



# JACKSON COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT

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Brady A. Parrish, 27, of Norman, IN was sentenced today in Jackson County Circuit Court in relation to the 2021 death of Lisha Branum, 58, of Seymour.

On February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, Parrish withdrew his not guilty plea and plead guilty to Voluntary Manslaughter a Level 2 Felony. Circuit Court Judge Richard Poynter accepted Parrish's guilty plea today and sentenced him to a total of 30 years in prison with 20 of those years to be served as an initial executed sentence in custody and 10 years of the sentence to be suspended.

The investigation started on 11/10/2021 when Deputies with the Jackson County Sheriff's Department responded to a call of an unconscious female inside a home in the 400 block West of CR 1050 North. The female was identified as Lisha Branum. Branum was pronounced deceased at the scene by a member of the Jackson County Coroner's Office. On scene investigation and autopsy results confirmed the cause of death as being gunshot wounds to the back. It was also determined that Branum had been deceased for a couple of days before being found inside the home. The investigation later discovered that Branum had been deceased since 11/08/2021.

Initially, the investigation was hampered by personal investigation conducted by a civilian close to Branum. The personal investigation greatly lengthened the investigation and ultimately weakened the case. The Jackson County Sheriff and the Jackson County Prosecutor strongly request that citizens not attempt to intervene in or conduct their own investigation and under no circumstances alter in any way a crime scene. Instead, they should contact law enforcement immediately and refrain from personal investigations.

Detectives located one (1) shotgun shell casing inside the home that was sent to the Indiana State Police Lab for DNA testing. Months after the investigation started the Indiana State Police Lab confirmed Parrish's DNA on the shotgun shell casing.

During the investigation detectives obtained numerous social media and cell phone data records through court subpoenas and search warrants. There were also more than 100 interviews conducted.

In March of 2022, cell phone data was obtained that led investigators to two (2) different witnesses. Both witnesses told investigators they had been in the area where the shooting took place on November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021, and heard at least two (2) gun shots. The witnesses said Parrish had contacted them on November 8<sup>th</sup> requesting to be picked up. The witnesses agreed to pick Parrish up at his mother's residence in Kurtz, IN. Witnesses said when Parrish got into the vehicle, he was in possession of a 12-gauge shotgun. According to the witnesses Parrish said he needed to stop by a house and Parrish directed them to Branum's residence. The witnesses said Parrish exited the vehicle with the shotgun and told them both to stay in the car. The witnesses reported hearing at least two (2) gunshots prior to Parrish returning to the vehicle. The witnesses said when Parrish returned to the vehicle, he was acting strange, and requested to be taken to a residence in Brownstown, so he could get some money to leave town. It was later learned which residence in Brownstown the witnesses had taken Parrish. The owners of that residence were interviewed, and a Ring doorbell video was obtained as evidence. The video showed Parrish at the residence on November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021. You can also see the witness's vehicle on the doorbell camera as they waited for Parrish to return. Investigators were able to compare cell phone data times from the area of the crime scene with the timestamp on the Ring video to show the witnesses and Parrish traveled from the area of the scene to the residence in Brownstown. The witnesses then took Parrish to Scott County and eventually back to Jackson County later in the evening on November 8<sup>th</sup>.

When cell phone data was provided to detectives by the cell phone carrier, data revealed that Parrish traveled out of state to Kansas City, Missouri on the day Branum's body was discovered. In August of 2022 an arrest warrant was issued for Parrish. Detectives traveled to Kansas City, Missouri and worked with their local law enforcement in locating and arresting Parrish on the Jackson County warrant. The arrest was made on August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Parrish eventually signed extradition and was transported from Missouri to the Jackson County Jail on 09/20/2022. Parrish has remained in the Jackson County Jail since.

Sheriff Rick Meyer gave credit to his detective division for the hard work and dedication they put into this investigation. "I'm very proud of their outstanding investigation work, and team effort that has brought justice for Lisha and her family." Meyer said.

Jackson County Prosecutor Jeff Chalfant also thanks the detective division of the Jackson County Sheriff, "Our sheriff's department detectives conducted the most thorough investigation I have ever seen – their hard work solved this homicide."