



## MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 20, 2017

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Due to the graphic nature of this crime, the age of the victims, and out of respect for privacy of the family, only the following information is being provided:

On Tuesday, September 19, 2017, at approximately 2:59 a.m., Bloomington Police and Bloomington Fire responded to 14 Brittany Court for a report of a structure fire.

Bloomington Police and Bloomington Fire arrived on scene and discovered heavy smoke coming from the residence. Entry was made and three people were located in the basement of the residence. All three were pronounced deceased on scene by the McLean County Coroner's Office at approximately 4:15 a.m.

The decedents, all residents of 14 Brittany Court, have been identified as;

- Eric N. Ringenberg, 33 years of age
- Son, CR, 2 years of age
- Son, RR, infant

Pamela Ringenberg awoke to the sound of the smoke alarm near her bedroom. She looked for her cell phone to call for help but it could not be located. Pamela Ringenberg frantically searched for her family members, but was unable to find them. Pamela Ringenberg, suffering from smoke inhalation, fled the house to seek help from neighbors. It should be noted in home surveillance cameras show, prior to the fire, Eric Ringenberg concealing the family cell phones including Pamela's in a kitchen cabinet.

Autopsies were conducted later on Tuesday, September 19, 2017. Preliminary autopsy results indicate the cause of death for all three decedents to be strangulation via ligature. Evidence further shows Eric Ringenberg's death was a suicide. Video from in home surveillance cameras also provides evidence of Eric's sole role in the deaths of the children. It has also been determined the fire was intentionally started in the basement by Eric Ringenberg after the children were already deceased.

Our hearts go out to the family and friends impacted by this tragedy. The public is asked to remember that if they or someone they know is contemplating suicide or is in a mental health crisis, help is available by calling the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-TALK (8255), or PATH CRISIS at 211.

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(Bloomington Police Department media releases can also be found on the police department web site, which can be accessed at [www.cityblm.org](http://www.cityblm.org). On the home page, put your cursor over "Departments", then over "Police", then click on "Media Releases".)

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