

## Charles Cullen

*“Killer Nurse”*  
*“Satan’s Son”*



Information researched and summarized by: Jennifer Hash

Department of Psychology  
Radford University  
Radford, VA 24142-6946

Date	Age	Life Event
2/22/1960		Born in West Orange, New Jersey: Last of 8 children including 5 sisters and 2 brothers
9/1960	7 months	Father dies at age 56
1969	9	First suicide attempt: mixed an assortment of chemical together from chemistry set and drank it
1971	11	5 <sup>th</sup> grade: Charles teased at school and wrote book with one of his only friends entitled <i>Infinity Years Will Never Know</i> about growing up in a world in which life was meaningless
1975-1976	15-16	Fascinated by the works of Dostoyevsky: Favorite book was <i>Crime and Punishment</i> about a man who commits murder
12/6/1977	17	Mother killed in a car accident
1978	18	Bullied in high school: Goes to a party and decided to fight back by lacing drinks with rat poison but no one dies
April 1978	18	Drops out of high school and enlists in the Navy
April 1978-June 1979	18-19	Receives training to become a ballistic missiles technician in the Navy
July 1979	19	Given 1 <sup>st</sup> assignment aboard nuclear submarine <i>U.S.S. Woodrow Wilson</i>
July 1979	19	Considered a “misfit” by crew members: Taunted, ridiculed, hazed, and given the nickname “Fish-belly”
1980	20	Discovered sitting in stolen hospital gown, mask, and gloves at the missile control panel: Incident was reported
10/30/1981	21	Reassigned to <i>U.S.S. Canopus</i>
3/30/1984	24	Issued a discharge from the Navy: records not public whether the discharge was for medical or psychological reasons

May 1984	24	Enrolls in Mountainside Hospital School of Nursing in Montclair, New Jersey
March 1987	27	Brother James dies from drug overdose
May 1987	27	Graduates from nursing school
6/7/1987	27	Marries computer programmer Adrienne Taub
June 1987	27	Starts working in burn unit of St. Barnabus Medical Center in Livingston, New Jersey
Spring 1988	28	1 <sup>st</sup> daughter born
6/11/1988	28	1 <sup>st</sup> kill: 72-year-old John Yengo-used Lidocaine
1989	29	Received numerous speeding tickets and started drinking heavily
12/90-2/91	30-31	Psychologically and physically abuses family especially during winter by turning heat off; starts torturing the family's 2 pet Yorkshire terriers often placing them in trash bins
January 1992	32	Fired from St. Barnabus
February 1992	32	Begins working in Coronary Care Unit at Warren Hospital in Phillipsburg, New Jersey
Summer 1992	32	2 <sup>nd</sup> daughter born
1/11/1993	32	Wife files domestic violence complaint and requests a restraining order that is denied by the judge
1/15/1993	32	Wife files for divorce
1/22/1993	32	Cullen served with divorce papers
1/25/1993	32	Wife files another domestic violence complaint and requests a temporary restraining order because she feels that Charles's access to medications could put her and daughters at risk
1/31/1993	32	Attempts suicide and is sent to the Behavioral Health Unit at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania
2/5/1993	32	Released and went home
3/9/1993	33	Kills Lucy Mugavero, 90, at Warren Hospital with digoxin—a heart stimulant
3/23/1993	33	Arrested for breaking into the home of Michelle Tomlinson
4/16/1993	33	Wife applies for and granted a restraining order; has no visitation rights with his kids; Charles attempts suicide again and sent to Carrier Clinic in Belle Meade, New Jersey
7/23/1993	33	Kills Mary Natoli, 85, at Warren Hospital with digoxin
8/10/1993	33	Pleads guilty to trespassing and harassment of Michelle Tomlinson
8/11/1993	33	Attempts suicide again
9/1/1993	33	Kills Helen Dean, 91, at Warren Hospital with digoxin
10/1993	33	Passes a polygraph during the investigation of Dean's death
12/1/1993	33	Quits job at Warren Hospital
12/7/1993	33	Divorce from Adrienne finalized; Adrienne awarded custody and Charles is granted unsupervised visitation of children
April 1994	34	Begins working at Hunterdon Medical Center in ICU in Flemington, New Jersey
June 1994	34	Receives Pennsylvania nursing license
October 1994	34	Receives award for diligence and hard work from colleagues; starts dating married nurse at Hunterdon
1/21/1996	35	Kills Leroy Sinn, 71, with digoxin at Hunterdon
5/31/1996	36	Kills Earl Young, 75, with digoxin at Hunterdon
6/9/1996	36	Kills Catherine Dext, 49, with digoxin at Hunterdon
6/24/1996	36	Kills Frank Mazzacco, 65, with digoxin at Hunterdon
7/10/1996	36	Kills Jesse Eichlin, 81, with digoxin at Hunterdon
October 1996	36	Girlfriend dumps him; quits job at Hunterdon

November 1996	36	Starts working at Morristown Memorial Hospital in Morristown, New Jersey
August 1997	37	Fired from Morristown Memorial Hospital for poor job performance
February 1998	38	Hired by Liberty Nursing Home and Rehabilitation Center in Allentown, Pennsylvania
5/13/1998	38	Cullen declares bankruptcy
10/1/1998	38	Cullen fired from Liberty after "accidentally" breaking a patient's arm
November 1998	38	Starts working part-time at Easton Hospital ICU in Easton, Pennsylvania
December 1998	38	Starts working as a night nurse in burn unit of Lehigh Valley Hospital in Salisbury Township, New Jersey
12/31/1998	38	Kills Ottomar Schramm, 78, with digoxin at Easton Hospital
8/31/1999	39	Kills Matthew Mattern, 22, with digoxin at Lehigh Valley Hospital
1/3/2000	39	Attempts suicide again via carbon monoxide; sent to Warren County Crisis Center
2/21/2000	39	Attempts to kill Stella Danielczyk with an overdose of digoxin
April 2000	40	Leaves Lehigh Valley Hospital
June 2000	40	Starts working at St. Luke's Hospital in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania
March 2001	41	Charles's brother, Edmond, dies of brain cancer
6/22/2001	41	Kills Irene Krapf, 79, with digoxin at St. Luke's
11/8/2001	41	Kills William Park, 72, with digoxin at St. Luke's
1/9/2002	41	Kills Samuel Spangler, 80, with digoxin at St. Luke's
5/5/2002	42	Kills Daniel George, 82, with digoxin at St. Luke's
6/2/2002	42	Kills Edward O' Toole, 76, with digoxin at St. Luke's
6/7/2002	42	Resigns from St. Luke's after the hospital's growing suspicions of him
7/8/2002-7/24/2002	42	Starts working and quits Sacred Heart Hospital in Allentown, Pennsylvania due to rumors circulating about him
9/3/2002	42	St. Luke's reports "probable unprofessional conduct" to Pennsylvania state nursing board
9/8/2002	42	Starts working at Somerset Medical Center in Somerset, New Jersey
9/26/2002	42	Pennsylvania state nursing board starts an investigation of Cullen's activities while employed at St. Luke's
1/6/2003	42	Investigation completed and findings shared with police
2/12/2003	42	Kills Elenor Stoecker, 60, with digoxin at Somerset Medical Center
2/23/2003	43	Kills Joyce Mangini, 74, with digoxin at Somerset Medical Center
2/23/2003	43	Kills Giacomino Toto, 89, with digoxin at Somerset Medical Center
3/11/2003	43	Kills John Shanagher, 83, with norepinephrine at Somerset Medical Center
4/6/2003	43	Kills Dorthea Hoagland, 80, with norepinephrine at Somerset Medical Center
5/5/2003	43	Kills Melvin Simcoe, 66, with sodium nitroprusside at Somerset Medical Center
5/15/2003	43	Michael Strenko, 21, with norepinephrine at Somerset Medical Center
6/13/2003	43	Attempts to kill 40-year-old Jin Kung Han with digoxin
6/28/2003	43	Kills Florian Gall, 68, with digoxin at Somerset Medical Center
7/13/2003	43	Kills Pasquale Napolitano, 80, with dobutamine at Somerset Medical Center
8/11/2003	43	Kills Chris Hardgrove, 38, with norepinephrine at Somerset Medical Center
8/27/2003	43	Attempts to kill 80-year-old Frances Agoada
9/20/2003	43	Kills Krishnakant Upadhyay, 70, with digoxin at Somerset Medical Center
9/23/2003	43	Kills James Strickland, 83, with digoxin at Somerset Medical Center
10/3/2003	43	Somerset Medical Center reports suspicious deaths to Somerset County Prosecutor's Office
10/21/2003	43	Kills Edward Zizik, 73, with digoxin at Somerset Medical Center
10/25/2003	43	Gall's body exhumed and autopsy revealed that he died from deliberate overdose
10/31/2003	43	Cullen fired from Somerset and New Jersey police request his employment records
12/12/2003	43	Cullen arrested and taken to Somerset County jail

12/14/2003	43	Tells police during interrogation that he has administered 30-40 lethal drug injections during his 16-year career as a nurse
12/15/2003	43	Charged with the murder of Gall and attempted murder of Han
12/17/2003	43	Transferred to Trenton State Psychiatric Hospital
12/17/2003	43	Cullen surrenders his New Jersey nursing license
12/18/2003	43	Cullen's public defender announces that his client won't help with the investigation unless authorities agree not to seek the death penalty
1/6/2004	43	Cullen returns to Somerset County Jail
4/29/2004	44	Cullen pleads guilty to murder of 13 patients and the attempted murder of 2 patients at Somerset Medical Center
5/19/2004	44	Pleads guilty to murdering 3 people at Warren Hospital
10/7/2004	44	Pleads guilty to murdering Ottomar Schramm at Easton Hospital
10/14/2004	44	Charged with 6 more murder charges in Lehigh County
11/17/2004	44	Pleads guilty to the murder of 5 patients at St. Luke's as well as 1 murder and 3 attempted murders at Lehigh Valley Hospital
12/16/2004	44	Pleads guilty to the 1988 murder of John Yengo
March 2005	45	Government launches an investigation of the hospitals where Cullen worked to see if federal laws were broken by a failure to act more promptly against Cullen
6/27/2005	45	Cullen pleads guilty to 5 murders committed at Hunterdon Medical Center
12/6/2005	45	Press releases that Cullen wants to donate his kidney to a relative of an ex-girlfriend
1/11/2006	45	Press releases that Cullen has stopped cooperating with investigators and demands to be sentenced so he would be free to proceed with the transplant operation, if permitted
3/2/2006	46	Cullen is confronted by family members of victims and sentenced to 11 consecutive life terms for the murder of 22 and the attempted murder of 3 in New Jersey. This means that he will not be eligible for parole until he has served 397 years. Cullen will be sentenced at a later date for the murder of 7 and the attempted murder of 3 in Pennsylvania.
3/18/2006	46	Press releases that a New Jersey judge has agreed to allow Cullen to donate his kidney

### General Information

Sex	Male
Race	White
Number of victims	22 in New Jersey; 7 in Pennsylvania; Claims to have killed as many as 40 people but can't remember their names
Country where killing occurred	United States
States where killing occurred	New Jersey; Pennsylvania
Type of killer	Powerseeker: Angel of Death
Height	5'7"

### Childhood Information

Date of birth	February 22, 1960
Location	West Orange, New Jersey
Birth order	8 <sup>th</sup> of 8
Number of siblings	5 sisters; 2 brothers
XYY?	Unknown
Raised by	Mother until age 17; Shortly after her death Charles enlisted in the Navy
Birth category	Youngest
Parent's marital status	Deceased; Charles's mother became a widow when he was 7-

	months-old and remained single until her death in 1977
Family event	Death of Mother
Age of family event	17
Problems in school?	Yes- social isolation
Teased while in school?	Yes; Teased and hazed viciously in the Navy-Given the nickname "Fish-belly" by fellow officers due to his sallow and pale complexion
Physically attractive?	Average
Physical defect?	Unknown
Speech defect?	Unknown
Head injury?	Unknown
Physically abused?	Unknown
Psychologically abused?	Unknown
Sexually abused?	Unknown
Father's occupation	Bus driver
Age of first sexual experience	Unknown
Age when first had intercourse	Unknown
Mother's occupation	Homemaker
Father abused drugs/alcohol	Unknown
Mother abused drugs/alcohol	No
<b>Cognitive Ability</b>	
Highest grade in school	11 <sup>th</sup>
Highest degree	Registered Nursing Degree from Mountainside School of Nursing
Grades in school	Excelled in nursing school-A's & B's; Scored extremely high on National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (2437)
IQ	Has not been released
<b>Work History</b>	
Served in the military?	Yes
Branch	Navy
Type of discharge	Discharged March 30, 1984-Naval authorities have not publicly released whether the discharge was issued for medical reasons or other reasons
Saw combat duty	No
Killed enemy during service?	No
Applied for job as a cop?	No
Worked in law enforcement?	No
Fired from jobs?	Yes
Types of jobs worked	Missile & Submarine Technician; Registered Nurse
Employment status during series	Employed
<b>Relationships</b>	
Sexual preference	Heterosexual
Marital status	Married at the time of the 1 <sup>st</sup> murder in 1988; Divorced since 1993
Number of children	2 daughters
Lives with his children	Lived with children at the time of 1 <sup>st</sup> murder but not at the time of subsequent murders
Living with	Spouse 1987-1993; Living with pregnant girlfriend at the time of his arrest in 2003
<b>Triad</b>	
Animal torture	Yes
Fire setting	Unknown

Bed wetting	Unknown
<b>Killer Psychological Information</b>	
Abused drugs?	No
Abused alcohol?	Yes
Been to a psychologist?	Yes
Time in forensic hospital?	Yes
Diagnosis	Major Depression; Alcohol Dependence; Acute Anxiety Wife described him as a "borderline personality" but this diagnosis has not been confirmed
<b>Killer Criminal History</b>	
Committed previous crimes?	Yes- trespassing, harassment, & reckless driving
Spend time in jail?	Arrested but no time spent
Spend time in prison?	No
Killed prior to series? Age?	No
<b>Serial Killing</b>	
Number of victims	Charged with 29-claims to have killed close to 40 but can't remember names
Victim type	Patients
Killer age at start of series	28
Gender of victims	Males & Females
Race of victims	No preference
Age of victims	Average age of 70.862
Method of killing	Gave patients overdoses of primarily digoxin, a heart medication but also used lidocaine, norepinephrine, dobutamine, and sodium nitroprusside
Type of serial killer	Powerseeker: Angel of Death
How close did killer live?	Drove to scene of crime; occurred at his place of employment
Killing occurred in home of victim?	No
Killing occurred in home of killer?	No
Weapon	Found at scene-used medications
<b>Behavior During Crimes</b>	
Rape?	No
Tortured victims?	No
Stalked victims?	No
Overkill?	No
Quick & efficient?	Yes
Used blindfold?	No
Bound the victims?	No
<b>After Death Behavior</b>	
Sex with the body?	No
Mutilated body?	No
Ate part of the body?	No
Drank victim's blood?	No
Posed the body?	No
Took totem – body part	No
Took totem – personal item	No
Robbed victim or location	No
<b>Disposal of Body</b>	
Left at scene, no attempt to hide	Yes
Left at scene, hidden	No
Left at scene, buried	No

Moved, no attempt to hide	No
Moved, buried	No
Cut-up and disposed of	No
Moved, too home	No
Sentencing	
Date killer arrested	12/12/2003
Date convicted	3/2/2006
Sentence	11 consecutive life terms meaning that he won't be eligible for parole until he serves 397 years behind bars
Killer executed?	No
Did killer plead NGRI?	No
Was the NGRI plea successful?	No
Name and state of prison	Has not been transferred to a prison yet-is currently being held at the Somerset County Jail in Somerset, New Jersey
Killer committed suicide?	Not yet
Killer killed in prison?	Not yet
Date of death	Still alive

### References

#### Books

Linedecker, C. L. & Martin, Z. T. (2005). *Death Angel*. New York, NY: Kensington Publishing Corporation.

Macri, A. J. (2005). *The codes of silence: The terrifying story of killer-nurse Charles Cullen*. Washington, DC: Xlibris.

Mair, G. (2004). *Angel of Death: The shocking true story of Charles Cullen, the serial killer nurse and the system that failed to stop him*. New York, NY: Chamberlain Bros.

#### Audiovisual Media

Alexander, B. & Martin, T. (Executive Producers). (2004). *Angel of death: Killer nurse—A Bill Curtis special report* [Special Presentation]. New York, NY: A&E Television Networks.

#### Press Releases

Charles Cullen's victims. (2006, March 10). *The Associated Press State & Local Wire* [Lexis-Nexis].

Court papers detail killer nurse's mental, domestic troubles. (2004, May 28). *The Associated Press State & Local Wire* [Lexis-Nexis].

Hospitals where Charles Cullen Worked. (2006, March 10). *The Associated Press State & Local Wire* [Lexis-Nexis].

Judge allowing families of Cullen's victims to confront him. (2006, February 24). *The Associated Press State & Local Wire* [Lexis-Nexis].

Killer nurse stops cooperating, demands to be sentenced. (2006, January 11). *The Associated Press State & Local Wire* [Lexis-Nexis].

*Local Wire* [Lexis-Nexis].

Serial killer nurse wants to save a life by giving kidney. (2005, December 6). *The Associated Press State &*

*Local Wire* [Lexis-Nexis].

The case of Charles Cullen by date. (2003, December 18). *The Associated Press State &*

*Local Wire* [Lexis-Nexis].

Timeline in Cullen case. (2003, December 21). *The Associated Press State &*

*Local Wire* [Lexis-Nexis].

### **Websites**

[www.crimelibrary.com/notorious\\_murders/angels/male\\_nurses/index.html](http://www.crimelibrary.com/notorious_murders/angels/male_nurses/index.html)

[www.crimezzz.net/serialkiller\\_news/CULLEN\\_charles.php](http://www.crimezzz.net/serialkiller_news/CULLEN_charles.php)

[www.msnbc.msn.com/id/11636992/](http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/11636992/)

[www.msnbc.msn.com/id/11899878/](http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/11899878/)

[www.nj.com/news/ledger/jersey/index.ssf?/news/ledger/stories/nurse091204.html](http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/jersey/index.ssf?/news/ledger/stories/nurse091204.html)