

## Greenville police arrest woman believed to be baby's mother in Julie Valentine killing, father not charged

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Greenville police on Thursday announced the woman believed to be the child's mother has been arrested (April 4, 2019)

**GREENVILLE, SC (FOX Carolina)** - On Thursday, Greenville police Chief Ken Miller announced an arrest in the Julie Valentine Case.

Police said they identified and charged the mother in the nearly 30-year-old case after tracking down the father through DNA.

"Julie Valentine" was the name police gave to a newborn baby girl found dead in a Kenmore vacuum cleaner box in a field in February 1990 off the road now named Verdae Boulevard. The box was covered with bedding and rags.

Autopsy results indicated the baby girl had been born alive and may have lived several days before her body was found.

Julie Valentine went on to become a symbol for child abuse prevention in Greenville County, and the namesake of the [Julie Valentine Center](#), a Greenville-based nonprofit that helps victims of sexual assault and child abuse.

Julie Valentine's case went unsolved for 29 years until Miller announced Thursday that baby Julie's mother had been arrested.

Brook Graham, 53, of Hampden Drive in Greenville is now charged with homicide by child abuse. She is believed to be Julie's mother.

Graham was arrested Wednesday and denied bond during a hearing Wednesday night. A circuit judge will make a decision on bond at a later time

Brook Graham is believed to be baby Julie Valentine's mother, who was found dead in a box back in 1990 in Greenville County. She also is accused of failing to medically provide for a newborn boy one year prior in 1989. This person is considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

(Source: Greenville County Detention Center)

## **THE FATHER**

Greenville police have not charged Julie Valentine's biological father.

FOX Carolina spoke to the man, whose name has not been officially released. He declined to speak on camera but did confirm to our photojournalist he had been cooperating with investigators on the case.

Police initially approached him to collect a DNA sample, which he said proved he was Julie Valentine's father.

He said investigators later found out that he bought the vacuum cleaner that's box was used to dump the baby girl's body.

He claims he was unaware of what Graham did. He said Graham left him for another man years ago and he has since married another woman.

## **IDENTIFYING THE SUSPECT**

Miller said investigators reviewed Sears' vacuum order history and found that Graham's boyfriend from 1990 had purchased the same model vacuum as that listed on the box Julie was found in.

Graham and the boyfriend also lived in close proximity to the site where the body was dumped at the time.

Miller said DNA testing revealed Graham's former boyfriend was Julie's father.

After identifying the father, investigators secured a warrant to obtain saliva from Graham. Graham was brought to the Greenville County Law Enforcement Center on Wednesday and the DNA sample was obtained. Graham was then arrested.

Police said they have asked for expedited processing of the DNA analysis and expect to have Graham's results within a few weeks.

According to the arrest warrant, Graham was the only person Julie's father was in a relationship with at the time.

The investigation is ongoing and Miller said other charges are possible.

Police said the same forensic genealogy investigation methods used to solve the [Jenny Zitricki case](#) were used in this case.

## GRAHAM HAS LONG CRIMINAL HISTORY

A SLED check revealed Graham has a lengthy criminal history dating back to 1983, when Greenville police charged her with breach of trust. She had a number of other arrests for fraudulent checks, financial transaction card fraud, breach of trust, and a court charge of lynching - second degree in a 2001 case. Graham's last arrest was in 2006 when Greenville County deputies charged her with three counts of forgery.

## JULIE VALENTINE CENTER STATEMENT

Shauna Galloway-Williams, the Julie Valentine Center's Executive Director, issued a statement on Facebook Thursday after police announced an arrest in the case.

In addition to thanking police and reflecting on all of the things Julie was never given the chance to experience, Galloway-Williams also issued a challenge to readers, to not ask "why," but instead ask "what can I do?"

Below is the full statement.

*I can't tell you how many times I have said, "We may never know who Julie Valentine's parents are."*

*Today, although we have answered the question of who her parents are, we still have so many unanswered questions including the question of why. Although today we feel some satisfaction, closure, justice, at the same time we grieve. We grieve the loss of what could have been, all the firsts that Julie Valentine was never able to experience: the joy swinging on a swing, sliding down a slide, laughing, singing, dancing. This is the complicated nature of abuse, the wondering of what life could've been like if only... We ask the question of why, as if there is any explanation that would explain such a horrific act. This is the question we all have when a child is abused.*

*Today, I challenge each of us to not ask "Why", but instead ask "What can I do?"*

*We may never be able to answer the question of why this happened, but we know that together we can honor Julie Valentine everyday with simple acts of kindness, service and love for every member of the Greenville Community.*

*Thank you to Chief Miller and the Greenville Police Department for their dedication to seeking justice for Julie Valentine. Their work on this case sends a message of hope for justice and closure for victims. It was an honor to be with two of the original investigators, Bush Banton and Terry Christie, as we all shared the news with our community.*

*Shauna Galloway-Williams, Executive Director*

Galloway-Williams also included a photo of the Julie Valentine memorial sculpture in Cleveland Park.

The [Julie Valentine Center](#) took its name from the then-unsolved infant death case in 2011. Prior to that, the agency was known as the Greenville Rape Crisis and Child Abuse Center. The agency's roots can be traced back to 1973 when the Rape Crisis Council of Greenville was founded by volunteers.