

**Volusia County Department of Public Protection
Internal Affairs
Case number 2010-08-286
Karaginis, J. Witness Interview**

August 31, 2010

Present:

Nikki Dofflemyer, Captain, Internal Affairs

Jeremy Karaginis, Firefighter/Paramedic, Division of Fire Services

Transcribed:

Rebecca Perryman, Senior Staff Assistant

Dofflemyer: This is Captain Dofflemyer with the Volusia County Department of Public Protection Internal Affairs Unit. Today's date is August 31st, 2010, the time is 1158 hours. We're conducting this interview with Jeremy Karaginis. We are at the Historic Courthouse located in DeLand, Florida. This is a taped interview statement regarding Internal Affairs' case number 2010-08-286. Mr. Karaginis is not the subject of this investigation. He is currently on-duty, has been released from service for the purpose of this interview. Jeremy can you identify yourself for the record please?

Karaginis: Yes, my name is Jeremy Michael Karaginis.

Dofflemyer: And you are currently employed by Volusia County Fire Services?

Karaginis: Yes ma'am.

Dofflemyer: In what capacity?

Karaginis: I'm a firefighter paramedic.

Dofflemyer: How long have you been with Volusia County?

Karaginis: August 2005.

Dofflemyer: And on June 2nd, 2010, do you remember what ah, station you were assigned to?

Karaginis: Yes, Station 31.

Dofflemyer: Okay.

Karaginis: Orange City.

Dofflemyer: Do you remember who you're partner was?

Karaginis: Rob Fratacci and Brad Coward are my partners.

Dofflemyer: All right, Mr. Karaginis has been advised he is participating in an official administrative investigation for the Department of Public Protection. I will be asking him questions specifically directed and nearly related to the performance of his official duties. He is entitled all rights and privileges guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States and the laws of the State of Florida, including the right not to be compelled to incriminate himself. He is also further advised that if he refuses to testify or answer questions relating to the performance of his official duties, it will be considered an act of insubordination a violation of a direct order. If he does answer questions, neither his statements, nor any information or evidence which is gained by reason of such statements can be used against him in any subsequent criminal proceeding. Do you understand your Garrity rights?

Karaginis: Yes.

Dofflemyer: Be advised this is an open and active internal affairs investigation. I am directing you not to discuss any part of this investigation with anybody until it comes to closure.

Karaginis: Understood.

Dofflemyer: In accordance with Merit Rules and Regulations and the Firefighter Bill of Rights you have the right to representation present during this interview. Do you elect to have representation present?

Karaginis: Unless I'm going to be disciplined, no I don't need a representative.

Dofflemyer: Okay, if at any time, nothing you say can be used against you. Make sure you understand in a criminal proceeding but if there is an administrative function that information will be turned over to the Fire Chief.

Karaginis: Okay.

Dofflemyer: Okay, so then it will be a determination if any kind of discipline is taken place by him. If you want representation I don't mind waiting to get representation or we can move forward and if at any time during the interview you become uncomfortable and you want representation you just stop and we'll have that take place.

Karaginis: I understand.

Dofflemyer: Do you understand completely?

Karaginis: Yeah we can move forward I understand.

Dofflemyer: Okay, any time that you start feeling uncomfortable then.

Karaginis: Okay.

Dofflemyer: You just stop. But Fire Chief will make the determination if there is any discipline based upon your statement. Alright raise your right hand for me? Do you solemnly swear or affirm that the statement that you're about to give is the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Karaginis: Yes.

Dofflemyer: Okay on 6/2/2010, you were assigned ah, is it Station 31?

Karaginis: Yes.

Dofflemyer: Where's Station 31 located?

Karaginis: Orange City, 1970 South Volusia.

Dofflemyer: Okay, ah, Captain Roy Rawlins came to your station on that particular date to exchange some medication that was either expired or about to become expired and it was an exchange of Lorazepam. Do you remember that series of events?

Karaginis: Yes.

Dofflemyer: Okay, tell me what you remember about it.

Karaginis: Ah on that date, ah, Captain came in and he advised me that we're exchanging our Lorazepam that was about to expire and ah, I started I broke it out, got it out of the narc box. Started to break it open to disperse it and he told me to hold up on that. That he would be taking the medication for himself to dispose at a later time.

Dofflemyer: Okay.

Karaginis: I asked him if it was for sure if this was the new policy or what not because I've always done it you know, expelling into the trash can, having a witness sign it and then the vials would go into a Sharps box or anything like that. And he advised me that pretty much this is the new way to do it, so.

Dofflemyer: Okay.

Karaginis: And him being an officer, I just kind of listen to my superior and didn't ask any more questions after that.

Dofflemyer: Okay. I'm going to show you a form Jeremy. Is this the form that ah, that you signed on June 2nd?

Karaginis: Yes.

Dofflemyer: Okay and this indicates that 10 milligrams of the medication was wasted?

Karaginis: Yes.

Dofflemyer: And that Roy Rawlins witnessed you waste that medication?

Karaginis: Yes well it has a dash through there says amount wasted so there was no medication wasted.

Dofflemyer: Okay.

Karaginis: Amount administered doesn't say. But I never wasted it there, but yeah he witnessed it signed it, so. And then I don't know if it says expelled right there?

Dofflemyer: Yeah expired, it was expired.

Karaginis: Expired okay I see.

Dofflemyer: That was removed. What's his, tell me, explain to me the, the standard protocol and the policy is for the wasting of medication.

Karaginis: From my knowledge from day on since I became a cleared medic with VCFS is I've always, expired medication comes, we expel it into a trash can witnessed by another individual at the station. Then those vials are taken and put into a Sharps box or discarded. And the person witness it, sign it, the new medication comes in. We document how much is added and everything like that, the new dates and the narcs sheets and then from there on out.

Dofflemyer: For this, for this June 2nd is that the way that the medication was wasted?

Karaginis: No.

Dofflemyer: Did Captain Rawlins direct you to hand the vials over to him without wasting them in the proper, proper manner?

Karaginis: Yes.

Dofflemyer: Did he also direct you to sign the form?

Karaginis: Yes.

Dofflemyer: Anybody witness him direct you to hand over the vials?

Karaginis: Not to my knowledge that on that date.

Dofflemyer: Okay.

Karaginis: So.

Dofflemyer: Has Captain Rawlins ever did an exchange of medication with you in this fashion before?

Karaginis: No.

Dofflemyer: Has anybody else ever done that?

Karaginis: No.

Dofflemyer: So it's not a common practice to have the medication turned over and leave the site before it's wasted?

Karaginis: I'm sorry can you repeat that, it's not a.

Dofflemyer: Is it a common practice for when you exchange out medication for the vials not to be wasted and turned over to another party?

Karaginis: No that's not, yeah.

Dofflemyer: Did you report, ah, because this was an unusual situation, did you report to anybody?

Karaginis: No.

Dofflemyer: What had done? Is there any reason why?

Karaginis: I just felt that you know, he's a superior officer, higher than my normal chain of command that there was no need to, he may have known a new policy that was effect that date so I felt that.

Dofflemyer: You felt that there was no need to report it at that time?

Karaginis: Yeah no reason.

Dofflemyer: Do you remember what time of the day Captain Rawlins was there at your station?

Karaginis: I can't recall. I want to say...

Dofflemyer: If you don't know that's fine.

Karaginis: Morning or afternoon, yeah I'm not sure.

Dofflemyer: Has, has anybody else told you that Captain Rawlins had him, had them document that they wasted medication and the truth was that they didn't actually waste it, that he took it with him?

Karaginis: Yes.

Dofflemyer: Can you tell me who else told you that?

Karaginis: Ah, a few of the medics on that day. I don't know exactly names, but ah, it just seemed a little different, just talked, I remember calling Stations and saying hey is this you know, is this right, I said this is a little strange. But I, I couldn't tell you exact names, but I do remember talking with various medics in Quad three so.

Dofflemyer: Your station would be in Quad three.

Karaginis: Yes.

Dofflemyer: And that where Roy Rawlins supervises that area?

Karaginis: Ah, he doesn't supervise. I believe he supervises the whole area. He's a captain of Logistics and EMS, so he does the whole, all four Quads, I believe I'm not sure.

Dofflemyer: Okay. Okay, so he, you, you turn over the medication per his direction.

Karaginis: Yes.

Dofflemyer: As a supervisor?

Karaginis: Yes.

Dofflemyer: And you documented per his direction?

Karaginis: Yes.

Dofflemyer: Okay, very good, all right is there anything that I haven't asked you that you think I need to know Jeremy?

Karaginis: No.

Dofflemyer: Okay, then we're going to go off the record. This is still ah, August 31st, and the time is 1205 hours and we're off the record.

(Tape recording devices off)