



LW5 Double-Induced Suicide of a Father and Adult Daughter: A Case Report

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After attending this presentation, attendees will better understand a rare case of double-induced suicide of a father and a daughter, in which the daughter was the perpetrator.

This presentation will impact the forensic science community by illustrating that, even though very rare, these cases do exist and by providing a detailed insight into how the forensic investigation was conducted in this particular case.

Double-induced suicide is a known forensic entity that most often occurs in emotional relationships or can be caused by social issues. It is a prior agreement by the partners to end their lives. In heterosexual relationships, almost without exception, the perpetrator is a man who kills his partner first, then takes his own life.

A case of double-induced suicide of a father (53 years old) and a daughter (30 years old), both intellectuals with a university degree, will be presented.

Forensic expertise primarily determined that there had been an agreement between these two people to commit suicide, and that surprisingly the perpetrator was the daughter. A farewell letter that was found at the scene was analyzed by a handwriting expert, who determined that she wrote certain parts of the letter, but there were also parts of the letter that had been written by the father. Two guns were used as tools and Gunshot Residues (GSR) were found on the hands of both persons.

At autopsy, it was discovered that the father had four gunshot wounds: one distant-range gunshot wound to the right hip, one tangential gunshot scratch to the frontal region, with gunpowder tattooing, and two separate close-range gunshot wounds to the temporal region. The daughter had only one close-range gunshot wound to her chest, with the injury to the heart. Therefore, it was determined that the only possible scenario was one in which the daughter was the perpetrator who killed her father first, then took her own life.

This case is particularly interesting because the daughter was a young doctor, who obviously tried to present the murder of her father as his own suicide (close-range gunshot wound in the right temporal region). The analysis of her medical records discovered that she was diagnosed with acute depression, for which she was treated with antidepressant medications only 15 days prior to this tragic event. Furthermore, a few months before the event, the daughter published a book of poetry (as the author), the detailed analysis of which can also shed light on the motive of suicide — unattainable, forbidden love.

Double-Induced Suicide, Father and Daughter, Female Perpetrator