

LANE

First, may I say how deeply sorry I am for your loss?

MARTHA

Thank you.

LANE

May I ask you why you decided on a home birth?

MARTHA

I wanted the baby to decide when she wanted to come.

LANE

Would it be fair to say you were absolutely determined to have a home birth, that you had your heart set on it?

MARTHA

– Yes. –

LANE

And your partner agreed with you?

MARTHA

We agreed to do it together. Yes.

LANE

And you both knew if there was a problem, you may have to go to the hospital to deliver the baby. Is that true?

MARTHA

Of course, yes.

LANE

Because at a hospital, you knew that should a problem arise,
– that there was equipment... – Yes, I knew that.
– There was expertise in a crisis... – Yes.
And yet, when complications did arrive,
and your midwife suggested you may consider going to the hospital
because of a heart arrhythmia, you decided to stay at the house.

MARTHA

Yes, but she didn't say that to me. No.

LANE

Let me ask this. You said earlier you trust your midwife. Is that right?

MARTHA

I did.

LANE

Yes. And do you trust your husband?

MARTHA

– My partner?

LANE

Yes.

MARTHA

Yes, I do... did.

LANE

Because your partner has given testimony
that your midwife strongly advised you should go to the hospital.

You say you're working together as a team.

And when your partner asked you to go to the hospital, you refused to go.

Is that correct?

Is that correct?

MARTHA

I wanted to stay at home myself.

LANE

And you actively and adamantly stated that to your husband
that you didn't want to go to the hospital?

MARTHA

I did. Yes.

LANE

The few moments after your baby was born,
was her breathing disturbed
or was there anything to indicate her condition was poor?

MARTHA

– No, not at...

LANE

Did you hear her cry?

MARTHA

– Yes, a bit.

LANE

Did you hold her?

MARTHA

– Yes, I held...

LANE

Was her body warm or cold?

MARTHA

I can't remember that.

LANE

You can't remember that? Did you notice anything strange?

Did you notice that her feet were turning blue and purple?

MARTHA

– I didn't look at her feet.

LANE

Did you look at her hands?

MARTHA

No.

LANE

You didn't look at her feet or her hands. Did you notice the color of her eyes?

Did you notice whether she had blonde hair,
dark hair, lots of hair, no hair?

MARTHA

Yes, she...

LANE

Pardon me?

MARTHA

It was dark. Yes.

LANE

Her hair was dark.

MARTHA

Yes.

LANE

Did you notice anything else?

That her fingers were long? Or her toes... Did she have ten fingers...

MARTHA

– I said I looked at her face.

LANE

You looked at her face.

MARTHA

Yes.

LANE

What did you feel when you were holding your baby?

MARTHA

How did I feel?

LANE

Yes, how did you feel holding your baby you had just given birth to?

MARTHA

She smelled like an apple.

LANE

She smelled like an apple.

MARTHA

Mm-hmm.

LANE

“What did she feel?” was the question. Did she feel like a healthy baby?

MARTHA

She did. Yes.

LANE

Yes. If your baby had died because of something like SIDS...

MARTHA

Can I have a break? Just one minute?

LANE

I have no further questions, Your Honor.