



D23 Nicole Brown Simpson: From Threat Assessment to Lethal Domestic Violence - What Can We Learn From Her and Other Victims of Abuse?

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After attending this presentation, attendees will gain a greater understanding of the threat assessment process, the analysis of domestic violence crime scenes and the prediction and possible intervention in domestic abuse cases.

This presentation will impact the forensic community and/or humanity by providing a greater understanding of the analysis of domestic violence scenes, the assessment of the various types of threats and an assessment of the type of individuals who are likely to abuse or be abused.

On June 12, 1994, Nicole Brown Simpson attended her daughter's dance recital at Paul Revere Middle School with her family. The event was followed by a family dinner at Mezzaluna Trattoria, and ice cream at Ben and Jerry's. OJ Simpson was not included in the celebration. He made it perfectly clear that he was furious! He was a man who was not used to rejection!

Following the festivities, Nicole and her children returned to their home at 875 S. Bundy Street. A short time later, it was discovered that Nicole's mother had left her prescription glasses at the restaurant. Ronald Lyle Goldman, their waiter at Mezzaluna, found the glasses and offered to drop them off at Nicole's residence, since Bundy Street was on his way to his after work date. Nicole sent 9-year-old Sydney and 6-year-old Justin to bed, drew her bath and waited for Goldman to drop off the glasses before she slipped into her tub. Sometime around 10:00 p.m. neighbors heard Nicole's Akita barking. Nicole sustained stab wounds to her neck and head and her throat had been slashed. Ronald Goldman sustained approximately twenty-five stab and incised wounds. A left glove and a stocking cap were discovered at the scene. Bloody Bruno Magli shoe prints were noted, walking away from the bodies toward the alley behind Nicole's residence. Blood drops were discovered on the left side of the shoe prints. A limousine driver was waiting in front of OJ's house on Rockingham Avenue to drive him to the airport at eleven p.m. for a late flight to Chicago. Kato Kaelin heard a thud against the air conditioner in his room. The bloody right glove was later discovered at this location. OJ Simpson's white Ford Bronco was impounded while he was still in Chicago. Blood that matched OJ, Nicole and Ronald was discovered on the driver's door, front seats, the steering wheel and the console. Thirty-nine drops of projected blood were discovered on one of the socks OJ wore on the night of the murders and nineteen drops were discovered on the other. Cuts were documented on a finger on OJ's left hand. Simpson was later arrested following a 60-mile slow speed chase on 405 with his friend Al Cowlings in Cowling's white Bronco. The media recorded this drive from the air and each overpass of the highway, as OJ sat in the passenger seat, holding a gun to his own head. A jury found O J Simpson not guilty of the criminal charges. A civil jury later heard the same testimony and found him liable for the murders, awarding the Brown and Goldman families 33.5 million dollars.

Could this tragic crime have been prevented? Why did Nicole remain married to OJ Simpson from 1985 to 1992 in spite of her claims that OJ had abused her for most of their marriage? What could she or other victims of domestic abuse do to participate in their own safety and survival? What can authorities do when a victim reports abuse and violence on numerous occasions but repeatedly returns to the abuser and refuses to prosecute? Why do victims of domestic violence remain with their abuser? How can authorities tell if the threat is real and the victim is truly in danger? What is the obligation of the psychiatric community to report patients who confide victimization or violent intentions and what information regarding their patients must they reveal? And finally, are individuals who have celebrity status treated differently by law enforcement and the legal system? These are a few of the many questions that will be addressed by the three presenters in this joint session. The murder of Nicole and Ronald will be used as an example of the worst case scenario possible, along with numerous other case examples from the case files of the presenters.

Threat Assessment, Domestic Violence, Intervention