

Exercise 1: Answer

Woman dead

A 28-year-old West Street woman is dead following a serious assault in her home today.

Detective Sergeant Pete Smith said the woman was rushed to hospital by ambulance after police arrived at the house, but died soon after.

A 30-year-old man will appear in Wellington District Court tomorrow charged with assault.

“Further charges are likely to be laid,” Smith said.

West Street remains cordoned off as police continue their investigation.

Notes

None of the neighbours' comments have been included as someone has been arrested and charged over the death making what they have said about earlier incidents sub judice. The man should also not be named because he has yet to appear in court and potentially be eligible for name suppression. Police have not released the woman's name, and while we are pretty certain that it is Olivia Walker, police have not officially released the name and it is possible that the neighbour was incorrect in his identification.

Exercise 2: Answer

- A. The ideal situation would be if Alan had the receipt for the watch which included a serial number and a transcription of the inscription for the engraver. As it was a gift from Alan's wife Lisa she may have kept the receipt, so it would be worth contacting her. Even if she no longer had the receipt she may be able to confirm to you what brand and model of watch it was and what the inscription said. It would be best if she were willing to be quoted in the story. The store from which the watch was bought may still have a copy of the receipt and a copy of the inscription for the engraver. Even if none of these pan out, Alan probably listed that his watch had the inscription in the police report of the burglary.

B. Model story:

Dealer sells stolen watch

Local antique dealer James Johnson recently sold a stolen watch, which he says he bought from a young man who had used false identification.

Burglary victim Alan Woods discovered the engraved watch in Johnson's store and recognised the inscription on the rear.

"The watch was a gift from my ex-wife on my 40th birthday. She had it engraved for me; 'To Alan on your 40th Love always, Lisa'."

It was among a number of items stolen from Woods' house when it was burgled three weeks ago.

While he had reported the burglary to police, Woods decided to launch his own investigation.

When he found the watch in Johnson's antique store Woods decided to buy it back for the asking price of \$100.

Johnson yesterday refunded the \$100 after Woods visited the store with a reporter from *The Daily Planet*.

Woods had a copy of the receipt, which outlined the make of the watch and the words that were to be engraved on the rear.

Johnson said a young man had come into his store two weeks ago with the watch wanting to sell it.

He claimed it had belonged to his grandfather.

"I asked him for identification and he gave me a student identity card in the name of John Brown, but I now think it might have been false."

Asked if he would lay a complaint with police, Johnson said he most definitely would, but he didn't think there was much hope in locating the young man who had sold him the watch.

Exercise 3: Answer

As Jane Smith has not yet appeared using her identity could breach her right to apply for name suppression before the judge. There could also be an issue with using the sport involved as it could identify her or at the very light cast a bad light on her teammates.

Brief:

Charged with shoplifting

A high-profile sportswoman is to appear in Wellington District Court today charged with shoplifting. She is alleged to have taken a \$20 lipstick from a Farmers store on April 1.

Exercise 4: Answer

Stolen handbag charge

An unemployed man has been charged with snatching a handbag from a 17-year-old young woman and injuring her during the theft.

Michael Johnson, 20, was remanded on bail without plea for two weeks by Wellington District Court judge John Simpson when he appeared yesterday. The charge said the handbag and contents were worth \$300.

The theft is alleged to have happen on Main Street on Monday at midday.

Legal issues

While you will have learned the victim's name from the press sheet you are unable to use it, due to her age and that fact that she could be a witness in any court hearing.

You could also not attribute any other charges or crimes police may be investigating until further charges are laid against him as this would breach the sub judice rule.