


Person Details

Involvement	Invl No	Type	Name	MNI	Race	Sex	DOB
ARR	1	Person	RODDA,STEPHEN THOMAS		W	M	09/30/1985
Age	Height	Weight	Hair Color	Eye Color	Skin	Ethnicity	Confidential
37	507	150	BRO	BLU			

Addresses

Date	Type	Address	City	State	ZIP Code
09/04/2023	Home	2525 OLD BARTOW RD	LAKE WALES	FL	33859

Arrest Details

Involvement	Arrest Type	Arrest Date	Arrest Time	Booking No	Book Date	Book Time
ARR	A	09/04/2023	11:34:00	2325807		
Involvement	Status	Dispo	Arrest Location	City	Beat Citation	BAC Time
ARR	BOOK FEL		HWY 60 W/WEST LAKE WALES RD N	LAKE WALES	40B No	

PRB_CAUS

On September 4, 2023 at approximately 1115 hours, Thomas Rodda called 911 to report he found his grandson, Stephen Lee Rodda W/M DOB 10/12/2006 (16 years old), unresponsive in a pool of blood. Polk County Deputies and Polk County EMS responded to the scene and found Stephen Lee Rodda (victim) deceased in the dining area of the residence. The victim suffered a deep laceration to the underside of his left arm, lacerations to his left eyebrow and left ear, superficial lacerations to his abdomen and three deep lacerations to the back of his head. The victim was missing some teeth, which were located near his body.

Apparent human hair was found in the victim's left hand. Blood spatter was visible on the wall near his body and head. A handheld angle grinder was located next to the victim, with a broken saw blade on the ground.

While on scene, I learned Thomas Rodda, Stephen Lee Rodda (Victim), and Stephen Thomas Rodda (Suspect) all live in the same dwelling as a family unit. Thomas advised on this day he left his residence at approximately 0800 hours to visit his wife at the Palm Gardens Rehabilitation Center. When he left the residence, only Stephen Lee Rodda (victim) and Stephen Thomas Rodda (suspect) were at the residence. He left the rehab center at approximately 1030 hours and returned home. When he returned home, the suspect was standing outside and asked Thomas Rodda for a cigarette. The suspect then told Thomas Rodda not to go inside the residence and that he "just killed somebody." The suspect then told Thomas Rodda he "should probably call the police." Thomas Rodda entered the residence and found the victim deceased in a pool of blood on the dining room floor. When Thomas Rodda left (exited) the house, the suspect was gone.

At approximately 1134 hours, deputies located the suspect walking west along Hwy 60, near West Lake Wales Rd N. The suspect had blood on his jeans and a fresh laceration on the knuckle of his right hand index finger.

A recorded post Miranda interview was conducted with the suspect at the Southeast District Substation. The suspect stated his son, Stephen, died years ago when he was little. The suspect stated he was raped in that house when the suspect was younger. He stated the victim had sexually assaulted his other son, Matthew Rodda, in the house. He advised law enforcement placed him in that house so he could rape his other son. During the course of

the interview, the suspect showed no remorse or concern for the killing of his son and would not clarify the allegations.

Based on my investigation, I determined the suspect willfully and intentionally struck the victim multiple times with an angle grinder (deadly weapon). The victim has apparent defensive wounds to his left arm when it was struck. The suspect viciously and brutally attacked his son, striking him multiple times in the back of the head with the deadly weapon. The suspect struck him hard enough and multiple times to break the saw blade of the angle grinder. In addition, the suspect continued to batter the victim in the face and side of the head causing lacerations and great bodily harm.

The suspect, Stephen Thomas Rodda W/M DOB 09/30/1985, was arrested for First Degree Murder and transported to the Sheriff's Processing Center.

Charges

Charge	Counts	Level	Charge Literal	Warrant No	Warrant ORI	Other Booking No
782.04		FC	FIRST DEGREE MURDER			

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