



Fayette County Sheriff's Office

Sheriff Barry H. Babb

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Fayette County Sheriff's Office Quickly Locates Homicide Suspect

FCSO works with multiple agencies to solve homicide case

FAYETTE COUNTY, GA - The Fayette County Sheriff's Office has made a significant breakthrough in a homicide case following a domestic dispute that occurred in the early hours of Tuesday, August 20, 2024.

According to reports, a couple engaged in an argument during the early morning hours of August 20th. The following morning on August 21st, the suspect, identified as Kenneth Hardin Junior, confessed to family members that he killed his wife in self-defense, burned her body, and was leaving town.

Hardin's father later contacted the Fayette County Dispatch Center to report the alleged incident, at approximately 11 AM on August 21st. Fayette County Sheriff's Deputies and Investigators responded to 145 Merlin Court Fayetteville, GA, where they discovered evidence consistent with the father's statement.

The Fayette County Detectives successfully tracked the suspect's car to Covington, LA, and collaborated with the Louisiana State Patrol and St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office (STPSO) to locate the vehicle. Through the joint effort, the STPSO located the car at a nearby motel, and their SWAT team apprehended Hardin from his motel room. He has since been booked into the St. Tammany Parish Correctional Center as a fugitive and is currently awaiting extradition to Georgia.

Meanwhile, back in Georgia, detectives discovered a shallow grave in a wooded area behind the residence. The partially burned remains of Carrie Hardin were found buried under yard debris. Fayette County Detectives are currently in Louisiana conducting further investigations and questioning Kenneth Hardin Junior.

Sheriff Babb would like to extend his gratitude and appreciation to all the agencies and individuals who contributed their time, effort, and expertise in working on this case. The collaborative efforts of the Fayette County Sheriff's Office, the Louisiana State Patrol, the St. Tammany Parish Sheriff's Office and Cadaver Dog Handler, Tracy Sargeant, were instrumental in swiftly locating the suspect and bringing closure to the family.

The Fayette County Sheriff's Office remains dedicated to actively pursuing justice and diligently working to investigate this tragic crime. Updates on the case will be provided as they become available.