

**OFFICER ANTONIO
HERNANDEZ JR.**



CASE 2

DEMOGRAPHIC

52-year-old, White Male, Hispanic, 67" tall, 150 pounds at the time of death. Body Mass Index (BMI) 23.5 (Normal). Tony was divorced with no children and lived alone. He had been divorced from his wife for about a month. This was his only marriage. After the final paperwork was complete on the divorce, Tony seemed to go into a deep depression and became nearly despondent. Tony had no history of depression or alcohol abuse. However, his mother had died by suicide. The underlying reason is unknown.

Tony was a veteran police officer with a large municipality. He had received several awards for heroism and bravery. Tony served approximately 15 years with his agency prior to his passing. He was a highly decorated Army veteran who served two tours overseas. Tony was never diagnosed with PTSD, but he told friends and co-workers that he believed he suffered from it.

Tony was noted as being a casual drinker, but friends and relatives said his use of alcohol in the past months had become concerning and problematic. Several of Tony's coworkers noted him calling in more often and that he even left early the day he was discovered deceased. Tony died as a result of asphyxia due to ligature strangulation. A relative went to check on him after noticing some disturbing posts on his social media page and being unable to reach him by phone.



[Facebook post: “I’m sorry but I just couldn’t go on without her.”]

[Facebook post: “Angela, I love you.”]

Tony was discovered suspended by an extension cord over the second-floor stair railing. The divorce paper she received that day were pinned to his shirt. He was still dressed in his uniform.

Suicide Note

No note was discovered, but two separate social media posts were noted. Several text messages were also sent to Tony’s ex-wife [Angela] though she did not respond to any of them. Angela said that after seeing the third text, she became concerned and called 911.

Text 1: Please call me, we need to talk.

Text 2: I love you, why can’t you love me.

Text 3: Goodbye.

Background

Tony was the youngest of two children. He was extremely close to his older brother Juan, until Juan’s unexpected passing about five years ago. Juan was tragically killed in an automobile accident. Tony took his death extremely hard. Tony lost his mother to suicide when he was in high school. That was a loss he never fully seemed to recover from. His father is still alive but suffers from many physical issues. Tony and his father are also very close. Tony is his father’s sole caregiver. As a young man, Tony was exceptionally bright and gifted. He had book smarts and the ability to speak with anyone. This seemed to pave the way for his career in law enforcement.

A few years after high school Tony joined the Army. He wanted to get away and to see the world. After two enlistments, Tony wanted to come back home to be closer to his father and extended family. Upon moving back, a friend told him about several openings at the local police department. Tony seemed like an excellent fit. He applied at the local police department and was soon going through the hiring process, background, and eventually the academy and field training. He excelled at nearly everything.

Tony loved his new job and that was his focus in life. Tony did not have much of a social life. He wanted to devote all his time and energy into his new career.

About a year prior to his death, Tony met Angela. She was a records clerk at the courthouse. The two really seemed to hit it off. Tony was in his first real relationship. He dated casually in the military, but he had more one-night stands and never wanted to settle down. Tony and Angela were inseparable. Several of Tony's co-workers noted the change in his personality as being more positive, but that his work seemed to suffer a bit. They noted that he seemed to be more tired and burning the candle at both ends. Many of them wrote it off to being in love.

Several months into the relationship Tony proposed and the two eloped. Tony's family and friends were shocked but were happy for him to be settling down. Shortly after marrying, Tony noticed Angela began acting distant and secretive.

Angela seemed to avoid Tony's affection and he had caught her in several lies. Tony suspected she was being unfaithful and began monitoring her social media pages, her cell phone, and who she was hanging around. The two were constantly arguing and Angela on more than one occasion threatened divorce if Tony would not stop being so jealous and possessive. Tony agreed to her conditions initially, until Angela began receiving text messages from her old boyfriend. Tony confronted Angela and she confessed that the two had never stopped seeing each other even after they were married. Tony was devastated and heartbroken. He wanted Angela to stop seeing this other man and to go to marriage counseling. Angela refused to do either.

Nine months after the two eloped, Tony was served with divorce papers at work the day he was found deceased. Tony was on patrol when his shift sergeant called him back to the station. The Sergeant notified Tony of the process server in the lobby. Tony was utterly humiliated. He signed for the papers and went back out on patrol. After about 3 minutes, Tony became emotionally upset and called his Sergeant back and asked to leave early.

END OF SCENARIO