

New Jersey Division Of Fish & Wildlife
Voluntary Witness Statement Form

Date: 10-2-14 Time: 1400 [A.M./P.M.]

Location: [REDACTED]

Name: [REDACTED] Date Of Birth: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Conservation Officer(s) Present: LT. DOUGLAS J. APPELGATE
Case File: 45-114-14

My girlfriend [REDACTED] and I were walking along the yellow trail, which was supposed to go around a smaller pond in the preserve. We came to a point where we sort of lost the trail, and split up to see which way to go. We could still see each other through the woods, decided just to try to stay close to the water, and not back up. That was when [REDACTED] said she saw a bear and went quickly back up the trail the way we had come. I didn't see it at first, it was about 100 ft away, just sort of standing there. It didn't really seem to notice me, or be aggressive, so I stood and watched while [REDACTED] ~~was~~ told her to follow her. Then I walked

Signature: [REDACTED]

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slowly up the trail, reluctant because I was still curious to see it. I lost the bear around a corner and caught up with [REDACTED]. We stood and talked for a moment, and then I saw the bear walking up the center of the trail after us. It didn't seem to be walking very quickly, or necessarily even following us. It ~~wasn't~~ wasn't really acting aggressively as far as I could tell. [REDACTED] and I continued up the trail quickly, and about a minute later came across 5 hikers. We told them that there was a bear a few hundred feet up the trail and to be careful, and continued on our way. They reacted much the way I would have, "Oh, cool, I want to see it" they seemed to stand there to figure out what to do next, and ~~we~~ We went on not thinking much of it.

Signature: [REDACTED]

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