



NEWS RELEASE
GREENE COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
DAN PATTERSON

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1010 Boonville
Springfield, MO 65802

02/03/2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jeanette Riddle Charged with Murder

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson announces that Jeanette Louise Riddle, 46, of Elkland, Missouri, has been charged today with second degree murder and armed criminal action for causing the death of Michael C. Butts on February 2, 2017.

Mr. Patterson cautions that the charges contained in the felony complaint are merely allegations and that the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in court.

Copies of the felony complaint and probable cause statement filed in this case are attached to this release. The Missouri Supreme Court ethics rules prohibit comments on the facts or investigation of this case beyond those contained in the felony complaint and probable cause statement that are part of the public record.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant Prosecuting Attorney T. Myers. It is being investigated by the Springfield Police Dept. and Detective Matthew Farmer is the lead investigator assigned to the case.

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF GREENE COUNTY, MISSOURI
Associate Division 21

STATE OF MISSOURI,)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	
)	
vs.)	Case No. 1731-CR00597
)	
JEANETTE LOUISE RIDDLE ,)	OCN#
)	
Defendant.)	PA File No. 077375949

AMENDED FELONY COMPLAINT

COUNT I

(Missouri Charge Code: 565.021-001Y19840999.)

The Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Greene, State of Missouri, charges that the defendant, in violation of Section 565.021, RSMo, committed the class A felony of murder in the second degree, punishable upon conviction under Section 558.011, RSMo, in that on or about February 2, 2017, in the County of Greene, State of Missouri, the defendant, with the purpose of causing serious physical injury to M.B., caused the death of M.B. by striking him with a crowbar.

COUNT II

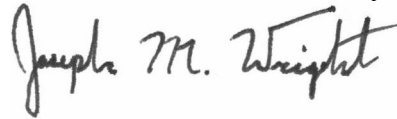
(Missouri Charge Code: 571.015-001Y19755299.)

The Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Greene, State of Missouri, charges that the defendant, in violation of Section 571.015, RSMo, committed the felony of armed criminal action, punishable upon conviction under Section 571.015.1, RSMo, in that on or about February 2, 2017, in the County of Greene, State of Missouri, the defendant committed the felony of murder in the second degree charged in Count I, all allegations of which are incorporated herein by reference, and the defendant committed the foregoing felony of murder in the second degree by, with and through, the knowing use, assistance and aid of a dangerous instrument.

The facts that form the basis for this information and belief are contained in the attached statement of facts concerning this matter, which statement is made part hereof and submitted herewith.

DAN PATTERSON

Prosecuting Attorney of the County of
Greene, State of Missouri, by

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph M. Wright". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "J" and "W".

Electronically Signed;

Joseph M. Wright

Assistant Prosecuting Attorney

Mo. Bar No. 64253

1010 Boonville Ave.

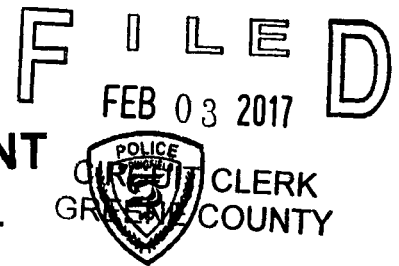
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SPRINGFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
FELONY PROBABLE CAUSE STATEMENT



Date: 02/02/2017 Case #: SPD170202004855

I, M. FARMER 1055, knowing that false statements on this form are punishable by law state as follows:

1. I have probable cause to believe that JEANETTE L RIDDLE, White/Female, DOB [REDACTED] 1970, committed one or more criminal offenses.

2. The following crime(s) happened on 2017/02/02 11:57 - 2017/02/02 11:57 at 811 S NEW AVE in Springfield, Greene County, Missouri.

3. The facts supporting this belief are as follows:

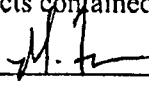
On 02-02-2017 at approximately 1157 hours, Officers were dispatched to 811 S. New in reference to a deceased male. The caller, identified as Jacqueline Calhoun, said her son and daughter-in-law live at the residence the daughter-in-law said she killed the caller's son and had taken pills to kill herself. Officers arrived and forced entry into the residence through the front door. Once inside, they located the female suspect, identified as Jeanette L. Riddle, in the living room with cuts to her wrists. Riddle was incoherent and immediately began vomiting when officers contacted her. Officers located a deceased male, identified as M.B., lying in the kitchen floor with blood covering his face and head. M.B. was found to be deceased. Riddle was transported to a local Hospital for apparent self-inflicted injuries and a possible drug overdose.

Officers contacted Calhoun who said Riddle called her at 1151 hours and said "Chad" was dead. She asked her what happened and she said she went to sleep and he was dead when she woke up. Calhoun said she thought she heard a gurgling noise and Riddle hung up the phone. Calhoun contacted Taylor Blazer, daughter of Riddle, who lived with Calhoun and told her what happened. Blazer called Riddle and asked what had occurred. Riddle told Blazer, she and M.B. had been arguing and she hit him in the head with a crowbar and took pills to kill herself.

Through interviews with family members, I learned that Riddle and M.B.'s relationship was physically abusive and they both abused drugs and alcohol. One family member described Riddle and M.B.'s relationship as "toxic".

On 02-02-17, I interviewed Riddle about the incident. Post-Miranda, Riddle admitted to striking M.B. numerous times with a crowbar. Riddle stated she and M.B. had been arguing during the morning and the argument escalated to the point when she struck him with the crowbar. After striking M.B., Riddle stated she went into the other room, slit her wrist and took prescription pills in an attempt to kill herself.

The facts contained above are true.


Signature

1055
DSN

Corporal
Title

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF GREENE COUNTY, MISSOURI

STATE OF MISSOURI,

Plaintiff,

vs.

JEANETTE LOUISE RIDDLE

Defendant.

)

)

) Case No. 1731-CR00597

)

) PA File No. 077375949

)

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FILED
FEB 03 2017

CIRCUIT CLERK
GREENE COUNTY

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY'S BAIL/BOND RECOMMENDATION

The bail/bond recommendation of the Greene County Prosecutor, in this case, is as follows:

1. AMOUNT: \$250,000

☒ OPEN COURT ONLY BOND (by administrative order applies automatically to bonds \$25,000 and higher)

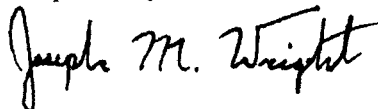
☐ State agrees to recognizance release by Court Order after the first court appearance upon the conditions of release in Exhibit A

☐ Hold without Bond

2. The State requests that the Court also impose the conditions of bond set out on the proposed Exhibit A to Arrest Warrant attached hereto and that such conditions be incorporated by reference upon the Warrant.

3. The State requests the Court set bond in the above amount and upon the conditions set out in Exhibit A to Arrest Warrant hereto for the following reasons: Defendant struck her husband numerous times in the head with a crowbar, killing him. Defendant then attempted to take her own life by consuming pills and cutting her wrists. Defendant is a clear danger to the community and herself.

Respectfully submitted,



Electronically Signed;
Joseph M Wright
Assistant Prosecuting Attorney
Mo. Bar No. 64253
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