



Actual Case Study

The news report in the opening sequence of this course was inspired by true events. Due to the legal status of the case at the time this course was written, the age of the victim and the location of the crime were changed. The case has since been tried and the parents convicted and sentenced. Here is a brief overview of the actual case.

On December 9, 2009 Eugene, Oregon police responded to a 911 call regarding an unconscious teenager. They found 15-year-old Jeanette Marie Maples on the living room floor with no pulse. She was emaciated and covered with multiple cuts and bruises, including cuts so deep bone showed. She was taken to a hospital, where she later died.

Police obtained a search warrant for the home. Investigators found evidence of torture, including a blood-soaked ruler with a metal edge, a blood-soaked stick, and blood-soaked cardboard which they later learned the girl was forced to sleep on to avoid ruining the carpeting. Jeanette's bedroom was described as "a torture room" with blood and flesh splattered floor to ceiling.

Meanwhile, two younger children were taken into protective custody.

On December 16, 2009 Jeanette Maples' mother, Angela McAnulty, and step-father, Richard McAnulty, were charged with aggravated murder.

On February 1, 2011 Angela McAnulty pleaded guilty to aggravated murder. During her sentencing hearing, the following evidence was introduced:

- In 1995 Jeanette Maples, age 1, was taken into protective custody in California due to suspected abuse and neglect.
- In 2001 she was reunited with her mother and toddler sister.
- In 2002 her mother married Richard McAnulty.
- In 2005 the family moved to Oregon. Jeanette was enrolled in public middle school.
- Classmates and school personnel, suspecting abuse, talked with Jeanette, who confirmed the abuse.
- School personnel talked with Angela McAnulty, who denied abuse and referred to her daughter as a chronic liar.
- A friend's mother called child protective services.
- Between 2005 and Jeanette's death, at least 6 calls to CPS were made reporting the girl was being starved and beaten by her mother.

On February 24, 2011 McAnulty was sentenced to death for the intentional torture and killing of her daughter.



On April 24, 2011 Richard McAnulty pleaded guilty and received a mandatory life sentence with the possibility of parole after 25 years.

On August 31, 2011 Jeanette's half-sister, now 14, told a judge she was happy in the foster home where she had been for the past 13 months and asked to be assigned to permanent foster care with the family rather than be placed for adoption. The judge granted her request. Her half-brother, now 8, is in a separate foster home and awaits adoption.