

AFFIDAVIT – BAIL BONDMAN

State of New York)
):ss:
County of Erie)

I, Kevin Riford, being duly sworn, under oath, deposes and states the following under the penalties of perjury:

1. That on May 30, 2023, I paid Barima Yaw, a Bails Bondsman, \$5,500 cash, in person, outside of the Niagara County Jail. My sister, Katie Riford had a \$100,000 bond placed on her by Town of Hartland Justice Joanne Sullivan. The bails bondsman required zero collateral, would only accept cash, did not ask for my driver's license or ID, did not ask about my occupation or income, did not ask if I owned a home, never had me sign any paperwork (including a contract), and did not provide me with any court documentation upon payment when requested.
2. On May 30, 2023, on my way arriving to the Niagara County Jail, Barima Yaw, informed me that my sister Katie Riford was already out of jail and asked me if she was wearing a black dress, to which I replied, "I am not sure." I was shocked that Katie Riford was out of jail before the bail's bondsman received any money. Due to the fact that Katie Riford was already released from Jail, I felt obligated to pay the bondsman money, and believed that if I failed to pay him, I would be reported for theft.
3. I wanted to count the money inside the Niagara County Jail, but the bondsman said, "We don't do that in front of the Sheriff." The bails bondsman counted the money inside his vehicle in the Niagara County Sheriff parking lot. I was given a paper receipt which stated the date and amount paid.¹ No other documentation was provided to me.
4. The bondsman, Barima Yaw, indicated there would be paperwork for me to fill out at the Niagara County Jail. He stated, "I'll give you one sheet of paper to fill out." I responded "Okay, what's the one sheet of paper, just like name and stuff like that." He responded "Ya, ya, your name and stuff." and also said he would need my "information and license." I told him we could do the paperwork inside the Niagara County Jail, where

¹ Copy of paper receipt provided by Barima Yaw (1 pg.) – EXHIBIT A

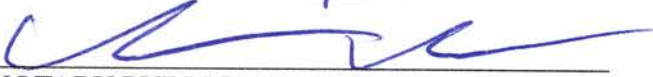
there are chairs. However, upon arrival, there was no paperwork for me to fill out and he never asked me to fill out any paperwork.

5. During one of my phone conversations with Barima Yaw, I stated the following “You take cash or credit, right? Either one?” Barima Yaw stated “Ughh, ya. But, right now, no, for this case we prefer the cash.” I indicated at one point during the conversation that I was worried about being scammed.
6. During one my phone conversations with Barima Yaw, he placed a phone call to the Niagara County Jail. He asked the Niagara County Sheriff employee who picked up the phone whom the presiding judge was to my sister’s case, to which the Niagara County Jail employee responded “presiding”. According to the Cambridge Dictionary the definition of presiding is in charge of a formal meeting, ceremony, or trial.
7. There is no judge at the Town of Hartland Court with the name “presiding”. The two town justices’ names are Joanne Sullivan and James Minner.
8. During one of my phone conversations with Barima Yaw, he told me that “there is no misdemeanor that is \$100,000 that is for sure.”
9. During one of my conversations with Barima Yaw, he told me “The judge was nice, ya, I was there with her for a while.” I responded, “Ya, that’s alright.” Barima Yaw then started laughing hysterically and stated, “you know what I mean.”
10. I realized after paying the bondsman that I may have been scammed. I called a few other bail companies to confirm my suspicions. I was informed that they would find it very odd if a bondsman did not require collateral on a \$100,000 bond. I was informed that contracts are always completed in bonds transactions to make sure the bondsman doesn’t lose his money. I was also informed that they would take at a minimum a title to a house or multiple cars as collateral for a \$100,000 bond.



Kevin Riford
3038 Michael Drive
North Tonawanda, NY 14120

Sworn to before me this 1 day of November 2023 by



NOTARY PUBLIC FOR NEW YORK



VICTORIA MARIE RETZLAFF
Notary Public, State of New York
Registration # 01RE6350352
Qualified in Monroe County
My Commission expires 11/07/2024

EXHIBIT A

RECEIPT

DATE 5/30/23No. 846417

RECEIVED FROM

Kevin Riford\$5,500.00Fifty five hundred —

DOLLARS

☐ FOR RENT☒ FORBail — Katie Riford

ACCOUNT

PAYMENT

BAL. DUE

5500 —☒ CASH☐ CHECK☐ MONEY
ORDER☐ CREDIT
CARD

FROM

5/30

TO

BY

[Signature]A-2701
T-46800