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Man Fatally Shoots Wife, Kills Self

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Mike Bowersock Reporter Send e-mail Biography

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Police said the city's first homicide of the year took place Tuesday night when a man fatally shot his wife before turning the gun on himself.

According to investigators, Michael Gwinn killed his wife Patricia and then himself at the Lake Club Apartments on the city's far-east side, NBC 4's Mike Bowersock reported.

Police said the shootings occurred earlier in the day Tuesday, possibly in front of the couple's three young boys.

"(The shooting occurred) probably less than 12 hours ago," said Columbus police Sgt. Eric Pilya. "It's kind of hard to narrow it down at this point."

The family of Patricia Gwinn said she was working full-time, doing well in college and had recently left her husband Michael in an attempt to get a divorce.

"He just abused her in so many bad ways that she was just trying to get out of the situation," Gwinn's sister Gretchen Benjamin said.

The family said that Michael Gwinn was in the National Guard and had returned from Iraq earlier in the year, Bowersock reported. According to police, officers had responded to the apartment on domestic calls before.

"We do have a history of police coming out here on domestic situations and I haven't confirmed this yet, but I believe there was a protection order," Pilya said.

Patricia Gwinn's family said she did obtain a protection order against her husband two weeks ago, Bowersock reported. Her other sister Soraya Benjamin said she was excited about getting out of the relationship.

"She was very happy, very vibrant," Soraya Benjamin said. "She was trying to get out of an abusive relationship."

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