

Numerous fields of study, including psychology, education, and security studies, have looked at the issue of targeted and mission-oriented violence and have come to the same conclusion about the solution. K-12 schools, colleges, universities, and workplaces should implement diverse, multidisciplinary, collaborative teams to identify concerning behaviors early and implement strategies to reduce the triggers for escalation and increase protective, supportive, mitigating elements around the individual at risk.

As you read through this document, look for behaviors that might have been reported to the team and think about the interventions that might have been put in place. Use D-Prep's Pathways ([www.pathwaystriage.com](http://www.pathwaystriage.com)) and DarkFox ([www.darkfoxthreat.com](http://www.darkfoxthreat.com)) tools to assess the risk and obtain intervention suggestions. The purpose for studying these past cases to learn how to prevent future violence, so consider that goal moving forward.

## FAMILY LIFE

- In December, 2022, Marcee Gray wrote on social media that she had left her husband. "Finally separated from my abusive husband of almost 14yrs," she wrote in one LinkedIn comment. "Hardest shit I've ever done but we're in good hands."
- In November 2023, Colin Gray called law enforcement and accused his wife of keying a truck he drove for his work at a construction company, writing "abuse" and "liar" on it, according to a sheriff's report.
- Two days later, police arrested Marcee Gray at a Walmart in Winder due to an active warrant from another county. Police found methamphetamine, fentanyl, pain pills, and a glass pipe in her car, and she and another man who was in the vehicle were arrested, another sheriff's report said.
- Law enforcement agents investigated 13-year-old Colt Gray in connection with a school shooting threat. Investigators with the Jackson County Sheriff's Office interviewed Colt and his father about a threat on the online chat platform Discord to commit a school shooting, documents obtained through a public records request show.
- His parents went through a bitter separation and custody dispute in recent years. They called law enforcement on each other, the family was evicted from at least one home, and Gray's mother was arrested on suspicion of keying her husband's car and drug possession, law enforcement records show.
- Gray's mother and maternal grandfather have accused Gray's father of being verbally abusive toward his family for years.
- Colin Gray told investigators he had hunting rifles in the house, and that "Colt is allowed to use them when supervised but does not have unfettered access to them."

## PREPARING FOR THE ATTACK

- The Discord account that the FBI had linked to Colt Gray last year referenced plans for a future mass shooting and shared screenshots of firearms.
- "im committing a mass shooting and im waiting a good 2-3 years," stated the account user, according to screenshots included in an FBI incident report from May 2023 obtained by CNN. "I cant kill myself yet, cause I'm not contributing anything to culture I need to go out knowing I did."

- The account referenced Adam Lanza, the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooter, and in separate posts shared a desire to target an elementary school and expressed frustration that transgender people were being accepted in society.
- Police found documents in which they believe he wrote referencing past school shootings, a law enforcement source familiar with the investigation told CNN.
- The source said that the writings were discovered in the bedroom of suspect Colt Gray, and included references to the 2018 massacre at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida.
- The suspect's father told investigators this week he had purchased the gun used in the killings as a holiday present for his son in December 2023.
- Colin Gray said his son was "getting picked on at school," with other students "pinching him and touching him... just ridiculed him day after day after day." He also that that he was "trying to teach him about firearms and safety and how to do it all and get him... interested in the outdoors," in part to get him away from video games.
- "He knows the seriousness of weapons and what they can do and how to use them and not use them," Colin Gray said.

## PREPARING FOR THE SHOOTING

- Colt Gray rides the bus to school, bringing with him an assault-style rifle concealed in his backpack, along with a knife. The school does not have metal detectors.
- During his Algebra 1 class, Gray asked the teacher if he could go to the front office and speak to someone, the bureau said. The teacher allowed him to leave class around 9:45 a.m. and take his belongings with him, according to a student who was sitting next to him in class.
- Gray sends an alarming, cryptic text to his mother, Marcee Gray, prompting her to warn the school something could be wrong. "I'm sorry, mom," the text read. An unknown person also called the school that morning, warning of shootings at five schools, with Apalachee to be the first.
- Gray's mother places a 10-minute phone call to the school around 9:50 a.m. She asks administrators to check on her son and authorities start searching for him.
- A resource officer went to look for the boy but there is another student in the same class with "almost identically the same name," and neither he nor Colt Gray are in the classroom at the time.
- The officers think they caught up to Colt Gray in time but were speaking to the other student, during which the shooting starts.
- Shortly after Gray leaves the bathroom and hides from teachers, he walks out with the rifle and starts looking for "soft targets."
- Authorities get the first calls of an active shooter on campus at 10:20 a.m. after someone presses a wearable panic button issued just a week earlier to teachers.
- The first call for the shooting comes in from a "RapidSOS" device at 10:22 a.m. ET, computer-aided dispatch reports released by Barrow County on Friday show. The Barrow County Sheriff's Office arrive at the school a short while later with two school resource officers

- “Active shooter!” an officer is heard yelling in one audio clip while speaking with a dispatcher, who repeats the phrase back to him. Another officer can be heard responding calmly, “Correct. We have an active shooter at Apalachee High School.”
- Two minutes later, authorities have the suspect’s name as “Colt” and one student is already dead, according to the reports.
- The suspect surrenders after a resource officer confronts him and he is taken into custody. By 10:30 a.m., Gray is “in custody, not injured,” the reports show.
- Fifteen minutes later, the reports show one person is dead in a hallway and three are dead in another hallway.
- At 11:38 a.m., the school sends an urgent text to parents: “Haymon-Morris Midd: Parents and Guardians, HMMS is still on a hard lockdown. HMMS students are safe and secure. Please be patient.”
- Just after 11:45 a.m., a woman who identifies herself as Colt’s aunt finds out about the text he had sent and makes a tearful call to a Barrow County 911 operator, saying she is afraid her nephew is involved in the school shooting at Apalachee High School.

## AFTERMATH

- Gray’s father, Colin, also arrested in connection with the shooting, accused of “knowingly allowing his son ... to possess a weapon.” He was charged with four counts of involuntary manslaughter; two counts of second degree murder; and eight counts of cruelty to children.



The D-Prep Safety Division trains K-12 schools, colleges, universities, law enforcement, and workplace on issues related to threat assessment, crisis preparedness, crisis response, emergency operations, behavioral intervention, mental health, diversity, equity and inclusion.

We offer a number of courses and workshops that can be customized to your institution. Most can be offered in person, live online, or as asynchronous courses.

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<https://www.cnn.com/2024/09/05/us/colt-gray-suspect-georgia-shooter/index.html>  
<https://www.cnn.com/2024/09/15/us/apalachee-high-school-shooting-timeline/index.html>