



## NEWS RELEASE

**Prosecutor Camelia M. Valdes**  
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### **FATHER KILLS CHILDREN, AGES 5 AND 3, THEN KILLS SELF**

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PATERSON, NEW JERSEY:

OCTOBER 19, 2010

Passaic County Prosecutor Camelia M. Valdes and Ringwood Police Chief Bernard Lombardo announce that on October 18, 2010, Ringwood Police Officers responded to 21 Skyview Road to check on the welfare of a father and two children. The police were alerted after the mother of the children contacted the authorities, concerned for the safety of her children after the father had taken the children from a Wayne day care center without her knowledge.

Ringwood police officers responded to the scene and found the couple's five year old daughter, Jada Birth, dead on the porch with a gunshot wound to the back of her head. The police then located the father, 38 year old Kurtis V. Birth, seated inside his car, a black Nissan Maxima, parked in the driveway. He was found dead from an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound to the right side of his head. Fearing for the safety of the second child, the police entered the home and found the three year old boy, Jordan Birth, also dead from an apparent gunshot wound to the back of his head. All three were pronounced dead at the scene.

While the investigation is ongoing, all indications are that the father killed the two children and then himself. The investigation is being led by Detective Sergeant Paul Rothlauf and Detective James Rapp of the Ringwood Police Department, and Detective Marco Aliano of the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office. The Passaic County Sheriff's Department Crime Scene investigators are assisting in the investigation.

Any inquiries may be directed to Passaic County Senior Assistant Prosecutor Robert Pringle at (973) 837-7640 or at [rpringle@passaiccountynj.org](mailto:rpringle@passaiccountynj.org)