

FINAL REPORT ON SHOOTING INCIDENT IN SALEM, N.H.
ON JULY 31, 2012

August 28, 2013

The Office of the Attorney General and the New Hampshire State Police conducted an investigation into a shooting incident, which occurred in Salem, New Hampshire on July 31, 2012. The incident resulted in the deaths of three people. The purpose of this report is to summarize the Attorney General's findings and conclusions with regard to the incident.

Police involvement into the incident began at approximately 12:00 p.m. on July 31, 2012, when members of the Salem Police Department were dispatched to a single-family residence located at 33 Wheeler Avenue in Salem, pursuant to a 911 call reporting in substance that a man was lying in the driveway. Responding officers found the dead body of Jeffrey Kaznecki (age 50) lying on the ground near the home's front entrance. Mr. Kaznecki had an apparent gunshot wound to the head and was holding a .38-caliber revolver loaded with five shell casings. Officers found inside the home Barbara Kaznecki (age 51) and Shirley Leary (age 85), both of whom had apparent gunshot wounds to their heads. Mrs. Kaznecki was dead, and although Ms. Leary was alive she was unresponsive and died while en route to the hospital. A deceased canine with an apparent gunshot injury also was found inside the residence.

The investigation has revealed that Jeffrey and Barbara Kaznecki were husband and wife, and Ms. Leary was Mr. Kaznecki's mother. The three lived together at 33 Wheeler Avenue. At the time of the shootings nobody else lived in the home. Both Mr. and Mrs. Kaznecki spoke on the telephone with their daughter, their only child, the day before the shootings, in a routine call. Their daughter reported to investigators that she noticed nothing unusual about the call either in content or in how her parents spoke.

As part of the investigation, Chief Medical Examiner Thomas A. Andrew performed the autopsy on the body of Jeffrey Kaznecki, Deputy Chief Medical Examiner Dr. Jennie V. Duval performed the autopsy on the body of Barbara Kaznecki, and an autopsy on the body of Shirley Leary was conducted by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. Dr. Duval found that Barbara Kaznecki had been shot twice in the head. The cause of Mrs. Kaznecki's death was gunshot wounds to her head, and the manner of her death was ruled to be a homicide. Ms. Leary had been shot once in the head. The cause of Ms. Leary's death was gunshot wound to her head, and the manner of her death was ruled to be a homicide. Dr. Andrew found that Jeffrey Kaznecki had been shot once in the head. The cause of Mr. Kaznecki's death was gunshot wound to his head, and the manner of his death was ruled to be a suicide.

Ballistics testing was conducted on the .38-caliber revolver found in Jeffrey Kaznecki's hand, two discharged bullets recovered from Barbara Kaznecki's body, one discharged bullet fragment recovered from Jeffrey Kaznecki's body, bullet fragments recovered from Ms. Leary's body, and one discharged bullet found near the dead dog. Although because of damage the bullet fragment recovered from Ms. Leary's body lacked sufficient individual characteristics for

conclusive identification, it could have been fired from the recovered .38-caliber revolver. The two discharged bullets recovered from Barbara Kaznecki's body, the discharged bullet fragment recovered from Jeffrey Kaznecki's body, and the discharged bullet nearby the dead dog all were fired from that handgun. No other gun was found on or near the three bodies at the scene.

In summary, all of the evidence collected and examined since the incident supports the original hypothesis that Jeffrey Kaznecki used a revolver to shoot Barbara Kaznecki and Shirley Leary, killing them, and then turned on himself the gun that he used to commit the murders and committed suicide. As all the parties to his incident are deceased, this matter will be closed without further investigation or a prosecution.