JonBenet Ramsey: Who did it?
December 26, 1996; Patsy Ramsey awoke around 5 am and walked downstairs. At the foot of the staircase she found a 2.5 page note saying that her 6yr old daughter, JonBenet, had been kidnapped.

Initially the police conducted a hasty search of the house but failed to find JonBenet. The house wasn’t sealed off. 4 friends along with a pastor were let into the house and allowed to move around at will. John (father) was allowed to leave the house. After his return, John and his two friends searched the house again. This time John went into the basement, where he discovered JonBenet’s body. He removed a white blanket and carried her upstairs.

There is evidence supporting the theory that an outside person did it. There is also evidence supporting the theory that someone in the family did it.
Processing the Crime Scene

Forensic science begins at the crime scene. If the investigator cannot recognize physical evidence or cannot properly preserve it for laboratory examination, no amount of sophisticated laboratory instrumentation or technical expertise can salvage the situation.

Securing and Isolating the Crime Scene

The first officer to arrive at the crime scene is responsible for preserving and protecting the area as much as possible.

Special note should be taken to vehicles or people leaving the scene.

Specific logs should be kept of who enters/exits and time.

If someone is in need of medical assistance, priority should be given.
Once the crime scene is secured, a lead investigator starts evaluating the area. The first thing that must be done is to establish the perpetrator (perp)'s path of entry and exit.

A strategy must be developed for systematically examining and documenting the entire crime scene. Evidence must be documented and photographed.

Personnel should never do anything while at the crime scene (eating, smoking, littering). Also, no one should open or close faucets or flush toilets at the scene. They should also avoid changing temperature settings.
Recording the Crime Scene

You have a limited amount of time to process the crime scene. Notes, Photography and sketches are three methods to record the scene.
Notes
Notes should start by identifying the person who contacted the investigator.

Investigators must keep precise records of personnel movements in and out the scene.
It's also important to keep record of the tasks that each team member does. As well as the beginning and ending times for processing the scene.

Notes should be in ink (blue/black), and most importantly they should be written at the time of the crime scene investigation, not left to memory.

All evidence must be marked and fully described in the notes. Audio recording can also be used.
Photography

All crime scenes must be unaltered in order to be photographed. Unless people are injured, objects must not be moved until they have been photographed from all necessary angles.

Photographs are compliments to notes and sketches. Its also important for documenting biological evidence in its original condition, as this kind of evidence is often altered during testing.

If evidence has been moved or removed before photography, the fact should be noted in the report, but the evidence should not be reintroduced into the scene in order to take photographs.
Each crime scene must be photographed as completely as possible. Exit/Entry pts Pictures of the body (injury) all angles-closeups

When the size of an item is significant, a ruler or other measuring scale may be inserted near the object and included in the photograph as a point of reference.

At a minimum, four photographs are required at a crime scene:

- An overview
- Medium Range
- Closeup
- Closeup with scale
Video Recording

As with conventional photography, digital video should include the entire scene and the immediate surrounding area. Long shots as well as closeups should be taken in a slow and systematic manner.

However, panning and zooming could be sloppy. These techniques should be done slowly and systematically.
Sketches
Once photographs have been taken, the CSI sketches the scene. A sketch can clearly show the layout of an indoor or outdoor crime scene and the relationship in space of all the items and features significant to the investigation.

What is necessary during the early phase of the investigation is a rough sketch containing an accurate depiction of the dimensions of the scene and showing the locations of all objects having a bearing on the case. (distances must be accurate)
A finished sketch is constructed with care and concern for appearance. Programs like CAD have become the norm to reconstruct crime scenes from rough sketches.
Search Patterns
How one conducts a crime scene search will depend on the locale and the size of the area, as well as on the actions of the suspect(s) and the victim(s) at the scene.
Collecting Physical Evidence

When clothing items are collected they should be handled carefully and wrapped separately to avoid loss of trace materials.

Critical areas of the crime scene should be vacuumed and the sweepings submitted to the laboratory for analysis.
Handling Evidence

Evidence must be handled and processed in a way that prevents any change from taking place between the time the evidence is removed from the crime scene and the time it is received by the crime laboratory.

Changes can arise through contamination, breakage, evaporation, accidental scratching or bending, or improper or careless packaging.

Evidence is best when kept in its original condition. The investigator should not remove blood, hairs, fibers, soil particles, and other types of trace evidence from garments, or weapons.

Use common sense.
Don't use regular envelopes for because powder or fine particles can leak out of the corner. Instead a small amount of trace evidence can be packaged in a folded paper (druggist fold)- can be used to package paint transfers.

Charred debris should be placed in air tight containers (new).

Place each different item or similar items collected at different locations in separate containers. Packaging evidence separately prevents damage through contact and prevents cross-contamination.
Biological Materials

Use only disposable tools. Don't package in containers because it may encourage mold growth.

Use wrapping paper, manila envelopes or paper bags.

They should be air dried and placed individually in paper bags.

Place red biohazard sticker.

DNA Evidence

Sources: Stamps, Envelopes, Cups/Cans, Gum, sweatband, bedsheets, etc..

To prevent contamination wear face mask, lab coat and gloves. Assume all biological material is infectious.
Maintaining the Chain of Custody

Chain of Custody must always be established.
Follow procedures:
Record location, mark for ID, complete submission evidence forms.

Failure to maintain COC will result in integrity of evidence to be questioned.

Don't destroy original seal when checking evidence at the lab. Put evidence back in original bag and place bag in another evidence bag and seal it. Record initials and date/time

Keep COC at a minimum.
Obtaining Standard/Reference Sample

All evidence requires known sample

Some types of evidence must have substrate controls. (uncontaminated surface material where physical evidence was discovered)

Biological evidence must be accompanied with a Buccal swab (inside cheek)
Submitting Evidence to the Laboratory

Maybe be delivered or by mail (tricky, has regulations)

Be familiar with crime/brief history
Crime Scene Safety

Wear gloves!!!!!!!!!!!

Get vaccinated-Hep B

Wear new gloves for each item of evidence handled. Remove old gloves and place in biohazard bag

Protective footwear!!!

Wear Glasses!!!!!!!!!!!
Legal Considerations at the Crime Scene

Good evidence can be excluded because of unreasonable search and seizure

Have search warrant!!

Reasons for no warrant
1. emergency circumstance
2. prevent immediate loss or destruction of evidence
3. arrest
4. consent
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