**Murder on Mayberry Street**

Instructions:

 Identify six procedural errors in the following scenario.

 An identification officer is called to the scene of a murder at 231 Mayberry Street. As he pulls up, he realizes it's the home of his daughter's best friend. The officer rushes in and goes to her body. He checks her pulse, but she's dead. She's lying on her side, so he turns her over to see if there's any evidence on her. He notices that she's been shot in the neck. The officer covers her with a blanket, then proceeds to look around the room. He finds a bullet casing, but doesn't touch it. As he bends down to look at it, he notices a gun lying under the dining room table. Carefully, he puts a pen in the muzzle and lifts it up, making sure that he doesn't touch the gun with his fingers. The officer returns the gun to its original position then sits down on the couch to wait for his boss, who will likely be in charge of the investigation.

 The identification officer discovers that the gun belongs to the victim's husband. The husband is now a suspect. Is this information circumstantial evidence or direct evidence against him? Explain your answer thoroughly.

 A hair found at the scene of the crime is matched to the suspect. Is this direct or circumstantial evidence? Does it prove the suspect was guilty of the crime? Why or why not?

 When collecting evidence from the Mayberry crime scene, it is extremely important that the chain of custody be maintained. What does this mean, and why is it important?

Completing Your Assignment:

Submit your responses to Dawn by typing your answers in a Word document and then posting them on your blog or submitting them to her.