

How to successfully investigate and prosecute a no body homicide case

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I'm often asked by both the families of missing persons and law enforcement what the police and prosecutors should be doing once a person is missing but presumed dead. I offer my thoughts here on some suggestions that can lead to a successful investigation and prosecution of a no body homicide case. Special thanks to Detective Matthew DiBiase for his suggestions and comments. (Yeah, that's my brother.)

At the end of this treatise, I've copied a paper from the UK on investigating no body murder cases which also contains a list of UK no body murder cases.

Investigation: Early Phase

Here is a general guide to things the police should focus on early in an investigation. In any murder investigation, time is of the essence and the faster the police can gather clues, the greater the chance of finding the victim's body and making an arrest. Note that all of these techniques are useful even if the victim is merely missing and not actually dead.

Cell phones

Cell phones have a wealth of information and their widespread use in today's society make them a valuable source of information. The police, often with the

help of a subpoena issued by the prosecutor's office, should get the records from the victim's phone and see who the victim was calling, when the calls stopped and who called after the outgoing calls stopped. Checking the frequency of calls also help police determine who was close to the victim. Anyone the victim was in a relationship with, boyfriend, husband, etc., should also have his cell phone records checked as well. (You may not need a subpoena to do this if the person agrees to cooperate. If they don't, you need to dig deeper.) Are there gaps in the times calls were made when a suspect could have been committing a murder? Don't let the sheer number of cell phone records overwhelm you. Look for patterns: Who did the victim call the most often? Who called the victim? At what times was the phone used? Focus on the lengthier calls first and move to other calls after that. Don't forget to check voicemail and address lists in phones (probably need a search warrant for this.) Finally, if you have the victim's phone, check the pictures as well because you never know what might be in there. Get a warrant and send it to your DA's office, or your department's forensic ID unit that can search for the entire contents.

Cell phones utilize cell towers to make calls and obtaining cell tower records can tell police where a call was coming from. Indeed, the cell towers to which a phone sends a signal can change during the duration of a call, so police can track the path of the victim. However, phone companies keep cell tower records for very limited periods, often as few as 20 to 30 days so police must move quickly to get these records. Again, you may need a subpoena. Of course, all of these techniques apply to potential suspects as well.

In addition to the cell tower location feature, most phones now have a GPS feature and can be "pinged" by the company. Typically a cell phone company will provide pinging or other information without a court order or subpoena if it is a bona fide emergency. I know of one case where the police were looking for a suspect in a case where he threatened to kill his wife. The ping told the police he was at a casino in Connecticut and he got caught there after the casino was informed. While it doesn't always work-if the phone is off for instance it won't work-but it is great and can locate the subject within a few feet! You will have to send a court order after the fact but the phone companies will give it out upon the completion of one form as long as it is an emergency. Officers should have the emergency forms before they need them to save time.

2. Interviews

Police should immediately interview as many people who know the victim as

possible. Close family members and friends must be interviewed in detail to gather information. Videotaping these interviews is best because if the story changes down the road, the police have an accurate record of what was said initially. Any suspects should also be interviewed and their story thoroughly checked out so at trial an alibi cannot change. On interviews, the original interview with the loved one left behind/suspect may be a one shot deal. How many times does a husband lawyer up and stop cooperating after a few days? Using a video system is also helpful because it is so nice to be able to review the video later to refresh your memory, plus having another detective watching the video feed from another room can help since the interviewer can step out for a minute and check with the other detective to see if the interviewer is missing any visual cues, etc.

Be particularly alert to statements made by the victim to friends regarding any fears the victim had because it may be possible to use these statements down the road at trial. These statements must be accurately recorded and preserved.

Also, don't ever overlook the old fashioned door to door canvassing: "Yeah, a heard a blood curdling scream by a woman at about midnight last night now that I think about it."

Lock in testimony that is helpful as quickly as possible before witnesses get cold feet. Putting the person in the grand jury is best in jurisdictions which use grand juries. Next best is videotaping but at the very least, have a good record of what was said and when. Don't wait a month to start recording what witnesses said because 1. You might forget it if it is only from memory and 2. The witness may forget or change his or her story.

Keep track of any lies the suspects tells. Lies are powerful things to show to a judge or jury down the road and being able to show that the suspect lied about anything, even if not directly connected to the investigation, is powerful evidence against him.

3. Search warrants

I have seen over the years the difficulties police have in getting search warrants for suspect's houses or other possible scenes in missing persons cases. First, police should aggressively pursue consent searches if possible. Search the victim's home, place of work, places victim hung out including boyfriend's house, etc. (Again, these are consent searches so a red flag should go up if person

asked won't cooperate.) If that fails, you must at least try to get a search warrant. There's nothing wrong with putting in a search warrant that the police suspect foul play and that the victim's characteristics are inconsistent with having simply left town, e.g., left behind children, is a child, have not accessed bank accounts, failed to show up to work, etc. Citing other cases of missing persons who were later found dead or were never found increases the chances a judge will agree the victim may be dead. Getting inside a suspect's house often leads to very valuable scientific evidence. Any search should include a cadaver dog. You'd be amazed at how often suspects bury a body nearby, sometimes temporarily until they can move it to another, safer location.

Don't forget to get search warrants for victims and any suspects' computers as well.

On any search be aware of what is missing as well as what's present. Victim's personal effects there? Purse, car keys, wallet, etc. If the victim supposedly left does the missing items match that? There was a no body murder case where the suspect claimed the victim, his wife, had left to go on a trip. With the help of the victim's family, the police were able to prove that although there were some clothes missing as if she had packed for a trip, the victim had failed to pack any bras, something she would not have done. (Also an indication that a man had "packed" the victim's bag.)

Be sure to get any items of the victim that may have the victim's DNA on it for identification purposes: towels, toothbrush, hairbrush, etc.

4. Electronic trail

Credit card, bank, employment records must all be accessed to see if there is any indication they were accessed. This access could be by either the victim or a suspect. When was the last time a computer (work and home) was signed on to? This work must continue over weeks and months. In the case I prosecuted the defendant made a false accident claim using the victim's name weeks after he murdered her and tracking that down through the insurance claim led to a valuable witness against him. Put a fraud alert on as many accounts as possible so the company will contact you if someone tries to access the account. Don't forget about Social Security accounts (particularly if the victim has children who might be receiving SSI benefits), welfare, food stamps, child support payments. It is highly unlikely someone who fled and is not missing or dead would forgo an opportunity to receive money due to him or her.

Don't overlook any surveillance cameras that might have filmed either the victim or the suspect at any point. Go over the various travel paths of both suspect and victim and look very carefully to see if there are any cameras in place.

5. Pressure suspect

If there is an obvious suspect, pressure must be applied. Through effective interrogation techniques, a suspect will often confess early on since the guilt is fresh and the suspect's story not quite thought out yet. There is an excellent book on the interview and interrogation of witnesses and suspects called *Practical Aspects of Interview and Interrogation* by David E. Zulawski and Douglas Wicklander. (Full disclosure: The authors sent me this book for free but have not asked me to plug or review it.) Their book is not easily summarized but in a nutshell they are strong and effective advocates for the bonding type of interview, not the harsh confrontational method used by many police departments (and prosecutors). Among the topics they cover in their book are nonverbal clues to behavior, false confessions, establishing credibility with a subject and using rationalizations to make it easier for a suspect to confession. Both men are recognized experts in their field and train police officers and private investigators on the methods they believe have the greatest chance of garnering confessions and incriminating testimony. I strongly recommend this book to police and prosecutors faced with difficult interrogations which almost every no body case has. To quote my brother, a detective in New York for over 20 years, "The bonding interview technique cannot be stressed enough. I can't tell you how many times people have confessed to me and in conversation later I usually inquire as to why they ended up talking to me. Invariably they say something along the lines of it was because they believed that I was not judging them or that I understood why they did it, etc. Only lazy or inexperienced detectives use any other method (in most cases)."

A suspect should be placed under surveillance to see if he or she returns to the crime scene or where the body was disposed of. Advances in GPS technology have led police to placing GPS tracking devices on a suspect's car and using the information to see where the suspect goes. For an interesting recent article from the Washington Post about this see, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/08/12/AR2008081203275.html>. Be aware of your local rules, however. NY recently ruled that the use of GPS devices now requires a court order and that may be the same in other states. Here's the NY case: <http://writ.news.findlaw.com/colb/20090624.html>

6. Motive

What are the possible motives because determining the motive will often lead to your pool of suspects. Scorned lover, bad marriage, money to be gained by anyone? Looking for life insurance policies is critical because the beneficiaries of these policies is not always obvious. Many employers have life insurance policies for their employees so don't overlook those policies. You can often find unknown insurance policies by contacting insurance investigators for the larger insurers, often former cops. Another resource is the National Insurance Crime Bureau, www.nicb.org, a not-for-profit association run by member insurance companies that assists law enforcement with "the identification, detection and prosecution of insurance criminals."

Since many no body murder cases are also domestic violence cases, look for a "triggering event", that is, a recent event that could have pissed off the suspect. Common triggering events are a divorce being made final, a court order to pay alimony or child support, a fight between the victim and the suspect or any event where the victim asserts her (or his) independence from the suspect. Domestic abuse is usually about power so any indication that the balance of power is shifting from the suspect to the victim can act as a trigger for murder. Finding a triggering event can often point the finger at the likely suspect.

7. Think creatively

Don't treat the case like a missing person case, treat it like a homicide where the best evidence of the crime is missing: the body. Police must think outside the box. In one case, the family had not heard from the victim for some time but was receiving letters allegedly written by the victim. The family, suspicious that the victim was actually dead, wrote back and reminded the victim to send the money he owed to another family member and to not forget that same family member's birthday. A few days later a birthday card arrived along with a check for \$25. Of course, the victim did not owe that family member any money and it was not his birthday so the family knew that it was not the victim writing the letters. This is just one example of police and a family thinking creatively to ensnare a killer. Someone with the ability to conceal a body is not a criminal who is likely to make stupid mistakes like the bank robber who writes a stickup note on his own deposit

slip. These cases are huge law enforcement challenges and require creative solutions and investigative techniques. Consider wiring up a close friend of the suspect to get admission from the suspect. If the suspect is incarcerated, consider talking to all of his cellmates to see what he may have said.

Finally, don't be afraid to ask for help. In my brothers' jurisdiction in New York they usually have the New York State Police help. They have huge resources and will send as many people as are needed to do the job and won't steal the case. Detectives should know beforehand who they can call and what they can get. According to a study by Austin Peay State Univ. in Tennessee most police departments in the United States are less than 10 officers. Few if any departments of under 100 officers could reasonably handle a major case with no help. Besides, the help is free so why not use it, even it's to run down the bogus leads that come in any no body murder investigation.

Investigation: Later Phase

1. Use the media to your advantage.

The media can be a help or a hindrance to an investigation depending on how you relate to it. The media can help keep the case in the spotlight which can lead to witnesses coming forward with information. (On the flip side, any high profile case tends to attract a number looney bins who want publicity for themselves and insert themselves into the case.) Police who fear the media rarely use it wisely and end up being the subject of stories pointing out how little is seemingly being done on the investigation or how incompetent the police are. Most journalists will respect a police request to keep information out of the media and by speaking to media on background or off the record, you can get out your side of the story without compromising the investigation. Don't overlook blogs, social media and other new media as a way to keep the case in people's mind. The more people who are aware of the case, the greater the chances of getting a breakthrough via a previously unknown witness and of keeping the pressure on the defendant.

2. Remember the anniversaries.

One of the ways to keep the case in the media is to note the anniversaries of the disappearance (or the victim's missed birthday, wedding anniversary, etc.) This is a natural hook for the media and, again, keeps the pressure on any suspects. This is also a good way to keep the family involved, often the best avenue for clues and leads, and to keep them apprised of the investigation

and its status. Organize searches on the anniversaries. Are you likely to find anything? Probably not but, again, it keeps the case in the media and increases the chances of a witness coming forward.

3. Go back to re-interview witnesses and suspects.

As years pass, people's memory change and it's always good to keep memories fresh by having witnesses repeat what they've previously said (which you duly recorded in some fashion the first time they told you), see if they have any new memories and keep the word out there that the case has not languished. Interviewing suspects also tells them you're not going away either. Guilt is a powerful emotion and you'd be surprised at how it eats away at some people and can lead to a confession years later. Also, you never know what new witnesses you might find to whom the suspect confessed because he felt safe so many years after the murder. Always be alert for new friends/girlfriends of the suspect who you can interview. The number one rule of both cold cases and no body murder cases is simple: never, ever give up.

4. If you have a suspect.....

How does he react to the fact of the missing person? Did he cooperate with the search, with the police? How does he react on the anniversary? Talks to the media about it or shuns the anniversaries? Does he contact the police to keep up on the status of the case? (Was he the one who originally reported the victim as missing?) Did he move in with someone new "too soon" or did he dispose of victim's things "too early?" House being remodeled or changed in a significant way?

Trial: Preparation

1. Create a timeline to use at trial

Having a clear timeline is essential to trying a no body case. It makes it easier for the jury to follow events that may cover many years. Using either a large posterboard or Power Point enables you to add each event as the testimony and evidence come in which gives the jury the feel of solving the case along with you.

The timeline must be clear and easy to follow so consider using color coding based on type of fact (events related to victim, events related to suspect, forensic evidence, investigation, etc.).

2. Be prepared to argue why someone else *didn't* commit the murder

One of the biggest challenges of a no body murder case is that by not having the body and therefore often not having a good crime scene or cause of death, that opens up the prosecution to the claim that someone else committed the murder. Sometimes the defense will point to a specific person or they may just argue that it was someone else who is unknown to anyone, what I call the Killer X theory. Be prepared to exonerate specific people through alibi, lack of motive or opportunity or however they can be eliminated. But you must also be prepared to eliminate Killer X. Often this can be done by focusing on “victimology” that is, put on evidence about your victim that makes it unlikely he or she would be subjected to random violence that, by the way, also caused her body to be hidden so effectively. Does a random robber/mugger/burglar kill someone and then hide the body? Who would want to kill a mother/nurse/professional? Obviously if your victimology is not good this becomes harder but on “clean” victims it can be a powerful evidence if the suspect is connected to the victim in some fashion.

Trial

1. Use thoroughness of investigation as a shield against attack that someone else murdered victim.

By putting on evidence of the thoroughness of your investigation, you knock out claims that investigative leads were overlooked and make it more difficult for defendants to argue that someone else committed the murder. This is also why it is essential to try to track down every lead no matter how far fetched. Many a no body trial has had the specter of the defense witness who says they saw the victim well after the time of the murder. The witness may be obviously crazy to you but you need to be able to show this to a jury and it's much easier to knock down a crazy witness during the investigative phase than during the stress of a trial.

2. Hearsay

As in domestic homicides generally, statements by the victim can be a huge help to the prosecution **if** you can get them admitted. It is critical to be sure of your non-hearsay basis (or exception to the hearsay rule) that gets the statement in and be prepared to prove it to the judge, often through use of a trial memo. Don't ever assume any statement is coming in unless you are certain.

3. Use written questionnaire to test receptivity to circumstantial evidence/lack of body

Many lay people assume that a circumstantial evidence case is worse than a case with direct evidence. Putting aside whether that's true as a factual matter (who wouldn't want DNA versus an eyewitness?), the law clearly treats circumstantial and direct evidence as equal. The jury must know this and know this very early on. Although it borders on argument, I suggest getting this in front of the jury in openings. Ask the court if you can present the jury instruction that informs the jury that circumstantial evidence should be treated the same as direct evidence. In closing use the tried and true arguments about snowfall, rain, etc. to demonstrate that jurors use circumstantial evidence every day and accept it as if they had seen something with their own eyes.

4. Puzzle argument

Having used a Powerpoint or chart to have the various pieces of the puzzle of the murder put together I suggest you put this together in closing with an argument like this that helps lessen the impact of any missing pieces of evidence (modify to fit your own circumstances):

"I have an older sister and like every good little brother I tried to be as much of a pest as possible when we were little. My sister loved to do jigsaw puzzles and would do these huge 500-1000 piece puzzles of beach scenes, a park, the US Capitol, whatever. They would take like a week to complete. Because I was a pest I would always steal 2-3 pieces and hide them under my mattress. Thus, I was secure in the knowledge that she would never, ever completely finish the puzzle. But you know what? My sister never cared. She would finish the puzzle, minus the 2-3 pieces I had hidden and she could still tell what the scene was. She knew I had the pieces but didn't care. It was still a picture of the beach, the park, the US Capitol. Now here I wish I could tell you I have the missing puzzle pieces under my bed. But I don't. But you know what ladies and gentlemen, you can still see the whole puzzle here...[then review each piece of evidence.]"

(Garen J. Horst of the Placer County (CA) DA's office wrote an excellent article on prosecuting no body cases that very effectively uses the puzzle analogy and a really clever use of puzzle-type of exhibits. Email me at tad.dibiase@gmail.com and I will send you a copy).

5. Rope vs. chain analogy

Often in a no body murder case the defense will argue that a missing piece of evidence is a “link” that “breaks the chain.” In fact, the prosecution should argue that its evidence is more like a rope, that is, even if one strand of evidence breaks there are other strands holding up the case. This effectively takes away the defense argument that if the jury has a reasonable doubt about one piece of evidence, then they have reasonable doubt about the entire case.

OPERATIONAL SUPPORT SECTION

NO BODY MURDER INVESTIGATIONS

SUGGESTED LINES OF ENQUIRY

IN SUSPICIOUS MISSING PERSON

INVESTIGATIONS WHERE IT IS BELIEVED THE

MISSING PERSON HAS BEEN MURDERED

‘No Body Murder Investigations’

This document has been prepared in an effort to standardise the approach to such investigations. There is no ACPO Policy, which specifically deals with this subject. These cases usually come to police notice in one of the following ways; a witness was present at the initial attack and informs the police that a victim has been murdered and the named person is missing, a victim is abducted and reported as missing or a person is reported as a missing person.

It is essential in every case that a full review and assessment of the Missing Person Report is undertaken at the outset of such an investigation. The methodology for this review is identified in the paper entitled ‘**Useful hints for Police Officers in Suspicious Missing Person Enquiries**’. This template can be applied to any missing person report and challenges the reviewing person to answer a number of critical questions in relation to the missing person. It commences with a full victimology enquiry of the missing person followed by the exact circumstances of the disappearance, as indicated below.

Missing Person Report Review

‘The Questions’

1. The victimology enquiry should include details of the missing persons, age, sex, race, physical description, height, build, hair and eye colour. Details of any marks, scars, tattoos or body piercing or details of any operations or previous fractures. A copy of the missing person’s dental records is also required. Ascertain if the missing person is recorded on the National DNA Database and if not ensure that a sample of the missing persons DNA is obtained and placed on the NDNA Database as an unsolved crime scene stain. A full description of the missing persons clothing (including buttons, zips and labels) and jewellery worn by the missing person at the time of their disappearance. The lifestyle of the victim must also be analysed and should include, routines, associates, personality,

activity at the time of disappearance, location of the last sighting, the victim's relationship to that location, who they were with that day, and a comprehensive risk assessment of the missing person. Finally all intelligence regarding the area of the last sighting should be analysed for any previous incidents or intelligence regarding the crime profile of that area for any precursor incidents.

2. What are the significant features of the missing person report?
3. Is there a reason to go missing?
4. Is the disappearance out of character?
5. Circumstances of the last sighting, the exact detail?
6. Did the subject prepare for an absence from home?
7. Is the subject considered at risk?
8. All background information and intelligence?
9. Establish the full details of all friend's neighbours and acquaintances?
10. Search Patterns?
11. Search Patterns of Open spaces?
12. Conclusion of the most probable outcome from the analysis.
13. Case Specific Investigative Suggestions.

The NCOF Helpdesk hold many Missing Person reviews and assessments for all types of victims and disappearances plus a list of all No Body Murder Investigations, SIO details, Best Practice and BIA Reports which can be utilised to assist with difficult cases.

Body Disposal, Concealment and Search

Before any search decisions are made other than those made in the immediate response to a report of a missing person all in depth search activity must be directed by the review and assessment of the missing person report. If a person has disappeared then the victimology will be the area that directs all search activity when looking for a live missing person. If the missing person is deceased and has been involved in an accident or has committed suicide, the victimology should again direct all search activity. If the missing person has been murdered or abducted and murdered the victimology, the suspects background and case circumstance of the disappearance will direct all search activity. All search activity, even the early searches must be documented down to the nature and thoroughness of each search, so that a Polsa Manager can assess what, if any searches need to be repeated by a trained Polsa team.

Apart from ensuring his/her escape from the scene of a crime, the murderers greatest challenge is to avoid subsequent detection by disposing of the victim's body. The short-term aim may simply be to conceal the fact that a crime has been committed for long enough to guarantee a comfortable getaway, but the long-term aim is to prevent the body ever being found or identified. That way the murderer's chances of being forensically linked to a criminal act are greatly reduced. Research into murder cases has indicated that where there is an established relationship between the **victim – missing person** there is more concealed deposition of the body. In simple terms why would a stranger need to spend time with the disposal of a victim's body if in the normal course of a police investigation that person could not be connected to the victim by enquiry? A number of stranger killers have concealed the bodies of their victims in order to prevent them from being forensically linked to the crime. It has been noted that since the introduction of the National DNA Database that instances of concealed deposition of a victim's body have increased.

Few acts of the murderer show such dedication and ingenuity as the disposal of the victim's body and few tasks are so awesome. The human body is surprisingly durable, and its destruction without trace is extremely difficult to achieve. Disposing of human remains poses two important problems of which the murderer often takes too little account. Firstly, dead bodies decompose and give rise to a very detectable smell, and secondly, the sheer bulk of the human frame makes disposal a difficult task.

If in the course of an enquiry a suspect is known then a full background investigation of that individual is an essential element when considering a concealed deposition of the body. This should include all areas used or known to that individual in order that a search strategy can be developed which considers all the most probable areas for a concealed deposition of a **victim – missing persons** body. There are very few cases nationally where a body has been disposed of randomly. The offenders in these cases go to great lengths to cut down the risks of detection by choosing an area for deposition that they are familiar with, knowing what or whom they are likely to encounter at the time of deposition. By ensuring that a suspects background is fully investigated at the outset enables all search activity to be intelligently led. Do not forget to check all CCTV that covers the area of any journeys the suspect may have made.

Secret burial is perhaps the most common method of a concealment of a corpse, but this too presents difficulties. Merely putting a body in a clandestine grave is no assurance that the grave will not be found, and that subsequent exhumation will not reveal evidence of foul play. Clandestine burial frequently necessitates transportation of the corpse particularly if the murder was committed in an urban area. One of the greatest drawbacks to burial is that it is never possible to return all the soil to the original hole, with the result that there are visible signs of disturbance. The usual signs are that vegetation has been disturbed and differently coloured sub soil is brought to the surface, leaving a visible scar in the ground. The shallow grave dug in haste or in ignorance of how deep a grave should be has led to the discovery of many graves. The time constraints of a suspect are often a hindrance to a suspect when attempting to complete a concealed deposition. The inadequately buried body is soon exposed by the weather or the activities of animals, particularly dog walkers and their pets. It is possible to locate such sites by the use of aerial imagery to identify such areas to instigate intelligence led searches. In force Air Support or JARIC (Joint Air Reconnaissance Intelligence Cell) directed by the Polsa Search Manager should be used to assist with the search.

Water disposal is also a widely used method of concealment. It is also the one method that is the easiest to achieve without the expenditure of a large amount of energy and physical labour required to dig a hole in the ground. In most cases the **victim - missing person** will be wrapped in something, which in turn will be tied to weights to keep the body concealed under water. In all cases of missing persons who are suspected of being murdered, the nearest area for water disposal should be considered for an underwater search. An offender's background can influence the choice of a water deposition.

Dismemberment as an Aid to Body Disposal

Dismemberment is an aid to body disposal particularly where the murder has been committed in premises in an urban area. In almost every dismemberment case the reason for the cutting up of a human body is usually very functional, i.e. the management of weight and the disguise of the offender activity at the time of the removal of a human body from premises. In all the C.A.T.C.H.E.M. cases the dismemberment of a body is an indoor activity. In all the cases over the past 5 years dismemberment has been undertaken in every case following the murder of a victim inside premises.

In the C.A.T.C.H.E.M. research they have noted that in almost all of the dismemberment cases it involves the offender cutting the body into six parts. This involves the removal of the head and the limbs. The only two variations to this are cutting the torso into two parts usually undertaken to manage size and weight in the large adolescent and adult cases. However, there is one case involving a 5 year old Afro Caribbean male where there appears to be some religious or ritualistic aspect to the killing. This offence stands alone on the C.A.T.C.H.E.M. database. The second variation is the removal of just the hands and the head. The latter is undertaken to frustrate the police investigation in the area of identification. What is significant though is that there will always be an established relationship between the victim and the offender at the time of the offence.

If the offender has cut the body into six parts and does **not** have any transportation to dispose of the body at distance, the offender will usually dispose of the body in three separate journeys and at in general terms three separate locations all within a reasonable walking distance of the premises where the offence took place. All the locations used for disposal will be areas of low witness potential and usually shielded from public view. The offender(s) will not dispose of the body parts at a location that is totally unknown to them. The three areas selected will be relatively close to each other and usually within 1-½ mile radius of where the victim was last sighted. Different methods of disposal have been used to dispose of the same body, i.e. some parts buried and others burnt and the head in water. The body parts that are usually more concealed are the head and the hands; this is to frustrate the identification process. The offenders do not seem to place any great importance on DNA at the present time. Offender's efforts in the disposal tend to be about physical recognition and fingerprints.

In a number of recent cases the body has been disposed of over a period of time in the 'wheelie bin', the body parts having been frozen in a domestic freezer within the premises. It is always wise to consider this fact when searching the house's of suspect's. In one recent case the offender undertook this task and then swapped his 'wheelie bin' with a neighbour's further up the same road.

The bathroom and the kitchen are the rooms within premises that are most often used for the dismemberment of bodies. It is wise to remember this when searching a suspects home for a missing person who is believed to be the victim of crime. If there is a weight management issue involved then the dismemberment will be undertaken at the location where death occurs.

It is also very wise to have the main drains searched as we have seen many bodies pushed into the drains within the curtilage of the property where the murder was committed. The Serial Killer Denis Nielsen who killed young males used this method of disposal.

In cases involving younger children the cavity required for a disposal is very much smaller. It is worth calculating the amount of space that would be required for a disposal and then ensuring that all such spaces are searched by a Polsa team.

It will not be necessary to consider separate locations for a dismembered body which has been removed from premises and the suspect had access to a vehicle, as this act is undertaken in 99.9% of cases to disguise the removal of a body from premises and to manage the weight issues. Bodies disposed of in premises i.e. buried in the cellar or garden is usually left whole. If there is evidence of dismemberment in premises consider the back garden or any common land that adjoins the rear of the premises for in depth Polsa search.

When dismemberment takes place in premises you must consider any area where blood may have drained into, this will include under floorboards, behind skirting boards or any drains within the premises. You must also consider checking the rear garden for any recent fires and the insides of 'Wheelie Bins' must be checked for any traces of blood. It must also be a consideration to remove the drainage sumps of any domestic washing machines and all the pipe work attached to the main drains. These have all proved beneficial in past cases.

There is no definitive way to find a missing person, but if all cases are approached with an open mind and apply all the available search research and practical guidance in each specific case, then the chances of success are greatly improved.

'The Legal Requirements'

The essential elements of a crime and the circumstances in which it was committed are known as the *corpus delicti* – literally, the body of the crime. In the case of murder it must be shown that a death has occurred, that the dead person is the person alleged to have been killed, and that the killing was the result of unlawful violence. The *corpus delicti* of murder, therefore, consists of more than just a corpse. A considerable number of murderers have believed and some still do that the *corpus delicti* is the body of the victim, and that without it a conviction for murder cannot be obtained. However, many would-be perpetrators have been made painfully aware that a missing body is not an obstacle to pursuing a charge of murder.

In law, the focus of the police investigation is the assertion that the **victim – missing person** is no longer a missing person and that they are in fact deceased. The assertion being that an accused person murdered **the victim - missing person** at a particular location and on a particular date.

Usually during the course of an enquiry of this nature it is for the prosecution to establish that a particular person was unlawfully killed by an accused at a particular place, and at a particular time.

In these cases the body of the **victim – missing person** have not been recovered and there is no trace of the victim or the body despite a very thorough and extensive police investigation. Nevertheless, the police contend that the unlawful killing can be proved beyond all reasonable doubt through the circumstances of the disappearance, and the conduct of the accused both before and after disappearance. The questions of Motive, Opportunity, Preparatory Steps and subsequent actions of an accused should be considered in all cases.

Precedence has been established in law in England over recent years where persons have been convicted of murder in the absence of a body. I quote, “Evidence supported by the accused himself is sufficient, the fact of death is also provable by circumstantial evidence, notwithstanding that neither the body or any trace of the body has been found. Before a defendant can be convicted, the fact of death should be proved by such circumstances as render the commission of a crime certain and leave no grounds for reasonable doubt. The circumstantial evidence should be cogent and compelling as to convince a jury that no rational hypothesis other than murder can the facts be accounted for.

In all other cases of successful prosecutions without a body a common structure can be illustrated and that is based on two individual aspects within each case.

A crime has been committed

Which is illustrated by a series of thorough and extensive enquiries that there is no trace of the missing person and therefore no indication that the victim is still alive and living somewhere else. This fact can also be supported by the discovery of a crime scene, usually established by a forensic link of a victim to that location and to an offender. In many previous cases evidence of spilt blood and cleaning if forensically linked to a victim is very compelling evidence of a murder.

It should be established if the missing person – victim had the ability, knowledge, finances or third party assistance to establish a new identity and if they took any preparatory steps prior to their disappearance to achieve this.

In all such cases the fact that there has been no trace of the victim for a number of years since the victim – missing person was last seen in the company of an accused can be presented as very compelling evidence indeed.

The police enquiry should produce an itemised list of every enquiry that has been undertaken to locate **victim – missing person**. This can be achieved by reference to the Itemised List of Potential Enquiries in Missing Persons Investigations as produced the NCOF and known as a ‘Proof of Life Investigation’, also referred to as a ‘Presumption of Death Investigation’. (Attached at appendix A).

A SIO or Deputy SIO can give evidence of every enquiry that the investigation team has undertaken in an effort to locate the **victim – missing person** and the fact that there has been no trace of the missing person, despite their thorough investigation. However, statements of evidence will be required from each agency or organisation that is contacted to show evidentially that there is no trace of the missing person. In a recent No body murder trial in Humberside a police officer telephoned all the organisations that they had made initial enquiries with to locate the **victim – missing person** and whom they had obtained statements from to cover the period of time from initial enquiry to court date and then the police officer submitted a statement of evidence stating that there had been no change since the initial enquiry. This was not allowed by the trial Judge, it was a matter for each of the organisations to state that there had been no trace of the missing person during the intervening period. In the majority of cases this evidence is accepted without challenge.

An offender exists

The connection of a suspect to the disappearance (motive, opportunity, preparatory steps and subsequent actions) and /or the circumstances surrounding the disappearance is so closely linked that inference can be

properly drawn that they are connected to that disappearance.

In each case **the accused** is the last person to be seen with the missing person in circumstances that are themselves suspicious. Below is a suggested method of presenting the circumstances of a particular disappearance in a report format that covers all the requirements of such cases. The facts presented below are from a real case, which is currently awaiting trial.

The **accused's** activities to manipulate a situation where he was alone with the **victim – missing person** in his vehicle in the middle of the night at a rural location, the fact that the **victim – missing person** has never been seen since this time, the fact that an accused had been instrumental in the amount of alcohol the **victim – missing person** had consumed, the fact that he formed a conspiracy with another girl whom he had previously abused namely, **another** to deny that the missing girl was in their company that night. He then instructed **another** to influence her boyfriend to support this lie and state that the **victim – missing person** had not been with them that night. He then introduced a sighting of the **victim – missing person** after he was last seen with her and got his common law wife to support this later sighting, knowing it was untrue. He then introduced a route that he took home that night which was untrue. (Proved by CCTV) He has continually stated that he returned the **victim – missing person** to a location in (any town) and dropped her off at a particular time that night. He stated that he returned home at approximately (anytime) when in fact he did not return until (anytime) some several hours later. The fact that the suspect had changed the clothing he wore that night and that the clothes that he was wearing when last seen with the **victim – missing person** have never been located. The fact that he is a convicted sexual predator who has resorted to extreme violence in previous offending in order to commit serious sexual acts upon his victims. The fact, that with the exception of one victim, all of his previous victims have been adolescent females of a similar age and vulnerability to the **victim – missing person** whom he had befriended prior to the attacks. The fact that the premises that he had at his disposal that night he had used previously to abduct, imprison, assault and seriously sexually abuse a victim. At the time of this offence he was on bail for this crime. The fact that the accused was seen at a rural location, which was on the direct route from where the accused was last seen in the company of the **victim – missing person** by a serving police officer at midnight two days after the victim disappeared and prior to his arrest on suspicion of murder.

Pen-ultimately, the fact that **the accused** has been unable to offer up any reasonable explanation for any of the above facts during the numerous interviews with police is significant. **The accused** has no independent alibi for any of the period from (anytime) to (anytime) on (day, date and year).

Lastly, the unsolicited comments that he has made to three police officers and his own Solicitor in an effort

to ensure that if he admitted the crime and gave up the body he would be able to serve his life sentence in a particular prison.

The objective of the police investigation is to prove by such circumstances as render the commission of murder of the **victim – missing person** certain and leave no grounds for doubt. My assessment as outlined above is that the police have proved this beyond any reasonable doubt. I am also sure that if the body is not located that **the accused** will admit the crime after conviction and will tell the police where the body is concealed but only to ensure that he can serve his life sentence in a particular prison.

I have used this as a template in my last four no-body murder reports and they have been extremely well received.

Attached at Appendix B is a list of all known no body murder investigations for the past 6 years with contact details of all the SIO's.



OPERATIONAL SUPPORT SECTION

MISSING PERSONS

SUGGESTED LINES OF ENQUIRY

IN SUSPICIOUS MISSING PERSON

INVESTIGATIONS

VERSION 3 UPDATED SEPTEMBER 2003



SUGGESTED POTENTIAL LINES OF ENQUIRY AND AGENCY CHECKS FOR MISSING PERSONS ENQUIRIES

THIS IS NOT A DEFINITIVE LIST AND SHOULD BE USED ONLY AS A GUIDE. SOME CHECKS MAY BE MORE APPROPRIATE THAN OTHERS GIVEN THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF EACH INDIVIDUAL CASE

INTRODUCTION

ACPO Policy states that the vast majority of persons reported as missing will return alive and well shortly after their disappearance. Only a small percentage will have come to harm or have been the victim of crime. It is in the light of these possibilities that the police must respond effectively to more than 150,000 reports of missing persons in order to identify those cases, which require substantially more attention. Recent research has indicated that only 1 in 7400 missing person reports ended in a Homicide. However, 1 in 34 Homicides started as a Missing from Home report.

When a person goes missing it can mark the onset of a serious crime such as abduction and in some cases, sadly, murder. An effective missing person enquiry assists the onset of such investigations and hallmarks of a quality crime investigation offer the best prospect of conducting a successful missing person enquiry. This document does not seek to stand alone: it highlights best practice in the management of missing people and provides links with other sources of advice and practical assistance.

SUGGESTIONS

The below is a checklist of suggested or potential lines of enquiry and Agency checks for missing person enquiries. It could be used to form the basis of proving to the satisfaction of a court that every effort has been undertaken to locate the missing person either alive or deceased, I refer to this as a “Proof of Life Investigation”. It has been compiled from our previous dealings with suspicious missing person cases and by consultation with Senior Investigating Officers, N.C.O.F. Operational Support Officers and the C.A.T.C.H.E.M. team who have all undertaken or been part of support teams to such investigations.

- ❑ Any missing person investigation must commence with a full Victimology report on the missing person. This should include everything that the missing person does on a daily basis in order that a mental map of the missing person can be produced. This will include all their habitual behaviour to determine the geographic areas associated with the missing person. It must also include the activities of the missing person at the last time that they were sighted. If the missing person was in the company of a known individual at the time that they were last seen a full background of such persons will also be required as they may indicate areas for specific searches.
- ❑ Search of known addresses, as well as searching for the missing person, searches should also be made for any documents which may assist in tracing a person e.g. Passport, bank correspondence, credit cards, receipts, telephone bills, 'smart' cards etc. If any address is of any particular significance a Polsa Search Advisor must be consulted and a fully trained Polsa team must be used to search such addresses. If during the course of any search evidence is found of a possible 'Crime Scene' the search must revert to a forensic examination and search for evidence. This should include the missing persons locker at school to retrieve any books or personal belongings for analysis. Consider the homes of Grandparents or relatives where the missing from home has habitually stayed.
- ❑ A Polsa Search Co-ordinator should be appointed in cases of grave concern. This person should keep a written record of all searches undertaken, inclusive of all maps and aerial photography and the policy decision as to why those searches were undertaken.
- ❑ Surveillance on family or known associates or suspects (consider important related dates e.g. Childs birthdays, anniversaries (weddings, deaths)
- ❑ Consider the full CCTV potential of the case. From the missing persons home address, City Centre, Bus, Rail stations or Taxi ranks. Consider all the locations used or regularly visited by the Missing Person inclusive of shops, public house and night clubs etc.
- ❑ Telephony, Itemised telephone billing of the victims telephone and those of known associates and associated subscriber checks. Do not forget to check 1471 at the missing persons home address. Any specialised services involving mobile telephones, such as cloning or tracking please seek advice from a S.P.O.C. trained officer from your own force or the NCOF Helpdesk. The NCOF Helpdesk has records of the details of all types of experts involving mobile telephony so please contact them for assistance.

- ❑ D.S.S /Child benefit records via local office(s)
- ❑ Department of Social Services (At Risk Registers etc)
- ❑ Consider Contacting the Local Offices of the National Society For the Prevention of Cruelty to Children for any intelligence about the missing person.
- ❑ Consider contacting the offices of the Adopted Children's Register
- ❑ Consider contacting local Church organisations that offer help and accommodation for the homeless, such as soup kitchens etc.
- ❑ Consider contacting the offices of the 'Samaritans' in case the missing person has contacted them for help or guidance in the days leading up to the disappearance.
- ❑ Local Department of Education Authorities to retrieve any information left at such locations
- ❑ Inland revenue records via local office.
- ❑ National Insurance records via local office.
- ❑ Passport Office.
- ❑ Post Office regarding requests for the redirection of mail etc.
- ❑ Road Recovery membership e.g. A.A/ R.A.C. Green Flag and Direct Line Recovery services. Is the subject a member and has she called out the service in another area.
- ❑ D.V.L.A
- ❑ Special Circulation Bulletin both within Force and to other Forces.
- ❑ Police Gazette. National Identification Service New Scotland Yard 020-7230-3120
- ❑ P.N.C Broadcast.

- ❑ P.N.C & C.R.O (including S.C.R.O) marker against missing persons name.
- ❑ P.N.C Marker on any vehicle owned or used by the missing person
- ❑ P.N.C audits for recent history of any Police checks made on missing person (or suspects) or on vehicles used by them (identifies Force and Divisional Area where check was made)
- ❑ Circulation via Interpol/Europol.
- ❑ N.C.I.S
- ❑ GARDA.
- ❑ Checks with major airline companies.
- ❑ Checks with major Car rental companies.
- ❑ Checks with Port Authorities.
- ❑ Checks with Family Doctor regarding any requests for transfer of medical records or any pertinent medical history or medicines prescribed or required by the missing person.
- ❑ Traceline (office of National Statistics) This service may be able to help relatives of a missing person by forwarding a letter to the local Family Health Authority where the missing person is registered. For Police enquiries Smedley Hydro, Trafalgar Road, Birkdale, Southport, PR8 2HH. Telephone 01704-569824. For Public enquiries PO Box 106, Southport, PR8 2WA a fee may be charged to the public for this service. Telephone 0151-471-4811
- ❑ Any history of Drug misuse consult the Drug Squad or Local Chemists officer to ensure that all local enquiries are completed in respect of all legal or illegal sources of such drugs.
- ❑ If the contact with drugs involves importation consider contacting Her Majesty Customs and Excise for any intelligence relevant to the missing person.

- ❑ Credit Card Companies and major banks via fraud offices regarding accounts and usage of any cards etc. In cases where it is suspected that the missing person may have been murdered the investigation would benefit from a full financial profile. A Financial Investigations officer from the host force must complete this financial profile.
- ❑ Prison Intelligence system - is the missing person maintaining contact with or visiting any known criminal associates within the prison system or who has been committed to prison since the missing persons disappearance. Checks should be directed through Prison Liaison officer in the relevant area. Do not forget to consider covert strategies with the relevant R.I.P.A authorities in HMP establishments.
- ❑ Detoxification Centres.
- ❑ Checks of Medical Institutions including those specialising in mental illness.
- ❑ Consider publishing the missing persons photograph in publications targeted at medical staff e.g. 'Hospital Doctor' This is weekly publication produced by Reed Health care and sent to every hospital doctor in the country (is the missing person unconscious in a hospital ward in another part of the country?)
- ❑ Checks with any known previously used employment agencies or employers.
- ❑ Association of British Insurers, 51 Gresham Street, London - can give details of any insurance policies held in the subjects name.
- ❑ Crimewatch U.K.
- ❑ Local Media Release (in the initial disappearance and on any subsequent important dates e.g. Birthdays or anniversaries)
- ❑ National Media releases.
- ❑ Circulation Via the Internet (previously used successfully by the Met. Police and the National Missing Persons Helpline)

- ❑ European 'Shengen' countries have databases on missing persons and wanted criminals. It is possible to add British missing persons or wanted persons to these databases through Interpol.
- ❑ In the case of suspicious missing persons report (i.e. Where it is suspected that the missing person may have been the subject of violence and is deceased and the body concealed) it is strongly recommended that consideration be given to obtaining a sample of the missing persons D.N.A. This should then be placed on the National D.N.A database as a 'potential unsolved crime scene mark'. In the event that any human remains are then recovered anywhere in the country the D.N.A database should be consulted in an effort to identify them. It is suggested that this line of enquiry be adopted at an early stage (where the missing person is suspected of being a victim of domestic violence it is possible that the offender would be in a good position to make D.N.A collection difficult for investigating officers). This may include actions such as disposing of the missing persons property, hairbrushes, toothbrushes and the cleaning of a crime scene etc.) Should the subject of obtaining the missing persons D.N.A prove problematic the N.C.O.F can be contacted for advice as to likely areas for consideration.
- ❑ This course of action should also be considered where there is no suspicion as to the missing persons welfare or the missing person is deliberately trying not to be found, as often such persons will resort to crime to survive and a match could be found on the DNA Database following arrest for a recordable crime, indicating that the missing person is safe and well and the area where they have been arrested, which has the potential for resolving long term labour intensive missing person enquiries.
- ❑ Consideration should also be given to obtaining details of the missing persons dentist and Family doctor for future reference should it be required for later identification purposes. There is the potential to circulate the details of the missing persons dental records in targeted areas via the Internet. When making enquiries at Dentist and Doctors, the police should request to be notified if a request is made for the transfer of any medical or dental records of a missing person.
- ❑ H. P.I Credit Checks (Dunn & Bradstreet, & Equifax etc.) Should the missing person attempt to rent accommodation or buy airtime with a mobile phone company their credit rating would be checked. The details of the firm/person making the check are recorded by the credit reference company and can be a source of future enquiries)

- ❑ If intelligence supports it notification to the relevant fingerprint offices and N.I.B because of the localised way fingerprint records are searched.
- ❑ Ascertain often over looked habits/requirements to live on a daily basis i.e. Finances, Eating, Sleeping and drinking and regularly used Shopping places, hairdressers, Post Offices etc. These enquiries must be specific to the recorded missing person.
- ❑ Where the missing person is a member of a professional body, nurse, etc. Checks should be made at the relevant professional register e.g. has the missing although still officially 'missing' updated her nurses registration thereby enabling her to work?
- ❑ Also if the missing person is a member of a trade which has its own trade/profession publication consider circulating details /photo of the missing person in that way. The same enquiry should be undertaken with any Trade Union that represents any such body of workers in case any claim has been made by the missing person or their representative.
- ❑ Consider circulating details of missing person via publications such as 'The Big Issue'
- ❑ Pass details of Missing person to the 'National Missing Persons Helpline' (this is a national charitable organisation intended to provide support for the families of missing persons. It has had a great amount of success in this field and also success in tracing missing persons who, for what ever reason, would not contact the police. Contact Details as Follows: The National Missing Persons Helpline, Roebuck House, 284-286 Upper Richmond Road, East Sheen, London SW14 7JE Telephone 020-8392-4545 Fax 020-8878-7752 www.missingpersons.org)
- ❑ It should not be confused with the Police National Missing Person Bureau held at the Met. Police, which must be notified in all long term missing person cases as per ACPO Policy) This organisation is The Police National Missing Persons Bureau, Room 125, New Scotland Yard, 10,Broadway, London SW1H OBG telephone 020-7230-4029/020-7230-4745 Fax 020-7230-2153. E-mail Nationalmissingpersons@gtnet.gov.uk
- ❑ The Salvation Army offer a 'tracing service' (costing £35.00) This has proved very successful as it has been found certain areas of the community will freely speak to the Salvation Army Officers where they would not speak to the Police. Contact Details 020-7367-4747 Fax 020-7367-4723 Website www.salvationarmy.org.uk

- ❑ The British Red Cross International Tracing Service helps bring together relatives who have been separated by armed conflict, political upheaval or natural disaster.
- ❑ 'Reunite' this is an organisation that provides help in the case of a child who may have been abducted and removed from the UK by an estranged parent. Advice line 020-375-3440 Address Reunite, PO Box 24875, London, E1 6FR Telephone 0207-375-3441.
- ❑ Checks should be made with Stores such as 'Tesco' & 'Sainsburys' etc. Where the victim is known to shop regarding their store 'loyalty' cards (such as Nectar Card) to see if points are still being added to the card from one of their branches in another part of the country. If this is the case they may also have a forwarding address for the cardholder. This should also be considered for petrol stations offering 'air miles' etc. Some of the loyalty cards are Shell plus points, MVC Membership, Homebase save and spend, Boots Points etc.
- ❑ If the missing person had at any time expressed an intention to visit another country it should be established whether a visa is required and whether one has been requested or granted in the missing persons name. Consider contacting Port Authorities and Port Police and recover the CCTV for the relevant timescale. Also consider the ANPR system at ports regarding relevant vehicles.
- ❑ Does the missing person have access to Internet chat rooms? Has the missing person made arrangements to meet person contacted through such chat rooms? In a current case a child was contacted and groomed by a suspect who then took her out of the country. Consideration should be given to seeking advice from Force Computer Crime Units of contact with the Metropolitan Hi Tech Crime Unit for advice.
- ❑ For those defined as children under national law (UK under 17) consider circulation via <http://uk.missingkids.com> this is the UK website for missing children, it is sponsored by the International centre for Missing and Exploited Children and Computer Associates Plc. The website displays pictures of missing children together with their details. Cases are input by "hub forces" throughout the UK. The PNMPB undertakes a quality assurance role.
- ❑ Utilities checks. Adults registering for gas, electricity, water etc.

- ❑ Special interest areas for advertising specific hobbies e.g. how did that interest manifest? Magazine subscriptions, websites, fan clubs etc.

- ❑ If any person is located that has the same surname and initial there must be a policy to TIE such persons.

In the case of checks made with authorities such as Passport offices D.V.L.A etc the reply will only be accurate at the time it is made. It is important that not only are the relevant checks made but that the particular office/department is asked to place a 'marker' on the missing persons file so that, should any activity take place under that name in the future that the police may be informed.

It is also important to cancel all such markers, P.N.C circulations etc. Whether National or International once the missing person is no longer missing.

As previously mentioned this is not a definitive list. The N.C.O.F do try to keep this list updated with any new suggestions, ideas or examples of 'good practice'. If you have any suggestions as to how this list can be improved or amended please feel free to contact the National Crime and Operations Faculty Helpdesk on 01256 602443.

Updated September 2003

APPENDIX B



DETAILS OF ‘NO BODY’ MURDER ENQUIRIES

All these cases commenced with no body being found.

In some of the cases the body was found during the enquiry and in some cases the body was found long after a suspect had been charged

VICTIM	FORCE	SIO
1. SKIPPER, Karen	South Wales Police	DCI Lloyd Evans 01656 655555, 01792 562731
2. WOODS, Janice	West Yorkshire	DSU A.M. Whittle (retired) 01924 375222
3. SHEPARD, Teresa	South Yorkshire	DCI Steve Talbot 0114 220 2020 Ext 8323 forensic, her blood in his car. Circumstantial aspects

		boyfriend/girlfriend
4. HOWARD, Helen	Devon & Cornwall	<p>DSU Simcock</p> <p>0990 777444</p> <p>forensic, minute spots of blood inside boot of victims' vehicle (only after second examination)</p> <p>circumstantial, showed no trace of victim. Body discovered by fell-walkers 3 days after case.</p>

VICTIM	FORCE	SIO CONTACT
5. BARTON, Keeley	Metropolitan	<p>DSU Farquhar (retired)</p> <p>0171 230 1212</p> <p>case papers with Martin Leech at the Murder Index, New Scotland Yard.</p> <p>1985 case</p> <p>disappearance of 14 year old girl while out walking her dog, step-father linked to the disappearance by circumstantial evidence, the negating of his alibi, prison admissions</p>
6. BOWEN, Sandie	Gwent	<p>DCI Hapgood</p> <p>01633 642337</p> <p>1997 case (Aug)</p> <p>1999 appeal dismissed.</p> <p>forensic & circumstantial</p> <p>husband told family that he left his wife to the train station, she didn't arrive at her destination and her daughter reported her missing.</p> <p>Forensic, 2 very small spots of blood on his shirt, one was his, the other his wife.</p> <p>Circumstantial, her handbag was found burnt in the fire-grate; her false teeth were still in her home along with other personal items. Medication, which she required, was still at home. All means of tracing her were carried out including circulating all medical trusts in the UK with case details and</p>

		photograph. National dental records at Bournemouth notified.
7. Operation Dover	Hampshire	DI Colin Smith DS Steve Edbury Newport CID 01962 841500 Forensic, circumstantial and prison admissions
8. MARTIN, David	Thames Valley	DSU Alan Partridge 01296 396000 forensic & circumstantial cleaned up blood in garage, suspect footmark in blood, business partner owned victim money

VICTIM	FORCE	SIO CONTACT
9. Lindsay Quay	Merseyside	<p>D SU Geoff Sloan</p> <p>Victim reported missing to Police two months after she was last seen by husband. Reported by Social Services and not husband. Search of house showed extremely clean and bleach extensively used.</p> <p>Offender arrested after covert activity and dismembered body recovered at numerous locations within walking distance of offenders home.</p>
10. Charlotte Pinkney (Awaiting Trial)	Devon and Cornwall	<p>DCI Tony Carney</p> <p>Victim last seen in a vehicle with suspect in early hours of morning. Offender got vehicle stuck in mud at a local beauty spot. Body Dogs indicated that the victims body had been concealed near to where vehicle was stuck in mud. Offender moved the body prior to police search and it remains unfound. Forensic found in vehicle and on suspects shoes.</p>
11. Christina Caroline MacRae and Andrew David Macrae	Northern Constabulary	<p>DSU Gordon Urquhart</p> <p>Cold Case Review of a 1977 Missing Person Enq. Strong circumstantial evidence connecting a local male to the missing persons. He had no alibi for the night and in fact lied. New review is searching a quarry for the victims bodies.</p>
12. Carol Ann Packman	Dorset Police	DCI Peter Jackson

		<p>Cold Case Review of a 1985 Missing Person Investigation between 93 – 96. Husband arrested on circumstantial evidence and prison confessions. Convicted and now case referred to Criminal Case Review Board. Full De-brief of case held at NCOF Helpdesk.</p>
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VICTIM	FORCE	SIO CONTACT
13 MYRING, Anne	Avon & Somerset	<p>DCI Geoff Anderson</p> <p>01275 816010</p> <p>No forensics, circumstantial case surrounding husbands assertion that his wife had walked out after a family argument and withdrawn large sums of their money, evidence showed husband had withdrawn the money and he was having an affair.</p>
14 Danielle Jones	Essex	<p>DSU Peter Coltman</p> <p>Uncle (Stuart Campbell) of the missing girl. Adolescent female disappeared on her way to school. Uncle connected to the disappearance. Evidence showed that he had an unhealthy interest in photographing young females. He had an unhealthy relationship with the victim.</p> <p>He introduced numerous mobile telephone calls from the victims mobile to his mobile after her disappearance. Later proved that both mobiles were at the same location when messages sent. Some Forensic located.</p> <p>Campbell admitted the crime after sentence but has still not given up the location of the body of the victim.</p> <p>Charged with her murder</p>

		Body not recovered Convicted at Old Bailey
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VICTIM	FORCE	SIO CONTACT
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<p>16 <i>Shane Harrison Collier</i></p>	<p>South Yorkshire Police</p>	<p><i>DCI Rob Heyworth</i> 01226 736038</p> <p>This case relates to murder at Barnsley. Thompson has been charged but the body is outstanding. Murder took place at the home address of Thompson and Coleen Oliver. Thompson returned to find the victim at his house. Extensive clean up at the murder scene.</p> <p>Dismembered Body Recovered in Cumbria where accused lived as a child Offender used hire car transport the body which he got stuck in a field Local Farmer assisted him to remove car.</p>
<p>17 <i>Linn, Gary (38)</i></p>	<p>Central Scotland Police</p>	<p><i>Det Supt Hector Cairns or DCI Alan Moffat</i> O: 01324 634212</p> <p>This case relates to the disappearance of a middle aged male, his murder site has been identified, however his body remains outstanding. Enquiries are still ongoing to charge his work associates.</p>
<p>15 <i>Fraser, Arlene</i></p>	<p><i>Grampian</i></p>	<p><i>DI Alan Smith</i> O: 01224387114 M: 07803530672</p> <p>This case relates to the disappearance of a middle aged female in 1999 where her husband and associates are the main suspects. Enquiries ongoing – video lip reading</p>

		used to great effect. Hector Dick and Nat Fraser Convicted
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VICTIM	FORCE	CONTACT
18 Rumel Bukar	Lincolnshire	<p>D SU Nick Howard</p> <p>Criminal Gang murdered the victim and dismembered his body in a lock up garage. Body buried at three separate locations. One of the suspects confessed to a minor involvement during interview. Garage located and body dump sites but the victims remains had been moved although blood and clothing linked to victim located at garage and dump site. Body parts eventually located in an adjoining county.</p>
19 Ray Brooker	Metropolitan	<p>D INSP Reilly DS Madden</p> <p>Witnesses to murder but no trace of body. Shooting in a flat.</p>
20 Mark Levy	Hertfordshire	<p>DSU Read</p> <p>Organised Criminal Gang killing. Heavy duty Cocaine supplier owed large amount of money by the victim. Daylight abduction of victim in a town and tied up and bundled into the rear of a Mercedes Jeep. Victim seen later that day being led into a wood by two target criminals and never seen again. Body never traced. Victims vehicle found abandoned at Dover ferry port. Smith convicted.</p>
21 Craig Anthony Wojick	Derbyshire	<p>DSU Kieron Wright (retired)</p> <p>18 year old Heroin Addict who sold his body to finance</p>

		<p>his drug habit. Disappeared August 99. The victims head was found March 2000. Reinvestigation established the route that the victim was on at time of disappearance. A homosexual associate was located on this route and his house searched. Sheets and a pillow case were found that matched the one the head was wrapped in. Other forensic found in kitchen to establish dismemberment and also the freezer. Remainder of body disposed of in the wheelie bin.</p>
VICTIM	FORCE	SIO CONTACT
22 Derek Kinder	Derbyshire	<p>DSU John Langley (retired)</p> <p>76 year old retired teacher reported missing when he failed to collect relatives returning from a holiday in Spain. His stepson who was living with him at the time was very furtive about the mispers movements. When close relatives became involved they found that some of the house had been redecorated. A full Forensic search of the house revealed a large amount of blood had drained through the floor boards and into the cavity. Large amounts of blood splatters were found in the hall landing and stairs all the victims blood. Some had been painted over. Large amount of Forensic recovered but no body. Victims car found in Sheffield abandoned.</p> <p>Body parts have been located</p>

		but long after the offender had been charged. All parts were water disposals and at distance. Other body parts found after two years in another river.
23 Jenna Baldwin	Gwent	DCI Geoff Ronayne Jenna Baldwin disappeared from her home address. Her stepfather gave a sighting of her. During the course of the enquiry the stepfather stated that he had received telephone calls from her on his mobile telephone. Surveillance and telephone analysis indicated that these calls were made by the stepfather to himself. The body of the victim was later recovered from a shallow grave on the direct route from the suspects home to his workplace.
24 Arlene Arkinson	PSNI	DI John Gilmore DCI Jim Gault This is a cold case review of a missing person from 1995 in Strabane N Ireland. The suspect was convicted in the UK for an abduction murder of an adolescent female in 2002. The circumstances exactly matched the disappearance of Arlene and the same suspect was the last person seen with this victim. Circumstantial and similar fact evidence found and the suspect awaits trial in N Ireland
25 Sybil Appelquist	Humberside	DCI Bill Sparnon Sybil's

		husband was arrested and charged with the murder of his wife, he was later acquitted at court. Further Details from the SIO or DS Penman
26 Operation Quantum	Suffolk	Speak to Terry Webster and obtain a case summary I know he called it a Cookoo's nest where a distant relative had murdered the victim in order to adopt his identity and subsequently his house and money.
27 Jamie Lavis	GMP	DSU Roy Rainford Missing 9 year old boy abducted and murdered by a bus driver he had befriended. Body located on a golf course at the rear of a previous residence of the suspect. The suspect befriended the family and became their Press Spokesperson and was closely linked to the suspects mother. Suspect confessed to the crime after sentence and this was recorded and placed with the case papers to prevent any appeals.
28 Sarah Benford	Northamptonshire	DCI Charles Moffatt Cold Case Review of a adolescsnt female missing from a County Council Care Home. Very In depth investigation but as yet no result. The body is unrecovered and no person has been arrested. This case has been extremely well investigated and it cane be shown that the victim must be

		deceased as all efforts to locate have been exhausted.
29	Humberside	
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OFFENDER CHARGED AND ACQUITTED

HALL, Patricia Anne	West Yorkshire	Details yet to be obtained