



**OFFICIAL MEDIA RELEASE**  
**KENT COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT**



Date: August 18, 2016  
Complaint Number: 16-140439  
Type of Incident: Death Investigation  
Reporting Officer: Det. Bowser  
Supervisor Approval: Lt. Ron Gates

**UPDATE – AUGUST 24, 2016**

An autopsy was conducted on McKenna Hilton and the manner of death was homicide with the cause of death being strangulation.

On August 24, 2016, the Kent County Prosecutor's Office issued adult charges on McKenna's 16 year old half-brother, Savon Schmus (father in common), for Open Murder. The incident occurred inside of McKenna's and Savon's residence they shared with their father and McKenna's mother in Lamberton Lakes Apartments. The arraignment is scheduled in front of Judge Distel of the 61<sup>st</sup> District Court for Thursday, August 25, 2016, at 1:30 PM.

**UPDATE – AUGUST 19, 2016 1:00 AM**

The victim was identified as McKenna Elizabeth Hilton, 18 years old, of Grand Rapids. A 16 year old suspect from Grand Rapids is in custody. The name is not being released until the case is reviewed by the Kent County Prosecutor's Office for official charges. An autopsy will be completed in the morning, but the case is being treated as a homicide.

**ORIGINAL – AUGUST 18, 2016**

The Kent County Sheriff Department is currently on a death investigation in Grand Rapids Township with an unidentified victim and are asking for the public's assistance in identifying the victim.

The victim is a white female, 18-28 years of age, approximately 5'3", thin build, brown shoulder-length hair with blond highlights. She has a silver Pandora charm bracelet with an owl wearing a graduation cap. She is wearing a white tank-top with horizontal blue stripes and black Adidas running pants. She is wearing metallic gold fingernail polish and metallic purple toenail polish.

Anyone with information, please contact Kent County Sheriff Dispatch at 616-632-6357 or Silent Observer at 616-774-2345.

Media Contact: 616-632-6236