



## Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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### Media Release

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From: Michael Terry  
Deputy PIO, 352-797-3608

Re: Spring Hill Men Attack, Kill Acquaintance – 2024-01516Z

Date: January 16, 2024

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On 01-15-2024 at approximately 6:59 p.m., Hernando County Sheriff's deputies responded to a home on Elkin Avenue in Spring Hill to conduct a wellbeing check on **William Trudell DOB/11-26-1969**.

A family member called 9-1-1 to report **Dakota Croft DOB/03-05-1999** had possibly killed Trudell.

Upon arrival, deputies made contact with **Dustin McMillan DOB/02-04-1990**.

McMillan initially locked the front door and prevented deputies from entering the residence. Eventually, McMillan allowed deputies into the home, but indicated Croft was not home.

Another deputy who walked to the backyard of the home found Croft deceased, hanging from a tree.

Deputies then conducted a search of the surrounding area where they located Trudell's body lying on the ground in a nearby wooded lot. Deputies noted drag marks from the side garage door of the suspect's home to where Trudell's body was located.

During questioning, McMillan advised he and Croft had purchased alcohol earlier in the day and had been drinking. McMillan said he and Croft devised a plan to attack Trudell. McMillan said Croft was upset with Trudell for being a "Cop Caller" and disrespecting women in the home.

McMillan advised when Trudell entered the garage they ambushed him and killed him. A family member entered the garage a short time later and saw Trudell's body lying on the floor. That family member immediately left the residence.

McMillan said he and Croft proceeded to drag Trudell's body to a nearby wooded area and then began to clean up the garage and dispose of any evidence. Further investigation revealed Croft was currently under the supervision of the Florida Department of Corrections and had recently cut off his ankle monitor, which was located in the backyard.

Detectives believe it was shortly after that both men attempted to clean-up the garage and Croft then hanged himself.

McMillan was arrested and charged with one count of **First-Degree Murder** and **Tampering with Evidence**. He was transported to the Hernando County Detention Center where he is being held without bond.

***Hernando County Crime Stoppers / Anonymous Tips***

***If you have information on this case, please contact Hernando County Crime Stoppers. You will remain anonymous!***

***Hernando County Crime Stoppers can be reached by phone at 1-866-990-TIPS (8477) or \*\*TIPS from a cell phone.***

***You may also submit your tip via the internet at <http://www.hernandocountycrimestoppers.com> .***

***You will remain anonymous and also be eligible for a reward up to \$5,000 cash!***