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JOSEPH MILLER ARRESTED FOR 2014 DEATH OF HIS WIFE AND NEWBORN IN EAST NORRITON



NORRISTOWN, Pa. (March 17, 2017) — Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin R. Steele, Pennsylvania State Police Commissioner Colonel Tyree C. Blocker and East Norriton Township Police Chief Karyl J. Kates announce the arrest of Joseph Miller, 36, for two counts of Involuntary Manslaughter in the 2014 shooting death of his wife, Joanna, 34, and their newborn child at their home on Stony Creek Drive in East Norriton.

At 2:25 p.m., March 7, 2014, Miller called 911 to report that he had shot his wife in the family room of their home. At the time, Miller was off-duty from his position as a Pennsylvania State Police Trooper. East Norriton Police arrived at the home to find Joanna unresponsive and in

critical condition suffering from an apparent gunshot wound to the head. She was transported to Mercy Suburban Hospital, where she went into cardiac arrest. An emergency Cesarean section was performed in an attempt to save the unborn baby. At the conclusion of the surgery following the birth of the baby, Joanna was pronounced dead at 3 p.m. The 24-week-old baby girl was delivered in life-threatening distress and was given CPR and critical emergency care but was pronounced dead at 4:24 p.m.

On March 8, 2014, Montgomery County Chief Deputy Coroner Dr. Gregory McDonald performed autopsies on Joanna and her baby. According to McDonald's report, the cause of Joanna's death was a "perforating close range gunshot wound of the head," and the baby's cause of death was "precipitous delivery due to maternal gunshot wound." He found that the manner of death for both Joanna and her baby was homicide.

A joint investigation by Montgomery County Detectives, Pennsylvania State Police and East Norriton Police found that Miller brought his Glock 39, .45 caliber semi-automatic handgun into the family room where Joanna was seated on the floor, vacuum sealing children's clothing. Miller told investigators he was preparing to clean his gun when it discharged. Forensic and ballistic tests conducted over the last two years showed that the victim was shot at close range. The investigation also revealed that Miller, as a State Police Trooper, had extensive knowledge of basic and mandatory procedures of gun safety and handling. Miller has resigned from his position with the Pennsylvania State Police.

Miller was arraigned today before Magisterial District Judge Esther J. Casillo. Bail was set at \$100,000 unsecured, with additional conditions that he surrender his passport and all firearms. The defendant waived his preliminary hearing.

The case will be prosecuted by Deputy District Attorneys Steven J. Latzer and Samantha Cauffman.

Approved for release:

Kevin R. Steele

CRIMINAL CHARGES, AND ANY DISCUSSION THEREOF, ARE MERELY ALLEGATIONS AND ALL DEFENDANTS ARE PRESUMED INNOCENT UNTIL AND UNLESS PROVEN GUILTY.