



### D50 She Loved Him to Death: A Domestic Violence Homicide Case Study

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After attending this presentation, attendees will have an understanding of the cycle of domestic violence and how this can be applied to male victims of domestic violence. Although studies indicate that 85% – 95% of domestic violence victims are female, this case study will show there are similarities in cases when the male is the victim of the domestic violence. In addition, this case will demonstrate how difficult it is for the victim to end the relationship and escape the domestic violence even when utilizing multiple resources.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by not only examining the crime scenes themselves, it will also relay the killer's behavior before, during, and after the murder as it relates to power and control a batterer has over a victim of domestic violence. This presentation will also impact the forensic community by examining this statistically unusual domestic violence homicide case where the male is the victim his wife is the perpetrator. In addition, discussing the multiple crime scenes and the processing of these scenes, how multiple law enforcement agencies worked together, and the cyber crime forensic experts all supported the prosecution of this offender. Finally, examining the importance of how domestic violence has no boundaries or does it target a specific gender, social economic class, race, or ethnic background.

The primary goal of this presentation is to present a domestic violence case study of a Purdue University married student who was killed by his wife. His body was then dismembered and found in a trunk of a vehicle. The multiple crime scenes, weapons used, and the autopsy findings will be described and illustrated. In addition, the cycle of domestic violence, myths surrounding victims and batterers, and how the police, courts, and Purdue University addressed the domestic violence between the student and his wife that preceded his murder.

In this particular domestic violence case study, the wife's physical abuse of the husband came to the attention of the Purdue University Police Department when she physically assaulted her husband causing him minor injuries. She was arrested; however, there were no formal

charges filed by the prosecutor's office. The reason given for the "No File" was the determination of mutual combativeness and how the husband/victim refused to cooperate with the prosecution process.

A few months later, the Purdue University Police responded to the apartment again. Upon their arrival they found that while having sexual intercourse the wife had stabbed the husband in the chest with a knife. She then stabbed herself in the chest and cut her wrist prior to the arrival of the police. The husband and wife were taken to the hospital, for medical treatment, where they recovered. The medical personnel informed the police that the husband's pericardium sack had been nicked by the tip of the knife. The wife was arrested a second time for domestic violence battery related crimes and formal charges of attempted murder were later filed against her.

Although the husband told his wife, on numerous occasions he wanted a divorce, he bonded her out of jail. Within a few months, the wife would violate the protective order. The protective order was adjusted so they could attend marriage counseling together. A short time after the adjustment was made, the husband was reported missing by co-workers.

During this investigation, it was learned that the husband had moved out of his campus apartment and was living with his wife in her apartment in Lafayette, Indiana. There was blood found in that apartment and it was learned that the wife had purchased a gun online and shot her husband in the head. She then dismembered his body, placed it in the trunk of her vehicle and went across the state line. She then boarded an airplane, leaving his body in the trunk of the vehicle which was parked in a parking garage and left the country. Once she reached China, she was stopped due to not having proper documentation to enter the country. She had stolen her husband's passport and pretended to be him in an attempt to flee prosecution. She was later prosecuted in China and is currently on death row.

**Domestic Violence, Dismemberment, Homicide**