

Dr. Jose Acosta Interview-Dec 10, 92

Dr. Acosta is a forensic pathologist currently working at Illini Hospital in Moline, IL.

BS: Hi doctor. I am currently involved with writing a book concerning a murder case in Texas which involves a rape. A post-mortem rape where there were no sperm samples found. I was wondering, is it possible, or probable, to commit a rape and leave no forensic trail?"

DA: "Well, that depends on how they define rape. You don't have to ejaculate to commit rape. In some states, penetration, or attempt at penetration, is rape. In that case you would not have any sperm."

BS: "Would it be possible commit this act and not have any trauma show on the body?"

DA: "Yea. Usually trauma is due to the victim putting up some resistance. If the victim decides that she doesn't want to fight this thing and just get it over with, she might not have trauma."

BS: "How probable is it to not leave any forensic evidence? Hair samples. Whatever."

DA: "To be negative, negative, negative for everything? (laughs) I don't think you can. I think you have to leave something behind. Of course, it depends on the time element. I am thinking vaginal rape but it could be oral or someplace else. You have to take samples from all three places."

BS: "This case concerns an alledged vaginal rape that tested negative for sperm."

DA: "You might not be able to see spermatozoa but you can always do chemical tests that indicate that semen has been deposited. Specifically you are looking for enzymes. Acid Phosphotates which might be present in the vaginal secretion, which in females they shouldn't be there."

BS: "So you are saying that to commit a rape, forceful or not, and to come up negative on all points would be very unprobable."

DA: "Yes. You have to have something."

BS: "How long have you been a forensic pathologist?"

DA: "Oh, I have been doing this since 1968."

BS: Thank you very much. That clears up some things."

DA: "Well, I hope it works for your book."

BS: "Thank you very much."

DA: "Your quite welcome."

BS: "Goodbye."

DA: "Bye."

END OF INTERVIEW □