

Murder-Suicides Committed by Concealed Handgun Permit Holders
May 2007 to the Present

This subset of the total number of people killed by concealed handgun permit holders contains vignettes describing the circumstances for incidents in which individuals with permits to carry concealed handguns killed at least one other person and then committed suicide.

The Violence Policy Center welcomes any new information regarding the status of any case (with verifiable source(s)). Use this link to contact the VPC: <http://www.vpc.org/contact.htm>.

Alabama

- **Concealed Handgun Permit Holder:** Michael McLendon

SUICIDE

Date: March 10, 2009

People Killed: 11 (including shooter)

Circumstances: On March 10, 2009, Michael McLendon, a self-proclaimed survivalist, killed his mother at their family home, beginning a shooting rampage that stretched across 24 miles. By the time McLendon took his own life in the midst of a police shootout at a factory where he had previously worked, he had shot four more relatives, including his 74-year-old grandmother, and five strangers, including the wife and 18-month-old daughter of a local sheriff's deputy. McLendon had a concealed handgun permit for two handguns. Police later found at the home he shared with his mother numerous how-to DVDs on committing acts of violence.

Source: "Officials: Alabama shooter depressed over failures," *Associated Press* at philstar.com, March 13, 2009.

Florida

- **Concealed Handgun Permit Holder:** Arthur Burroughs

SUICIDE

Date: March 8, 2008

People Killed: 2 (including shooter)

Circumstances: On March 8, 2008, Christine Burroughs, naked and covered with blood, ran to neighbor Alice and Lance Lather's house seeking refuge from her enraged husband, Arthur Burroughs. Burroughs followed his wife to the home, fatally shooting Lance Lather. Burroughs then barricaded himself in the neighbors' bathroom with his wife. A SWAT team and hostage negotiator were called to the house. Burroughs eventually shot and killed himself. Christine Burroughs had previously told Alice Lather that her husband wanted to kill her because she wanted a divorce. Burroughs had been previously employed in loss prevention and security for T.J. Maxx and had possessed a concealed handgun permit since at least 1999.

Source: "Domestic Dispute Spurred Shooter," *Palm Beach Post*, March 10, 2008.

Florida

- **Concealed Handgun Permit Holder:** Michael Leopold Phillips

SUICIDE

Date: January 19, 2008

People Killed: 2 (including shooter)

Circumstances: On January 19, 2008, Michael Leopold Phillips shot and killed his wife, Josefina Boza, before turning the gun on himself. Both were shot in the head and a police investigation determined the shooting to be a murder-suicide. Phillips' arrest record showed three charges since 1988 of domestic battery or assault on a spouse. From 1988 through 1990, one of Phillips' ex-wives was granted injunctions for protection against domestic violence. Phillips obtained a concealed handgun permit in 1999 and renewed it in 2006.

Source: "Murder, Suicide Cited in Deaths," *Palm Beach Post*, January 21, 2008.

Idaho

- **Concealed Handgun Permit Holder:** Jason Kenneth Hamilton

SUICIDE

Date: May 19, 2007

Total Killed: 4 (including shooter)

Total Wounded: 3

Law Enforcement Officers Killed: 1

Circumstances: On May 19, 2007, Jason Kenneth Hamilton, a member of the white supremacist group Aryan Nation, shot and killed his wife, a police officer, and a church sexton, and wounded three others before turning the gun on himself in a shooting spree in Moscow, Idaho. Hamilton had a concealed handgun permit “despite a [previous] domestic violence conviction that should have barred him from owning guns.” He also possessed a federally registered fully-automatic AK-47 machine gun, one of the guns he used in the shooting spree.

Source: “Shooter Linked to Aryans; Killer also had federal license for automatic weapons,” *Spokesman Review*, May 23, 2007; “Authorities investigate Hamilton’s gun purchase; Mass killer apparently obtained the automatic weapon late in 2004 or early in 2005; Ambush aftermath,” *Lewiston Morning Tribune*, May 24, 2007.

Massachusetts

- **Concealed Handgun Permit Holder:** Brian Marchand

SUICIDE

Date: February 1, 2010

People Killed: 2 (including shooter)

Circumstances: On February 1, 2010, Brian Marchand shot and killed his 17-year-old daughter and severely wounded his wife with a 9mm handgun before turning the gun on himself. Police received two 911 hang-up calls from the Marchand home and immediately called back. Olivia, a cheerleader and volleyball player at Westford Academy, answered and said “she was all set and there isn’t a problem.” Shots then rang out over the phone. Police rushed to the scene and found three bodies on the floor, with Marchand’s wife clinging to her life. According to the District Attorney, the Marchands were having some “marital discord” and financial trouble. Marchand had a concealed handgun permit and was an avid hunter.

Source: “Cops: Westford man kills daughter, self in triple shooting;” *Boston Herald*, February 2, 2010.

North Carolina

- **Concealed Handgun Permit Holder:** William Maxwell

SUICIDE

Date: November 2, 2009

People Killed: 4 (including shooter)

Circumstances: On November 2, 2009, William Maxwell shot and killed his wife Kathryn and their teenage children Connor and Cameron before killing himself. Neighbors could not say what drove a local businessman and basketball coach at the religious school where his teenagers attended classes to murder his family. Friends described the Maxwells as active churchgoers and good neighbors. Earlier on the day of the shooting, friends and relatives had gathered at the family's home to "see if they could lift the normally happy dad from his funk." Maxwell obtained a concealed handgun permit in January 2008.

Source: "Friends tried to help NC man who killed family," *The Associated Press*, November 5, 2009; "Police: NC father killed wife, 2 children, self," *The Associated Press*, November 3, 2009.

Ohio

- **Concealed Handgun Permit Holder:** Emmitt Weaver

SUICIDE

Date: April 7, 2009

People Killed: 2 (including shooter)

Circumstances: On April 7, 2009, 66-year-old Emmitt Weaver shot and killed his wife Betty, also 66, with a small caliber handgun and then turned the gun on himself. Deputies found both bodies in the living room of their home. Betty Weaver was lying face down with two gunshot wounds, and Emmitt Weaver was found in his recliner with a self-inflicted gunshot wound. The couple had reportedly been arguing, and Emmitt Weaver suffered from an unspecified medical condition. Emmitt Weaver was a hunter, kept several rifles in his home, and had a concealed handgun permit.

Source: "Police investigating murder-suicide," *The News-Messenger*, April 9, 2009.

Ohio

- **Concealed Handgun Permit Holder:** Anthony Rodecker

SUICIDE

Date: October 3, 2008

People Killed: 2 (including shooter)

Circumstances: On October 3, 2008, police discovered the bodies of Anthony Rodecker and his ex-girlfriend Brenda Keeler. Both had been shot and a gun was found nearby in what police suspected was a murder-suicide. Rodecker had been banned from the café where Keeler bartended. Her relatives had urged her not to give in to his requests to see her when he threatened to kill himself if she refused. Rodecker had a concealed handgun permit that he obtained in Union County, Ohio.

Source: "2 shot dead on Far West Side; Authorities suspect murder-suicide in deaths of woman, former boyfriend," *Columbus Dispatch*, October 4, 2008.

Pennsylvania

- **Concealed Handgun Permit Holder:** George Sodini

SUICIDE

Date: August 4, 2009

People Killed: 4 (including shooter)

Circumstances: On August 4, 2009, George Sodini, 48, opened fire at an LA Fitness Center in Collier, Pennsylvania, killing three women and wounding nine others before turning the gun on himself. Sodini entered the club shortly before 8:00 PM armed with two 9mm pistols with 30-round clips, a .45 pistol, and a .32 pistol. He was also carrying two additional 30-round clips in a gym bag. Sodini then walked into an exercise class where an aerobics class was underway and turned the lights off. He then walked further into the room and started firing, emptying one of his 9mm pistols. Drawing the second 9mm, he opened fire again, stopping with 12 rounds still in the clip. Sodini fired at least 36 rounds from his two 9mm pistols before shooting himself in the head with the .45 handgun. The entire episode lasted approximately one minute. A note recovered from Sodini's bag complained about being rejected by women and expressed his hatred toward them. Detectives found four rifles and shotguns in his house as well as a typewritten note in which Sodini said he planned to kill himself. Sodini had a concealed handgun permit and legally possessed the guns used in the shooting. In his blog, Sodini revealed that he had attempted to carry out the shooting on a prior occasion, entering the club with loaded weapons, but did not go through with the attack. In the journal he also expressed rage at family members and frustration at not being able to "connect" with women. The day before the shooting he wrote, "I took off today, Monday, and tomorrow to practice my routine and make sure it is well polished. I need to work out every detail, there is only one shot....Total effort needed. Tomorrow is the big day."

Source: "LA Fitness shooter had lethal plan," *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, August 6, 2009.

South Carolina

- **Concealed Handgun Permit Holder:** James Forrest Mobley

SUICIDE

Date: May 10, 2007

People Killed: 3 (including shooter)

Circumstances: On May 10, 2007, James Forrest Mobley shot and killed two fellow workers at a Best Buy construction site before turning his handgun on himself. Mobley had overheard the two co-workers discussing him, including one who called him crazy. Mobley grabbed his handgun from his lunch pail and shot the two men 14 times before shooting himself in the head. During the incident he stopped to reload so that he could continue shooting. Mobley had been convicted of marijuana possession in 1975, had an animal complaint, and was subject to a breach of peace charge. Investigators confirmed that Mobley possessed a concealed handgun permit.

Source: "How Thursday's construction site shooting rampage unfolded," *Island Packet* (Hilton Head, SC), May 12, 2007; "Gunman killed 2 after being called 'crazy,'" *The Myrtle Beach Sun-News* (South Carolina), May 12, 2007.

Tennessee

- **Concealed Handgun Permit Holder:** Austin Agee

SUICIDE

Date: March 2009

People Killed: 2 (including shooter)

Circumstances: In March 2009, Austin Agee shot and killed Lisa Davis and dumped her body in a field where he used to ride four-wheelers. On March 7, 2009, Agee, Davis, and three other acquaintances partied together in the Beale Street entertainment district in Memphis. The group dropped Davis off at her residence early Sunday morning, but Agee is believed to have returned to the house. Friends reported Davis missing on Sunday when she failed to show up for work at Bumpus Harley-Davidson. On Tuesday, March 10, 2009, Agee fatally shot himself after detectives arrived at his residence to question him as a “person of interest” in the Davis disappearance. A note found at his residence quoted Agee as being sorry for what he had done and revealed where the body could be found. Agee had a concealed handgun permit which was issued on November 10, 2008.

Source: “Details Emerge About Tennessee Model Slain in Mysterious Murder,” *FoxNews.com*, March 13, 2009; “Double tragedy: Suspect’s note leads to remains of missing Bartlett woman in Lakeland field,” *Memphis Commercial Appeal*, March 10, 2009.

Texas

- **Concealed Handgun Permit Holder:** Moises Gonzalez

SUICIDE

Date: December 30, 2008

People Killed: 2 (including shooter)

Circumstances: On December 30, 2008, Moises Gonzalez, 28, embarked on a two-day crime spree that began when he fired shots into ex-girlfriend Maura Marroquin's car in a busy McAllen intersection. Gonzalez then kidnapped Marroquin, 23 and the mother of a three-year-old, at gunpoint and commenced a series of crimes spread over approximately a dozen jurisdictions that included stealing four cars, brandishing a gun at victims, and eluding police in high-speed chases. At one point, McAllen police took the unusual step of calling a press conference to warn the public about Gonzalez's growing propensity for violence. Gonzalez, who had a concealed handgun permit, eventually killed Marroquin in an H.E.B. supermarket, shooting her twice in the torso. He then stole a Cadillac which he crashed into the entrance of a Wal-Mart, plowing through the check-out aisles. He then turned his gun on himself, ending his life. Hidalgo County Sheriff Lupe Trevino told reporters that he had never seen a more violent crime spree in more than 20 years as a law enforcement officer, stating, "It was very obvious this was going to end violently. Sure as hell, that's the way it turned out."

Source: "New Year's murder-suicide in Texas stores," *Associated Press* at dallasnews.com, January 2, 2009; "Murder-suicide perpetrator described as 'very jealous person,'" themonitor.com, January 2, 2009; "Two dead in crime spree, man goes on rampage killing ex-girlfriend, self," brownsvilleherald.com, January 1, 2009.

Utah

- **Concealed Handgun Permit Holder:** Justin Matern

SUICIDE

Date: December 17, 2009

People Killed: 4 (including shooter)

Circumstances: On December 17, 2009, Justin Matern shot and killed his wife and two sons, ages six and four, before turning the gun on himself. Matern killed his family members at the apartment his wife had moved into after leaving him. Prior to the shooting, Matern wrote a note he left at work describing his plans. He also sent text messages after the killings. The couple had experienced money problems including state-imposed tax liens in 2004 and 2008. Relatives said that Matern was distraught over the separation from his wife. Matern's daughter said that he obtained his concealed handgun permit when the family had previously lived in a Salt Lake City neighborhood that he feared was unsafe.

Source: "Murdered family had money troubles, anxieties," *Salt Lake Tribune*, December 19, 2009.

Virginia

- **Concealed Handgun Permit Holder:** Aaron Poseidon Jackson

SUICIDE

Date: May 5, 2008

People Killed: 4 (including shooter)

Circumstances: On May 5, 2008, Aaron Poseidon Jackson, 24, shot and killed his two children, one-year-old Aaron Neptune Jackson and two-year-old Nicole Aaron Jackson, and their mother Latasha Nicole Thomas, before taking his own life. Jackson, who had a concealed handgun permit, was wearing body armor and was surrounded by guns and ammunition when police found him dead in their home in the Walt Lou Trailer Park. Jackson shot his wife with an AK-47 type WASR-10 assault rifle. He shot his children, found in a crib in a bedroom they shared, with a Smith & Wesson .38 revolver. Jackson killed himself with the revolver. Police later searched the trailer and seized at least seven guns, six knives, a machete, a sword, and numerous boxes of ammunition.

Source: "Police: Man killed children and their mother before turning gun on himself," *fredericksburg.com*, May 6, 2008; Stafford County Sheriffs Office Incident Report.