# The Press is excerpting graphic narrative in this affidavit.

## KENT COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT AFFIDAVIT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

#### MURDER FIRST DEGREE - PREMEDIATED

DEFENDANT:

Timothy Allen Dawson

RACE:

White

SEX:

Male

DOB:

08-21-1976

DATE OF COMPLAINT:

12-12-2004

COMPLAINT NUMBER:

2004-78717

#### ELEMENTS OF CRIME:

The defendant did deliberately, with the intent to kill and with premeditation, kill and murder one Julia Marie Dawson; contrary to MCL 750.316; MSA 28.548.

### PROBABLE CAUSE TO ARREST DEFENDANT:

On December 12, 2004 at 5:40 am, Timothy Dawson called police to report that his wife, Julia Dawson, had not returned from shopping. Officer Wawrzyniak (Sparta Police Department) responded to the scene and took a missing person report. Wawrzyniak noticed a large area of carpeting in front of the side door had been cleaned. He also observed a carpet cleaner in the same room and the water reservoir on the counter with dirty water in it. Timothy Dawson reported that he had cleaned the carpet with bleach and water and not the carpet cleaning products he had in his home. Investigators have found through past experience that bleach can be used to clean up crime scenes of blood, urine, and feces.

Earlier in the morning (1:36 am), Wawrzyniak had observed a suspicious vehicle parked a few blocks away from the Dawson residence in Balyeat Park. The vehicle was a Green Dodge Caravan registered to Timothy Dawson. The vehicle was locked and no one was in or around the vehicle. Julia's purse and wallet were found inside the vehicle. Lying on the front seat; Investigator's found a gas can, lighter, and a hand held spotlight. These items were determined to be owned by Mr. Dawson. Gasoline and a lighter are commonly used to burn or destroy items including clothing and other forms of evidence. Julia Dawson was discovered without clothing several weeks later. Mr. Dawson reported that they had three sets of keys to Julia's van. All three sets of keys to the vehicle were later located. Two in the Dawson residence; and one in Tim's work vehicle.

Timothy Dawson reported that he, Julia, and their 18 month old son Alex had run errands on December 11, 2004, and returned home around 12:30pm. Tim stated that he and Julia ate leftover Subway sandwiches for lunch. At Julia's autopsy

spoke with Subway employees and learned that on December 10, 2004, that bread, meat, lettuce, and shredded carrots were available for sandwiches.

Tim's mother, Susan Dawson, had called and spoke to Julia around 3:15 pm. Julia had stated that she going shopping to buy Tim a chair for Christmas. Tim stated that after the phone calls; he and Julia got into an argument about Amy Hinkley (Mr. Dawson's ex-wife). The argument lasted about 15 minutes Julia then asked Tim to go shopping with her. Tim had too many things going on and stayed home with Alex. Tim fell asleep on the couch around 4:00 pm and awoke at 5:30 pm to find Julia had left to go shopping. Tim stated that he expected Julia home around 10 pm. Tim became worried when Julia had

investigators the route he took in an attempt to find Julia. Mr. Dawson stated that he traveled south on Sparta Avenue from Sparta to M-37. Mr. Dawson continued south on M-37 to 6 mile road. He then traveled north on Fruit Ridge Avenue to 10 mile road, then east to Sparta Avenue, and north to his residence. Mr. Dawson reported that he placed two phone calls from his Verizon cell phone while traveling and that he never went north of 13 Mile road. When he returned home, he contacted his mother who drove to his house. Mr. Dawson and his mother, Susan Dawson, then contacted the police.

Investigators obtained Verizon cell phone records of Mr. Dawson's account. The records included cell tower locations, originating and terminating cell towers used, sector tower information, incoming and outgoing calls, and call durations. Verizon phone records show that the two phone calls made connected to a tower in Casnovia and another north of Sparta. Verizon engineers reviewed the call records and all tower information and stated that these towers were not capable of connecting to a cell phone south of 13 Mile road. They further stated that Mr. Dawson must have been driving North and East of 13 Mile road when the calls were made. On December 12, 2004, Judith and Lavern Rider located a blue winter coat along M-37 near Peach Ridge Avenue. The contents in the coat pockets proved the coat belonged to Julia and the location it was found is covered by the Casnovia tower and sector that Dawson was connected to.

On January 3, 2005, Julia Dawson's nude deceased body was found on the side of a hill, near a guardrail on Pierson road. Investigators spoke with witnesses who reported seeing an object in that location as early as December 30, 2004, as the snow began to melt. At the autopsy; . Weather reports obtained indicate that temperatures every day from December 10, 2004, to December 30, 2004, was sub-freezing. The autopsy revealed that Julia sustained a subdural hematoma which was not fatal and had died from strangulation from a belt found with her body. Additionally, Mrs. Dawson's bladder was empty. The

medical examiner stated that it is common for strangulation victims to lose control of their bladder while being strangled. It is believed that Mr. Dawson strangled Mrs. Dawson in the kitchen area of the home.

These events led

Mr. Dawson to cleanse the area with water and bleach.

Investigators found numerous discrepancies in Tim's statements. Timothy Dawson maintained that he never left his home prior to 11pm on December 11, 2004. A witness, Dr. George Freeland, observed Timothy Dawson walking from the Balyeat Park area towards his home around 6:30 to 7:00pm. Phone calls made by Timothy Dawson placed him near Kent City, in the area in which Julia's winter coat was found, at the time he said he was looking for Julia on Alpine Avenue near 6 Mile road. Evidence and statements had shown Tim lied to investigators about where he was and what he was doing on December 11, 2004, and that Julia did not make plans to go shopping. Tim Dawson was confronted on the lies and had no explanation.

Evidence collected from Julia's body, van, and home, were submitted for DNA, fingerprints, and forensic analysis. Evidence collected did not identify anyone other than Julia, Tim, or their children.

Interviews with family and friend's of Julia, Tim, and Amy Hinkley revealed that Tim Dawson was a controlling husband and had been previously convicted of Domestic Abuse. Additionally, the Dawsons had been experiencing marital discord in the 12 months leading up to Mrs. Dawson's disappearance. During that time, Mrs. Dawson had consulted a storbe salfout mitiating divorce proceedings against Mr. Dawson. Finally, Mrs. Dawson told a family member 2 days before her disappearance that she intended to leave Mr. Dawson. JAN 2 4 2008

629D DISTRICT COURT