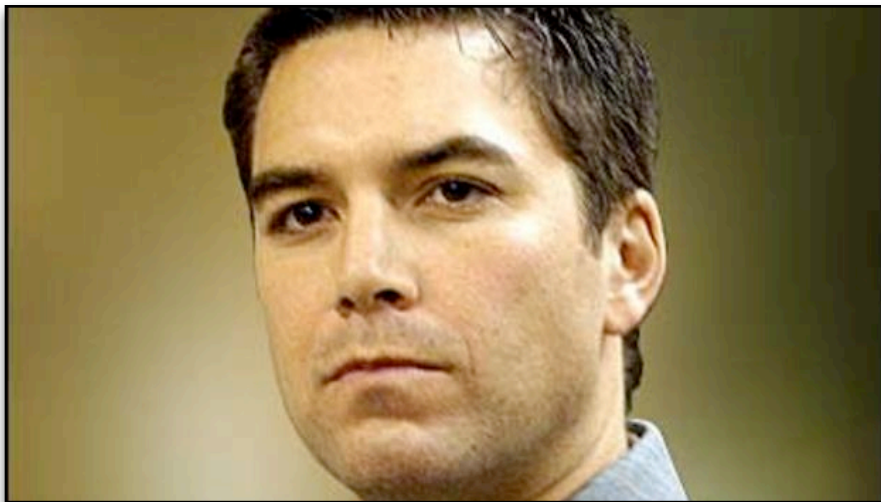


Scott Peterson



Scott Lee Peterson is a condemned criminal convicted of murdering his pregnant wife, Laci Peterson, and their unborn son in Modesto, California. Peterson's wife and child disappeared on Christmas Eve, 2002 and his arrest for the crime and subsequent trial received significant

American news media coverage. He was convicted of first-degree murder in 2004 and sentenced to death by lethal injection the following year. He remains on death row in San Quentin State Prison while his case is on appeal to the Supreme Court of California.

Christmas 2002

Laci and Scott Peterson were college sweethearts and were married five years at the time of her disappearance. Scott Peterson claimed to have gone fishing Christmas Eve morning and returned home to find his wife missing.



Laci Peterson was eight months pregnant with a due date of February 10, 2003, when she was reported missing. The couple had planned to name the baby boy Conner. Apart from her husband, the last two people known to have spoken to Laci before she disappeared were her half-sister, Amy and her mother, Sharon Rocha. Amy cut Scott's hair, with Laci present, on the evening of December 23, 2002. Later



that same evening, the mother spoke with Laci on the telephone around 8:30 pm. Shortly after 10:15 am the following morning, a neighbor found the family dog, running loose in the neighborhood, wearing a collar and a muddy leash. The neighbor then returned the dog to the yard. Laci's vehicle was in the driveway, and her purse, containing her keys and cell phone, was on the table inside the house.



EVIDENCE

Modesto police did not immediately identify Peterson as a suspect, largely because Laci's family and friends maintained their faith in his innocence during the month following her disappearance. Eventually, police grew more suspicious due to inconsistencies in his story. On January 17, it became known that Peterson had numerous extramarital affairs, most recently with a massage therapist named Amber Frey. Frey, who took the photograph below,



contacted police when she learned that Peterson's

wife had been reported missing. Frey told the police that two weeks before Laci's disappearance, Peterson had implied to her that he was a widower by saying that he had "lost his wife." Peterson also claimed to Frey that he had traveled to Paris to celebrate the holidays, in fact, it later became known that he had made that very phone call, one of several, while attending a New Year's Eve candlelight vigil in Modesto for his missing wife. Frey agreed to let the police tape her subsequent phone conversations with Scott Peterson, in hopes of getting him to confess.

On April 14, 2003, the body of a fetus was found on the north shore of San Francisco Bay. The next day a torso was found in the same area. The body was identified as Laci Peterson's and the fetus was identified as her unborn son. An autopsy reported that several of Laci Peterson's ribs had been broken prior to her death.

Evidence

BOAT PURCHASE - two weeks before Laci Peterson disappeared Scott



Peterson began shopping for a 14-foot Gamefisher boat. Coincidentally, he started shopping the same weekend a

friend threatened to tell his mistress he was married. He did not tell any friends or relatives about the boat.

FISHING LICENSE -

Peterson told detectives that his Christmas Eve trip to San Francisco Bay was a last-minute decision, but four days earlier, he had purchased a two-day fishing license valid for Dec. 23 and 24.



ANCHORS - Peterson



manufactured at least one cement weight that is now unaccounted for.

Concrete takes at least 24 hours to set.

CURRENT

CALCULATIONS - Peterson researched currents, boat launches and fishing grounds in the bay two weeks before his wife disappeared.

FISHING TRIP - Peterson left his pregnant wife Christmas Eve morning to drive 90 miles to the bay. He had never fished in the bay before, it was cold, and he passed numerous freshwater lakes, rivers and reservoirs along the way.

WRONG BAIT - Peterson took a \$39 freshwater fishing rod and freshwater lures to the bay, and police noted that he did not have the proper equipment to catch sturgeon or striped bass, for which he claimed to be fishing.

EVIDENCE

Peterson stored his fishing boat in a warehouse, which he used for his job as a fertilizer salesman. Police searched the building and found a black hair on pliers in the bottom of the boat. The FBI linked the hair to Laci Peterson.

In taped interviews with three different reporters, Peterson said he was so distraught about his unborn son that he could not venture into the nursery he and his wife had prepared and decorated in a nautical theme. "That door is closed. I can't look, you know, in that door," he said to a reporter. When Detective Craig Grogan took the stand, he pointed out that when

investigators searched the home, the nursery was being used as a storage room for chairs and linens.

**EVIDENCE**

On January 5, 2003, at 12:42 p.m., Peterson drives a silver car from Modesto to Berkeley Marina, stares out at the water for a few minutes, and then drives straight back to Modesto, according to detectives assigned to trail him.

January 6, 2003, at 7:45 p.m., Peterson stops at the volunteer center and then his attorney's office, before renting a red Honda and driving to the marina again, according to police. After staring out at the water for several minutes, he heads back to Modesto.

That same night at 10:00 p.m., Peterson phones Amber Frey and tells her he is married and his wife was missing. Unbeknownst to him, police are recording the call and feeding Frey questions to ask him. He says he did not tell her earlier because he was "longing to hold on to" her.

On January 9, 2003, at 10:30 a.m., Peterson drives a rented car to the marina and stares out at the bay for a few minutes.

Arrest

5 days after his wife and son's bodies are discovered, Peterson was arrested by San Diego police on April 18, 2003, in La Jolla, California, in the parking lot of the Torrey Pines Golf Course, where he said he was meeting his father and brother for a game of golf. At the time of his arrest, Peterson was in possession of the following non-golf specific items:

- approximately \$15,000 in cash
- Four cell phones
- multiple credit cards belonging to various members of his family
- an array of camping equipment, including knives, implements for warming food, tents and tarpaulins and a water purifier
- nine pairs of footwear (shoes, boots, flip flops)
- several changes of clothing
- a T-handled double-edged dagger
- a MapQuest map to Frey's workplace (printed the previous day)
- a shovel
- 2 ropes
- 200 blister packs of sleeping pills
- Viagra
- his brother's driver's license

