

At approximately 7:20 a.m., John Ruetten departed the couple's condominium on Balboa Boulevard for work. His wife, Sherri Rasmussen, had planned to deliver a presentation at Glendale Adventist Medical Center but mentioned she might stay home due to a back injury sustained the previous day.

By 9:45 a.m., a neighbor noticed the Ruetten's garage door open with no vehicle inside. Around 10:00 a.m., Ruetten made several unanswered calls home, concerned that the answering machine was inactive. Rasmussen's sister also attempted to reach her and later reported leaving a message once the machine began operating again.

Around noon, two men, who were believed to be gardeners, found and returned a purse later identified as Rasmussen's. At roughly 12:30 p.m., a nearby housekeeper reported hearing sounds consistent with a struggle followed by a heavy thud.

That evening, upon returning home, Ruetten discovered broken glass in the driveway and noted that Rasmussen's BMW 318i was missing. Inside, the condominium showed signs of a violent altercation, including overturned furniture, shattered glass, and blood near the alarm's panic button. Evidence suggested the victim was restrained during the attack. A quilted blanket with a hole and burn marks were found at the scene as well.