**TIMELINE FOR BERNARDO/HOMOLKA TRIAL**

**May 1987- April, 1991:**
A young woman is raped in Scarborough, Ont., the first in a chain of rapes committed by the person the media dubs the Scarborough Rapist. Paul Bernardo would later admit to the sexual assaults of at least 14 women in southern Ontario. At one point, Bernardo faced 53 charges related to the rape – and in some cases, murder – of young women.

**Oct. 17, 1987:**
Karla Homolka, 17, meets Paul Bernardo, 23, at a hotel restaurant in Scarborough, Ont. They have sex in their hotel room two hours later.

**Dec. 24, 1989:**
Bernardo and Homolka are engaged.

**1990:**
Bernardo loses his job at accounting firm Price-Waterhouse. He would later turn to cigarette smuggling to make money.

**July 1990:**
According to Bernardo's testimony, he and Karla Homolka serve her younger sister, Tammy, a spaghetti dinner spiked with Valium stolen from Karla's workplace. Bernardo rapes Tammy for about a minute before she starts to wake up.

**Nov. 20, 1990:**
Bernardo provides hair, blood and saliva samples to Metro Toronto police as part of their Scarborough Rapist investigation.

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**Dec. 23, 1990:**
After a Homolka family Christmas party, Bernardo and Karla Homolka drug Tammy Homolka with animal tranquilizers Karla stole from her work. Bernardo and Karla Homolka rape Tammy while she's unconscious. Tammy has an allergic reaction to the drugs later chokes on her own vomit and dies. Bernardo tells police he tried to revive her, but failed, and her death is ruled an accident.

**mid-January 1991:**
Bernardo picks up a young female hitchhiker, brings her back to the Homolka home and rapes her in Karla Homolka's bedroom. He drops her off on a back street.

**Feb. 1, 1991:**
Bernardo and Homolka move into a rented house in St. Catharines, Ont.

**June 14, 1991:**
Bernardo kidnaps 14-year-old Leslie Mahaffy from outside her house. With Homolka, he rapes and murders her on June 16. .

**June 29, 1991:**
Bernardo and Homolka are married in a lavish ceremony. Mahaffy's dismembered body is found encased in concrete in Lake Gibson near St. Catharines.

**April 16, 1992:**
Bernardo, with the assistance of Homolka, kidnaps Kristen French from a church parking lot. After raping, torturing and killing her, they leave her body naked in a ditch, her hair cut off.

**April 30, 1992:**
French's body is found.

**June 19, 1992-** Homolka’s first attempt to leave Bernardo due to his violence against her but she returns after he threatens to expose her role in the death of her sister.

**December 1992:**
The Centre of Forensic Sciences begins DNA testing of the samples Bernardo provided in 1990.

**January 5, 1993:**
After Bernardo beats Homolka with a flashlight, leaving her with two black eyes, she leaves their home and files charges against him. Before she leaves, she searched house but failed to find videotapes.

**January 25, 1993:**

DNA samples that Bernardo gave to police in November, 1990 are finally matched to DNA of Scarborough rapist.

**Feb. 11, 1993-** Homolka speaks with lawyer, George Walker, instructing him to seek full immunity for crimes- Crown refuses request waiting to see what evidence shows.

**Feb. 17, 1993**:
Bernardo is arrested. An inquiry into the Bernardo case would later find that officers in charge violated Bernardo's charter rights by not allowing him to call a lawyer despite his repeated requests, making his initial eight-hour interrogation inadmissible as evidence.

**Feb. 19, 1993:**
A search warrant is executed in the Bernardo home. During the 71-day search of the St. Catharines house that follows, police fail to find videotapes containing the recordings of the rapes of Mahaffy, French, Tammy Homolka and at least one other girl.

**May 6, 1993:**
Ken Murray, Bernardo's lawyer, gains access to Bernardo's home. Murray retrieves the videotapes from above a ceiling light fixture in the upstairs bathroom. He would keep the videos in his possession for 16 months.

**May 11, 1993**:
The plea agreement between Crown prosecutors and Homolka's lawyers is finalized.

**June 28, 1993:**
Homolka's trial begins.

**July 1993:**
Homolka pleads guilty to two counts of manslaughter and receives a 12-year jail sentence. Her pleas and the statement of facts agreed to by her lawyer and the Crown are both covered by a publication ban ordered by the judge to ensure a fair trial for Bernardo.

**September 1994:**
Ken Murray quits as Bernardo's lawyer and hands Bernardo's videotapes over to his successor, John Rosen. Rosen turns the videos over to police later in the month.

**May 18, 1995:**
Bernardo's trial begins.

**June 29, 1995:**
Homolka testifies against Bernardo.

**Sept. 1, 1995:**
Bernardo is found guilty of all nine charges against him, including two counts of first-degree murder for killing French and Mahaffy.

**Sept. 15, 1995:**
Bernardo is sentenced to life in prison without possibility of parole for 25 years.

**November 1995:**
Bernardo is declared a dangerous offender, meaning he will likely spend the rest of his life in jail.

**March 15, 1996- Galligan Report issued-** Report to the Attorney- General of Ontario on Certain Matters Relating to Karla Homolka

**April 1996:**
An Ontario Court judge rules that videotapes showing the rape and torture of Bernardo's victims must be destroyed when they are no longer needed for legal purposes.

**July 1996:**
A six-month-long inquiry into the police investigation of Bernardo concludes that the investigation was hampered by dozens of mistakes by individual officers and by rivalries between different police departments. The inquiry concludes that some of Bernardo's crimes could have been prevented if Bernardo's DNA samples had been processed more quickly.

**January 1997:**
Ken Murray is charged with obstruction of justice and possession of child pornography for failing to turn over the Bernardo tapes.

**Summer 1997:**
Homolka is transferred to Joliette Institution in Quebec when the Kingston Prison for Women is closed.

**March 2000:**
The Ontario Court of Appeal dismisses Bernardo's request for a new trial.
- Bernardo appeal dismissed

**June 2000:**
Murray is acquitted of charges arising from his failure to turn over the Bernardo tapes.
- Court finds Bernardo lawyer not guilty

**Sept. 21, 2000:**
The Supreme Court of Canada denies Bernardo's leave to appeal his murder conviction- Bernardo appeal rejected

**Oct. 9, 2000:**
Homolka is transferred to a maximum-security prison in Saskatoon for a psychiatric examination. Homolka's lawyers attempt to block the move, saying her life would be in danger if she were removed from the prison in Joliette.
Homolka transferred to maximum-security facility
Homolka's arrival irks inmates

**Nov. 30. 2000:**
Crown prosecutors drop charges against author Stephen Williams. The charges alleged that Williams broke a court order by watching the Bernardo tapes. The Crown said it didn't want to air the tapes again in court, so the judge dismissed the charges.
 Prosecutors drop charge against Bernardo author

**January 2001:**
Homolka is transferred to a Montreal psychiatric hospital to undergo treatment.
[:](http://www.cbc.ca/story/news/national/2001/01/26/homolka010126.html) Homolka on her way to Quebec: report

**March 2001:**
The National Parole Board denies Homolka's application for early release, saying she is a risk to kill again. Karla Homolka denied statutory release

**December 2001:**
The six videotapes depicting the rape and torture of Bernardo and Homolka's victims are destroyed-Tapes made by Bernardo destroyed

**March 2002:**
The National Parole Board rules that Homolka is still a risk to society and will not be granted early release.
» Homolka refused early release

**Nov. 13, 2002:**
A book on Homolka written by Stephen Williams is published in French, containing excerpts from letters between the author and Homolka. Questions arise over whether the book violates a condition of Homolka's plea bargain, which states that she would not "talk directly … or indirectly to the media for a book … or live endeavour." Williams says he didn't speak to Homolka about the crimes, so the argument is moot.
Questions over controversial Homolka book

**February 2003:**
The English language version of Williams' book, and *Karla: A Pact with the Devil*, appears on bookstore shelves.
Families lash out at Homolka book

**May 4, 2003:**
Author Stephen Williams is arrested and charged with violating a court order barring publication of courtroom exhibits used in the Bernardo and Homolka trials. Williams had used his website to show a collection of photographs, videotapes and police interviews from the cases.
Homolka author arrested over Internet content

**October 2003:**
Ontario Provincial Police lay 94 new charges against Stephen Williams related to his books *Invisible Darkness* and *Karla: A Pact with the Devil*.
Bernardo author faces new charges

**May 2004:**
Williams wins a grant from Human Rights Watch, an organization that supports victims of political persecution, to help defer his legal costs. The award places Canada alongside countries such as Myanmar, Peru and Sierra Leone.
Canadians awarded persecuted-writer prizes

**Dec. 16, 2004:**
The National Parole Board rules that Homolka must stay in prison for her full term, ending July 5, 2005.
Parole Board keeps Karla Homolka behind bars for 7 more months

**Jan. 14, 2005:**
Stephen Williams, author of two books on Bernardo and Homolka, pleads guilty to breaking a publication ban by posting the names of the couple's sexual assault victims on his website. He receives a three-year suspended sentence and is ordered to do 70 hours of community service.
Bernardo author pleads guilty to breaching publication ban

**April 11, 2005:**
Ontario Attorney General Michael Bryant says all provinces should place restrictions on Karla Homolka's activities once she's released in July. Bryant says he will ask a Quebec court judge to impose conditions on Homolka under section 810 of the Criminal Code, which allows for curfews and other restrictions.
Ontario calls for restrictions on Homolka after release

**April 12, 2005:**
Michael Bryant says Homolka will not be charged with killing her sister when she is released from prison in July.
Ontario won't charge Homolka in sister's death

**April 26, 2005:**
Two officers with Niagara Regional Police meet with Homolka to discuss her plans after her release from prison. The details of that conversation are not released.

**May 19, 2005:**
A law passes through the Senate requiring violent criminals, including Karla Homolka, to give a DNA sample to a national databank. The bill, C-13, speeds through the minority government in part because of Homolka's impending release.
Homolka, others must give DNA sample under new law

**June 2, 2005:**
Karla Homolka appears in a court in Joliette, Que., as prosecutors argue that restrictions should be placed on her freedom when she is released. It is the first time she is seen in public since she testified against her former husband, Paul Bernardo, 10 years earlier.
Homolka in chains in court hearing

**June 3, 2005:**
After two days of arguments, Judge Jean R. Beaulieu agrees that Karla Homolka may pose a risk to society after she is released. He places several restrictions on her freedom that are to take effect after she is released. They include:

* She is to tell police her home address, work address and who she lives with.
* She has to notify police as soon as any of the above changes.
* She will also have to notify police of any change to her name.
* If she wants to be away from her home for more than 48 hours, she will have to give 72 hours notice.
* She cannot contact Paul Bernardo, the families of Leslie Mahaffy and Kristen French or Jane Doe. She also may not contact any violent criminals.
* She also will be forbidden from being with people under the age of 16 and from consuming drugs other than prescription medicine.
* Continue therapy and counselling.
* Provide police with a DNA sample.

**October 24, 2005-** Efforts by lawyers representing victims to impose conditions on Homolka’s release subsequently overturned by Montreal judge- request to appeal lower court order turned down by Quebec Court of Appeal.

**February 21, 2006-** Homolka’s interview on CBC.