

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
COUNTY OF: Montgomery



POLICE CRIMINAL COMPLAINT
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
VS.

Magisterial District Number: 38-1-22
MDJ: Hon. Harry J. Nesbit, III
Address: 930 Sheehy Drive, Suite A
Horsham, Pennsylvania, 19044
Telephone: (215)675-2040

DEFENDANT: (NAME and ADDRESS):
Ruth _____ DIRlenzo-Whitehead _____
First Name Middle Name Last Name Gen.
505 Privet Road, Horsham Pa. 19044

NCIC Extradition Code Type

- 1-Felony Full
- 2-Felony Ltd.
- 3-Felony Surrounding States
- 4-Felony No Ext.
- 5-Felony Pend.
- 6-Felony Pend. Extradition Determ.
- A-Misdemeanor Full
- B-Misdemeanor Limited
- C-Misdemeanor Surrounding States
- D-Misdemeanor No Extradition
- E-Misdemeanor Pending
- F-Misdemeanor Pending Extradition Determ.
- Distance: _____

DEFENDANT IDENTIFICATION INFORMATION

Docket Number CR-28-23 Date Filed 4/11/23 OTN/LiveScan Number R3461352-3 Complaint/Incident Number 2023-06669 Request Lab Services? YES NO

GENDER Male Female DOB 05/04/1972 POB Pennsylvania Add'l DOB / / Co-Defendant(s) Gen. First Name Middle Name Last Name

RACE White Asian Black Native American Unknown ETHNICITY Hispanic Non-Hispanic Unknown

HAIR COLOR GRY (Gray) RED (Red/Aubn.) SDY (Sandy) BLU (Blue) PLE (Purple) BRO (Brown) BLK (Black) ONG (Orange) WHI (White) XXX (Unk./Bald) GRN (Green) PNK (Pink) BLN (Blonde / Strawberry)

EYE COLOR BLK (Black) BLU (Blue) BRO (Brown) GRN (Green) GRY (Gray) HAZ (Hazel) MAR (Maroon) PNK (Pink) MUL (Multicolored) XXX (Unknown)

DNA YES NO DNA Location _____ WEIGHT (lbs.) 175

FBI Number _____ MNU Number _____ Ft. HEIGHT in. 5 7

Defendant Fingerprinted YES NO Fingerprint Classification: _____

DEFENDANT VEHICLE INFORMATION

Plate # _____ State _____ Hazmat Registration Sticker (MM/YY) _____ Comm'l Veh. Ind. School Veh. Oth. NCIC Veh. Code _____ Reg. same as Def. VIN _____ Year _____ Make _____ Model _____ Style _____ Color _____

Office of the attorney for the Commonwealth Approved Disapproved because: _____

(The attorney for the Commonwealth may require that the complaint, arrest warrant affidavit, or both be approved by the attorney for the Commonwealth prior to filing. See Pa.R.Crim.P. 507).

1st Asst. DA Edward F. McCann Jr. _____ [Signature] 4/11/23
(Name of the attorney for the Commonwealth) (Signature of the attorney for the Commonwealth) (Date)

I, Det. Michael Peter / Det. Heather Long 34 / 26
(Name of the Affiant) (PSP/MPOETC -Assigned Affiant ID Number & Badge #)

of MCDB / HPD 046100
(Identify Department or Agency Represented and Political Subdivision) (Police Agency ORI Number)

do hereby state: (check appropriate box)

1. I accuse the above named defendant who lives at the address set forth above
 I accuse the defendant whose name is unknown to me but who is described as _____

I accuse the defendant whose name and popular designation or nickname are unknown to me and whom I have therefore designated as John Doe or Jane Doe with violating the penal laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania at [204] Horsham
(Subdivision Code) (Place-Political Subdivision)
505 Privet Road, Horsham, Pa. 19044

in Montgomery County [46] on or about April 11, 2023 at approximately 7:06 AM
(County Code) (Offense Date)



POLICE CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

Docket Number:	Date Filed: // /	OTN/LiveScan Number	Complaint/Incident Number 2023-06669
Defendant Name	First: Ruth	Middle: DiRienzo	Last: Whitehead

- I ask that a warrant of arrest or a summons be issued and that the defendant be required to answer the charges I have made.
- I verify that the facts set forth in this complaint are true and correct to the best of my knowledge or information and belief. This verification is made subject to the penalties of Section 4904 of the Crimes Code (18 Pa.C.S. § 4904) relating to unsworn falsification to authorities.
- This complaint consists of the preceding page(s) numbered 1 through 6.
- I certify that this filing complies with the provisions of the *Case Records Public Access Policy of the Unified Judicial System of Pennsylvania* that require filing confidential information and documents differently than non-confidential information and documents.

The acts committed by the accused, as listed and hereafter, were against the peace and dignity of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and were contrary to the Act(s) of the Assembly, or in violation of the statutes cited. (Before a warrant of arrest can be issued, an affidavit of probable cause must be completed, sworn to before the issuing authority, and attached.)

April 11 _____ 2023 _____
(Date) (Year)


(Signature of Affiant)

AND NOW, on this date 4-11-23 I certify that the complaint has been properly completed and verified.

An affidavit of probable cause must be completed before a warrant can be issued.

38-1-23 _____
(Magisterial District Court Number)


(Issuing Authority)





POLICE CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

Docket Number:	Date Filed: //	OTN/LiveScan Number	Complaint/Incident Number 2023-06669
Defendant Name	First: Ruth	Middle: DiRienzo	Last: Whitehead

The acts committed by the accused are described below with each Act of Assembly or statute allegedly violated, if appropriate. When there is more than one offense, each offense should be numbered chronologically. (Set forth a *brief* summary of the facts sufficient to advise the defendant of the nature of the offense(s) charged. A citation to the statute(s) allegedly violated, without more, is not sufficient. In a summary case, you must cite the specific section(s) and subsection(s) of the statute(s) or ordinance(s) allegedly violated.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Inchoate Offense	<input type="checkbox"/> Attempt 18 901 A	<input type="checkbox"/> Solicitation 18 902 A	<input type="checkbox"/> Conspiracy 18 903	Number of Victims Age 60 or Older _____					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1	2502	A	of the	Title 18	1	H1		
Lead?	Offense#	Section	Subsection	PA Statute (Title)	Counts	Grade	NCIC Offense Code	UCR/NIBRS Code	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PennDOT Data (if applicable)	Accident Number				<input type="checkbox"/> Interstate	<input type="checkbox"/> Safety Zone	<input type="checkbox"/> Work Zone		
Statute Description (include the name of statute or ordinance): Murder of the first degree									
Acts of the accused associated with this Offense: Defendant committed murder of the first degree									

<input type="checkbox"/> Inchoate Offense	<input type="checkbox"/> Attempt 18 901 A	<input type="checkbox"/> Solicitation 18 902 A	<input type="checkbox"/> Conspiracy 18 903	Number of Victims Age 60 or Older _____					
<input type="checkbox"/>	2	2502	C	of the	Title 18	1	F1		
Lead?	Offense#	Section	Subsection	PA Statute (Title)	Counts	Grade	NCIC Offense Code	UCR/NIBRS Code	
<input type="checkbox"/> PennDOT Data (if applicable)	Accident Number				<input type="checkbox"/> Interstate	<input type="checkbox"/> Safety Zone	<input type="checkbox"/> Work Zone		
Statute Description (include the name of statute or ordinance): Murder of the third degree									
Acts of the accused associated with this Offense: Defendant committed murder of the third degree									

<input type="checkbox"/> Inchoate Offense	<input type="checkbox"/> Attempt 18 901 A	<input type="checkbox"/> Solicitation 18 902 A	<input type="checkbox"/> Conspiracy 18 903	Number of Victims Age 60 or Older _____					
<input type="checkbox"/>	3	907	A	of the	Title 18	1	M1		
Lead?	Offense#	Section	Subsection	PA Statute (Title)	Counts	Grade	NCIC Offense Code	UCR/NIBRS Code	
<input type="checkbox"/> PennDOT Data (if applicable)	Accident Number				<input type="checkbox"/> Interstate	<input type="checkbox"/> Safety Zone	<input type="checkbox"/> Work Zone		
Statute Description (include the name of statute or ordinance): Possession Instruments of Crime									
Acts of the accused associated with this Offense: Defendant did possess an instrument of crime									

AFFIDAVIT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

On Tuesday, April 11, 2023 at 7:06 AM, the Horsham Township Police Department responded to 505 Privet Road in Horsham Township, Montgomery County for an unresponsive eleven (11) year old male. The 911 caller, Daniel Whitehead, reported that his wife, Ruth Dirienzo-Whitehead, age 50, had killed their eleven (11) year old son, Matthew Whitehead.

Horsham Detective Michael Costello was one of the first to arrive on scene at 505 Privet Road, Horsham. Detective Costello went to the master bedroom area of the home where he observed the body of an obviously deceased, eleven (11) year old male. The deceased male was identified as eleven (11) year old Matthew Whitehead. Detective Costello observed that he had blood and fluids draining from his mouth and nose.

Horsham Detective Michael Costello interviewed Daniel Whitehead. Whitehead explained that his wife had spent the night in the master bedroom with Matthew, while he slept in another room. Whitehead said that this was not unusual. Whitehead stated that when he woke up this morning, he noticed that the door to the master bedroom was locked and his wife's black Toyota Highlander was missing from the garage. Whitehead forced entry into the master bedroom and discovered his deceased son. Whitehead described his wife's vehicle as a black, 2019 Toyota Highlander bearing Pennsylvania registration JZM2744.

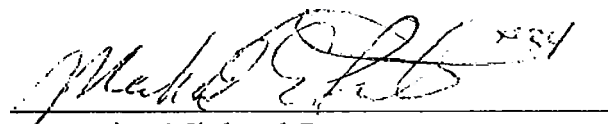
While still on scene at the residence Horsham Township Police received a call from the Cape May, New Jersey Prosecutors Office. Cape May Police had located Ruth Dirienzo-Whitehead's black Toyota Highlander partially submerged in the ocean just off of Beach Avenue in Cape New, New Jersey. Ruth Dirienzo-Whitehead was not located with the vehicle but was taken into custody in Wildwood Crest New Jersey shortly thereafter.

Montgomery County Detective David Schanes processed the scene at 505 Privet Road. Detective Schanes observed ligature marks on the front and rear of Matthew's neck as well as swelling to his face and obvious petechia to his eyes. All these observations are consistent with strangulation.

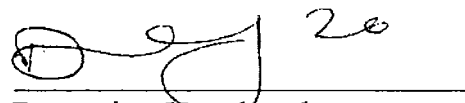
On April 11, 2023, Montgomery County Detective Heather Long and Horsham Township Detective Mike Peter interviewed Ruth Dirienzo-Whitehead at the Wildwood Crest Police Department. Whitehead told detectives at approximately 9:30 PM she and Matthew laid down in bed in the master bedroom. Dirienzo-Whitehead described that Matthew had been upset and crying off and on all day over the family's financial difficulties. Dirienzo-Whitehead explained that she did not want Matthew to grow up with these struggles so she strangled him with her husband's belt as he slept. After killing Matthew, Dirienzo-Whitehead took the family vehicle to Cape May County where she drove her vehicle onto The Cove Beach and into the ocean. Once Whitehead's vehicle was no longer operable, she walked to Wildwood Crest where she was located by Wildwood Crest Police Department.

On April 11, 2023, detectives searched the black, 2019 Toyota Highlander bearing Pennsylvania registration JZM2744 that Dirienzo-Whitehead had driven to New Jersey. On the front driver's side floor of the vehicle, they recovered a black men's dress belt.

Based on the above information we ask that a warrant of arrest be issued for Ruth Dirienzo-Whitehead charging her with first degree murder and related offenses.



Detective Michael Peter
Horsham Township Police Department



Detective Heather long
Montgomery County Detective

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME THIS 11 DAY OF April,
2023.



Honorable , District Judge