Maricopa County Sheriff’s Office Cracks Murder Mystery
Litchfield Park Man Charged With Murdering His Wife

Detectives with the Maricopa County Sheriff’s Office Major Crimes Division have charged a Litchfield Park man with the 2015 murder of his wife. Elias O. Udechime (8/5/1964) was charged on September 5, 2017, with Second Degree Murder in the death of his wife, Chinonye Anenechi Udechime (8/18/1978). Suspect Udechime is being held in the Maricopa County Jail on $500,000 bond.

MCSO Deputies were called by Suspect Udechime to his home just after 5:00AM on September 24, 2015. Suspect Udechime claimed to have found his wife in bed, not breathing and cold to the touch. He told investigators she had taken medication the night before and had made suicidal statements to him in the past. Investigators questioned Suspect Udechime that day and learned that the couple had been involved in a domestic violence fight in February 2015. Suspect Udechime had been arrested for domestic violence assault.

The victim’s body was taken to the Maricopa County Medical Examiner for an autopsy. In June of 2016, the Deputy Chief Medical Examiner, William T. Stano III, MD, ruled that Ms. Udechime’s death was a homicide.
MCSO Major Crimes Division Homicide Detectives continued their investigation and on September 5, 2017, an arrest warrant was issued for Suspect Udechime for Second Degree Murder. MCSO’s Fugitive Apprehension and Tactical Enforcement Unit (FATE) located and arrested him without incident.

“This is what hard work, persistence, and collaboration can deliver,” said Sheriff Paul Penzone. “Working with our partners at the Medical Examiner and County Attorney’s Office, we were able to arrest a person who believed he’d gotten away with murder. Justice will be served, even if it takes time to make the case.”

The Maricopa County Sheriff’s Office thanks the Maricopa County Medical Examiner and the Maricopa County Attorney’s Office for their assistance in making the arrest and in the continuing prosecution of the suspect.