

OFFICE OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY ATTORNEY

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April 4, 2025

Murder Charges Filed Following Vacation Rental Stabbing

St. George, Utah – The Washington County Attorney's Office has filed criminal charges in Utah's Fifth District Court against Mihaela Gabriela Sorescu and Abigael Paige Flanagan in connection with the fatal stabbing of 47-year-old Andreea Mottram. The stabbing occurred on March 23rd in Washington City.

Sorescu (age 16) and Flanagan (age 17) are each charged with one count of Murder, a first-degree felony, one count of Obstruction of Justice, a second-degree felony, and one count of Theft of a Motor Vehicle, a second-degree felony.

In Utah, when a prosecution office charges a 16 or 17-year-old juvenile with murder, the juvenile *must* be charged in district court as an adult (Utah Code Section 80-6-502).

Because this case is ongoing, our office will not be making any additional statements to the media at this time. For additional details, please refer to the Amended Information in each case as well as the Affidavits of Probable Cause. These documents were filed on March 24th and unsealed today.

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Eric W. Clarke #13177
Washington County Attorney
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33 North 100 West #200
St. George, Utah 84770
(435) 301-7100

FIFTH DISTRICT COURT
WASHINGTON COUNTY, STATE OF UTAH

STATE OF UTAH, Plaintiff,	AMENDED INFORMATION
vs.	
MIHAELA GABRIELA SORESCU a/k/a BELLA SORESCU, DOB: 11/07/08 Defendant.	Criminal No. 251500498 OTN/Citation #: Judge Jay Winward

The undersigned has reason to believe that the Defendant committed the following offense(s):

COUNT 1: MURDER, a First Degree Felony, a first degree felony, criminal homicide constitutes murder if: (a) the defendant intentionally or knowingly causes the death of another; or (b) intending to cause serious bodily injury to another, the defendant commits an act clearly dangerous to human life that causes the death of another; or (c) acting under circumstances evidencing a depraved indifference to human life, the defendant knowingly engages in conduct which creates a grave risk of death to another and thereby causes the death of another; in violation of Section 76-5-203(2), Utah Code Annotated, 1953, as amended.

COUNT 2: OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE, a Second Degree Felony, in that the defendant, with intent to hinder, delay, or prevent the investigation, apprehension, prosecution, conviction, or punishment of any person regarding conduct that constitutes a criminal offense:

- (a) provides any person with a weapon;
- (b) prevents by force, intimidation, or deception, any person from performing any act that might aid in the discovery, apprehension, prosecution, conviction, or punishment of any person;
- (c) alters, destroys, conceals, or removes any item or other thing;
- (d) makes, presents, or uses any item or thing known by the actor to be false;
- (e) harbors or conceals a person;

(f) provides a person with transportation, disguise, or other means of avoiding discovery or apprehension;
(g) warns any person of impending discovery or apprehension;
(h) warns any person of an order authorizing the interception of wire communications or of a pending application for an order authorizing the interception of wire communications;
(i) conceals information that is not privileged and that concerns the offense, after a judge or magistrate has ordered the actor to provide the information; or
(j) provides false information regarding a suspect, a witness, the conduct constituting an offense, or any other material aspect of the investigation
in violation of Section 76-8-306, Utah Code Annotated, 1953, as amended.

COUNT 3: THEFT/RECEIVING - FIREARM OR OPERABLE MOTOR VEHICLE, a Second Degree Felony, in that the defendant received, retained or disposed of the property of another, a firearm or operable motor vehicle, knowing that it had been stolen, or believing that it probably had been stolen, or concealed, sold, withheld or aided in concealing, selling, or withholding the property from the owner, knowing the property to be stolen, intending to deprive the owner thereof, in violation of Sections 76-6-408 and 76-6-412(1)(a)(ii), Utah Code Annotated, 1953, as amended.

PLACE: Washington County, State of Utah
DATE: On or about March 23, 2025

Date: March 24, 2025

/s/ Lane R. Wood
LANE R. WOOD
Deputy Washington County Attorney

PROBABLE CAUSE STATEMENT (if not previously filed with the Court):

Eric W. Clarke #13177
Washington County Attorney
Lane R. Wood #15288
Deputy Washington County Attorney
33 North 100 West #200
St. George, Utah 84770
(435) 301-7100

FIFTH DISTRICT COURT
WASHINGTON COUNTY, STATE OF UTAH

STATE OF UTAH, Plaintiff,	AMENDED INFORMATION
vs.	
ABIGAIL PAIGE FLANAGAN a/k/a JAY FLANAGAN, DOB: 01/29/08 Defendant.	Criminal No. 251500497 OTN/Citation #: Judge Eric Gentry

The undersigned has reason to believe that the Defendant committed the following offense(s):

COUNT 1: MURDER, a First Degree Felony, a first degree felony, criminal homicide constitutes murder if: (a) the defendant intentionally or knowingly causes the death of another; or (b) intending to cause serious bodily injury to another, the defendant commits an act clearly dangerous to human life that causes the death of another; or (c) acting under circumstances evidencing a depraved indifference to human life, the defendant knowingly engages in conduct which creates a grave risk of death to another and thereby causes the death of another; in violation of Section 76-5-203(2), Utah Code Annotated, 1953, as amended.

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- (c) alters, destroys, conceals, or removes any item or other thing;
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WASHINGTON COUNTY, STATE OF UTAH

STATE OF UTAH,
Plaintiff,

vs.

MIHAELA GABRIELA SORESCU a/k/a
BELLA SORESCU,
Defendant.

AFFIDAVIT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

Criminal No. 251500498

Judge Jay Winward

STATE OF UTAH)
) ss.
COUNTY OF WASHINGTON)

I Thomas Lloyd, being of lawful age, and being first duly sworn upon oath, depose and state as follows.

1. I am employed as a Detective for the Washington City Police Department.
2. On 3-23-25 Officers were called to 1209 Bello Aly in Washington City, Utah for a report of a person down.
3. Officers arrived on scene and met with cleaning staff who were employed by VRBO. They indicated that they had arrived at the residence and found that the garage door was open.
4. The cleaning staff indicated that they had entered the residence to clean and found that there were a lot of belongings left in the residence. They indicated that they went upstairs and found a person who was unresponsive.

5. Officers entered the residence to perform a welfare check on the individual who was reportedly nonresponsive.
6. Officers located a female with 14 stab wounds who was deceased.
7. On the initial safety sweep, Officers located two cell phones and a purse submerged in a toilet.
8. During the initial safety sweep and subsequent search of the residence, Officers did not see any signs of forced entry.
9. It was later found that there were two juveniles who had stayed at the residence with the victim.
10. The victim was identified as Andreea Mottram.
11. The juveniles were later identified as the victim's 16 year old daughter, Mihaela Gabriela Sorescu (aka Bella), and a 17 year old Abigael Paige Flanagan (aka Jay).
12. Both Bella and Jay are unaccounted for at this time and are the primary suspects for the murder of Andreea.
13. Andreea, Bella, and Jay are believed to have been the sole occupants of the vacation rental property. The phones found in the toilet are believed to have belonged to Andreea and Jay. The purse found in the toilet contained an ID belonging to Andreea. These items appear to have been placed in the toilet and attempted to be flushed in an effort to conceal evidence and/or delay apprehension.
14. Bella has been in a residential treatment facility for the past three years and is currently enrolled in a Washington County residential treatment facility.
15. Jay has been in a residential treatment facility for at least a year and was recently taken out of the residential care facility by her parents.
16. In speaking with Frank, he indicated that in November they located a diary that had been written by Bella. He stated in the diary that she had indicated how much she hated her mother and wrote that she wanted to kill her. Frank also indicated that Bella will self-harm herself and will often cut herself with sharp objects. Frank indicated that Bella has a history of violent behavior.
17. As evidence technicians were working the scene where the victim was discovered, they located several knives in the residence. One in particular located in the sink had been washed off, however there were trace amounts of blood found on the knife.

18. Evidence technicians also located a pair of jeans/pants in the downstairs master bedroom bathroom. The pants were crumpled up in a ball. When the pants were uncrumpled technicians located several spots of what appeared to be blood on both legs and in several spots. On the left leg there was what appeared to be a bloody imprint of a knife blade. The size of the pants are approximately a size two to a size four. Based on the physical descriptions of Bella, Jay, and Andreea's physical attributes I believe that the pants belong to Bella.
19. Through my investigation I was able to learn that Andreea had rented a red, 2024 Hyundai Kona when she flew into Las Vegas, Nevada on 3-20-25. I was able to obtain all of the vehicle information such as the license plate number from the rental car company. Upon information and belief, Andreea was the sole name on the rental agreement and the sole authorized driver due to the other individuals being juveniles.
20. The same Hyundai was seen via automated license plate reader camera (ALPR) in Cedar City, UT on 3-23-25 at approximately 0045 hours as it was travelling N/B on I-15. It was later seen via an ALPR travelling S/B on I-15 in Las Vegas, Nevada on 3-23-25 at approximately 0508 hours. The vehicle was last read by an ALRP in Paramount, California at approximately 0900 hours on 3-23-25.
21. The Deputy Medical Examiner who responded to the scene and conducted his own independent investigation for the Utah Office of the Medical Examiner, estimated the victim's time of death at approximately 2200 hours on 3-22-25.
22. At this time there is probable cause to suspect that the victim was stabbed to death by Jay and/or Bella and that both are criminally responsible under Utah Code Section 76-2-202.
23. Additionally, there is probable cause to suspect that Jay and/or Bella attempted to destroy evidence by flushing the wallet and cell phones in a toilet and took the victim's financial transaction cards from the victim's wallet and took the vehicle without authorization so that they could flee the scene and avoid apprehension.

I declare under criminal penalty under the law of Utah that the foregoing is true and correct.

Dated: April 4, 2025

/s/ Thomas Lloyd

THOMAS LLOYD

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FLANAGAN,
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