



**Office of Genesee County Prosecutor
David Leyton**

PRESS RELEASE

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**TWO CHARGED WITH MURDER RELATED TO DEATHS OF 3
CHILDREN IN FLINT HOUSE FIRE FRIDAY MORNING**

Flint -- Genesee County Prosecutor David Leyton has announced felony murder charges related to a house fire that occurred Friday morning in Flint and resulted in the deaths of three children.

Police, fire and other emergency responders were dispatched to a home at 643 Vermilya Street in the City of Flint in response to a 9-1-1 call around 6:00AM on Friday, June 10th. Three victims were found inside the home and all were transported to Hurley Medical Center.

The victims include 13-year-old Onyah Starkey and her 4-year-old brother, Kayden Hull, who were pronounced deceased upon arrival. Onyah's friend, 14-year-old Brianna Beaushaw, who was visiting and spending the night at the home, was admitted in critical condition and died on June 12, 2016 as a result of injuries she sustained in the fire.

Rodney Dale King, Jr., 40 (d.o.b. 12/01/1975) of Burton, and Erica Starkey, 39 (d.o.b. 4/03/1977) of 643 Vermilya St., Flint, were each charged with murder in the case along with numerous other felonies. Starkey is the mother of Onyah and Kayden.

The investigation into the incident reveals that King was walking home from a bar around 3:00 AM on June 10th when he meets Starkey on the street. The pair went to Starkey's home and smoked crack cocaine together. About a half hour later, they leave to go find more drugs before returning to Starkey's home. Around 4:00 AM, Starkey leaves to purchase more drugs while King stays at the home.

While Starkey was gone, King fell asleep and Starkey never returned. When King awakes, he finds that Starkey had never returned and he gets mad and sets furniture on fire. Around 5:50 AM, the investigation reveals that Starkey left the home and about five minutes after that, smoke is coming from the home.

At 6:14 AM, the Flint Fire Department arrived on the scene to find the home on fire and three victims inside. There is evidence that 4-year-old Kayden Hull had been confined in a bedroom with a padlock securing the door shut.

King is charged with 3 counts of felony murder which carries a penalty of life without parole and 1 count of first degree arson, a life offense with the possibility of parole.

Starkey is charged with 1 count of felony murder; 2 counts of second degree murder each with a possible sentence of life or any term of years; 3 counts of second degree child abuse; 3 counts of unlawful imprisonment; and 2 counts of killing/torturing animals.

“This is a horrible case,” said Prosecutor David Leyton while announcing the charges.

“It is a very difficult case to review given the ages and manner of death of the victims. We will be doing all we can to see that justice is served,” he said.

King and Starkey will be arraigned today and scheduled for hearings in the 67th District Court, 5th Division.

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