THE TIME HAS COME FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT RECORDINGS OF CUSTODIAL INTERVIEWS, START TO FINISH

THOMAS P. SULLIVAN*

INTRODUCTION

Throughout the United States, more and more law enforcement officials are coming to realize the tremendous benefits they receive when the questioning of suspects in police facilities is recorded from beginning to end, starting with the Miranda warnings and continuing until the interview is completely finished. Recordings put an end to a host of problems for detectives: having to scribble notes during interviews and later type reports; straining on the witness stand weeks and months later, trying to describe what happened behind closed doors at the station; becoming embroiled in courtroom disputes about what was said and done during custodial interrogations, and about whether suspects' statements were voluntary; and having to defend against charges of use of unlawful tactics or misstating what occurred.1 Recordings of interviews Miranda to the end will also improve on non-recorded questioning followed by recorded final statements, which leave detectives open to charges that they improperly induced confessions dur-

^{*} Thomas P. Sullivan is a senior partner at Jenner & Block LLP and a former United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois. He also served as a Co-Chair of Illinois Governor George H. Ryan's Commission on Capital Punishment from 2000 to 2002.

¹ See Thomas P. Sullivan, Northwestern University Center on Wrongful Convictions Special Report, *Police Experiences with Recording Custodial Interrogations*, 1, 2-3 (2004), available at http://www.jenner.com/policestudy (last visited Aug. 1, 2006).

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ing the preliminary non-recorded sessions.

Recording complete custodial interrogations creates an incontestable, real-time record that the lawyers, judges and juries may evaluate as though it took place right in front of them.

I. THE TREND TOWARD REQUIRING CUSTODIAL SUSPECT RECORDINGS IN FELONY INVESTIGATIONS

Reform to the system of station house questioning has been a long time coming, but is clearly gaining momentum. In 1985 the Supreme Court of Alaska,2 and in 1994 the Supreme Court of Minnesota,³ ordered statewide recordings of custodial interviews. As we entered the Twenty-First Century, no other state reviewing court had followed the lead of the Alaska and Minnesota courts, nor had any state legislature enacted a law requiring recordings of custodial interrogations. That inertia was ended by the Illinois General Assembly in 2003, following a series of exonerations of defendants who had been given death sentences, and the recommendation of a special Governor's Commission,4 on which I served as Co-Chair: a statute was enacted requiring electronic recording of questioning of suspects in homicide investigations.⁵ Other legislatures have followed suit: mandatory recording statutes have been enacted in Maine (2004),6 New Mexico (2006),7 Wisconsin (2005),8 and the District of Columbia (2005).9 Similar statutes have been introduced in many other state legislatures.

The highest courts of two other states have also acted recently. The Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts held in 2004 that cautionary jury instructions must be given about

² Stephan v. State, 711 P.2d 1156, 1162 (Alaska 1985).

³ State v. Scales, 518 N.W.2d 587, 591 (Minn. 1994).

⁴ ILLINOIS GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON CAPITAL PUNISHMENT, Recommendation 4 (Apr. 15, 2002) [hereinafter ILLINOIS COMMISSION].

 $^{^5}$ 725 Ill. Comp. Stat. Ann., § 5/103-2.1 (West 2006) (adults); 705 Ill. Comp. Stat. Ann., § 405/5-401.5 (West 2006) (minors). The Illinois Eavesdropping Act was amended to permit police recordings to be made covertly. 720 Ill. Comp. Stat. Ann., § 5/14-3(k) (West 2006).

⁶ ME. REV. STAT. ANN. tit. 25, § 2803-B(1)(K) (West 2006).

⁷ N.M. STAT. ANN. § 29-1-16 (West 2006).

 $^{^8}$ WIS. STAT. §§ 968.073, 972.115 (2005). This statute was enacted shortly after the Supreme Court of Wisconsin held that custodial questioning of juveniles in detention facilities must be electronically recorded. *In re Jerrell*, 699 N.W.2d 110, 123 (Wis. 2005).

⁹ D.C. CODE §§ 5-116.01-03 (2005).

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non-recorded custodial statements offered into evidence by the prosecution, ¹⁰ causing many departments to begin recording in order to avoid the impact of the instructions. The New Jersey Supreme Court adopted a rule in 2005 mandating recordings statewide and cautionary jury instructions about non-recorded statements. ¹¹

II. OUR INQUIRIES INTO POLICE EXPERIENCES WITH RECORDINGS

There is an interesting irony at play here. Historically, the proponents of recording custodial interrogations have been members of the criminal defense bar who warn that recordings of custodial interviews are needed to dissuade detectives from coercing confessions and/or misstating what the suspects said and did.¹² The usual opponents are law enforcement officers who insist they do not use improper tactics and do not misstate what occurred, and argue that there is no need to require them to use this expensive, cumbersome method of recording custodial interviews. When my associates and I have spoken with police and prosecutors who have not tried recording interviews, they often recount a litany of reasons why recording custodial interrogations is a worthless idea that would seriously impair law enforcement efforts to ferret out the truth and solve crimes.

Which brings me to the point of this article. Back in 2003, after the Illinois Governor's Commission's report was published but before the Illinois legislature adopted the mandatory recording statute, several colleagues and I decided to try to learn the experiences of officers who, although not required to record their custodial stationhouse questioning, do so on a voluntary basis. We started making calls to police and sheriff's departments and state agencies we had reason to believe recorded custodial questioning from *Miranda* to the end. We began with a list of ten, and when we found one that recorded we asked the

¹⁰ Commonwealth v. DiGiambattista, 813 N.E.2d 516, 533-34 (Mass. 2004).

¹¹ SUP. CT. R. 3.17 (2005). This rule resulted from recommendations of a Special Committee appointed by the New Jersey Supreme Court. *See State v. Cook*, 847 A.2d 530, 533, 546-547 (N.J. 2004). *See also State v. Barnett*, 789 A.2d 629, 632-33 (N.H. 2002) (holding that if an electronically recorded final statement is offered into evidence, it is admissible only if the entire post-*Miranda* interrogation session was recorded).

 $^{^{12}\,} See$ Sullivan, Police Experiences with Recording Custodial Interrogations, supra note 1, at 2.

 $^{^{13}}$ See id. at 2-3.

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officer to suggest names of others that might also record. Our inquiries were thus not made through normal survey techniques; rather, we followed leads garnered through the calls made to departments we were advised might be recording full interviews.

As this article went to press, we had identified over 450 police and sheriff's departments in small, medium and large communities from almost every state (many in California) that customarily record a majority of their custodial interrogations – by audio, video or both – in a defined class of felony investigations, for example, homicides, crimes of violence to the person, major/serious felonies, and the like. Our current list is attached as Appendix 1 to this article. We learn of more and more each week as our calls continue, and we are confident there are many other recording departments we have not yet identified. 15

III. OUR FINDINGS

After speaking with many detectives and state prosecutors, and reviewing the case law on the subject of recording, here is what we have found. Of the hundreds of experienced detectives to whom we have spoken who have given custodial recording a fair try, we have yet to speak with one who wants to revert to non-recording. They enthusiastically endorse the practice. The words they use vary, but their reasons are so repetitious they seem rehearsed. Over and over we have been told that recordings protect officers from claims of misconduct, and practically eliminate motions to suppress based on alleged police use of overbearing, unlawful tactics; remove the need for testimony about what was said and done during interviews; allow officers to concentrate on the suspects' responses without the distraction of note taking; permit fellow officers to view interviews by remote hookup and make suggestions to those conducting the

¹⁴ The list identifies departments that have advised us they record a majority of their interrogations of suspects held in custody in police facilities, from the *Miranda* warnings until the end, in a defined kind of felony investigation. After each call, I send a letter, with a copy of a memorandum summarizing the telephone conversation, to the officer to whom my associates or I spoke, with a request for written confirmation that our summary is accurate, or corrections to make it accurate.

 $^{^{15}}$ Readers who know of additional departments that record are requested to send contact information to tsullivan@jenner.com.

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interview; disclose previously overlooked clues and leads during later viewings; protect suspects who are innocent; make strong, often invincible cases against guilty suspects who confess or make guilty admissions by act or conduct; increase guilty pleas; serve as a training tool for the officers conducting interviews, as well as for officers aspiring to become detectives; and provide protection against civil damage awards based on police misconduct.

We have also spoken to many state prosecutors in communities where recordings are made. They too are outspoken supporters of custodial recordings. They say that proof of confessions or admissions, or evasions and signs of guilty conscience, is immeasurably stronger when established by electronic recordings, rather than by police testimony based on notes, typewritten reports, and testimonial descriptions. Guilty pleas often result, and prosecutors' bargaining power with respect to dispositions is increased.

As illustrated by the cases referred to in the footnote,¹⁶ trial and reviewing court judges much prefer having electronic records of custodial interviews, which makes it unnecessary for them to listen to (trial courts) or read and evaluate (reviewing courts) disputed testimony about what went on in station interview rooms.

In the end, the beneficiaries of recording custodial interrogations are (1) officers who conduct interviews in a lawful manner, (2) suspects who are not involved in the crime under investigation, (3) the interests of efficient, accurate, fair law enforcement, and (4) law enforcement budgets. The major "detriment" falls upon (1) guilty suspects who, having been given *Miranda* warnings, waive their rights and voluntarily engage in recorded interviews, and then confess, make damaging admissions, or engage in conduct reflecting consciousness of guilt, and (2) the few errant officers who use improper interrogation tactics and/or misstate what occurred during the session.

The criminal justice system as a whole benefits because rightful convictions increase, the guilty are imprisoned, and the

¹⁶ See, e.g., In re Jerrell, 699 N.W.2d 110 (Wis. 2005); Commonwealth v. DiGiambattista, 813 N.E.2d 516 (Mass. 2004); State v. Cook, 847 A.2d 530 (N.J. 2004); State v. Barnett, 789 A.2d 629 (N.H. 2002); State v. Scales, 518 N.W.2d 587 (Minn. 1994); Stephan v. State, 711 P.2d 1156 (Alaska 1985); see also Thomas P. Sullivan Electronic Recording of Custodial Interrogations: Everybody Wins, 95 J. CRIM. L. & CRIMINOLOGY 1127, 1130, n.6, 1138-39 (2005).

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risk of wrongful convictions decreases.

IV. THE COMMON OBJECTIONS TO RECORDINGS

We have become all too well aware of the objections commonly made by those in law enforcement who have not attempted custodial recordings: suspects will "clam up" and refuse to speak, resulting in loss of confessions and admissions; judges and juries will be repulsed by certain permissible interrogation tactics (for example, falsely asserting that incriminating evidence of the suspects' guilt has been obtained, shouting, using street talk, blaming the victim); recording devices may malfunction or run out of tape; and costs will be prohibitive. I have explained elsewhere why none of these objections has proven to be a valid reason for not recording. Indeed, only a handful of the officers in the recording departments we have spoken with have even mentioned these kinds of problems, and none said they were of major significance.

V. Conclusion

In this electronic age, the time has come for all federal, state and local law enforcement agencies to take advantage of the benefits to be reaped from recording custodial interviews. Federal investigative agencies, which often lead the way with new techniques and devices, are sadly remiss when it comes to recording custodial interviews. Personnel of these agencies from top to bottom are well aware of marvelous advances recently made in electronic equipment. Squad cars often carry recording devices. Public and private facilities, including many police buildings, require entrants to submit to electronic searches. Officers regularly use recording devices for audio and video taping family events. Their children use electronics both in school and at home.

Law enforcement officials throughout the United States should put aside fanciful, hypothetical objections to this major improvement in the way they do their jobs. Members of our state and federal legislatures should give serious consideration to legislation requiring that custodial interrogations be re-

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¹⁷ Sullivan, Police Experiences with Recording Custodial Interrogations, supra note 1, at 19-25; Vol. XIX The Chief of Police, No. 6 (Nov.-Dec. 2005); and see Sullivan, Electronic Recording of Custodial Interrogations, supra note 16, at 17-19.

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corded,¹⁸ thus bringing their law enforcement personnel into line with best practices, which will result in a savings of public funds and greatly assist in accurate, efficient law enforcement.

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 $^{^{18}\,\}mathrm{A}$ model electronic recording statute is attached as Appendix 2.

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APPENDIX 1

VI. DEPARTMENTS THAT CURRENTLY RECORD A MAJORITY OF CUSTODIAL INTERROGATIONS

PD stands for Police Department. CS stands for County Sheriff.

Alabama	Prescott PD	El Coion DD
		El Cajon PD
Mobile CS	Scottsdale PD	El Dorado CS
Mobile PD	Sierra Vista PD	Escondido PD
Prichard PD	Somerton PD	Folsom PD
	South Tucson PD	Grass Valley PD
Alaska	Surprise PD	Hayward PD
All departments –	Tempe PD	LaMesa PD
Supreme Court	Tucson PD	Livermore PD
${ m ruling^{19}}$	Yavapai CS	Oceanside PD
	Yuma CS	Orange CO Fire
Arizona	Yuma PD	Authority
Casa Grande PD		Orange CS
Chandler PD	Arkansas	Placer CS
Coconino CS	Fayetteville FD	Rocklin PD
El Mirage PD	Fayetteville PD	Roseville PD
Flagstaff PD	14th Judicial	Sacramento CS
Gila CS	District	Sacramento PD
Gilbert PD	Drug Task Force	San
Glendale PD	State Police	Bernardino CS
Marana PD	Washington CS	San Diego PD
Maricopa CS	Van Buren PD	San Francisco PD
Mesa PD		San Joaquin CS
Oro Valley PD	California	San Jose PD
Payson PD	Alameda CS	San Leandro PD
Peoria PD	Auburn PD	San Luis PD
Phoenix PD	Butte CS	Santa Clara CS
Pima CS	Carlsbad PD	Santa Clara PD
Pinal CS	Contra Costa CS	Santa Cruz PD
		Stockton PD

 $^{^{19}\,}Stephan\,v.\,State,\,711$ P.2d 1156, 1162 (Alaska 1985).

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Union City PD	Delaware	Pinellas CS
Ventura CS	New Castle	Port Orange PD
West	County PD	St. Petersburg PD
Sacramento PD	New Castle City PD	
Woodland PD	State Police	Georgia
Yolo CS		Atlanta PD
	District of	Cobb County PD
Colorado	Columbia	DeKalb
Arvada PD	All departments –	County PD
Aurora PD	${ m statute}^{20}$	Fulton County PD
Boulder PD		Gwinnett
Brighton PD	Florida	County PD
Broomfield PD	Broward CS	Macon PD
Colorado	Cape Coral PD	Savannah-
Springs PD	Collier CS	Chatham PD
Commerce City PD	Coral Springs PD	Warner Robins PD
Cortez PD	Daytona Beach PD	
Denver PD	Ft. Lauderdale PD	Hawaii
El Paso CS	Ft. Myers PD	Honolulu PD
Ft. Collins PD	Hallandale	
Lakewood PD	Beach PD	Idaho
Larimer CS	Hialeah PD	Ada CS
Logan CS	Hollywood PD	Blaine CS
Loveland PD	Kissimmee PD	Boise City PD
Montezuma CS	Lee CS	Bonneville CS
Sterling PD	Manatee CS	Caldwell PD
Thornton PD	Margate PD	Canyon CS
	Miami PD	Cassia CS
Connecticut	Mount Dora PD	Coeur d' Alene PD
Bloomfield PD	Orange CS	Dept. Fish &
Cheshire PD	Osceola CS	Games
	Palatka PD	Garden City PD
	Pembroke Pines PD	Gooding CS
		Gooding PD
		Hailey PD
		Idaho Falls PD

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Jerome CS	Clark CS	Fayette CS
Jerome PD	Clarksville PD	Fayette County PD
Ketchum PD	Dyer PD	Iowa City PD
Lincoln CS	Elkhart PD	Marshalltown PD
Meridian PD	Fishers PD	Muscatine PD
Nampa PD	Floyd CS	Nevada PD
Pocatello PD	Fort Wayne PD	Parkersburg PD
Post Falls PD	Greensburg PD	Polk CS
State Police	Hamilton CS	Sioux City PD
Twin Falls PD	Hancock CS	Vinton PD
	Hartford PD	
Illinois	Jeffersonville PD	Kansas
All departments –	Johnson CS	Liberal PD
homicides –	Montpelier PD	Ottawa PD
$\mathrm{statute}^{21}$	Noblesville PD	Sedgwick CS
Other felonies –	Schererville PD	Wichita PD
Bloomington PD	Sheridan PD	
Dixon PD	Steuben CS	Kentucky
DuPage CS	State Police	Elizabethtown PD
East St. Louis PD	Westfield PD	Hardin CS
Galena PD		Louisville
Kankakee CS	Iowa	Metro PD
Kankakee PD	Altoona PD	Louisville PD
Naperville PD	Ames PD	Oldham CS
O'Fallon PD	Ankeny PD	
Rockton PD	Arnolds Park PD	Louisiana
Winnebago CS	Benton CS	Lafayette City PD
	Bettendorf PD	Lake Charles PD
Indiana	Davenport PD	Oak Grove PD
Allen CS	Dept. of Public	Plaquemines
Atlanta PD	Safety, Crim.	Parish CS
Auburn PD	Intgns. Div.	St. Tammany
Carmel PD	Des Moines PD	Parish CS
Cicero PD		

 21 705 Ill. Comp. Stat. Ann. § 405/5-401.5 (West 2006); 725 Ill. Comp. Stat. Ann. § 5/103-2.1 (West 2006); 720 Ill. Comp. Stat. Ann. § 5/14-3(k) (West 2006).

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Oak Bluffs PD Orleans PD Cleveland PD Cleveland PD Cleveland PD Douglas CS Bevere Fire Dept. Somerset PD Troro PD Troro PD Yarmouth PD Missouri Lake Area Auburn Hills PD Benzie CS Benzie CS Bloomfield Hill Public Safety Detroit Biloxi PD Cleveland PD Douglas CS Holdredge PD Kearney PD Lancaster CS Lincoln CS Lincoln PD Madison CS Madison CS North Platte PD Omaha PD O'Neill PD	Fall River PD	Mississippi	Cozad PD
Revere Fire Dept. Somerset PD Troro PD Yarmouth PD Missouri Lake Area Auburn Hills PD Bloomfield Hill Public Safety Detroit Gulfport PD Hall CS Holdredge PD Kearney PD Lancaster CS Lincoln CS Michigan Narcotics Enf. Group Platte CS North Platte PD North Platte PD Major Case O'Neill PD	Oak Bluffs PD		Dawson CS
Somerset PD Troro PD Jackson CS Wissouri Auburn Hills PD Benzie CS Bloomfield Hill Public Safety Detroit Harrison CS Jackson CS Kearney PD Lancaster CS Lincoln CS Lincoln PD Madison CS Madison CS Madison CS North Platte PD North Platte PD O'Neill PD Major Case O'Neill PD	Orleans PD	Cleveland PD	Douglas CS
Somerset PD Troro PD Jackson CS Wissouri Auburn Hills PD Benzie CS Bloomfield Hill Public Safety Detroit Harrison CS Jackson CS Kearney PD Lancaster CS Lincoln CS Lincoln PD Madison CS Madison CS Madison CS North Platte PD North Platte PD O'Neill PD Major Case O'Neill PD	Revere Fire Dept.	Gulfport PD	Hall CS
Yarmouth PD Missouri Lincoln CS Lincoln PD Auburn Hills PD Benzie CS Bloomfield Hill Public Safety Detroit Lancaster CS Lincoln CS Lincoln PD Madison CS Madison CS Madison CS Norfolk PD Norfolk PD North Platte PD Omaha PD Omaha PD O'Neill PD	Somerset PD	Harrison CS	Holdredge PD
Missouri Lincoln CS Lake Area Lincoln PD Auburn Hills PD Benzie CS Bloomfield Hill Public Safety Detroit Missouri Lincoln CS Lincoln PD Madison CS Madison CS Norfolk PD North Platte PD Omaha PD Omaha PD O'Neill PD	Troro PD	Jackson CS	Kearney PD
MichiganLake AreaLincoln PDAuburn Hills PDNarcoticsMadison CSBenzie CSEnf. GroupNorfolk PDBloomfield HillPlatte CSNorth Platte PDPublic SafetySt. Louis CountyOmaha PDDetroitMajor CaseO'Neill PD	Yarmouth PD		Lancaster CS
Auburn Hills PD Benzie CS Bloomfield Hill Public Safety Detroit Narcotics Enf. Group Platte CS North Platte PD Omaha PD Omaha PD O'Neill PD		Missouri	Lincoln CS
Auburn Hills PD Benzie CS Bloomfield Hill Public Safety Detroit Narcotics Enf. Group Platte CS North Platte PD Omaha PD Omaha PD O'Neill PD	Michigan	Lake Area	Lincoln PD
Bloomfield Hill Public Safety Detroit Platte CS St. Louis County Major Case North Platte PD Omaha PD O'Neill PD	_	Narcotics	Madison CS
Bloomfield Hill Platte CS North Platte PD St. Louis County Detroit North Platte PD Omaha PD O'Neill PD	Benzie CS	Enf. Group	Norfolk PD
Detroit Major Case O'Neill PD	Bloomfield Hill	_	North Platte PD
Detroit Major Case O'Neill PD			
3			
Isabella CS St. Louis Co. PD State Patrol		•	

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 $^{^{22}}$ Me. Rev. Stat. Ann. tit. 25, § 2803-B(1)(K) (West 2006).

 $^{^{23}}$ Owing to the ruling of the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts in $Commonwealth\ v.\ DiGiambattista,\ 813\ N.E.2d\ 516\ (Mass.\ 2004),\ many\ law\ enforcement$ agencies have begun to record custodial felony interrogations.

²⁴ State v. Scales, 518 N.W.2d 587, 591 (Minn. 1994).

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Nevada	New Jersey	Garfield Hts. PD
Boulder City PD	All departments –	Grandview Heights
Carlin PD	Supreme Ct. Rule:	PD
Dept. Public Safety	homicides 1/06,	Hartford PD
Douglas CS	other felonies	Hudson PD
Elko CS	$1/07^{26}$	Millersburg PD
Elko PD		Ohio State
Henderson PD	New Mexico	Univ. PD
Lander CS	All departments –	Reynoldsburg PD
Las Vegas	${ m statute}^{27}$	Upper
Metro PD		Arlington PD
North Las	New York	Wapakoneta PD
Vegas PD	Binghamton PD	Westerville PD
Reno PD	Broome CS	Westlake PD
Sparks PD	Cayuga Heights PD	Worthington PD
Washoe CS	Delaware CS	
Wells PD	Deposit PD	Oklahoma
Yerington PD	Endicott PD	Moore PD
	State Police –	Norman PD
New Hampshire ²⁵	Binghamton	Oklahoma CS
Carroll CS	Ithaca	Tecumseh PD
Concord PD	Oneonta	
Conway PD	Sidney	Oregon
Enfield PD	Tompkins CS	Bend PD
Keene PD	Vestal PD	Clackamas CS
Laconia PD		Eugene PD
Lebanon PD	North Carolina	Lincoln City PD
Nashua PD	Concord PD	Medford PD
Plymouth PD	Wilmington PD	Salem PD
Portsmouth PD		State Police,
State Police	Ohio	Springfield
	Akron PD	Warrenton PD
	Board of Pharmacy	Yamhill CS
	Brown CS	
	Columbus PD	
	Dawson CS	

 $^{^{25}\,\}mathrm{In}$ State v. Barnett, 789 A.2d 629, 632-33 (N.H. 2002), the Supreme Court held that, if an electronically recorded final statement is offered into evidence, it is admissible only if the entire post-Miranda interrogation session was recorded.

 $^{^{26}\,\}mathrm{Sup.}$ Ct. R. 3.17 (2005).

 $^{^{27}}$ N.M. Stat. Ann. § 29-1-16 (West 2006).

South Carolina	Texas ²⁸	Washington
Aiken CS	Austin PD	Adams CS
Aiken Dept. of	Burleson PD	Bellevue PD
Public	Cedar Park PD	Bothell PD
Safety	Cleburne PD	Buckley PD
N. Augusta Dept. of	Collin CS	Chehalis CS
Public Safety	Corpus Christi PD	Columbia CS
Savannah River	Dallas PD	Ellesburg PD
Site Law Enf.	Frisco PD	Federal Way PD
	Georgetown PD	King CS
South Dakota	Harris CS	King County
Aberdeen PD	Houston PD	Fire/Arson
Brown CS	Johnson CS	Investigation
Clay CS	Leander PD	Unit
Lincoln CS	Plano PD	Kittitas CS
Sioux Falls PD	Randall CS	Lewis CS
State Div. of Crim.	Richardson PD	Mercer Island PD
Investigations	Round Rock PD	Mount Vernon PD
Vermillion PD	San Antonio PD	Pierce CS
	Taylor PD	Snohomish CS
Tennessee	Webster PD	State Patrol
Blount CS	Williamson CS	Thurston CS
Bradley CS		U. WA PD
Brentwood PD	Utah	Yakima CS
Chattanooga PD	Salt Lake City PD	
Cleveland PD	Salt Lake CS	Wisconsin
Goodlettsville PD	Utah CS	All departments –
Hamilton CS		statute
Hendersonville PD	Vermont	(juveniles 1/1/06,
Loudon CS	Norwich PD	adults 1/1/07) ²⁹
Montgomery CS		
Murfreesboro PD		
Nashville PD		

 $^{^{28}\,\}mathrm{The}$ Texas Code of Criminal Procedure provides that a defendant's oral statement is inadmissible unless recorded, but does not require that questioning preceding the final statement be recorded, and does not deal with suspects' written statements. Tex. Code Crim. Proc. Ann. art. 38.22 (Vernon 2004); see also Rae v. State, No. 01-98-00283-CR, 2001 WL 125977, at 3 (Tex. App. 2001) (not designated for publication); Franks v. State, 712 S.W.2d 858, 860 (Tex. App. 1986).

 $^{^{29}\,\}mathrm{Wis.}$ Stat. §§ 968.073, 972.115 (2005).

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APPENDIX 2

VII. MODEL BILL FOR ELECTRONIC RECORDING OF CUSTODIAL INTERROGATIONS 30

Be it enacted by [insert name of legislature]:

Section 1. Definitions.

- (a) "Custodial Interrogation" means an interview which occurs while a person is in custody in a Place of Detention, involving a law enforcement officer's questioning that is reasonably likely to elicit incriminating responses.
- (b) "Place of Detention" means a jail, police or sheriff's station, holding cell, correctional or detention facility, or other place where persons are held in connection with juvenile or criminal charges.³¹
- (c) "Electronic Recording" or "Electronically Recorded" means an audio, video or digital recording that is an authentic, accurate, unaltered record of a Custodial Interrogation, beginning with a law enforcement officer's advice of the person's constitutional rights and ending when the interview has completely finished.
- (d) "Statement" means an oral, written, sign language or nonverbal communication.

Section 2. Recordings Required. All Statements made by a person during a Custodial Interrogation relating to a crime described in the following sections of the [insert jurisdiction] Criminal and Juvenile Codes shall be Electronically Recorded: [insert section numbers].

Section 3. Presumption of Inadmissibility. Except as provided in Sections 4 and 5, all Statements made by a person during a Custodial Interrogation that is not Electronically Re-

³⁰ Reprinted by special permission of Northwestern University School of Law, *The Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology*.

³¹ In the event legislators wish to expand the reach of this bill to include custodial interrogations of persons who are in custody outside a "Place of Detention," delete Section 1(b), and delete the words "in a Place of Detention" from Section 1(a). Consideration should be given to the addition of exception for excited utterances.

corded, and all Statements made thereafter by the person during Custodial Interrogations, including but not limited to Statements that are Electronically Recorded, shall be presumed inadmissible as evidence against the person in any juvenile or criminal proceeding brought against the person.

Section 4. Overcoming the Presumption of Inadmissibility. The presumption of inadmissibility of Statements provided in Section 3 may be overcome, and Statements that were not Electronically Recorded may be admitted into evidence in a juvenile or criminal proceeding brought against the person, if the court finds:

- (a) That the Statements are admissible under applicable rules of evidence; and
- (b) That the Statements are proven [insert applicable burden of proof] to have been made voluntarily, and are reliable; and
- (c) That, if feasible to do so, law enforcement personnel made a contemporaneous record of the reason for not making an Electronic Recording of the Statements; and
- (d) That it is proven [insert applicable burden of proof] that one or more of the following circumstances existed at the time of the Custodial Interrogation:
 - (i) The questions put by law enforcement personnel, and the person's responsive Statements, were a part of the routine processing or "booking" of the person; or
 - (ii) Before or during a Custodial Interrogation, the person agreed to respond to the officer's questions only if his or her Statements were not Electronically Recorded; or
 - (iii) The law enforcement officers in good faith failed to make an Electronic Recording of the Custodial Interrogation because the officers inadvertently failed to operate the recording equipment properly, or without the officers' knowledge the recording equipment malfunctioned or stopped operating; or
 - (iv) The Custodial Interrogation took place in another jurisdiction and was conducted by officials of that jurisdiction in compliance with the law of that jurisdiction; or (v) The law enforcement officers conducting or contemporaneously observing the Custodial Interrogation reasonably believed that the making of an Electronic Recording would jeopardize the safety of the person, a law enforcement officer, another person, or the identity of a confidential informant; or
 - (vi) The law enforcement officers conducting or contem-

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poraneously observing the Custodial Interrogation reasonably believed that the crime for which the person was taken into custody, or was being investigated or questioned, was not among those listed in Section 2; or (vii) Exigent circumstances existed which prevented the making of, or rendered it not feasible to make, an Electronic Recording of the Custodial Interrogation.

Section 5. Exceptions. Statements, whether or not Electronically Recorded, which are admissible under applicable rules of evidence, and are proven [insert applicable burden of proof] to have been made by the person voluntarily, and are reliable, may be admitted into evidence in a juvenile or criminal proceeding brought against the person if the court finds:

- (a) The Statements are offered as evidence solely to impeach or rebut the person's testimony, and not as substantive evidence; or
- (b) The Custodial Interrogation occurred before a grand jury or court: or
- (c) The person agreed to participate in a Custodial Interrogation after having consulted with his or her lawyer.

Section 6. Handling and Preservation of Electronic Recordings.

- (a) Every Electronic Recording of a Custodial Interrogation shall be clearly identified and catalogued by law enforcement personnel.
- (b) If a juvenile or criminal proceeding is brought against a person who was the subject of an Electronically Recorded Custodial Interrogation, the Electronic Recording shall be preserved by law enforcement personnel until all appeals, post-conviction and habeas corpus proceedings are final and concluded, or the time within which they must be brought has expired.
- (c) If no juvenile or criminal proceeding is brought against a person who has been the subject of an Electronically Recorded Custodial Interrogation, the related Electronic Recording shall be preserved by law enforcement personnel until all applicable statutes of limitations bar prosecution of the person.

Section 7. Effective Date: This Act shall take effect on [insert date].