



NEWS RELEASE

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Public Information
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Commerce City Man Charged with First-degree Murder in Attack on His Wife

17th Judicial District Attorney Dave Young announced Tuesday that an amended charge of first-degree murder (F1) has been filed against Derek Michael Johnston of Commerce City in an attack on his wife.

Johnston (DOB 10/07/79) was charged September 12 with attempted first-degree murder (F2), first-degree assault (F3), child abuse and crime of violence, a sentencing enhancer. The additional charge of first-degree murder was added after Melissa Ehrmann, 38, died of her injuries on Oct. 6.

Commerce City police found Melissa Ehrmann unresponsive in the couple's home at 14802 E. 119th Avenue on September 6. The couple's 19-month-old son also was in the home.

Johnston was advised of the amended charge Tuesday. A preliminary hearing is set for 1:30 October 19 in Division L of Adams County District Court.

The filing of a criminal charge is merely a formal accusation that an individual committed a crime under Colorado laws. A defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. See Colo. RPC 3.6.

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