

# The News Tribune (Tacoma, WA)

October 28, 2004, Thursday

## **‘My daddy killed me with a knife’; 911 call records words of injured 8-year-old boy whose father is held on charges. In a four-minute call Friday night, a 911 dispatcher talks with a bleeding 8-year-old boy whose mother was stabbed to death.**

**By Stacey Mulick, The News Tribune**

The call to 911 came in one minute after 4 a.m. To the dispatcher, the caller, talking calmly and in a soft voice, sounded like a woman.

“Please, help me,” the caller said. “My daddy killed me with a knife and I’m gone. . . . Can you please send the army men or the ambulance?”

The caller gave an address – wrong, as it turned out – but nothing else before hanging up. Emergency workers, police and paramedics scrambled to send help.

A second dispatcher, Kristine Woodrow, phoned the caller back and got Anthony Sukto. During the anguished, four-minute call, the bleeding 8-year-old boy said his father had stabbed him and killed his mother.

“What’s going on there?” asked 31-year-old Woodrow, who has three kids of her own: two girls, 1 and 3, and a boy, 4.

“My daddy killed me with a butcher knife,” Anthony said, his voice composed.

“How did that happen if you are talking to me?” Woodrow asked.

“Because,” Anthony answered. “I don’t know what happened, but something. He grabbed knives. I woke up. My dad, he was killing my mom and then my, my, my dad told me to go onto the other bed and then he’s like, ‘You’re next’ and then he killed me. I’m still alive. I kind of survived.”

---

*‘My daddy killed me with a knife’; 911 call records words of injured 8-year-old boy whose father is held on charges...*

At first, Woodrow, a dispatcher at the Law Enforcement Support Agency for more than eight years, didn't know she was talking to a child. She also wasn't sure if the caller was having a bad dream or pulling a prank.

"He was extremely calm," Woodrow said Wednesday. "It didn't feel real. It wasn't a typical response from someone who had just witnessed what he witnessed or had just been attacked."

She asked Anthony how old he was.

"Eight. . . . Can you hurry?" he asked, his voice turning childlike.

"We're on the way," Woodrow reassured him.

Meanwhile, dispatchers still didn't know where the boy was calling from.

When he first phoned 911, the computer came up with a street and house number that didn't match. Dispatchers looked in maps as firefighters and police officers rushed to a wrong address.

They tried another. It was wrong, too.

"We weren't finding him at any address that made sense," Woodrow recalled. "Units were scrambling all over the place."

Amid the flurry, Woodrow tried to keep the wounded child on the phone.

"Are you bleeding, Anthony?" she asked.

"Uh huh," he answered.

"Where are you bleeding from?"

"From my stomach," the boy said pain in his voice.

"Are you there by yourself?" Woodrow asked.

"No. My mom is already dead and I am only survivor," Anthony said.

His breathing grew heavier and his voice sounded strained as he told Woodrow his house was white. He said he lived on Forest Street. He answered questions about his father's age, where he was from and the kind of car the man drove.

"Please hurry," Anthony repeated.

Four minutes into the call, he turned abrupt.

"Oh, my gosh," he said, sounding alarmed.

---

*'My daddy killed me with a knife'; 911 call records words of injured 8-year-old boy whose father is held on charges...*

“What?” Woodrow asked.

“I have to go,” Anthony said. “Bye.”

He was gone before Woodrow could find out more. She called back but got no answer. She still doesn't know why he hung up.

At 4:17, Anthony's father, Tony Sukto, flagged down a fire truck sent to the area. He was standing in the front yard of the family's Tillicum home in the 8800 block of Forest Road Southwest. Police arrived two minutes later and took him into custody.

Monday, he pleaded not guilty to first-degree murder and attempted first-degree murder charges.

As things calmed down, Woodrow went back to her job. She had another three hours on her shift.

She's talked to children before and handled 911 calls where youngsters were the victims. It's personal, she says. But that Friday morning call stands out.

She wants to go to Mary Bridge Children's Hospital and Health Center, where Anthony is recovering after surgery on his lacerated liver. She'd like to meet the little boy who kept talking to her, answering her questions, holding on for help.

“I want to tell him how amazing he is,” Woodrow said. “I don't think he knows that.”

- - -

Stacey Mulick: 253-597-8268 [stacey.mulick@thenewstribune.com](mailto:stacey.mulick@thenewstribune.com).

Copyright © 2004 The News Tribune.