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## **The Case of the Burglarized Bronco Fan**

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Ed Lafferty is a 37-year old auto mechanic, who has been a fan of the Denver Broncos for as long as he can remember. He recently bought a raffle ticket for a drawing to win John Elway's autographed jersey from the 1998 Super Bowl. To his surprise, he won the raffle. Rather than sell this extremely valuable sports collectible, he proudly displayed the jersey on the wall in his den. The local newspaper ran a story on Mr. Lafferty's good luck, and two days later his house was broken into. The only item taken was his John Elway autographed jersey.

You and the other forensic specialists on your team have been assigned to examine the crime scene. You should look for physical evidence, document everything you find by taking notes and making a crime scene map, and carefully package and label any evidence taken. You will then transport the evidence to your lab and analyze it along with samples taken from possible suspects. Please refer to the "Guide to Crime Scene Analysis" for specific procedures.

You will be responsible for documenting and gathering the following types of evidence from the crime scene:

- Fibers and/or hair
- Bloodstains
- Miscellaneous trace evidence (pieces of paper, items the thieves may have dropped, etc.)

When you arrive at the crime scene, you are told by the officer in charge of the crime scene that the police have tried to keep the area as undisturbed as possible. They inform you that the fingerprint team has already dusted the area and lifted prints and the glass fracture pattern expert has already examined the broken window.

The working theory of the crime scene is that the perpetrator(s) entered through the broken window, removed the jersey from the wall adjacent to the TV and exited through the locked, windowless door to the outside. There are several reddish stains on the floor, some of which may be blood. Mr. Lafferty discovered that the burglary had taken place when he arrived home after work at around

6:00 pm. He left at around 7:00 am. The police have identified one suspect so far – a man who attempted to sell an autographed jersey to a sports collectibles shop downtown at about 2:15 pm this afternoon. They have apprehended this man, but they are not sure whether or not he had any accomplices. The suspect is claiming innocence. He insists that he found the jersey in a bag of clothes that someone had tossed in a dumpster.

Finding and analyzing the physical evidence from this crime scene is up to you. The police want information from the physical evidence as soon as possible to answer, to the best of your knowledge, the following questions:

- 1.) Did the suspect act alone, or was there an accomplice?
- 2.) If there was an accomplice, is there any physical evidence that would help to narrow the search for possible suspects?
- 3.) Is there any physical evidence that would link the current suspect to the crime scene?

Provide a detailed written answer for each of these questions. The police or district attorneys may have additional questions for you later.

Make sure that when you enter the crime scene, you are wearing adequate protection to prevent contaminating any evidence (gloves, booties, lab coats, hair coverings). Make sure everyone on your investigative team knows her/his role:

- team leader
- photographer and photographic log recorder
- sketch/map artists
- evidence recovery and evidence recording team