

## The First Scenario: My Own Experience

On September 22, 1988 at 11:37a.m., William LeFever was pronounced dead at Licking Memorial Hospital, Newark, Ohio. The autopsy revealed that solid objects containing strychnine, arsenic and amitriptyline had been inserted rectally. Abnormally high levels of sulfates were found in his blood and/or tissue as well as edema of his lungs. Finally, an injection site was located on his left buttock with a large ratio of amitriptyline to nortriptyline, causing the coroner to conclude that he had been injected with an intramuscular injection of amitriptyline. In other words, he had been murdered.

The police searched the LeFever home. They discovered garbage bags with poison peanuts used to kill rats, a 35mm film canister containing residue consistent with strychnine-laced poisoned peanuts, a pink dye consistent with that used in Ro-dex (used to kill rats), an empty bottle of Terro Ant Killer, syringes and hypodermic needles and charred remnants of a Smoke 'Ems burnt fumigant stick (used to kill moles).

The resulting investigation and prosecution concluded that Virginia LeFever, his estranged wife, had beaten him while he was passed out from alcohol consumption; had inserted the various rat poisons rectally to further debilitate his condition; had lit the "Smoke'Em" fumigation stick near him, then left the house; and finally, had injected him with the fatal dose of amitriptyline.

Virginia LeFever was a registered nurse. She filed for divorce in April 1988. They had separated in August 1988 when she moved out. A divorce hearing was scheduled for September 27, 1988. William had a long history of alcohol and drug abuse. He was visiting the home on September 19, 1988 to baby-sit one of their children.

During the course of the investigation, my legal business card was found on the person of, or in the personal belongings of, William LeFever. I was served a subpoena by the prosecutor to testify before the grand jury investigating the charges against Virginia LeFever. The prosecutor wanted to know if Mr. LeFever was a client of mine and, if so, what he had told me that might aid in the investigation of Mrs. LeFever having murdered her husband. At the grand jury proceeding I refused to testify, citing attorney-client privilege. A hearing was held to determine if I would be required to answer the prosecutor's questions and the court determined that I was not required to answer.