

Gaston County Police Investigate Fire and Shooting Update

Gaston County (October 21, 2023, 6:39pm): At 2:13am, Gaston County Police investigators responded to 220 Brentwood Ln, near Stanley, in reference to a request for assistance from the Gaston County Sheriff's Office in reference to a suspected murder suicide.

Throughout the day, the Gaston County Police have diligently worked to identify those involved in this incident. It appears the house was intentionally set on fire by the suspect. This has hindered the investigation.

Gaston County Police Department Detectives have identified the suspect in this situation as Russell William Blakney, W/M, 7/30/1975, of 220 Brentwood Lane, Stanley, NC. Blakney's remains were found within the crime scene. Both of Blakney's twin children were in the residence at the time of the incident. Blakney's daughter, 11 years old, was rescued from the house by officers and deputies on scene. She was transported to Baptist Hospital in Winston Salem where she is being treated for injuries sustained in the fire. Her injuries are non-life threatening. She is in stable condition. Blakney's son, also 11 years old, died at the scene from the injuries sustained at the hands of his father.

This is an on-going investigation. Anyone with information is asked to contact Detective C. Cogdill with the Gaston County Police Department at 704-866-3320 or Crime Stoppers at 704-861-8000.