

WARREN COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 11, 2025

UPDATE SUSPECT CHARGED & LOCATED: JAMES R. DAWES
NEWARK, NEW JERSEY
AGE: 34

On Thursday, September 11, 2025 members of the United States Marshal's Service NY/NJ Regional Fugitive Task Force located and arrested Dawes in Newark, New Jersey. Dawes was wanted in connection with the death of Kevin Clervil that occurred on Monday, June 02, in the town of Phillipsburg, New Jersey.

After further investigation, on August 28, 2025, Dawes was charged on a Complaint Warrant with the offenses below. He is currently lodged in the Warren County Correctional Center in Belvidere, New Jersey. The Court is anticipated to hear the State's Motion for Pretrial Detention next week.

- 1) Homicide, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:11-3a(1), a crime of the first degree;
- 2) Certain person not to possess a weapon, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:39-7b(1), a crime of the second degree;
- 3) Possession of a Firearm for an Unlawful Purpose, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:39-4a(1), a crime of the second degree;
- 4) Unlawful Possession of a Weapon, specifically a handgun, without first obtaining a permit, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:39-5b(1), a crime of the second degree.

Homicide carries a maximum sentence of life in prison. Second degree crimes carry a maximum sentence of ten (10) years in New Jersey State Prison.

The charges are merely accusations. The defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

The investigation was conducted by the Phillipsburg Police Department and the Warren County Prosecutor's Office. Assisting with the investigation was the United States Marshal's Service NY/NJ Regional Fugitive Task Force, New Jersey State Police Crime Scene Unit, NJSP Strategic Investigations Unit, Essex County Prosecutor's Office, and the Newark, Millburn, Greenwich, Lopatcong, and Pohatcong Police Departments.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 02, 2025

SHOOTING INCIDENT
SUMMIT AVENUE
PHILLIPSBURG, NEW JERSEY

On Monday June 02, 2025 at approximately 4:26 am, Warren County Communications Center received a 911 call in which the calling party stated that someone was attempting to forcibly gain entry into their residence, located on the 100 block of Summit Avenue. Upon the arrival of officers from the Phillipsburg Police Department, Kevin Clervil of East Orange, New Jersey, was located outside the residence, suffering from several gunshot wounds. Kevin Clervil was transported to St. Luke's Hospital Warren Campus where he succumbed to his injuries. The New Jersey State Police and the Warren County Prosecutor's Office are assisting the Phillipsburg Police Department with the investigation. The individuals involved in this incident were known to each other. There is no additional information available at this time.

This is an ongoing investigation. The Warren County Prosecutor's Office and Phillipsburg Police Department are asking anyone with information to contact the non-emergency line at the Phillipsburg Police Department (908) 835-2002.