



BCPO News



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Burlington Township Man Charged with Mother's Slaying

Burlington County Prosecutor LaChia L. Bradshaw and Burlington Township Director of Public Safety Bruce Painter announced that a 40-year-old man has been charged with beating his elderly mother to death inside their Burlington Township home last week.

Orsman Summerville, who was charged with Murder (First Degree), was arrested July 14 upon being released from a medical facility in Morris County. He was lodged in the Burlington County Jail in Mount Holly pending a detention hearing in Superior Court on July 18.

The investigation began on the evening of July 6 when officers from the Burlington Township Police Department were dispatched to the 100 block of Andre Court after family members found the body of Enid Wordsworth, 72, inside the residence she shared with her son.

An autopsy performed by Burlington County Medical Examiner Dr. Ian Hood concluded that Wordsworth had been fatally bludgeoned.

The investigation revealed that Summerville killed his mother then fled the home in a vehicle she owned. An alert was issued for the vehicle, and Summerville was located July 7 after being involved in a collision on Interstate 287 in Morris County.

Summerville's injuries required hospitalization. He was served with a warrant and taken into custody yesterday after being discharged.

The investigation was conducted by the Prosecutor's Office and the Burlington Township Police Department, with assistance from the New Jersey State Police and the Morristown Police Department. The lead investigators are BCPO Detective Joseph R. Clark and BTPD Detective John Arent. Summerville will be prosecuted by Assistant Prosecutor Courtney O'Brien.

All persons are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

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