



Minnesota Coalition
for Battered Women

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TRIPLE HOMICIDE VICTIMS ADDED TO MINNESOTA'S DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNT

Saint Paul, MN – Three family members were murdered early Friday morning in Saint Paul's Payne-Phalen neighborhood. The victims are Minnesota's third, fourth and fifth known victims of domestic violence homicide in 2017.

Maria McIntosh, 19; her sister, Olivia McIntosh, 17; and their father, Wade McIntosh, 47, were shot and killed by Jeffrey Jemaile Taylor, the father of Maria's 18 month old child. Anita Sprosty, mother of Maria and Olivia, was also shot and critically injured. Taylor subsequently committed suicide. Friends informed the media that Maria had confided in them about being abused by Taylor.

"Any instance of violence in a relationship should be taken seriously by friends, family members, and systems professionals such as law enforcement," said Liz Richards, executive director of the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women. "Domestic violence programs are a resource for everyone who may have questions about how to support someone in an abusive situation."

A few days after the murder-suicide involving the McIntosh family a high-profile murder-suicide occurred in a San Bernardino elementary school. According to the Violence Policy Center, there are an average of 11 murder-suicides each week in the United States and 72% of murder-suicides are committed by an intimate partner. The victims are almost always women.

"As we help those experiencing domestic violence, we must also find ways to intervene with those committing violence," said Liz Richards, executive director of the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women. "Talking to someone about how their violent behavior concerns you can be difficult, but it can also be transformative."

On Monday, over 500 agencies, organizations, and individuals honored the three most recent victims of domestic violence homicide by displaying the Live Free Without Violence flag, a public awareness campaign spearheaded by the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women. Flags, yard signs and window decals will be placed in the public eye for a week to bring attention to the impact domestic violence has on communities across Minnesota.

For more information about the Live Free Without Violence campaign and domestic violence, contact Becky Smith at bsmith@mcbw.org or visit the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women's website at www.mcbw.org If you are a victim experiencing abuse, contact Day One at 866-223-1111 to connect with services.

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