

CHARLESTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Sheriff Carl Ritchie
3691 Leeds Avenue
North Charleston, SC 29405




NON-EMERGENCY
843-202-1700


DISPATCH
843-743-7200

CCSO statement on Pinewood Drive homicide case

2026-011487

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, October 1, 2026

NORTH CHARLESTON, S.C. – On Tuesday, September 29, 2026, the Charleston County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) responded to the most difficult call any department could face. The senseless death of two innocent children.

Since August of 2026, CCSO personnel have responded to multiple calls for service at the residence on Pinewood Drive, including welfare checks and coordinating with the Department of Social Services (DSS) and the South Carolina Department of Mental Health Mobile Crisis Unit.

Contact was made with Justine May and the children on August 25, 2026, August 26, 2026, September 8, 2026, September 11, 2026, and September 12, 2026, during which deputies and other responding agencies observed no signs of concern. Since August 10, 2026, phone calls regarding the residence resulted in CCSO responding to the home thirteen times, accompanying DSS on one visit, and the South Carolina Department of Mental Health Mobile Crisis Unit on a separate visit. The Charleston County Sheriff's Office's most recent visit to the residence, which involved contact with Ms. May only, occurred on September 20, 2026.

On September 29, 2026, just after 12:30 p.m., deputies with the Charleston County Sheriff's Office, along with the family's case worker from DSS, responded to a request for a welfare check at the home on Pinewood Drive in Ladson. When deputies and DSS arrived, contact was made with Justine May when she exited the home. Due to past visits to the residence, responders were aware that May was the primary caregiver for the two children. When they entered the home to check on the welfare of the two children, they discovered their bodies inside the residence.

As part of standard procedure following any critical event, the Charleston County Sheriff's Office of Professional Standards is conducting a routine review of the incident. Additionally, the South

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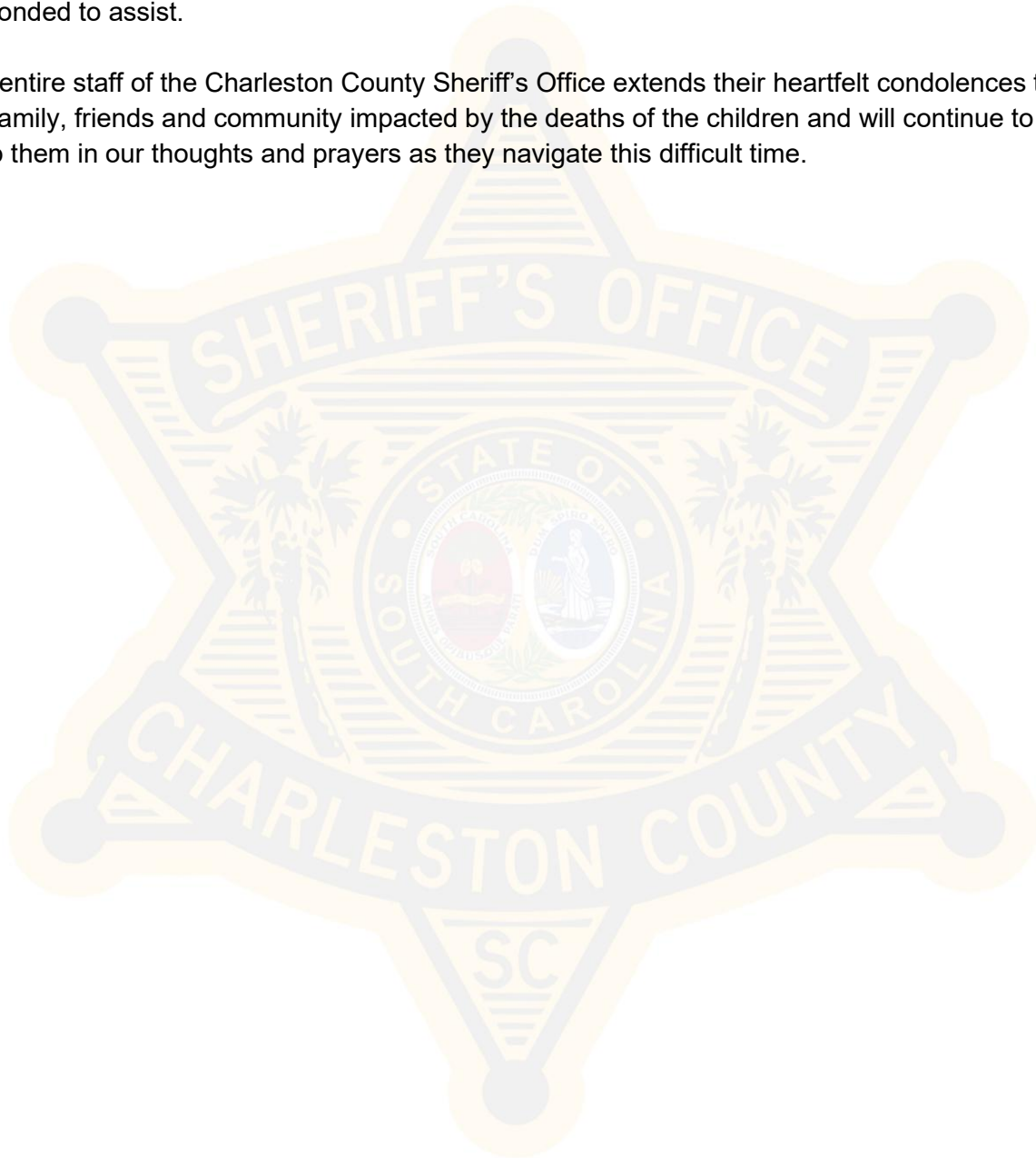



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Carolina Law Enforcement Division's Special Victims Unit Department of Child Fatalities responded to assist.

The entire staff of the Charleston County Sheriff's Office extends their heartfelt condolences to the family, friends and community impacted by the deaths of the children and will continue to keep them in our thoughts and prayers as they navigate this difficult time.



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