

CRM 499

Investigative Techniques Transcript

Setting: The news anchor is sitting at the news desk doing the news report.

News Anchor:

Good evening. Welcome to Courtelaney Pass News Network. This special report digs deeper into the issues facing our community. Our special guest for this report is Will O'Connor, a detective with the Fritzville Police Department.

Detective O'Connor, thank you so much for joining us this evening to discuss some of the issues facing law enforcement in Courtelaney Pass. It appears that the medical examiner may be complicit in 'covering up' certain heinous crimes...shouldn't you arrest him?

Setting: Detective in a police station.

Detective:

Good evening. Clearly there is concern over the medical examiner's actions or inactions. Medical examiners, or coroners, obtain vital forensic evidence from human remains. This can be done through a full autopsy, a physical post mortem examination (not a full autopsy), toxicology, or some combination of all these options. The decision as to the extent of the forensic examination rests with the medical examiner as he or she is a medical doctor with total authority over the body. With regards to Courtelaney Pass, it may be difficult to determine whether or not he is inept at best, or criminal at worst. I am certain that with a high quality and aggressive investigation, the truth will be known.

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News Anchor:

Thank you for those thoughts. Let's examine another issue facing Courtelaney Pass. Do you think the CPPD is going to fly an investigator to Idaho to arrest Iozzi?

Setting: Detective in a police station.

Detective:

Routinely, detectives do travel to different states while conducting their investigations. They can perform surveillance, conduct interviews, and collect evidence in those other states without conflict. However, making an arrest in a different state requires a warrant as well as an extradition hearing.

While Iozzi has been developed, through a dying declaration, as a suspect, there is no probable cause at this point to arrest him. Detectives must re-investigate the Kayla Williams homicide, collect any possible remaining evidence, perform interviews, and then, should Iozzi be implicated, he will be arrested.

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News Anchor:

Thank you for that explanation. Let's continue our conversation regarding Iozzi. What should the CPPD do with the "other officers" who supposedly had knowledge of Iozzi's crimes?

Setting: Detective in a police station.

Detective:

Remember, just because something is alleged does not equate to proof that it occurred. I can assure you that the CPPD will initiate a full and complete investigation into this matter of potential professional misconduct. However, we must be cognizant that the specific procedural laws are followed and strictly adhered to.

Internal or administrative investigations must occur independently and not as part of a criminal investigation. The U.S. Supreme Court decided this back in 1967 in the case of *Garrity versus the State of New Jersey*. The *Garrity* decision confirms this investigative independence and requires the officer or officers being questioned to answer any and all questions; even those that may incriminate. If they refuse to truthfully answer any questions, they may be terminated.

The internal investigation of any officers who may have knowledge of Iozzi's alleged crime should take place prior to the criminal inquiry. Once the results of that investigation are complete, then the CPPD can act appropriately should those allegations in fact be true.

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News Anchor:

One final issue to explore regarding Tom Iozzi. Could this matter be resolved simply by bringing Iozzi in for questioning and "grilling" him?

Setting: Detective in a police station.

Detective:

Nothing is simple in a criminal investigation. We must follow all leads, collect any remaining evidence, have that evidence analyzed, and then, if warranted, schedule an interview with the suspect.

There is a reason why the premier time to conduct an interview with a suspect is near conclusion of your complete investigation. The reason is that it gives the investigator the upper hand of knowing all the evidence gleaned up to that point. This is of critical importance, especially when an investigator is questioning someone like Iozzi, who as a former law enforcement agent, is very familiar with the process.

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News Anchor:

Detective O'Connor, thank you again for your time this evening. It does not seem that this is going to be a quick fix, but an in-depth analysis of the good, the bad, and the ugly. Citizens of Courtelaney Pass, as we know more we will certainly let you know.