

Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women



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1999 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, 1999.

In Minnesota in 1999:

At least 23 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 19 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 1 woman is missing.

WOMEN MURDERED:

1. Lisa Kramer, 31

Fergus Falls

January 14, 1999

The family pastor and Quentin Kramer's brother went to the Kramer family home when they were unable to reach the family and found the couple and their two children dead. Police said Quentin Kramer killed his wife and two children before fatally shooting himself. There was no sign of struggle and police believe Kramer strangled his 3 year old son, Shaw, as he slept in his room, and then shot his wife Lisa to death in the couple's bed. He then went to the basement where he found his 6 year old daughter Corrine playing in her pajamas and shot her. He then killed himself. Quentin Kramer suffered from clinical depression.

2. Latisha Joy Brien, 21

Granite Falls

January 15, 1999

Latisha was savagely beaten to death with a baseball bat by her boyfriend. He then took her body to an abandoned property where it was found four days later under a burn pile of miscellaneous objects such as a couch, a chair, and a sheet of plywood. Burr Crowsbreast III has been convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to life in prison. Latisha is survived by her two sons, Richard, 5 and Slade, 2.

3. Germaine Chatkana, 20

St. Cloud

February 2, 1999

Germaine's body was found in a basement furnace room of an apartment building, after her boyfriend Ole Dean Maxwell called Germaine's sister from the Hennepin County jail and told the sister that Germaine was dead. Maxwell had turned himself in to police on another warrant. She had been dead for two or three days when found and police believe Maxwell killed her while he was on home detention. He had been released from prison January 20 on electronic home monitoring. Germaine had been strangled and the apartment where she was found belonged to Maxwell's mother. Her boyfriend had a violent past that included domestic assault charges as well as death threats against his mother and brother. Germaine was the mother of a 10-month-old son.

4. Alice Knight, 72

McIntosh

February 16, 1999

Alice Knight died of a gunshot wound at her home north of McIntosh, and her 49 year-old son Steven was wounded in the hand. Steven went to the neighbor's for help and police arrested another 52 year-old son.

5. Tara Carlson, 28

Zumbrota

April 19, 1999

Tara and John Carlson's bodies were found in their home—a murder-suicide. John Carlson had been charged with domestic assault and disorderly conduct several times for attacking Tara, had been ordered to abide by protective orders and also ordered to submit to domestic abuse evaluation and counseling. He had served time in jail under a work-release program and also had a jail sentence stayed if he didn't live up to his probation. He did not. At the time of her death, Tara had moved out of the house and had said she was getting a divorce. She was an advocate at a battered women's program. Tara is survived by two children, ages 2 and 5.

6. Nancy Licari, 43**Isanti****April 23, 1999**

Nancy was reported missing four days before her battered body was found in a storage building her estranged husband, Craig, sometimes used. She died from severe head injuries. The couple's 22-year-old son told police about the storage facility where the body was found. Craig Licari was arrested in the Twin Cities and was been charged with second-degree murder. He was convicted and sentenced to 330 months in prison.

7. Farrah Mohammed, 17**Bloomington****May 4, 1999**

Farrah was stabbed sixteen times and died at the Mall of America as she was leaving work. Her former boyfriend, Sadiq Hussein has been convicted of second-degree intentional murder. Hussein said he went to the Mall to see Farrah and became enraged when he saw Farrah kissing another man, went back to his car for a butcher knife and attacked her by stabbing her in the chest, pelvic area and elsewhere on her body. Farrah had recently broken off their relationship and now had a new boyfriend.

8. Ferdelo Hangsleben, 74**East Grand Forks****May 5, 1999**

Police shot and killed Brian Hangsleben when he came out of his parent's house - where he had stabbed and killed his mother, Ferdelo, and wounded his father Ardell. There had been a 30-minute standoff with the police during which time Brian Hangsleben told officers that he wanted to die because he had stabbed his parents. He walked toward the officers and ignored commands to put down the knife and two officers each fired one shot. Brian had a criminal history including an arrest for assaulting his mother.

9. Valentina Voight, 18**Eden Prairie****May 29, 1999**

Valentina's body was found in a shallow grave north of Elk River on September 9. Valentina had known Jason Burford for only a few weeks. Valentina was planning to attend college in Florida in the fall. On Memorial Day Weekend, Valentina went missing. When questioned by law enforcement, Burford told them that he last saw Voight on May 29 at his Hopkins apartment. In late July, an informant told sheriff's investigators that Burford admitted on June 4 that he had earlier killed Valentina claiming she was cashing checks on his account and because she knew that he had been involved in the theft of an ATM machine. Burford later described to this acquaintance where he had buried Voight's body, which was finally found on September 9, 1999. Jason Burford was convicted of second-degree murder in her strangulation death and sentenced to 366 months in prison.

10. Sheila Hagen, 66**Elk River****July 28, 1999**

Sheila Hagen was fatally shot by her husband and he reported he had killed her because she was suffering from a long-term illness and he could no longer stand to see her suffer. Earl Hagen was taken into custody by the Sherburne County Sheriff's Department.

11. Linda Freeman Wooten, 45**Eagan****September 2, 1999**

The husband of Linda Wooten told investigators "I'm the shooter, I shot her" as she lay dead on a road, her son by her side. William Wooten shot Linda with a revolver outside a time-share condominium where

she was staying with her 19-year-old son. The couple was arguing over the time-share and who would pay for the use of it. William Wooten is an Army sergeant and has military training with guns. He has been charged with first-degree intentional homicide.

12. Muriel Ann Johnson, 70

Cass Lake

September 3, 1999

Beltrami County sheriff's deputies were called to Muriel Johnson's home and found her dead of a single stab wound. A teenaged relative of Johnson's was wounded in her hands as she defended herself. Stephanie Lee Babineau, 27, was arrested at the scene and has been charged with second-degree murder, second degree attempted murder and second-degree assault. The two victims and the murderer are related.

13. Heidi Ray Johnson, 37

Brooklyn Park

September 4, 1999

When police were called to an apartment Nathan Clark shared with Heidi Kay Johnson, he reported that someone had burglarized the apartment. When police arrived they found Heidi lying on the floor, her fingernails broken, a clump of hair torn from her head, deep bruises on her arms and a cut on her cheek. She had died of strangulation and had been dead for several hours before police were called. Clark before had assaulted Heidi Johnson and he had at least two cases of assault pending when he murdered her. She had attempted to leave several times and each time he would trace her, find her and abuse her. Police have a record of 10 calls to her apartment since May of '99. He was charged with first-degree murder, pled guilty to second-degree murder and will serve 31 years.

14. Cynthia Rathman, 45

St. James

September 13, 1999

A farm owner who went to do routine yard work at the vacant farm site called authorities when he found a pickup in the yard and in it the bodies of Cynthia Rathman and her husband Edward Rathman. The authorities had been called that morning when Cynthia did not show up for work nor did she call in. The Rathmans were in the process of getting a divorce and no longer lived together. Police said that Rathman shot his estranged wife and then killed himself.

15. Mary Zaman, 27

Rochester

September 20, 1999

Iqbal Ahmed, 34, was charged with second-degree murder in the deaths of his wife, Mary Zaman, and her nephew, Mohammed Tahseen Taef, 3. Zaman's sister, Sophia Tareq, who lived in Rochester with the family, has been missing since the time of the murders and authorities suspect she may have been murdered as well. The victims' headless bodies were found in a ditch in black plastic bags two months after Mary, Mohammed, and Sophia disappeared. A road maintenance worker noticed a small arm protruding from the bag. At first it was believed that the murdered child was Mary's son, but the child was later determined to be Sophia Tareq's. Ahmed fled to Bangladesh with his and Mary's son, Asif, shortly after the bodies were found. Ahmed had been arrested in 1998 for assaulting Mary and charged with attempted second-degree murder and false imprisonment. Later, prosecutors allowed Ahmed to plead guilty to a lesser charge after Mary refused to cooperate with them. Ahmed claims his family is alive and well and living in New York. Investigators tried, to no avail, to persuade Ahmed to fly to the U.S. to help 'find' his wife but he never would show up as planned. Public anger over the case in Bangladesh grew in 2003 after a newspaper ran an Associated Press story recapping the murders. Police in Bangladesh arrested Iqbal Ahmed in July 2004. It is not clear if he will be returned to the United States to stand trial.

21. Catherine Ranft, 37
22. KiAnn Rivas, 20

Lonsdale

December 8, 1999

Six bodies were found in the rubble following an intense fire at a farmhouse. Three cars, a trailer and a boat encircled the house and all were fully engulfed in the blaze, with flames higher than the trees, when fire fighters arrived. Armed with a butcher knife, gasoline and a pair of murderous hands, Primitivo Juan Rivas killed five family members including his 16-year-old son Tyler and 20-year-old daughter KiAnn. He then ignited the blaze in an attempt to destroy the crime scene and committed suicide by stabbing himself in the chest. The bodies of Catherine Ranft and her two children, Caroline Stepniewski, age 4, and Meredith Stepniewski, age 6, together with the other three were burned beyond recognition and identification was made by the MN state crime lab. The report stated the two younger children, Caroline and Meredith, and their mother Catherine, had been strangled. Tyler was beaten and stabbed to death and KiAnn killed violently. Primitivo Juan Rivas had serious financial and legal problems in the months preceding the murders, and was facing a 90-day jail sentence.

23. S Rimal, 23

Richfield

December 20, 1999

When Richfield police officers responded to an apartment they found the body of S Rimal lying on the living room floor. Medical personnel were unable to revive her. Also present in the apartment was her husband, who continually kept saying "I hit her in the face. I hit because I love her. I am responsible. I want to die. I want to do suicide. I am responsible for what happened." The cause of S Rimal's death was blunt trauma to the head. Rakesh Rimal was taken into custody and has been charged with her death.

24. Laura Rosengartner, 42

Park Rapids

Disappeared 11/6/96
Body found 4/28/97
Perpetrator charged 2/27/99

Laura was last seen the evening of November 6, 1996 when she and her husband Rodney took their children out for supper, then left the children at their Main Street apartment in Park Rapids and went bar-hopping and playing bingo. Late that night Laura was seen leaving the Akeley Liquor Store with Rodney. Rodney said Laura left their vehicle in order to meet someone, promised to return shortly and never returned to the car. Shortly after this, Rodney Rosengartner left Park Rapids. In April of '97 Laura's body was found in a wooded area about two miles from Park Rapids. Rosengartner was convicted of a crime in Garland, TX, began serving a 30 year term, was interviewed by Garland police detectives and wrote and signed an alleged confession of guilt in Laura's murder. He was charged with two counts of second-degree murder.

Children Murdered

1. Newborn

Brooklyn Park

January 13, 1999

The newborn body was found the day after its 17 year old mother went to Children's Hospital in Minneapolis with abdominal pains, was diagnosed as having given birth and hospital authorities called police, who found the body of the infant.

2. Albert Mays, 17 months

Minneapolis

January 14, 1999

Willie Mays has been charged with third degree murder of his son, Albert, after a gun accidentally discharged in his hands during a struggle with family members trying to take it from him. The bullet went through the baby's abdomen. Mays had gone to the home of his girlfriend, the mother of Albert, and was arguing with her and waving his gun. In the attempt to wrestle the gun from Mays, they fell to the floor and the gun went off, striking Albert. The baby was rushed to the hospital where he was pronounced dead.

3. Corinne Kramer, 6

Fergus Falls

January 14, 1999

4. Shaw Kramer, 3

Please refer to Lisa Kramer, under Women Murdered.

5. Jason Anglers, 16

St. Paul

January 18, 1999

Police found Jason dead of stab wounds in the basement of his home. He was killed during an argument with his stepfather, Irving Stapleton. Neighbors said that Stapleton and Jason argued frequently and police confirmed they had been called to the home for domestic disputes but did not give further information. Murder charges have been filed against Irving Stapleton.

6. Samantha Sullivan, 10 weeks

LeCenter

January 26, 1999

Samantha's death has been ruled a homicide by the medical examiner. She died of traumatic head injuries.

7. Kenny Kramer, 3

Brownsville

May 10, 1999

Kenny Kramer was reported missing by his father. His body was found hidden in brush near the trailer home he shared with his father and grandparents. FBI dogs trained to find cadavers discovered the boy whose mouth was bound with duct tape and the body then wrapped in plastic. Howie Kramer, Jr - Kenny's father - admitted to police that he caused his son's death by gagging him, wrapping him in a plastic bag and leaving him, alive, in the woods. Kenny's father stated he had planned to win back a former girlfriend by leaving a note stating Kenny would be returned if the girlfriend married him by a certain date. Howie Kramer, Jr. has been charged with second-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter.

8. Clay Anderson, 22 months

Big Bend City

May 17, 1999

Clay Anderson was put to bed shortly after dinner, and when his mother and her boyfriend heard him making noises later, the boyfriend, Lee Langworthy went upstairs to check on him, spent about five minutes with the boy and came back downstairs. The next morning Clay's mother, Bobbie Jo Nelson went to work without checking on him. Langworthy was caring for the boy, said he heard a noise in the boy's room, but went back to bed until noon, and didn't check on him until his mother returned from work about 5 pm. Langworthy then went upstairs and found Clay face down on the bed and told Nelson to call 911. An autopsy determined Clay had died several hours after he went to bed and a neck artery was bruised. Langworthy has been charged with two counts of second-degree murder.

9. Muy Ojulu Agwa, 3
10. Jowoknut Ojulu Agwa, 9 months

Duluth

August 20, 1999

Ojulu Agwa Omot said he sent his wife to the car to retrieve something so he could kill the children while she was gone. He said he had planned for a week to kill them. He then slammed his infant son's head into a coffee table and then stabbed his 3-year-old daughter, killing them both. When his wife returned her children were lying in pools of blood in the living room and she began screaming hysterically. Omot had already called 911, but now fled and crashed his car in a suicide attempt. Omot has been charged with two counts of second-degree murder.

11. Mohammed Tasheen Taef, 3

Rochester

September 20, 1999

Please see Mary Zaman under Women Murdered.

12. Lamart Wallace, Jr., 4 months

Minneapolis

October 13, 1999

Police and paramedics were called when Lamart's mother ran with him to a relative's house. Neither the relative nor the paramedics were able to revive the baby. The mother's estranged husband, Lamart Wallace had first assaulted her by choking her and then went into the living room and threw the baby up in the air. She heard a "boom and a bump" and the baby hollered and he then strangled the baby. Lamart Wallace has been charged with first-degree murder - the baby had several acute injuries including two skull fractures, a fracture of the clavicle and a subdural hemorrhage. The baby also had several older injuries, including a large chronic subdural hemorrhage and a fracture of the femur.

12. Amber Johnson, 6

Long Prairie

October 24, 1999

Amber drowned when her mother drove her car with Amber and her sister Allysha into a lake with the intent of killing herself and the girls. Lisa Patchen, mother of the girls, escaped and was taken wet and shivering to a nearby home to call 911. Authorities found the girls floating face down in the icy water. Amber was pronounced dead and her sister aged 7 was in critical condition. Lisa Patchen has been charged with murder and attempted murder, and has been hospitalized for an evaluation.

13. Brenda Swearingen, 8

Minneapolis

November 3, 1999

Brenda was semi-conscious after a beating the morning of Nov 2 - she had just finished practicing her multiplication tables. But her legal guardian did not seek help for her until 2am the next morning - she was put on life support, but this was withdrawn and she died that afternoon. Authorities said she had received seven blows to the head plus extensive bruises and abrasions. Andrew Lange who lived with Terry Allen, Brenda's guardian, admitted that he threw Brenda against a wall and choked her because he wasn't satisfied with the way she did her chores. Lange was sentenced to 25 years for unintentional second-degree murder and Alien was sentenced to three years for aiding an offender.

14. Newborn Girl

Red Wing

November 4, 1999

A newborn baby girl was found wrapped in a towel in the Mississippi River by a man walking near a park. The infant had been in the water about a week or two, probably since birth and the umbilical cord was still attached. The autopsy said she was probably born alive. A DNA test conducted in 2007

concluded that the newborn girl was born to the same mother of an unknown baby boy found in the same area in 2003.

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| 15. Tyler Rivas, 16 | Lonsdale | December 8, 1999 |
| 16. Meredith Stepienewski, 6 | | |
| 17. Caroline Stepienewski, 4 | | |

Please see Catherine Ranft under Women Murdered.

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| 18. Christian Chase LeDouceir, 3 | Roseville | December 22, 1999 |
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Police were called to a home in Roseville by the half-sister of Christian and said her half-brother was unresponsive in the bathtub. He was pronounced dead at the hospital and the medical examiner said the death was a homicide. Christian had suffered several injuries caused by both sharp and blunt objects and died by drowning. Christian's half-sister who is 13 years old was caring for the child and the two were alone in the home at the time of the incident. She is being held by authorities and has been charged with third degree murder.

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| 19. Jessica Swanson, 3 | Cannon Falls | Disappeared 6/27/95 Body found 8/25/99 |
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Jessica was reported missing the morning of June 27, 1995. An extensive search for her continued throughout that summer but was fruitless. Although Jessica's mother Michelle Swanson and her boyfriend Dale Jensen were considered suspects in the case, no conclusive leads were found until March of 1999. In August Swanson and Jensen were arrested and Dale Jensen confessed to killing Jessica and led police to her skeletal remains. He said he became enraged when she had wet the bed and that she hit her head on a table - he then took her body to the marsh area and covered it with a sheet and went to work. Dale Jensen has been sentenced to 4 years in jail, Swanson has been charged with abetting a crime.

Women Missing

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|-------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Ann White, 53 | Savage | Disappeared 2/7/99 |
| 2. Sophia Tareq | Rochester | Disappeared 9/20/99 |

Please see Mary Zaman under Women Murdered for more information.

1999 FEMICIDE REPORT - Women and Children Murdered - is compiled from news accounts and information provided by law enforcement agencies, county attorneys, court administrators, battered women's programs, and family members and friends of murder victims. Please contact us if you have updated or more complete information on any homicide.

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