

ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

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NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release
Nov. 19, 2008
2 Page(s)

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MAYS LANDING – An Atlantic County Grand Jury indicted a Galloway Township man Wednesday on multiple counts in connection with the August killing of his mother and niece and the attempted murder of another niece, Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel announced.

Ronald Weed, 41, was indicted on two counts of murder, one count of attempted murder, five counts of possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose and three counts of unlawful possession of a weapon. It is alleged that he attacked his mother Loretta Weed, 65, and 12 year old nieces Kimberly and Courtney McCarten at Loretta Weed's home located at 465 South Nectar Avenue. Courtney McCarten survived the attack but suffered severe injuries; Chief Assistant Prosecutor Cary Shill presented the case to the Grand Jury. The indictment was handed up to Superior Court Judge Bernard E. DeLury late Thursday afternoon.

It is alleged that Weed used an axe, blunt object, and a large knife to attack his mother. He then went after and hit repeatedly the twin girls with a blunt object just after 8 a.m. on Aug. 5 in Loretta Weed's home. One of the girls had called 911 to say that her grandmother was being attacked. Galloway Township Police and the Prosecutor's Office Major Crimes Unit responded to the scene along with medical personnel.

Ronald Weed was arrested at the home. He was initially charged with three counts of aggravated assault and weapons offenses. His mother died at the hospital a few hours after she suffered the injuries and Kimberly McCarten died two days later. The charges were then upgraded to two counts of murder and attempted murder.

Weed remains in the Atlantic County Justice Facility in lieu of \$1 million full cash bail.

*****These charges are merely an accusation and not proof of guilt. In all criminal cases, a charged defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.**

Anyone with information involving serious crimes is asked to call the Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office at 609-909-7800 or go to the Prosecutor's Office Web site at <http://www.acpo.org/tips.html> and provide information by filling out the form anonymously on the Submit a Tip page. People can also call Crime Stoppers at 609-652-1234 or 1-800-658-8477 (TIPS). Crime Stoppers offers cash rewards for information leading to the arrest and indictment of those who commit crimes in Atlantic County.