



Rick Staly, Sheriff

FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

"An honor to serve, a duty to protect."

NEWS RELEASE

Date: Monday, January 15, 2018

Contact: Brittany Kershaw | (386) 586-2637 | bkershaw@flaglersheriff.com

UPDATE: Death Ruled a Homicide, **Ex-Husband Arrested for Murder**

A death at 6 Point Pleasant Drive in Palm Coast on Thursday, January 11, has been ruled a homicide by the Medical Examiner's Office. The deceased, Faith Lorraine Cummings, 44, died from blunt force trauma to the head with asphyxiation. Faith's ex-husband, Michael Cummings, 46, was charged with second-degree murder with a weapon.



Michael Cummings in a January 11, 2018 booking photo for an obstruction of justice charge.

When deputies arrived on scene Thursday morning, they found Faith Cummings deceased on a bed in a spare bedroom. Michael Cummings reported finding Faith in the spare bathroom where he claimed she fell in the bathtub.

The investigation revealed signs of a struggle. Faith had significant bruising to her face and body. The spare bathroom was covered in blood. Flagler County Sheriff's detectives brought in blood spatter experts to examine the scene. The blood spatter indicated that Faith was hit with a weapon.

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A Flagler County Judge signed an arrest warrant on Monday afternoon for Michael Cummings, DOB 6/16/1971, on the charge of second-degree murder with a weapon. Cummings was taken into custody and will be booked into the Flagler County Detention Facility with no bond.

“Our detectives have worked around the clock to solve this case and have done an outstanding job,” Sheriff Rick Staly said. “This case again proves that you never know what is going on behind closed doors. Often, domestic violence is hidden from others and the victim is living with their attacker. This case shows just how fast a domestic argument can spiral out of control and into a murder. It also exemplifies just how much more work we as a community have to do to reduce and prevent domestic violence.”

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Original News Release

Date: Thursday, January 11, 2018

FCSO Investigating Suspicious Death **Male Arrested for Obstruction of Justice**

Deputies responded to a medical call at 6 Point Pleasant Drive in Palm Coast shortly before 8 a.m. on Thursday morning. Deputies and paramedics declared a female, Faith Lorraine Cummings, 44, deceased. Faith’s husband, Michael Cummings, was also at the residence and reported that Faith had possibly fell after taking a shower.

Due to the circumstances surrounding the death, Sheriff’s detective, the FDLE Crime Scene Unit, and the medical examiner all arrived at the house to conduct a thorough investigation.



Left: Sheriff Rick Staly, Commander Jeff Stuart, and Commander Gerald Ditolla on scene this morning. Right: The FDLE Crime Scene Unit on scene with detectives.

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During the course of the investigation, Michael was asked multiple times to leave the residence in order for the detectives to thoroughly investigate the scene. Michael refused to leave and was arrested for obstruction of justice. Michael Cummings, DOB 6/16/1971, was booked into the Flagler County Detention Facility Thursday evening on the misdemeanor charge.

“At this point, it is a death investigation,” Sheriff Rick Staly said. “We’re taking all of the necessary steps so that if this does turn into a criminal investigation, we will have a thorough understanding of the entire area in order to prosecute any potential suspects. The best case scenario is that this turns out to be a medical issue and there is no foul play. Only the ongoing investigation can determine that.”

More information will be available as the investigation continues.

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