

CRM 499

Forensic 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 Sara Jones, a forensic investigator with the Fritzville Police Department.

Miss Jones, thank you so much for joining us this evening to discuss some of the issues facing law enforcement in Courtelaney Pass. I suppose that since many of these crimes occurred years ago, forensic evidence will be hard to come by?

Setting: Forensic scientist in a lab.

Forensic scientist:

Good evening. While it is true that time and elements are not kind to forensic evidence, environment plays a large role. We have made incredible strides in evidence collection and preservation throughout the years. We understand how fingerprints degrade and how best to retrieve them. For example, the oldest known fingerprints ever developed were taken from the Dead Sea Scrolls in Qumran (Middle East). A fingerprint, believed to be 2,000 years old, was actually taken from a scroll. Of course, this area is very arid and perfect for such preservation.

We also have a much deeper understanding of how to collect very old DNA samples. So, that is not to say that it will be impossible to find new forensic evidence. However, we will have to look carefully for it and treat it with extreme care.

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News Anchor:

2,000 years, wow, that certainly is impressive. So you think that DNA is possible from a body that was buried a few years ago?

Setting: Forensic scientist in a lab.

Forensic scientist:

I will not state that time does not make DNA retrieval difficult; it does. But can DNA be retrieved from an embalmed and probably decayed body? Of course it can, it really depends upon where in or on body the

sample was deposited. Another thing to consider would be recently discovered 'touch' DNA, wherein a fingerprint has been discovered to contain this critical and individualized evidence.

So, with regards to Courtelaney Pass, if Kayla's body is exhumed, I feel confident that usable evidence could be discovered. Remember also, that although the crime scene was certainly not processed according to best practices, it does appear that her panties may have indeed been collected at the scene. Those panties provide another viable source for DNA evidence to be collected.

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News Anchor:

Thank you for that explanation. Let's turn our focus to the other half of the equation, Iozzi. Can the CPPD simply force him to submit a sample for forensic evaluation?

Setting: Forensic scientist in a lab.

Forensic scientist:

Calling a suspect in for a DNA sample is very risky. He could become scared and flee, and you are also showing your hand that he is indeed a suspect. Additionally, a court order is always necessary for extracting a simple DNA sample from a suspect, unless that suspect consents to the sample or the sample is collected surreptitiously. There are a number of tactics that we may employ in this regard.

As for Iozzi, he would likely not provide consent to simply provide a sample if he thinks that sample might incriminate him, so then it would be a matter of seeing if there was anything from his time as a member of the CPPD that might provide a sample or sending someone to try and collect a sample in secret, for example a discarded coffee cup or cigarette butt.

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

News Anchor:

Miss Jones, thank you again for your time this evening. You have clarified a number of the sticky issues the CPPD will have to deal with as it attempts to bring closure to the open wounds that continue to divide the city.