

CRAIG NORTHCOTT
District Attorney General



JASON M. PONDER
TIMOTHY L. REED
MARCUS D. SIMMONS
JOSHUA C. POWELL
JENNIFER R. CRAIGHEAD
JOHNATHON C. HERSHMAN
MICHAEL S. HIBDON
Assistant District Attorneys

OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY GENERAL
14th JUDICIAL DISTRICT
STATE OF TENNESSEE
POST OFFICE BOX 147, MANCHESTER, TN 37349
PHONE (931) 723-5055 — FAX (931) 723-5058

AMANDA SLIGER
Administrative Assistant
SMITA M. PATEL
Victim Witness Coordinator
CAROL M. LEMONS
Criminal Secretary
SAMANTHA VAN
ZANDBERGEN
DUI Coordinator
AMANDA M. WISER
Asst. Victim Witness Coordinator
JAMES SHERRILL
JASON WILLIAMS
Criminal Investigator

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

At approximately 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 3, 2025, the Coffee County Communications Center received a call regarding the apparent mauling by pitbulls of an adult male (later identified as James Alexander Smith, 50 years old) and an infant (later identified as the 3-month old granddaughter of Mr. Smith) at 905 E. Warren Street in Tullahoma, Tennessee. Tullahoma Police Department immediately arrived at the scene and observed the pitbulls actively mauling the infant. The dogs were killed to stop the attack. Regrettably, it was obvious that both victims were deceased.

This investigation is ongoing to determine cause of death of the individuals, whether the mauling was postmortem, past violent history with these or other dogs in the home, current or past issues related to the children requiring intervention by the Department of Children's Services and other potential issues that may have contributed to this situation. No decisions have been made at this time as to what, if any, criminal charges are appropriate. As indicated above, the dogs involved in the mauling have been euthanized. Other dogs in the home have been taken into the possession of Tullahoma Animal Control to determine the appropriate action to be taken with respect to them.

This investigation is led by Inv. Jessica Taylor of the Tullahoma Police Department and overseen directly by Chief Chase Sons and Deputy Chief Jason Kennedy. Anyone with information regarding this situation, please contact Inv. Taylor at (931) 455-0530 or Inv. Jason Williams or Inv. James Sherrill with the District Attorneys office at (931) 723-5055.

This was an especially difficult and brutal scene. Please pray for the family of the victims in this difficult time as well as the first responders as they cope with the trauma from what they witnessed.