



Ohio Attorney General's Office  
Bureau of Criminal Investigation  
Investigative Report



2022-1564  
Officer Involved Critical Incident – 1132 Ashwood Drive, South  
Charleston, OH (L)

**Investigative Activity:** Autopsy Review  
**Involves:** Cole Matthew White (S)  
**Date of Activity:** 12/07/2022  
**Activity Location:** – 1132 Ashwood Drive, South Vienna, OH 45369, Clark County  
**Author:** SA Richard Ward, #55

**Narrative:**

On Wednesday, December 7, 2022, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigations (BCI) Special Agent Richard Ward received an email response from Clark County Coroner's Office Investigator, Melanie Bender related to Cole White's cause and manner of death. The email listed cause as *Inhalations of products of combustion* and manner as *Undetermined*. the email correspondence is attached below.

On July 24, 2022, Cole White shot and killed Clark County Deputy Sheriff Matthew Yates and his (White's) mother, Jodi Arbuckle. After a lengthy standoff, Yates' body was recovered during which the trailer at 1132 Ashwood Court catch fire. Cole White remained inside the trailer and perished.

**Attachments:**

Attachment # 01: RE Final Coroner email communication

# **Exhibit 1**

**From:** Bender, Melanie [mbender@clarkcountyohio.gov]  
**To:** 'Richard Ward' [Richard.Ward@OhioAGO.gov]  
**Cc:** Undisclosed recipients;;  
**Subject:** RE: Final  
**Sent:** Wed 12/7/2022 7:04 AM GMT-05:00  
**Importance:** Normal  
Inhalations of products of combustion  
Manner-undetermined

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**From:** Richard Ward <Richard.Ward@OhioAGO.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 6, 2022 11:18 AM  
**To:** Bender, Melanie <mbender@clarkcountyohio.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Final

I have these Do we have a determination/ruling on a death certificate?

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**From:** Bender, Melanie <[mbender@clarkcountyohio.gov](mailto:mbender@clarkcountyohio.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 6, 2022 9:43 AM  
**To:** Richard Ward <[Richard.Ward@OhioAGO.gov](mailto:Richard.Ward@OhioAGO.gov)>  
**Subject:** Final

*Melanie Bender*

Investigator  
Clark County Coroner's Office  
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Springfield, OH 45505  
937-521-2116