



Georgetown County Sheriff's Office

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Georgetown, South Carolina 29440

News Release

Contact: Sergeant Neil Johnson, Public Affairs Officer, (843) 436-6049

For Immediate Release

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Suspicious Death Under Investigation

(Georgetown, SC)---Georgetown County Sheriff's Investigators are currently investigating the suspicious death of 42-year-old James Vernon Wells of International Drive, Georgetown, that occurred last night in Georgetown County.

Georgetown County Sheriff's Deputies responded to 1367 International Drive (on the Sampit River between the South Carolina Ports Authority and International Paper) last night shortly after 6:30 for a reported fight in progress. Upon arrival they were met by Wells girlfriend who stated Wells was not breathing. When sheriff's deputies located Wells, they observed him receiving CPR from the suspect involved in this case and assisted by performing CPR while waiting for EMS.

After Wells was transported by EMS, the girlfriend told sheriff's deputies Wells arrived home shortly after 6:00 p.m. yesterday intoxicated and walked down towards the boat while she went inside to take a shower. While in the shower, Wells returned and began beating on the locked door and continued beating after the girlfriend told him she would be out in a minute. After Wells turned off the hot water, the suspect told him to leave her alone.

Wells then grabbed a mop and began striking the suspect in the stomach with the tip of the handle. When the suspect grabbed the end of the mop a struggle ensued causing Wells to fall. Once Wells was on the ground, the suspect laid on top of him while the girlfriend called 911.

The suspect in this case has not been charged at this time and the case will remain under investigation pending the final results of the autopsy that occurred at MUSC in Charleston at 11:00 this morning.
