

BOOK REVIEW

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Review of *Practical Aspects of Rape Investigation: A Multidisciplinary Approach, 2nd ed.*

REFERENCE: Hazelwood RR, Burgess AW. Practical aspects of rape investigation: A multidisciplinary approach, 2nd ed. CRC Press, Boca Raton, FL. 1995, 371 pp.

Overall, this text is a comprehensive treatment of the subject of rape investigation and provides a good view of relevant research on the topic. As such, it is an excellent choice for those involved in rape investigations. The first three chapters dealing with Public Beliefs, Police Attitudes and Beliefs, and Victims' Perspectives should be particularly useful to working investigators. The authors' treatment of victimology should assist the reader to identify common myths, stereotypes, and confounding attitudes. Inclusion of this critical material in this book raises it above other investigative works and offers the potential to reduce subjectivity among investigators, which can provide direct effects on the efficacy of rape investigative methods. This is particularly so for the nonseasoned investigator.

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The details provided in Section II on the use and methods employed when using rape kits are excellent. A slight oversight or disagreement was observed on p. 72, "Release of Crime Scene." No mention was made of holding the scene until all neighborhood or area canvasses were completed. Physical evidence leads from such potential witnesses, discovered after the scene has been released, may be of little value in subsequent court proceedings. Major physical evidence in sexual assault investigations is covered quite well and in sufficient detail.

The Behavioral-Oriented interview of rape victims, though not new to the field, is complete and informative. Nothing new is provided on Criminal Investigative Analysis, Profiling, Serial Rapists, or Criminal Sexual Sadists, but it is logical to have them included in this book. Chapter 18 provides interesting case law and psychological research support on the Rape Trauma Syndrome and may be useful to those anticipating the use of the syndrome in court presentations. If the intended audience for this book is the college classroom, it misses the mark due to the detail and breath provided. However, as a reader and guide for practicing investigators and new prosecutors, it is an excellent choice.