

type of case I am working on in order to use my talents. For example, Alice/Murder.

"I also like to hold an object that was on the victim at the time of the murder. I prefer metal objects, such as a ring or watch." This technique is called *psychometry*. Ms. Renier states that she is able to tune into impressions or vibrations left by the owner in or around metal objects. For example, the earring of a murder victim was sent to Ms. Renier by Michigan police. She was able, through psychometry, to reconstruct what the victim looked like, where she lived, what the house looked like, and how the victim was killed. In addition, she states that she "saw" the murderer washing his hands and combing his hair. She even "saw" the tattoos on his arms. She was able to describe this person to the police, who later arrested their suspect based on physical evidence developed during the investigation.

"I try to see physically what the victim looked like. I then try to recreate the scene of the murder. I do these things for two reasons.

"First, to make sure that I am tuning into the correct case, and secondly, to give the police confidence in me as a psychic.

"Once the police start believing I'm real, and can do the things I say I can, we can continue.

"As I describe the victim and the scene of the crime, I insist on feedback. A simple 'Yes' or 'I understand' is sufficient. I do not need additional clues or information.

"After describing the victim and the scene of the crime, if it is a murder, I try to feel the way the person was murdered. I switch from psychic 'seeing' to psychic 'feeling.' During the session I will use all of my five senses to a degree which is beyond the average person. I have been 'shot,' 'stabbed,' and 'strangled' numerous times during this psychic 'feeling.' This usually is painful, since I can actually feel where the bullet or knife entered 'my' body. I often moan and groan. However, I can shake this feeling off instantly. The people who I am working with should understand this and not become upset for me. At this point, I have satisfied myself, and hopefully the police, who are present, that I am 'tuned' into the case.

"I then like to describe the murderer. I explain to the police before we start the session how to question me. If they have not asked questions before, it is important that they do so now. I can see the murderer, but the way I am questioned will help me see him or her more clearly. The police can then obtain the necessary information to help them apprehend this person. It is helpful to have a police or quick sketch artist on hand to sketch the face I describe.

"Besides the murderer's appearance, I am able to go into his or her personality, mode of travel from the scene, etc. I can even switch

back and become the victim again, whatever the police investigators request me to do.

"One thing which is vitally important, is how the police phrase the questions. They have to question me in a casual, gentle manner. I cannot be interrogated like a criminal, even when I am playing the part of the criminal. There should be no leading type questions, such as, 'Is his hair black?' Instead, the question should be, 'What is the color of his hair?' Preferably, there should be *no* series of 'Yes' and 'No' questions, as sometimes I lose my train of thought. If it looks like I'm dying down, the question must be rephrased or I must be redirected. If an answer is unclear, it should be rephrased. If an answer doesn't sound right, instead of a negative, 'No, no you're all wrong,' I prefer, 'Let's go back to that later.' I may be slightly off in my interpretation of what I see, or maybe what I see is true, but totally unbelievable at that point. Sometimes, when we go back later, it will be clearer or 'fit in.' "

It should be noted that Ms. Renier does not claim to be 100 percent accurate in her interpretations, nor does she claim to be able to work on all cases equally well.

As far as the police working with the psychic, it has been determined that psychics respond better and are more accurate when the individuals working with them have a positive attitude.

Practically speaking, if an officer feels that he or she cannot accept or work with the psychic, then this officer should not get involved in this segment of the investigation. Instead, someone who may be skeptical, but is able to put aside this personal prejudice, should be assigned to work with the psychic.

Charlatans and Frauds

The agency which decides to utilize the psychic in a particular investigation should first establish the authenticity of the psychic by routine inquiry. Generally speaking, the decision to use a psychic is based on a report of a successful investigation attributed to psychic phenomena. This report may appear in a local newspaper or come about by word of mouth. Official contact and interagency communication will usually indicate whether or not the psychic was of any investigative value.

It is important to note that charlatans and frauds exist in all professions. However, they flourish in the area of extrasensory perception. From an investigative point of view, the best way to avoid being taken in by a phony psychic is in the proper handling and control of this person. For example, many frauds merely "feed back" information to the police which is already a matter of public record, having

read a newspaper account of the crime. Or a fraud may have access to information on the case through family members or "official leaks" which give the impression that he or she has some psychic knowledge of events.

It should be noted that the police should not be telling the psychic, the psychic should be telling the police. Once the agency decides to employ the services of the psychic, all information supplied about the case to the psychic, and all information provided by the psychic, should flow through one contact officer, in order to maintain proper control. In addition, certain facts should be purposely withheld from the psychic in order to maintain the integrity of the investigation and assure that the information provided by the psychic is genuine and not the result of the police investigation. All conversations relative to the psychic investigation should be taped. This is extremely important, since psychics can generate a tremendous amount of information in a short span of time. Also this information is often in the form of disjointed impressions. An investigator cannot be expected to accurately take notes and intelligently formulate questions in the face of such voluminous information. Later on the tape can be analyzed by other investigators for accuracy and follow-up, and additional questions can be formulated. Furthermore, the tape serves as a control and documentation of the information exchanged.

According to Ms. Renier, the reason for an abundance of phonies in the area of extrasensory perception is that the average person is ignorant about psychic phenomena. Wherever there is lack of knowledge, it is easy to trick and deceive people. The phonies like conditions they can control. They do a lot of key bending and blindfold tricks which are impressive. Their clarity and accuracy are usually overwhelming. Even individuals who have been involved in psychic phenomena for years are sometimes deceived by these frauds. Real psychics are human, and therefore are subject to error.

Conscious of the poor image the public has of psychics, Ms. Renier advocates strict licensing procedures by a recognized board. She states that if there were proper testing and licensing procedures, psychic ability could be proven and properly evaluated before official recognition. This would not only legitimize psychics in the eyes of the public, but could also serve as a referral system.

At present there are no plans for such a system, but there are groups involved in researching this phenomenon. If a law enforcement agency is interested in utilizing a psychic, a representative of the agency should contact one of these groups. Dr. Karlis Osis of the American Society for Psychical Research, which is a respected and conservative organization involved in the study of this phenomenon, can be contacted at 5 West 73rd Street, New York, N.Y. 10023. The telephone number is (212) 799-5050.