



**SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION**

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# **PRESS RELEASE**

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Today, after an exhaustive investigation by the Yakima Sheriffs Department, the Yakima County Prosecutors Office dismissed the case against Tracy Culton, 11-1-00841-5. This case involved allegations in the West Valley aggravated murders of the Goggin family. Throughout the year and a half of investigation in this case, it has been made clear that Ms. Culton was not involved in the planning or participation in the triple homicide. The initial stages of investigation were based on various admissions made by Ms. Culton to third parties about the murders, going so far as offering details and specific admissions about her involvement.

In early October of 2012, the Yakima County Sheriffs Department assigned two senior detectives to the ongoing investigation. Through the course of their investigation, Ms. Culton's complete alibi was scrutinized. During this evaluation, dozens of witnesses were interviewed that supported the alibi of Ms. Culton during the time period that it is believed the murders were committed. Further, Ms. Culton took a polygraph examination and was directly confronted about involvement in the murders. The polygrapher concluded that she was truthful regarding her non-involvement in the planning and/or participation in the Goggin murders.

Within the last week, the State has also received results from the Washington State Crime Lab regarding forensic evidence related to the crime. None of the results implicates Ms. Culton. Based on the totality of the evidence, the State dismissed the case for insufficient evidence and in the interests of justice.

The Yakima County Sheriffs Department is continuing the investigation of this tragic case, and both law enforcement and the Yakima County Prosecutors are hopeful that justice will be served. Until further information is obtained, the Prosecutors Office will not provide additional information.