

"It's pretty clear what happened," Medical Examiner Testifies Renteria Case

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By **Brian Mori**, Tucson Courts Examiner



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A forensic pathologist described Thursday the wounds sustained by James Marschinke, 49, and Richard Rue Jr., 41, the day they were killed by confessed shooter Daniel Montes Renteria, 27, on trial for manslaughter.

Deputy Medical Examiner Dr. Cynthia Porterfield, who consulted at the scene and performed both autopsies, relayed the medical evidence for the jurors.

Marschinke was shot 3 times in the torso and once in the crown of the head.

Rue was shot twice in his midsection and from an elevated position in the side of *his* head.

Though Porterfield could not determine Renteria's exact position at the time of *any* shots, she was certain the fatal head wounds occurred from above while the victims were either on the ground or bent over toward the shooter.

The sequence of their wounds suggested both men could have been moving when any of the shots occurred, she agreed with both the prosecution and the defense.

Porterfield agreed with defense attorney Natasha Wrae on cross-examination that except for the fatal head shot to each victim, they could have remained on their feet for a few minutes.

Renteria claimed self defense which requires the state to prove there was no immediate or apparent immediate threat to his life or that of another person.

In August, Porterfield said she doubted Rue would have been able to use his legs though blood evidence at the scene suggested he ran around the corner of the house.

“It’s possible, given their wounds, though I would have expected them to bleed out very quickly, in a manner of one or two minutes,” Porterfield said on the stand Thursday.

Stippling from gunpowder fragments on Rue’s arm indicated to her he was shot, at one point, between 6 inches and 3 feet away.

Porterfield also explained that 5 hours between the shooting and her medical team arriving at the scene was not unusual.

“In cases of extreme temperature it might affect the body,” she said, “but gunshots wounds are what they are.”

She said Tucson police request medical examiners to consult at most homicides after evidence has been secured.

Outside the courthouse Porterfield said compared to other shooting victims she’s autopsied, “It’s pretty clear what happened.”

She specified she was speaking medically and not about any other aspect of the case.

Tags:

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