



Experts shed light on why homicides of pregnant women occur

Murder is the third leading causes of death for pregnant women

Story by ABC News

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Lori Hacking, who was pregnant with her first child, was killed just after she told her husband, Mark, who left her body in the Salt Lake City dump.

Laci Peterson was murdered on Christmas Eve. She was eight months pregnant by husband, Scott.

Who are these men? Why do they kill rather than simply leave their expecting wives and lovers?

"Men who kill their pregnant wives are always psychopaths," said Criminal Profiler Pat Brown. "She's in the way. I made a mistake, and I think I will erase my mistake. So, he kills her. And he thinks that will solve the problem."

Brown says if Bobby Cutts, who denies he killed his mistress Jessie Davis, is the murderer as charged, he fits the profile. He is a psychopath, she says, who shows little emotion about the victim. She points to Cutts lone media interview, when he told a local newspaper how hard the investigation had been on him.

"I haven't been myself, I can't sleep. I can't eat. This is like the worst. I can't even imagine, I mean this is like a movie," Cutts said.

While Laci Peterson was still missing, her husband, Scott, told Diane Sawyer how difficult it was on him to walk the family dog.

"A lot of times, I can't make it very far. I make it part of the way. I certainly can't make it to the part of the park where currently there's a big poster of her up," Scott said.

"They never show much interest in their wives or their unborn children. They are only complaining about themselves," Brown said.

Murder is a leading cause of death for pregnant women. First risks are the normal medical complications of child-bearing, but then traffic accidents, followed by homicide.

Stacy Phillips is a criminal defense attorney, specializing in domestic violence and she says the pressure of new responsibilities, like a new child, can and too often do erupt into uncontrollable emotions.

"When there's a relationship, and a tension between two people, when money's at stake, bad things happen," said Stacy Phillips, author of *Divorce: It's All About Control*.

