

Witness Statement

Falldershire Constabulary

Statement of: Coral Gledhill

Occupation: Swimming Instructor

This statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Dated: **Wednesday 12 February 2020**

Signature: 

I am the above named person and my home address is shown overleaf: (22 Abigail Crescent, Chadborough).

For the past ten years I have lived at this address, and my next-door neighbour is an elderly gentleman by the name of Leonard Anderson.

At what I would estimate to be approaching 10am on Tuesday 11 February 2020, I noticed that Leonard's son, who I now know to be Neale Anderson, was standing on the drive of his father's house and looking concerned. I observed him knocking on the door and then appearing to check his watch and look up at the upstairs windows of the house. I saw him shout through the letterbox, and use his mobile phone before peering through the windows on the ground floor. I was able to observe all this as I was unpacking shopping from my car, I had just made a trip to ASDA.

I recognised the man as a visitor to Leonard's house and I assumed that he was trying to get into the property. As Leonard's side gate was closed access is impossible to the rear of the house, apart from by using my driveway. I went outside and explained that if he was having trouble getting into the house he would be welcome to use my drive to gain access to the back garden.

At this point Neale introduced himself by his first name and told me he was expecting to meet his father at the house this morning to take him to the crematorium. I was therefore quite worried that the old man was in some sort of difficulty.

I suggested that it might be a good idea to try Leonard's mobile phone number. Neale appeared surprised that his father used a mobile phone and tried the number while I was stood on the drive with him, but said it was switched off. I know that Leonard has a mobile phone as I have heard him using it in the garden. He once gave me the number when he went on holiday.

It is hard to describe what I mean here but I can only say that I felt that Neale seemed a little reluctant to try and gain access to the property. I felt like I was encouraging him to go and look around the back and that he was not really that keen. However, I wanted him to check as I was a bit worried about the old man.

At this point as it was raining I then observed from the window of my house as Neale made a check of the property. I saw him peer through the back door (patio doors). I stopped watching him then as I got a sales call on my mobile phone. He then returned and thanked me for allowing him access, and stated that the patio doors were locked.

I then observed him get into his car which was parked on the drive and drive away from the house. I was quite surprised by this as I would have expected him, as the son of an elderly parent, to make more of an effort to look around the house and try and gain entry to the property.

I have been specifically asked whether or not I saw Neale try the patio doors. I can confirm I did not see that. Whilst I very quickly terminated the sales call I received, it did distract me for a few moments.

On the occasions previously when I have seen Neale visit the house I have not spoken to him, or had any sort of contact with him. I tried to engage him in conversation the first time I saw him, after we moved into the street, however he was quite standoffish so I have always left him to himself since then. I would say that he does not visit very regularly to my knowledge.