

WILLIAM A. SHAW, JR.
District Attorney



Clearfield County Courthouse
230 East Market Street, Suite 210
Clearfield, PA 16830

Voice (814) 765-2641 ex. 5017
Fax (814) 765-6792
www.ClearfieldDA.org

**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
CLEARFIELD COUNTY**

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 17, 2019

DA SHAW: HOMICIDE CHARGES FILED

CLEARFIELD – Clearfield County District Attorney, William A. Shaw, Jr., announced today that homicide charges have been filed against a Morrisdale woman for the death of her husband.

Shaw identified the defendant as Kimberly Sue Williams, age 46, of Elm Drive, Morrisdale, Pennsylvania.

On October 16, 2019, Trooper Frederick Burns of the Pennsylvania State Police, Woodland Barracks filed a Criminal Complaint charging Williams with: 1) Criminal Homicide, F1; 2) Aggravated Assault, F1; 3) Aggravated Assault, F2; 4) Simple Assault, M2; and 5) Recklessly Endangering Another Person, M2

An Affidavit of Probable Cause filed with the Complaint provides that on March 14, 2019, at 3:17 pm. Troopers were dispatched to respond to a reported suicide. Upon arrival, Troopers observed the deceased, identified as Ronald Williams, Jr., laying in his bed with an apparent gunshot wound in his right temple. Ronald Williams, Jr. had a 22-magnum pistol in his right hand with the slide locked to the rear. Kimberly Williams told Troopers she was in the bedroom with her husband and was at her dresser behind her husband when she heard the gunshot and turned to see her husband with a gunshot wound to the head.

The Affidavit further provides that the State Police received a call from an individual overseeing a trust fund for Ronald and Kimberly Williams. The individual informed the State Police that he received a troubling e-mail from Ronald Williams indicating something wasn't right and directing that an autopsy be conducted if something happens and indicating a change of will was

requested. The individual further reported that he received a call from Kimberly Williams indicating that she found the e-mail in her husband's phone and directed that an autopsy wasn't required because it was a suicide.

An autopsy was conducted, and the pathologist requested further testing be conducted to determine the distance of soot and stippling from the firearm, noting that no soot or stippling was observed during the autopsy. Pursuant to the Affidavit, the State Police requested ballistic testing from the State Laboratory, as well as a private lab. The lab results indicated that the firearm stops depositing residue at 48 inches. Based on these calculations, the Pathologist concluded the firearm was discharged at a distance greater than the arm length of the Deceased. As such, the Pathologist opined that the cause of death was a gunshot wound to the head and the manner of death was homicide.

Finally, the Affidavit states that on October 14, 2019, the State Police received final test results from the private lab indicating that the Deceased did not have gunshot residue on his hands. The results also indicated that Kimberly William's left palm tested positive for gunshot residue.

Shaw explained that a Criminal Complaint was filed at approximately 10:00 am on October 16th at Magisterial District Judge Jerome Nevling's office and a Warrant of Arrest was issued for Kimberly Williams. The Pennsylvania State Police Fugitive Task Force was activated, and Williams was located in North Carolina. Shaw reported that the U.S Marshals Service Carolinas Regional Fugitive Task Force was activated, and Williams was taken into custody at a residence in Fayetteville, North Carolina at approximately 4:00 pm on October 16th without incident.

Williams is currently incarcerated in the Cumberland County, North Carolina, Jail awaiting extradition to Clearfield County. Shaw noted that extradition proceedings could take up to six months and Clearfield County Sheriff Mike Churner and his Deputies will coordinate the return of Kimberly Williams to Clearfield County.

Shaw noted this was a very difficult investigation. The death was originally believed to be a suicide, and at first glance it appeared like a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Shaw said it wasn't until the State Police conducted further investigation that the true nature of this death became apparent.

Shaw congratulated Trooper Burns and the State Police for an outstanding investigation. Shaw said this arrest is the result of a tenacious investigation by hyper-diligent police officers. Shaw explained this was one of the most difficult cases he has worked on that required a large volume of forensic testing, including ballistic firearm testing and gun shot residue testing.

Shaw explained that the final gun shot residue test results that were received on October 14th confirmed that the victim had no gun shot residue on his hands and this would be inconsistent

News Release
October 17, 2019
Page 3

with a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Gunshot residue testing was positive for tests conducted of Kimberly William's hands.

Shaw thanked the Pennsylvania State Police, the State Police Fugitive Task Force, the U.S. Marshall Service and the U.S Marshals Service Carolinas Regional Fugitive Task Force, and Clearfield County Sheriff Mike Churner for their hard work and assistance in this case. Shaw said this case is an example of law enforcement at its best.

Anyone with knowledge or information about a crime is asked to call Clearfield County Crime Stoppers at (800)-376-4700.

All calls to Crime Stoppers are confidential. Anonymous tips can also be submitted by visiting the Clearfield County District Attorney web site at "www.ClearfieldDA.org" and selecting "Report A Crime".

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