Court Cases in the Ramsey Family

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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	17 June 1945
Carolyn Ann Edwards Ramsey	16 October 1955

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John G. Ramsey	22 September 1978
Evan Ramsey	8 February 1981
William Ramsey	[?]

William is Evan's younger brother; I haven't found a definite birth date for him. A man named Williams C. Ramsey was charged with driving without a valid license in 2002; his birthday is listed as 25 December 1983. 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.

COURT CASES IN THE RAMSEY FAMILY

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 = criminal; CI = civil; DR = domestic relations; DV = 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.

1 January 1984 *State of Alaska v. Carol for debt*
(*3AN-84-11009CI*)

21 October 1986 *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 ten 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 *School Shooters .info* for a summary of this case in the 1992 Court of Appeals document for Donald Ramsey: 834 P.2d 811.

17 March 1989 *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.

20 November 1989 *Carol filed against Willie Billy for domestic violence*
(*4BE-89-00184DV*)

7 February 1992 *Donald was defendant in Civil Superior Court for injunctive relief*
(*3AN-92-01165CI*)

Donald was in prison at the time.

29 March 1994 *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.

18 May 1994 *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.

28 July 1994 *Municipality of Anchorage v. John for underage possession of cigarettes*
(*3AN-94-A962017*)
[*AMC 11.76.105*]

9 October 1995 *Alaska Student Loan Corp v. Carol for debt*
(*1JU-95-02038CI*)

15 December 1995 *Municipality of Anchorage v. Carol re: being drunk on roadway*
(*3AN-95-A995850*)
[*AMC 8.05.150*]

15 May 1996 *Municipality of Anchorage v. Carol re: drinking in public*
(*3AN-96-A1025301*)

28 February 1996 *Alaska Dept of Revenue and Edward Williams v. Carol*
(*3AN-96-01604CI*)

2 December 1996 *Municipality of Anchorage v. John for assault*
(*3AN-96-09306CR*)
[*AMC 8.05.030*]

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

13 February 1997 *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.

20 February 1997 *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, which occurred on 19 February 1997 and 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 5 March 1998 as case #4BE-98-00038CI.

19 November 1997 *Municipality of Anchorage v. Carol for child abuse*
(*3AN-97-09418CR*)
[*AMC 8.05.060(B)(1)*]

25 November 1997 *Carol v. Phillip J. Sims* (*DOB 22 February 1945*) *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 *Why Kids Kill* 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 23 February 1995 he was charged with driving while intoxicated, driving with a canceled license, assault, and escape. On 23 May 2001, he was involved in a small claims case.

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 4 October 1953. In one record it is 1 October 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:

3 October 1983	criminal trespass, assault
5 August 1986	assault
27 July 1987	disorderly conduct
4 July 1988	criminal trespass
1 November 1988	assault
21 July 1989	criminal trespass
20 November 1989	assault
27 November 1989	driving while intoxicated, refusal to submit to chemical test
14 February 1990	assault
5 April 1990	driving while intoxicated, refusal to submit to chemical test
18 July 1990	criminal trespass
2 August 1990	attempted sexual assault
13 July 1991	employing unlicensed fishing crew
14 July 1991	employing unlicensed fishing crew
15 July 1991	employing unlicensed fishing crew
8 August 1991	reckless endangerment, assault, driving while intoxicated, misconduct with a weapon
6 November 1992	driving while intoxicated, refusal to submit to chemical test
9 April 1995	driving while intoxicated, refusal to submit to chemical test, harassment
19 November 1995	reckless driving
7 December 1996	felony driving while intoxicated
8 February 2000	failure to register as sex offender
30 July 2000	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" (case #3AN-97-09514CI). I don't know if this was Evan's mother or not, or what the outcome of this was. 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,* 20 October 1998. SS.I