

# NEWS RELEASE

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**Luis A. Valentin, Prosecutor**

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## OCEAN TOWNSHIP MAN CHARGED WITH MURDER OF FORMER SON-IN-LAW

*Victim's ex-wife was previously charged*

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On August 24, 2010, Thomas Dorsett, 64, of Ocean Township, N.J, was arrested and charged with one count of first degree Murder, two counts of fourth degree Tampering with Physical Evidence and one count of third degree Tampering with a Witness. The charges are in connection with the homicide of Stephen Moore, 42, of Manchester Township, N.J. Mr. Moore's body was found in the trunk of his mother's burned 2001 Nissan Altima off of the roadway on Seaview Avenue in Long Branch, N.J., on August 18, 2010.

Dorsett is the second individual to be charged with Murder in connection with Mr. Moore's death. Dorsett's daughter, Kathleen, 36, also of Ocean Township, N.J., was arrested and charged with one count of first degree Murder and one count of fourth degree Tampering with Physical Evidence on August 23, 2010. For additional information regarding her arrest, please see the News Release entitled "Ocean Township Woman Charged with Murder of Former Husband" which was issued by the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office on August 23, 2010, and which is available on-line at the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office's official website: <http://www.prosecutor.co.monmouth.nj.us/press-releases.html>.

Following Thomas Dorsett's arrest, Monmouth County Superior Court Judge Thomas F. Scully set bail for Dorsett at \$2.5 million dollars, "cash only." Dorsett is currently a patient at a hospital in Monmouth County where he is being guarded by the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office. In the event that Dorsett is discharged from the hospital prior to posting bail he will be transferred to and lodged in the Monmouth County Correctional Institution. If Dorsett is lodged in the Monmouth County Correctional Institution in lieu of bail, he will then be scheduled for an Initial Appearance and Bail Review in Monmouth County Superior Court.

If convicted of Murder, the maximum potential custodial sentence is a State Prison term of up to life in prison and the minimum mandatory custodial sentence is a State Prison term of 30 years with a 30 year period of parole ineligibility. If convicted of Tampering with a Witness, the maximum potential custodial sentence is a State Prison term of up to 5 years. If convicted of

either count of Tampering with Physical Evidence, the maximum potential custodial sentence is an 18 month term.

Monmouth County Prosecutor Luis A. Valentin stated, "Notwithstanding the arrests of Kathleen and Thomas Dorsett, the investigation is continuing. Police are still actively investigating the circumstances surrounding the victim's death as well how his body came to be in the trunk of his mother's burning automobile. We are seeking the public's assistance in identifying all of the individuals who played a role in Mr. Moore's untimely death and the disposal of his body."

In order to assist members of the public in determining whether they possess information regarding Mr. Moore's death and/or the disposal of his body, a photograph of Thomas Dorsett which was obtained from the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission and a photograph of Kathleen Dorsett which was taken at the time of her arrest accompany this News Release.

Prosecutor Valentin requests that any individuals in possession of information which may potentially further the investigation contact Detective Jeffrey Wilbert of the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office at 1- 800/ 533-7443, Detective Michael Decker of the Long Branch Police Department at 732/ 571-5695, Detective Albert Vega of the Manchester Township Police Department at 732/ 657-6111, Detective Patrick Martin of the Ocean Township Police Department at 732/ 531-1800 and/or Detective Michael D'Amico of the Neptune Township Police Department at 732/ 988-8000.

Despite these charges, every defendant is presumed innocent, unless and until found guilty beyond a reasonable doubt, following a trial at which the defendant has all of the trial rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution and State law.

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