



Domestic Violence Homicide List Narratives

Year to date As of: January 1, 2009 – December 17, 2009

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.

JANUARY 3, 2009: ROBYN LAGUE MENDES, 49, and KATHERINE GOMES, 61, from New Bedford were stabbed to death, allegedly by their former boyfriend and son respectively, Gary Gomes, 35. According to media reports, Gomes had been physically abusive to Mendes for several years throughout their relationship. In 2006, she dropped charges in the attempted murder case against him. Mendes' family members reported Gomes told her that she could never leave him. A day after Gomes allegedly killed his mother, he allegedly killed Mendes in his mother's apartment. Mendes was a loving mother of three. Gomes is being held without bail, charged with two counts of murder and kidnapping for holding Mendes's 12-year-old daughter hostage while he plotted to kill Mendes's estranged husband.

FEBRUARY 7, 2009: ARTHUR MARTIN, 49, of Pittsfield was stabbed to death allegedly by his wife, Charlene Grandson Martin, 45. According to the police report, Martin and her husband had a "documented history of domestic troubles" between them. Grandson Martin pled not guilty to the murder and told police that she was joking around with her husband and someone got stabbed. She later told police that the two were in a fight and that her husband came out of the bathroom with a knife, so she pushed his arm towards his body, and that is how he got stabbed. Arthur Martin bled to death. The

grand jury failed to indict her on a murder charge and the charges were downgraded to manslaughter.

FEBRUARY 14, 2009: LUZ FORTY, 38, of Dorchester was stabbed to death allegedly by her boyfriend, Mario Gonzalez, 29. The couple had just spent Valentine's Day together with Forty's family. According to media reports, Forty confided in family that she felt like Gonzalez was going to kill her. Her family advised her on numerous occasions to leave him. Forty leaves behind three daughters and a son who are between the ages of 16 and 20. Gonzalez confessed to the crime.

FEBRUARY 21, 2009: JOSE FUENTES, 27, of Haverhill was shot to death allegedly by his girlfriend's ex-boyfriend, Jose Collazo, 21. Fuentes was living in the basement apartment in Haverhill with his 20-year-old girlfriend and her two children. Collazo entered the apartment to find Fuentes in bed with his ex-girlfriend and allegedly began shooting him. The woman and her children were unharmed. After the murders, Collazo fled to Tampa, Florida, where he was apprehended and transported back to Haverhill, where he was arraigned.

MARCH 12, 2009: PENHA QUITERIO, 67, of Ludlow was shot to death allegedly by her ex-husband, Armelin Quiterio, 76. The divorced couple was living in the same house at the time of the incident. Their son reported them missing 7 to 10 days prior to the murder. After shooting his ex-wife, Quiterio turned the gun on himself. Both were pronounced dead at the scene of the crime as a result of gunshot wounds to the head.

MARCH 14, 2009: PRISCILLA WALKER, 18 months, of New Bedford, was allegedly killed by her mother's boyfriend, Manual Moniz, 23. Priscilla died numerous contusions that resulting in massing bleeding in her brain and other internal organs. The child's mother, Alexandra McCarthy-Rodriguez, 22, had been dating Moniz for about fifteen months; relatives described their relationship as volatile. Moniz told New Bedford and state police investigators that after an argument with McCarthy-Rodriguez regarding a phone message from another man, he threw a heavy toy at the wall that hit Priscilla instead. The court and autopsy records determined that some of the injuries allegedly occurred two days before the child died and that each injury was itself life-threatening if left untreated. Moniz was charged with murder and held without bail.

MARCH 20, 2009: PRISCILLA FRIBERG, 72, of Topsfield was allegedly killed by her son Robert F. Friberg, 44. The son was arrested and charged with domestic assault and battery of a person over 60 and witness intimidation. The assault occurred after she refused his request for a ride to pick up a prescription and she picked up the phone to call police. He struck her with the phone and then she fled to a neighbor's house. Autopsy reports will determine if she died from the blunt trauma. Co-workers reported that a few days prior to her death a colleague suggested she take out a restraining order against her son, but she was concerned that he would have place to go.

MARCH 22, 2009: MARYSE ANTOINE, 46, of Waltham was strangled to death allegedly by her boyfriend, Souleymane Yacouba-Issa, 34. The couple had a 3-year-old daughter together. Antoine left behind one other child, an 18-year-old son. Co-workers

described Antoine as dependable, reliable, and an excellent employee. According to police, she was found dead in her sister's apartment.

MARCH 26, 2009: SILVIA ROSA, 44, of Leominster was stabbed to death allegedly by her husband, Mizaël Rosa, 45. The Rosas were married for 20 years with no reported history of domestic violence. According to media reports, neighbors in their townhouse apartment complex describe the couple as quiet and keeping to themselves. They have two older children who were not home at the time of the murder. Rosa was held without bail since he immediately confessed to the crime to police the night it took place.

APRIL 19, 2009: EDILIZE CRUET, 16, from Lawrence was killed when she was struck by a truck, allegedly driven by her mother's boyfriend, Gilberto Vega, 26. Media reports say that Vega and his girlfriend, Betsaida Lorriano had an argument Saturday night that lasted until Sunday. Vega aimed his car at Lorriano, her son, and Cruet. Lorriano and her son were able to escape by moving out of the way, but Cruet was hit head on, suffering head injuries. Cruet was one of four children. Vega was arrested and charged with manslaughter, negligent homicide by motor vehicle, drunken driving, and leaving the scene of an accident that resulted in death.

APRIL 29, 2009: LINDA AUGER, 42, of Braintree was stabbed to death in an apparent murder-suicide by her boyfriend, **Luis Garcia, 52, of Lynn**, who then hanged himself. Ms. Auger had four children with her estranged husband. The Norfolk District Attorney's office attributed the homicide to domestic violence.

MAY 8, 2009: JULIUS SCOTT, 74, of Dorchester was stabbed to death allegedly by his girlfriend, Verna Sewell, 64. Sewell allegedly confessed to stabbing Scott after he hit her with a brick. Sewell told police the two were having an argument and struggled over the knife, and "somehow it ended up in his chest." In 2004, Sewell pled guilty to allegedly choking her granddaughter. At that time, a relative told police Sewell had "mental health issues and frequently drank to excess." Scott also had a history of arrests including a charge of assaulting a previous girlfriend, which was later dismissed. Sewell pleaded not guilty to the charge of first degree murder.

MAY 16, 2009: YULIYA GALPERINA, 42 of Salem was stabbed to death allegedly by her boyfriend, Peter Ronchi, 45. Yuliya was nine months pregnant with her third child, who did not survive. According to media reports her body was found by her two children, an 8 year old son and a 3 year old daughter. Those children come from previous relationships. Police were looking for Ronchi as a person of interest when he turned himself in after fleeing to Connecticut. According to a police report, Ronchi confessed saying he killed her because "she told me I wasn't the father of the child she was carrying." A bloody hunting knife, which is believed to be the murder weapon, was found in his possession. Ronchi pleaded not guilty to one count of murder; prosecutors are waiting for results from the medical examiner before determining whether or not to charge him for the death of the unborn baby. He is currently being held without bail.

JUNE 4, 2009: REBECCA MOULTON, 27, of Pittsfield, was beaten to death allegedly by her live-in boyfriend, David W. Vincent III, 40. Vincent has a criminal record with a history of domestic violence and was charged with murder. According to

police reports, Vincent bet Moulton unconscious and then left her for dead. She died the following day at the hospital. After dating for only several months, Vincent moved in two months before the murder. When Vincent went to provide the police detectives with his account of events, his admission of shaking, slapping and dragging Moulton provided enough probable cause to charge him with assault.

JULY 12, 2009: ANA CRUZ, 39 of Springfield died from stab wounds and smoke inhalation. At the time of her death, she had a restraining order out against her husband Benjamin Sanchez, 38. In the report Cruz filed on March 13, she stated her husband had threatened to stab her “20 million times.” Sanchez is on probation for one year for violating the restraining order on May 10. The couple was in the middle of a divorce at the time of her death. Cruz leaves behind four children, and four grandchildren.

JULY 24, 2009: KAITLYNN GRIFFIN, 6, of Mansfield was allegedly killed by her father Kristopher Griffin, 35. Mr. Griffin had a long history of mental illness and told police officers that God told him to kill his daughter. Kaitlynn’s mother, Deborah Mons had recently broken up with Mr. Griffin and planned to move to Florida with her daughter. Griffin has been charged with her murder and home invasion for breaking into the girl’s home and slitting her throat with a knife. He pled not guilty and was ordered held for a mental evaluation.

AUGUST 14, 2009: NETTIE BECHT, 36, of New Bedford and LUIS DIAZ, 43, of Dorchester were shot to death allegedly by Edwin Valentin, 60. While reports remain unclear as to whether there was a romantic relationship between Becht and Valentin, some reports suggest that Valentin was obsessed and jealous of any relationships Becht had with other men. Valentin was charged with two counts of murder and was held without bail.

AUGUST 28, 2009: MARY BEATON, 33 of Quincy was allegedly killed by her boyfriend Joseph Beatty, 53. While seeking care at Boston Medical Center because of feeling suicidal, Beatty told the hospital staff that he had strangled and then suffocated Mary Beaton in her home and left her on the bed. Beaton’s eleven year-old daughter was with her father for the weekend and not at home at the time of the murder. Neighbors reported hearing the couple arguing frequently in recent months prior to the murder. Police reported that the latest argument was over a planned trip and money for rent. Beatty was married to another woman and lived nearby with his wife and college-age son. Beatty was charged with choking Beaton into unconsciousness, having sex with her and then killing her.

SEPTEMBER 21, 2009: GISELLE RODRIGUEZ, 23, of Clinton was murdered by her former boyfriend, Alexander Skowran, 22, a senior at Fitchburg State College. He then fled to Virginia and committed suicide. A former Fitchburg State College student, Rodriguez was found dead in her apartment when police went on a wellness check prompted by a relative. The cause of death has not yet been determined. Skowran was charged with vandalism for a March 13, 2009 incident where he went into her home when she wasn’t there and poured bleach on her clothing. At the time, Rodriguez took out a three-day emergency restraining order but did not renew it. In July the charge was continued without a finding and he was placed on one year probation and ordered to

attend anger management classes. A no-contact, stay-away order was then placed on him by the court. The restitution hearing for the damaged clothing was scheduled for September 29 in Clinton District Court.

OCTOBER 20, 2009: JANE WYMAN, 86, of Newton, was murdered by her husband William Wyman, 86, in an apparent murder-suicide. After apparently stabbing his wife in the neck, Wyman stabbed himself. A family member had requested a wellness check at the home based on a conversation he had with Mr. Wyman. Police officers found the couple lying dead on a bed. There were no prior incidents of domestic violence

OUT OF STATE WITH MASSACHUSETTS CONNECTIONS

FEBRUARY 16, 2009: TIANA NOTICE, 25, originally from Leominster, was stabbed to death, allegedly by her former boyfriend, James Carter, 28. The victim's father told the media that Carter had been harassing Tiana, so she filed a restraining order against him a month before her death. According to media reports, Notice went to police to complain, but they took no action. The murder took place in Plainville, Connecticut. Carter was held on \$2 million bond.