



BROOME COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sheriff Frederick J. Akshar II

Undersheriff Sammy L. Davis

155 Lt. Van Winkle Drive, Binghamton, NY 13905

For Immediate Release:

August 29, 2025

Contact Emmanuel Priest

607-778-2437

emmanuel.priest@broomecountyny.gov

BROOME COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE PRESS RELEASE

Death Investigation in Conklin Ruled Murder-Suicide Due to Family Dispute

(TOWN OF CONKLIN, NY) The Broome County Sheriff's Office released more details on the death investigation in the Town of Conklin that has been ruled a murder-suicide stemming from an ongoing family dispute.

Death in Pennsylvania Sparks Check Welfare Complaint in Conklin

On the morning of Friday, August 22, 2025, Michael Shuta, age 65 of the Town of Conklin was found deceased at a family owned property in Montrose, PA. Shuta's death was ruled a suicide from a self-inflicted gunshot wound from a .357 Magnum revolver.

Upon learning of his death, Shuta's family members contacted the Broome County Sheriff's Office with concerns about Shuta's nephew, Matthew Slavetskaskas, age 41, of the Town of Conklin.

The family noted that they were unable to reach Slavetskaskas, and that he had been involved in an ongoing dispute with this uncle, Michael Shuta, who lived in a trailer at the back of Slavetskaskas' property at 4467 Brady Hill Rd in the Town of Conklin.

Check Welfare Complaint Leads to Murder Investigation

On Friday, August 22, 2025, at approximately 3:30 PM, Broome County Sheriff's Office deputies performed a welfare check at Slavetskaskas' residence at 4467 Brady Hill Rd. in the Town of Conklin.

Upon arrival, deputies found Slavetskaskas deceased inside his residence, due to multiple gunshot wounds to the head and torso from a .17 HMR small-caliber revolver, which was found at the scene.

General Information:
(607) 778-1911

Fiscal:
(607) 778-2928

Garnishees:
(607) 778-2926

Civil:
(607) 778-2145

Identification:
(607) 778-2924

Records:
(607) 778-2166

Investigation Findings

Following a full investigation of the scene, review of home security camera footage, witness reports and forensic evidence, the Broome County Sheriff's Office Detectives Division, with assistance by the New York State Police Forensic Investigation Unit, established that Michael Shuta had conspired to murder his nephew, Matthew Slavetskaskas, due to an ongoing property dispute, and after committing the act, took his own life in the following timeline of events:

- On Thursday, August 21, 2025 around 10:00 PM, Shuta was viewed on one of the residence's home security cameras dressed in all black, knocking down a separate security camera in the rear of the house. At the time, Slavetskaskas was at another residence nearby and manually deactivated the remaining home security cameras from his phone.
- Between 10:30 PM – 11:00 PM, Slavetskaskas arrived at home and got into a physical dispute with his uncle in the backyard, where he sustained multiple gunshot wounds to the head and torso from a 17 HMR revolver.
- After being shot, Slavetskaskas locked himself in his home at the front of the property, where he died from his wounds. Slavetskaskas' cell phone was found still in his truck at the rear of the residence.
- Shuta then left his black clothing and murder weapon at the scene before leaving for Montrose, PA, where he ended his life with a .357 Magnum revolver.
- Shuta was discovered by passers-by on the front porch of his family's property the next morning on Friday, August 22nd.

Both pistols used in the murder and the suicide were registered to Shuta.

“With no eyewitnesses to this murder, our Detectives Division performed extensive work to rule out any involvement from an outside party,” said Sheriff Fred Akshar. “I commend their diligence and dedication to examining all the evidence to establish a clear narrative. I'd also like to thank the New York State Police who were outstanding partners in this investigation. Finally, I'd like to thank the public for their patience as our team concluded our work and did things the right way. It would have been irresponsible to prematurely release a narrative before the necessary facts were gathered and the work was done.”

###