

John Ramsey

1. [Back to Ramsey Did It Theories](#)
2. [The JDI Theories](#)
3. [Incriminating Evidence Related to John Ramsey](#)
 - i. [Overview](#)
 - ii. [Grand Jury Indictment](#)
 - iii. [RN Obviously Staged](#)
 - iv. [Evidence Used in Crime Not Linked to John](#)
 - v. [Fiber Evidence](#)
 - vi. [Handwriting Evidence](#)
 - vii. [Misleading Lie Detector Test](#)
 - viii. [Suspicious Behavior in Interviews](#)
 - ix. [Basement Window Staging](#)
 - x. [John Found Body](#)
 - xi. [Golf Club Bag](#)
 - xii. [Alleged Confession](#)
 - xiii. [Arndt's Intuition](#)
 - xiv. [Why No Libel Suits Filed?](#)
 - xv. [American Girl Doll Order](#)
4. [Exculpatory Evidence Related to John Ramsey](#)
 - i. [Boulder Grand Jury Indictment Not Dispositive](#)
 - ii. [Lack of Forensic Evidence Connected to John Ramsey](#)
 - iii. [Character/Credibility](#)
 - iv. [Unreliability of Demeanor Evidence](#)
 - v. [Other Cases of False Accusation Against Fathers](#)

Back to [Ramsey Did It Theories](#)

The JDI Theories

Virtually all JDI theories incorporate either prior sexual abuse or child pornography as being motivating factors for the killing. In some theories, the killing was accidental--an erotic asphyxiation game gone awry; Cyril Wecht is the most well-known proponent of this idea. In other theories the killing was deliberate, motivated by anger or fear that JBR would blow the whistle on what had been going on.

- **Books.** Two books have been written presenting JDI theories (this excludes [11 books that provide RDI theories without specifying which parent killed JBR](#); Wecht's book as among these 11 simply because he has [acknowledged](#) he does not know which parent was involved in his sex-game-gone-awry scenario). Full publication details and links [here](#).
 - **DocG 2015.** *Ruled In: Solving the JonBenét Ramsey Case.*
 - **Von Duyke & Wallington 1998.** Eleanor Von Duyke and Dwight Wallington. *A Little Girl's Dream? A JonBenét Ramsey Story.*
- **On-line Discussions.**
 - DocG's [Solving the JonBenét Ramsey Case](#) is devoted to a discussion of his theory, which is detailed in [Just The Facts, Ma'am, Case Solved](#) and [A Scenario](#).
 - See [BORG Theories](#) and [John Ramsey](#) at Webbsleuths forum chat.

Incriminating Evidence Related to John Ramsey

Overview

- **DocG's Theory.** Internet poster [docG](#) has one of the most elaborate JDI theories. [docG](#) believes that to understand why John must be regarded as the chief suspect in this case, it is necessary, first, to realize that there is no real intruder evidence and no reason for any intruder to have done all the things that were done on the night of the crime -- certainly no reason for an intruder to write an obviously phoney ransom note; secondly, there is no evidence connecting Patsy to the crime (see above). Burke could not have written the note, much less cracked open his sister's skull. Which leaves: John Ramsey. Evidence pointing to John includes:
 - RN obviously staged
 - Evidence used in crime not linked to John
 - Fiber evidence
 - Handwriting evidence
 - Misleading lie detector test
 - Basement window staging
- **Books.** Two other [books](#) offering JDI theories have been published.
- **Fathers Who Kill Their Children.** Here's a general [summary](#) of fathers who kill children and the reasons why.

Grand Jury Indictment

In 1996, the grand jury foreman signed a [true bill](#) for the following charges:

- COUNT IV (a) On or between December 25 t and December 26, 1996, in Boulder County, Colorado, JohnBennett Ramsey did unlawfully, knowingly, recklessly and feloniously permit a child to be unreasonably placed in a situation which pos~ a threat of injury to the child's life or health, which resulted in the death of JonBenét Ramsey, a child under the age of sixteen.
- COUNT VII On Or about December 25, and December 26, 1996 in Boulder CountyY, Colorado,John Bennett ~sey did unlawfully, knowingly and feloniously render assistance to a person, with intent to hinder, delay and prevent the discovery, detention, apprehension, prosecution, conviction and punishment of such person for the commission of a crime, knowing the person' b~ing assisted has committed and was suspec.ted of ~e crime of Murder in the First Degree and Child Abuse Resulting in Death.
- A grand juror who broke secrecy rules told ABC's 20/20 in December 2016:
 - ["They were told to indict only if they found probable cause, in other words if they found it was more likely than not that the Ramseys killed their own daughter."](#)
 - [20/20s Amy Robach says. "Was there enough evidence to indict John and Patsy Ramsey for a crime?" Robach asks the juror, who responds: "Based upon the evidence that was presented I believe that was correct."](#)
 - ["Based on the evidence you were presented do you feel you know who killed JonBenét Ramsey?" Robach asks. The juror responds: "I highly suspect, I do."](#)
- Parallel charges were filed for Patsy Ramsey.
- However Boulder DA Alex Hunter opted not to sign any of these charges, so the case was not pursued (more below).
- **More Serious Charges Considered?** Denver attorney Craig Silverman [speculates](#): "There is a class one felony variation of Child Abuse Resulting in Death which is a form of First Degree Murder. The DA would need to prove that a person in a position of trust (John Ramsey and Patsy Ramsey),caused the child abuse which resulted in six year oldJonBenét's death, or acted as an accomplice for the person who did. I surmise the grand jury considered this charge (as Count IV) for each Ramsey parent, but did not achieve the necessary nine out of twelve majorities to vote it up (True Bill) or down (no True Bill)."

RN Obviously Staged

According to docG, the note itself, which was clearly part of a plan to stage a phoney kidnapping and dump the body while claiming to be delivering the ransom. If Patsy had not called 911 when she did, the plan could have succeeded. Patsy is the one who made that call, NOT John. Moreover, the note is directed at John and designates HIM to be the one to raise the ransom and deliver it to the kidnapers. If Patsy hadn't called 911, he could have used the note as an excuse to send her and Burke off to stay with friends while he took control of the situation, as demanded by "the kidnapers." Many people think John told Patsy to make that call, but this is contradicted by Patsy's own testimony in the first Tracey documentary, in which she says it was she who told John she was going to call the police. More about the note [here](#). More on DocG's theories about the note:

- [The Purpose of the Note](#)
- [Has the Author of the Ransom Note Been Unmasked? P...](#)

- [Has the Author of the Ransom Note Been Unmasked?](#)

Evidence Used in Crime Not Linked to John

According to docG, the evidence that supposedly links Patsy with the crime is actually much more consistent with John as perp. Nothing from the house that was used in the crime is directly linked to John. Most is linked to Patsy. If Patsy were guilty, she'd have avoided using her own things. Same with John. Patsy's things were used. John's were not. This fact points to JOHN, not Patsy. (This does NOT mean, by the way, that John was trying to frame Patsy, there's no evidence of that. All it means is that there was a limited number of things available in the house, so if someone wanted to avoid using his own things, he'd go out of his way to use someone else's. Burke's knife was also used, so he didn't limit himself to Patsy, just took whatever was available that couldn't be directly linked to him.)

Fiber Evidence

- Dark fibers matching John's shirt were found in [JonBenet's](#) crotch.
- Internet poster [koldkase](#) summarizes conflicting claims about this evidence, which Ramsey lawyer Lin Wood has flatly [denied](#).
- **No Innocent Explanation.** According to docG, this potentially highly incriminating evidence is cited in the transcripts of interviews the police conducted with both John and Patsy Ramsey in August, 2000. (See Section 0202, lines 10-24 of Patsy's [interview](#) and Section 0057, lines 21-25 and 0058, line 1 of John's [interview](#).) While the presence of Patsy's fibers at the crime scene can be explained as innocent transference from mother to daughter prior to the crime, John's fibers are a different matter entirely, since it's difficult to explain how they could have gotten inside [JonBenet's](#) parties in some innocent manner.
- **Were Investigators Lying?** While some argue that investigators deliberately falsely claimed to have found such fibers to see how John would react, the Colorado Rules of Professional Conduct [state](#): Rule 4.1 Truthfulness in Statements to Others "In the course of representing a client a lawyer shall not knowingly: a) make a false or misleading statement of fact or law to a third person; or(b) fail to disclose a material fact to a third person when disclosure is necessary to avoid assisting a criminal or fraudulent act by a client, unless disclosure is prohibited by Rule 1.6. COMMENT Misrepresentation A lawyer is required to be truthful when dealing with others on a client's behalf, but generally has no affirmative duty to inform an opposing party of relevant facts. A misrepresentation can occur if the lawyer incorporates or affirms a statement of another person that the lawyer knows is false. Misrepresentations can also occur by failure to act."

Handwriting Evidence

docG writes: There is some very real evidence pointing toward John as sole perpetrator of this horrendous crime, but this evidence is rarely considered due to widely circulated reports that he was eliminated as a possible writer of the note. Every other aspect of the case has been thoroughly examined and thoroughly questioned in the media and on the internet, but the decision to eliminate John has a very special status: it has always been accepted as gospel. We have only to visit the website of forensic document expert Fausto [Brugnatelli](#) to wonder at the strange decision to rule John out. Other analysis done by DocG includes:

- [Some Handwriting Evidence](#)
- [Who Wrote the "Ransom Note"](#)
- [Right Hand vs. Left Hand](#)
- [A Minor Mystery Revealed?](#)
- [A New Wrinkle](#)
- [Ruled Out -- Part 3: Courier New](#)

Misleading Lie Detector Test

Although JR passed a lie detector test, skeptics are dubious about this [test](#). According to docG, in their highly publicized polygraph, Patsy was asked about the ransom note, but not John. This strongly suggests he must have failed that part of an earlier exam. The polygraphers were not independent, but hired by the Ramsey's lawyers. They would therefore be constrained by lawyer-client privilege from revealing such a result. Ultimately, we only have the Ramseys word for it that both of them passed all the polygraphs they were given. More on DocG's theory about these lie detector tests:

- ["Passing" the Polygraphs](#)

Suspicious Behavior in Interviews

- **LSI Laboratory for Scientific Interrogation, Inc.** [The JonBenet Ramsey Case: Analysis of Ramsey's T.V. Interview](#). This is a statement analysis of the 2000 CNN interview with John and Patsy Ramsey. Conclusion: There are enough signals in the language to indicate that John Ramsey is involved in the murder of JonBenet. Patsy Ramsey is likely to have known of the sexual abuse.
- **Larry King Live Interview (2006).** According to blogger SteelMagnolia, "licking your lips after saying something is a strong sign of deception." Whynut compiled a [video](#) of JR licking his lips 49 times in 36 seconds during a Larry King Live interview shortly after John Mark Karr's arrest.

Basement Window Staging

According to docG, there is evidence of staging at the basement window. John went to the basement very early, supposedly to look for clues. When he found the window open, he closed it without telling anyone. Later he claimed he'd broken that window months earlier. But his story is totally unconvincing. He can't remember when this earlier incident happened, can't explain why he couldn't have gotten a key from a neighbor who had a copy, can't explain how he could have managed to place his hand and arm through a baseball sized hole in the glass to unlatch the window, and can't recall whether or not the window had been subsequently repaired. The housekeeper, Linda Hoffmann Pugh, is on record as stating she knew nothing about any broken window and has flatly contradicted Patsy's claim that both of them cleaned up the glass. All of the above is consistent with a plan gone wrong, an attempt to stage a kidnapping and dump the body before calling the police, a plan that was foiled when Patsy called them despite the warnings in the note. With his plan foiled, John might well have felt uneasy about the window, which he seems to have staged as an entry point for an intruder. Realizing the police, called in before he'd had a chance to complete his staging, might see through it and arrest him on the spot, John may well have decided to UNstage by closing the window, pocketing most of the glass, and claiming he'd broken it months earlier. More on DocG's theories about the window staging:

- [Clear Evidence of Staging: The Basement Window](#)
- [The Basement Window -- Part 2](#)
- [The Basement Window -- Part 3](#)
- [The Basement Window -- Part 4](#)
- [The Scene at the Window](#)
- [An Open Window](#)
- [The Broken Window Redux](#)
- [The Broken Window Redux: Part 2](#)
- [The Broken Window Redux: Part 3](#)
- [The Broken Window Redux: Part 4](#)

John Found Body

Some find it suspicious that early in the morning, Fleet White had opened the door to the room that JBR eventually was found in, but could see nothing on the floor in the darkness (he did not switch on the light). John, however, instantly cried out upon opening the door even though he too hadn't yet switched on the light.

Golf Club Bag

JDI proponents believe that JR could have used his golf club bag to remove any items that appear missing from the crime scene (e.g., a missing portion of paintbrush handle used for garrote, remainder of ligature cord, remainder of duct tape roll). [According](#) to Anonymous, "golf club bag is moved between early morning picture taking by police (shortly after 6:00 a.m.) and evening picture taking by CSI's (after 8:00 p.m.). Next day Ramsey is asking for his golf clubs to be gotten from the house. Oh, that's right, my daughter was just brutally murdered and I'm worried about getting my golf clubs so I can go golfing."

Alleged Confession

Diane Hollis, a former executive secretary of John Ramsey who claims to have had a conversation with a personal secretary of John Ramsey which lasted over an hour and a half period of time regarding what took place with JonBenet Ramsey. Polygrapher Gene Parker asked Ms. Hollis: "Were you told that John Ramsey was molesting JonBenet? That Patsy saw it, swung at John but hit JonBenet instead?" He concluded there was a 88% probability that Miss Hollis was truthful with her "Yes" response utilizing an instrument of the United States Government polygraph for that purpose ([Webbsleuths forum chat](#)).

Arndt's Intuition

Linda Arndt, the only BPD investigator on the scene when John Ramsey found JBR's body at 1:05 PM, had strong suspicions at that point that JR was the culprit. Her [testimony](#) makes clear that until he brought the body upstairs, she harbored no suspicions about John. But given the strange way in which he carried the body, Arndt concluded that he'd had an incestuous relationship with JBR and that he was responsible for her death. [She also found it suspicious that the Ramseys let the 10 a.m. ransom deadline pass without a word.](#)

- [The Daily Camera](#) news coverage of Linda Arndt's appearances on Good Morning America are [here](#).
- Video of her appearance on ABC's 20/20 is [here](#).

Why No Libel Suits Filed?

There have been at least 3 books and many tabloid accounts published that advance a JDI theory. Even though the Ramseys have been assiduous about filing libel suits to

protect Burke's name, but Internet poster [IvoryTower](#) has [observed](#) that none of their suits has been directed against those who promote JDI theories.

American Girl Doll Order

- **When Ordered.** [Jahazafat claims](#) "the duplicate or replacement doll order was processed into the Pleasant Company computer system on January 1st 1997 and shipped via UPS with a tracking number the following day. It would have been received in the mail the day prior, as the 1st was a mail holiday. First class mail generally runs 2-3 days. If received the 31st it was likely mailed the 28th or 29th."
- **Source of Fibers and Tape?** [Jahazafat is convinced](#) one of these dolls may have been the source of a) dark blue fibers (from the doll's dress); b) tan fibers (from the doll's torso); c) duct tape used on JBR's mouth; d) synthetic hair/fiber; and c) other fibers found at the crime scene.
- **Motivation for Removing Dolls.** In [Jahazafat's view](#), this provided a motivation for Pam Paugh to remove "several American Girl dolls" when she retrieved funeral clothing for the Ramseys. According to Schiller: "The day before, one of Patsy Ramsey's sisters had gone into the house with police permission and taken out an oil painting, several American Girl dolls, a portfolio of [Jon Benet's](#) pageant photographs, a pageant medal with a blue ribbon, graduation photos of the older children, and a Bible from John Ramsey's desk..."
- **Did Pam Paugh Assist in a Cover-up?** According to [Jahazafat](#), "Few people knew Pam Paugh removed anything when the duplicate doll was ordered. It was not general knowledge the Ramseys had composed a list for her of things they wanted removed from the house. Everything removed was packaged up and bagged, not visible for everyone to see. And every attempt was made to prevent anyone from knowing she was even at the house. To order the doll the person responsible had to have a catalog with the codes, prices, shipping costs, and the address were to send the order. They had to have it at their disposal almost the instant the dolls were removed. Did Pam Paugh remove a catalog with the dolls?"
- **Did DA Assist in a Cover-up?** "Early on the tape doll connection pointed nowhere, just the dolls were likely present at the crime scene. It is the DA's failure to pursue this evidence that points to their own involvement in covering up the death of Jonbenet. They have never questioned Pam Paugh about removing items or attempted to investigate her actions at the crime scene."
- **Did John Ramsey Order a Replacement Doll?** [Jahazafat](#) asserts: "John Ramsey claims he was out walking alone the afternoon of 12/28, a perfect alibi for ordering the duplicate doll."

Exculpatory Evidence Related to John Ramsey Boulder Grand Jury Indictment Not Dispositive

- **DA Never Signed Indictment.**
 - **DA View.** The fact that Alex Hunter never signed the true bill or pursued the case demonstrates how weak it was. He judged a victory unattainable especially since no jury would be in a position to conclude beyond a reasonable doubt that Patsy, rather than John or someone else, actually committed the crime.
 - **Grand Juror View.** This is confirmed by the grand juror who broke secrecy rules told ABC's 20/20 in December 2016: "[asked if the case had gone to trial, did he believe that the Ramseys would be convicted, the juror answered "no".](#)"
 - **DocG View.** On his blog, DocG speculates: "[Hunter hired a forensic doc examiner from the Secret Service, someone with stellar credentials, in the hope that this guy would testify that Patsy wrote the note. Instead, he concluded the opposite: there was "no evidence" Patsy wrote it. I think this decision was the turning point for Hunter, because he realized that, after discovery, the Ramsey lawyers would be sure to put this guy on the stand -- and how do you argue with the Secret Service? Forget about reasonable doubt, because on the basis of that testimony alone there would be no case at all.](#)"
- **Juries Are Not Infallible.** OJ was acquitted by a jury even though there is widespread belief he is guilty based on the overwhelming amount of forensic evidence linking him to the killing of Nicole Simpson and Ron Goldman.

Lack of Forensic Evidence Connected to John Ramsey

- **No Handwriting Match.** JR's handwriting does not match.
- **No DNA Match.** JR's DNA does not match. [According to](#) Paula Woodward, "Currently, the 1. Colorado Bureau of Investigation DNA analysis, 2. the Cellmark DNA analysis, 3. the Greg LaBerge analysis, 4. the FBI CODIS acceptance of those similar DNA analyses and 5. one Bode Touch DNA analysis test result are similar to each other and exclude Patsy, John, Burke, John Andrew and Melinda Ramsey.
- **Fiber Evidence.** Lin Wood [stated](#) in November 2002: "That was invented. We know that there were black fibers found, they claim, but there were no black fibers found in the areas of Jon Benet's underwear, as claimed in that question. The Boulder Police Department did not even ask for the Ramseys to provide the department with the clothes they were wearing the night of Jon Benet's murder for over one year. They couldn't even remember what they had worn. They had to go back and look at photographs to try and reconstruct what they wore that night." Jameson [argues](#) that police were deliberately lying about this fiber evidence in their interview with John. See [legal lying in interrogations](#) under Disproving Myths at Webbsleuths forum chat.
- **No Pornography Found.** Early reports that pornography was found in the house were false (Glick et al. 1998).

Character/Credibility

- **Passed Lie Detector Test.** JR passed a lie detector test; Ed Gelb's summary report to Lin Wood of tests conducted between May 6 and May 17, 2000 is [here](#); a transcript of the press conference at which the lie detector test results were announced is [here](#). More details at [Ramseys Passed Lie Detector Tests](#).
- **John Douglas Believed John Ramsey's Account.** In his book (Douglas and Olshaker 2000:300), Douglas says the following [[transcribed by Jameson at Webbsleuths](#)]: "I paid close attention to what he said, concentrating on his inflection, breathing, body language, word choice - matching him up against the experience I'd gained through thousands of interviews with both violent offenders and victims and their families. I took John through the entire morning and afternoon of December 26, up to when he said he discovered his daughter in the wine cellar. When he talked about carrying her upstairs, he started blinking, as if revisualizing the scene. Then he began to sob."
 - "After I had spent about two hours with Ramsey, he excused himself to go to the rest room. I turned to Bryan Morgan, who'd been in the room the entire time, and said, simply, 'I believe him'" [emphasis added].
 - "When Ramsey returned, I told him I had sat across the table from hundreds of criminals. Some have been so convincing that I went back to the files and looked up the case materials to make sure that the evidence was, indeed, solid against them. I then said, 'Mr. Ramsey, you are either one hell of a liar or you're innocent. I believe what you're telling me'" [emphasis added].
 - On the specific question of sexual abuse, Douglas concluded (p. 314): "People do not act in a vacuum. Every action is tied to every other action. *John Ramsey is not and was not a sex offender and has none of the characteristics...*" [emphasis added] We have to make very, very clear that he could not have done this to his daughter."
- **John Found Body.** Internet poster [Braveheart](#) has [explained](#) how the physiology of the eye would explain why Fleet White couldn't see the body even after driving over in the dark. In contrast, by the time John entered the room, there was more ambient daylight by which he could see the contrasting white blanket against the dark floor.

Unreliability of Demeanor Evidence

See [Unreliability of "Demeanor Evidence"](#) for a thorough discussion of why JR's demeanor following JBR's death is an unreliable indicator of whether or not he lied to police about his involvement in JBR's killing.

Other Cases of False Accusation Against Fathers

- **Kevin Fox (father of Riley Fox).** [Kevin Fox, the father of Riley Fox, a 3-year-old killed in a Chicago suburb in 2004, spent eight months in jail before he was exonerated by DNA evidence.](#)