

April 14, 2010

Jackson Law Firm

Dear Mr. Jackson,

At your request I have reviewed a VHS videotape of a squad car recording to determine if it has been altered or edited from the original. You further stated that the female officer stated that she had turned off the video recorder while inside of the squad car.

After carefully reviewing the video coupled with my 25 years experience in the video production industry, I have, in my expert opinion, determined that the video was indeed edited. Here are my conclusions:

First and foremost, the statement that the officer turned off the video recorder while in the squad car does not match the facts contained in the videotape. If the video recorder was turned off inside the car then the recording would have stopped immediately; the recorder would generally take a few seconds to back up the tape to allow for a clean edit the next time the machine was turned on. The video heads would stop rotating. All this would have taken place before the officer could have exited the car. The facts show that the officer exited the car from the drivers' side and was visible next to the left front of the car at 2:31:32. She was visible for another 7 seconds until at 2:31:39 the scene changed to daylight approximately 11 hours later at 13:31:28. It is at this point that the video has been edited. The first white arrow is showing a video tear at the upper left of the video which indicates that an edit has taken place without using a time based corrector to eliminate the tearing. The second indication that the video has been edited is the next set of arrows in the middle of the video showing a rainbow starting in the clouds and running down through the middle of the police car. In real time this rainbow effect (caused by making an edit without a time based corrector) starts at the clouds at approximately 13:31:28 and disappears by moving down the frame of video by 13:31:37. Simply starting and stopping the squad car video recorder would not have made the tear and the rainbow effect.

If you have any further questions please feel free to call my office. I am enclosing my CV for your records.

Sincerely

James K. Appleton



Forensic Biography on James K. Appleton and Showcase Productions

I started a company called Showcase Productions (140 Parkhouse Street, Dallas, TX 75207, www. showpro.com) 25 years ago to do corporate and commercial video, high volume duplication on VHS, CD, and DVD. We have a 30,000 square foot facility close to downtown Dallas. I am the owner, a videocamera operator, and a video editor. Twenty-two years ago I began doing forensic video and audio work. I do work for both plaintiffs and defendants. I currently work with private investigators, attorneys, the FBI, the US Marshall's office, the US Justice Department, the Dallas District Attorney's office, the McKinney District Attorney's office, the Dallas Police Department, and 6 or 7 local area police departments. I have done work in Texas, Oklahoma, California, Georgia, Massachusetts, and New Mexico. I do slip and fall analysis for McDonalds, Jack In the Box, Seven -11, and Wendy's. We own part of a high end 3D animation facility and do accident recreation for attorneys and the Dallas District Attorney's office.

I graduated from Dartmouth College in 1970 with a degree in economics. I went on to Tulane University Business School to do my graduate work in finance. I personally do 90% of the forensic work. I use state of the art equipment for the work I do. Showcase has 6 video editing suites and one audio suite. Depending on the job we use both linear and non-linear editing systems.