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NEWS RELEASE

Date: May 26, 2005
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Director of Communications

Charges to be Upgraded to Murder Against William Clegg in the Death of Laura Chelinski, 81

District Attorney Lynne Abraham today announced that charges against William Clegg will be upgraded to murder in the death of Laura Chelinski, 81. The decision to upgrade the charges to murder is a result of the Burlington County Medical Examiner today notifying the District Attorney's Office that the manner of Ms. Chelinski's death was homicide.

Ms. Chelinski died April 27, 2005 at Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital in Burlington County. She had been hospitalized, first at Northeastern Hospital, since April 13 when a man stole her purse and knocked her off her walker. She was recovering from a broken hip at the time of the attack, and her hip was broken again in the attack. She also suffered a broken shoulder. She was attacked while she was standing in front of her home on Anne St. in the Northeast.

William Clegg, DOB 4-26-67, was charged with aggravated assault, robbery, fleeing police and related offenses for the attack on Ms. Chelinski and for crashing his SUV into a house and two parked cars. He was held for court on those charges at a 4-20-05 preliminary hearing. Clegg is being held on \$50,000 bail for the original charges and will remain in custody.

Clegg could be officially charged as early as today pending the affidavit of probable cause from the Philadelphia Police Department and the full report from the Burlington County Medical Examiner.

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