



Digital and Multimedia Section – 2012

B15 Homicide: The Effects of Fraudulent Social Network Accounts

Adanna N. Smith, MA, 1300 East Lafayette, Apartment 109-110, Detroit, MI 48207*

After attending the presentation, attendees will be able to see the effect of fraudulent social network accounts (such as Facebook and Twitter) leading to child homicide and/or rape homicide as a result of meeting in person for social purposes, prostitution, to buy drugs and other types of criminal acts.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by highlighting, through research and comparative analyses, the demographics (race, socioeconomic status, location, religion, sexual preference, and other trends) that may be most affected by predators. The presentation will discuss and critique patterned escalation of deviant behavior of convicted sex offenders as well.

While most of the issues surrounding this new type of predator are still being researched and categorized, this session will identify some causes, effects, and impacts these predators have on the subset of targeted population evaluated in this study.

The presentation introduces computer forensics to attendees to provide the foundation for the chain of events leading the collection of evidence for homicides. Evidence such as fingerprints, pictures, and DNA will be discussed as additional mechanisms utilized to obtain a positive identification of the predators. The comparison of the systems in place to monitor child activity on the internet such as parental controls will be examined as well.

A differentiation between computer forensics and mobile phone forensics will be provided. It is important to examine forensic artifacts, such as exchanged e-mails, notifications received, and picture uploads to social sites or via MMS (Multimedia Messaging Service) from mobile phones that can lead to a meeting that results in homicide. Recent studies have shown that mobile phones are now being analyzed in investigations because many people check and respond to e-mails on their mobile phones. Because of this, investigators are unable to locate messages that could show insight on illegal activities on laptops or hard drives when they are confiscated.

This presentation acknowledges historical data related to chat rooms as they provide the framework of the evolution of social network use. It is important to note that data collection pertaining to investigations of crimes related to fraudulent social network accounts is still in the early stages of development. Because of this, there is a call for technological advances to assist law enforcement agencies to combat these types of deviant behavior.

Attendees will gain a fundamental appreciation and understanding of how multimedia can reveal pertinent information on homicide investigation. By studying demographics affected, attendees will obtain greater insight on the subset of targeted population through cognitive research and comparative analyses. The presentation will provide a description of how the advent of new multimedia technology affects the way homicide investigations are presently conducted. Useful information that can assist in both domestic and global homicide investigation by exploring how they intertwine will be provided. Collaborative efforts between domestic and global jurisdictions will be necessary to investigate and prosecute the predators. Finally, the collaboration between traditional forensic investigation and technological forensic investigation will be examined.

Homicide, Fraudulent, Social Media