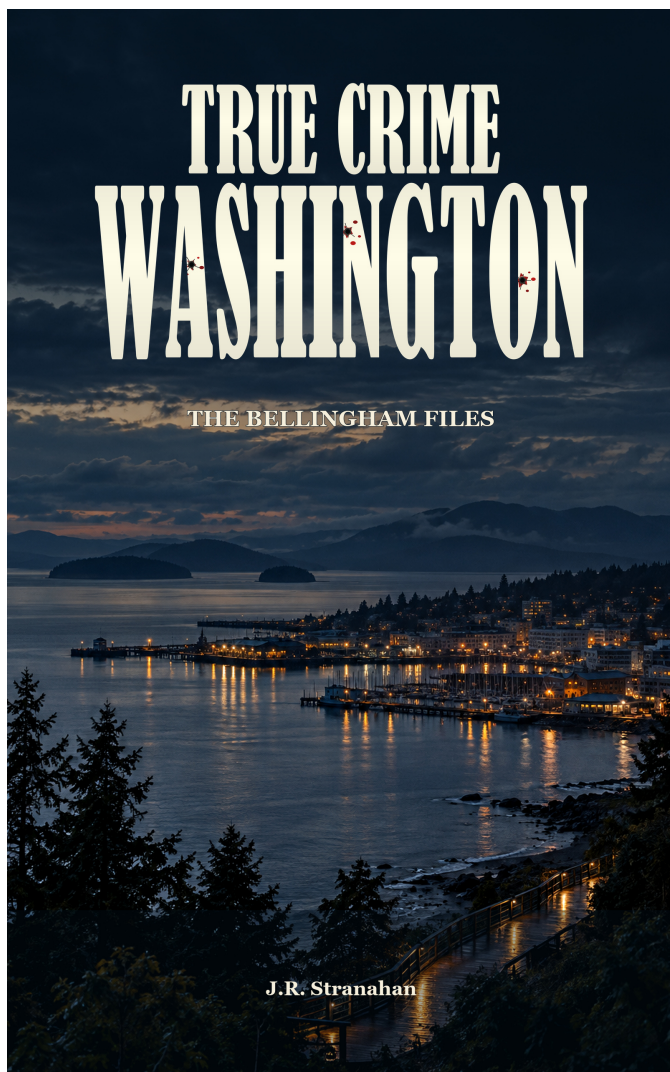


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File 1: The Murder of Amanda Stavik

Place and period: rural Whatcom County, 1989-2021

Present legal status: Timothy Forrest Bass was convicted of felony murder arising from Amanda Stavik's kidnapping, rape, and death. The Washington Court of Appeals affirmed the conviction.

This file belongs first to Amanda Stavik, her family and friends, and the Whatcom County community. The public record is necessarily organized around investigation and adjudication, but a criminal case is not the measure of a life. The account uses the available record to describe what happened and how institutions responded, while avoiding invented biography where sources are silent.

The human scale

Amanda Stavik disappeared while running near her family home after Thanksgiving 1989. That fact is the fixed point for this portion of The Murder of Amanda Stavik. The account keeps the people harmed, the routines interrupted, and the community consequences in view. In rural Whatcom County, later retellings sometimes collapse the investigation and the judgment into one continuous story. The public record does not. It preserves the order in which information appeared and the forum in which it was tested. The present legal posture is stated separately: Timothy Forrest Bass was convicted of felony murder arising from Amanda Stavik's kidnapping, rape, and death. The Washington Court of Appeals affirmed the conviction.

For Amanda Stavik, her family and friends, and the Whatcom County community, the procedural vocabulary cannot be allowed to eclipse consequence. Searchers found her in the Nooksack River days later. The detail belongs here because it changes the chronology, not

because it supplies atmosphere. The account keeps the people harmed, the routines interrupted, and the community consequences in view. Keeping that boundary visible lets the reader understand both the institutional response and the loss that made the response necessary.

The 1989-2021 record from rural Whatcom County contains a point that resists shorthand: Biological evidence was preserved for decades. The present legal posture is equally specific: Timothy Forrest Bass was convicted of felony murder arising from Amanda Stavik's kidnapping, rape, and death. The Washington Court of Appeals affirmed the conviction. The account keeps the people harmed, the routines interrupted, and the community consequences in view. One proposition may be established while a neighboring proposition remains disputed. Treating them separately is not hesitation; it is accurate reporting.

A headline can make this episode appear settled in a sentence. The underlying record is narrower. Later DNA testing and witness evidence focused the investigation on Bass. From there, the inquiry moves through source, timing, corroboration, and legal consequence. The account keeps the people harmed, the routines interrupted, and the community consequences in view. None of those steps authorizes invented dialogue or a claim about what Amanda Stavik, her family and friends, and the Whatcom County community privately thought.

Location matters in this file. rural Whatcom County determined which agencies, courts, and communities carried the case, while 1989-2021 marks the span over which the public learned it. The appeal examined DNA, felony-murder law, evidence sufficiency, and harmless error. The account keeps the people harmed, the routines interrupted, and the community consequences in view. The result is a chronology with identifiable custodians rather than a collection of free-floating claims.

This part of the account begins with a modest question: what did the cited source actually establish? Its answer is plain: Amanda Stavik disappeared while running near her family home after Thanksgiving 1989. The answer does not automatically prove motive, identity, or every

charge in the case. The account keeps the people harmed, the routines interrupted, and the community consequences in view. The remaining status is stated without embellishment: Timothy Forrest Bass was convicted of felony murder arising from Amanda Stavik's kidnapping, rape, and death. The Washington Court of Appeals affirmed the conviction.

The case file gives different kinds of information different weight. Searchers found her in the Nooksack River days later. A contemporaneous observation, a laboratory result, a charging allegation, and an appellate finding do not perform the same job. The account keeps the people harmed, the routines interrupted, and the community consequences in view. Describing those jobs plainly is especially important when the story concerns Amanda Stavik, her family and friends, and the Whatcom County community.

The first account

By the time The Murder of Amanda Stavik reached public memory, sequence had become easy to lose. Later DNA testing and witness evidence focused the investigation on Bass. Restoring sequence shows what investigators knew, what prosecutors alleged, what the defense contested, and what a court or jury ultimately resolved. What witnesses reported at the time remains separate from what investigators later inferred. An older headline cannot replace the current status: Timothy Forrest Bass was convicted of felony murder arising from Amanda Stavik's kidnapping, rape, and death. The Washington Court of Appeals affirmed the conviction.

There is no need to enlarge the evidence to make this file serious. The appeal examined DNA, felony-murder law, evidence sufficiency, and harmless error. That proposition is consequential on its own. What witnesses reported at the time remains separate from what investigators later inferred. The account therefore avoids borrowing certainty from unrelated defendants, other jurisdictions, or later cases that happen to resemble events in rural Whatcom County.

The public record speaks most reliably when attribution travels with the claim. Here is the supported proposition: Amanda Stavik disappeared while running near her family home after Thanksgiving 1989. The source may recount an allegation, summarize trial proof, or state a judgment, and the language must match that function. What witnesses reported at the time remains separate from what investigators later inferred. That practice protects the accuracy of the case and the dignity of Amanda Stavik, her family and friends, and the Whatcom County community at the same time.

At this stage of the file, absence is also information. The available materials establish this much: Searchers found her in the Nooksack River days later. They do not establish every rumor that accumulated during 1989-2021. What witnesses reported at the time remains separate from what investigators later inferred. Refusing to bridge those gaps with speculation keeps the unresolved portions visible instead of disguising them as narrative momentum.

Consider the detail in its proper scale: Biological evidence was preserved for decades. It is neither disposable nor self-executing. Its force depends on where it sits among the other records from rural Whatcom County. What witnesses reported at the time remains separate from what investigators later inferred. A measured account can explain that relationship without turning legal caution into a repetitive disclaimer.

The language of this chapter changes when the legal posture changes. Later DNA testing and witness evidence focused the investigation on Bass. If the proposition came from an accusation, it remains attributed; if it survived adjudication, the judgment is named; if review altered the result, the alteration is carried forward. What witnesses reported at the time remains separate from what investigators later inferred. The controlling endpoint is recorded separately: Timothy Forrest Bass was convicted of felony murder arising from Amanda Stavik's kidnapping, rape, and death. The Washington Court of Appeals affirmed the conviction.

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Building a chronology

The most useful context is the context that changes interpretation. Searchers found her in the Nooksack River days later. In the rural Whatcom County record, that detail helps explain why a particular investigative or legal step followed. Dates and sequence preserve the difference between early uncertainty and later knowledge. General crime lore would add volume but not understanding, so it is left outside the account.

The end of a proceeding is not always the end of a case's public life. Biological evidence was preserved for decades. Families, institutions, and communities continued to live with the result after 1989-2021. Dates and sequence preserve the difference between early uncertainty and later knowledge. The legal status is reported in its own terms: Timothy Forrest Bass was convicted of felony murder arising from Amanda Stavik's kidnapping, rape, and death. The Washington Court of Appeals affirmed the conviction. It does not imply that every question or consequence disappeared.

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Physical evidence

This part of the account begins with a modest question: what did the cited source actually establish? Its answer is plain: The appeal examined DNA, felony-murder law, evidence sufficiency, and harmless error. The answer does not automatically prove motive, identity, or every charge in the case. An item's evidentiary value depends on collection, testing, context, and the limits of what it can prove. The remaining status is stated without embellishment: Timothy Forrest Bass was convicted of felony murder arising from Amanda Stavik's kidnapping, rape, and death. The Washington Court of Appeals affirmed the conviction.

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Witness evidence

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Digital and documentary trails

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Charging choices

By the time *The Murder of Amanda Stavik* reached public memory, sequence had become easy to lose. Later DNA testing and witness evidence focused the investigation on Bass. Restoring sequence shows what investigators knew, what prosecutors alleged, what the defense contested, and what a court or jury ultimately resolved. An indictment states allegations, while a plea or verdict resolves only the counts and defendants actually adjudicated. An older headline cannot replace the current status: Timothy Forrest Bass was convicted of felony murder arising from Amanda Stavik's kidnapping, rape, and death. The Washington Court of Appeals affirmed the conviction.

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The courtroom

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The end of a proceeding is not always the end of a case's public life. Later DNA testing and witness evidence focused the investigation on Bass. Families, institutions, and communities continued to live with the result after 1989-2021. A trial tests admissible proof under defined rules and does not recreate every event or rumor surrounding a case. The legal status is reported in its own terms: Timothy Forrest Bass was convicted of felony murder arising from Amanda Stavik's kidnapping, rape, and death. The Washington Court of Appeals affirmed the conviction. It does not imply that every question or consequence disappeared.

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Appeal and review

A headline can make this episode appear settled in a sentence. The underlying record is narrower. The appeal examined DNA, felony-murder law, evidence sufficiency, and harmless error. From there, the inquiry moves through source, timing, corroboration, and legal consequence. Appellate review addresses claimed legal error on a fixed record rather than conducting a second trial. None of those steps authorizes invented dialogue or a claim about what Amanda Stavik, her family and friends, and the Whatcom County community privately thought.

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Uncertainty

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Institutions

The end of a proceeding is not always the end of a case's public life. Amanda Stavik disappeared while running near her family home after Thanksgiving 1989. Families, institutions, and communities continued to live with the result after 1989-2021. Police, prosecutors, defense counsel, courts, laboratories, journalists, and families occupy different roles in the record. The legal status is reported in its own terms: Timothy Forrest Bass was convicted of felony murder arising from Amanda Stavik's kidnapping, rape, and death. The Washington Court of Appeals affirmed the conviction. It does not imply that every question or consequence disappeared.

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Status at manuscript lock

The controlling status for this account is: Timothy Forrest Bass was convicted of felony murder arising from Amanda Stavik's kidnapping, rape, and death. The Washington Court of Appeals affirmed the conviction. That sentence is deliberately narrower than a television summary. It does not merge co-defendants, convert accusations into findings, or imply that an appeal erased a human death. Later proceedings may change the legal posture, but they should not be projected backward onto the record described here.

Sources from the edition

The Murder of Amanda Stavik

- Washington Court of Appeals, State v. Bass: <https://law.justia.com/cases/washington/court-of-appeals-division-i/2021/80156-2.html>

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