News Release
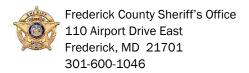
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
March 26, 2020

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Critical Missing Person – Katie Lehan / Update 3.26.2020

Over the course of several days, the Frederick County Sheriff's Office has been investigating the disappearance of **Kathleen (Katie) Lehan, 34, of Middletown.** Throughout the course of the investigation, several inconsistencies were found in Katie's husband's (Thomas Lehan) statements which led detectives to believe he was a person of interest in her disappearance. During this same time frame, based off of information obtained, the Sheriff's Office conducted a large search operation in South Mountain in the area of Reno Monument Road. The search was conducted over several days and included the use of canines, helicopter, and groups of search teams. These searches did yield further evidence to support Thomas Lehan's involvement in Katie's disappearance. The Sheriff's Office was supported in their search with assets and personnel from Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Police, Maryland State Police, Homeland Security Investigations, Frederick Police Department, the Frederick County State's Attorney's Office, as well as Customs and Border Patrol.

The investigation eventually led to a search and seizure warrant being executed at Lehan's residence where more evidence was located. Further investigations and information obtained today eventually resulted in Thomas Lehan providing investigators with Katie's location.

Investigators were led to a creek bed in a wooded area off of Burkittsville Road where they located Katie Lehan's body. The Sheriff's Office Crime Scene Unit processed the scene, and Lehan's body was transported to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner in Baltimore.

Thomas Anthony Lehan, 37, of Middletown, has been arrested and charged with first-degree murder. He was transported to the Frederick County Adult Detention Center. This investigation remains ongoing.

The family of Katie Lehan asked the Sheriff's Office to share the following message:

"We want to thank all of our friends, family and loved ones. The community has wrapped their arms around us. We appreciate all of the support. At this time we would like to ask for privacy as we navigate this news."

If anyone has any information related to this case, please contact Detective Leveille at 301-600-1046. Tips can also be left anonymously at 301-600-4131.

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Critical Missing Person – Katie Lehan / Update 3.25.2020

As of Wednesday, March 25th, 2020, Katie Lehan is still a **critical missing person.** The Frederick County Sheriff's Office is treating this as a critical missing person case and will continue to do so until she is located. The Sheriff's Office is expending every available resource to include allied agencies, K9 search, helicopter support, and technology to conduct the search for Lehan. **At this point there is no reason to believe there is any risk or threat to the general public, or to the residents of Middletown.**

Lehan was reported missing on Sunday afternoon, March 23rd from her home in Middletown. She was last seen wearing a gray Salisbury t-shirt, blue jeans, gray and pink socks, and black shoes. Lehan is 34 years old and has brown curly hair. She is believed to have left her residence on foot and did not take her vehicle.
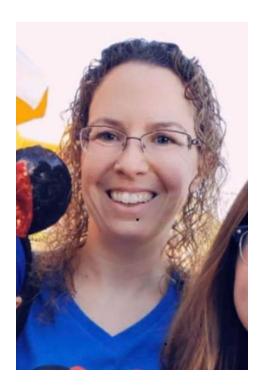
As this is a critical missing person, the Frederick County Sheriff's Office asks anyone that locates Katie Lehan or may have any information on her whereabouts to please call 911.

Updates on this case will be provided as they become available.

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(original missing persons release on the following page)

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MISSING PERSON

Kathleen (Katie) Lehan

W/F

34 years old

Brown curly hair

Missing from Middletown, MD area – last seen Sunday around 3:30 p.m.

Last seen wearing gray Salisbury shirt, blue jeans, gray/pink socks, and black shoes

Please call 911 if spotted or

if you have any information on her whereabouts