

ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

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Prosecutor

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

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MAYS LANDING – A Galloway Township man charged with murder in connection with the deaths of his mother and niece and the attempted murder of his other niece, entered a not guilty plea at his arraignment Wednesday, Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel announced.

Ronald Weed, 41, turned to look at some of his family members after being escorted into the courtroom by sheriff's officers for the brief post Indictment proceeding. Chief Assistant Prosecutor Cary Shill told the Court that he is waiting for a mental health professional's evaluation of the defendant. Weed's attorney Eric Shenkus stated he would provide the report to the State. Shill said upon a review of the report, the prosecution would make a determination whether to hire a doctor to perform a psychological evaluation of the defendant.

It is alleged that on Aug. 5, 2008, Weed attacked his mother and nieces using an axe, a blunt object and a knife. One of his nieces called 911 to say that her grandmother Loretta Weed, 65, was being attacked in her home at 465 South Nectar Avenue in Galloway Township. The woman died a few hours later. The defendant then allegedly turned his rage on his 12-year-old nieces Kimberly and Courtney McCarten. Courtney McCarten survived the attack but suffered severe injuries.

Weed, who was arrested and charged the day of the crimes, was indicted in November 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.

A status conference is scheduled for March 18 before Superior Court Judge Bernard E. DeLury. The defendant 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.