



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

KEVIN R. STEELE

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

EDWARD F. McCANN, JR.

FIRST ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY

COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY

COURTHOUSE

P.O. BOX 311

NORRISTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

19404-0311

SAMUEL J. GALLEN

CHIEF COUNTY DETECTIVE

JESSE S. KING

CHIEF OF STAFF

DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S FAX

COUNTY DETECTIVE BUREAU

(610) 278-3090

(610) 278-3095

(610) 278-3368

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Kate Delano 610-278-3148, 610-312-3487

MARQUIS THOMAS CHARGED WITH FIRST-DEGREE MURDER IN DEATH OF 4-YEAR-OLD GIRL IN 2016



MARQUIS THOMAS

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (June 28, 2019) — Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin R. Steele, Hatfield Township Police Chief William J. Tierney and Towamencin Township Police Chief Tim Dickinson announce the charging of Marquis Thomas, 32, of Needham Circle in Hatfield, with First-Degree Murder for the death of 4-year-old Kailee Bunrout on Oct. 18, 2016.

On Oct. 18, 2016, Towamencin Township Police responded to a residence in the Forge Gate Apartments at 7:51 a.m. for a reported unresponsive 4-year-old child. Upon arrival, police found Thomas, who resided with the child along with her mother and two other children, performing CPR on Kailee. Kailee was pronounced dead at 8:33 a.m. at Abington Health Lansdale Hospital. An autopsy was performed on the body the following day, and the cause and manner of death was listed as undetermined.

On Sept. 15, 2018, Kailee's 8-year-old brother, D.B., was admitted to the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia for evaluation of subconjunctival hemorrhages and bruising of his lower eyelid. An extensive medical evaluation determined the boy had suffered injuries consistent with non-accidental trauma, or physical child abuse. A further

review of the CHOP records indicated that Kailee had been evaluated two years earlier in September 2016 for similar injuries as those of her brother.

Following the boy's admission to CHOP, the Montgomery County Detective Bureau, Hatfield Police Department and Towamencin Police Department recommenced a joint investigation into these incidents. As part of the investigation, materials related to Kailee and her brother were provided in February 2019 to Dr. Samuel P. Gulino, a Forensic Pathologist and the Chief Medical Examiner for the City of Philadelphia, for his review of the case.

On Feb. 9, 2019, the boy disclosed during a forensic interview at Mission Kids that Thomas had "choked" him on multiple occasions, explaining that the defendant placed his arm around his neck and made him lay with his face in the couch. The boy also disclosed that on the night before Kailee's death, he had observed Kailee walking into the bathroom with Thomas, and that Kailee was crying at the time.

On June 19, 2019, Dr. Guilino completed his review and opined that the cause of Kailee Bunrout's death was blunt impact trauma and strangulation, and the manner of death was homicide.

"When the boy was taken to CHOP by his mother with similar injuries as Kailee's, it raised a red flag with medical personnel and with detectives, leading to the reopening of the investigation," said Steele. "In these cases, when kids are abused by someone they know and trust, it's very difficult for them to disclose that someone they love has hurt them. Thankfully, the boy bravely shared that information, and Marquis Thomas is now being held accountable for the death of 4-year-old Kailee and the physical abuse endured by her brother."

Thomas was arrested and charged on March 9, 2019, with multiple counts of Aggravated Assault, Strangulation, Endangering the Welfare of a Child and other charges related to the injuries to the 8-year-old boy. He was arraigned before Magisterial District Judge Andrea Duffy, who set bail at \$500,000 cash. Thomas failed to make bail and was remanded to the Montgomery County Correctional Facility.

Today, Thomas was arraigned on charges of First-Degree Murder and related charges in the death of Kailee Bunrout before Magisterial District Judge Edward Levine. There is no bail available for First-Degree Murder. A preliminary hearing is scheduled for July 8, 2019, before Judge Levine.

The case will be prosecuted by First Assistant Edward F. McCann, Jr. and Assistant Chief of Trials Brianna Ringwood, who oversees the Family Protection Unit.

Approved for release:

Kevin R. Steele

CRIMINAL CHARGES, AND ANY DISCUSSION THEREOF, ARE MERELY ALLEGATIONS AND ALL DEFENDANTS ARE PRESUMED INNOCENT UNTIL AND UNLESS PROVEN GUILTY.