

Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women



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2001 Femicide Report Women and Children Murdered

The Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women monitors information about women and children murdered in our state to educate the public about the lethality of woman abuse and child abuse. We pledge to remember the women, children, and family members and/or friends who die each year from domestic violence and the woman and children who die while being used in prostitution - a system of violence against women and children. Women used in prostitution are battered women in need of protection from abuse. We also remember the women and children who were murdered by acquaintances, strangers, or unknown perpetrators.

We challenge communities to respond to battered women and their children by providing safe shelter and advocacy services, prevention education for all elementary and secondary students, laws to protect women and children, effective enforcement of those laws, and aggressive prosecution of all domestic assault crimes and all prostitution crimes targeting perpetrators, pimps, and "johns". Included in this report are the names of the women and children who have died from woman abuse and child abuse in Minnesota since January 1, 2001.

In Minnesota in 2001:

At least 34 women were murdered in cases where the suspected, alleged, or convicted perpetrator was a current or former husband, boyfriend, intimate partner, or household/family member of the deceased woman.

At least 12 children were murdered in cases where the suspected, alleged, or convicted perpetrator was their mother's husband, boyfriend or intimate partner, or was the parent, guardian, baby-sitter, or household/family member of the child.

At least 6 family members/friends were murdered by a woman's current or former partner.

At least 2 women were murdered by an acquaintance, stranger, or an unknown perpetrator.

At least 22 children have been left without a mother.

WOMEN MURDERED:

1. Phordy Bounlangsy, 39 Robbinsdale January 12, 2001

Phordy Bounlangsy was shot to death by her boyfriend, Lop Phommajack, who then took his own life. The man's 12 year-old daughter tried to get into the bedroom, and when she couldn't open the door, she went to a neighbor's house. The neighbor pried open the door, found the bodies, and called the police. Phommajack's 19 year-old son was also in the house at the time of the shooting. Police had been called to the residence at least five times in the past two years involving domestic disputes.

2. Tonia Nelson, 26 Minneapolis January 15, 2001

Tonia M. Nelson, 26, died in her house in Minneapolis. Johnny H. Tolliver, 38, pleaded guilty to one count of second-degree felony murder and one count of first-degree assault in the January 15 shooting. Tolliver's estranged wife, who was not named in the complaint, was visiting Nelson. She suffered gunshot wounds, including one to her neck. At the time of the shooting, Nelson was on the phone with her mother, and Tolliver and his estranged wife began to argue, her mother said. Nelson's mother said she suggested that Nelson tell them to lower their voices, because children were in the house. Then she heard a shot and the phone drop. A crying child called 911.

3. Geraldine Whipple, 19 Cass Lake January 22, 2001

Geraldine Whipple was shot in the head at her home. Richard Paquette, 25, was arrested in connection with the shooting. The shooting occurred after a domestic dispute at a rural Cass Lake residence where Whipple and the suspect lived together, reported Cass County Sheriff Randy Fisher. In November 2001, In November 2001, Paquette was sentenced to 18 years in prison.

4. Geraldine Williams, 51 St. Paul January 22, 2001

Scott County authorities have identified a woman found near Shakopee as 51 year-old Geraldine Williams of St. Paul, who was also known as Geraldine Coney. She had been fatally shot. Authorities began an investigation after a woman's body was discovered alongside a road. Mark A. Biggs was convicted of second-degree homicide in October, 2001 and sentenced to 40 years in prison in December.

5. Svetlana Pedash, 30 Eden Prairie February 24, 2001

Svetlana Pedash was stabbed to death following an argument with her husband, Pyotr Shmelev. Shmelev then put her body in the bathtub. The next day he took their 4 year-old daughter with him to the store to buy the saw which he used to dismember Svetlana's body. He divided her body into four plastic bags, placed them in his car trunk, and drove to Missouri with his daughter. He sank three of the bags in a pond there. The fourth bag, containing Svetlana's head, was kept in Pyotr's car. Three weeks later, Shmelev walked into Minneapolis Police Headquarters and confessed to the murder. Shmelev was convicted of second-degree murder and sentenced to 30 years in prison.

6. Laura Lee Terrell, 16**Madison Lake****March 1, 2001**

Law enforcement authorities found Laura's body in the trunk of a parked car in Mason City, Iowa. Her body apparently had been in the car since March 2, Minnesota authorities said. Julie Terrell and her daughter, Laura, got into an argument on the morning of March 1, although the nature of the argument is unclear. Laura reportedly was the first to threaten her mother with the shotgun. At some point, Julie Terrell got control of the gun and fired one shot at her daughter, killing her. Julie Terrell cut off her daughter's legs with a saw, wrapped her body in a blanket, put it in the trunk of her car, and drove to Mason City, Iowa. Several days later she called a boyfriend to ask for help in disposing of her daughter's body and he notified authorities. Julie Terrell pled guilty to second-degree murder and has been sentenced to 25 ½ years.

7. Esther Hillman, 89**Minneapolis****March 18, 2001**

Abel and Esther Hillman believed they were helping their granddaughter pay her bills, but the rent checks they wrote in February went to the man who authorities say killed them (see Family and Friends Murdered #2) weeks later in their Minneapolis home. Charden M. Gomez, 40, of Minneapolis, was charged with killing the Hillmans last month after their 36 year-old granddaughter refused to ask them for more money. Hennepin County Attorney Amy Klobuchar said Esther Hillman, 89, was tortured. She suffered 71 stab wounds across her body. Gomez is scheduled to go on trial in March of 2002.

8. Tammie Lee Olson, 33**Keewatin****March 21, 2001**

The motive for the killings remains unclear. Gene William Carpenter, 33, was arrested in the Twin Cities area as he threatened to shoot himself. Carpenter's family told Anoka County deputies they were concerned about Tammie Lee Olson, 33, his wife's twin, because Olson was driving her car. When Itasca County Sheriff Pat Medure was asked if Carpenter abducted his sister-in-law to find his estranged wife, Medure said that was a good deduction, but it was premature to say if that was what happened. "We have a lot of theories right now," Medure said. Carpenter, a convicted violent felon, was free on bail for a January incident involving allegations of gun possession and domestic abuse against his wife. He was prohibited by court order from having contact with his wife. Authorities said they believe Olson was kidnapped from Keewatin and shot to death that night in a stranger's yard near Mora. Carpenter was sentenced to life in prison in December of 2001.

9. Shelby Davis, 42**Minnetrista****March 28, 2001**

The boyfriend of a Minnetrista woman was charged with killing her after selling some of her belongings. Investigators said James J. Jorgensen, 40, used the money to buy drugs. He was charged in Hennepin County District Court with first- and second-degree murder in the death of Shelby Davis, 42. Davis didn't show up for work at Gabberts Furniture store in Edina after March 22, 2001, and police and Davis' sister found her body on March 28 wrapped in a blanket in the garage of her home. Jorgensen was found guilty of first-degree murder on November 1, 2001 and he was sentenced to life in prison on November 28, 2001.

10. Nancy K. Draper, 54 Inver Grove Heights April 12, 2001

Nancy Draper, who had multiple sclerosis, was found in the chest freezer of the couple's home, almost three weeks after she was strangled. Larry Draper, 43, is accused of killing Nancy Draper, 54, and the motives for the murder have ranged from mercy killing to the most recent defense of mental illness. Draper was indicted on first-degree premeditated murder and second-degree intentional murder charges.

11. Tatiana Bily, 80 Golden Valley April 28, 2001

Tatiana was assaulted by her husband with a blunt object in February but died in April. The police said that she died of complications, possibly stemming from the assault.

12. Tonya Anne Frazier, 34 St. Paul April 29, 2001

Tonya Frazier, a.k.a Rhonda Taylor, was shot to death in a St. Paul duplex. She had been shot once in the head. No one has been arrested in connection with the homicide. Police speculate that it could have been a 'john' or a dope deal gone bad. Family and friends recall how Frazier talked about the cycle of drugs and prostitution killing her one day.

13. Colleen Horn, 30 Twin Valley May 2001

A six year-old boy's dreams of his father killing his mother turned out to be true. Colleen Horn disappeared from the family's home in May 2001. Mark Horn, 41, told authorities that the two had argued and he last saw her that morning walking away from their home. Her partly buried remains were found two months later in a rural area of Polk County. After his mother's disappearance, the little boy, Weston, said he dreamed he saw his father push his mother into some glass, carry her to his truck, and cover her with plastic. A day after Colleen Horn's body was found, the boy discovered his father in a pool of blood after the man tried to kill himself. Last fall, Weston and his 4 year-old sister went to live with a family that eventually adopted them. It was only after the children were away from relatives that Weston could tell others that his dreams were actual memories of his mother's murder. Mark Horn pleaded guilty to second-degree murder in October 2003 to avoid the prospect of his son testifying against him at the trial.

14. Anne Marchand, 45 Grand Marais May 6, 2001

A rural Grand Marais man who suffered from mental illness believed his wife had just poisoned his Sunday dinner, so he beat and fatally shot her, according to murder charges. Kenneth Joseph Marchand, 57, told police he felt as though his wife, Anne, had poisoned him in an attempt to kill him. According to the criminal complaint, Marchand told police he believed something in the combination of hot dog buns, fruit and water he'd eaten had caused him to hallucinate. Kenneth Marchand was charged with second-degree murder

15. Joan Clark, 68**Minneapolis****May 14, 2001**

Prosecutors filed two counts of second-degree intentional murder against Timothy Roy Clark, 39, in the deaths of his parents, Donald and Joan Clark, both 68. "Clark savagely attacked his own mother and father, inflicting multiple fatal stab wounds to both of them," said Hennepin County Attorney Amy Klobuchar. "This is the kind of crime that leaves everyone shaking their heads in sorrow."

16. Wendy Bozeman, 39**Golden Valley****May 2001**

Wendy's severed limbs and head were discovered in Theodore Wirth Park on May 31, 2001. Marcus Keith Miller, 42, a former KMOJ radio personality who ran an after-hours club out of a North Minneapolis warehouse, was arrested earlier this month and charged with first-degree murder in the slaying of Bozeman, 39. Reports indicate that he cleaned his north Minneapolis warehouse apartment including re-tiling his bathroom floor to hide evidence that he beat, strangled, stabbed, and dismembered Bozeman.

17. Dianne M Geist, 29**Merrifield****June 8, 2001**

The bodies of Dennis M. Geist, 31, and Dianne M. Geist, 29, were found three hours after Dennis asked for a sheriff to come to their home. The deputy heard two gunshots when he arrived at the residence. The couple's 8 year-old and 3 year-old were safely removed from the home. On the 911 tape, he said that he thought his wife was going to take their children to Mexico. He was also in the process of being laid off from his job, but the police said that was not believed to be a motivating factor. The children are living with their grandparents.

18. Darcy Jean Galuk, 30**Willmar****July 8, 2001**

Darcy Galuk and Ray Augeson had lived together for several years in Watson, MN and had a son together. In February of 2001, Darcy moved out of the house to Willmar with her 7 year-old son and obtained an Order for Protection against Ray. They were involved in a visitation dispute. Ray, 45, of Watson, killed Darcy, 30, of Willmar and then took his own life. Each died of a single gunshot to the head. The boy is now living with family members.

19. Delayne Rae McBride, 40**Roseau****August 5, 2001**

The case was originally charged out as Criminal Vehicular Homicide and it is believed that Delayne McBride was pushed out of a moving truck driven by boyfriend, Kerry Lane. The injuries she sustained as a result of her fall from the truck caused her death. She was pronounced dead just shortly after her arrival to Roseau Area Hospital. Delayne and Kerry had been driving around for over six hours at the time the incident occurred. Both had blood alcohol levels above .10. She and Kerry had been involved in a domestic assault incident on the evening of her 40th birthday but at her request the charges were dropped. Despite the previous domestic incident with Delayne, as well as several other domestic charges that Kerry has on his record, the defendant's motion to dismiss the two counts of vehicular homicide was granted based on the court not finding sufficient evidence to prove that the defendant's conduct was a substantial causal factor in bringing about the victim's death.

20. Leanniatia Cinvelett Thomas, 21 Fridley August 11, 2001

Leanniatia Thomas, a 21 year-old Fridley woman, was stabbed to death outside her home Aug. 11, 2001. Eighteen-year-old Dery A. Mitchell, the victim's boyfriend who lived with the victim, her mother, brother, and daughter, was charged with counts of second-degree intentional murder, attempted second-degree intentional murder, and aggravated robbery following an incident that left his girlfriend dead and sent her brother to the hospital with stab wounds to the abdomen and chest.

21. Cheryl Rich, 33 Kennedy September 18, 2001

Three young sons were home and may have witnessed a Northwestern Minnesota man shooting his wife to death outside their house and then killing himself, Sheriff Hunt said. Samuel Rich, 35, and Cheryl Rich, died in their rural home about 2.5 miles southwest of Kennedy, near the state's northwestern corner. The couple's three sons, ages 5,3, and nearly 1, were in the home when the sheriff's deputies arrived. Hunt said that Rich called a relative shortly before or after shooting Cheryl. The boys have spoken with counselors and social workers and are being cared for by relatives in the area. Cheryl Rich worked full time at the Cenex convenience store in Hallock. The couple had moved to Hallock area a couple years ago, said a friend. Hunt also said that his department never had been called to the couple's home for any dispute, and neither of the Riches had a criminal record in Kittson County. Cheryl's friends had talked to her "somewhat" about problems the couple had been having.

22. Francesca Bosca, 24 Minneapolis September 18, 2001

Francesca was found fatally shot in what the police said was an attempted murder-suicide. Francesca Bosca, 24, was found with a wounded man after the man apparently called police to report a shooting. Bosca, also known as Francesca Tanis, died of a gunshot wound to the head.

23. Nancy C. Jagunich, 42 Eveleth October 1, 2001

Nancy C. Jagunich was beaten to death in the home of her boyfriend in Saginaw, MN. Brett Arnold Laine, 42, was arrested and charged with first-degree murder. The St. Louis County Medical Examiner said Jagunich died of multiple blows to the head. Laine claimed her injuries resulted from an accidental fall down the stairs of his home, but the Medical Examiner stated that Jagunich suffered too many severe head blows that came from too many directions for her injuries to have been accidental. Brett Laine was found guilty of first-degree murder in July 2003 but acquitted of second-degree intentional homicide and first- and second-degree manslaughter. The verdict against Laine carries a mandatory life sentence. During the trial, two of Laine's ex-wives testified he had beaten them during their marriages.

24. Sheryl Ann Rhodes, 33 Hayward October 12, 2001

Sheryl Rhodes was shot to death by her husband, Paul Rhodes, who then committed suicide. There was a note at the scene indicating it was a murder-suicide. The contents of the note have not been divulged. They couple had a young boy and girl who are currently staying with relatives. The children were not home at the time of the deaths.

25. Carrie Ann Martinson**St. Cloud****Died November 12, 2000
Charged as murder
October 26, 2001**

Carrie was in the passenger seat of the car that her husband, Cory Martinson, was driving. He swerved into oncoming traffic, where a SUV slammed into the passenger-side door. Carrie Martinson died instantly. Investigators said that Carrie had told family and co-workers that she was going to end her marriage. Cory Martinson told his in-laws that Carrie “has a year and a half left of service.” When questioned he said, “I give her less than a year and she’s done.” Cory Martinson has been charged with two counts of second-degree murder, criminal vehicular homicide, and criminal vehicular injury resulting in substantial bodily harm. He remains in custody.

26. Cynthia R. Vasquez/Clemente, 41**Minneapolis,****November 8, 2001**

Cynthia R Vasquez, who was also known as Cynthia R. Clemente, died of head injuries. Cynthia was found partially clothed at about 2:30 pm by a health care worker. When paramedics arrived her body was cold so she must have been dead for some time. Patricio Ruiz, husband of Cynthia, was wearing bloody clothes when he was found. He was arrested, charged, and held. Subsequent DNA tests failed to link him to the crime and Ruiz was released. The case remains open.

27. Petra Diaz-Briones, 37**Minneapolis****November 22, 2001**

Petra Diaz-Briones was fatally beaten with a hammer by her husband Roberto Sanchez-Diaz, 36, who also went by the name of Angel Miranda Benitez. He was charged 4 days after her death with second-degree murder. The charge is as follows: Sanchez-Diaz hit his wife in the head with a hammer in front of his 8 year-old daughter, who had been sleeping in the same room. Then he went to his son’s bedroom with a knife after the beating around 3 am and woke him up and said, “Kill me.” When asked why, he said, “I just killed your mom.” The 14 year-old boy saw his mother bleeding in the living room and called 911. Petra was taken to the hospital, where she died three days later. Roberto Sanchez-Diaz was charged with first-degree murder and two counts of second-degree murder. On November 18, 2000, Hennepin County Judge Beryl Nord found him not guilty by reason of mental illness. A judge in the mental health court will now determine whether Sanchez-Diaz should be committed to the Minnesota Security Hospital as mentally ill and dangerous. Patric

28. Barbara J. Szutz, 52**Edina****November 29, 2001**

After Barbara J. Szutz caught her son, Anthony R. Szutz, 33, smoking crack cocaine in her home, he clubbed her and duct-taped a plastic bag over her head. The mother and son had a volatile relationship and the neighbors said that they had heard several angry exchanges between them over the years. According to the report, the police went to the house when Barbara Szutz’s employer reported her missing. They found Barbara’s body covered with a sheet in the basement laundry room. In a police statement, Anthony Szutz said he was smoking crack in his basement bedroom when his mother appeared and got angry with him for doing so and that is when he murdered her. Police arrested him near his aunt’s house in Baxter, MN. Anthony Szutz was convicted of first-degree assault in 1989 for hitting two women with a baseball bat. He served about two years in state prisons and 15 months on supervised release. He is charged with second-degree intentional murder and is being held at \$750,000 bail.

29. Colleen Cram, 46**St. Paul****December 5, 2001**

Colleen Cram was beaten to death with a closet rod, a tie iron, and an electrical cord. Police found Colleen Cram unconscious after a call from her husband. She was rushed to Regions Hospital and died shortly after arrival. In March, Ronald was arrested on a domestic assault charge that later was dismissed, said police. A co-worker of Colleen Cram called police after noticing bruises on her body. When Colleen Cram told police that fight with her husband was mutual and not a case of domestic abuse, the prosecutor's office dropped the case. This decision has drawn criticism from battered women's advocates. "When people try to say that it was a mutual situation, then it takes the responsibility off the perpetrator and it makes the victim accountable," said Karmit Bulman, Executive Director of the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women. "It would be kind of laughable in that situation that she would have the same ability to victimize him the way he victimized her." Ronald Cram was charged with two counts of second-degree murder.

30. Sally Flores, 35**St. Paul****December 13, 2001**

Sally Flores and her husband were found dead in their home. There was one witness, a teenage girl who was the girlfriend of one of the couple's sons. Benigno Flores had left the house after an argument and then came back the following morning to resume the dispute. The police commented that it was an ongoing domestic problem. Police records indicate that officers were sent to their house six times in the past five years, but only make a formal report on one incident when Benigno hit and choked his wife after she went to pick him up at a bar where he had been drinking. The couple's three daughters, 16, 18, and 21, were upstairs during the shootings, which took place in the kitchen. The 15 year-old had just come downstairs to check on the noise she'd heard, and she discovered Benigno Flores standing over his wife's body. He shot himself when she entered the room.

31. Zewu Nantambi, 28**North St. Paul****December 23, 2001**

Nantambi was shot and murdered by Jonathan Samuel, 35, her ex-boyfriend. A witness told investigators that even after the two had broken up, Samuel would show up uninvited at Nantambi's apartment and engage in other stalking behaviors. Her friends urged her to get an Order for Protection but she did not. Witnesses said that the pair had been arguing the day of the shooting and that Samuel would not leave her alone. Zewu Nantambi is survived by her 3 year-old son, who witnessed the shooting. Jonathan Samuel has been charged in Ramsey County with second-degree murder.

32. Anonymous Woman, 64**Brainerd****December 24, 2001**

At the request of the family of the victim, this Femicide has been removed from the report.

33. Laura Vasquez-Ruedas, 26**Lester Prairie****December 29, 2001**

Laura Vasquez-Ruedas was stabbed to death in her home by her estranged boyfriend, Sergio Sanchez-Diaz, 23, also from Lester Prairie. Laura was six months pregnant and the fetus died as a result of her injuries. Sergio told police that the couple began fighting after Vasquez-Ruedas told him she didn't want

to live with him anymore. He picked up a knife and began stabbing her. Sergio also stabbed himself but wasn't seriously injured. Sergio Sanchez-Diaz was convicted in April 2002 of second-degree murder.

CHILDREN MURDERED:

1. Tasher Nelson, 3 Erhard January 21, 2001

A woman shot and killed her 3 year-old son and then herself in a Western Minnesota farmhouse where she was accused of helping to run a methamphetamine lab. Amanda Mae Nelson and her son, Tasher, were found dead in bed in the rented house near Erhard, 14 miles north of Fergus Falls. Nelson would have turned 22 that Friday. The child had been shot in the chest and head and Nelson had been shot once in the head.

2. Dominic Asfeld, 14 months Watkins Died 10/00 Charged as homicide 3/01

Michael P. Asfeld, 24, has been charged with first-degree murder in the death of his 14 month-old son. Asfeld had been charged with second-degree murder in March 2001. Autopsy results showed that Dominic Asfeld was suffocated before his mother found him not breathing in his crib in Cold Spring.

3. Baby Boy Marshall Marshall April 8, 2001

A newborn boy's body was found April 8 in a women's bathroom at a Marshall supermarket. Stacy Kay Miller, 24, was arrested and charged with intentional second-degree murder in July 2002 in the death of her son. She has told police that she was unaware she was pregnant and delivered the baby in the bathroom of the Marshall Hy-Vee supermarket. The case was unsolved for more than a year until Stacy Miller's former stepmother, Virginia Miller, contacted police and said she'd found a letter written by Stacy that incriminated her in the murder. Virginia Miller told police that she'd been with Stacy at the supermarket the day of the baby's birth and that Stacy had complained of cramps. While checking on Stacy in the bathroom, Virginia saw that Stacy had piled toilet paper on the floor. The next day she noticed blood on Stacy's clothing. Stacy told authorities that she'd delivered the baby very quickly and that he hadn't been moving. She stated in the letter that Virginia Miller found "Nothing would help my baby breathe again and that is why I got scared and realized I had just killed my baby unintentionally." Stacy Miller has two other children, ages 5 and 2, who are in the custody of their grandmother. Miller was sentenced in June 2003 to eight years in prison and four years of supervised release.

4. Lathen Q McDonald, 7 months Minneapolis April 19, 2001

Lathen Q. McDonald, 22, who has a history of domestic and child abuse, was charged with first-degree murder in the death of his 7 month-old son. Medical exams found that the baby had severe internal injuries, including a liver laceration that caused internal bleeding. The infant also had facial and head bruises.

5. Makaio Lynn Radke, 17 months**Albert Lea****April 20, 2001**

Paul Gutierrez Jr., 27, is charged with two counts of premeditated murder, involving criminal sexual conduct and child abuse, and a third count of second-degree murder in the death of Makaio Radke. The body of the infant was discovered April 21 in the Albert Lea home where he lived with siblings, his mother and her roommate. Gutierrez was a part-time resident of the house who was baby-sitting. The boy had suffered broken ribs, punctured lungs, a lacerated liver, and severe bruising.

6. Sabrina Elizabeth Lee, 18 months**Rochester****June 25, 2001**

Olmsted County Coroner Paul Belau said Sabrina died of shaken-baby syndrome caused by a head injury. She died in surgery at Saint Mary's Hospital. Marilyn Jane Erickson, 54, was charged with two counts of second-degree murder and one count of first-degree manslaughter in the death of Sabrina. She was apparently watching the little girl at her sister's day care center. Erickson became angry with the baby when she wouldn't stop crying and violently shook Sabrina for a full minute, causing the traumatic brain injuries that led to her death. Rochester Police Lt. Dan Muyres said someone from the day-care center called 911 around 9 a.m. Monday and reported that a child had been injured. The woman in custody first called a neighbor, and it was unclear whether the neighbor or the suspect made the emergency call. The trial will begin on February 25, 2002.

7. Pa Houa Yang, 16 months**St. Paul****July 17, 2001****8. Lisa Mai Yang, 3 years****St. Paul****July 17, 2001**

Two girls, ages 16 months and 3 years, were killed in what police said was a domestic incident that also left their mother critically injured in St. Paul's North End. Inside the apartment, officers found the bodies of the two children and their injured mother. Mee Xiong, 27 and the mother of eight children, had been arrested and accused of stabbing her two youngest daughters to death. She also attempted suicide by stabbing herself. Mee Xiong suffered paranoia and hallucinations, hearing voices commanding her to kill herself and others, Ramsey County court records state. She had been committed to mental hospitals three times since 1997, with her last stay ending in October. Doctors diagnosed her as suffering from schizophrenia and depression. Mee Xiong also was under court order to take anti-psychotic medications. In January of 2002, Xiong was committed to a state mental hospital, which has indefinitely put her criminal case on hold.

9. Isiah Devine, 5 months**St. Bonfacius****July 31, 2001**

Isiah Devine died of complications from being violently shaken at his day care provider's home in Victoria, MN on July 3rd. The child was in a chronic vegetative state from his head injuries, was taken off life support and died on July 31st. Sheri Lynn Alger, 38, has been charged with second-degree unintentional murder and first- and second-degree manslaughter in the death of the infant boy. Alger first said to authorities that her 2 year-old daughter had jumped on the baby. Later she changed her story to say that she had stepped on Isiah's head because the baby was fussy and had ruined her good mood for the upcoming 4th of July holiday. The trial began on April 29, 2002 and Alger has waived her right to a jury.

10. Logan Bratsch, 1**Willmar****August 9, 2001**

Tyler Bratsch, 25, was convicted in November 2002 of second-degree manslaughter in the death of his son, Logan. Tyler admitted to surfing the Internet while his 1 year-old son drowned in the bathtub. He found his son face-down in the tub and called 911, but efforts to revive the baby failed. Bratsch will be sentenced in December.

11. Dillon Blocker, 3**Lakeville****September 18, 2001**

Steven McBride, the boyfriend of Dillon's mother, Denise Patch, was charged in Dillon's death. Steven Mc Bride was indicted on charges of first-degree murder, handed up new charges against his girlfriend, the mother of the 3-year-old he was accused of beating to death last month. Dillon's mother was convicted in February of second-degree manslaughter for aiding and abetting the death of her son. In April 2002, McBride was convicted of first-degree murder while committing a second-degree sexual assault. He was sentenced to life in prison with no possibility of parole and was also ordered by the judge to pay for funeral expenses and for counseling for Dillon's five year-old sister. "Many people failed this child in small ways," Judge Leslie Metzen said to McBride. "Family, friends and neighbors saw and explained away each injury. Most of all, Dillon was failed by you and Denise Patch, his primary caregivers. Your hands were instruments of torture, which inflicted bruises, broken bones, bite marks and injuries that led to Dillon's death."

12. Danielle Price-Weaver, 10**Minneapolis****October 28, 2001**

Danielle, 10, was shot multiple times before her Father, Douglas Price, 36, apparently shot himself in the head. Price picked up Danielle from day care on Friday afternoon but left the couple's younger daughter there. Despite a 1998 divorce judgment giving him weekend visitation rights of the kids, Betty Weaver, Danielle's Mother, didn't want Danielle to leave with her father and she went over to his house to get her daughter. She almost had her with her and but Douglas Price stopped them and the police came and said there was nothing that they could do. It is unclear exactly when she was shot, since Weaver said that she spoke with her daughter several times on Saturday, the last at 11:30. She was found on Sunday night.

WOMEN MURDERED BY AN AQUAINTANCE, STRANGER OR AN UNKNOWN PERPETRATOR:**1. Katherine Rose Bronczyk, 65****Kelliher****February 22, 2001**

When failed to return home after volunteering to take Leland Kisner grocery shopping, her husband reported her missing. Law enforcement officers went to Kisner's home, searched, and found her body in the trunk of her car. She had been stabbed multiple times. Kisner threatened officers with a gun, was subdued, and arrested. Kisner told police that Bronczyk had "nagged" him so he killed her. He is being held on \$750,000 bail.

In reporting the total number of deaths, it is important to note that at least this many women and children have been murdered. We cannot be certain we have not missed some deaths since we must use a method of data collection that relies upon news accounts. No state or federal agency collects comprehensive data on femicides or domestic homicides. In addition, the murders of women of color, poor women, rural women, lesbians and women and girls used in prostitution may be underreported in our listing as they may be unreported in mainstream newspapers.

The 2001 Femicide Report – Women and Children Murdered is compiled from news accounts. Please contact us if we have missed a death or if you have updated or more complete information on any femicide. We ask that the MINNESOTA COALITION FOR BATTERED WOMEN be credited when information from this report is used.