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PRESS RELEASE

**Man Charged With Homicide
For Beating, Kicking Girlfriend To Death**

Chester County District Attorney Tom Hogan announced the arrest of defendant Mark Turner for the murder of his girlfriend Rachel Yeager. When the defendant suspected that the victim was cheating on him, he beat her to death with his fists and kicking her with steel-toed work boots. The defendant has been charged with first degree murder.

The defendant is 53 years old. He resided at 31-B Ridge Road, East Pikeland Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania. The defendant worked as a handyman.

District Attorney Hogan stated, "This was a brutal killing. The defendant does not appear to understand that his girlfriend was not his property. She was a human being, free to make her own choices, but the defendant destroyed her."

The allegations of the criminal complaint are as follows:¹

This case was investigated by the Chester County Detectives. The following information was developed through crime scene evidence, interviews, an autopsy, and other investigative material.

¹ A criminal defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty in court.

The defendant and the victim, Ms. Yeager, lived together at 31-B Ridge Road, East Pikeland Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania. On Thursday, November 1, 2018, the defendant went to work, wearing work clothes and steel-toed work boots. After work, the defendant had drinks at a couple of bars and returned home.

When the defendant returned home, the victim was sitting on a couch wearing a robe and a shirt. The defendant went upstairs to go to bed. Based on the condition of the bed, he began to suspect that the victim was cheating on him with another man.

The defendant returned to the room where the victim was seated on the couch. The defendant punched the victim in the head repeatedly. The defendant also used his steel-toed work boots to kick the victim in her vaginal area multiple times.

East Pikeland Police responded to a 911 report of a domestic disturbance at the residence. They found the defendant present and the victim on the couch unresponsive. The victim was transported to Phoenixville Hospital, then to the trauma center at Paoli Hospital. The victim lingered on life support for some time, but eventually was pronounced dead.

The autopsy of the victim revealed that she died of blunt impact injuries to her head. She had significant bruising on the left side of her head, from her chin to temple, as well as across her genital area.

The defendant has been charged with first degree murder and related offenses. There is no bail for such charges and the defendant was remanded to Chester County Prison.

District Attorney Hogan added, "It is not easy to kill somebody with just your fists and feet. But the defendant was determined to kill the victim. This is the ugly face of domestic violence."

Chester County Detective John O'Donnell is the lead investigator on the case. The prosecutors are Deputy District Attorney Michelle Frei and Assistant District Attorney Ty Broderson. Anybody with any information should call Detective O'Donnell at (610) 344-6866.

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Approved for release:

Thomas P. Hogan