



# Domestic Violence Homicide List Narratives

January 1, 2007 – December 31, 2007

*As of December 31, 2007*

Beginning in 2006 Jane Doe Inc. expanded our definition beyond intimate partners to try to capture the full picture and context of domestic violence homicides. Homicides were considered domestic violence related *if*

- the homicide victim and perpetrator were 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).

Further, we are adding to these lists related death information as it is available (e.g. perpetrator suicide and out of state) for domestic violence homicides that have a Massachusetts connection. This list may be edited over time to reflect any new information that comes to light about these domestic violence homicides.

**January 29, 2007: Julie Nieves, 49**, of Springfield, was sprayed with gasoline and set ablaze on January 7, allegedly by her daughter's ex-boyfriend, *Lastarandre Bell*, 31. Nieves survived for a few weeks, then died on January 29. Bell has been charged with arson and is facing murder charges. He had two restraining orders against him and was very threatening to the entire family.

**January 12, 2007: Lorie Avery, 37**, of Chicopee, was run over by her boyfriend, *Christopher M. Slatcher*, 30, also, of Ludlow. It is reported they had been arguing and Slatcher was intoxicated when he struck Lorie while she was walking on the street. Slatcher has been charged with manslaughter while operating a motor vehicle.

**January 15, 2007: Nancy Chiero, 59**, of Uxbridge, was stabbed to death in the basement of her home. Police have arrested her son, *Lee Chiero*, 35, for the murder. Lee Chiero had prior arrests on assault charges and narcotics suspicions. He is awaiting trial and has entered a plea of not-guilty.

**February 9, 2007: Barbara Raynor, 60**, of Lakeville, and *William Raynor*, 59, were found dead in their home in an apparent murder-suicide. It appeared that Bill Raynor strangled his wife to death before taking his own life according to the Plymouth County district attorney. The couple owned a country club in the area.

**March 4, 2007: Katherine MacDougall, 23**, of Worcester, was strangled to death while 3 months pregnant and may have been dead for 2 days before her body was discovered. Police have arrested her boyfriend, *Taylor Hurst*, 24, for the crime. Hurst has pleaded not guilty to the crime and is also suspected of selling MacDougall's engagement ring for drugs.

**March 5, 2007: Genesis Ortiz, 6, and Adrian Ortiz, 2**, of Springfield, were killed in a car fire by their father, *Hipolito Ortiz*, 37, who also trapped himself in the car to die as well. The father took the children out of day care and drove them to his girlfriend, *Mayra Rivera's*, 29, place of work where he locked the three of them in the car, doused them in a flammable liquid, and set it all ablaze.

**March 10, 2007: Joshua Walley, 44**, of Springfield, was stabbed to death in his apartment, allegedly by his girlfriend, *Jasmine Borges*, 21, using a kitchen knife.

**March 14, 2007: Xiomara Robles, 21**, of Lynn, was pulled into an elevator by her estranged boyfriend and the father of her children, *Raymond Echavarria*, 23, where he set off a homemade bomb and killed them both. The incident occurred at Xiomara's workplace. Her 5-year-old son was left standing outside of the elevator at the time of the murder. The child survived and was treated at a local hospital for smoke inhalation. Xiomara had previously filed a restraining order against Echavarria after he kidnapped her but later dropped the case.

**March 14, 2007: Lucy M. Muller, 54**, of Palmer, was shot and killed at her home. Police say the perpetrator was her estranged boyfriend, *John X. Hoague*, 49, of Agawam, and that he shot himself after shooting Muller. The couple had been in a relationship for two years. Muller's grown children said that Hoague was trying to get back together with Muller even though the relationship had been ended for several months.

**March 16, 2007: Tai Nguyen, 21**, of Revere, was shot in his home in front of his parents allegedly by *Anh Vu Nguyen*, 20. Anh Vu Nguyen was tracked by State Police and arrested in the Chicago area nearly six months after the murder. He's been charged with one count each of second-degree murder, unlawful possession of a firearm and possession of ammunition. In the few days leading up to the murder, Anh Vu Nguyen had made repeated threats to the victim's brother and a female mutual acquaintance regarding their dating relationship.

**March 22, 2007: Cynthia Benoit, 41**, of Brockton, and her daughter, **Sara Benoit, 9**, were found strangled to death after the woman's husband, *Mark Benoit*, 42, called 911 to report that he had killed them. Benoit was arrested after police arrived at the home. A veteran of the U.S. navy he apparently suffered seizures and back pain and had been visiting the VA hospital. He has been charged with murder.

**April 8, 2007: Patrick Lancaster, 50**, of Barnstable, was shot to death by his wife, *Ann Gryboski*, 51. Dr. Gryboski has said that she suffered years of physical and mental abuse at the hands of her husband and that she shot him when trying to intervene in an argument between him and one of their adult sons which caused her husband to come towards her. Gryboski appeared in court with bruises around her mouth and cuts on her lips. The Grand Jury decided not to indict Gryboski as this was a case of self-defense.

**April 20, 2007: Carlos Mejia, 31**, of Lynn, was stabbed to death, allegedly by *Spassky Alcequiecz*, 28. Amanda J. Poisson, 28, was also stabbed, though her injuries were not life-threatening. Alcequiecz had been living with Mejia until this past January and was described by the ADA as Poisson's estranged boyfriend. He is being held for murder, attempted murder, armed burglary, two counts of assault and battery, and drug charges.

**April 26, 2007: Janet Dubovick, 68**, of Holden, succumbed to the injuries she sustained during a December 2, 2006 attack. According to media reports, her husband of 47 years, *Ronald J. Dubovick* pushed her down the stairs and struck her several time with a pipe. Dubovick apparently called 911 after the attack, claiming that he killed his wife. Once the police arrived, Janet was alive but barely conscious. Dubovick has been charged with attempted murder and assault with a dangerous weapon. Back in January, Dubovick was committed to Bridgewater State Hospital for six months in order to evaluate his competency to stand trial.

**May 5, 2007: Sylvester Mitchell, 40**, of Dorchester was allegedly fatally stabbed by his wife *Sharon Fitzpatrick*, 35. Sylvester's brother found him bleeding on his bedroom floor. Fitzpatrick's defense team believes she is a victim of domestic violence and stabbed her husband in self defense and may look at battered woman's syndrome in making their case. Mitchell has a criminal history that includes 10 years in prison for manslaughter and prior assault and battery charges on a former girlfriend. Fitzpatrick was indicted with second-degree murder charges. Prosecutors allege that after a verbal altercation, Fitzpatrick slashed the tires of Mitchell's vehicle and the argument escalated into physical violence.

**May 10, 2007: Judith Hall, 62**, of Grafton, was allegedly strangled to death by her husband *David Hall*, 65. Early that morning, Hall went to the Grafton police department admitting he killed his wife. Soon after, police went to their home and found Judith's body. Hall was arraigned on murder charges. Police have no record of domestic violence complaints and no records of restraining orders against Hall.

**May 15, 2007: Cheri Robinson, 35**, of Spencer, went missing and was later found dead after being shot by her husband, *Paul Robinson*, 40, who then shot and killed himself. Cheri's coworkers called the police on the evening of May 15<sup>th</sup> to report that she had not been in work for several days. Police went to the home but no one seemed to be there. Hours later Paul called the police and said he had a gun and had harmed his wife. He allowed the couple's two children to leave before killing himself. A search team found Cheri's body on June 9<sup>th</sup>.

**May 17, 2007: Michelle L. Durham, 28**, of Braintree, was found dead in her apartment. Police have taken *Renaldo Pomare*, 21, Michelle's boyfriend into custody but had not yet charged him in connection with her death. Michelle's body was found after she failed to show up to pick up her 8-year old daughter at school. The method of murder has not yet been released. It is reported that the police had been called to Michelle's home numerous times and as recently as last week with Michelle and her daughter having fled the building screaming for help.

**May 21, 2007: Ann Marie Allouise, 55**, and **Peter M. Allouise, 26**, of Saugus, were fatally shot in their home by *Peter A. Allouise, Jr.*, 60, Ann Marie's husband and Peter M.'s father. Peter A. then fatally shot himself committing suicide. Before killing himself, Mr. Allouise called police asking them to come to his home. There were more than 50 firearms found in the home, all for which Mr. Allouise was licensed. Peter M. was mentally disabled.

**June 1, 2007: Evelyn Tavarez, 23**, of Springfield, was shot and killed in a parking lot by her estranged boyfriend. The boyfriend, *Jose Paulino*, of New Jersey, then fatally shot himself. There was another woman with Evelyn at the time of the murder but she was not injured. Police stated that Evelyn had a 3-year-old son and a 1-year-old daughter but they were not with her at the time. It was also reported that Evelyn had a previous restraining order against Paulino from another state but had not renewed it when she moved to Springfield.

**June 11, 2007: The Rev. Esther Dozier, 65**, of Great Barrington, was allegedly stabbed to death by her husband, *Henry Dozier, Sr.*, 63. Her body was discovered by her adult son at 6:30 a.m. after his father called him and requested that someone check the house. At around 5 a.m. Dozier, Sr. had been picked up by local police after he wrecked his vehicle into a railroad underpass wall. According to police, when questioned about the crash, Dozier was "not communicative" about what had happened and "wasn't in a good frame of mind." The police processed the accident and dropped him off at home. Authorities believe that Esther was stabbed sometime between when Dozier was dropped off and the time he called his son; neighbors report hearing a scream from the couples home between 6 and 6:30 a.m. Dozier was apprehended and arrested, and was then taken to the hospital after telling police he had ingested poison. He was treated and released. Police and prosecutors have not yet commented on a motive. Dozier has been arraigned on murder charges and has pleaded not guilty.

**July 9, 2007: Denise Johnston, 26**, and **Aaron Bash, 31**, of Dudley, were allegedly shot by *Christian Muller, 26*, and *Marc Letang, 19*. A woman who has not yet been identified by authorities was also shot in the head but survived. Authorities have stated that she is a former girlfriend of Muller's who ended their relationship a few days prior to the shootings. On the day the relationship ended, Muller allegedly fired a gun at her and threatened to kill her. Two days later, two men, one of whom was identified by the surviving victim as Muller, broke into the woman's house and shot all three individuals. Muller and Letang are currently being held without bail, each on two counts of 1<sup>st</sup> degree murder and armed assault with intent to murder. Both men have criminal records and Letang was on probation for breaking and entering at the time of his arrest. Muller has

been ordered to undergo a psychiatric evaluation to determine if he is competent to stand trial.

**August 4, 2007: Gail A. Arsenault, 55**, of Palmer, succumbed to injuries as a result of drowning by her long-time boyfriend *Alfred Labare, 52*, on Tuesday, July 31. A second drowning also took place on the same lake on Thursday, August 2, and reports are that Arsenault and Labare were with Timothy Hurley, 51, on Tuesday. The police and district attorney's office are not commenting on whether the two deaths are connected, but Hurley's death is being treated as suspicious. Labare has been charges were upgraded from aggravated assault to murder of Arsenault.

**August 12, 2007: Rosa Andrade, 39**, of Brockton, was allegedly shot to death by her ex-boyfriend, *Antonio Barbosa*. He then turned the gun on himself on a street that witnesses said was teeming with children; he died from the injury on August 16. In November, Andrade had taken out restraining orders against Barbosa, who was also the father of her 4-year old son. The restraining order lapsed when she did not appear in court. Andrade came to the United States from Cape Verde in 1990. She had two other children, ages 8 and 12, who were living with their father.

**August 12, 2007: Claudio Montrond, 20**, of Brockton was allegedly bludgeoned and stabbed to death using a hammer and sculpting tool by his boyfriend Laurence Harris, 20 of Brockton. Harris was arraigned in Brockton District Court on charges of murder and assault and battery with a dangerous weapon. Montrond was a member of the Cape Verdean Community; family members were not aware of his relationship with Harris. The two reportedly met online and Montrond was trying to break off the relationship. Harris pled not guilty and was ordered to undergo a psychiatric evaluation.

**August 16, 2007: Carlita Chaney, 27**, of Spartanburg, South Carolina, was allegedly killed at the Plymouth home of her former boyfriend *Amaral Montrond*, the father of her two children. Montrond was arraigned on murder and firearm charges and held without bail. Chaney had moved to South Carolina and was back visiting with family and friends. At the time of the murder, Montrond was out on bail in the shooting of two people. According to prosecutors, Chaney had turned Montrond into police in connection with those events.

**August 17, 2007: Dorothy Philbrook, 65**, of Everett was allegedly shot to death by her ex-husband, *George Philbrook, 65*. The couple had been divorced over twenty years ago but had reconciled and currently shared an apartment. George Philbrook was charged with murder, firearms charges and resisting arrest. Reportedly, he laughed while telling his 16-year old granddaughter that he would kill Dorothy if he discovered she was hiding money from him. After George listened in on a conversation where Dorothy told her son that she was going to call the police to have George kicked out of the house, he followed her down the street and shot her several times.

**August 26, 2007: Elizabeth Cann, 44**, of Norton, was shot and killed in her home by her ex-boyfriend, *Robert McDermott, 39*, who later killed himself on the railroad tracks in Walpole. McDermott also attempted to kill Cann's two daughters, age 12 and 15.

Both are expected to survive. Cann had taken out a restraining order against McDermott two years ago, but it had expired.

**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 year-old 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 ex-boyfriend *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.

**Perpetrator suicide, after attempted homicide**

**June 17, 2007: Jose Beltre, 26**, of Springfield died at Baystate Medical Center, where he was brought after shooting Delia Beltre several times, and then putting a bullet into his right temple. Beltre had an active restraining order against him, filed by Delia Beltre, who is also 26. The two have been separated for some time. Jose Beltre went to her home in the morning shortly before 7:30. Police said she ran out into the back yard, where he shot her, hitting her in the neck, back and abdomen. Delia was at home with her children, ages 6 and 4. Police records show that Jose Beltre had been arrested twice for domestic assault and battery.

**Out of state/Former MA Resident – for information purposes only; not included in JDI data analysis**

**April 3, 2007: Siugerys Garcia, 17**, formerly of Dorchester, was found dead in her boyfriend, *Michael Legrand's*, 19, formerly of Boston, closet in his Florida apartment. Garcia ran away Feb. 7, 2007, to be with Legrand, and her family filed a missing persons report. Medical examiners ruled her cause of death as a stab wound to the back and strangulation. Legrand is being charged with 2<sup>nd</sup> degree murder and is held in Florida.

**May 30, 2007: Amity Kozak, 29**, of West Palm Beach, FL, was beaten to death with a hammer by her boyfriend, *Helder Peixoto*, 34, a former MBTA police officer. Peixoto then committed suicide by jumping off the 11<sup>th</sup> floor balcony of a condominium development. Amity had been trying to leave Peixoto at the time of the murder. She was initially scheduled to fly to New York on Friday, June 1<sup>st</sup> and a friend had then moved the reservation up to Wednesday after “something happened” between the couple. Her friends claim that Peixoto was outraged because Amity had recently gotten a new male roommate.

**Total Numbers to Date for January 1 – December 31, 2007**  
*(Numbers are for in-state homicides unless otherwise noted)*

<b>Category</b>	<b>Count</b>
<b>Total Incidents of Domestic Violence Homicide</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>Total Murdered in Domestic Violence Incidents</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>Adult Female Homicide Victims</b>	<b>29 (2, Nieves and Johnston, possibly bystanders)</b>
<b>Adult Male Homicide Victims</b>	<b>8 (2, Mejia and Bash, possibly bystanders)</b>
<b>Female Children Homicide Victims</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Male Children Homicide Victims</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Adult Female Homicide Perpetrators</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Adult Male Homicide Perpetrators</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Perpetrator Murder-Suicide Deaths</b>	<b>13 male perpetrator murder-suicide deaths</b>
<b>Total deaths</b>	<b>55</b>

^Children Who Survive their Mothers: 11 (not counting parental murder-suicides)  
 +Children Who Survive their Fathers: 2 (not counting parental murder-suicides)  
 \*Children Left Behind (adult & minor) as a result of parental murder-suicide: 14

^ It is not clear yet whether there are any surviving children from the **Johnston/Bash** or **Hall** cases.

+This number includes the **Ortiz, Lancaster,** and **Mitchell** cases; it is unclear whether the **Walley, Johnston/Bash,** or **Mejia** cases resulted in children who survived fathers.

\*Included are children from **Robles, Robinson,** and **Raynor** cases; the **Tavarez** murder-suicide had 2 surviving children but it *does not* appear that the perpetrator was the father of the children, so they are included in the “children who survive their mothers” category for now. Similarly, the **Muller** murder-suicide left adult children but the perpetrator *was not* the father and those children are also counted in the “survive their mothers” category.

NOTES:

In terms of method of murder (in-state murders), most of the incidents involved either stabbing (9) or gunshot (10). However, what is noticeably different this year over

previous years is the horrendous nature of the murders. While all the murders are horrendous, this year, in particular, we saw a number of cases of particular graveness:

- Setting victim ablaze
- Hitting victim with a car while she was walking
- Setting a car on fire with 2 victims inside
- Setting off a bomb in an elevator
- Drowning a victim