

## **Squabble with roommates preceded fatal shooting of - Joplin Globe, The (MO) - January 3, 2018**

January 3, 2018 | Joplin Globe, The (MO) | Jeff Lehr

The fatal shooting of a 66-year-old man by sheriff's deputies Tuesday afternoon in Joplin was preceded by escalating tensions with two roommates who might have sought an ex parte order against him.

The Jasper County Sheriff's Department was serving civil court documents on **Louis C. Miller** about 3 p.m. Tuesday when Miller came to the door of his home at 901 N. Landreth Ave. armed with a knife, prompting the process-serving deputies to request backup assistance.

As other officers arrived at the scene, Miller purportedly charged at the deputies with the knife and was shot. He was taken to a Joplin hospital, where he was pronounced dead at 3:48 p.m.

The death was not made public or Miller's name released until Wednesday morning when next of kin had been notified. The Missouri State Highway Patrol is investigating the shooting because an officer was involved.

Investigators have yet to identify the officer or officers involved. Sgt. Tim Williams, with the sheriff's department, on Tuesday said that no officers were injured. Williams has declined to divulge how many shots were fired in the incident, the number of deputies who fired their weapons or the number of wounds on the deceased pending completion of the patrol's investigation.

"We don't want to do anything that's going to compromise that," Williams said.

Globe inquiries led to an acknowledgement Wednesday by Joplin police that Miller's roommates, Mindi D. Hitt, 39, and Orlander T. Edwards, 45, had lodged a complaint with police Tuesday morning that Miller had become increasingly confrontational with them in recent days.

Hitt told police that Miller threatened to kill Edwards during an argument with her on Monday while Edwards was at work, according to Capt. Trevor Duncan, with the Joplin Police Department.

"They did not want to press charges, however, (so) the officer gave them information on how to obtain an ex parte against him," Duncan said.

Williams declined Wednesday to say whether an ex parte was the document being served on Miller when he was shot and killed. The state's electronic court records system did not show that an ex parte had been issued.

"I can't comment on what the civil documents were," Williams said.

Hitt and Edwards could not be reached for comment. No one answered the door at the address

when a Joplin Globe reporter went there Wednesday.

Results unavailable

An autopsy on the body of Louis Miller was being conducted Wednesday at Frontier Forensics in Kansas City, Kansas. The results of that autopsy were not available Wednesday night, according to Jasper County Coroner Rob Chappel.

Copyright 2018, The Joplin Globe / Community Newspaper Holdings, Inc. (CNHI). All Rights Reserved.