



FORT DODGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

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MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JANUARY 20, 2020

Case: FD20-0171 – Murder in the First Degree Arrest, 21 North 14th Street

On Monday, January 20, 2019 at approximately 9:14 A.M., the Webster County Telecommunications Center received a call regarding an altercation at 21 North 14th Street in Fort Dodge. The caller stated that a male and female were arguing and that both parties were still present. Officers with the Fort Dodge Police Department responded to the scene.

When the first officer arrived, they observed an unresponsive female inside of 21 North 14th Street. A male was detained on scene while the officer began medical efforts on the female. Medics with the Fort Dodge Fire Department arrived on scene shortly after officers and began providing emergency medical treatment to the unresponsive female. The female was ultimately pronounced dead at the scene.

Patrol Officers and Investigators with the Fort Dodge Police Department began interviewing witnesses and processing the scene. The preliminary investigation into this incident suggests that an altercation broke out between the male and female. At some point, the male subject grabbed an object from inside the residence, using it as a weapon, striking the female.

As a result of the investigation thus far, 28-year-old Mark D. Russell of Fort Dodge, has been arrested on the following charges;

- Murder in the First Degree - A Felony

Based on information provided to law enforcement, it is believed the victim in this case was the mother of Mr. Russell's girlfriend. Mr. Russell is scheduled to make his initial appearance in Webster County Magistrate Court on Tuesday, January 21 at 9:00 A.M. As with all cases, Mr. Russell is considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

The Fort Dodge Police Department is continuing to look into this incident. We encourage anyone who may have information to contact the police department, or anonymously via Crime Stoppers. The Fort Dodge Police Department was assisted on scene by the Fort Dodge Fire Department, the Webster County Sheriff's Office, and the Webster County Medical Examiner's Office.

Public Information Officer: Captain Ryan Gruenberg - rgruenberg@fortdodgeiowa.org

Anyone with information is urged to contact the Fort Dodge Police Department.
Crime Stoppers can also be contacted anonymously by calling (515) 573-1444 (STOP), online at www.wccrimestoppers.com or by texting "LEC" and the tip to CRIMES (274637).