



**Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Investigative Report**



2026-2005

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 905 Brady Ave.,
Steubenville, OH 43952, Jefferson County

Investigative Activity: Family Interview - Craig and Karen Metzger
Involves: Craig Metzger (W), Karen Metzger (W)
Activity Date: 05/24/2026
Activity Location: 4333 Brooke Street, Weirton, WV 26062
Authoring Agent: Special Agent Joseph Lamping #184

Narrative:

On Sunday, May 24, 2026, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agents Rob Surgenor (Surgenor) and Joe Lamping (Lamping) travelled to 4333 Brooke Street, Weirton, West Virginia, to interview Craig (Craig) and Karen (Karen) Metzger. Craig and Karen were identified as the parents of Matthew Metzger (Matthew). Jefferson County Prosecuting Attorney Jane Hanlin (Hanlin) had requested a Weirton Police Department Officer to stand by at the residence until agents could respond. Prosecutor Hanlin also requested a briefing of the interview results to determine if any probable cause was developed to petition for, and execute, a search warrant for Matthew's residence.

The interview with the Metzger's was audio recorded. The recording was stored on Axon Justice as part of Reference Item C – Family Interview Media. Any times referenced in this report refer to the elapsed time of the recording and not the time of day. Additionally, the structure of this report is not necessarily chronological, and attempts to place the information derived from the 1 hour, 6 minutes and 23 seconds interview in an order that would aid the readers understanding of the subject matter.

The agents arrived at approximately 2142 hours. Once at the residence, they met with Weirton Police Department Officer Brennan Bish (Bish). The agents approached the residence and knocked on the door. Shortly afterwards Karen answered the door at which time the agents requested to enter the residence and speak with her and Craig. The agents and Officer Bish were welcomed into the residence. Craig and Karen were asked to sit on the living room sofa at which time Special Agent Lamping informed them that Matthew had been involved in an officer involved shooting and had passed away. Craig and Karen were visibly emotional. However, they agreed to participate in an interview with the agents.

Special Agent Lamping provided a brief description of the events that Matthew was involved in after making the death notification. Craig went on to explain that Matthew was possibly paranoid schizophrenic and had recently been involved in an auto

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collision that may have aggravated his condition. Karen noted that Matthew had been diagnosed with [REDACTED]. She continued on to state that Matthew had been "so hateful" for the past month. She described his behavior as follows:

He's blaming me for all these things that he, he's been delusional for a while. And we just couldn't, but he was having so many periods of being, um, lucid. I mean, he's, he had a, a really high IQ and, and really high. But, but today I spent whole afternoon stopping things. He, he put a whole bunch of, uh, subscriptions on my Apple credit card. And I texted him and I said, 'What are you doing?' You know, 'cancel those'. He said, 'No, my wife told me to do it.' Matthew wasn't married. He's been, you know, thinking that he was with this girl. (00:07:05)

Karen explained that Matthew had never been married and was referencing a woman he had been engaged to roughly 15 years prior. Matthew expressed a desire to get back together with the woman he had been engaged to. Karen said that she feared that Matthew had been hallucinating the presence of the woman/having a wife.

Craig and Karen asked if anyone else, including the officers, had been hurt during the incident. Special Agent Lamping informed them that the officers were okay and only a minor amount of property damage occurred. Craig explained that he and Karen had previously considered the possibility that Matthew may become involved in a situation such as the one that occurred earlier in the day. Karen went on to clarify that they were mainly concerned about a deadly encounter taking place should someone arrive at Matthew's residence.

Karen told the agents that she and Craig had previously spoken to their family doctor in reference to the possibility of emergency admitting Matthew for mental health care. She stated:

It just, the things, we just didn't know what to do to help. Anyway, we were afraid. I talked to our family doctor about whether we should try to do, uh, 302 [similar to an Application for Emergency Admission in the State of Ohio], uh, you know, a commitment. And this was a, this was a month or two ago before it got to be consistent. And I never dreamed he would leave the house looking for trouble. But I was concerned about somebody going to the house. And I told the officer, uh, the Ohio State Police that, you know, that, um, he's paranoid. I'm really worried about him getting scared and trying to protect himself. You know what I mean? So, I honestly never thought that unless we

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sent somebody there, that there would be any reason for anyone to go to the house and be in danger or if that was even, you know, possible.
(00:09:31)

Karen recounted that Matthew had been involved in an auto collision towards the end of February 2026. During the investigation, Matthew told the Ohio State Patrol Trooper that he had consumed marijuana, which lead to his arrest for Operating a Vehicle Under the Influence. Subsequently, Matthew did not attend his court hearings. After the collision, Matthew agreed to be medically examined at the hospital. Craig went to the hospital with Matthew in Weirton, West Virginia and he recalled the following:

The next day he said, 'Dad, I think I should go to the hospital.' I said, 'Thank you, God.' So, I took him to the hospital and up here at, uh, Weirton and they got him all hooked up and he, he was, he was paranoid. He kept talking about this government invention, magnetic thing that causes people to go crazy, I guess. And he said that the government used it on him years ago. He's telling all kinds of stories. And you, we couldn't even have a normal conversation with him lately.
(00:12:32)

Craig and Karen explained the symptoms Matthew experienced as a result of his [REDACTED]. They stated that most of his [REDACTED] were not visible as an adult, and he mainly dealt with intense anxiety. They noted that at times Matthew would shift his jaw or "holler a lot." They also noted that Matthew had recently began to hear voices and "insanely laugh." They believe that the symptoms were exacerbated by the traffic collision. Craig recalled an incident in which Matthew began talking to someone that was not in the room with them. When Craig asked who Matthew was speaking with, Matthew told him not to worry about the comment.

Special Agent Lamping asked Craig and Karen if Matthew had given them any indication that he planned to harm himself or others. They both reported that he had not. However, they both advised that Matthew had been suffering from delusions. Matthew's most recent delusions appeared to be centered around him running government agencies such as the NSA. They also noted that Matthew had a strong desire to protect his property. Craig reported that he had considered Matthew being involved in an incident similar to the one being investigated had it taken place at his residence as opposed to in the public.

Craig told Special Agent Lamping that Matthew had several firearms to include a .22 caliber rifle, a Mossberg 20 gauge, and AR-15 style rifle, and possibly a 9mm handgun. He could not recall Matthew having any other firearms than the ones he listed. Craig
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and Karen could not recall any purchases on their credit cards related to ammunition for the firearms Matthew was in possession of.

Craig and Karen stated that Matthew was not employed. Karen explained that Matthew had been using his credit card for purchases such as groceries. She also noted that she had been supplying Matthew with marijuana from the dispensary. She last purchased Matthew marijuana a month prior to the incident. Matthew had recently asked her to purchase him additional quantities, but Karen advised that she would not do it. She explained that Matthew used the marijuana in an attempt to allay his [REDACTED] symptoms, but she feared that he was using it at an alarming rate and that it may be exacerbating his issues. She expressed a concern that Matthew may have developed a paranoid delusional disorder.

Special Agent Lamping explained to Craig and Karen that BCI acts as an independent fact finder during officer involved shooting investigations, and that all information gathered during the investigation is forwarded to a prosecutor. Craig responded by stating:

I can tell you right now, if he had all those guns loaded, that the officers acted properly, and as a father, that's hard to say, but....
(00:26:34)

Karen reviewed the text messages she had recently received from Matthew. She located one alarming message that she provided to the agents via an Axon link. The image was from Sunday May 24, 2026, and is pictured below:



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Special Agent Lamping asked Craig and Karen if they thought that given Matthew's mindset, he may perceive a firearm pointed at him by law enforcement as a threat. Craig immediately stated yes. Karen stated:

Yes... I, I, I think that if he thought he had, if he thought he had a right to defend himself, I think he, it's possible he could have, if he imagined a threat, I think it's possible. (00:41:54)

Craig and Karen were informed that upon the completion of the investigation, the findings would be published on the Ohio Attorney General's website. Special Agent Lamping left his business card and advised Craig and Karen that he could be reached by phone or email should they have any further questions or information they wished to provide.

References:

Reference Item C – Family Interview Media; stored on Axon Justice.

Attachments:

None

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