

3-year-old witnessed parents' Murder-Suicide

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Police are still trying to make sense of an incident that left two people dead last night in North Wilkesboro.

A series of 911 calls alerted North Wilkesboro Police to the scene, according to Sgt. Ralph Pittman. When police arrived at 16 East Waugh Street, they found 34-year-old Laura Renee Triplett and 52-year-old Bobby Joe Hodges dead of gun shot wounds. Triplett was found inside the living room front door and Hodges on the residence's porch. Their 14-year-old son was shot in the arm and abdominal area and is at Baptist Hospital recuperating.

He is expected to be okay.

An escalating argument is believed to have led Hodges to shoot Triplett, his son and then himself.

Police say Hodges and Triplett were in a long-term relationship and were the parents of both children in the home.

The 3-year-old daughter of Hodges and Triplett is believed to have witnessed the shootings. The 3-year-old is in the custody of family members, Pittman said.

While the investigation is ongoing, it's about tying up loose ends, Pittman said, not finding suspects.

When asked if police had been called to 16 East Waugh Street before, Pittman did not believe so, but could not be sure.