

Office of the Hunterdon County Prosecutor

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NEWTON MAN INDICTED FOR STABBING DEATH

A Hunterdon County grand jury returned a three-count indictment this week charging a Newton man for the murder of 38-year-old Michelle M. Carkhuff, Hunterdon County Prosecutor Renée M. Robeson reported.

Brandon E. Petersen, age 31, of Newton, was indicted for one count of first-degree murder, one count of third-degree possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose, and one count of fourth-degree unlawful taking of a means of conveyance. He remains in the Warren County Jail.

On December 6, 2020, at approximately 9:13 p.m., officers from the Delaware Township Police Department responded to the report of a stabbing victim at a residence on Kingwood Stockton Road. Upon arrival, they discovered that the 38-year-old female victim's friends had transported her to a local hospital in Mercer County where she succumbed to her injuries. The suspect in the assault had departed the residence prior to officers arriving at the scene. Following a joint investigation by the Hunterdon County Prosecutor's Office and the Delaware Township Police Department, Mr. Petersen was arrested the following morning in Pennsylvania."

Assistant Prosecutor Christopher Vaccaro presented the case to the grand jury.

Despite having been indicted, every defendant is presumed innocent until found guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

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