



Warrants provide insight into Pagel murder

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By BRAD EDWARDS

GRAND RAPIDS - 24 Hour News 8 obtained search warrants in the Renee Pagel murder case, warrants filed by investigators within hours of discovering her body.

An early warrant states the police were dispatched to the Pagel home on August 5 on "the report of a possible suicide."

But it soon became clear this case was murder.

Police discovered Pagel, 41, nearly naked in the bedroom of her home. The search warrant states she was "covered with blood," had "a large laceration on her right arm," "cuts on her right forearm," "cuts on her back." A detective noted "blood spatter all over the walls, window, mirrors and headboard."

24 Hour News 8 learned more details about a warrant seeking details of the divorce proceedings Renee and her husband, Michael, were going through. The warrant states, "The victim and her husband have been in a contentious divorce battle."

The warrant outlines some key facts. At a court hearing in July, the judge ordered Michael Pagel to get a better job and pay \$1000 a month in child support, despite his claim he only made \$400 a month.

The Pagels had three children.

The detective reports "Michael was livid and became irate" at the judge's decision.

One warrant outlines a break-in at Renee's house in April that "was not a robbery." Only "pictures and divorce papers were stolen." When asked to take a polygraph test, according to a detective involved in the case, Renee did and passed. Michael refused.

The investigation has revealed that within 10 days of her murder, Renee told a friend that Michael was becoming more "mean and scary" and "hates her (Renee) so much."

24 Hour News 8 also learned that police looked at Renee Pagel's tenant, the man who rented a room at her house. It's reported he took Renee out to dinner the night before she died, and was dishonest when asked about it by investigators.

After learning of our report, a detective called 24 Hour News 8 late Monday evening. This detective, working the Pagel case, said the tenant has been fully cooperative and "is not a person of interest."

In the past, Michael Pagel's lawyer denied Pagel had any involvement in his wife's death.



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