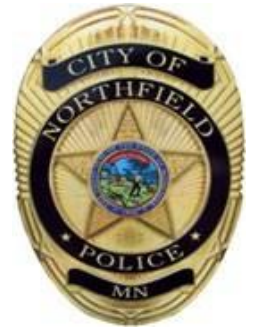


NORTHFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT

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July 5, 2022

Press Release Update

Missing Person Investigation

The Northfield Police Department held a press conference today at 3pm updating the information on the investigation of missing 6-year-old Elle Ragin.

The following information was discussed at that time:

As of this time authorities have been unable to locate Elle. We continue to ask for the public's assistance in sharing any information they have concerning the disappearance of Elle or her current whereabouts.

Officers and Agents have followed up on hundreds of leads and case information that has developed in the past 3 days since this was first reported on July 2 at about noon.

A recap of the original call is the Northfield Police Department was called to a residence at 604 Maple Brook Court by an extended family member. Police discovered an apparent suicide of a 39 year old female resident of the home, Lisa Wade. Police were unable to locate Wade's 6 year old daughter Elle Ragin. Police searched the house and surrounding area with officers, canine teams, drones, and helicopter and did not locate Elle or any evidence outside of the home.

Initial investigation revealed that Wade may have been involved in the disappearance of her 6 year old daughter before taking her own life.

The investigation has revealed the following information:

- Elle was last seen on Sunday June 19.
- On June 21 at about noon Lisa Wade drove from her home in Northfield to Mississippi River Park in Stearns County just outside of Rice, MN in her black Honda CRV. We learned this information from her cell phone records obtained by search warrant.
- At about 3pm her cell phone shut off in the area of the park and has not turned on since that time.
- On June 23 at about 9am a Stearns County Deputy had contact with Lisa in the park near her parked vehicle. She told the deputy she lost her phone and car keys while hiking in the park and needed assistance. She was alone at that time. The deputy assisted her in arranging for a tow for the vehicle to a dealership near St. Cloud to get a new key made for the vehicle.
- During the week of June 25 Lisa had contact with family members and seemed distraught.
- When officers learned of the Mississippi park location teams of canines, drones, dive teams, boats, underwater search drones, along with public safety search teams searched the park and the Mississippi river.

- The search revealed evidence related to this case including the discovery of Elle's cell phone on land, and Lisa's cell phone, and purse (containing her driver license, and vehicle key fob) in the river.
- The search of the park and river is ongoing and the park and this portion of the river is closed to the public at this time by order of the Stearns County Sherriff.
- Investigators have been able to locate video of Lisa between June 23 and July 2 at various locations, but Elle was not seen with her at any of those times.
- An autopsy was performed on Lisa Wade and we are awaiting lab results for the final autopsy report.
- The BCA crime lab has completed processing of the home and lab analysis is pending on any items of evidence recovered from the home. Additional analysis of her vehicle is in process.
- Lab analysis of the items recovered at the park is in progress.

This is an open and active investigation. We will have updates as new information is discovered. We continue to get a high level of support from the Rice and Stearns County Sheriff's Departments, the Minnesota BCA, and the FBI Minneapolis field office.

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