



Cold Case Files

Debra Stone, 1984

Overview

On September 2, 1984, Narragansett Police Department (NPD) responded to the Narrow River in Narragansett, where boaters found Debra A. Stone's body submerged. The state medical examiner determined that Debra's cause of death was asphyxiation due to strangulation. Multiple witnesses noted that Debra had visited Robert D. Geremia in Johnston the night of August 28, 1984 – the last time Debra's friends and family heard from her.

Initial Investigation

- Investigators developed an informant that saw Debra in Geremia's apartment on August 29 and helped move Debra's body from Geremia's apartment to the Narrow River on August 30
- The informant's statement matched evidence from the scene
- A witness that saw Geremia shortly after Debra's death recounted that Geremia said he "had to" kill Debra because she was stealing from him



Figure 1 – Photo of Debra Stone, provided by family.



Figure 2 – Photo of the Narrow River taken by police upon arrival.

Cold Case Unit Investigation

- After joining the case in 2023, the RIAG Cold Case Unit (CCU) and NPD reviewed all records and interviewed 32 witnesses over 11 months
- Despite the passage of time, all witness statements remained consistent
- With the informant's account of disposing Debra's body and Geremia's admission to a witness that he had killed Debra, the CCU determined that the Office had probable cause to charge Geremia for Debra's death

Conclusion

The medical examiner's conclusion that Debra died by strangulation, coupled with witness statements corroborated by evidence from the scene, establishes beyond a reasonable doubt that Geremia murdered Debra.