



Rick Staly, Sheriff

## FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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

# NEWS RELEASE

**Date:** Friday, April 27, 2018

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## **Felter Lane Death Ruled a Homicide** **Husband, Keith Johansen, Charged with Murder**

The Medical Examiner ruled the death of 25-year-old Brandi Celenza a homicide following an autopsy performed on April 9th. A thorough investigation led to the arrest of 36-year-old Keith Johansen (DOB 3/10/1982) by Flagler County Sheriff's deputies and detectives on Friday, April 27 at 4:00 p.m. Johansen has been charged with second-degree murder with a weapon.

"We suspected from the start of this investigation that this was a murder but time was on our side with this case and we took it slowly in order to build the strongest case possible," Sheriff Rick Staly said. "It took time for FDLE to analyze the forensic evidence and to obtain electronically stored evidence through out-of-state search warrants. Our deputies and detectives did a phenomenal job in working this case from start to finish and I am very proud of them. The community should be very proud of our capable team and know that we have the ability to solve intricate and difficult cases."



Keith Johansen being taken into custody on Friday afternoon.

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The thorough investigation included an autopsy, laboratory tests and multiple search warrants. These procedures were able to rule out accidental death and suicide as the cause of death for Celenza. The death was classified as a homicide by the medical examiner.

The home of the victim and the defendant contained an elaborate home security system. A search warrant was issued to obtain the video footage from the California company that stored it. This was a major undertaking in the case that caused a significant delay as the company was initially unresponsive and did not quickly cooperate. The footage was finally received and reviewed by detectives who determined the video footage greatly conflicted with the statements Johansen gave 9-1-1 dispatchers and deputies at the scene on April 7<sup>th</sup>.

Flagler County Sheriff's Deputies and Detectives arrested Keith Johansen at his home on Friday afternoon and charged him with murder. He will be booked into the Flagler County Detention Facility and held without bond.

"Unfortunately this is another domestic homicide in our county," Sheriff Staly said. "A young woman and mother lost her life, and a young son lost his mother, because in a moment of rage her husband thought violence was the answer. I hope that he will spend the rest of his life in prison. Violence is never the answer."

Johansen had a previous arrest in Flagler County from 2008 for driving without a valid driver's license. He also had a protection against domestic violence order from a previous relationship.

*Original News Release below:*

## **Death Investigation on Felter Lane in Palm Coast**

**UPDATE: 04/07/2018 5:45p.m.: The deceased female has been identified as 25-year-old Brandi Celenza (DOB 3/1/1993). There are no other updates available at this time.**

Flagler County Sheriff's Deputies are conducting a death investigation on Felter Lane in Palm Coast. Deputies and Palm Coast Fire Rescue responded to the residence around 10:38 a.m. Saturday morning and found an adult deceased. Deputies, detectives and crime scene investigators are on scene conducting the investigation. A portion of Felter Lane was temporarily blocked but the road is open at this time.

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Division Chief Steve Brandt and Sheriff Rick Staly on scene at the death investigation.

“We are in the early stages of a death investigation,” Sheriff Rick Staly said from the scene. “While the investigation is ongoing and we do not have much information to release at this time, I want the community to know that there is no threat or cause for concern.”

This is all of the information available for release at this time. Additional information will be provided as the investigation continues.

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