



# Domestic Violence Homicides in Massachusetts

## Annual Domestic Violence Awareness Month List

### October 1, 2007 – September 30, 2008

Beginning in 2005 Jane Doe Inc. reconsidered its definition of domestic violence homicide and used the new definition in identifying all incidents that occurred in 2003 and subsequent years. The definition was modified in order to capture the full picture and context of domestic violence homicides. Homicides were considered domestic violence related *if*

- the homicide victim and perpetrator were current or former spouses or intimate partners, adults or teens with a child in common, or adults or teens in a current or former dating relationship
- the homicide victim was a bystander or intervened in an attempted domestic violence homicide and was killed (including friends, family members, new intimate partners, law enforcement officers or other professionals attempting to assist the victim of domestic violence, roommates and co-workers)
- the motive for the murder was reported to have included jealousy, in the context of an intimate partner or dating relationship, or
- a relationship existed between the homicide perpetrator and adult or teen victim that could be defined as exhibiting a pattern of power and control (including family or household members and caregivers).

Furthermore, in order to meet our goal of capturing the full picture of deaths due to domestic violence, we have also included the suicides of perpetrators.

To the extent that information is available, we also we add to this list domestic violence homicides that have a Massachusetts connection (e.g. perpetrator suicide and out of state). This list may be edited over time to reflect any new information that comes to light about these domestic violence homicides.

**October 3, 2007: Deborah Daigle, 44**, of Spencer was shot and killed in her home by her estranged husband, *Joseph Daigle, 54*, who also shot and killed himself. The two restraining orders Daigle had against her husband had both expired. Deborah Daigle's two sons from a previous marriage were at home at the time of the shootings. Worcester County District Attorney Joe Early reported that a few hours prior to the shootings Joseph Daigle had been released from police custody after his father posted \$2,000 bail for breaking into St. Mary's Church in Spencer.

**October 15, 2007: Esther Kinyanjui, 31**, of Delaware, was allegedly stabbed to death by *Patrick Waweru, 28*, of Lynn, who also wounded Kinyanjui's mother and sister. Her sister said that Waweru asked Kinyanjui to come up to help him with a court case. Waweru had a series of charges against him and was due in court on a license suspension on the day of the attack. Waweru held Kinyanjui hostage for several hours before she convinced him to let her go into her sister's house. He then broke into the basement and stabbed her. Both Kinyanjui and Waweru immigrated to the United States from Kenya

when they met in 2000. In August of that year, Kinyanjui took out a restraining order against him that was later vacated. In 2004, Kinyanjui earned a nursing degree from North Shore Community College and moved to Delaware in 2007 with their two daughters, ages 4 and 1. After the attack, Waweru attempted suicide by taking a pill overdose.

**October 20, 2007: Flora Acosta, 39**, of was allegedly shot to death by her estranged boyfriend, *Francisco Santiago*, who then shot himself. According to media reports, Santiago came by Acosta's apartment to visit the couple's two children. The children were upstairs in a neighboring apartment when the shooting occurred. Acosta's 18 yearold autistic son, however, was in the apartment during the incident. After hearing the shots, their son and his cousin called the police. Acosta had taken out a restraining order against Santiago earlier in the year after he had assaulted her and had broken her cell phone.

**November 20, 2007: Christine Ayotte McGee, 31**, of Tyngsborough, was stabbed to death by her estranged husband at his apartment in front of their three-year-old son. According to media reports, *Jeffrey McGee*, stabbed Christine in the jugular and then took his son and drove into oncoming traffic, causing an accident. When police responded to the scene, they discovered that he had self-inflicted stab wounds on his body; he and his son were transferred to a nearby hospital. Once there, the son mentioned that "daddy hurt mommy" and the police then went to McGee's apartment in Chelmsford in order to do a well-being check. They discovered her dead from a slash wound on her neck. The couple had recently separated.

**November 26, 2007: Esther Ventola, 60**, of Milford, was allegedly stabbed to death by *Joseph Ventola*, 63, her husband of eighteen years. According to media reports, Ventola stabbed his wife with a large kitchen knife and then called the police claiming to have killed his wife. Ventola has been ordered to undergo a thirty-day psychiatric evaluation and is due back in court next month.

**November 27, 2007: Ronda Healey, 27**, of Worcester, was allegedly stabbed to death by her boyfriend, *Justin Hiser*, 30, of Worcester, in front of the shopping center in Millbury where she was a waitress. Hiser was arrested a few miles away, after a low speed car chase and was ordered held without bail at the arraignment the following morning. Healey leaves three children, two of whom were fathered by Hiser. Hiser had a history of assault and battery charges, it is not yet clear whether any of these charges involved Healey.

**December 8, 2007: Marilyn Rivera, 35**, of Springfield and her two daughters, **Joselyn Del Rio, 9**, and **Joselyn Marie Del Rio, 6**, were allegedly killed by Rivera's husband *Juan Mejia*, 35, of Springfield. Autopsies were scheduled for Friday, December 14 to determine cause of death. Mejia was arraigned on December 13 and entered a not guilty plea. Mejia had been sent for psychiatric evaluation two days before the bodies were discovered.

**December 20, 2007: Altijana “Tina” Moric, 36**, of Everett was killed by her exboyfriend *Edward Pettengill, 44, of Everett*, who then shot himself. Pettengill first shot Tina’s current boyfriend Joseph Scimemi, 35, who went outside and called the police. Tina’s 12-year old daughter from a prior relationship was in the house but escaped. The police attempted to negotiate a peaceful resolution first rather than storming the apartment. Moric had volunteered for the “Taste of Chelsea” to benefit HarborCOV.

**January 6, 2008: Joseph Clarke, 23**, of Dorchester, was shot to death allegedly by Rayon Gillespie, 23. According to media reports, Clarke began receiving harassing messages from Gillespie who had had a son with the woman Clarke was currently dating. Gillespie had allegedly bragged of being a member of the Bloods gang. A fight broke out between Clarke and Gillespie, they both pulled out guns, and Clarke was shot in the head. He was killed on his mother’s birthday.

**January 19, 2008: Shannon Meara, 24**, originally of Woburn, was shot to death allegedly by her live-in boyfriend Salinda Sun, 28. Sun has been indicted for shooting Meara and then disposing of the body in a dumpster in Dracut with the help of his friend and roommate, Eric Anderson, 28. The three had previously shared an apartment in Lowell. Anderson has been charged as an accessory, and Sun’s cousins, Sen Pov and Phirun So, are being charged with accessories after the fact of murder as Pov told police that he, Sun, Anderson, and So were all in the kitchen at the time of the shooting.

**January 28, 2008: Kelly Brackley, 30**, of Worcester was shot to death at her place of employment in Webster allegedly by her estranged boyfriend, William J. Goddard, 38. According to media reports, Brackley was in the process of moving out of the house she had shared on-and-off with Goddard for a number of years. Goddard, a level 3 sex offender, gunned Brackley down at the auto parts store where she worked, also injuring her co-worker, and then fled into the woods before police could subdue him. Brackley leaves behind five children.

**February 6, 2008: Margaret Ninos, 47**, a Medfield nurse, died from head injuries allegedly inflicted by her ex-husband, Andrew Boisvert, 37. According to media reports, Boisvert called 911 to the scene and had been questioned about the attack, but then released. Boisvert came under suspicion again when police discovered that his ex-wife had filed a restraining order against him several years back. Their seven-year-old daughter was in the vicinity of her house during the time the attack occurred.

**February 13, 2008: Norma Dorce Gills, 41**, of Lynn was discovered inside the trunk of her car on February 27<sup>th</sup> in Malden, smothered to death allegedly by her estranged boyfriend, Lesly Cheremond, 48. According to media reports, she was last scene on February 13<sup>th</sup> and a missing person report was filed on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. Gills had sought a restraining order against Cheremond in February after he allegedly assaulted her, Cheremond had been charged with aggravated assault and assault with a dangerous weapon. The case had been scheduled for court on April 29.

**February 25, 2008: Lisa Bryson Roche, 42**, of Chelsea was stabbed to death by her son Cory Roche, 23, after she would not help him file his tax returns. Police were called to the house for a domestic disturbance and arrived to find Cory holding the knife. Other family members, including her adult daughter with her fiancé, a 17 year old son and two daughters age 2 and 6. Cory has been arraigned on murder charges.

**March 1, 2008: Names Withheld**, 43 and 36, of New Bedford, were stabbed to death in an alleged murder-suicide. According to media reports, the man had been estranged from the woman for about a month. He entered the apartment she shared with a family and a single man and waited in her bedroom. After she arrived and the two argued, he stabbed her and then himself. When her housemates tried to come to her aid, they were wounded. The names have not been published in the media and are being withheld by community for fear of exposing undocumented immigrants.

**March 9, 2008: Melissa Santiago**, 29, of Dorchester, was stabbed to death in her apartment allegedly by her boyfriend, Jose Torres, 24, while her 8-month old baby, 2, 4 and 5 year old were all at home. According to media reports, Torres, is prone to blackouts and suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder. He has been charged with murder and will undergo a psychiatric evaluation at Bridgewater State Hospital to see if he is competent to stand trial.

**March 16, 2008: Donna Agar, 55** of New Marlborough was stabbed to death allegedly by her son Rodney Ball, 35. Having been alerted by Connecticut police to watch for the vehicle Ball was driving and receiving a call requesting a “well-being check,” Police went to the house and found Agar. According to one media report, Ball had allegedly threatened his estranged wife, Nicole Ball in Connecticut at some point that weekend. Ball told state police that Agar had attempted suicide. Ball was charged with murder and had a pre-trial hearing scheduled for April 24.

**March 29, 2008: Noreen Healy-Domurat**, 57, of Lawrence was found dead after police conducted a well-being check on her and husband. According to media reports, Noreen, her husband, Joseph Domurat, 61 and their Great Dane had all been shot in what appears to be a murder-suicide. Apparently, neighbors had started to worry about the couple when they hadn't seen them walking their dog for several days.

**April 5, 2008: Jessica Herrera**, 25, of Peabody was strangled to death allegedly by her boyfriend, Ashley Fernandes, 28. According to media reports, Herrera had filed a restraining order against Fernandes on Christmas morning of this past year. Fernandes had allegedly strangled, punched and threatened Herrera on the night of Christmas Eve, Fernandes was charged with assault and Herrear granted a restraining order. Even though Herrera later dropped the restraining order, she had agreed to aid the prosecution in the upcoming assault trial. Fernandes was scheduled to go to trial just days before he killed Herrera. Herrera had two sons, ages 3 and 21 months old.

**April 6, 2008: Acia Johnson**, 14, and **Sophia Johnson**, 2, of South Boston, died when their home was set ablaze around 3:00 AM allegedly by Nicole Chuminski, 25, who had

been dating their mother for nearly four months. Anna Reisopoulos, 34, the two sisters' mother, and Acia's twin brother, Raymond, were also in the home at the time of the fire but escaped. Police reports show that two months into the relationship there was a pending assault case against Reisopoulos. Prosecutors said that Reisopoulos and Chuminski had been fighting earlier that evening over accusations that Reisopoulos had stolen a wallet at a wedding of one of Chuminski's relatives. Chuminski has been charged with two counts of murder and one count of arson and held on \$1 million cash bail.

**April 13, 2008: Chelsea Frazier**, 18, of Southbridge, was shot to death in New York City. According to media reports, Frazier, her 14-month-old son and fiancée, Carlos Cruz, 36 were ambushed by a gunman while they were in their car. Frazier's son was not hurt while Cruz was shot in the leg. Cruz had originally claimed that the three were on a day shopping trip to the city when they were robbed. After an investigation, however, police allege that Cruz had arranged for his cousin, Devon Miller, 25 to approach the couple on a deserted street and to murder his girlfriend. According to her family members, Frazier had recently broken off her engagement to Cruz and was currently dating someone else.

**April 22, 2008: Barbara Tassinari**, 29, of Abington, was shot to death by her husband John Tassinari, 29 in the driveway of her home. According to media reports, Tassinari had been visiting her sister-in-law when her husband called, requesting her to come home. When Tassinari returned, he opened fire on her as she stood in the driveway. In a message to 911, John Tassinari claimed to have shot his wife because she had been cheating on him. The couple had a one-year-old son and Barbara Tassinari had another 10 year-old son from a prior relationship. According to family members, Tassinari had shown signs of obsessive and controlling behavior and Barbara Tassinari considering leaving him. Tassinari, a gifted engineer at his father's firm, had listed a passion for guns and bondage on his myspace page.

**April 24, 2008: Gabriel Cintron**, 18, of Fitchburg, was shot through an open window by his current girlfriend's ex-boyfriend. According to media reports, Cintron was at his girlfriend's house when Andrew Jacob, 20, shot him through an open window. Jacob has an 11-month-old with his ex-girlfriend. Jacob was arrested a day after the alleged murder when he was found in a struggle outside of his home. He has been indicted on several charges including the murder of Gabriel Cintron.

**April 29, 2008: Shadeed Wiggins**, 25, of Chelsea was allegedly stabbed to death by Eugene Teixeira, 21, the son of Wiggins's live-in girlfriend. Teixeira along with his younger brother, 16, returned to the house after an early morning argument. Teixeira has been charged with murder and his brother charged with home invasion as an accessory to the crime.

**May 25, 2008: Adrian Ortiz**, 21, of Pelham, NH, was shot to death in Worcester early Sunday morning after a friend ran afoul of Hector Cortez-Ramos, 26, over a woman, police said. Articles describe Cortez-Ramos as a jealous boyfriend or husband who saw a

friend of Ortiz with his girl/wife and issued threats. Ortiz and his group of friends left the party and then were chased by the Cortez-Ramos who fired several shots and struck Ortiz beneath his right arm. The bullet traveled to his chest and he was pronounced dead. Cortez-Ramos has been charged with multiple charges including assault with a dangerous weapon and using a firearm in the commission of a felony.

**Found June 2, 2008: Dawn E. Armstrong, 37**, of Upton suffered multiple stab wounds in an apparent murder-suicide by her boyfriend Thomas Lizotte, 42. Police declined to describe the nature of his fatal injuries beyond saying he was stabbed. Autopsy reports will determine the time of death. Ms. Armstrong had been separated from her husband and had been dating Mr. Lizotte for two years. Ms. Armstrong had moved out of the home she owned with her husband until she obtained ownership through the divorce in recent weeks. She moved into the house with Mr. Lizotte to prepare it for sale. Investigators reported the relationship as “on again, off again” and neighbors alluded to financial strain for Ms Armstrong. The Armstrongs did not have any children; neither did Armstrong and Lizotte.

**June 3, 2008: Iris Padilla, 34**, was found dead in her apartment in Holyoke after family members asked for a wellness check. Her on-and-off boyfriend Alexander Escalera, 29, was arrested in Brooklyn NY in connection with Padilla’s murder. He pleaded innocent in Holyoke District Court and is being held without right to bail. Police captain said “she’d thrown him out; he’d come back”. Escalera also had outstanding traffic and drug charges. Padilla had a 15 year old daughter.

**July 1, 2008: Bernadette LaRoche, 57**, was allegedly bludgeoned to death by her estranged husband William LaRoche, 58, in her home office in Templeton. Mr. LaRoche then killed himself. In December Mrs. LaRoche obtained a restraining order against her husband because he threatened her as the divorce papers were being served. The restraining order was active as it was renewed for a year in April of 2008 and Mr. LaRoche was not supposed to be at the house unless accompanied by a police officer.

**July 30, 2008: Greenland Etienne, 33**, of Lynn was allegedly stabbed to death by Rodlyn Petitbois, 25. Etienne, who is a mother of four, is said to have taken in Petitbois’ girlfriend and children before the stabbing. Petitbois found his girlfriend (Louna Eveillard) and their children at Etienne’s home. He then took the family and fled to New York, where they were found by NYPD a day later. Petitbois has been ordered held without bail, and has pleaded not guilty to charges of murder, and assault and battery with a dangerous weapon. Eveillard has been charged as an accessory in helping Petitbois flee the crime scene.

**July 30, 2008: Julie Shade, 22**, of North Adams was hospitalized on July 22, 2008, for injuries allegedly inflicted on her by her husband. Eugene A. Shade II, 34, is said to have strangled Julie sending her to the hospital in critical condition. She remained in the hospital on life support for several days. Eugene was charged on July 23, 2008 with attempted murder, domestic assault and battery, and assault and battery with a dangerous

weapon. He pleaded not guilty to all charges. On July 30, 2008 Julie succumbed to her wounds. Eugene pleaded not guilty to one count of murder.

**September 28, 2008: Sharon Glassman**, 60, was killed in a murder-suicide by her husband of twelve years, Christian Mogensen, 61. Glassman worked as an administrative assistant at several area hospitals over the past few years. Mogensen called police to say that he'd killed his wife and would shoot himself when the police arrived. A self-employed computer engineer, Morgensen had recently updated his website with a picture of him and his wife on their wedding date along with the date of death for both he and his wife. One news article contacted court officials who said that no divorce action was pending in Eastern MA probate courts.

### **Perpetrator suicide or death by police, after attempted homicide or incident of domestic violence**

**March 17, 2008: Robert Mangiafico**, 37, of Lynn, died after an eight-hour standoff with police. Investigation confirmed that he dies from a self-inflicted gunshot. According to media reports, the ordeal started when Mangiafico's girlfriend called the police for assistance after the two had gotten into a heated argument that escalated into violence. Mangiafico had fled the scene with a handgun and police found him on a nearby street. Police evacuated homes and negotiated with Mangiafico through the night until shots were fired early in the morning.

**September 15, 2008: Scott Maclellan**, 39, killed himself after attempting to murder Kevin Coleman, 36, who is the boyfriend of Maclellan's former girlfriend. The incident took place outside Coleman's home in Hanson. Police found Mclellan in a minivan with the engine running and the rifle used to shoot Coleman on his lap. District Attorney Timothy Cruz did not comment on any history of domestic violence involving Maclellan, or if he was the subject of a restraining order.

**September 15, 2008: Stephen D. Budreau**, 50, of Holyoke, shot himself to death after police said he tied up his ex-wife in Wilbraham and then reportedly headed to Holyoke where he planned to torture and kill his former girlfriend. After being bound for nearly two hours, his ex-wife successfully freed herself and immediately alerted police who responded to the home in Holyoke. The police found Budreau in the woods nearby and also confiscated a hunting knife, a two-gallon plastic can full of gasoline, a hatchet, a roll of duct tape, a partially empty bottle of tequila, a small bottle full of gasoline, a flashlight, a bottle of pain relievers containing one tablet, one pack of cigarettes, a U.S. Marine Corps camouflage hat and two photos of a dog. Budreau moved out of the house in Holyoke about a month ago after dating her off and on for the past six years. Budreau had previously been arraigned seven times in district or superior courts, most recently for an incident that occurred on Aug. 13, when Budreau was charged by Holyoke police with threatening to commit murder and other charges during a domestic assault at his girlfriend's home in Holyoke.

**September 19, 2008: Phillip S. Noto**, 55, succumbed to injuries one week after being shot by a Peabody police officer who had responded to a violation of a restraining order that had been issued only hours earlier. Local police were familiar with the situation since only days earlier, on September 14<sup>th</sup>, Noto had been arrested for violating the initial restraining order issued when he threatened his wife with bodily harm. After a night in jail, Noto posted bail on Monday morning and then returned to his home despite the restraining order being in effect. The police officer fired at Noto who had brandished a gun at the three officers at the scene.