

8/4/22 Transcript of phone call with MCSO deputy Rider:

The actual mp3 audio is also attached in case I there are any mistakes in my transcript.

Deputy Rider: Hello? You're calling about a gentleman that's up on Stockton Hill Road.

— Yeah, that's who I called about.

I understand that. What would you like to talk about?

— Well, don't you think that he needs treatment?

Okay, I will tell you this, Christine. I have the right to refuse medical attention under about 99.9% of circumstances. If my leg, whether or not I believe that he needs treatment is irrelevant. Okay? If my leg is cut off and I'm bleeding out in the middle of the street and I want to refuse to have emergency medical technicians, DMTs or paramedics come out and help me, that's my right to do so. He does not want help.

— You do realize that he has mental health problems, and that's why he does not want help?

Okay. And under Arizona state law, the only way that he is going to go in for mental health for a Title 36, which is self danger to others, him just living out in the elements is not necessarily enough to say that he needs help.

— Okay, so who actually makes these decisions, these rules? Who trained you, is what I'm asking.

Who trained me? I was trained by a bunch of post, certified instructors for Arizona post. And as far as who writes the rules, that would be the Arizona state legislature. So if you don't like how the rules are written, but understand that people have their rights, and it is very difficult to take away somebody's rights. And the only person that's going to go in and take away those rights, it has to go through his doctor, if he has one, through a judge. And a judge has to sign over an order saying that this person goes in for mandatory treatment. But you have to provide articulable facts, explainable facts to a court to explain well, he's just living out on the streets. Well, he's lawfully allowed to do so. If he doesn't want help, he can refuse help. We've been out there and contacted him on numerous occasions. I'm not legally allowed to sit there and force him to go in for treatment. I would then possibly be charged with kidnapping.

— That's really interesting.

Yeah, that's the law. So under Title 36 is the only way to force somebody to go in for treatment, but that goes through his doctor, through judge. If he doesn't want treatment, he's within his god-given rights to refuse treatment.

— Who is his doctor?

I don't know. That's not my business. My business is to see if he's breaking a law. He's not breaking the law. If he wants to be left alone, he needs to be left alone. If he's not breaking the law, he's not doing anything criminal, ...

— Even though he can't even say his name.

Okay, so if a person is mute and cannot say their name ...

— He's not mute. I don't think he's mute because he can say three words, and that's "fine" and "blessing" or "bless you".

And again, under certain circumstances, if I don't want to talk, if you don't want to talk to your next door neighbor ...

— It's not that he doesn't want to talk. He cannot talk because he has a mental health problem. It's a most serious problem.

Let me ask you this are you a mental health professional?

— I'm a human being with compassion and empathy.

That's not my question. Are you a mental health professional?

— Do I need to be one? I spent five days, let me put it this way, I spent five days in the loony bin two and a half years ago. I will have to kill myself next year because of that. And I was nothing like that man.

What I'm asking you is this if you are not a mental health professional, then I am curious to know how you know he has a medical problem.

— I'm in Kingman right now. Can I go get a mental health professional to check them out?

If you want to call Mojave Mental Health or Southwest Behavioral or Tarot[???] to see if they want to go out there, that's fine by me. I'm not a mental health professional. I have had some limited training on mental health and people in crisis to be able to recognize those things. And other than that, we rely on our mental health professionals to go out

and do assessments. Just because he can't say his own name doesn't mean that he's in a mental health crisis. He may be on drugs. He may be on alcohol.

— How long has it been there? Don't you think you deserve treatment if he's on drugs?

Again, if I want to drink myself to death, I'm lawfully allowed to do so. Using drugs is illegal. But again, if I use drugs and I overdose, again, it's not a crime.

— Now, have you talked to him?

I have.

— And you don't think he has a mental health problem?

Whether or not I think that he has a mental health problem is irrelevant.

— No. That's your job. You just told me that you decide whether somebody needs to go in for treatment or not.

There is an extremely small set of circumstances where I can mandate somebody to go in for treatment. Okay. I have gone and talked to him. He has answered my questions, and he does not meet the criteria that I would be mandated to allow them to force him to go in for treatment. So if he chooses not to go for treatment, he chooses not to go. Do we like it? No. Would I prefer that if he has a mental health issue or he has an addiction issue, that he go in and get treatment? Absolutely. In the state of Arizona, if he chooses not to, that is his right.

— So how long has he been there?

That's irrelevant.

— That's not irrelevant.

He could be there for a day. He could be there for a year. The time that he's out there doesn't matter.

— But it does matter because he will die there.

That's his choice. If he wants to do that, that's his choice.

— That's a very interesting conversation. Good to know

The state of Arizona allows you the freedom of choice yes. For people who have the mental capability to decide what they want to do.

— I actually have a suicide petition online so that people. I want people to be able to go to a doctor and be euthanized instead of having to blow their brains out or overdosing an opiates. I think it would be much better if people could just go to the doctor. Like we take the dogs to the vet when they need to go. But that is why, that is why I was incarcerated in that shithole called Loony Bin from Southwest, and I have a personal interest in it. I'm in litigation right now. They're telling me that they were justified to do this to me. And I see that man and I'm like, I could cry.

Well, like I said, ma'am, he has been contacted on numerous occasions

— But no mental health professional. You've never taken somebody with you from Southwest or Mohave Mental Health to assess them?

Ma'am, again, the issue that's at hand that you are concerned about is this person who's living on the side of the road. He's doing so of his own free will. He has been checked. He has been asked if he wants help. He has refused it. There is legally nothing else to be done unless he is out there breaking a law and then depending on the law that he is breaking, it's not even an arrestable offense.

— I'm not saying that he should be arrested. I'm saying that he needs help, he needs treatment.

He may very well I don't know. I'm not a psychiatrist or anything.

— That's what I'm saying. Have you ever taken a psychiatrist out there to see what a professional would say?

Ma'am, he has already been seen, and they have already attempted to get him treatment.

— Who?

I'm not going to tell you, because that's honestly, that's private information. But what I'm telling you is this. If he does not want mental health help, unless there is a Title 36 order from a doctor to the judge and a court order saying, go pick this person up for mental health treatment.

— Okay, well, I'm going to follow up on this. I think that maybe I have the right to some information and who makes these rules and who has seen him, because this man is going to die, and it's important, his life matters.

I didn't say that his life doesn't matter. I said that he has the right to choose what to do with his own life. If he doesn't want help, you can't force it on him. I can't force it on him.

— Funny that it got forced on me. Why was it forced on me? But you don't know that. You could read about that on my blog. I was going to kill myself. That's what I told Doctor Ohri.

There you go. You told a doctor that you were going to kill yourself.

— Yeah, when I ran out of money. Can't I do that? Isn't that my right? Is it a crime to kill myself when I run out of money?

If you report to a mandated reporter, i. e. Law enforcement, medical technicians, a doctor, a nurse practitioner or psychiatrist, psychologist that you are going to kill yourself, they are mandated by the state. They are ordered by the state by the state legislature that they are required to get you in for mandatory assessment and treatment. So if you wanted to kill yourself, you don't say it, you do it.

— But it's not illegal. I still want to kill myself. I have my petition online. So you want to go take me away again? I'm going to kill myself when I run out of money, which will be after I sell my home, because I know I'm going to run out of money by the end of the year, and I got to sell my house. Then I'm going to live like that guy, but slightly better in a van or in a truck until I'm out of money because I can't live on \$266 a month in Social Security.

— And again, when you make a statement to a doctor or a peace officer, yes. If I went and found you, then, yes, I would take you in for mandatory treatment because you made a statement that you're going to kill yourself. Okay.

— Why would you do that? It's not illegal.

That is because I'm a mandated reporter. That's what you don't understand.

— I don't understand it. I have to plan my life and my death. It's called being responsible.

You made statements to a doctor. That doctor took action. You were forced to go for treatment.

— I didn't get any treatment.

Well, that's not my fault. That's not on me. That's on mental health. You don't like it, take it up with mental health.

— I am, I'm suing them right now. And that's beside the point.

By all means, that you're right to go ahead and do so. Okay? But I am not, we, the sheriff's office, are not going to go out and force this guy to get treatment that he doesn't want

— And you refuse to take a mental health professional out there to assess him. Correct?

Listen to me. Stop interrupting me. Because I'm not interrupting you, and it's rude.

— My apologies.

The sheriff's office has gone out and talked to him. He does not meet the criteria to force him to go in for mandatory treatment. Whether or not somebody has been out there and tried to talk to him or not, I'm not going to disclose. But I'm going to tell you that he has been contacted on numerous occasions and does not at this point have anything going on that we would say that he is required to go in for treatment.

— You don't think people suffer immediate harm being out there in the desert?

Again, if he wants to live like that, that is his right to choose to do so. If he doesn't want to do that ...

— You're not answering my question. But that's okay. I appreciate your information, and I will take it from there. Thank you very much.

Have a good day.

— You too. Bye.