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Submission date: 04-Dec-2020 03:44PM (UTC+0700)

Submission ID: 1464468537

File name: jon_Benet.edited.docx (28.05K)

Word count: 1680

Character count: 9240

Jon Benet Ramsey

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Jon Benet Ramsey

Death investigations are very critical and may make the departments involved such as the law enforcement officials and the forensic departments to fail in solving the case. Jon Benet Ramsey a 6-year-old girl was found dead in her home in Boulder, Colorado. The event happened on December 26, 1996, just after Christmas, reporting that the girl was missing (CNN Editorial Research, 2019). JonBenet was the last born of John Ramsey her father together with Patricia Ramsey her mother. Also, they were living together with a brother Burke Ramsey. The death of JonBenet resulted in increased fear to the family, however, despite having a gruesome event it was surprising the case had errors which interfered with evidence correctness delaying the conviction of the case to date. Besides, the case had many suspects and remained unresolved. This paper will focus on errors made in the JonBenet Ramsey case, explore the steps of solving a cold case investigation and recommend ways of undoing the damages of the case.

Criminal Investigation

JonBenet Ramsey case is accompanied by significant errors immediately from the reporting stage. A death case requires critical considerations of simple matters that may result in the identification of the suspects. Similarly, according to Suboch (2016), a murder investigation is an intricate procedure that comprises several different individuals, for instance, the police agency and the forensic uniting to deliver justice on the case. Therefore, while handling the case, a lot of errors can take place based on the nature of an unexpected and violent death. Also, considering the many obligations the involved departments have such as the police individuals arriving at the scene, then the case submitted to the detectives, and medical assessment required and finally prosecution after essential evidence is gotten. This may lead to increased

miscommunications that may result in substantial errors that impact the results of the case, for example, the JonBenet Ramsey case not resolved to date.

The sequence of activities began to emerge when the location of JonBenet Ramsey was unknown. This yielded significant challenges as JonBenet's parents were aware of their daughter missing on the morning of December 26, 1996 (CNN Editorial Research, 2019). Furthermore, the two discovered there was a ransom note which required them to deliver one hundred and eighteen thousand dollars to an unknown location to get their daughter safely. However, the kidnappers emphasized that they were to call within 8-10 am providing more directions. Patricia went against the kidnapper's directives and stated to the police, without wasting time law enforcers went to the victim's home and searched the premises. Although the police officials had positioned a telephone trap to trail the kidnappers, there was no symbol of forced entry nor footprints that indicated there was a person in the home (Crime Museum, n.d). This resulted in the police giving directives to the Ramsey family to check for the misdirected objects used as evidence.

The first error in the case was on the police not performing a search in the house after realizing that JonBenet was missing. Therefore, the inappropriate response to the scene resulted in challenges because, despite the police realizing that there was no sign of breakage in the premise, they could perform a search in the house to gather any sign of evidence. However, they left the family to deal with that. Brooke (1997), argued that unsuitable response may lead to significant challenges because the police who arrived at the scene first is required to secure the scene and instant region. Preventing the entrance of unauthorized individuals will help in the proper collection of evidence and prevent unintentional contamination of pieces of evidence as they wait for appropriate professionals to arrive at the scene, for instance, the investigators.

Furthermore, detention of all individuals in the scene is essential, however many officers do not do that nor contact the investigators to work on the scene assuming that it was a natural death.

According to Crime Museum (n.d), the body of JonBenet Ramsey was later found in her parents' house. John was the one who found the body in the utility room. The room was used by the children both Burke and JonBenet as their playroom. It was a mistake for the police to inform both the family and friends to check the house as they would temper or eliminate any evidence they find. Generally, protection of the crime scene is essential as only the police would remain with the investigators collecting relevant information and objects around the premises. Only law enforcement officials are necessary at the crime scene. Surprisingly, as the police officers decide to perform a search themselves, John Ramsey came out of the stairs carrying JonBenet's body, arguing that he had found it under the blanket in the basement.

Since the crime scene was already destroyed by the family friends and John Ramsey, as he was the person who took the girl from the crime scene ended up altering crucial evidence. Therefore, according to Geberth (2020), every suspicious death should be handled as a homicide and be subjected to investigations. Again, the scene of the crime excluded from any individual and interferences to get the actual results. Similarly, the crime scene was not secluded and her family had not vacated until investigations concluded. At the same time, the separation of both John Ramsey and Patricia Ramsey was critical to ensure the information obtained from them are determined and distinguished if they make a similarity.

Moreover, when the police performed an autopsy they found out that JonBenet had passed away from suffocation brought about by the strangulation. Furthermore, she also suffered from a skull fracture. Also, the investigation revealed that JonBenet Ramsey was enclosed ¹ in duct tape and her wrists, neck remained enfolded with a white cord as well as chest enclosed

with a white blanket. Although there were allegations that JonBenet had been sexually assaulted no convincing evidence of the crime was available. Additionally, no semen was traced in her body, the body was clean and no rape had happened. The improvised attic was created by a cord and part of a paintbrush from the cellar. As reported by Crime Museum (n.d) the medical examiner concluded that JonBenet had eaten pineapple before she died. However, both John and Patricia did not recall providing JonBenet with pineapple that night before she perished. Nevertheless, based on the investigation, there was a container of pineapple in the kitchen that had the fingerprints of Burke, JonBenet's brother. Also, Burke's parents refuted the claims and argued that Burke was in his room the whole night as he was asleep.

Summary

Criminals may use sophisticated methods to hide their tracks when performing murder, but when investigating uncommon suspects proficient investigators need to be utilized to examine the crime. Although people might make things intricate by ignoring the case, nonetheless no matter how obvious the crime might be, it is essential to assign them professional detectives and select the best ways of performing investigations. Hence, when assigned to investigate this cold case, I would utilize several steps to obtain better outcomes and deliver justice to the deceased.

The steps involved are crucial in ensuring the procedures are followed and on time at the same time collecting the consistency of evidence and patterns of information. The first step will be to document everything in the murder book. According to Crime Investigation, (n.d), keeping records in a murder book is essential in an investigation as it helps with memory. The same source added that a murder book is always where officers record their statements as they collect such as forensic reports, witnesses' statements and photos obtained from the crime scene (Crime

Investigation, n.d). The second step to consider is the time factor since it plays a significant role in the success of an investigation. Therefore, this will allow the investigator to recognize the victim's last times and events and activities as it will help in knowing their friends and habits that are essential in distinguishing the case.

Another step is to trail every lead by focusing on all the causes behind missing and probable criminals of the cold crime. Therefore, investigating a murder case can begin from a simple thing such as a witness statement or public talks and through the investigator's experience, knowledge and skills it will lead to the final criminal. According to Crime Investigation (n.d), everything found in the crime scene should be taken as evidence, including the position of the furniture and family members around the scene. Furthermore, getting what the object belongs and does not belong at the scene is effective in determining the case. Finally, the last step is to persevere as every investigator needs to be consistent no matter how time lapses. Crime Investigation (n.d) argued that despite the cold murder case taking longer to get the right culprits and prove the criminal performed the act, the first 48, hours might have been critical. Also, other times people can terminate their friendships and connections hence ending their loyalties and consciences develop.

Previous investigators had already caused damages to the evidence and the case itself. Therefore, to undo the damages is through securing the premise immediately the issue of kidnapping has occurred and ensure the search has been done by investigators and detectives and not family members or friends. Similarly, significant pictures will be taken and evacuate the family until the case is determined. Both John and Patricia needed some separation for proper questioning. Getting the right information is the first thing to consider before the case, thus all individuals available at the scene will be treated as suspects and must be arrested for questioning.

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