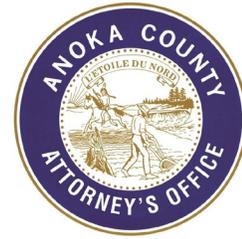


OFFICE OF THE ANOKA COUNTY ATTORNEY

Tony Palumbo, County Attorney



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December 10, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Blaine man who killed wife sentenced

Matthew Lynn Jansen was sentenced today in Anoka County District court for the February 2019 murder of his wife, Mary Jo Jansen.

Pursuant to a plea agreement, Matthew Jansen pleaded guilty in March to second-degree intentional murder (Count 2 of the amended criminal complaint, which is attached for reference). The remaining count was dismissed.

Anoka County District Judge Dyanna Street sentenced Matthew Jansen to 40 years in prison after a sentencing hearing. Anoka County prosecutors had requested a longer than usual sentence for the defendant based on his actions on the night of the murder. Judge Street agreed that the facts of the case supported the longer sentence based on the defendant invading the victim's zone of privacy to commit the crime, and his lack of remorse.

"It is particularly cruel for children to lose their mother, and a family to lose their loved one, at the hands of someone who is supposed to emotionally support a family, not violently tear it apart," said Anoka County Attorney Tony Palumbo. "The emotional impact was made worse here because the victim had attended her mother's funeral just that morning."

According to Violence Free Minnesota's 2019 Homicide Report: Relationship Abuse in Minnesota ([report available here](#)), "attempts to separate from an abuser can increase the risk of lethality for victims." An abuser's access to firearms is another red flag.

Mary Jo Jansen was in the process of leaving her husband when he shot and killed her. We'd like to use this as an opportunity to provide information to the public in hopes of preventing another tragedy.

There are resources and information for abuse victims available on Anoka County's Domestic Abuse Connect website, AnokaDomesticAbuseConnect.com. Additional information on the county's Lethality Assessment Program can be found [here](#).

State of Minnesota
County of Anoka

District Court
10th Judicial District

Prosecutor File No.
Court File No.

CA-2019-00218
02-CR-19-1001

State of Minnesota,

Plaintiff,

vs.

MATTHEW LYNN JANSEN DOB: 06/20/1972

2780 95th Avenue NE
Blaine, MN 55449

Defendant.

COMPLAINT

Summons

Amended

The Complainant submits this complaint to the Court and states that there is probable cause to believe Defendant committed the following offense(s):

COUNT I

Charge: MURDER - 1ST DEGREE - PREMEDITATED

Minnesota Statute: 609.185(a)(1), with reference to: 609.106.2(1)

Maximum Sentence: Life without release

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 02/08/2019

Control #(ICR#): 19033209

Charge Description: On or about February 8, 2019, in the County of Anoka, Minnesota, MATTHEW LYNN JANSEN, did cause the death of a human being with premeditation and with intent to effect the death of the person or of another.

COUNT II

Charge: Murder in the 2nd Degree (With Intent) (Not Premeditated)

Minnesota Statute: 609.19.1(1), with reference to: 609.11.5

Maximum Sentence: 3 years - 40 Years

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 02/08/2019

Control #(ICR#): 19033209

Charge Description: On or about February 8, 2019, in the County of Anoka, Minnesota, MATTHEW LYNN JANSEN, did cause the death of a human being with intent to effect the death of that person or another, but without premeditation and at the time of offense, the Defendant or an accomplice did use or possess a firearm.

STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

In the late evening of February 8, 2019, 911 communications received a call from a male caller who stated he had killed his wife and used a gun. Blaine police were dispatched to a residence on 95th Avenue NE in Blaine, Anoka County. The male caller said the gun was now unloaded and in the foyer of the home. Upon arrival at the home police communicated with a male and instructed him to exit the home without the gun. A male then exited the home without incident. The male was identified as Matthew Lynn Jansen (DOB: 6/20/72), the defendant.

Police entered the home and found a female laying on the floor of an upstairs bedroom. The female was bloody and was determined to be deceased. The female appeared to have a gunshot wound to her head or neck area. The female was identified as 46 year old Mary Jo Jansen (DOB: 7/20/72) – the wife of the defendant. Police located an unloaded Smith & Wesson .44 handgun on the steps in the home, along with two spend .44 cartridges. Officers located bullet defects under the body of the female and in the bedroom wall where she was found.

The Anoka County Medical Examiner concluded Ms. Jansen's death was a homicide, with one intermediate range gunshot wound to the neck and one indeterminate range gunshot wound to the chest. The medical examiner found that the gunshot to the neck had punctured the carotid artery, but likely would not have been immediately fatal. The medical examiner determined that there was a possibility of survival with immediate medical attention. The gunshot to the chest, however, was found to have decimated both the left and right ventricles of the heart and would have been irreparably fatal.

Blood spray was found in large quantities on the door to the bedroom, along with large pools of blood near the doorway and next to the decedent. The medical examiner determined that the wound to the carotid artery would have likely created blood spray of some kind, while the wound to the chest likely would not have produced any blood spray. The medical examiner also found that the exit wound from the gunshot to the chest had atypical abrasions that showed the decedent had been against a hard surface when the shot was fired. Investigators found a bullet defect under the decedent, near the exit wound from the gunshot to the chest. Investigators determined that the gunshot wound to the neck likely occurred first, creating the blood spray and causing Ms. Jansen to fall to the ground; the gunshot to the chest was then likely fired as she was lying on the floor.

While on the scene, the defendant told officers "I can't believe I did it" and "I guess I don't have to worry about a divorce now". Detectives learned from family members Ms. Jansen had served the defendant divorce paperwork around Thanksgiving 2018. While the divorce has been pending, both Ms. Jansen and the defendant remained in the home on 95th Avenue. Family members also said Ms. Jansen recently decided to permanently move out on Saturday, February 9th, and Defendant had likely been aware of her decision. Investigators further learned that Defendant previously made statements to Ms. Jansen to the effect of "you are not leaving this house" and "I will not let you leave".

At the residence, detectives located what is believed to be the defendant's truck in the garage. Inside the truck police located a .44 handgun gun case which was empty. Detectives located a receipt from a local Fleet Farm in February 2019 showing the recent purchase of a Smith & Wesson .44. Family members said they had removed firearms from the home and the defendant after an incident in December.

SIGNATURES AND APPROVALS

Complainant requests that Defendant, subject to bail or conditions of release, be:
(1) arrested or that other lawful steps be taken to obtain Defendant's appearance in court; or
(2) detained, if already in custody, pending further proceedings; and that said Defendant otherwise be dealt with according to law.

Complainant declares under penalty of perjury that everything stated in this document is true and correct. Minn. Stat. § 358.116; Minn. R. Crim. P. 2.01, subds. 1, 2.

Complainant

Nathan Arvidson
Detective
10801 TOWN SQUARE DRIVE
NE
BLAINE, MN 55449
Badge: 185

Electronically Signed:
03/26/2019 01:02 PM
Anoka County, Minnesota

Being authorized to prosecute the offenses charged, I approve this complaint.

Prosecuting Attorney

Kristian C.S. Weir
Assistant Anoka County Attorney
2100 3rd Ave
Anoka, MN 55303-2265
(763) 324-5550

Electronically Signed:
03/26/2019 12:59 PM

FINDING OF PROBABLE CAUSE

From the above sworn facts, and any supporting affidavits or supplemental sworn testimony, I, the Issuing Officer, have determined that probable cause exists to support, subject to bail or conditions of release where applicable, Defendant's arrest or other lawful steps be taken to obtain Defendant's appearance in court, or Defendant's detention, if already in custody, pending further proceedings. Defendant is therefore charged with the above-stated offense(s).

SUMMONS

THEREFORE YOU, THE DEFENDANT, ARE SUMMONED to appear on _____, _____ at _____ AM/PM before the above-named court at 2100 Third Avenue, Anoka, MN 55303 to answer this complaint.

IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR in response to this SUMMONS, a WARRANT FOR YOUR ARREST shall be issued.

WARRANT

To the Sheriff of the above-named county; or other person authorized to execute this warrant: I order, in the name of the State of Minnesota, that the Defendant be apprehended and arrested without delay and brought promptly before the court (if in session), and if not, before a Judge or Judicial Officer of such court without unnecessary delay, and in any event not later than 36 hours after the arrest or as soon as such Judge or Judicial Officer is available to be dealt with according to law.

Execute in MN Only

Execute Nationwide

Execute in Border States

ORDER OF DETENTION

Since the Defendant is already in custody, I order, subject to bail or conditions of release, that the Defendant continue to be detained pending further proceedings.

Bail: \$
Conditions of Release:

This complaint, duly subscribed and sworn to or signed under penalty of perjury, is issued by the undersigned Judicial Officer as of the following date: March 26, 2019.

Judicial Officer

Daniel A. O'Fallon
Judge, District Court

Electronically Signed: 03/26/2019 01:21 PM

Sworn testimony has been given before the Judicial Officer by the following witnesses:

**COUNTY OF ANOKA
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

State of Minnesota

Plaintiff

vs.

Matthew Lynn Jansen

Defendant

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER RETURN OF SERVICE
*I hereby Certify and Return that I have served a copy of this
Summons upon the Defendant herein named.*

Signature of Authorized Service Agent: