



August 13, 2026

Angel Myers McIlrath
Office of the District Attorney, Nineteenth Circuit District
3104 Magnolia Street
Pascagoula, Mississippi 39568

Re: Nolan Wells

Dear District Attorney McIlrath:

Thank you for your correspondence dated August 12, 2026. As Mississippi counsel for the Nolan Wells family, A.R. Smith Law will serve as the primary point of contact for the legal team so that communications with your office can be coordinated efficiently.

We agree that examination of Nolan's phone was discussed during the July 15th meeting and that our team undertook to follow up concerning that process. During that discussion, however, we agreed to a jointly coordinated forensic examination of the phone that would include the use of the Digital Forensics Lab at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College as well as possible FBI involvement. Subsequent correspondence with your office reflected our continued willingness to proceed through a mutually agreeable procedure. Additionally, Mr. Hertz contacted you on July 25th, while traveling abroad, and indicated that he would reconnect upon his return. Accordingly, our prior correspondence with your office should not be understood to suggest that our legal team had been unwilling to facilitate a forensic examination of the phone.

To date, Nolan's parents remain willing to facilitate an appropriate forensic examination of Nolan's phone, including FBI involvement, according to our agreement on July 15th. However, your letter sent to Eric Hertz on August 12th at 12:51pm ET set a deadline for the Wonsleys to deliver the phone to your office by August 14th at 9am. This is not practicable for a number of reasons.

First, the date and time you proposed provided less than 48 hours' notice. Moreover, the Wonsleys were outside Mississippi when your letter was sent and are not scheduled to return until after the deadline you unilaterally imposed. Second, the parties never agreed to simply deliver the phone to your office. Instead, the agreement was that we would set a mutually agreeable date and time for the phone to be examined together by your office's forensic professional(s), our forensic professional(s) and possibly the FBI as well. Third, the parties have not yet agreed upon a forensic protocol addressing, at a minimum, the scope and method of the examination, chain of custody, preservation of the forensic extraction, access to resulting forensic data, treatment of information outside the agreed scope, retention of the extraction, and return of the device. We are prepared to promptly address those logistics so that the examination can proceed while preserving the integrity of the



evidence and the interests of all concerned. Please send us your proposed protocol as soon as possible. As soon as that protocol is agreed on, we will be able to schedule the forensic examination of phone immediately.

With respect to the independent investigation, the legal team has reviewed the tips received and has followed up with persons whose information appeared relevant. At present, that process has not identified additional witnesses whom the legal team reasonably believes possess information germane to potential criminal activity that warrants referral to your office. We continue to follow up and vet these potential witnesses. At present the family is not requesting that any additional document, recording, photograph, digital media, report, or other material in the legal team's possession be submitted to the Grand Jury. This response should not be understood as a representation concerning privileged, confidential, attorney work-product, expert, or other protected materials, nor as undertaking a continuing production obligation beyond what the law requires.

Regarding Dr. Mitchell, we appreciate that you will make available Nolan's body parts that were not previously sent to Dr. Mitchell. As reflected in your July 29th correspondence, your office previously stated that Dr. Mitchell would have an opportunity to examine Nolan's complete body in advance of any Grand Jury testimony. At this time, Dr. Mitchell requests that you provide 3 available dates in which he can examine the body parts that he was not able to access. We are prepared to move that process forward promptly through counsel.

Thank you for following up with us regarding the threats and/or intimidation against Nolan's family. We have collected that information from the family and will be sending that information to your office in the near future.

The family and legal team remain committed to a careful and complete investigation of the circumstances surrounding Nolan's death. We believe the most productive path forward is focused, documented cooperation on matters that will materially advance that investigation while preserving the integrity of the evidence and the legal rights and obligations of everyone involved.

Cordially,

Ahmad R. Smith

Ahmad R. Smith

A.R. SMITH LAW, PLLC