

OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTOR COUNTY OF WARREN

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PRESS RELEASE

FATAL SHOOTING COLUMBIA, (WARREN COUNTY), NEW JERSEY

At approximately 7:49 PM on February 12, 2024, Warren County Communications received a 911 call reporting a shooting at 3 Columbia St. in Columbia, NJ. New Jersey State Police, the Warren County Prosecutor's Office and medical emergency personnel arrived at the scene.

The investigation revealed that earlier in the day Mr. Armond Anthony Avitable of 820 Club House Dr., East Stroudsburg, Pa was involved in a domestic dispute with a female at his residence. As a result Mr. Avitable was required to vacate the residence. Mr. Avitable called an acquaintance Mr. Kevin Schilling of 3 Columbia St., Columbia, New Jersey, seeking a place to stay. Mr. Schilling traveled to Mr. Avitable's residence in East Stroudsburg and then accompanied him back to Mr. Schilling's home in Columbia, NJ. Mr. Schilling resides in this home with his wife Cheryl Schilling. They arrived at the Schilling residence at approximately 6:00 PM. Shortly thereafter a dispute arose between the Schilling's and Mr. Avitable. Mr. Avitable became agitated and aggressive. He retrieved a pump action shot gun from the downstairs area of the home. He then fired a shot. The Schilling's at that time retreated to an upstairs bedroom and closed the door. Mr. Avitable followed the Schilling's upstairs with the shot gun and proceeded to the upstairs bedroom. He then opened the door and fired two shot gun blasts. Mrs. Schilling was stuck in her arm and upper left torso. Mr. Avitable then exited the home into the back/side yard at which time he saw the neighbors who had been enjoying an outdoor fire. Mr. Avitable began to explain to them that "he (Avitable) had to shoot her because he (Mr. Schilling) was coming for him." Mr. Avitable then fired two additional shot gun blasts at the Schilling home. He then left the gun on the neighbor's property and fled the area. Mr. Avitable was located by the New Jersey State Police a short distance away in the area of the intersection of Interstate Highway Route 80 and State Highway Route 46. Mr. Avitable then engaged the New Jersey State Troopers in a physical altercation. He was subdued and taken into custody. Upon being taken into custody Mr. Avitable had a medical emergency. CPR and medical aid was render and Mr. Avitable was transported to Lehigh Valley, Pocono Medical Center. Mr. Avitable was pronounced dead at the hospital at approximately 9:01 PM.

Medical aid was provided to Mrs. Schilling at the scene however, she succumbed to her injuries and was pronounced dead at the scene at approximately 8:28 PM.

Suspect/deceased

Armond Anthony Avitable
820 Club House Dr.
East Stroudsburg, Pa
DOB: July 11, 1985

Victim/deceased

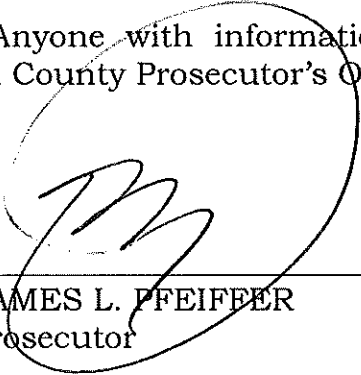
Cheryl Schilling
3 Columbia St.
Columbia, NJ
DOB: June 2, 1965

Mrs. Schilling's death has been ruled a homicide by Dr. Wang of the Morris County Medical Examiner's Office as a result of a gunshot wound to the torso.

The matter remains under investigation. Anyone with information regarding Mr. Avitable or this incident should contact the Warren County Prosecutor's Office at 908-475-6275.

Approved by:

Dated: February 13, 2024



JAMES L. PFEIFFER
Prosecutor