



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



2022-1564  
Officer Involved Critical Incident – 1132 Ashwood Drive, South  
Charleston, OH (L)

**Investigative Activity:** Interview with Witness  
**Involves:** Kristen N Mills (W)  
**Date of Activity:** 07/24/2022  
**Author:** SA Douglas Eveslage, #66

**Narrative:**

On Sunday, July 24, 2022, the Clark County Sheriff's Office requested the assistance of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation for an Officer-Involved Critical Incident (OICI) that occurred at 1132 Ashwood Drive, South Charleston, Ohio. As a result of this incident, Cole White, Jodie Arbuckle, and Deputy Matthew Yates are deceased. Kristen Mills, Jodie Arbuckle's fiancé, was identified as a witness to events leading up to the OICI. Kristen Mills agreed to be transported to Northeastern School, 1480 Bowman Drive, South Vienna, Ohio. Special Agent Doug Eveslage (SA Eveslage) asked Kristen Mills (Kristen) to be interviewed in his unmarked police vehicle due to the high volume of law enforcement personnel on scene at the school and the sensitive nature of Kristen's interview.

At approximately 1543 hours, SA Eveslage started interviewing Kristen and Kristen stated that two years ago, Cole White, "cut off the family" due to "some type of mental breakdown." Kristen explained that Jodie grew up at 1132 Ashwood Drive, and when her mother passed away, Jodie purchased the residence and gave it to her son, Cole White. Jodie's uncle, Barry Espy, cut the grass of Cole's residence and also lived in the neighborhood.

Kristen said that Jodie and Cole were "estranged", but they learned that Cole was arrested in Yellow Springs, Ohio, in August 2021, for possessing two firearms in his vehicle. Then in March 2022, Jodie was contacted by Logan County Sheriff's deputies due to Cole being uncooperative with deputies, not giving his name, and refusing to eat or drink. Kristen said that Cole was sent to Columbus for a psychological evaluation and when he was transported back to Logan County, Cole gave deputies Jodie's name and number so he could be released to his mother. Kristen believes that the deputies never criminally charged Cole, because he was "nice and worked at Midwest Express" in Logan County. Within the last few days, Kristen and Jodie learned that Cole was suspended from Midwest Express, so they were making phone calls to try and understand why Cole was not working at Midwest Express anymore. Kristen said that she and Jodie also reached out to Cole's public defender, Joe Coats, but he "did not know anything" and "hasn't talked to him (Cole) since April." Cole was scheduled to be in Greene County Court on Thursday, July 21, 2022, for the "gun incident" but an arrest warrant was issued when Cole did

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not attend, per Kristen, who was at the courthouse with Jodie.

Kristen said "everything that everybody's been saying is that he (Cole) looked real frail, he's only coming out at night, and he's not eating." Kristen explained that her and Jodie have done several "drive bys" at night and have "talked to him (Cole) through the window" and asked him to turn off and on lights to acknowledge their statements. The mobile home community was trying to evict Cole due to non-payment; however, Kristen and Jodie were paying his rent to keep him from being evicted. Kristen said that Cole would never respond or "flick the lights" when they were attempting to communicate with him.

On Thursday or Friday evening, July 21 or 22, 2022, Kristen explained that she and Jodie drove to the Clark County Sheriff's Office to talk to someone about Cole's behavior and a deputy read through Jodie's Facebook messages in an attempt to help understand the situation. Kristen said Tyler Williams and James Myers, friends of Cole White, went to Cole's residence and used a ladder to look through the window and saw Cole laying on his back staring at the ceiling while holding a firearm in his hand. Tyler Williams sent Jodie a message explaining what he saw at Cole's residence, and immediately Jodie and Kristen went to the Clark County Sheriff's Office. Kristen said that the sheriff's department was closed due to the late hour, so they called 911 and met the uniformed deputies at 1132 Ashwood Drive. The uniformed deputies were not able to make contact with Cole at the residence. Kristen said that they informed the deputies that Cole had an open warrant for his arrest and they just wanted to know Cole was safe because "he (Cole) was at a breaking point."

(AGENT NOTE: Kristen answered an incoming phone call from her mother.)

On today's date, July 24, 2022, Jodie and Kristen went back to Cole's residence at approximately 1044 hours. Jodie called Cole multiple times but never received any response from Cole. Prior to Jodie entering Cole's residence, she told Kristen that she was not scared of Cole and that Cole has never been violent. SA Eveslage asked Kristen if she was on the phone with Jodie while she was inside, and Kristen said "yes, speaker." Kristen explained how Jodie walked through the residence announcing to Cole, "It's your mom...Cole I'm in the kitchen...Cole I'm coming back to your bedroom." Kristen advised Jodie over the phone again, that if she was scared, not to keep searching the residence. Jodie advised Kristen, "I'm not scared" and they both exchanged an I love you. Jodie was advising Kristen that she could not see due to how dark it was inside the residence, so Kristen kept asking her to use her flashlight on her phone as Jodie was saying, "Cole are you on your bed? Cole?" Jodie kept verbally announcing herself to Cole while she looked on the bed and under the bed but did not find him. Kristen explained that Jodie said, "Cole, I'm going to open the closet door, Cole are you in there? Cole, I'm opening the closet door are you in there?" Kristen said that is when she heard "the most frightening scream" as she was standing just outside of "those two windows" and "that's when she screamed bloody murder." Then Kristen heard Cole say in a very calm voice, "I'm sorry mom, I'm sorry" and then "heard a gunshot."

Kristen said after hearing the gunshot and getting no response from Jodie she went up the stairs, went inside, and could not make herself turn left to go down towards the bedroom. Kristen advised that during the moments she was inside, she did not hear anything, and then exited the residence and called 911 at approximately 1052 hours. Kristen said that she tried to call Jodie's phone again but "he (Cole) had powered it off."

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After Kristen explained the situation to the deputies on their arrival, she stood approximately 20 feet away "as the two sheriff's went in I heard two gunshots." SA Eveslage asked Kristen if two sheriff's went in, and Kristen corrected herself saying that three went inside after "breaking down the door to try and save her (Jodie)."

SA Eveslage asked if the sheriff's deputies knocked and announced their presence on the door prior to forcing entry and Kristen stated, "Oh yeah, they were banging and banging." "When they banged they kept saying Sheriffs! Sheriffs! Sheriffs!" explained Kristen. Kristen said she will forever be thankful for him (Deputy Matthew Yates) "trying to save her (Jodie), he was so brave."

Kristen advised that it was "pandemonium" from that point forward, but recalls there being multiple gunshots immediately after the first two gunshots when deputies went inside. The deputies told everyone to back up so they would stay safe, more gunshots were heard, and the deputies kept moving everyone back as SWAT and other law enforcement arrived.

SA Eveslage asked if Cole kept firing from inside the residence after deputies exited the residence, and Kristen responded, "Yes, it sounded like it...something was going in and out, you could hear it." Kristen said the Jodie described the entire lay out of the residence previously to her, and that one night when they were attempting to make contact with Cole, Jodie said there was a light on in the restroom and that made her "happy because there was electricity."

Kristen explained that Barry Espy was getting upset with the police because he was like a father figure for Cole, and the police kept everyone away from the residence.

SA Eveslage asked Kristen if Cole made any statements about suicide or homicide to Jodie, and Kristen advised that Cole said something about his "ascension", but they never understood what that meant and thought "he (Cole) was pretty far out there at this point."

SA Eveslage asked when Kristen left the scene and Kristen described watching the SWAT armored vehicle being driven into the residence. Kristen further explained that someone was "shooting rapid fire" but wasn't sure if it was Cole or the police. SA Eveslage asked if there was constant gunfire and Kristen said, "yeah, constant."

Kristen summarizes the events she witnessed and states, "The deputies went in and Cole shot at them, then the SWAT team went in and Cole shot at them," and then the armored vehicle "rammed the place." Kristen explains how she saw a law enforcement officer "fall out" of the residence and thought they were shot in the ankle. Kristen last witnessed law enforcement throw "gas" into the residence and remove Deputy Matthew Yates.

This interview was concluded at approximately 1620 hours. This interview was audio recorded. See audio recording for further details.

#### **Attachments:**

Attachment # 01: 2022-07-24 Kristen Mills Interview

# **Exhibit 1**

**Included as a separate file.**