

R V. Robert Raymond Dezwaan - Chronology of Case

January 14th, 2004 - Justice for Girls discovers that Dezwaan's sexual assault with a weapon, robbery, and confinement charges were stayed on December 18, 2003.

Court and Police History:

1993 Dezwaan is convicted for unlawful confinement and breaking and entering. Dezwaan broke into a woman's residence at night, when the woman woke up he was on top of her attempting to put a rag in her mouth.

1997 Dezwaan is convicted of assaulting a woman.

Early August 2001 Dezwaan is arrested on 2 counts of uttering threats for allegedly threatening his ex-girlfriend and her boyfriend.

Mid August 2001 Dezwaan is arrested for a March 2001 sexual assault with a weapon, confinement, and robbery of a young woman. He is released on bail.

September 24, 2001 Dezwaan is arrested for 2 counts of breaching his bail on the uttering threats matter.

Early October 2001 Dezwaan changes his residence despite a bail condition to reside at a particular address.

October 12 2001 evening Dezwaan is pulled over by the police for suspected drunk driving. Initially he denies drinking alcohol that night but a breath test reveals an alcohol level suggesting a warning (between .05 and .08 blood alcohol level). The police find out that Dezwaan is on bail at the time and under conditions. He tells the police that he is in the process of moving, yet the police do not charge him for breaching his reside condition. The police question Dezwaan about a weapon in his car but he is not arrested. Dezwaan is given a 24 hour road-side suspension and leaves the scene on foot.

October 13 2001 after 2am Dezwaan kills Cherish Oppenheim and leaves her badly damaged body covered with rocks and debris on a deserted road near Merritt.

October 19, 2001 Police pull over Dezwaan and charge him with breach of his bail conditions for failing to reside as directed (offence date on the breach documents is October 5, 2001). Police charge Dezwaan with the murder of Cherish Oppenheim a few days later.

Summer 2002 Justice for Girls monitors murder preliminary inquiry, judge decides enough evidence to proceed to trial.

February 19, 2003 - Dezwaan pleads guilty to second degree murder of Cherish Oppenheim and receives life sentence.

December 18, 2003 - Crown stays Dezwaan's charges of sexual assault with a weapon, unlawful confinement, and robbery.