

AFFIDAVIT OF BROOKE BINKOWSKI

STATE OF CALIFORNIA §
 §
SAN DIEGO COUNTY §

Before me, the undersigned notary, on this day personally appeared Brooke Binkowski, a person whose identity has been established to me. Upon being duly sworn, Affiant states:

1. My name is Brooke Binkowski. I am over the age of 21 and competent to make this affidavit.

2. I am a multimedia journalist and researcher, and I am the Managing Editor of Snopes.com.

3. The Snopes.com website was founded by David Mikkelson in 1994 as an expression of his interest in researching urban legends, and it has since grown into the oldest and largest fact-checking site on the Internet.

4. Over twenty years later, Snopes.com has come to be regarded as an essential source for research on rumors and misinformation. Our work has been described as painstaking, scholarly, and reliable, and has been lauded by the world’s top folklorists and journalists.

5. As part of my work with Snopes, I routinely investigate rumors circulating on the internet to assess their validity.

6. In the course of this work, I have become very familiar with the website 4chan.org.

7. 4chan.org is a web site that has come to represent the worst of Internet culture. Its visitors frequently create and disseminate violent racist and misogynistic content that they use for purposes of “trolling” and “shitposting” (two Internet culture words that

are employed in a variety of ways but in this context means using disinformation and smears to harass and bully people online.)

8. 4chan.org is an anonymous public site that does not seem to be moderated; its most notorious channel, /pol/, has become a gathering place for white supremacists to discuss or plan events and create and spread hoaxes.
9. The culture of 4chan.org is described by members as ironic nihilism, which is often cover for users to air out their most repellent sentiments under cover of “humor” without consequence, and is thus fertile ground for radicalization.
10. 4chan’s reputation for hoaxes and false information is well known among journalists and online culture.
11. In my work with Snopes, I am also very familiar with InfoWars, who often propagate the false stories debunked on our website.
12. InfoWars articles and videos frequently refer to 4chan. I have no doubt that InfoWars reporters are aware of 4chan and aware of its reliability problems.
13. Any journalist familiar with 4chan would have serious doubts about the accuracy of an image obtained from an anonymous 4chan message.
14. Even ignoring 4chan’s notorious history of fakery, publishing an image from any anonymous message board with no meaningful corroboration of its accuracy violates absolutely every standard of care I have applied throughout my 23-year career in journalism.

FURTHER YOUR AFFIANT SAYETH NOT



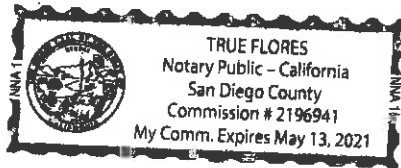
Brooke Binkowski

A notary public or other officer completing this certificate verifies only the identity of the individual who signed the document to which this certificate is attached, and not the truthfulness, accuracy, or validity of that document.

State of California
County of San Diego

Subscribed and sworn to (or affirmed) before me on this 13th
day of July, 2018, by Kimberly Brooke
Binkowski

proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the
person(s) who appeared before me.



(Seal)

Signature

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized cursive script that appears to be "KB".