



SAFVIC
Sexual Assault Family Violence Investigator Course

SAFVIC ON THE SCENE

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Finding DNA on Washed Clothing: What Does This Mean for Investigations?

By: Evangeline Barefoot and Dean Wideman

One of the most educational opportunities an investigator can have is the opportunity to hear experts testify in court. Dean Wideman, a forensic consultant specializing in most things DNA and Vangie Barefoot, a sexual assault nurse examiner, often find themselves consulting on cases involving sexual assault. Vangie has the experience and training to collect biological evidence and Dean has like training in

serology and DNA analysis.



opportunity to listen to a crime lab analyst from a government lab discuss a DNA profile found on a pair of underwear that had been laundered. I have to admit that I thought he was speaking from another planet. I quickly scrolled a note to the DNA expert sitting next to me that said "What is he talking about?" At the conclusion of his testimony I spoke with the expert

The Research

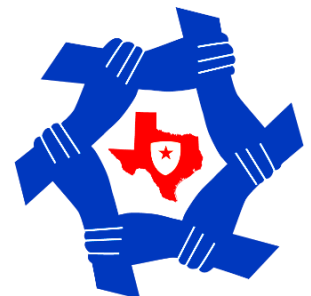
Recently while providing assistance on a case in Las Vegas, I had the

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Statewide Conference on Violence Against Women Recap

The 2013 Statewide Conference on Violence Against Women was held on July 22-23, 2013 in Irving, Texas at the Omni Mandalay Hotel at Las Colinas.

The conference covered two half days of general sessions and one full day of workshop sessions for conference attendees. This year our guest speakers included Roger Canaff, legal expert and advocate and Kit Gruelle, executive producer and project creator of the documentary "Private Violence".



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October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

The Domestic Violence Awareness Project (DVAP) is a diverse and unique partnership of local, tribal, state, and national domestic violence organizations and networks. The DVAP collaborates to collect, develop, and distribute resources and ideas relevant to advocates' ongoing public and prevention awareness and education efforts not only in preparation for Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM), but also throughout the year.

Since the first observed DVAM, in October 1987, diverse activities have been conducted with one common theme: mourning those who have died because of domestic violence, celebrating those who have survived, and connecting those who work to end violence.

For more information about DVPA campaigns and materials and how to participate, please visit www.nrcdv.org/dvam.

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sitting and she told me that what he said was absolutely true. She shared a study that was done in Norway and published in 2007.

Application

Here are the key points to take away from this research: **1)** due to the sensitivity of forensic DNA testing technology, DNA can be detected on items such as clothing and other fabrics even after they have been laundered, therefore law enforcement should collect clothing and bedding that were in use during the alleged crime even if they have been laundered; **2)** sources of DNA on laundered items can include blood, semen, sweat, and saliva. Touch DNA is much more difficult; **3)** finding DNA on laundered items depends on a number of variables including: fabric type (cotton is best), size of the original deposit of biological material, number of washings between crime and collection, type of detergent used, and wash / rinse cycle parameters; **4)** two types of DAN testing are used on laundered items: autosomal DNA and Y-STR testing, which is more successful when testing laundered clothing; **5)** If the accused is a family member of the victim and all of their clothing is mixed together in laundry

baskets or hampers prior to washing, transference of biological material can occur. This is of most importance when the stains are fresh and moist as the chance of transfer between items is higher than if the stain is already dried; **6)** DNA can be transferred between evidence items during the washing process even if the items were not in contact prior to washing. As an example, sperm can be moved from a semen stain on a bed sheet to a pair of underwear or pants that never had semen on them. However, it is important to note that given the typical wash/rinse cycles and volumes of water used in the washing process, the amount of DNA detected could be insufficient to obtain a DNA Profile of the donor; **7)** It is important to properly interpret the serology and DNA test results to determine if transference could or could not have occurred. For example, finding multiple semen stains on a pair of underwear with each stain containing 100's-1000's sperm is not consistent with transference either in laundry basket or in a washing machine. However, transference could explain the presence of a few sperm heads on a shirt that came in contact with a pair of underwear that had semen on them. (Farmen, Cortez, & Skarland-Froyland, 2008).

This information can be very helpful to the detective and evidence technicians who consider what items to take as evidence and which items are sent to the crime lab for analysis. When collecting laundered clothing, consider documenting: number of washings between crime and collection, whether or not the stain was dried before laundering, other items in the wash, detergent and additives used in the washing process, and whether or not the suspect is a member of the household, in which case you may expect to find everyone's DNA in co-mingled laundry.

Vangie Barefoot RN, BSN, MCJ, SANE-A, SANE-P
Forensic Nursing Consultant

Dean Wideman, Forensic DNA Analyst

Source

Farmen, R. K., Cortez, P., & Skarland-Froyland, E. (2008). Spermatozoa recovered on laundered clothing. *ScienceDirect*, 7, 418-420.



Roger Canaff presented on “Sexual Assault & Social Media: New Challenges to an Old Problem” which focused on the challenges of social media in terms of victimization and obtaining justice for the victim. Kit Gruelle presented on “Salted Peanuts, Pancakes, Lists and Scales: Private Violence in the United States” which focused on the many myths and misconceptions about domestic violence.

This year the 2013 Statewide Conference on Violence Against Women trained 170 law enforcement professions from different areas of Texas. A total of 90 law enforcement agencies were from rural counties which included 6 agencies where a domestic/family violence fatality occurred. Law enforcement agencies from 80 urban or metro counties were also in attendance. This also included 56 urban and metro agencies where a domestic/family violence fatality occurred.

The Statewide Law Enforcement Training on Violence Against Women Program staff would like to thank the following for making this year’s conference a success:

TMPA

- Roger Canaff
- Kit Gruelle
- Dr. Lance J. Simon
- Mike Agnew
- Rebecca Dreke
- Elizabeth Crecente
- David Markel
- Mikaela Ramirez

Omni Mandalay Hotel

- Irving Convention Visitor’s Bureau
- Gloria Little
- Deborah A. Kelypas R.N.
- John Wilkinson, AEquitas
- The National Network to End Domestic Violence
- Sgt. Melissa Holbrook
- Patt Hollingsworth
- Brooke Hinojosa and Sarah Romero, SAFVIC Program

SAVE THE DATE



EVAWI

2014 International Conference on Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence and Trafficking

April 22—24, 2014
 Sheraton Hotel
 Seattle, WA

EVAWI brings together law enforcement personnel, prosecutors, victim advocates, judges, parole and probation officers, rape crisis workers, medical personnel, faith community members, educators and others in this **three day conference** highlighting promising practices and emerging issues in sexual assault, domestic violence and stalking.

Check out the conference agenda [here](#).

Registration

- Pre-Conference: \$150.00
- Conference Price: \$545.00
- Early Reg. Discount: \$100.00 (Registration completed prior to 12/31/2013)
- Total: \$445.00
- Student Price: \$395.00 (No Early Registration Discount)

Register Today!

Featured Agency



HELP, HOPE, HEALING

The Concho Valley Rape Crisis Center (CVRCC)

offers direct victim services as well as education and prevention programs to the people of the Concho Valley. The Concho Valley includes the counties of Coke, Concho, Crockett, Irion, Kimble, Mason, McCulloch, Menard, Reagan, Runnels, Schleicher, Sterling, Sutton and Tom Green.

CVRCC began as a program of the Mental Health Mental Retardation (MHMR) Services in the late 1980’s. In 1991, in response to increased need for services, AVS (Assault Victim Services) broke away and became incorporated. In 1990, AVS received the Governor’s Award for the Outstanding Crime Victim Assistance Program in Texas, in 1992, they received the Winged Victory Award in the field of prevention from the Child Abuse Intervention Training Project. The Texas Association Against Sexual Assault presented AVS staff with Educator of the Year twice, in 1999 and 2002. In May 2005, Assault Victim Services changed their name to Concho Valley Rape Crisis Center. Between 2003 and 2011, funding became very scarce and the

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"Piecing together the tools needed to effectively investigate and prevent sexual assault, family violence, stalking, & human trafficking."

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staff dwindled. We now have an Executive Director, Victim Services Advocate, Education Coordinator, a part-time Volunteer Coordinator, part-time On-Call Advocates, volunteers and a field education student (intern).

Victim Services

24-hour Crisis Hotline

Direct services include a 24 hour crisis hotline, medical and court accompaniment for sexual assault survivors, individual and group support, professional counseling, advocacy and information/referrals.

Individual and Group Support

CVRCC offers support to survivors and their significant others in order to provide help, hope and healing. We can do this on an individual basis or as a support group.

Counseling Services

Counseling services are available with a licensed therapist outside the center and are available to survivors who require additional support services. Available as funding allows.

Information and Referrals

CVRCC will link survivors with other agencies for information and additional services.

Medical/Law Enforcement/Court Accompaniment
CVRCC can accompany the survivor to necessary appointments as well as meet the victim at the ER right after a sexual assault has occurred.

Education and Prevention Services

Education services include presenting programs to all ages with a focus on primary prevention. Primary prevention is targeting beliefs and attitudes that may lead to sexually violent behaviors in the future. Some of the topics include bullying, gender equality and prejudices.

Concho Valley Rape Crisis Center has helped men, women and adolescents who have been sexually abused as children, recently sexually assaulted and victims of non-stranger rapes. The center also offer services to friends and family members of someone who has been sexually abused/assaulted.

Our purpose is to offer everyone we serve help, hope and healing.

To reach Concho Valley Rape Crisis Center call the 24 hour hotline at 325-658-8888 or visit them at www.cv-rcc.org.

Featured DVD

"Squashes that voice inside you head that tells you noting like this could ever happen to you." - Film Arcade

"Every woman should see this film." - Women's Journal



SIN BY SILENCE is an emotionally packed documentary that tells the personal and shocking stories of these courageous women who have learned from their past, are changing their future, and, most importantly, are teaching us how domestic violence affects each and every person.

This video is available in the **SAFVIC Library** for SAFVIC Instructors only.