



Madison County Sheriff

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**Media information:
Jessica Lynn Keen Homicide**

On March 17, 1991 the body of Jessica Lynn Keen, age 15 years, was discovered in the Foster Chapel Cemetery, located in Jefferson Township, Madison County, Ohio. Jessica was nude, other than one sock and her bra. An autopsy revealed she died from blunt force trauma to her head and body. Evidence indicating sexual activity prior to death was recovered. Investigation of the crime scene revealed bare footprints running from the north, through the ditch and across a wooden fence. Impressions were also discovered behind grave markers, as if hiding. Evidence indicates Jessica ran into a fence in the rear of the Cemetery which knocked her to the ground, giving the assailant time to catch up with her, and where she was killed.

It was related by her mother that Jessica had been staying at the Huckleberry House in the short north area of Columbus, Ohio, prior to her disappearance on March 15, 1991. Jessica was last seen walking from the Huckleberry House, on that afternoon, towards a bus stop as she indicated she was going shopping. During the course of the investigation Jessica's friends, acquaintances, and numerous others were interviewed and tested as to any involvement or knowledge of her demise. No information or evidence was developed which linked a particular individual to the crime.

Although at the time DNA was developed from evidence, no suspect DNA concluded in a match. A state and national data base of offender DNA standards, currently in existence utilizes different testing and reporting methods, from the original evidence in this case. An insufficient amount of evidence DNA was available for additional testing. Over the years evidence has been resubmitted to laboratories as technology changed. Evidence was again resubmitted to the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation and as a result of being able to do more with less, on March 17, 2008, a computerized match was obtained, which was then reviewed and matched to the original evidence.

The suspect was identified as Marvin Lee Smith Jr, born November 11, 1956. Smith's DNA standard was obtained in the database after serving a three year sentence for an attempted kidnaping and rape conviction, from Franklin County, Ohio, in August 1991. Upon release Smith's parole was transferred to the State of North Carolina where his family members reside. It has been learned that Smith resided in the short north area as well, during the time of Jessica's disappearance.

Based on the evidence Smith has been charged with a 1991 felony statute, Corruption of a Minor. On March 28, 2008 Smith was arrested in Alamance County, North Carolina, where he is being held pending extradition to Ohio. This will allow investigators to begin a new direction of probing, interviewing and additional testing without fear of Smith's disappearance.

Similar to many cases, Smith remained an unknown suspect for 17 years. As technology continues to evolve, victims and families of unsolved cases should maintain the hope of a similar outcome.

Due to 17 years passing, we are asking anyone who knew or was familiar with Marvin L. Smith during his time in the Columbus area, to contact the Madison County Sheriff's Office and request to speak with one of the investigators assigned to this case. Any information may be extremely helpful to a successful resolution of Jessica's case.

Madison County Sheriff's Office: 614-879-9057

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