

Jewelry Store Robber

Someone has broken into a neighborhood jewelry store late in the evening. The police arrive quickly in response to a silent alarm.

A suspicious man is stopped and then arrested several blocks away. He is walking briskly in the direction away from the store. The evidence is circumstantial—one small diamond ring is found in his pocket. The man claims the ring is an engagement ring and that he is allegedly on his way to propose to his girlfriend. There are no witnesses at the scene of the crime.

Role of the FBI

Any peculiarities about the crime are sent to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for comparison with evidence from other similar crimes. The detectives need to know whether they have arrested the correct individual.

Role of the Profiler

The profiler gathers data and researches the FBI database regarding robberies in other jewelry stores. The profiler also interviews the jewelry store owner.

Role of the Forensic Psychologist

The forensic psychologist evaluates the suspect to determine if he understood the Miranda warning prior to his answering questions from the arresting officers. It is possible that the suspect may not have understood this if he was confused or cognitively impaired. It is also possible that the police were hasty in the heat of the immediate search and quick arrest.

Typically, regarding the issue of understanding of the Miranda warning, it is the defense attorney who would request this evaluation.