

1 **Declaration of Mia Perry**

2 I, Mia Perry, hereby declare as follows:

- 3 1. My name is Mia Perry. I am 57 years old and reside in Clark County,  
4 Nevada. I am the mother of Leonard Taylor's youngest daughter, Deja  
5 Taylor.
- 6 2. Leonard and I were in a relationship from the late-1980s until the mid-  
7 1990s. Leonard was a good partner who treated me and my two  
8 daughters (from a previous relationship) very well. He was polite, not  
9 argumentative, and did his best to help around the house. Leonard  
10 cooked, cleaned, and safely watched my children on many occasions.  
11 Leonard was not a violent person and never abused me or my children  
12 in any way. He never made me feel uncomfortable or unsafe to be  
13 around him. Both of my eldest children called him dad and he was the  
14 only real father figure they've had. Leonard was one of the best men  
15 that I was ever involved with.
- 16 3. I was aware that Leonard was involved in drug dealing and other  
17 street activities, but he never brought any of that home to us and he  
18 never involved me in any of his business. Leonard's life on the streets  
19 was completely separated from our home life.
- 20 4. My mother adored Leonard and thought the world of him. He was her  
21 favorite of the men I dated, and they stayed in touch for decades after  
22 Leonard and I broke up. My mother remained in contact with Leonard  
23 throughout the years of his federal incarceration and most of the time



1 that he's been on Missouri's death row – after Deja and Ashley  
2 reestablished their lines of communication with him. Leonard confided  
3 in my mother and told her things that him and I never spoke about.  
4 She would have been an excellent mitigation witness for Leonard, but  
5 she was never contacted by any of his representatives prior to her  
6 death earlier this year. Leonard is a strong man who does not cry or  
7 talk about crying in front of others, but he told me that he wept in his  
8 cell for a long time upon hearing the news of her death because she was  
9 like his second mother.

- 10 5. Our daughter, Deja, was born in 1991 after Leonard's arrest which led  
11 to him spending several years in Federal prison. Deja did not know or  
12 have a relationship with her father for the first ten (10) years of her  
13 life.
- 14 6. During the 2004 Thanksgiving Holiday weekend, Leonard drove to my  
15 house and called me from his vehicle as it was parked outside. Leonard  
16 wanted to come inside to meet Deja, but I told him not to come in  
17 because I was married at the time and Deja was not home. Instead, I  
18 told Leonard to meet me later that day at my sister Cricket's house, out  
19 of respect for my husband, and he complied.
- 20 7. Deja and Leonard were excited and very happy to meet one another. It  
21 was an emotional occasion. At some point during their discussions,  
22 Leonard called his girlfriend in St. Louis so that she and her children  
23 could talk to Deja. Deja spoke with his girlfriend and her children on

1 the phone, and they discussed plans for Deja to travel to St. Louis to  
2 meet them in person. The phone call lasted for about fifteen minutes or  
3 so, and I did not detect any problems or negativity from the exchange.  
4 Although Leonard promised to stay in touch with Deja to make up for  
5 lost time, he did not call or return afterwards. This was a great  
6 disappointment for Deja.

7 8. We later learned that Leonard was on death row when my eldest  
8 daughter Ashley found news articles about his case. Ashley and Deja  
9 reconnected with Leonard afterwards and they've been in touch ever  
10 since.

11 9. Through news articles and websites, we learned that he was accused of  
12 killing his girlfriend and her children around the time that he traveled  
13 to California to meet Deja. Had we been contacted by his trial  
14 attorneys, Deja and I would have been willing to provide testimony on  
15 his behalf about his whereabouts that weekend, as well as Deja's  
16 conversation with the victims.

17 10. Deja communicates with her father regularly and they have both  
18 become extremely close to one another. We recently discovered that  
19 Leonard had been given an execution date in February. Deja was  
20 completely devastated by this news, and I do not know what I'm going  
21 to do to help her if Leonard is ultimately executed. I fear that she will  
22 be inconsolable.

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11.I was not contacted by Leonard’s trial counsel, but I would have given them the information that I have provided in this declaration had I been asked. I also would have been willing to testify on Leonard’s behalf during his trial.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct, to the best of my knowledge. This declaration was executed in Clark County, Nevada, on November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

  
Mia Perry