



June 29, 2022  
For immediate release

## **Kolstad indicted on 1st-degree murder for housemate's death**

A grand jury on Wednesday indicted a Morristown man on charges of first- and second-degree murder for the May 31 death of his housemate.

Cody Vernon Kolstad, 32, was charged June 1 with second-degree murder for the shooting death of Brian Daniel Stoeckel, 41, after Kolstad self-reported the shooting and told officers he had pulled the trigger. When Rice County Sheriff's deputies arrived at the home in Morristown, they found Kolstad lying face down on the lawn. Stoeckel was in his bedroom with an apparent gunshot wound to the neck.

Kolstad told the deputies that he had been "taking lots of drugs" and was stressed out.

When interviewed by investigators, Kolstad said that the prior evening someone told him either he or Stoeckel needed to die by midnight, so he took a semi-automatic shotgun from an unlocked cabinet, went to Stoeckel's bedroom and fired twice. One round is believed to have struck Stoeckel in the neck, the other damaged a nearby wall.



Cody Kolstad

Rice County Attorney John Fossum said he sought the indictment because "there is evidence (Kolstad) had enough premeditation to meet the statutory requirements" and that a charge of first-degree intentional murder is "appropriate in this case."

In Minnesota, first-degree intentional murder carries a sentence of life in prison without the possibility of release.

Six witnesses appeared before the grand jury, including investigators from the Rice County Sheriff's Office and the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension.

Kolstad needs to be formally arraigned on the charges. That date has not yet been set.

### Contact:

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**State of Minnesota  
District Court**

**County of Rice  
Third Judicial District**

CCT LIST CHARGE STATUTE ONLY  
COURT CASE NO. 66-CR-22-1228  
1 609.185(a)(1)  
2 609.19 Subd. 1(1)

MOC  
H1H12  
H2012

GOC  
DATE FILED  
6/29/2022  
6/29/2022

CTY ATTY  
FILE NO.66-0051440

CONTROLLING  
AGENCY CONTROL NO.

**Indictment**

if more than 6 counts (see attached)

- SERIOUS FELONY
- FELONY
- GROSS MISDEMEANOR DWI
- GROSS MISDEMEANOR

**State of Minnesota,**  
**PLAINTIFF,**

VS.

NAME:	Date of Birth	
Cody Vernon Kolstad	10-19-1989	Defendant

**DEFENDANTS.**

**INDICTMENT**

*The above named Defendant(s) is/are hereby accused and charged by the Grand Jury of the above-named County, in the State of Minnesota, by this indictment of the offense(s) of:*

**Murder in the First Degree**  
**Murder in the Second Degree**

**In violation of:**

**SECTION:**  
Minn. Stat. §609.185 (a)(1)  
Minn.Stat. §609.19 Subd.1(1)

*Committed on or about the 30th or 31st day of May, 2022, at*

**LOCATION:**  
103 2<sup>nd</sup> Street SE, City of Morristown, RICE COUNTY, MN

*In the above-named Rice County, Minnesota.*

**Witnesses Examined Before the Grand Jury:**  
Deputy Luke Morris, Rice County Sheriff's Office  
Sergeant Daniel Belcourt, Rice County Sheriff's Office  
Officer Jacob Holm, Faribault Police Department  
Deputy John Pesta, Rice County Sheriff's Office  
Investigator Jason Witt, Rice County Sheriff's Office  
Special Agent Matthew Lund, Bureau of Criminal Apprehension

INDICTMENT CONTINUATION

MURDER IN THE FIRST DEGREE

On or About May 30 or 31, 2022 in the County of Rice, State of Minnesota, Cody Vernon Kolstad did cause the death of Brian Stoeckel with premeditation and with intent to effect the death of Brian Stoeckel in violation of M.S. §609.185(a)(1).

MURDER IN THE SECOND DEGREE

On or About May 30 or 31, 2022 in the County of Rice, State of Minnesota, Cody Vernon Kolstad did cause the death of Brian Stoeckel with intent to effect the death of Brian Stoeckel. §609.19 Subd.1 (1).

DATE:

June 29, 2022

Signature of Foreperson of the Grand Jury

Clerk's Signature or File Stamp:

STATE OF MINNESOTA

COUNTY OF RICE

**STATE OF MINNESOTA**

Plaintiff

Vs.

**Cody Vernon Kolstad**

Defendant(s).

RETURN OF SERVICE

I hereby Certify and Return that I have served a copy of this **INDICTMENT** upon Defendant(s) herein-named.

Signature of Authorized Service Agent: