



OFFICIAL MEDIA RELEASE
KENT COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT



Date: December 26, 2015
Complaint Number: 15-165385
Type of Incident: Death Investigation
Reporting Officer: Deputy Scott Abbatoy
Supervisor Approval: Sgt. Roger Zoppa

On Dec 26, 2015 at 10:30 am Kent County Sheriff Department responded in the area of Lincoln Lake and 18 Mile Road to a call of a suspicious vehicle in the woods east of there. Caller said that they were walking their dog on a trail when they came across a car parked back there with the engine running.

When they got closer they discovered a woman lying on the ground with what appeared to be a self-inflicted gunshot to the head. A 3 year old girl was laying partially on top of the woman. The girl was conscious and alert but suffering from hypothermia. A 5 month old boy was lying in a car seat in the car.

Aero-med was sent to the scene and transported the children to Spectrum Hospital / Devos Children's Hospital. It was discovered later that the 3 year old girl had a bullet or a fragment of one in her head. She was rushed into surgery where they removed the bullet from her head.

The mother was reportedly suffering from postpartum depression. Based on the investigation it appears that the wound to the 3 year old child's head may have been an unintended and accidental consequence of the gunshot that killed the mother. We may never be able to confirm this.

The family reported the woman and her two children as missing last night around midnight to Grand Rapids Police Department. They lived in Grand Rapids.

27 year old female (Deceased)

The 5 month old boy was in the car seat in the car. He is her son.

The 3 year old girl was laying with her mother.

The incident remains under investigation.