



Path to Success in Cold Case Sexual Assault Investigations

Lessons Learned in Detroit Cold Case Sexual Assault Investigations

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Lessons learned in Detroit Cold Case Sexual Assault Investigations

The Detroit SAKI site identified a number of barriers that stood in the way of a successful cold case sexual assault investigation and prosecution.

Of the many issues identified, two will be highlighted in this presentation.

- First we will look at building a case around Micro-corroboration
- Second we will review conducting a good Victim Notification

Building a Case
Around
Micro-Corroboration



Defining Micro- Corroboration

- Verifying small details that can often demonstrate (or undermine) the credibility of a witness.



Customer Statement

Original Invoice : 026-0581712

Art Van Furniture

22555 GREENFIELD RD
SOUTHFIELD MI 48075
(248) 569-3770

The address on the receipt is the address of the defendant

Sold to:

Charles Pugh
1431 Washington Blvd Apt 1008
Detroit Mi 48226 1722
Home : (313) 399-0700
Work : (248) 552-5283

Delivered To:

Charles Pugh
1431 Washington Blvd Apt 1008
Detroit Mi 48226
Home : (313) 717-4638
Work : (248) 552-5103

Salesperson:

23067 OZELLA

TP	Qty	Model Number	Description	Delivery Date	FS	Completed Date	Price	Extended Price
Invoice Number: 026-0581712 Date: 7/02/03								
Deposits: Credit Card: 81.62								
TK	1	AMWO 97463	Computer Desk/Western Alder	Wed 07/02		Thu 07/02	77.00	77.00

The date establishes the first sexual assault

The sales person still works there and becomes a witness on the case

Defining Micro- Corroboration

- Verifying small details that can often demonstrate (or undermine) the credibility of a witness.
- ***Identifying what seems to be insignificant evidence often overlooked in normal investigations because of overwhelming other physical evidence. (why look on Facebook for photos of the suspect holding a gun when you have the suspect arrested at the scene with the murder weapon)***



NOV 27 2000

C. Smith

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM

TO: Charles Pugh
 FROM: Jim Clayton
 SUBJECT: Last and Final Warning
 DATE: November 22, 2000
 CC: N. Goldstein, C. Smith, M. Talley, D. White, AFTRA

It has come to my attention that you persist in harassing our interns, [redacted]. This despite conversations you had on October 6, 2000, with both Neil Goldstein and Cynthia Smith and on November 16, 2000 with me in my office specifically prohibiting you to do so.

In your meeting on October 6th with Neil Goldstein and Cynthia Smith you were informed that your co-workers were uncomfortable with what they perceived as an "inappropriate" relationship with Newsroom intern, [redacted]. you did in fact have a picture of Jason on your desk, and that you also drove him to and from work. Your response to these concerns was that you were acting as a mentor, and that [redacted] was "like a little brother" to you. During that meeting you were told, specifically, to cease personal involvement in [redacted] internship activities at WJBK. You were strongly advised to avoid fraternization with [redacted] particularly, while he was still assigned as an intern. You were also directed to remove [redacted] picture from your desk and to cease driving him to and from work.

Despite verbal warnings regarding your inappropriate relationship with an intern, once again you have demonstrated extremely poor judgement by continuing to have contact and involvement with [redacted] in the Production department where he was reassigned. In a meeting on November 21, 2000 in Cynthia Smith's office attended by Neil Goldstein, Cynthia Smith, you and Bill Gallagher, you admitted that you took it upon yourself to initiate a conversation with Jeanette Scheidelmantel, Production Producer, concerning the circumstances surrounding [redacted] reassignment to her department. Your actions were inappropriate and in direct violation of the previous verbal warnings you received. Also during the November 21st meeting, you admitted to accompanying Jason to the Production department on Thursday, November 16, 2000, because as you stated, "he didn't know his way to the department". These incidents are particularly disturbing.

"Last and Final Warning / Nov 22, 2000"

Interns name is blocked out

"inappropriate relationship with intern"

"acting as a mentor and treating him as a little brother"

The Verdict

Charles Pugh

Charles Pugh
was sentenced after a guilty
plea to the Michigan
Department of Correction for a
period of 5 – 15 years.



Defining Micro- Corroboration

- Verifying small details that can often demonstrate (or undermine) the credibility of a witness.
- Identifying what seems to be insignificant evidence often overlooked in normal investigations because of overwhelming other physical evidence. (why look on Facebook for photos of the suspect holding a gun when you have the suspect arrested at the scene with the murder weapon)
- ***Identifying or documenting these small details overlooked when the crime was reported.***

Micro-Corroboration

Victim left women's shelter at 330 am to take a city bus to a community center who then bussed her and others out to Kmart by great lakes crossing... She gave the route she walked and where she picked up the bus.... The Detective obtained historical bus routes off the internet and contacted Kmart to verify the employment of the victim (her name and she worked days nothing further). The Detective also contacted the community center project that ran the work program and confirmed they had such a program. This all countered the defense story that the victim was a prostitute.

The Verdict

William Fuller

William Fuller
will be imprisoned at the
Michigan Department of
Corrections for the next
70 – 100 years....



Defining Micro- Corroboration

1. Verifying small details that can often demonstrate (or undermine) the credibility of a witness.
2. Identifying what seems to be insignificant evidence often overlooked in normal investigations because of overwhelming other physical evidence. (why look on Facebook for photos of the suspect holding a gun when you have the suspect arrested at the scene with the murder weapon)
3. Identifying or documenting these small details overlooked when the crime was reported.
4. ***Identifying new evidence now that we have a suspect. (traffic tickets, parking tickets, other arrests from the time surrounding the crime, or other connections that tie the suspect to the [1] crime, [2] scene or [3] victim).***

Linking the Suspect to the Crime Scene

Court O Case 04T84724 Pty DOI Charge PROH TURN Type OI Status CLSD
Name ALMAHE/MODHA FER/A

ISTATE OF MICHIGAN | CASE NO: 04T84724 DOI OI
119TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT! REGISTER OF ACTIONS STATUS: CLSD 10/05/04
10R1s2013sJ

JUDGE OF RECORD:
JUDGE:

CITY OF DEARBORN v

ALMAHE/MODHA FER/A
4915 CABOT
DETROIT

CTN:
TCN:
SID:

ENTRY DATE: 06/21/07
OFFENSE DATE: 09/29/04 930 PM
VPN: MI ZBR745 05

DOB: 01/01/1970 SEX: M RACE: W DLN: ID
VEH YR: VEH MAKE: VIN:

NXT ROA CASE 04T84724 PTY DOI COUNT 00 INQ ALMJIE/J ST
F1-Top F2-Bottom F9-Print F13-OutQ Page/Roll F3/F24-Prior

Date of offense –
four days prior to
assault

Location of sexual
assault was the
same address
listed by
defendant as his
residence

Defendant claims he does not live in Michigan and does not even know the areas. A traffic ticket issued four days prior to the assault clearly establishes the defendant living in Detroit at the residence where the assault occurred.

State of Michigan)
ss.
County of Wayne)

SEARCH WARRANT AND AFFIDAVIT

To the Sheriff or any peace officer of said County:

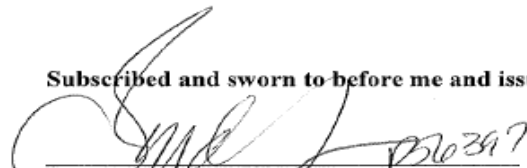
The Affiant, having subscribed and sworn to an affidavit for a Search Warrant, and I having under Oath examined the affiant, am satisfied that probable cause exists.

NOW, THEREFORE, IN THE NAME OF THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN, I command that you search ;

2014 Dodge Ram Pickup Truck, white in color, Michigan license plate DCV5590 (10/15) with VIN: 1C6RR7TT5ES282280, including any parts interior parts removed.

and to seize, secure, tabulate and make return according to law the following property and things:

mucus, or other body fluid containing human DNA (Deoxyribonucleic acid)


ASSISTANT PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
Assistant Prosecuting Attorney
Mich. State Bar No. P-[Bar No.]
Magistrate

AFFIANT 
Investigator Ken Muscat
Subscribed and sworn to before me and issued under my hand 9/7, 2015.

JUDGE of Westland
Judge of the [Name of Court]
WAYNE County., Michigan, and a

does not remember much about the 2005 assault. King told Affiant the second male subject involved in the 2014 sexual assault allegation was his son, William Randolph King Jr (08/03/64, SID:1208812T). King (Senior) told

and details surrounding the event. McClintock said after the two men sexually assaulted her, they told her to get into the back seat of the 4 door white Dodge Ram Pickup truck. They drove for approximately 45 minutes and made

feared for her safety and according to her, she felt she needed to leave her DNA behind in the truck for someone to find if something happened to her. McClintock told me she smeared nasal mucus on and under the rear seat of

truck. However, a computer search of the CLEMIS reporting system revealed King was stopped by police in the City of Ferndale on 04/28/14. He was issued a speeding ticket while driving a white Dodge Ram pickup truck bearing Michigan license plate DCV5590.

During the interrogation of William King (senior) he confirmed his son drives a white Dodge Pickup truck and thought his son owned the vehicle.

The Verdict

William Randolph King was convicted after a jury trial and sentenced 40 – 70 years in the Michigan Department of Corrections.



Victim Notification



Victim Notification

This portion is not about deciding how you should do notifications at your SAKI site, but more what has worked for us in Detroit.

We understand every site has their own process

- using Advocates during notifications
- using only Detectives
- using both Advocates and Detectives

The first two minutes
after the Knock

Your Case is Important

There is no “one-size fits all” method of notification. It’s more about the *tone* than the *how*.

The victim needs to hear, “I am sorry for the way you were treated”, and “I believe you”.

The Notification

The person(s) making the notification should have some understanding of the circumstances and history of the underlying case. What was the victim's prior treatment and history in the criminal justice system? (Avoid re-victimizing.) For example, some kits may not have been tested because law enforcement perceived the victim as uncooperative; while the victim's perception may have been that law enforcement discouraged them from going forward.

Victim Notification

The method of notification should take the victim's current life circumstances into account when appropriate (mental health issues, substance abuse, addiction issues, employment, homelessness, etc.).

Be aware of the situation, who is home, suspect may still be around, have alibi ready.

May not be worst thing that happened in their lives.

Victim Notification

Based on their first experience with the criminal justice system, sexual assault victims may have lost trust or feel betrayed by the system. An apology can promote healing, reestablish trust, and provide closure.

Be ready to answer questions about the process, the criminal justice system, who to contact/call for support, ongoing information, their rights, etc.

Be prepared to conduct the full forensic interview at that time, have photo line up, medical release, rule out consensual partners, but this is not preferred.

Victim Notification

Implement a 2 step model, conduct the interview at a second meeting if possible. Try not to overload the victim on the first contact.

Provide the victim with the choice of time, date and location.

Provide victim with the choice of having a support person present at the appropriate times.

Be prepared to respond to the shock and impact of reliving the assault, neurobiology of trauma.

Victim Notification

Follow up call later in same day for reassurance.

Victim notification is not an event.

Victim notification is an ongoing process of victim engagement and support.

Victim notification is the single most important step to moving a case in the right direction!!!!!!

Contact Information



Lead Detective Ken Muscat

(313) 224-0273

kmuscat@waynecounty.com

Detective Mark Farah

(313) 224-5741

mfarah@waynecounty.com