



News from the Shelby County Sheriff's Office

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Boyfriend Arrested in Pregnant Woman's Murder



Sheriff's Deputies have arrested the boyfriend of a pregnant woman and her unborn child who were shot to death Friday night at her Arlington home.

Tarence L. Nelson, 26, who lives in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, has been charged with two counts of First Degree Murder. He was picked up last night by Deputies with the Rutherford County Sheriff's Office.

Shelby County detectives believe Nelson killed Tonya M. Johnson, 36, and her eight-month-old unborn child at 5686 Wolf Pack Drive. She was discovered dead in the living room by neighbors just after 10 P.M. when they noticed an open garage door.

Deputies believe the shooting resulted from an argument involving the unborn baby. Witnesses gave statements to detectives indicating Nelson is the suspected father of Johnson's child and that he and Johnson had often argued about whether she should deliver the baby or have an abortion.

Tarence Nelson remains at the Rutherford County Jail and will soon be brought back to Shelby County to face the double murder charges. Nelson, formerly of Memphis, has been previously arrested on theft of property and traffic charges.

(End of Release)