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CRIME

Palm Beach County man accused in workplace homicide under red-flag order after animal cruelty arrest

Romeish Morgan died in Friday's shooting at Coastal Metal near Royal Palm Beach. He was a welder, and the man charged in his murder was his assistant.

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ROYAL PALM BEACH — A 21-year-old man accused of killing his supervisor in a workplace shooting near Royal Palm Beach last week had a court order prohibiting him from possessing firearms under Florida's red flag law, according to online records.

Kolby Daniel Edwards is facing a charge of first-degree murder in the Jan. 17 shooting death of Romeish Morgan at the Coastal Metal welding business on the 9000 block of Belvedere Road just east of the village. Edwards is also accused of shooting and wounding another employee during the attack.

The Greenacres-area resident appeared in court at the Palm Beach County Jail on Jan. 19 after refusing to appear the previous day. Circuit Judge Carolyn Bell assigned Edwards a public defender and ordered that he be held without bail on the murder charge.

As a matter of policy, the county Public Defender's Office does not comment on open cases.

Lake Worth Beach: Man dies after pickup, sedan hit him as he crossed 10th Avenue North

Palm Beach County man banned from having guns for one year amid animal-cruelty case

Records show the courts had banned Edwards from possessing firearms for a period of one year at the time of the shooting. A judge in February 2024 imposed a risk-protection order following Edwards' arrest in an animal cruelty case in which he allegedly beat a dog to death with a baseball bat.

Florida's red flag law, which was passed in 2018 in response to the mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, allows for the removal of weapons from a person when law-enforcement agencies believe the person is a threat to themselves or to others.

Edwards has pleaded not guilty to the animal-cruelty charge and is awaiting trial.

He refused to appear to appear for a separate hearing Monday, Jan. 20 regarding the risk-protection order. During that hearing, Circuit Judge Donald Hafele found that there was probable cause for Edwards to be charged with violating the order and ordered that he be held on \$5,000 bail.

Boca raton: Wife faces murder charge in husband's fatal stabbing; police say blade hidden within cane

Suspected shooter was new hire at welding company near West Palm Beach

According to a sheriff's office report regarding the workplace shooting, Morgan was a welder for Coastal Metal and Edwards was his assistant. A Coastal Metal supervisor told investigators Edwards was a recent hire who began working for the company in December.

The arrest report did not indicate what led to the shooting.

The supervisor told investigators that Edwards was facing termination of his employment for consistently showing up late or not at all. However, he noted that Morgan and Edwards appeared to get along well and said there were no known issues between them. The supervisor said everything appeared to be normal in the hours prior to the shooting.

He told investigators he was in his office upstairs when he suddenly heard gunfire downstairs. The supervisor said he grabbed his .380 pistol and found Edwards holding a gun and standing over Morgan while attempting to reload.

He ordered Edwards to drop the weapon and other employees took Edwards to the ground and detained him until deputies arrived. Morgan had a gunshot wound to the head and another man had one in a shoulder. Paramedics took both to St. Mary's Medical Center in

West Palm Beach, where Morgan died.

An arrest report did not disclose Morgan's age or say where he lived.

According to the report, shortly after he was taken into custody, Edwards spontaneously asked if blood on his person was "mine or his." He asked if anyone had been hit besides "Pop," the man who was shot in the shoulder.

Multiple witnesses identified Edwards as the shooter and told investigators that he was armed with a .45-caliber handgun.

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