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## Chapmans held without bond, charged with murder in connection with 71-year-old's death

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**Kristin Longley | Flint Journal**

**FLINT, Michigan** — A Holly Township woman and her granddaughter are being held without bond after being accused of murder and elder abuse in the death of a 71-year-old woman in Mt. Morris Township.

Mary Chapman, 70, and her granddaughter Vamerolyn Chapman, 34, were arraigned on the charges today before 67th District Court Judge David J. Goggins.

They did not have an attorney on record as of this afternoon.

Authorities say the Chapmans neglected to properly care for Joann Christopher, who weighed just 64 pounds with only part of a fruit peel in her stomach when she was found dead March 2 on the couch of a home on West Stanley Road, Sheriff Robert J. Pickell said.

The home was not licensed by the state as an adult foster care home, he said.

"She never got any medical attention for her when it was needed, as far as our investigation showed," Pickell said. "There's no reason this had to happen."

The two were arrested on Wednesday and are lodged in the Genesee County Jail.

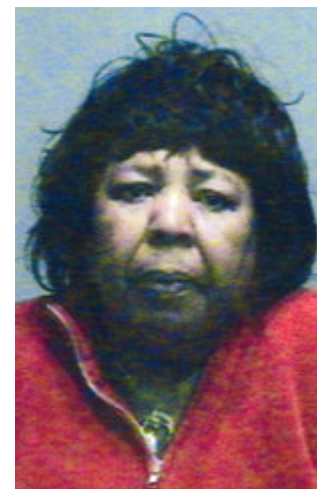


Vamerolyn Chapman

The arrests cap an eight-month investigation by the Elder Abuse and Exploitation program, Pickell said. Mary Chapman has connections to 14 homes in and around Genesee County, he said.

Authorities also are investigating the death of a 91-year-old woman who died on March 9 at an adult foster care home operated by Chapman's daughter on Beard Street in Flint. Pickell said that case remains under investigation.

Chapman has a history of issues with adult foster care homes.



Mary Chapman

The state revoked her license in 2005 after a state Department of Human Services investigation found numerous instances of residents wandering away from her Holly Township home, including one in which a resident died after being hit by a car.

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