

Mr. Knudsen,

As the Attorney General of Montana, I understand you are the Chief Legal Officer overseeing all Sheriff's and Law Enforcement in the State of Montana. I have a concern regarding the mishandling of a missing person (and subsequent death) case by Mineral County Sheriff Mike Toth (outgoing), Deputy Ryan Funke (now Sheriff), Mineral County Sheriff Office (in general), and Mineral County Attorney Office.

Rebekah Barsotti went missing July 20, 2021, after filing domestic violence charges against her husband David Barsotti, in a court of law. Before the appointed court date, Rebekah mysteriously went missing, after arranging to pick up her personal belongings (from the marital home) through a third-party employee of David Barsotti at Town Pump in Superior, MT. A body was recovered May 17, 2022, on the riverbank of the Clark Fork River and identified as Rebekah Barsotti June 2, 2022. Immediately (July 20, 2021), Sheriff Toth maintained this was an accidental drowning without ever investigating. Sheriff Toth refused to investigate David Barsotti as a suspect and told Rebekah's mother David Barsotti would never be considered a suspect. He refused to open an investigation into Rebekah's missing status and the suspicious circumstances surrounding Rebekah's death. It appears Sheriff Toth and other law enforcement protected David Barsotti, instead of investigating whether a crime occurred and whether David Barsotti had something to do with Rebekah's disappearance and subsequent death. Witnesses came forward placing David Barsotti at Town Pump and being physical with Rebekah on the same day she went missing. In October 2021 a man came forward with telephone recordings claiming to have been hired by David Barsotti to kill the Mastrovitos by burning down their temporary rental in Montana at night with them in it. Someone later called their private Montana Attorney threatening to burn down their home in Virginia. All police reports were deferred back to Mineral County with no further investigation warranted according to law enforcement. Why would death threats be made if Rebekah's missing was a river accident? Rebekah's Mother pleaded with Mineral County Board of Commissioners on November 26, 2021, to demand Sheriff Toth request

assistance from DCI. Sheriff Toth told Rebekah's mother in writing nobody can make him do anything. It seems there is severe travesty of justice in the case.

The autopsy performed by Montana State Crime Lab left the family with more questions than answers. For instance, the remains could not be identified by DNA - although they had a DNA sample from Rebekah along with DNA swabs from her mother and father. Also, the remains were intact and toxicology was done so there was a body good enough to get toxicology from but 3 tries to identify with DNA failed. The remains were identified by dental records - (although the remains had teeth missing that Rebekah was known to have). There were discrepancies in the autopsy with identifying tattoos Rebekah didn't have and not identifying tattoos Rebekah did have. Also, her height listed in the autopsy was taller than Rebekah was in life, and she was found in clothing different than reported by the last person to have seen her (David Barsotti's third party employee). As you can imagine, this has caused a lot of confusion and added grief for the family.

As the State Attorney General, I am asking you to please, immediately, begin an investigation into the Rebekah Barsotti disappearance and death that the outgoing Sheriff Mike Toth, incoming Sheriff Ryan Funke, the Mineral County Sheriff Office, and Mineral County Attorney Office failed to investigate. I understand there are members of law enforcement in Superior who are friends with David Barsotti (including outgoing Sheriff Mike Toth) and at least one MCSO deputy claimed to be David's alibi. After looking at the details of this, it really seems there is a cover up, Rebekah was a victim of domestic violence, and that she was potentially murdered! Both the outgoing and incoming Sheriff in Mineral County have been noncooperative with Rebekah's parents, Angela and Gerry Mastrovito. The Justice system Rebekah trusted to protect her failed her, returned her to the abusive husband she was fleeing from, and now she is buried in his back yard! Rebekah could be anyone's daughter in your state.

In ending, I am going direct your attention to the recent Ana Walshe case in Massachusetts. Law Enforcement has handled her missing case perfectly. Rebekah deserved the same.

I am asking you, Mr. Knudsen, as the State Attorney General, to begin a thorough investigation into the case of Rebekah Barsotti. Get to the bottom of Rebekah Barsotti's disappearance and death. If after a thorough investigation, you find

that misconduct and murder has occurred, please prosecute the person or persons responsible to the full extent of the law! I do not want to think that Montana may have corrupt law enforcement but at this point it sure seems that way.

Sincerely,