

Man with local connections charged with murder

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A man with ties to Washington County is being held in the Jennings County Jail and is facing charges for allegedly murdering his ex-wife and shooting her daughter.

According to a story that appeared in The Columbus Republic, James "Darrell" Sowder, 62 , is facing charges of murder and attempted murder.

The Columbus paper reports that the Indiana State Police responded to a 911 call for help at an address in North Vernon.

After arriving, the story states that witnesses told police that a man had shot two women in the head and that the suspect was still in the area.

The story reports that police officers stopped a vehicle driven by Sowder and a handgun was lying on the front passenger seat of the vehicle.

Sowder was taken into custody.

The Columbus Republic report stated that deputies responded to the victim's address and on arrival found Candice A. Sowder 64, lying on the front porch with a fatal gunshot wound to the head.

The story said, officers then entered the home and located the second victim, Regina D. Johnson 42, who had also been shot in the head. Johnson was taken by helicopter to an Indianapolis trauma center.

The investigation is ongoing.