



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SISTERS KILLED DUE TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Saint Paul, MN – Survivors of domestic violence are often encouraged to leave a relationship in order to escape the abuse. While this advice may seem like the best option, national statistics and data show that attempting to leave an abuser greatly increases the risk of lethality for survivors. This lethality risk can also extend to those close to the survivors.

Candi Cheryl Goochey, 37, and her sister, Heidi Eve Krotzer-Pierce, 40, were shot and killed by their brother-in-law, Bryce Bellomo, 34, in Nevis on February 14. Candi and Heidi arrived to a home daycare, owned by Bellomo’s mother, on February 14, to pick up their sister and Bellomo’s children. Bellomo arrived at the daycare not long after Candi and Heidi and an argument ensued. Authorities believe the argument arose from the divorce between Bellomo and Candi and Heidi’s sister. Bellomo fired shots outside the daycare, killing Heidi. Bellomo then fled in Heidi’s vehicle, which Candi was still in, leading police on a twenty minute chase. Throughout the chase, Bellomo repeatedly fired at officers, and injured a Hubbard County Sheriff’s Deputy. Bellomo later exited the vehicle and exchanged gunfire with another officer before killing himself in the driver’s seat. Candi was found dead from a gunshot wound in the back seat of the vehicle.

Bryce Bellomo has a history of domestic violence. In March of 2018, after an altercation with Candi and Heidi’s sister, Bellomo was convicted of disorderly conduct. He was still on probation for this conviction when he killed Candi and Heidi.

A GoFundMe account has been set up for the seven children of Candi Cheryl Goochey and Heidi Eve Krotzer-Pierce, and can be found [here](#).

“Abusers see their victims’ attempts to leave a relationship as a loss of power and control,” said Liz Richards, Executive Director of the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women. “It is important that safety planning take place for survivors and their friends and family when they leave a relationship. As a community, we need to provide everyone involved with support.”

Candi Cheryl Goochey and Heidi Eve Krotzer-Pierce are the fourth and fifth confirmed victims of domestic violence homicide this year.

If you are a victim experiencing abuse, contact Day One at 866-223-1111 to connect with services.

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