



Police: Detention officer planned rat-poison suicide after killing wife

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A Maricopa County Sheriff's Office employee accused of killing his wife said he planned to commit suicide by eating rat poison, according to a Phoenix Police report.

Jeffrey Hamlet, 56, a detention officer, had intended to kill himself but told police he decided to kill his wife first because she would not be able to take care of herself if he died.

Hamlet was arrested on suspicion of the murder of his wife, Katherine, after he was confronted by police at his home at 40th Street and Shea Boulevard on Wednesday night.

Hamlet's son called officers to the home after finding his father unconscious and bleeding from the head in his bedroom, according to a police report.

Police said that when officers arrived, they found Hamlet awake and standing in the kitchen, according to the report. Hamlet saw the officers, grabbed a knife and attempted to stab himself. Officers used a Taser and subdued him.

Police officers later found the body of Hamlet's wife wrapped in a tarp inside the home, according to the report. Officers also found a note written by Hamlet that said, "I'm going to hell, you're going to heaven."

After being treated at a hospital, Hamlet said he beat his wife to death with a steel bar wrapped in padding and cotton socks. He told police that he had planned to commit suicide by eating rat poison and bleach.

After receiving treatment for his injuries, Hamlet was transported to Madison Street Jail where he was booked for one count of first-degree murder.

Hamlet had a prior history of domestic violence, according to a police report.

Hamlet had been placed on administrative leave by the Sheriff's Office Feb. 1 after he was arrested for DUI a day prior, a spokesman for the Sheriff's Office said. He was set to be served his termination papers Friday, but was not aware of it, the Sheriff's Office said.

"This is a very tragic and sad incident," the Sheriff's Office said in a prepared statement. "The family will be in our thoughts during this difficult time."

