

Court Cases in the Ramsey Family

compiled by Peter Langman, Ph.D.

Evan Ramsey came from a highly unstable family. The family relocated frequently, his mother moved in with a series of men, the children were in and out of foster homes, and so on. In the absence of a coherent narrative account of Evan's life, the history of the family's legal involvement provides important information.

This information was gathered from the database at www.courtrecords.alaska.gov. I have tried to be as accurate as possible, but the records are not always clear. For example, Evan's mother was Carol Ramsey. Her name appears in different records as Carol, Carol Ann, Carolanne, Carolyn, and Carolyn Ann. In addition, she was not the only Carol Ramsey to appear in the records, which can be ascertained by the different dates of birth (though it appears that at times the same individual has different birthdates in different records).¹ In many cases, however, dates of birth were left blank. There were similar issues with Evan's father (Donald) and brother (John). I believe that the information provided here is all related to Evan Ramsey's family, but there is a possibility of error.

This listing goes through the end of 1997 (the year that Evan committed his school shooting); there are additional court records on his family members beyond this date but those are not included here. My purpose is to document the available information regarding Evan's life prior to the shooting. The two cases listed for 1997 that occurred after Evan's attack are included because the situations that brought them about may have existed prior to the attack and they shed light on the family situation.

Finally, the government website notes that these are records of charges, not convictions. The defendants may not have been convicted in all criminal cases.

The dates of birth are as follows:

Donald Lee Ramsey · June 17, 1945
Carolyn Ann Edwards Ramsey · October 16, 1955
John G. Ramsey · September 22, 1978
Evan Ramsey · February 8, 1981
William Ramsey · [?]

William is Evan's younger brother; I haven't found a definite DOB for him. A man named Williams C. Ramsey was charged with driving without a valid license in 2002; his birthday is listed as 12/25/83. This makes him a possible candidate for Evan's younger brother. Though his name is listed as "Williams" instead of "William," this could be an error. See case #3AN-02A1308405.

Note: The numbers in parentheses under each incident are the court case numbers. The first part of the number tells what court heard the case. For example, "3AN" refers to a court in Anchorage, and "4BE" refers to a court in Bethel. The two-digit number that comes next refers to the year of the case. The five-digit number tells what number the case was for that year. The two letters at the end indicate the type of case: CR means Criminal, CI is Civil, DR is Domestic Relations, and DV is Domestic Violence. (Note: these abbreviations have changed over time. Also, some cases have longer case numbers but no two-letter abbreviations at the end – I don't know why.) The numbers in brackets under the court case numbers specify the codes that were violated. This applies only to the criminal cases.

Court Cases in the Ramsey Family

01/01/84: State of Alaska v. Carol for debt

(3AN-84-11009CI)

10/21/86: State of Alaska v. Donald re: kidnapping/attempted kidnapping

(3AN-86-07371CR)

[AS 11.41.300(A)(1)(C)]

[AS 11.41.300(A)(1)(E)]

Donald served 10 years for a rampage in the offices of a newspaper publisher; he chained the doors shut, set off a smoke bomb, fired shots, and was eventually subdued by the publisher and his daughter; see elsewhere on schoolshooters.info for a summary of this case in the 1992 Court of Appeals document for Donald Ramsey: 834 P.2d 811.

03/17/89: Carol filed for injunctive relief against Willie Billy

(4BE-89-00026DR)

Injunctive relief means having a judge order someone to stop engaging in a particular behavior. Though the details are not known, Carol may have requested a restraining order against Mr. Billy for violent behavior. This is suggested by the next listing.

11/20/89: Carol filed against Willie Billy for domestic violence

(4BE-89-00184DV)

02/07/92: Donald was defendant in Civil Superior Court for injunctive relief

(3AN-92-01165CI)

Donald was in prison at the time.

03/29/94: divorce or custody with children; Carol Ramsey v. Donald Ramsey

(4BE-94-00150DR)

It appears that Carol and Donald did not divorce at this time because there was a later case of Donald v. Carolyn regarding "divorce without children." This occurred in 2005 when their children were grown (filed on July 7, 2005, case #3AN-05-09450CI). Perhaps Carol started divorce proceedings against Donald (who was in prison) but did not complete the process, or perhaps she went to court to obtain full legal custody of her children.

05/18/94: Paternity suit filed by William B. Edwards against Donald and Carol

(4BE-94-00209DR)

This case was dismissed. Because Carol's maiden name appears to have been Edwards, it is possible that William Edwards was a relative. The circumstances of this case remain obscure.

07/28/94: Municipality of Anchorage v. John for underage possession of cigarettes

(3AN-94-A962017)

[AMC 11.76.105]

10/09/95: Alaska Student Loan Corp v. Carol for debt

(1JU-95-02038CI)

12/15/95: Municipality of Anchorage v. Carol re: being drunk on roadway

(3AN-95-A995850)

[AMC 8.05.150]

05/15/96: Municipality of Anchorage v. Carol re: drinking in public

(3AN-96A 1025301)

02/28/96: Alaska Dept of Revenue and Edward Williams v. Carol

(3AN-96-01604CI)

12/02/96: Municipality of Anchorage v. John for assault

(3AN-96-09306CR)

[AMC 8.05.030]

[*Note: Donald Ramsey was released from prison on January 13, 1997. He contacted Evan on February 9 and announced he was free.*]

02/13/97: State of Alaska v. John re: robbery

(3AN-97-01143CR)

[AS 11.41.500(A)(1)]

This incident involved the armed robbery of a porn shop.

02/20/97: State of Alaska v. Evan re: murder, attempted murder, assault

(4BE-97-00167CR)

[AS 11.41.100(A)(1)(A)]

[AS 11.31.100(A)]

[AS 11.41.220(A)(1)(A)]

[AS 11.41.220(A)(1)]

This was Evan's school shooting that occurred on 02/19/97 in which he killed two people and wounded two others. In addition to this criminal case, there was a civil case for wrongful death brought by the family of the student Evan killed. This was filed on March 5, 1998: case #4BE-98-00038CI.

11/19/97: Municipality of Anchorage v. Carol for child abuse

(3AN-97-09418CR)

[AMC 8.05.060(B)(1)]

11/25/97: Carol v. Phillip J. Sims (DOB: 02/22/45) re: domestic violence

(3AN-97-09668CI)

Additional Information

Assuming that Carol Ramsey's paramour, Willie Billy, is the same Willie Billy cited in other court records, it is important to note the extent of his illegal behavior. In addition to the two cases involving Carol, he has twenty-two other court records from 1983 through 2000 (see appendix). Though not a formal family member, his involvement with the family must have had a significant impact on Evan. His court records indicate drunkenness and assaultive behavior. He also was charged with attempted sexual assault and later with failing to register as a sex offender.

Also, at the time of his attack, Evan was living with a foster mother who had an adult adopted son who had been convicted of sexual abuse of a minor.² This man lived in the house with Evan. Following his rampage, Evan disclosed that an older boy in foster care sexually abused him. Though Evan has not disclosed any sexual abuse by

either Mr. Billy or this other man, it is possible that he was molested by one or both of these men.

Mr. Billy also was charged with misconduct with a weapon. I noted in my book that Evan, like other traumatized school shooters, had family role models for the misuse of firearms. Evan's father went on an armed rampage when Evan was a child, and his older brother was arrested for armed robbery less than a week before Evan committed his school shooting. Mr. Billy's misconduct with a weapon may have served as yet another male role model for the illegal use of firearms.

Mr. Phillip J. Sims, another paramour of Carol's, also had legal involvement beyond the domestic violence charge she brought against him. On February 23, 1995 he was charged driving while intoxicated, driving with a cancelled license, assault, and escape. On May 23, 2001, he was involved in a small claims case.

Appendix: Mr. Willie Billy's Legal History

These records are variously listed under the names Willie Billy, William Billy, and Willy Billy. In 21 of the records Mr. Billy's birthday is listed as October 4, 1953. In one record it is October 1, 1953. Unfortunately, in the two cases involving Carol Ramsey, his birthday is not given. Thus, I cannot confirm from the information available in the databases that this is the same person. However, because Bethel, Alaska, is a small town of just a few thousand people, and because all of the cases involving Mr. Billy were filed in Bethel, it seems likely that they involved the same man. The two cases involving Carol Ramsey were noted above. Here is basic information on the other cases:

10/03/83: criminal trespass, assault
08/05/86: assault
07/27/87: disorderly conduct
07/04/88: criminal trespass
11/01/88: assault
07/21/89: criminal trespass
11/20/89: assault
11/27/89: driving while intoxicated, refusal to submit to chemical test
02/14/90: assault
04/05/90: driving while intoxicated, refusal to submit to chemical test
07/18/90: criminal trespass
08/02/90: attempted sexual assault
07/13/91: employing unlicensed fishing crew
07/14/91: employing unlicensed fishing crew
07/15/91: employing unlicensed fishing crew
08/08/91: reckless endangerment, assault, driving while intoxicated, misconduct with a weapon
11/06/92: driving while intoxicated, refusal to submit to chemical test
04/09/95: driving while intoxicated, refusal to submit to chemical test, harassment
11/19/95: reckless driving
12/07/96: felony driving while intoxicated
02/08/00: failure to register as sex offender
07/30/00: reckless driving

Notes

- 1 A further word of caution: in 1997 a woman named Carolyn Ramsey went to court for "change of name of adult." I don't know if this was Evan's mother or not, or what the outcome of this was (case #3AN-97-09514CI). In 2003, there was another court case involving a woman named Carolyn Ramsey Casey who was changing her name to Carolyn Ramsey (3AN-03-11181CI). Despite these confusions, however, it does not appear that Evan's mother changed her name – at least not permanently. There is a divorce case from 2005 in which her name was listed Carolyn Ann Edwards Ramsey (3AN-05-09450CI).
- 2 Fainaru, Steve. "Killing in the Classroom: Alaska School Murders: A Window on Teen Rage," Boston Globe, October 20, 1998.