



Phoenix Police Department
Public Affairs Bureau
620 West Washington Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85003



MEDIA ADVISORY

Date/Time: March 15, 2026, around 6:11 a.m.
Incident: 2026-354255
Location: 4300 West Medlock Drive
Suspect: Justin Carl Schmidt, 36-years-old, deceased

UPDATE: March 17, 2026

The suspect in this incident has been identified as Justin Carl Schmidt.

Sergeant Lorraine Fernandez
Public Affairs Bureau

Officer Involved Shooting

On March 15, 2026, at around 6:11 a.m., officers responded to a report of a fight near 43rd Avenue and Medlock Drive. When they arrived, they found an adult woman and a young child in the backyard of an apartment behind a locked wrought-iron gate. The woman told officers the man inside was armed. Officers used a Halligan tool to open the gate and safely remove her and the child.

Officers saw the man inside the apartment and gave him several commands to drop the gun, but he did not comply. They moved back to create space while waiting for additional officers. One officer deployed a drone to maintain a visual of the apartment door. The man later opened the door and pointed a firearm at the drone, ultimately shooting and disabling it.

The man refused to exit the apartment and remained barricaded. While inside, he fired multiple shots, which led to the officer-involved shooting. When the Special Assignments Unit arrived, they deployed another drone and located the man inside the apartment with a gunshot injury. Detectives entered and found him in critical condition. The Phoenix Fire Department later pronounced him deceased.

Once the scene was secured, detectives learned the man and woman were in a dating relationship. No officers or other community members were injured.

This is the second fatal incident related to domestic violence. We want the community to know that help is available. Anyone experiencing abuse or concerned about their safety is encouraged to reach out for support. Resources include the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE (7233) or www.thehotline.org.

This investigation is being conducted by the Arizona Department of Public Safety's Major Incident Division. Additional details related to this incident remain part of the ongoing investigation

Sergeant Lorraine Fernandez
Public Affairs Bureau

