DOCUMENT 2 - INSTRUCTIONS FOR PETER WEST (THE SUSPECT)

VERSION 2

This is not an easy role to undertake. Please digest this brief. You need to become Peter West and treat the exercise as realistically as you possibly can.

You are Peter West. It is now (Wednesday evening at 10pm). You have just asked the custody officer if you can see a solicitor. When first brought into custody you declined the services of a solicitor because the seriousness of your predicament didn’t feel real. You have since changed your mind!

You are 30 and unmarried. Use your own date of birth. You have no children. You live with Brenda Bailey, aged 43. The address is 9 Northfield St. Alton, Lyme. It is a 2-bedroom terraced property.

Brenda is divorced and her daughter Sandra Bailey, who is 14, also lives with you. You have lived with Brenda for the past 18 months. You work as a gas fitter for a fairly big local company. (Give the company a name). You work long hours and sometimes you have jobs that take you outside the area. It is now Wednesday (6/4/-) and you have been working away for the past two nights (4/4/- to the 5/4/-) on a gas fitting contract (returning today - Wednesday). You got home at 6pm. Police turned up at 6.30 and arrested you.

You have a visible small scratch mark beneath your right-eye for the purposes of this scenario.

You have been arrested on suspicion of having raped Sandra Bailey last Friday (1/4/-) between 10.30pm and 11.30pm at home in her bedroom.

Time sequence is as follows:
- Friday evening - alleged rape
- Saturday evening - went out with your workmates
- Sunday evening - early night; travelling the next day
- Monday to Wednesday - at work

Sandra makes her allegation on the Monday morning (4/4/-).

The truth of the matter is that you are NOT GUILTY. You find this accusation incredulous. You vehemently deny the suggestion that you have "interfered" with Sandra. When the police arrested you, you thought it was all some kind of joke.
When you realised it was serious, you said to the police officer words to the effect of: “the little bitch - I knew she would do something like this”.

You will need to conjure up an image of your life with Brenda. She is 43 - much older than you. She works three evenings a week as a check-out operator at Tesco. Relations between you and Brenda have been going downhill for sometime.

Sandra is 14 and has blonde hair. Truthfully, Sandra has become friendly towards you in recent weeks. In fact she has been flirting with you. She is an attractive girl but you are not sexually interested in her.

The house you live in with Brenda is a two-bed terrace. Sandra has her own bedroom - that’s where her personal computer is. You will be asked about a time fairly recently when Brenda walked into Sandra’s room and saw you bending over her (she was sitting at her computer at the time) - you were both laughing. You may be asked what you were doing on the computer with Sandra (fixing it for her presumably….?).

You may also be asked about gifts you have bought Sandra recently (admit or deny it). You may be asked about a mobile phone text message you sent her on Monday morning (the weekend following the alleged rape)….you could say you left it at home and, therefore, didn’t send Sandra a text).

Note: there is information that is being deliberately kept from you that you may be asked about in interview. Don’t worry about this; bluff your way through it. Hopefully your solicitor will have pressed for full disclosure from the police, and, therefore, you may be aware of it.

Don’t forget the cut below your right eye - you may need to come up with an explanation for this.

Sandra states you were wearing your red t-shirt, Manchester United boxer shorts and black jeans on the night in question. This is something you cannot be absolutely certain about.

Note: you have no alibi for last Friday. You would have finished work at around 7pm. You then went for a drink with some mates before returning home at around 9.45pm. You recall Sandra was in on the Friday evening at some point but may have gone out with her friends. You were in bed by the time Brenda got back from work after midnight. You were not aware of any atmosphere in the house over the weekend, although admittedly you didn’t see much of Sandra. You worked all day Saturday and went out for a pint with your mates on Saturday evening. On Sunday, you didn’t see much of Sandra. You believe she went out to her friends.
You will be interviewed by your solicitor...look relieved. Think about what has happened to you. You are seriously stressed. You have consented to the police taking various samples from you including a sample of your blood, and a penile swab. This is all very embarrassing and you may wish to quiz your solicitor about why these things have been taken. Seek re-assurance. Test your solicitor: ask such things as "how long can they keep me here?...What's going to happen to me?...what do they hope to find from the samples they have taken?...."

Your solicitor should ask you specifically about what sort of relationship you have with Brenda. You will say that it has been very strained in recent weeks. At the moment you are not getting on and have been talking about separating. If your solicitor should ask you if you and Brenda have sexual intercourse you can say you have not had sex with her for a number of weeks. You still share the same bed, but sometimes you sleep on the settee downstairs. This is chiefly because you have been working long hours and that when you get in you do not always feel like it.

Your solicitor will probably ask you about your relationship with Sandra. You will want to portray her in a poor light - in your view she is moody and manipulative. She is secretive and there is little parental control exerted over her. She’s confident and she wears provocative clothing. She is often out late of a weekend. She goes to clubs and drinks alcohol etc. You think she tries to drive a wedge between you and Brenda. When you have tried to chastise Sandra it has always resulted in arguments between you and Brenda. You need to come up with a motive as to why Sandra would lie about accusing you of raping her. Is she jealous of your relationship with Brenda? Does she flirt with you? Say yes to this and maybe explore it further.

Your solicitor may ask you if Sandra behaves in a sexually promiscuous manner. The answer to this is yes. She is a manipulator in your opinion. Asked if she has a boyfriend you don’t know for sure, but probably yes...in fact probably more than one!

If you are asked to recall any specific incidents involving Sandra that could have been misinterpreted, you can say that you cannot recall any. Asked if you are ever alone with her - you can say rarely.

Have you ever gone into her bedroom? You will say yes on occasion - it is the family home. Sandra has a PC in her room. Sometimes you have used the internet. A few weeks ago she had a problem with her computer and you helped her to fix it. She sat next to you whilst you were repairing it and chatted with you. Brenda came in and saw you together but thought nothing of it.

If you are asked if you have alternative accommodation you can say one of your work mates. He lives 10 miles away at Number 112, The Avenue, Swinton, Lymesdale.
You are coming to the realisation that your relationship with Brenda is probably over and in any event you will have to move out.

If your solicitor asks you whether you have any previous convictions you should tell her/him that you were convicted of unlawful sexual intercourse with a girl under the age of 16 when you were 24. The girl in question was a friend of your sister. She was only 14. You will say that you were in love. She was determined to have a full sexual relationship. Unfortunately she became pregnant and had an abortion as a result. You were prosecuted for it. You pleaded guilty and were made the subject of a community rehabilitation order. You moved out of the area and away from your family. You haven’t spoken with your mother or your sister since. You changed your name to West as a result: your previous surname was Smith.

You were also cautioned 3 years ago for "curb crawling" as part of a crack down. Really the police were mistaken - you had only stopped to seek directions in an area you were not familiar with. It was too much hassle to contest the proceedings. You have one further previous conviction for handling stolen goods about 6 years ago. You were found in possession of a stolen credit card…..you pleaded guilty and were fined.