



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



2025-3711

Officer Involved Critical Incident - 1363 State Route 534
NW, Braceville Township, OH 44470, Trumbull County

Investigative Activity: Collection of Evidence at 5023 Shanks Phalanx Road
Involves: John Adams (S), Todd Garland (O)
Activity Date: 11/17/2025
Activity Location: 5023 Shanks Phalanx Road, Newton Falls, OH 44444
Authoring Agent: SA Joseph Lamping #184

Narrative:

On Monday, November 17, 2025, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) Joe Lamping (SA Lamping) made arrangements to meet with Todd Garland (Garland) at his property located at 5023 Shanks Phalanx Road, Newton Falls. Garland had informed SA Lamping on Saturday, November 15, 2025, that he had located a suicide note in John Adams' (Adams) recreational vehicle that was stored on Garland's property after finding the door ajar that same day.

Prior to arriving at Garland's property, SA Lamping spoke with Trumbull County Assistant Prosecutor Chris Becker (Prosecutor Becker) to discuss the necessity of a warrant to retrieve the evidence. Prosecutor Becker advised that as Adams was deceased and the recreational vehicle was stored on Garland's property, no warrant would be required and obtaining written consent to search from Garland would suffice.

SA Lamping met with Garland at his property and explained that he would be requesting written consent to search for the recreational vehicle that was stored on his property. Garland signed a consent to search form and escorted SA Lamping to the recreational vehicle. SA Lamping took multiple photos of the exterior of the vehicle prior to entering it via the unsecured man door. Of note on the outside of the vehicle was a cellular device that appeared to have been shot with some sort of firearm/projectile. The device was heavily damaged and did not appear to be functional. When SA Lamping entered the vehicle, he noted that a shotgun was present on a chair, an assortment of ammunition was lined up along the counter, several photographs of a young woman (whom Garland identified as Adam's deceased daughter), and a three-page note expressing suicidal ideations was left on the counter. SA Lamping photographed the items in the locations they were found prior to reviewing, and subsequently collecting, the note.

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The following images illustrate what SA Lamping observed inside of the vehicle:



SA Lamping asked Garland if the handwriting on the notes was consistent with his recollection of Adams' handwriting. He advised that from what he could recall it appeared to be Adams' handwriting. In addition to the notes that Adams left, SA Lamping also observed two signed and notarized titles belonging to Adams' motorcycle and recreational vehicle. The photographs below were taken of each note left by Adams:

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Hey Brother I, have to go see my daughter. you have been the most awesome friend I've ever had and did so much to help me! I Love you both more than anything. The titles are notarized just give the bike to my cousin. [redacted] it needs the back shock and cleaned but I Rode it in 15 states - its a ride. Tell him I'm sorry for the house but shit happens. He can just sign on the title - my sister Notarized it so its good.

Brother The RV is whatever you want to do with it! Sell it, give it to someone - Title is also notarized just sign on the Top - Buyer She drinks RWR fluid. dont Trust the stick till her to the Top - everything underneath take - its my wife garage the doors use a crowbar if you have to Mackenzie Royer destroyed my life but I cant live without my daughter you have no idea the pain everyday losing a child.

RV - gas gauge doesn't work it gets 7mpg I write down the mileage and it has a 75st Tank - let [redacted] vice

Number One in Person

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I did it in Jim Jim Dolls parking area because I wouldn't bring that shit to your house.

You only did the best thing a friend could - Helped me. The shotgun is yours and whatever else is in [redacted] here.

Mackenzie Royer need to be in Prison she is basically responsible for this and Tell Newton Falls Judge Vigeritto that my death is because she stole \$115,000 from me - Thats no joke siphoned the whole summer and I didn't know because she had my debit card and took care of paying campgrounds, food everything - make sure the Newton Falls prosecutor knows this is a direct result of my death!

I'm not afraid my friend ashley gone is unbearable but Kencie took it over the Top!

Mom's # [redacted]

DNR!

Just let me go!

Love you Guys!

Viewed by JLPamping (OhioAG.evidence.com) on 24 Nov 2025

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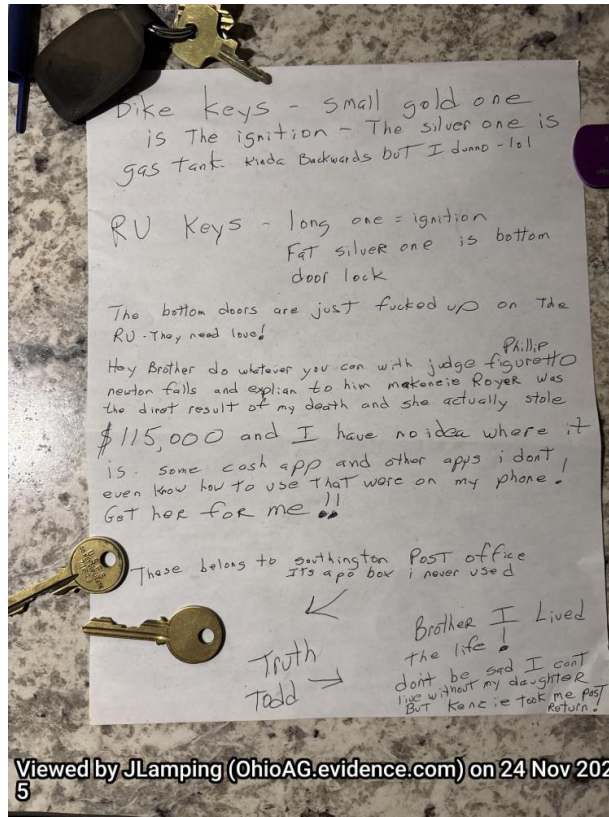


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Adams began the letter by writing, "Hey Brother I have to go see my daughter." He wrote that Garland had been a good friend to him and expressed his gratitude for his assistance. He then explained that he wanted his motorcycle to be given to a cousin, and that he did not care what Garland decided to do with the recreational vehicle. Towards the bottom of the first page of the letter Adams wrote, "Makenzie Royer destroyed my life but I cant [SP] live without my daughter you have no idea the pain everyday losing a child."

On the back of the first page Adams wrote, "I did it in Jim Dolls parking area because I wouldn't bring that shit to your house. You only did the best thing a friend could - Helped me." Adams then wrote a paragraph blaming Makenzie Royer (Royer) for his death. He alleged that Royer had stolen \$115,000 him and that she should be in prison. Adams also wrote, "Im [SP] not afraid my friend Ashley [SP] gone is unbearable [SP] but Kenzie took it over the Top! mom's # [REDACTED] DNR! Just let me go! Love you Guys!"

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The third page of the note consisted of instructions for several keys. Adams also wrote a paragraph in the middle of the page that explained his frustration with Royer:

Hey Brother do whatever you can with judge Phillip figuretto newton falls [SP] and explain to him makenzie [SP] Royer was the direct result of my death and she actually stole \$115,000 and I have no idea where it is. some cash app and other apps i [SP] dont [SP]even know how to use that were on my phone! Get her for me!!

In the bottom right of the third page Adams wrote:

Truth Todd [large arrow pointing to the right] Brother I Lived the life! Don't be sad I cant [SP] live without my daughter But Kenzie took me past Return [SP]!

All three pages of Adams' note were collected as evidence. The pages were secured in an envelope, sealed, and secured in a locked container inside of a locked BCI vehicle until they could be logged into temporary evidence on November 19, 2025.

Garland provided additional background information on the notes. He affirmed that the information that Adams wrote and explained that Adams had recently gone through a breakup with Royer. He said that Adams sold his residence and planned to use the money to travel the country in the recreational vehicle. During a trip with Royer, she was either arrested in West Virginia on warrants or was left in West Virginia by Adams. Garland also noted that ever since the trip, Adams had been more upset than usual. Garland did not recall any direct indications from Adams that he planned to harm himself in the days leading up to the incident.

The images of the exterior and interior of Adams' recreational vehicle can be reviewed in their entirety on Axon Justice as part of reference item H – photographs from 5023 Shanks Phalanx Road. The consent to search form signed by Garland and the evidence receipt for Adams' note were attached to this report.

References:

Reference Item H – Photographs from 5023 Shanks Phalanx Road; stored on Axon Justice

Attachments:

1. 2025-11-17 - Garland Consent to Search
2. 2025-11-19 Suicide Note Evidence Receipt

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CONSENT TO SEARCH



Date & Time 11-17-2015 / 1021

Location 5023 SHANKS PHALANX ROAD

I, Todd Gorman, having been informed of the constitutional right not to have a search made of the premises, property, or items hereinafter mentioned without a search warrant (and of my right to refuse to consent to such a search), hereby authorize

S.A. J. LAMPING #184

to conduct a complete search of my

☐ premises, and all curtilage

☐ any vehicles

☒ personal property, to wit: BOULDER R.V.

☐ computer, cellular telephone, or electronic device, (including data acquisition, copying, and analysis), to wit: _____

located at

5023 SHANKS PHALANX ROAD

These above-named officers/agents are authorized by me to take from my premises, curtilage, vehicles, property, computer, cellular telephone, or electronic device (as specified above) any letters, papers, materials, data, or other property which they desire. I state that I am a person who is authorized to give consent for the search of the above mentioned property.

This written permission is being given by me to the above-named officers/agents voluntarily, of my own free will, without threats or promises of any kind, I am not under the influence of drugs or alcohol that prevent me from understand this document, and I understand this document and the English language.

[Signature] 11/17/15
Signature Date/Time
1025hrs

Todd Gorman
Printed Name

