

Background

Accused: TAN, Cheng (aka Daniel), age 82

- Suffers from diabetes and glaucoma, the latter has resulted in poor eyesight.
- Retired antique store co-owner, holds OAS (old age security).

Victim: TAN, Lien, age 73, wife of accused

- Suffers from Osteoporosis and Dementia (she is in the early stage).
- Retired antique store co-owner, holds OAS.

Accused and Victim are married with one child, Ms. Mai TAN (age 49). Family moved to Canada from Singapore 21 years ago.

OCCURANCE REPORT - NARRATIVE

On July 30, 2022, at approximately 0033 hours, Mr. Cheng TAN telephoned his daughter, Ms. Mai TAN, and had a conversation in Mandarin. Ms. Mai TAN translates the conversation as follows:

Mr. Cheng TAN

"I can't take it anymore; she went into my room and touched my prescription. I pulled her out and she fell"

Ms. Mai TAN

"What did you exactly do to her?"

Mr. Cheng TAN

"I asked for a divorce, no matter if I need to go to jail or not, I need a divorce. I don't want to be in the house. You be a good daughter and come and get her. She has been lying down since yesterday. Call 911"

Ms. Mai TAN

"I'm not going to call the police for you. You call yourself."

Ms. Mai TAN later advised me she did not believe her father had actually harmed her mother. She advised that her father is known to lie and she believed this was again the case.

At approximately 0040 hours, a male identifying himself as Daniel TAN (aka Cheng TAN), called 911 and advised the call-taker:

- a. his wife fell yesterday morning,
- b. he doesn't want to see her anymore,
- c. he wants police to come and pick him up.

He then hung up.

At approximately 0042 hours, the 911 call-taker called the number back. A male answered the phone and advised:

- a. his wife fell yesterday morning,
- b. his wife is laying on her bed,
- c. his wife came into his room, took his diabetic pills,
- d. they fought for the pills,
- e. he pulled her out of his room, and she fell.

At approximately 0046 hours, several members of the Ottawa Police Service attended the front door and made several announcements of their presence. I was advised by PCs that a male's voice was heard from the inside saying "come in" however the door was locked.

Police forced entry through the front door. Upon entry, I observed an elderly Asian male standing on the stairs, directly in-front of the forced open front door. The male was identified as Mr. Cheng TAN.

Mr. Cheng TAN was taken into custody by police members, and I advised him while being handcuffed that he was under arrest for assault (later changed to assault causing bodily harm when victim was assessed). Mr. Cheng TAN said his wife was "upstairs".

PC R found Ms. Lien TAN lying on her bed, she spoke in Mandarin, so PC R called for PC L (Mandarin speaking member) to assist. She said that she was unable to walk or move her left wrist. Due to her injuries, she had been unable to get to a phone to call for help. Her left hand appeared swollen and bruised. An ambulance was called.

PC L advised that he had the following, brief conversation with Ms Lien TAN:

PC L
"Who hurt you?"

Ms. Lien TAN
"TAN Cheng"

PC L
"Who is TAN Cheng?"

Ms. Lien TAN
"my husband".

PC L
"What did he do?"

Ms Lien TAN
"He knocked me over"

At approximately 0053 hours, members of Emergency Health Services attended. Ms. Lien TAN was transported to The Ottawa Hospital (Civic campus) with wrist/arm and leg or hip injuries.

I was advised by PC Z that at approximately 0057 hours, while PC Z was waiting for a police wagon to transport Mr. TAN to jail, he stated the following without prompting:

"I never used my hand on my wife, this is the first time in 52 years."

"I just knew, I just done something wrong."

"I will not call for my lawyer. What I've done, I should have the penalty."

"Can you let me find the way to be separated from my wife. I cannot bear it."

"Thank you for being here so fast. Thank you for your service."

"Will you mind putting me in the cell."

The accused had minor scratch marks on his hands, chest, back and legs.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Mr. Cheng TAN was taken to jail via police wagon.

Ms. Lien TAN is currently in hospital being treated for her injuries.

- While in the hospital, her daughter had asked Lien TAN in Mandarin if she remembered what had happened. Lien TAN told her daughter that Cheng TAN had asked her to go get some eye-drops from his room, then when she entered, Cheng TAN had become upset about his pills and pulled her while trying to get the pills away which caused her to fall.

Criminal convictions (and/or) Police history:

{TAN had no criminal convictions and no known police history.}

Socio-Economic / Employment background:

{Retired.}

Family / Residence:

{TAN currently resides with his wife TAN, Lien and they live alone.}

Conditions requested: (Bail; or, upon conviction)

- 1.Keep the peace and be of good behaviour.
- 2.Not to return to the residence except for one time with police to gather his belongings.
- 3.Not to be found within a 5-block radius of residence.
- 4.Not to be in possession of any weapons as defined in the Criminal Code.
- 5.Have no contact direct or indirect with victim TAN, Lien.

Police also ask that the accused have a psychological assessment completed.

APPARENT INJURIES July 31st

I noted that TAN, Lien's left hand and wrist were bright red and swollen. Her left leg also had multiple large red bruises. The Dr relayed that she had a broken wrist and a strained hip. The Dr asked about the cause of the injuries, I relayed the report. He then mentioned that Osteoporosis may have contributed to the severity of the injuries given the reported fall.

AUDIO-VIDEOTAPED TRANSLATED VICTIM INTERVIEW

Cst E spoke to TAN at her bedside while Det/Cst M asked questions and took brief notes. The notes below are limited because they were simply translated, however the following is an overview: (these are not necessarily in order)

When asked what happened TAN said:

- that it happened at 09:00 in the morning July 29th when her husband found out that the medication she was giving him was incorrect, he started to grab at the pills and try to pull them from her hands.

When asked if there was conversation between them, TAN replied:

- that she said to stop.

When asked if her husband had been drinking or using drugs, TAN stated:

- that he was taking medication as prescribed by the doctor. He does not drink or use drugs.

TAN was asked whether her husband had hit her in the past, she said:

- something about him having hit her 20 years ago in Singapore.

When TAN was asked why her husband would hurt her, she said:

- it was with respect to medicine - he pulled her out of the room, knocking her down because she got the wrong medicine for him.

When asked about her relationship with her husband and his demeanour, she replied:

- he normally has a bad temper. He is a compulsive liar and accuses her of doing bad things when she hasn't.

TAN was asked what she would like the outcome to be and how could the police help her?

- She replied to help her not to have to live alone with her husband anymore. She wants her daughter or a caretaker to be in the house with them.
- She recognizes that she needs help physically now. She has not relied on her husband for physical support and knows that he can't provide this going forward.

TAN was asked if she thought her husband knew what he was doing to her, she replied:

- He should know.

End interview. Lien TAN was very soft-spoken during the interview.

After the interview I spoke to daughter Mei TAN and her daughter about their concerns. Mei was very concerned about her mother, the house and what would happen with her father. She was

concerned that they may both want to remain living together, she said that they have had arguments for years. Mei advised police members that Lien TAN was recently discharged from the hospital due to a fall and that she couldn't believe that her mother was in the hospital again.

POLICE STATEMENT July 31th, 2022

The following is a summary of what has been completed thus far regarding this file.

Accused CHENG TAN

-He was re-chartered for assault causing bodily harm and spoke with a lawyer. He provided a partial statement to detectives in which he admitted to pulling Lien TAN while trying to get his medication.

Crime Scene - Victim / Accused Residence

-The home was notably cluttered with boxes and other belongings.

- Mei will be contacted on Tuesday by Det GRIFFIN and the Elder Abuse Unit Social Worker for additional follow up and support. The EAU will also be liaising with differing agencies (i.e., health care) who are already involved with this family.

CIVILIAN STATEMENT Aug 3, 2022

This text page consists of monitor notes made during the interview with TAN, Mei (daughter of accused and victim). TAN was interviewed by Detective Constable GRIFFIN, I made the notes simultaneously during the interview. These notes are not an exact account of the conversation – they are simply notes. For a complete account please refer to the audio-video tape in its entirety. The legend is as follows:

M = Mei TAN

G = Detective Constable GRIFFIN

E = Detective Constable E

Introduction – names and purpose of interview established.

G: What we're talking about is the incident between your mother and father – early Saturday morning - July 30 - police were called to your parent's home – are you aware?

M: Yes, yes

G: Before we start, I want to get history regarding your family - Mom Lien, Dad Daniel (aka Cheng).

G: What was it like growing up in your family?

M: Born in Singapore - also lived with Grandma and Grandpa, same house but different unit.

G: What was it like for you being raised in your family? - parents good?

M: Mom is strict but was sometimes naughty and did not punish me. Our relationship was close. My dad had a fondness for me, but he was strict and rarely showed affection. I do not think he ever hugged me. Even though he is fond of me, he would hit me. He hit me, because sometimes I failed my math test - sometimes he hit me when I was not up to expectations and if I talked back, he would hit me. There was pressure to be a good student. Honestly, I am afraid of him. Sometimes if he was at home, I would hide in the bathroom. He was worse when there was pressure at work.

G: Why scared?

M: Sometimes he is so strict. I used to have long hair - he wanted me to cut it short. I liked to have long hair, but he told me that I had a week to cut it or else. I was very unhappy, he yelled at me a lot. My grandparents used to try to stop him. I would struggle. One time he closed the door by force and hit my toe, my toenail burst after a week's time.

G: What ages were you when your dad hit you?

M: Elementary school

G: Was your father physical with your mother?

M: Yes, one incident when I was 3 or 4 - he hit her in Singapore. I was in the bedroom. He then grabbed water and threw it at her. I can't remember why he did that. Another time when I didn't want to eat, he slapped her for trying to protect me.

G: Were those the only times?

M: Once in Canada - 3 or 4 years ago. One time my mother went into his room to clean. My dad found out and he thought she threw things out. He ran into her room and messed up her room. She tried to explain she didn't do it. He pressed her into a chair with his hands on her shoulders. I kicked him out of the room - and locked him outside. He doesn't like people entering his room. Anyone without permission will get yelled at.

G: Why?

M: I don't know. My mom is too ashamed to tell anybody.

G: From my experience - different cultures have different beliefs, is this accurate for your parents? Is it shame? Does she not want it to become public knowledge?

M: A wife must be loyal to her husband and marriage no matter what.

G: How would you describe their relationship when growing up? Other than those two incidents?

M: My mom is tolerant with my dad - taking care of him doing her best, but she still always got yelled at for any reason - dishes, way of cooking, things not being up to his expectations, problems at the store.

G: Why is he like that?

M: As I said before, he is bad tempered, even his parents are scared of him. When I was young and he would yell at me I would tell my grandparents, but they couldn't stop it, they are all scared. We had to bear with it.

G: How long did you stay in the family home?

M: Until 2010. Before that our relationship was kind of good. But at the end of 2009 he started accusing me of things and we would quarrel then not talk for a while. He would tell me to leave, so I did.

G: Have you noticed over the years, a change in your dad's cognitive functioning? Such as irrational, bizarre, or abnormal behaviour?

M: No, he has always tended to lie about things.

G: Has your dad been diagnosed with anything?

M: He is diabetic and has glaucoma – he is blind in one eye. He has had both conditions for many years, since I was a teenager.

G: With your mom, she has dementia? When was she diagnosed?

M: Yes, she is in the early stages. She was just diagnosed in June of this year because she had a fall, and the hospital carried out a series of tests.

G: How did your dad react to her?

M: He kept arguing that the diagnosis was incorrect.

G: Why?

M: I don't know. He asked her to try other sources of medication, like Eastern medicine.

G: Did you ever have a conversation with mom about dad's denial?

M: Yes, after the diagnosis. I think it's because dad really relies on her doing housework and taking care of him. If he accepts the diagnosis, then he has to accept that maybe she is not capable of doing things for him. He doesn't reciprocate and do things for her.

G: Does your mom give your dad his medicine?

M: No, normally he does that himself. Sometimes mom would get his prescription, but this always leads to a lot of arguments. My mom used to get yelled at and my dad would accuse the pharmacy of stealing his prescription to sell to other people.

G: Is he concerned about finances?

M: No, they are well off. They own the house. They both have OAS and savings, enough for what they need and care, when needed. They both have equal access and control of these. There have never been financial issues between them.

G: Now turning to the incident.

G: Tell me everything about the incident that you know.

M: I received a phone call at 12:30 from my dad and he told me that he pulled my mom over and she was in bed. I asked, why would you do that? He said, mom went to his room and messed up his things. He told me that he couldn't stand living with a crazy woman. If you are a good daughter, you will come and live with us again. I wasn't sure whether to believe him. I said that you must call yourself because I don't know what happened. I then decided to check whether it was true. When I got to their house the police were already there and mom was in hospital.

G: What happened from there - at house?

M: Police told me what happened. I drove to the hospital to check on mom. When I saw her, she said that my dad made her fall. I asked, "did you go into his room?" She said "yes". I asked, "did he allow you in his room?" She said "yes, then he got upset, that jerk made me fall".

G: Do you know if she was on medication?

M: She is on medication for dementia and depression.

G: When you talked to your dad, did he explain why he waited so long to get medical help for your mom?

M: No. He didn't have an answer for that.

G: Did he say anything else about what happened?

M: Just that she went into the room and messed up his things, so he tried to grab them, and he pulled her out.

G: Recurring theme regarding his things. Why do you think he is like that?

M: When mom was in hospital for her fall dad had a helper. She tried to clean up his room. He yelled at her and fired her.

G: When was that?

M: I think February 2022. At that time, my mom was in a senior's home because she had a fall and bone fracture, so we sent her to a temporary facility.

G: Who hired the helper?

M: Dad did. She was so scared that she hid in mom's room.

G: Was that the fall that led to her dementia diagnosis?

M: No, she had another fall on May 25, 2022, and was discharged from hospital June 25th.

G: What happened?

M: That day my dad called me and said that mom went out and she never came back. So, I went to their house, and she was not there. I found her in the backyard lying on the floor. She seemed to lose consciousness. I called 911 and took her to hospital.

G: What happened?

M: In the ambulance she said that she was hungry and had not eaten recently. She was diagnosed with bladder infections, and she had some scratches and infections due to the fall. Later my dad said that she went out to collect the garbage can. I asked why he didn't tell me or go and check on her - he said he had no idea where she went at the time.

She had a bone fracture - that is why she went to a senior facility. She was almost recovered and longing to go home. The second day she went home, my dad fired the helper because they went to his room.

G: How does he manage through the house?

M: He seems fine in the house; he doesn't need a cane.

G: No walking into walls?

M: He cannot see things far away.

G: How is your dad managing when your mom is not at home – like taking care of the house?

M: From what I see, the house is really messy.

G: Was it like that when you lived there?

M: No. Mom was the one doing all the household chores. She still keeps it tidy.

G: There are a lot of boxes in offices and to the left side. The reason why I'm asking, would you consider your parents to be hoarders? (Described hoarders - different degrees)

M: Reminds me of my dad, he likes to collect things.

G: What's in your parents' house causes me concern. I think it's turning into a safety issue. If there was ever an emergency. I would be concerned if your parents were in the basement because there is so much stuff, especially considering their mobility and sight issues.

M: Yes.

G: Have you ever tried to get rid of things?

M: I would not dare to...

G: When was he diagnosed with diabetes?

M: More than 10 years ago

G: Does he take meds?

M: Yes

G: Do you notice his behaviour changing at all?

M: I guess his temper is worse - he gets frustrated

G: Anything else you think we missed asking you or that you think we should know?

M: My dad likes to accuse people of stealing his things. My husband says he is just arrogant. And did I tell you that I was told that he has been a "spoiled brat" since he was young? My grandparents had servants, they told me he threw dishes out the window when he didn't like them. He's been like this for a long time.

INTERVIEW ACCUSED/SUSPECT July 31, 2022

This text page consists of notes made during the interview in the jail with TAN, Cheng. An interpreter was used when necessary. The legend is as follows:

F = TAN, Cheng (Daniel)

L = Constable L

G = Detective Constable GRIFFIN

Comments

TAN speaks English quite well and understood almost every question that DC GRIFFIN asked him. I noticed that TAN could see well enough to grab onto a railing; when we were back in the room, he saw where the chair was, sat down by himself and was able to draw a diagram.

As we were waiting for his lawyer to call back, TAN chatted incessantly to me. TAN said to me that the trial should be short because he was simply doing the necessary thing - protecting his medications. At another point he said something like, "I'm very talkative aren't I?" and he kept repeating the phrase - my wife is changing - she has been changing this last year - (she just isn't the same way she used to be). He also talked about his family and his wife's family in Singapore, and things like his opinion about his wife's cooking.

TAN stood (at his own insistence) on his own, for close to 30 minutes while he was waiting for his lawyer's phone call to come in. When we were back in the interview room, TAN answered the questions asked of him, but as the questions got harder and more related to the offence, the answers became more drawn out sounding less and less relevant to the question asked. It almost appeared as if he was avoiding the question purposively and making himself sound less lucid than he had been before.

17:25 – Introductions, rights and purpose of the interview explained.

G: We talked outside about your family. How long have you and your wife been married?

F: A long time, decades.

G: How would you describe the marriage?

F: Fine, we are fine, although she is different now.

G: Do you want to continue to live with your wife?

F: No, not really.

G: Regarding the incident, we have gotten her side - what happened?

F: Briefly I can tell you. I can't remember all the details now, it's complicated.

G: What do you remember?

F: When I entered the room to prepare for bed I found my wife in front of my medication. She was messing it up, I asked her why?

G: Did she say anything?

F: Do you see the scratch here? She did this with her fingernails. Maybe the scratch washed away.

G: Then what happened?

F: The fight started. I was upset because she has touched my medication in the past and then I have noticed that my eyesight gets worse. We fought over the pills; she was angry and would not let go. I have never seen her this way. I just did something. I should not have been using my hands to fight her.

G: You've never hurt a woman like this?

F: No, No. I was just too excited in the moment. I hit her, I didn't, because the female face is important. I just pulled her out of the room. She fell on the ground and pretended to faint. When you came, she stood back up and had a lot to say. It was like when she got back up from the ground she started screaming. When the police officer arrived.

G: Daniel stop and listen - don't talk

- Daniel crying (head in arms on table) -

G: I appreciate you being honest. Listen I understand in the heat of the moment it gets out of control - but Daniel listen. I'm trying to understand so I can put the pieces together. Why didn't you call for help until late the next day? Your wife needed medical attention.

F: That night two things happened - around 7 pm she came up and told me the boiler only makes cold water, so I went to take a look at the boiler. She kept pressing buttons and kept talking. We have two boilers.

- Further discussion about boilers and steamer -

G: I don't understand what you are trying to get at.

- Boiler discussion with buttons between TAN and translator -

G: Daniel -

F: I said I don't believe in it. The water matter was solved before.

G: What's this got to do with the fight?

F: It's my medication, I have a right to protect it.

G: What medication are you taking?

F: Medication for diabetes, back pain, eye drops.

Interview ended since redirection to discussion of the incident was unsuccessful.

POLICE STATEMENT

On Tuesday August 2nd, 2022, I (Det GRIFFIN) spoke with Kate SLANEY (assigned social worker). She relayed that while TAN, Lien (the victim) currently has decision making capacity, there is a written plan in place for when that may change. TAN, Mai, daughter of the victim will hold decision making power. TAN, Lien is currently open to moving into her daughter's home, and her daughter has agreed to this. She is also open to living in a seniors home. This would allow TAN, Daniel to return to the residence and live independently of Lien.

Det GRIFFIN
Elder Abuse Unit
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