

**Volusia County Department of Public Protection
Internal Affairs
Case number 2010-08-286
M. Nordquist Witness Interview**

September 3, 2010

Present:

Nikki Dofflemyer, Captain, Internal Affairs

Mark Nordquist, 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 September 3rd, 2010, the time is 1056 hours. We're conducting this interview with Mr. mark Nordquist at the Volusia County Historic Courthouse in DeLand, Florida. This is a taped interview statement regarding Internal Affairs' case number 2010-08-286. Mr. Nordquist is not the subject of this investigation. He is currently on-duty, has been released from service for the purpose of this interview. Mr. Nordquist can you identify yourself for the record please?

Nordquist: I'm Mark Nordquist. I'm a paramedic with Volusia County Fire Services.

Dofflemyer: And how long have you been with Volusia County?

Nordquist: Twelve, twelve or thirteen years now.

Dofflemyer: Okay, on June 2nd, or currently where are you assigned what station?

Nordquist: Station 15.

Dofflemyer: And where were you assigned on June 2nd, 2010.

Nordquist: Station 15.

Dofflemyer: That's your station. Okay, do you remember who your partner was?

Nordquist: I believe it was Ron Campe.

Dofflemyer: Okay, Mr. Nordquist has been advised he is participating in an official administrative investigation for the Department of Public Protection. I will be asking 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 yourself. He is 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. If he does answer questions, neither statement, nor any information or evidence which is gained by reason of such statements can be used against you in any subsequent criminal proceeding. Do you understand your Garrity rights?

Nordquist: Yes

Dofflemyer: Okay, this is also an active and open internal affairs case I'm directing you not discuss any part of this investigation with anyone until the case comes to closure please.

Nordquist: Understood.

Dofflemyer: You understand this is going to be a sworn statement given under oath?

Nordquist: Yes.

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

Nordquist: No.

Dofflemyer: Okay, anytime during this interview you wish to seek representation please advise and we'll cease interview so you'll have the opportunity to do so.

Nordquist: Understood.

Dofflemyer: Okay, raise your right hand for me. Do you solemnly swear or affirm that the statement that you are about to give is the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth so help you God?

Nordquist: I do.

Dofflemyer: Okay, June 2nd, 2010, you were assigned to Station 15 correct?

Nordquist: Yes.

Dofflemeyer: Was there exchange of Lorazepam done at the station on that particular day?

Nordquist: Yes.

Dofflemeyer: Okay, can you tell me how that took place?

Nordquist: Ah, Captain Rawlins entered the ah, station area. He was carrying the new, the new drugs along with a Sharps container about the size of a ah, small waste basket with a lid. Ah, he was coming around to give us the new medication and take the expired medication with him. Ah, okay, do you want, what do you want?

Dofflemeyer: How did, how did that take place? Was the medication wasted on site?

Nordquist: No, no the medication was just put into the top ah, I didn't understand why we were doing it that way. We never done it in the past.

Dofflemeyer: So that's not a common practice to just take the medication and put it into a container?

Nordquist: No.

Dofflemeyer: What, what's, what is supposed to be done?

Nordquist: Ah, two people witness the, you can either pry the lid off and ah, you know, and waste it or you can draw the medication out, but you waste it in front of two people. Generally whoever is assigned on-duty and or another person that you know, can be the, the official witness.

Dofflemeyer: Ah, the way that Captain Rawlins completed this task, ah, has that ever been done before?

Nordquist: Not to my knowledge no.

Dofflemeyer: Not with you present?

Nordquist: No.

Dofflemeyer: Okay, this control substance accountability form, was is that a form that you filled out or did Captain Rawlins fill this out?

Nordquist: Captain Rawlins filled it out.

Dofflemyer: And this would indicate that the medication was wasted?

Nordquist: Yeah, but it wasn't. It just went into a Sharps container.

Dofflemyer: Did you ah, did you question Captain Rawlins on why the task was being performed this way?

Nordquist: Yes I did. I made mention to him, I didn't ah.

Dofflemyer: Tell me what was said.

Nordquist: I just basically said this is how we're doing this know? I'm like and he's like, I don't recall exactly what he said verbatim but I'm like we've never done it like this in the past. And Roy is not one of those kind of people that you question, because him being a military kind of man that he is, he doesn't, you might regret having questioned his authority or his, his ah, position.

Dofflemyer: Okay. So he, did he direct you to sign this form? Or how did that come about?

Nordquist: Ah, yeah, well I knew I had to sign them because they were leaving my control.

Dofflemyer: Okay.

Nordquist: So I knew that there had to be some documentation. Ah, I just wasn't, I didn't like the way it was going about it. But that's not my place to question a superior officer.

Dofflemyer: Okay. Did you tell anyone else about it?

Nordquist: I spoke with Ron Campe and it was documented in our log book.

Dofflemyer: And what did you document in the log book?

Nordquist: Just that he had come to the station. Actually I didn't do it, my, Ron Campe did it. But it just that he had come to the station and the drugs had been exchanged, we didn't really document the fact that it was new procedure. I just wanted documentation that it was actually done. And that he took them, I don't even know if he wrote that he took them, but. I know that there was documentation put into the log book in regards to the whole him coming in and there being new drugs and ,and drugs you know taken.

Dofflemyer: Okay. So the medication was not...

Nordquist: It was not disposed of. It was left in the vial intake and put into a, a red Sharps container that you could very easily tip upside down and shake the bottles right back out of.

Dofflemyer: Do you know where he took the medication after he left the station?

Nordquist: No, he just walked out the door with them and was gone and I just thought that was very peculiar but it wasn't my place to question him.

Dofflemyer: Okay. Has ah, have you talked to Captain Rawlins about it since that day?

Nordquist: No, never.

Dofflemyer: Has he brought it up to you at all?

Nordquist: No.

Dofflemyer: And I believe you said previously that, that procedure wasn't a common practice?

Nordquist: No. I didn't know if maybe they were getting credit for them and they were going to return them to the, to some drug manufacture or because Lorazepam is one of those drugs that if, it hadn't theoretically expired, but it expires much earlier if you don't keep it refrigerated.

Dofflemyer: Ah hum.

Nordquist: So maybe they were going to ah, I don't, you know, for all I know they were going to give it to a veterinarian to use on animals or something to that nature. But theoretically the drug wasn't out of date. It just wasn't refrigerated so we only keep them for three months under those circumstances, I believe is three months.

Dofflemyer: Okay. And how long have you've been a paramedic?

Nordquist: Ah, in Florida for fourteen years.

Dofflemyer: And normally medication are wasted?

Nordquist: Yeah normally you'd either drop the medicine or you'd pry the lid off or you dump, you know you dump it out or you waste it into a drain or a sink or whatever. But, yeah.

Dofflemyer: Okay, Mark is there anything that I haven't asked you that you think I need to know?

Nordquist: No, the only thing I want to say for the record is I he's not the, Captain Rawlins is not the kind of person that you question. Ah, he can be little intimidating at times. He's not a person that you know I would feel comfortable at all you know confronting and saying this isn't right because that would be something that I would feel that he would definitely cause me grief in either a written reprimand or some other kind of punishment. So I just went along with what he you know, I assumed that he was doing that and that he had permission and this was the new policy.

Dofflemyer: Okay, very good. Alright, we're going to go off the record. We're still at the Historic Courthouse. It's still September 3rd, and the time is 1104 hours and we are off the record.

(Tape recording devices off)