

Walk Through of Planting and Staging in the Search

The day after the disguised and illegal extradition, agents conducted a fraudulent search of 8 Hale. The search was not a standard evidence-gathering operation. It was pre-scripted, manipulated, and staged to create a false foundation for the later “accidental discovery” of child pornography evidence, reportedly collected from this property. These findings were confirmed by former FBI Senior Evidence Technician Kenneth DeNardo and Retired FBI and OIG Special Agent Mark Daniel Bowling, with a combined 43 years of service to the FBI.¹

Planting 2 Uncollected Sex Trafficking Books, Used to Create Fake Scenes

Based on their analysis and as shown in the FBI’s evidence photos, Agents placed two sex trafficking books of unknown origin on a desk and photographed them, yet they **never labeled or collected them as evidence**, despite their relevance to the search warrant, which sought “sex trafficking paraphernalia.” They then used these books to create additional fake scenes and take evidence photos. *See Diagrams 3-4 below.* These photos, including those of the uncollected books, were later presented to the jury. As Mr. DeNardo concluded:

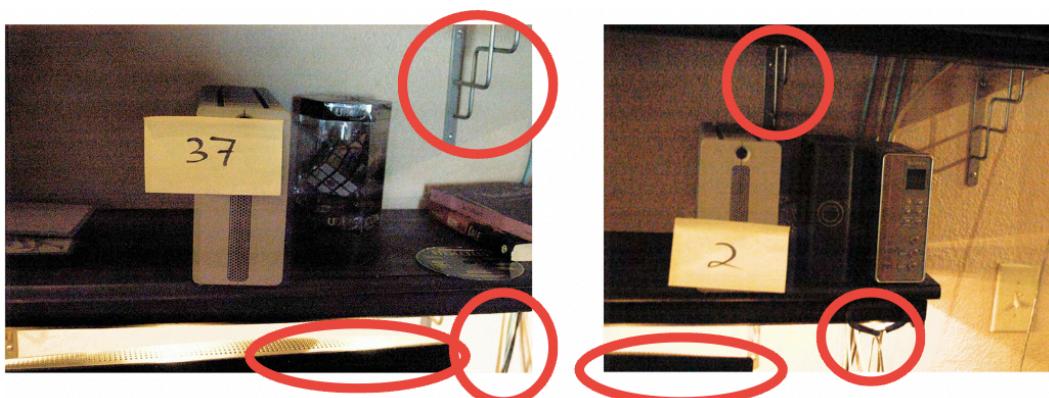
"Based on my experience conducting hundreds of searches, I conclude that the only plausible explanation for this conduct is that these 2 books on sex trafficking were planted to create an incriminating and prejudicial narrative."²

Diagram 1: Manipulation of Bookshelf to Fabricate Scene with the 2 Planted Sex Trafficking Books

Both photos below depict *the same section* of the bookshelf from different angles, as confirmed by key reference points such as the wall bracket and visible cables. **The device initially labeled as Item 2 is the same device later labeled as Item 37.**

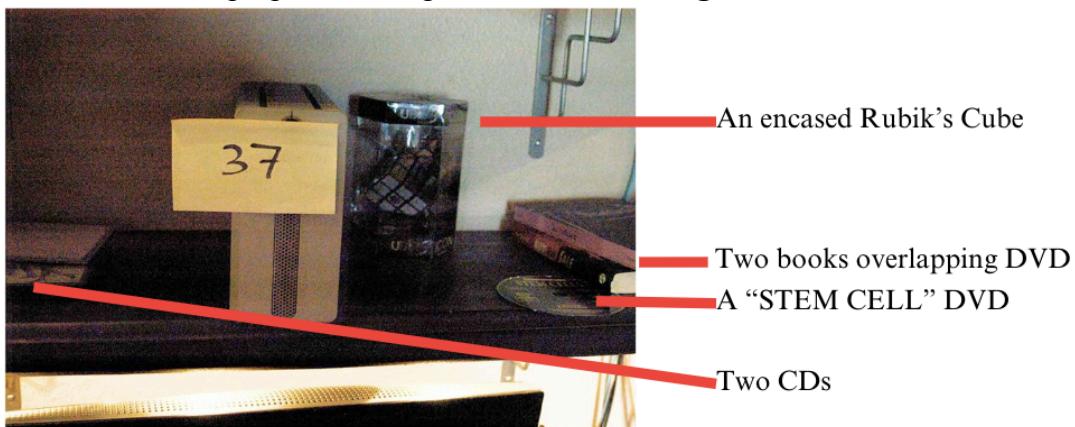
¹ See DeNardo Report; *see* Bowling Declaration at <https://www.usvraniere.com/docket/bowling-declaration.pdf>

² See DeNardo Report, Finding 6, Pg. 20.



Ex. E, Pg. GX502A-34, 72

New, uncollected props, including the **2 sex trafficking books**, were added to the background:

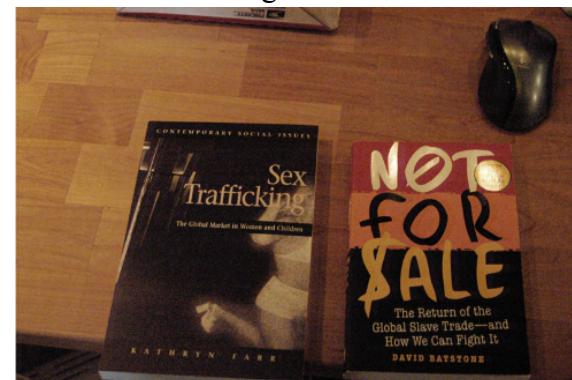


Close-up of the added books:



Ex E., Pg. GX 502A-72

The 2 sex trafficking books:



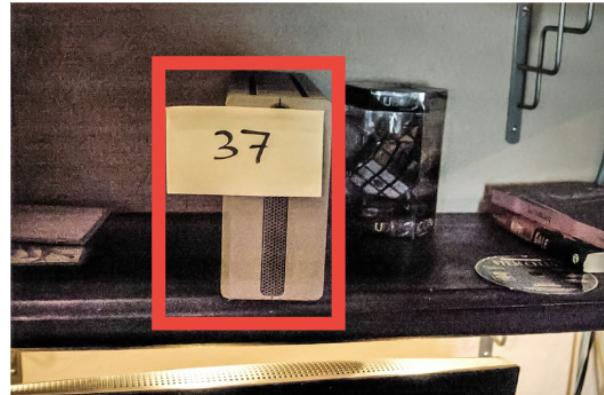
Ex. E, Pg. GX 502A-65

Diagram 2: Same Manufactured Scene w/ 2 Sex Trafficking Books Used for Both Items 36 and 37

This fabricated scene was used twice in consecutive photographs of Items 36 and 37.

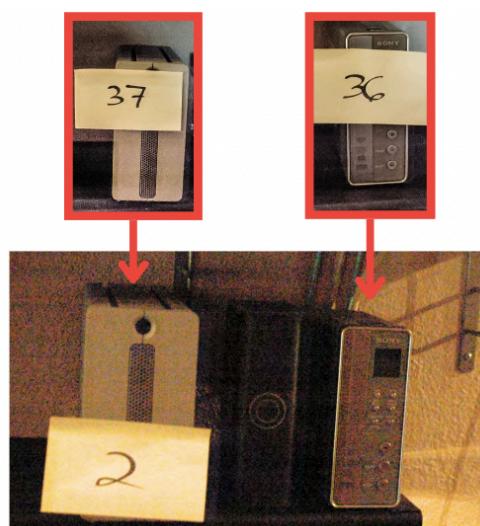


Ex E., Pg. GX 502A-71



Ex. E., Pg. GX 502A-72

Notably, these are the same devices originally seen in the photo of Item 2, which had been removed and then added into the fabricated setup with the planted sex trafficking books and photographed individually, as shown below:



Ex E., Pg. GX 502A-34

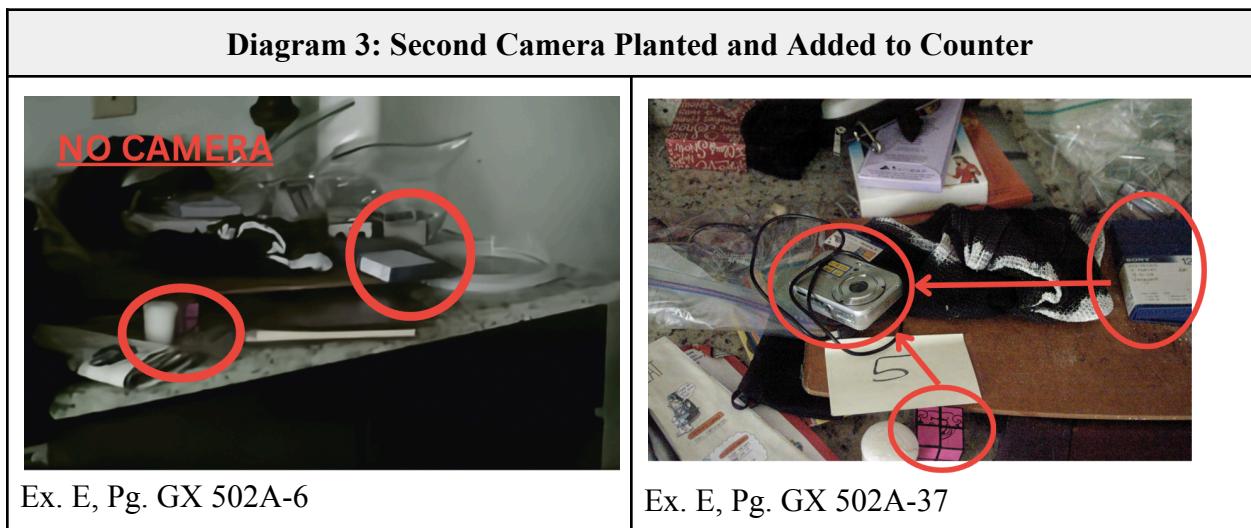
Planting and Staging of Uncollected Second Camera

The FBI placed a second camera of unknown origin on a countertop, labeled it, photographed it, and began to log it into the evidence log, but **chose not to collect it**, despite the

search warrant specifically targeting photographic evidence. This was not an instance of repositioning an item for clarity, as there would have been an "in-place" photograph prior to its repositioning. *See Diagram 5 below.*

Mr. DeNardo concluded:

"Leaving this camera behind defies logic. It is akin to searching for guns in a homicide case, finding 2 guns, and intentionally leaving the second gun behind. Based on my professional experience, the only plausible explanation is that this [second] camera was planted to create a staged and false narrative."³



Beyond these manipulations, the FBI's search team violated standard evidence-handling procedures at multiple levels, detailed in Mr. DeNardo's report.

All this manipulation – of the search and extradition process – happened at the onset of the case, before any indictments, proving a fraudulent intent to manufacture a case from the start.

³ See DeNardo Report, Finding 7, Pg. 22.