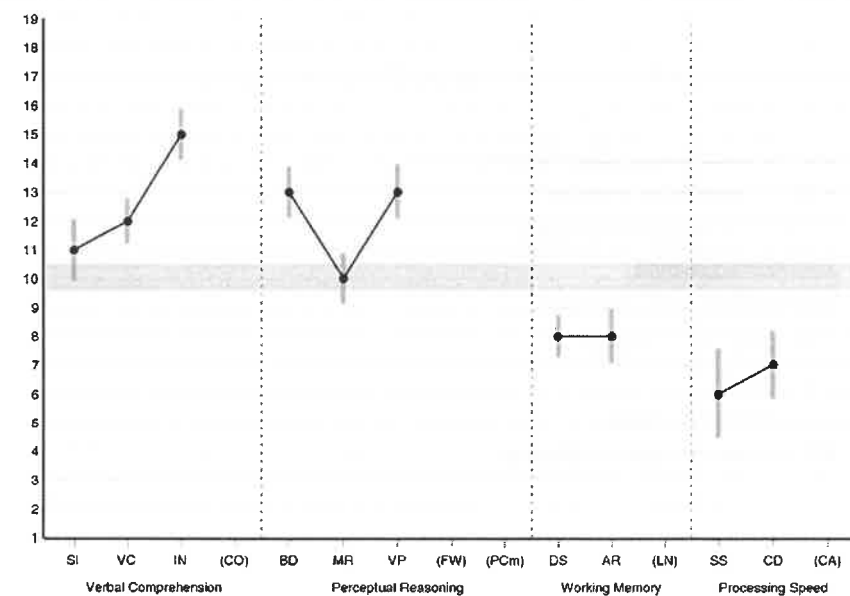


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Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale, Fourth Edition (WAIS-IV)

WISC Index Name	Standard Score (Mean = 100, SD = 15)	Percentile Rank	Classification/ Interpretation
Full Scale IQ (FSIQ)	102	55	Average
General Ability Index (GAI)	114	82	High Average
Verbal Comprehension Index (VCI)	114	82	High Average
Perceptual Reasoning (PRI)	111	77	High Average
Working Memory Index (WMI)	89	23	Low Average
Processing Speed Index (PSI)	81	10	Low Average
WISC Subtest	Scaled Score (M = 10, SD=3)	Percentile Rank	Classification/ Interpretation
Block Design	13	84	High Average
Similarities	11	63	Average
Digit Span	8	25	Average
Matrix Reasoning	10	50	Average
Vocabulary	12	75	High Average
Arithmetic	8	25	Average
Symbol Search	6	9	Low Average
Visual Puzzles	13	84	High Average
Information	15	95	Above Average
Coding	7	16	Low Average

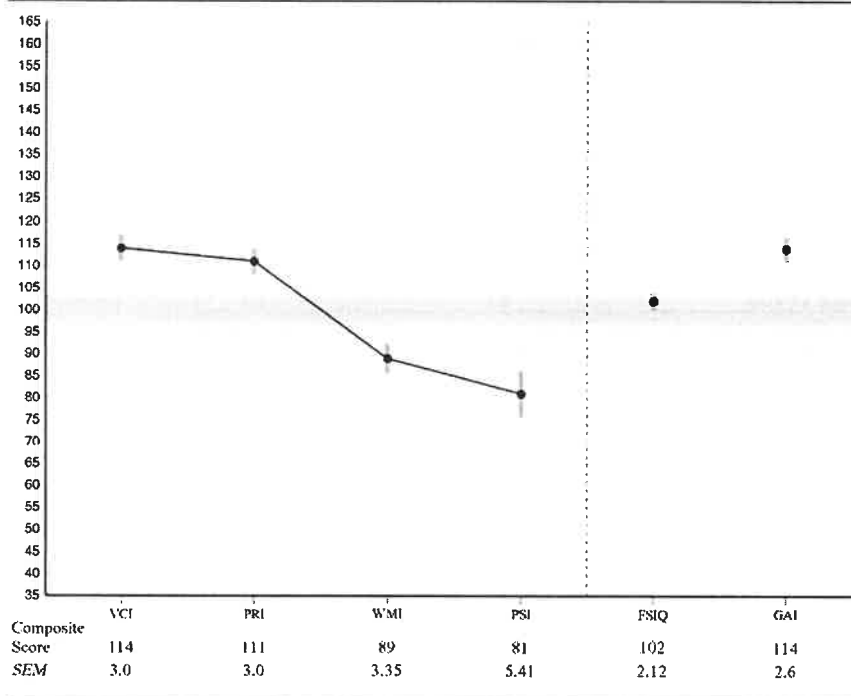
Subtest Scaled Score Profile



Note: The vertical bars represent the standard error of measurement (SEM).

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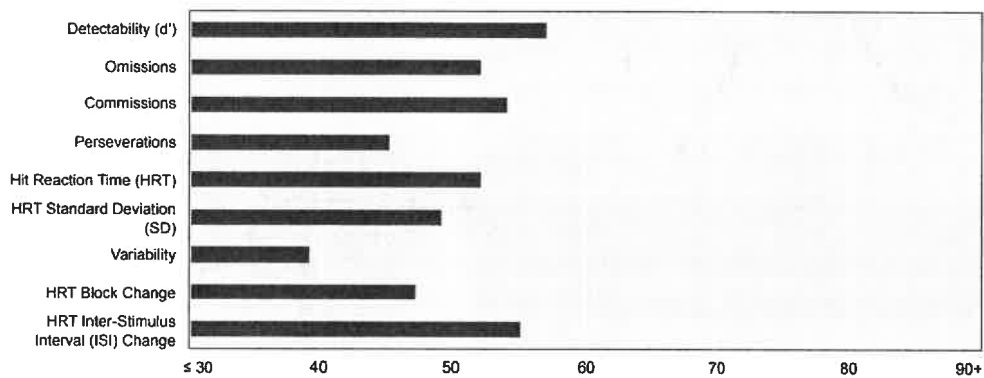
Composite Score Profile



Note. The vertical bars represent the standard error of measurement (SEM). SEM values are based on the examinee's age.

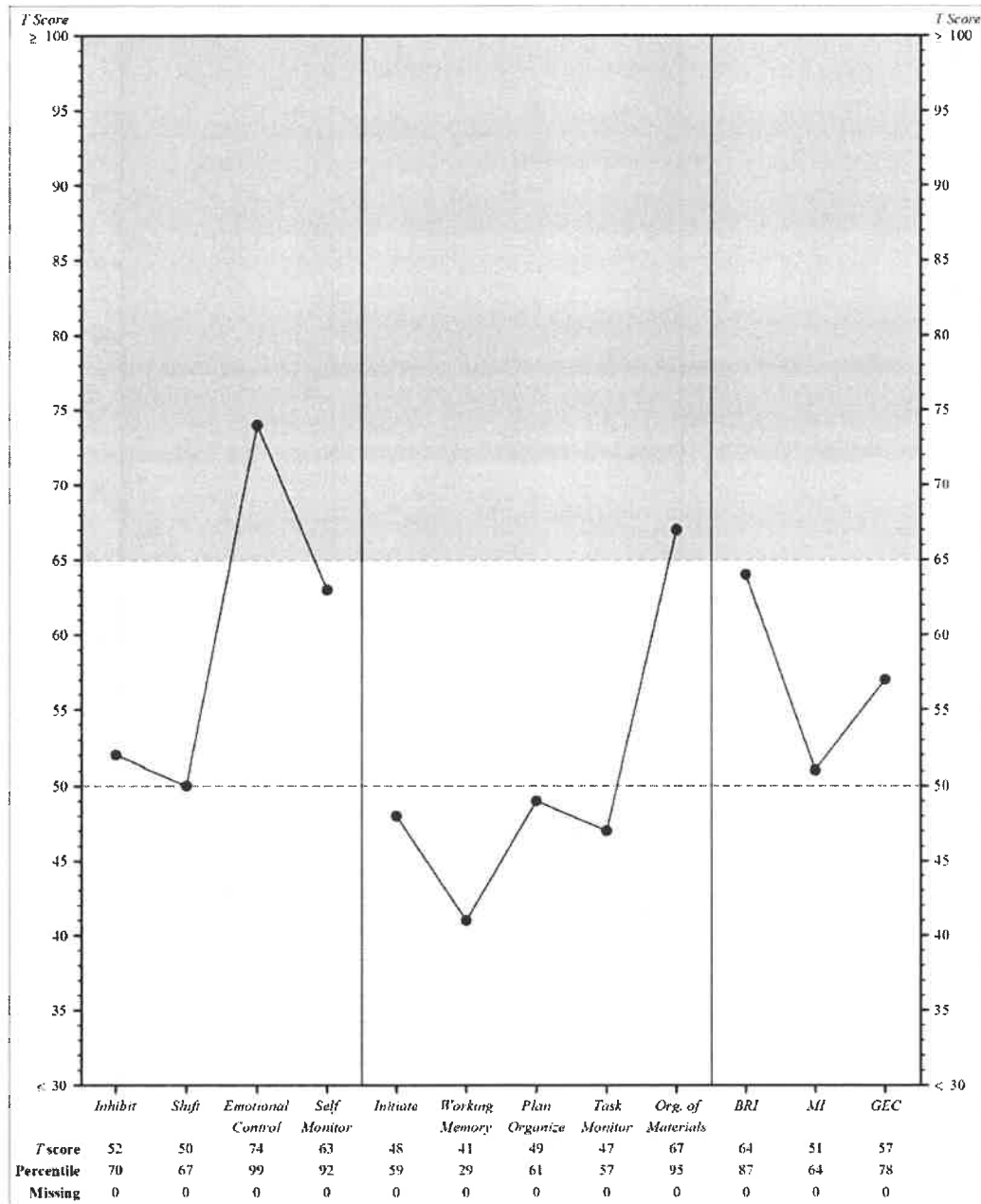
Conners Continuous Performance Test, Third Edition (CPT-3)

This section provides an overview of Ethan's Conners CPT 3 scores.



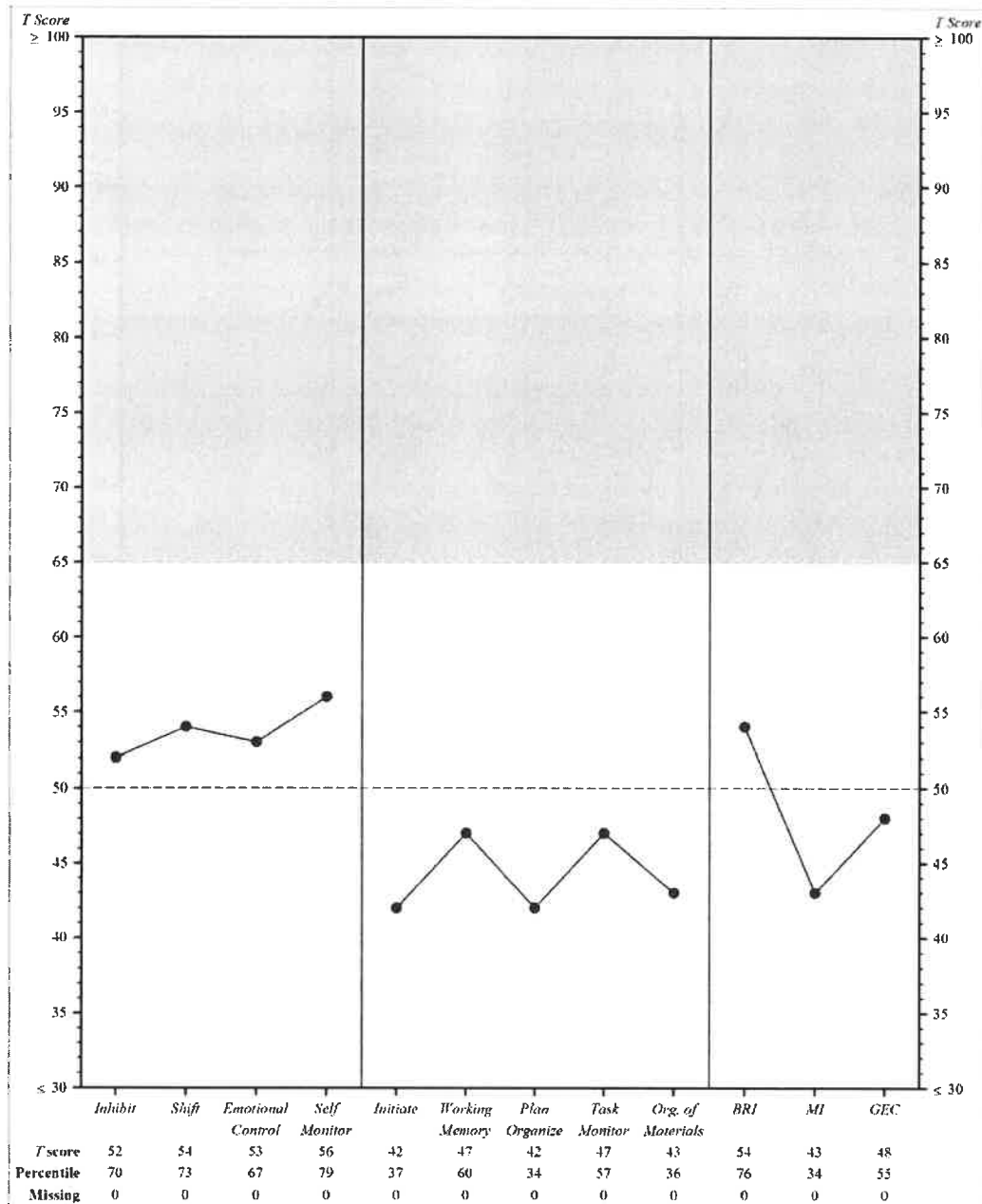
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Lora Collins (mother)



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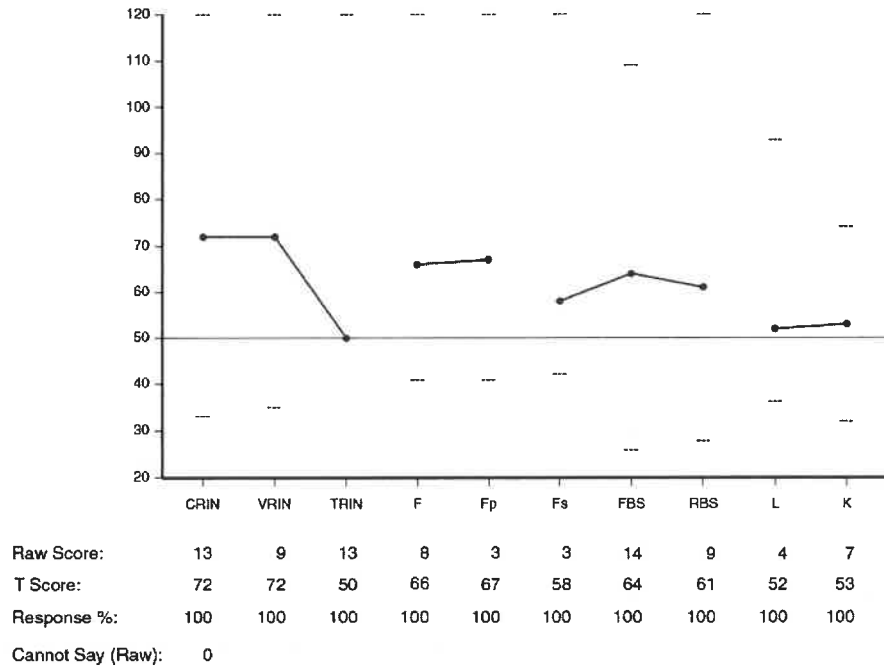
Max Collins (father)



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Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory, Third Edition – (MMPI-3)

MMPI-3 Validity Scales

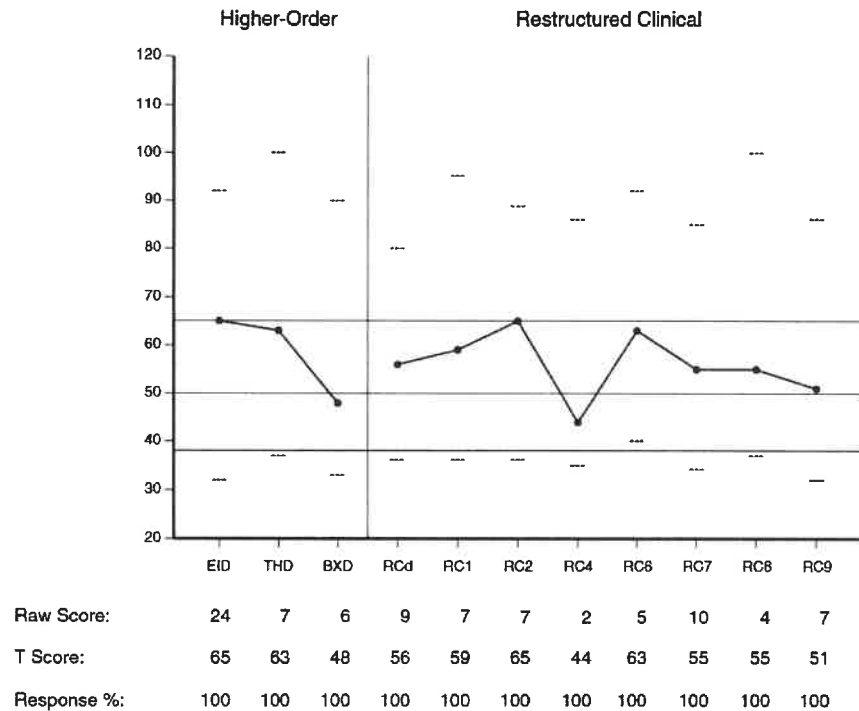


The highest and lowest T scores possible on each scale are indicated by a "---"; MMPI-3 T scores are non-gendered.

CRIN	Combined Response Inconsistency	F	Infrequent Responses	L	Uncommon Virtues
VRIN	Variable Response Inconsistency	Fp	Infrequent Psychopathology Responses	K	Adjustment Validity
TRIN	True Response Inconsistency	Fs	Infrequent Somatic Responses		
		FBS	Symptom Validity Scale		
		RBS	Response Bias Scale		

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MMPI-3 Higher-Order (H-O) and Restructured Clinical (RC) Scales

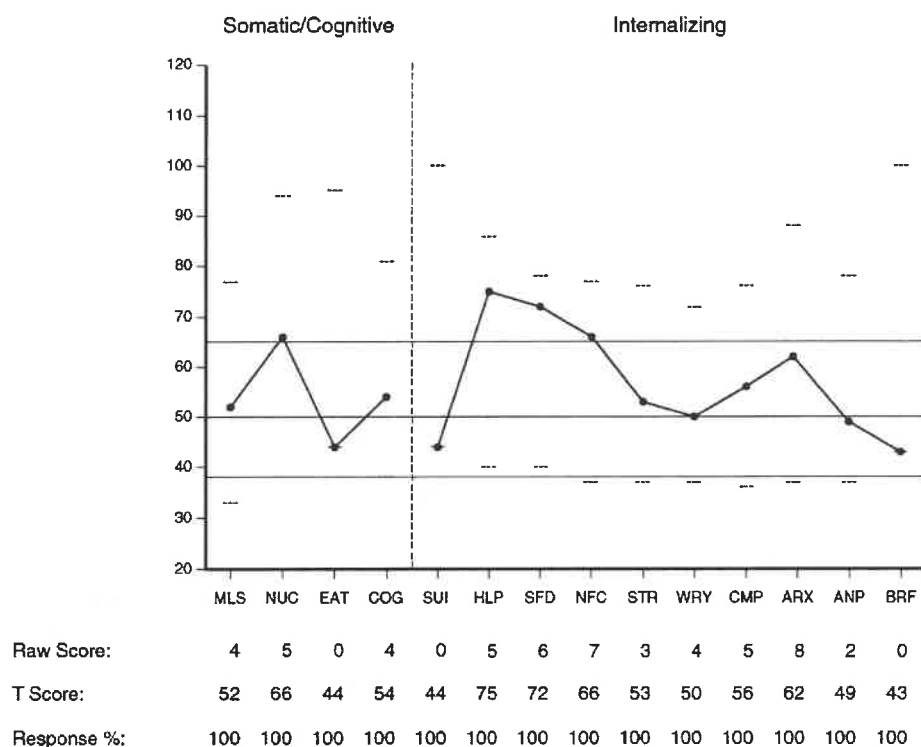


The highest and lowest T scores possible on each scale are indicated by a "---"; MMPI-3 T scores are non-gendered.

EID	Emotional/Internalizing Dysfunction	RCd	Demoralization	RC6	Ideas of Persecution
THD	Thought Dysfunction	RC1	Somatic Complaints	RC7	Dysfunctional Negative Emotions
BXD	Behavioral/Externalizing Dysfunction	RC2	Low Positive Emotions	RC8	Aberrant Experiences
		RC4	Antisocial Behavior	RC9	Hypomanic Activation

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MMPI-3 Somatic/Cognitive Dysfunction and Internalizing Scales

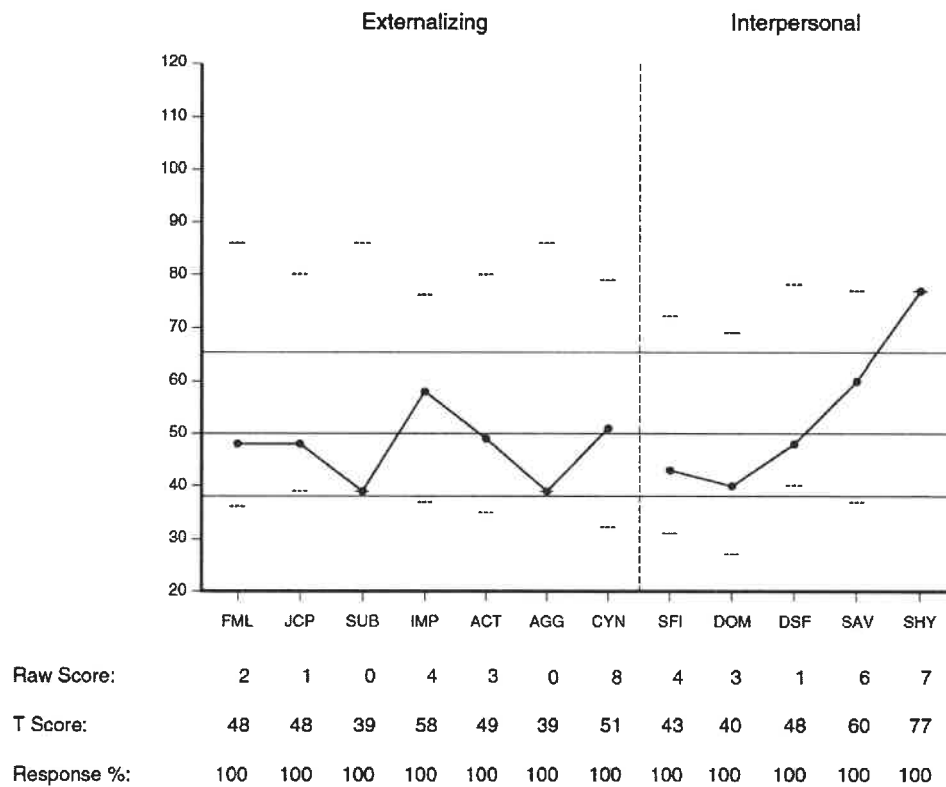


The highest and lowest T scores possible on each scale are indicated by a "—"; MMPI-3 T scores are non-gendered.

MLS	Malaise	SUI	Suicidal/Death Ideation	WRY	Worry
NUC	Neurological Complaints	HLP	Helplessness/Hopelessness	CMP	Compulsivity
EAT	Eating Concerns	SFD	Self-Doubt	ARX	Anxiety-Related Experiences
COG	Cognitive Complaints	NFC	Inefficacy	ANP	Anger Proneness
		STR	Stress	BRF	Behavior-Restricting Fears

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MMPI-3 Externalizing and Interpersonal Scales



The highest and lowest T scores possible on each scale are indicated by a "---"; MMPI-3 T scores are non-gendered.

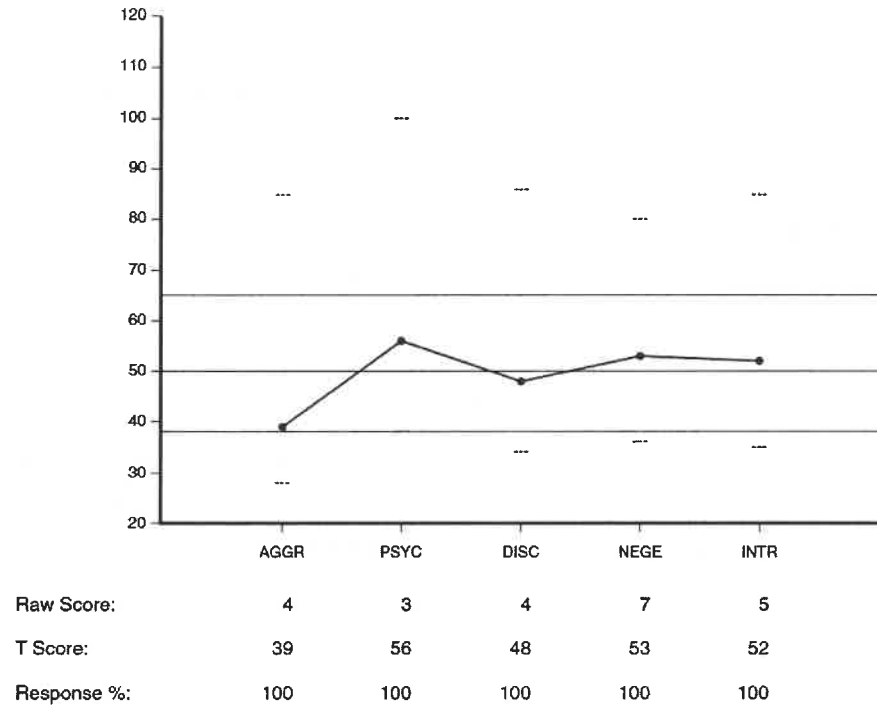
FML Family Problems
JCP Juvenile Conduct Problems
SUB Substance Abuse
IMP Impulsivity

ACT Activation
AGG Aggression
CYN Cynicism

SFI Self-Importance
DOM Dominance
DSF Disaffiliativeness
SAV Social Avoidance
SHY Shyness

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MMPI-3 PSY-5 Scales



The highest and lowest T scores possible on each scale are indicated by a "---"; MMPI-3 T scores are non-gendered.

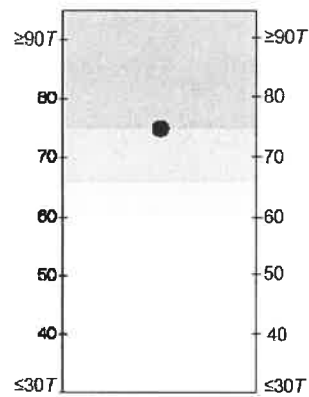
AGGR Aggressiveness
PSYC Psychoticism
DISC Disconstraint
NEGE Negative Emotionality/Neuroticism
INTR Introversion/Low Positive Emotionality

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Social Responsiveness Scale, Second Edition (SRS-A)

Ethan Collins (Self)

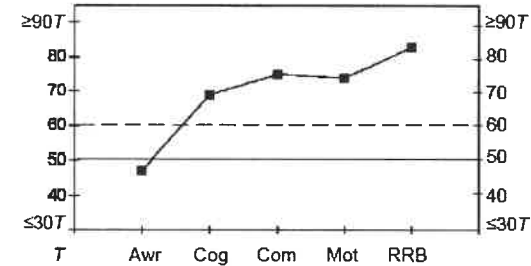
SRS-2 Total Score Results



Total raw score: 110
T-score: 75

≥76T: Severe 66T-75T: Moderate
60T-65T: Mild ≤59T: Normal

Treatment Subscale Results



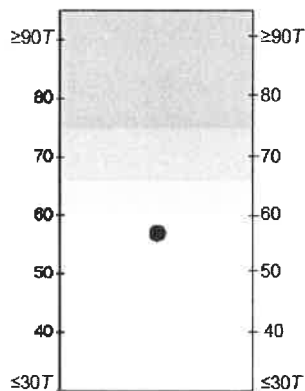
Awr = Social Awareness Cog = Social Cognition
Com = Social Communication Mot = Social Motivation
RRB = Restricted Interests and Repetitive Behavior

DSM-5 Compatible Subscales

	Raw score	T-score
Social Communication and Interaction	84	71
Restricted Interests and Repetitive Behavior	26	83

Lora Collins (mother)

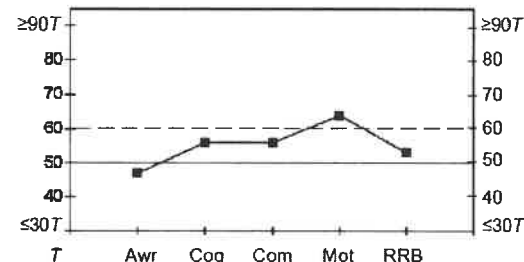
SRS-2 Total Score Results



Total raw score: 59
T-score: 57

≥76T: Severe 66T-75T: Moderate
60T-65T: Mild ≤59T: Normal

Treatment Subscale Results



Awr = Social Awareness Cog = Social Cognition
Com = Social Communication Mot = Social Motivation
RRB = Restricted Interests and Repetitive Behavior

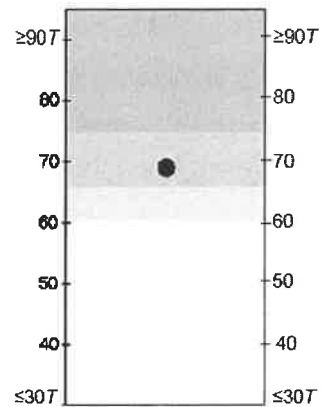
DSM-5 Compatible Subscales

	Raw score	T-score
Social Communication and Interaction	51	57
Restricted Interests and Repetitive Behavior	8	53

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Max Collins (father)

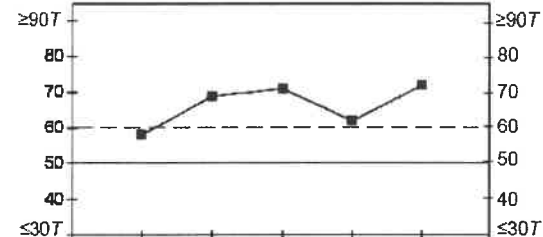
SRS-2 Total Score Results



Total raw score: 95
T-score: 69

≥76T: Severe 66T-75T: Moderate
60T-65T: Mild ≤59T: Normal

Treatment Subscale Results



Awr = Social Awareness Com = Social Communication
Cog = Social Cognition Mot = Social Motivation
RRB = Restricted Interests and Repetitive Behavior

DSM-5 Compatible Subscales

	Raw score	T-score
Social Communication and Interaction	76	68
Restricted Interests and Repetitive Behavior	19	72

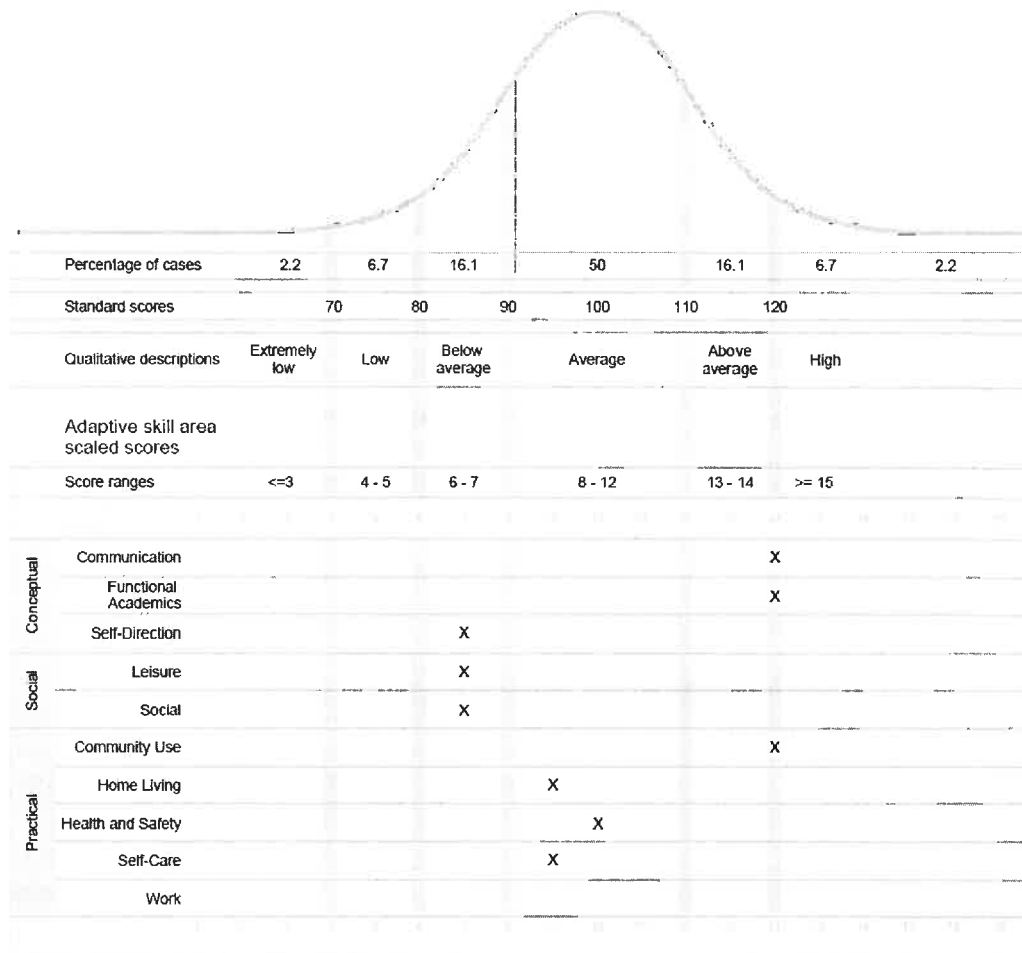
Scales of Independent Behavior-Revised (SIB-R)

SIB-R Cluster	Standard Score	Percentile Rank	Qualitative Descriptor
Motor Skills	139	99.6	Exceptionally High
Social Interaction & Communication Skills	125	95	Above Average
Personal Living Skills	125	95	Above Average
Community Living Skills	123	94	Above Average
Broad Independent (Full Scale)	132	98	Exceptionally High

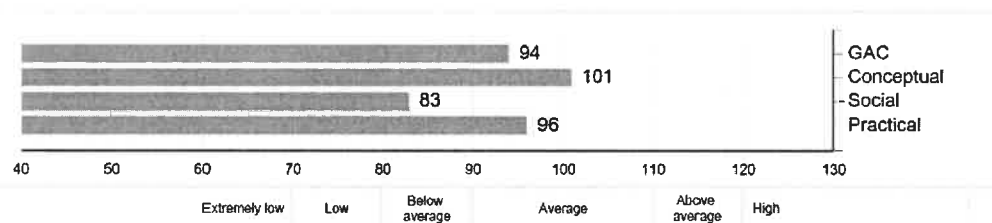
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Adaptive Behavior Assessment System, Third Edition (ABAS-3)

Lora Collins (mother)

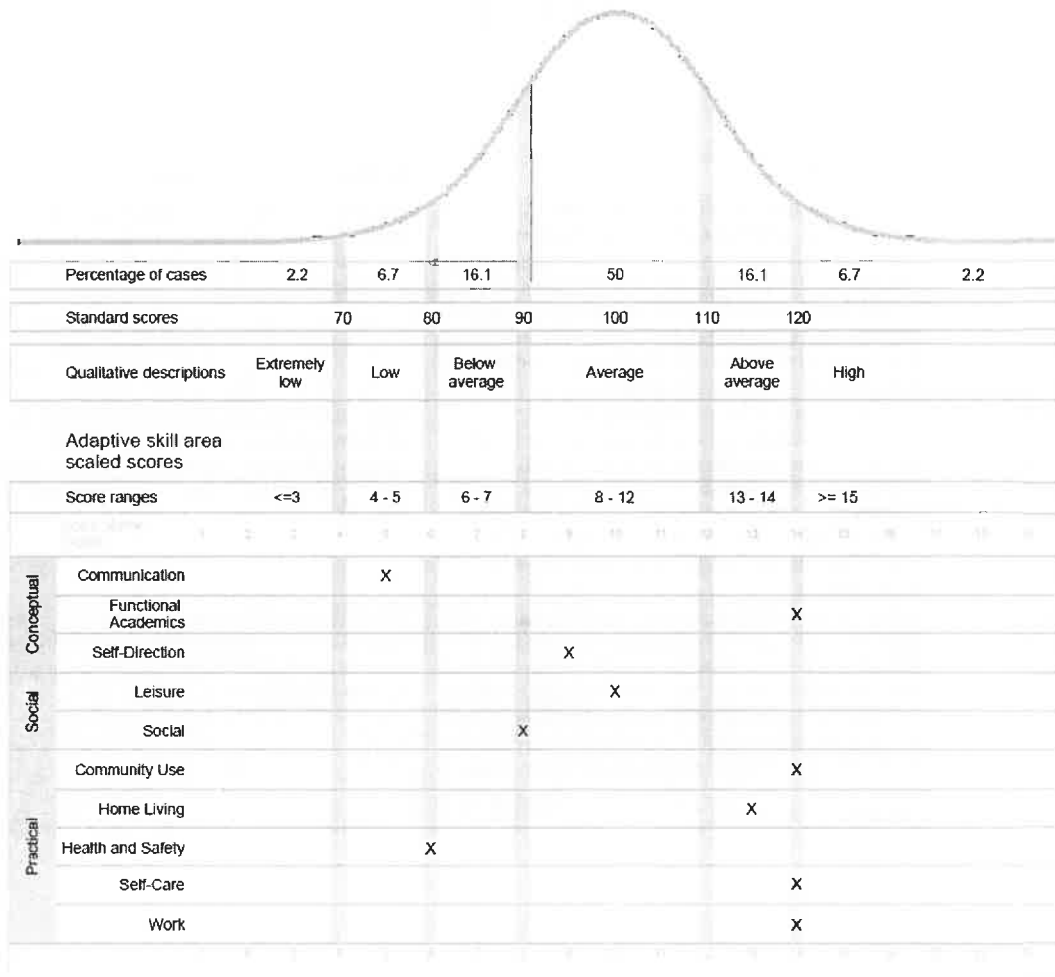


GAC and adaptive domain
standard scores

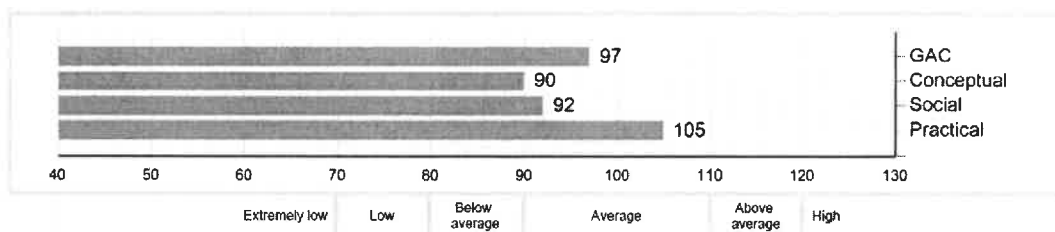


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Max Collins (father)



GAC and adaptive domain
standard scores



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**APPENDIX B: DSM-5 SEVERITY LEVELS FOR AUTISM SPECTRUM
DISORDER**

Severity Level	Social Communication	Restricted, repetitive behaviors
Level 3 <i>Requiring very substantial support</i>	Severe deficits in verbal and nonverbal social communication skills cause severe impairments in functioning, very limited initiation of social interactions, and minimal response to social overtures from others. For example, a person with few words of intelligible speech who rarely initiates interaction and, when he or she does, makes unusual approaches to meet needs only and responds to only very direct social approaches	Inflexibility of behavior, extreme difficulty coping with change, or other restricted/repetitive behaviors markedly interfere with functioning in all spheres. Great distress/difficulty changing focus or action.
Level 2 <i>Requiring substantial support</i>	Marked deficits in verbal and nonverbal social communication skills; social impairments apparent even with supports in place; limited initiation of social interactions; and reduced or abnormal responses to social overtures from others. For example, a person who speaks simple sentences, whose interaction is limited to narrow special interests, and how has markedly odd nonverbal communication.	Inflexibility of behavior, difficulty coping with change, or other restricted/repetitive behaviors appear frequently enough to be obvious to the casual observer and interfere with functioning in a variety of contexts. Distress and/or difficulty changing focus or action.
Level 1 <i>Requiring support</i>	Without supports in place, deficits in social communication cause noticeable impairments. Difficulty initiating social interactions, and clear examples of atypical or unsuccessful response to social overtures of others. May appear to have decreased interest in social interactions. For example, a person who is able to speak in full sentences and engages in communication but whose to- and-fro conversation with others fails, and whose attempts to make friends are odd and typically unsuccessful.	Inflexibility of behavior causes significant interference with functioning in one or more contexts. Difficulty switching between activities. Problems of organization and planning hamper independence.