



VISALIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

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NEWS RELEASE

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Cosmopolis Mother Will Not be Charged in Deadly Shooting

On June 25, 2021, Cosmopolis PD officers were asked to respond to a homicide that occurred at 412 "I" Street in Cosmopolis. When officers arrived on scene, they were told 41-year-old Joan Swift was found with blood on her and told officers that she fatally shot her 18-year-old son, Jerry "Adam" Day.

Swift was detained and transported to CPD for questioning. The Multi-Jurisdictional Major Crime was called to the scene to assist with the investigation.

Throughout the interview, officers discovered Day was using drugs and had suffered from a mental health illness his entire life. Recently, his mental illness became worse, and his drug use had increased. Day would have episodes where his behavior would become violent to the point where law enforcement had to be involved.

On the day of the homicide, Swift told officers she was asleep in her room when she was awakened around midnight by yelling and a crashing sound. The noise was coming from Day's room. Swift grabbed her gun and headed towards Day's room. She described the noise as an argument between Day and another person. As she walked out of her room, an unknown object was thrown at her. Swift then saw a man standing in the hall holding a case of water, motioning to throw it at her. Swift thought this man was there to hurt her son, Jerry Adam Day, and she needed to save him. It was at this point Swift pointed the gun at the man and shot him three times. She did not know the person she shot was her son until after she shot him. She called 9-1-1 after the shooting.

At this time, probable cause to arrest Swift for a crime did not yet exist. She was released.

A thorough investigation was done and the case was sent to the Grays Harbor County Attorney's Office.



On January 3, 2022, the Gray's Harbor County Prosecuting Attorney's Office decided to not file against Joan Swift.

Below is their statement:

"After review of the facts in this, and after consultation with your agency, as well as several attorneys in my office, we do not believe that we can prove criminal homicide. We have considered both murder and man slaughter charges. However, the victim's claim of defense cannot be disproven. The presumption of acting in self-defense while in one's own home is strong, and we cannot disprove her claims that she did not know the person she was shooting at was her own son. As you know, it is the State's burden to disprove a claim of self-defense. Because we cannot disprove Ms. Day's self-defense claims, I cannot charge her with the death of her son."

