

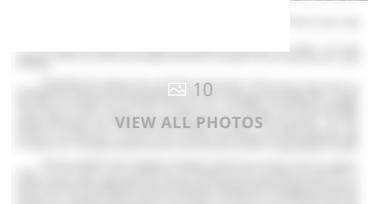
# Germantown homicide suspect released from Montgomery County jail in April due to COVID-19

by Kevin Lewis, Montgomery County Reporter (ABC7)  
Saturday, August 8th 2020



Docket Date: **04/30/2020** Docket Number: **36**  
 Docket Description: **HEARING**  
 Docket Type: **Ruling Filed By: Court Status: Granted**  
 Ruling Judge: **JORDAN, RICHARD E**  
 Reference Docket(s): **Motion: 35**  
 Docket Text: **HEARING (JORDAN, J.) ON DEFENDANT'S CONSENT EMERGENCY CONSENT MOTION FOR RELEASE FROM CUSTODY DUE TO IMMEDIATE THREAT POSED BY COVID-19 PANDEMIC (#35) - GRANTED. MS. MOUNT, STATE'S ATTORNEY, VIA TELEPHONE. PTSU AGENT APPEARED, VIA TELEPHONE.**  
 Audio Media: **51-043020 Start: 12:04:15 Stop: 12:09:45**

Docket Date: **04/30/2020** Docket Number: **37**  
 Docket Description: **DEFENDANT APPEARED**



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In April, a Montgomery County judge granted Justin Wilson a so-called "compassionate release" from jail due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Less than three months later, Wilson, a repeat criminal, allegedly stabbed a man to death. (Photo: Montgomery County Police Department)

GERMANTOWN, Md. (ABC7) — The man accused of stabbing a 63-year-old Germantown father to death in July was freed from jail only months earlier, amid COVID-19 pandemic concerns, court records confirm.

On April 23, Justin Wilson, 26, filed an emergency petition with the court system. Wilson sought a special release, due to what court records described to be an "immediate threat posed by [the] COVID-19 pandemic."

At the time, Wilson was an inmate at the Montgomery County Correctional Facility in Clarksburg. He was awaiting trial on several charges of theft, plus rogue and vagabond. The latter charge is typically applied in cases where police catch a suspect breaking into a vehicle or possessing burglar tools.

On April 30 — one week after Wilson pleaded with the court for clemency — Montgomery County Circuit Court Judge Richard Jordan held a telephone hearing. According to court records, that hearing lasted just under six minutes. It resulted in Judge Jordan granting Wilson a \$5,000 unsecured personal bond. Such bonds do not require defendants to put down any money for their release.

## 'SHE SAW A KNIFE AND BLOOD.'

On July 23, Montgomery County Police homicide detectives responded to a single-family home on Duhart Court in Germantown, near Kingsview Middle School.

Around 11:30 a.m. that day, the male homeowner's 16-year-old daughter woke up in her bedroom to the sound of screaming downstairs. The girl walked to the base of the stairwell and allegedly saw Wilson tussling with her father, Edigio lenzi, 63, at knifepoint. The girl ran back to her bedroom, locked her door, hid in the closet, and called 911.

"The caller is whispering, advising she saw a knife and blood on the steps," a dispatcher told fifth district patrol units as they sped to the home. "She says her father was seen lying on the floor. No further at this time."

 **Kevin Lewis**  @ABC7Kevin · Aug 8, 2020 

EXCLUSIVE: On April 30, Montgomery County Circuit Court Judge Richard Jordan freed Justin Wilson from jail bc of COVID-19 concerns.

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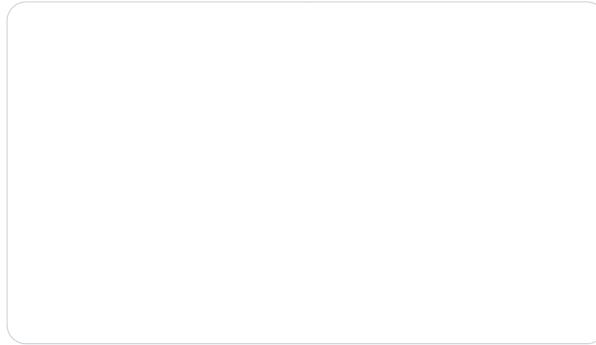
On July 28, Wilson, a repeat offender, allegedly murdered a boy in his Germantown, Md. home.

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The victim's 16yo daughter witnessed part of it.

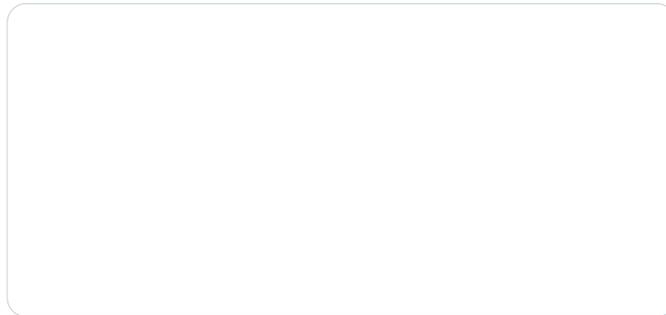


**Kevin Lewis** ✓  
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MORE: The girl awoke to shouting, walked downstairs and allegedly saw Wilson tussling with her father at knifepoint.



"The caller is whispering, advising she saw a knife and blood."  
-dispatcher



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Police entered the two-story house and quickly called for fire rescue. Medics rushed lenzi to Suburban Hospital in Bethesda, which is the primary trauma center in Montgomery County. The 63-year-old's injuries, however, were too severe. He was pronounced dead a short while later.

Meanwhile, officers set up a perimeter in the residential neighborhood, circulated local hangouts, and shared the suspect description over the police radio:

A man in his late 20s or early 30s, with a tall, muscular build, plus long, curly, dirty brown hair pulled back in a ponytail. The man was wearing a vest, t-shirt, and blue jeans.

Investigators caught a lucky break thanks to surveillance video from two neighbors' homes. One clip showed a man matching Wilson's description, pacing in the street while talking on a cell phone shortly before the murder. A second video showed the same man running away from Duhart Court a short while later.

The following day, lenzi's son told detectives that Wilson — who is 6-foot-4 and 250 pounds — was the person responsible for killing his father. The son said he had his suspicions, but seeing the surveillance video confirmed it.

"The son stated that he was well acquainted with Wilson and that they were friends," investigators wrote in court documents obtained by 7 On Your Side. "The two had met years prior."

WATCH Wilson visited the family's Duhart Court home a few weeks earlier. He rer they had several safes within the home. Shortly after that, lenzi discover gone missing. Court records do not divulge why Wilson allegedly returned to the lenzi home on the morning of July 23.

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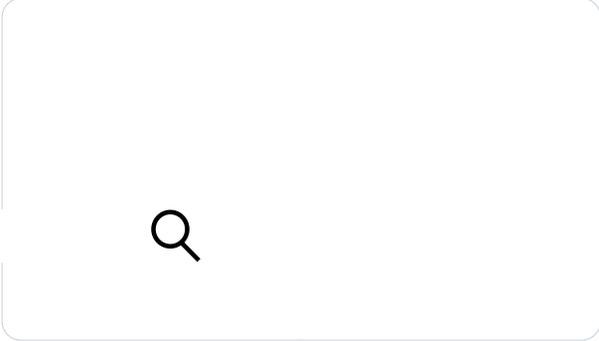
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MORE: 63yo Edigio lenzi (pictured) is the murder victim in this case.

lenzi's son recalled telling Wilson, a longtime friend, that his dad loved to gamble and that they had several safes in the home.

Not long after, lenzi discovered around 30 of his silver coins were missing.



**Kevin Lewis**  @ABC7Kevin

MORE: Cops caught a lucky break thanks to surveillance video from two neighbors' homes.

One clip showed a man matching Wilson's description, pacing in the street and talking on a cell phone before the murder.

A second video showed the same man running away a short while later.



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On July 25 — almost 48 hours to the minute after lenzi's murder — detectives filed an arrest warrant against Wilson. On July 28, police caught Wilson in Stafford County, Va., some 65 miles southwest of Germantown. On Tuesday, authorities extradited the 26-year-old to Montgomery County on a charge of first-degree murder. In court the following day, a judge denied Wilson any bond.

Law enforcement sources, frustrated by the situation, tell 7 On Your Side that someone in power ought to provide answers. In a written statement, the Montgomery County State's Attorney's Office explained that Wilson was in custody for non-violent property thefts, and successfully convinced Judge Jordan that his state of health was in jeopardy.

curtailing the spread of COVID-19 understood him to be in a high-risk he  
orionoff, the spokesman for the state's attorney's office. "Unfortunately

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he was out. Police have arrested him, he was extradited from Virginia, and he remains held on no-bond status in the County jail per our  
request this past Wednesday. We will move forward to prosecute him for the murder of which he is accused."

### 'CURTAILING THE SPREAD OF COVID.'

The hysteria of COVID-19 led jails and prisons across the nation, and the globe, to swiftly reduce their inmate populations out of fear  
that the respiratory virus would spread like wildfire. Multiple law enforcement sources say the Montgomery County Department of  
Correction and Rehabilitation was no exception.

On June 24, 7 On Your Side submitted a Maryland Public Information Act (MPIA) request with Montgomery County's public information  
office. The MPIA sought the name, age, and release date of all criminal defendants who have received so-called "compassionate  
releases" because of COVID-19. More than six weeks later, and 7 On Your Side is still waiting for Montgomery County to release those  
public records.

On Thursday, [the Washington Post broke the story](#) of an Alexandria rape suspect — released in April due to COVID-19 health concerns  
— who allegedly killed his female rape victim on July 29. A simple Google search returns dozens of news stories from around the

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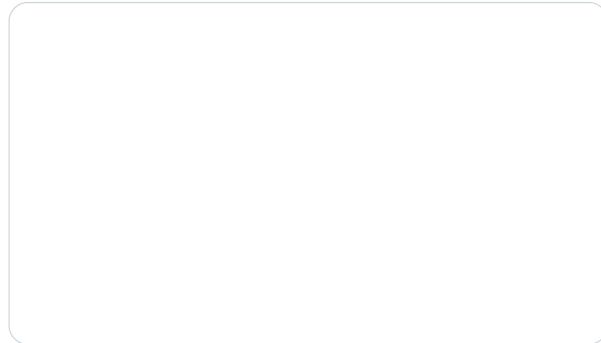
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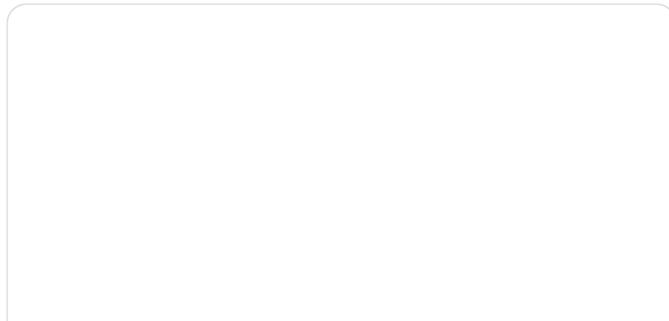


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MORE: On June 24, I sent Montgomery County a Maryland  
Public Information Act request.

It sought the name, age, and release date of all defendants  
who've received compassionate releases due to COVID.

Now more than six weeks later, and I'm still waiting for those  
public records.



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See the latest COVID-19 information on Twitter

## JUSTIN WILSON'S CRIMINAL RECORD

Wilson's criminal history in Maryland's adult court system dates back to 2012 when he was only 17 years old. Court records show police have arrested Wilson multiple times since then.

"Wilson has an extensive criminal history for offenses ranging from theft, assault, and burglary tools to armed robbery, and he had a prior conviction for felony armed robbery," police noted in court documents attached to the pending murder case.

In October, the Montgomery County Police Department's communications office [published a press release online](#) after officers nabbed Wilson for a rash of vehicle break-ins across Aspen Hill, Germantown, and Rockville.

**May 2012:** Police charge Wilson with armed robbery. He is found guilty in May 2014 and sentenced to five years in prison.

**July 2013:** Police charge Wilson with theft less than \$1,000. He is found guilty in September 2013 and sentenced to around ten months in jail.

**October 2013:** Police charge Wilson with unlawfully taking a motor vehicle. He is found guilty in January 2014 and sentenced to two years in prison.

**February 2014:** Police charge Wilson with violating probation. He is found guilty in May 2014 and sentenced to nine months in jail.

**August 2019:** Police charge Wilson with theft between \$1,500 and \$25,000, credit card fraud, possession of marijuana, and rogue and vagabond. The criminal case is still pending.

**September 2019:** Police charge Wilson with theft between \$1,500 and \$25,000, credit card fraud, and rogue and vagabond. The criminal case is still pending.

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