



Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Investigative Report



2025-0559

Officer Involved Critical Incident – [REDACTED] Miami
Township, Ohio (Montgomery Co.) (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Witness
Date of Activity: 08/13/2025
Activity Location: Greene County Prosecutor's Office – 61 Greene Street, 2nd Floor,
Xenia, OH 45385
Author: SA Steven Seitzman

Narrative:

On Wednesday, August 13, 2025, at approximately 1008 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation Special Agents Steven Seitzman and Kenneth Smith conducted an interview with Sophia Cresong. The purpose of the interview was to obtain Ms. Cresong's observations and knowledge pertaining to the events surrounding the February 19, 2025, officer-involved critical incident that occurred at [REDACTED], Miami Township, Montgomery County, Ohio. Greene County Prosecutor's Office victim's advocate Macey Boring was also present for the interview.

Ms. Cresong was identified as the stepsister of the involved subject, Jayden Stephenson. Due to Ms. Cresong's status as a minor, prior to the interview, the BCI agents obtained permission to interview from her mother, Christina Schindler. On July 22, 2025, Alan Statman, the attorney representing the family, granted permission for Greene County Assistant Prosecutors Christian Cavalier and Nicole Burke, as well as BCI special agents, to engage with the family. Prior to the interview, Ms. Schindler advised that the family was no longer represented by Mr. Statman, and they intended to hire attorney Douglas Brannon, who practices in Montgomery.

The following summary of the recorded interview highlights the salient points deemed most relevant, although it does not provide a verbatim account. Additionally, this report was placed in a chronology to aid in the overall understanding of the information elicited during the interview and may not reflect the actual interview sequence. For further details, please refer to the interview recording.

Ms. Cresong provided information to the BCI agents. None of the information provided contradicted any prior information provided by Ms. Schindler or Terry Bennett, the paternal grandmother of Jayden.

Ms. Cresong advised that approximately one month prior to the officer-involved critical incident, Miami Township Police were dispatched to the residence after Jayden and Ms.

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Schindler got into a verbal argument. She recalled hearing the argument from inside her room, which caused her to become scared. She remembered that Jayden broke a dog gate inside the residence, though at the time, she thought that Jayden hit her mother. She clarified that she was not aware of any physical violence during that incident. She recalled that the resolution to that matter was for Jayden to leave the residence. She stated that he drove to his father's residence in North Carolina and suggested that he likely slept in his vehicle for several nights.

Ms. Cresong advised that she was aware that Miami Township police officers were dispatched to their residence on February 18, 2025. She stated that she was upstairs during the incident. She was aware that Ms. Schindler and Ms. Bennett were attempting to persuade Jayden to agree to a mental health evaluation. She stated that she heard a "big thud" and went downstairs to ascertain the cause of the noise. She said that Jayden had left by that time. She recalled observing police officers apprehending Jayden outside after he drove back to the residence. She advised that she could not hear any of the interaction Jayden had with the police officers. She clarified that her memory was not good.

Ms. Cresong advised that when Jayden was released from the Montgomery County Jail on February 18, 2025, Ms. Schindler and Ms. Bennett drove to retrieve him from the streets of Dayton. She remembered that Jayden was acting "the most normal" she had seen him in some time. She stated that he went to bed, then awoke wanting his car back (which had been impounded during his February 18, 2025, arrest), which caused him to become distressed. She recalled him talking to the TV and inquiring if she "saw them" and stated that they were "crazy."

Ms. Cresong spoke about the incident on February 19, 2025. She stated that Ms. Schindler and Ms. Bennett were once again attempting to persuade Jayden to consent to a mental health evaluation. Specifically, Ms. Schindler and Ms. Bennett wanted Jayden to "get his head checked out." Ms. Cresong advised that when Jayden went to live with his father (approximately one to one and a half years prior to the officer-involved critical incident), his father struck him in the head while ostensibly instructing him in the sport of boxing. She stated that Jayden was not wearing head protection at the time and potentially sustained a head injury. To mitigate further trauma to Ms. Cresong, the BCI agents asked limited questions about the shooting event. Ms. Cresong stated that she was outside the residence with Ms. Schindler and Ms. Bennett near the garage area. She stated that she could not hear the interaction between the police officers and Jayden. The first thing she remembered hearing was the sound of the beanbag shotgun. She then estimated that approximately five minutes later, she heard the gunfire.

The interview concluded at 1050 hours. The audio recording is attached to this investigative report.

Following the interview, Ms. Cresong provided SA Seitzman additional video footage via Axon Community. SA Seitzman reviewed the footage and noted that in the video titled "IMG_0243.mov," Jayden exhibited signs of agitation while talking about his vehicle. Approximately one minute and forty-three seconds into the video, Jayden said to Ms. Schindler and Ms. Bennett, "That's your best bet. I would go get my car if I were you. That's your best, that's your best fucking bet." Jayden then remarked, "If you come in here,

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someone's gonna be getting hurt. Someone's gonna be getting hurt if they try to touch me. I promise you. Anyone. Anyone." Ms. Schindler inquired if he was talking about the cops, to which he replied, "Anyone. If they tried to touch me, they're gonna be getting hurt bad." Ms. Schindler replied that the cops would shoot him, to which he responded, "They'll shoot me? Tell them to shoot me. Tell them to shoot me." Jayden then put his right hand down his pants and emitted unusual, high-pitched sounds while engaging in conduct that simulated masturbation. He then repeated, "Tell them to shoot me." The conversation about the car continued, and toward the end of the footage, Jayden told Ms. Schindler and Ms. Bennett that someone was going to get hurt "bad."

In the footage titled "IMG_0249.mov," Ms. Schindler advised Jayden that she was going to call the cops. At the end of the video, Jayden said, "All right. All right. That's what we're doing then," as he pulled a knife and opened the blade while walking toward his mother. (Agent's note: the metadata showed the video was created on February 19, 2025, at 1403 hours. Other records revealed that the call to the Miami Township Police Department occurred at approximately 1404 hours.)

The footage received from Ms. Cresong was stored in the Evidence.com case and was shared with Greene County Assistant Prosecutors Christian Cavalier and Nicole Burke via download link.

References:

Axon Evidence.com

Attachments:

Attachment # 01: 2025-08-13 Interview of Sophia Cresong