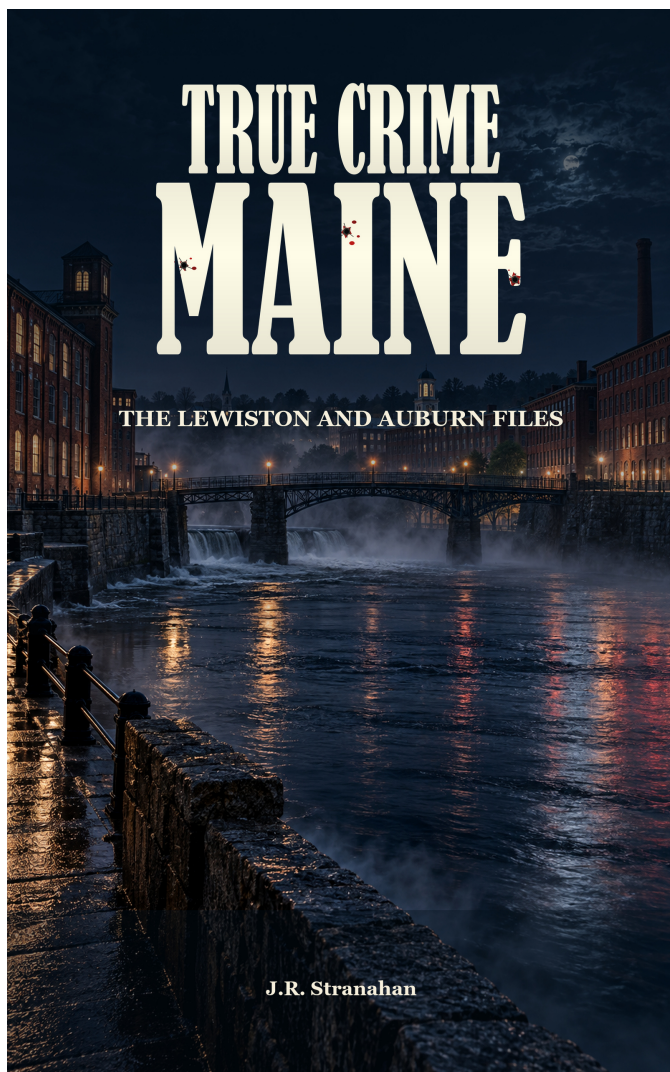


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# File 1: The Lewiston Mass Shooting

**Place and period:** Lewiston, 2023-2024

**Present legal status:** Robert Card died by suicide before arrest or trial. State investigators and an independent commission reconstructed the attacks and identified institutional failures without creating a criminal judgment. That remains the controlling public record.

This file belongs first to the eighteen people killed, the wounded survivors, their families, and the communities attacked. The public record is necessarily organized around investigation and adjudication, but a criminal case is not the measure of a life. The account uses the available record to describe what happened and how institutions responded, while avoiding invented biography where sources are silent.

## The human scale

On October 25, 2023, Card opened fire at Just-In-Time Recreation and Schemengees Bar and Grille in Lewiston. That fact is the fixed point for this portion of The Lewiston Mass Shooting. Begin with the person harmed, the routines interrupted, and the community that had to live with the absence. In Lewiston, later retellings sometimes collapse the investigation and the judgment into one continuous story. The public record does not. It preserves the order in which information appeared and the forum in which it was tested. The present legal posture is stated separately: Robert Card died by suicide before arrest or trial. State investigators and an independent commission reconstructed the attacks and identified institutional failures without creating a criminal judgment. That remains the controlling public record.

For the eighteen people killed, the wounded survivors, their families, and the communities attacked, the procedural vocabulary cannot be allowed

to eclipse consequence. Eighteen people were killed and thirteen were physically wounded. The detail belongs here because it changes the chronology, not because it supplies atmosphere. Begin with the person harmed, the routines interrupted, and the community that had to live with the absence. Keeping that boundary visible lets the reader understand both the institutional response and the loss that made the response necessary.

The 2023-2024 record from Lewiston contains a point that resists shorthand: A large multiday search ended when Card was found dead from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. The present legal posture is equally specific: Robert Card died by suicide before arrest or trial. State investigators and an independent commission reconstructed the attacks and identified institutional failures without creating a criminal judgment. That remains the controlling public record. Begin with the person harmed, the routines interrupted, and the community that had to live with the absence. One proposition may be established while a neighboring proposition remains disputed. Treating them separately is not hesitation; it is accurate reporting.

A headline can make this episode appear settled in a sentence. The underlying record is narrower. The independent commission reviewed warnings, military and law-enforcement contacts, mental-health events, and use of Maine's yellow-flag process. From there, the inquiry moves through source, timing, corroboration, and legal consequence. Begin with the person harmed, the routines interrupted, and the community that had to live with the absence. None of those steps authorizes invented dialogue or a claim about what the eighteen people killed, the wounded survivors, their families, and the communities attacked privately thought.

Location matters in this file. Lewiston determined which agencies, courts, and communities carried the case, while 2023-2024 marks the span over which the public learned it. The commission assigned responsibility to Card while also identifying missed opportunities before the shootings. Begin with the person harmed, the routines interrupted,

and the community that had to live with the absence. The result is a chronology with identifiable custodians rather than a collection of free-floating claims.

This part of the account begins with a modest question: what did the cited source actually establish? Its answer is plain: On October 25, 2023, Card opened fire at Just-In-Time Recreation and Schemengees Bar and Grille in Lewiston. The answer does not automatically prove motive, identity, or every charge in the case. Begin with the person harmed, the routines interrupted, and the community that had to live with the absence. The remaining status is stated without embellishment: Robert Card died by suicide before arrest or trial. State investigators and an independent commission reconstructed the attacks and identified institutional failures without creating a criminal judgment. That remains the controlling public record.

The case file gives different kinds of information different weight. Eighteen people were killed and thirteen were physically wounded. A contemporaneous observation, a laboratory result, a charging allegation, and an appellate finding do not perform the same job. Begin with the person harmed, the routines interrupted, and the community that had to live with the absence. Describing those jobs plainly is especially important when the story concerns the eighteen people killed, the wounded survivors, their families, and the communities attacked.

## The first account

By the time The Lewiston Mass Shooting reached public memory, sequence had become easy to lose. The independent commission reviewed warnings, military and law-enforcement contacts, mental-health events, and use of Maine's yellow-flag process. Restoring sequence shows what investigators knew, what prosecutors alleged, what the defense contested, and what a court or jury ultimately resolved. Separate what witnesses reported at the time from what investigators later inferred. An older headline cannot replace the current status: Robert Card died by suicide before arrest or trial. State investigators and an independent commission reconstructed the attacks and identified institutional failures without creating a criminal judgment. That remains the controlling public record.

There is no need to enlarge the evidence to make this file serious. The commission assigned responsibility to Card while also identifying missed opportunities before the shootings. That proposition is consequential on its own. Separate what witnesses reported at the time from what investigators later inferred. The account therefore avoids borrowing certainty from unrelated defendants, other jurisdictions, or later cases that happen to resemble events in Lewiston.

The public record speaks most reliably when attribution travels with the claim. Here is the supported proposition: On October 25, 2023, Card opened fire at Just-In-Time Recreation and Schemengees Bar and Grille in Lewiston. The source may recount an allegation, summarize trial proof, or state a judgment, and the language must match that function. Separate what witnesses reported at the time from what investigators later inferred. That practice protects the accuracy of the case and the dignity of the eighteen people killed, the wounded survivors, their families, and the communities attacked at the same time.

At this stage of the file, absence is also information. The available materials establish this much: Eighteen people were killed and thirteen were physically wounded. They do not establish every rumor that

accumulated during 2023-2024. Separate what witnesses reported at the time from what investigators later inferred. Refusing to bridge those gaps with speculation keeps the unresolved portions visible instead of disguising them as narrative momentum.

Consider the detail in its proper scale: A large multiday search ended when Card was found dead from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. It is neither disposable nor self-executing. Its force depends on where it sits among the other records from Lewiston. Separate what witnesses reported at the time from what investigators later inferred. A measured account can explain that relationship without turning legal caution into a repetitive disclaimer.

The language of this chapter changes when the legal posture changes. The independent commission reviewed warnings, military and law-enforcement contacts, mental-health events, and use of Maine's yellow-flag process. If the proposition came from an accusation, it remains attributed; if it survived adjudication, the judgment is named; if review altered the result, the alteration is carried forward. Separate what witnesses reported at the time from what investigators later inferred. The controlling endpoint is recorded separately: Robert Card died by suicide before arrest or trial. State investigators and an independent commission reconstructed the attacks and identified institutional failures without creating a criminal judgment. That remains the controlling public record.

What happened to the eighteen people killed, the wounded survivors, their families, and the communities attacked generated records made for different audiences: investigators, lawyers, judges, jurors, officials, and the public. The commission assigned responsibility to Card while also identifying missed opportunities before the shootings. Those records overlap, but they are not interchangeable. Separate what witnesses reported at the time from what investigators later inferred. Reading across them carefully prevents a later summary from erasing an earlier uncertainty or a later reversal.

## Building a chronology

The most useful context is the context that changes interpretation. Eighteen people were killed and thirteen were physically wounded. In the Lewiston record, that detail helps explain why a particular investigative or legal step followed. Dates and sequence matter because later knowledge can make early decisions seem more certain than they were. General crime lore would add volume but not understanding, so it is left outside the account.

The end of a proceeding is not always the end of a case's public life. A large multiday search ended when Card was found dead from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Families, institutions, and communities continued to live with the result after 2023-2024. Dates and sequence matter because later knowledge can make early decisions seem more certain than they were. The legal status is reported in its own terms: Robert Card died by suicide before arrest or trial. State investigators and an independent commission reconstructed the attacks and identified institutional failures without creating a criminal judgment. That remains the controlling public record. It does not imply that every question or consequence disappeared.

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## Physical evidence

This part of the account begins with a modest question: what did the cited source actually establish? Its answer is plain: The commission assigned responsibility to Card while also identifying missed opportunities before the shootings. The answer does not automatically prove motive, identity, or every charge in the case. Describe what an item could establish and what it could not establish without additional proof. The remaining status is stated without embellishment: Robert Card died by suicide before arrest or trial. State investigators and an independent commission reconstructed the attacks and identified institutional failures without creating a criminal judgment. That remains the controlling public record.

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## Witness evidence

Consider the detail in its proper scale: A large multiday search ended when Card was found dead from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. It is neither disposable nor self-executing. Its force depends on where it sits among the other records from Lewiston. Credibility is tested through opportunity to observe, consistency, corroboration, motive, and cross-examination. A measured account can explain that relationship without turning legal caution into a repetitive disclaimer.

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## Digital and documentary trails

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This part of the account begins with a modest question: what did the cited source actually establish? Its answer is plain: The commission assigned responsibility to Card while also identifying missed opportunities before the shootings. The answer does not automatically prove motive, identity, or every charge in the case. Records can preserve timing and contact, but interpretation still depends on context and authentication. The remaining status is stated without embellishment: Robert Card died by suicide before arrest or trial. State investigators and an independent commission reconstructed the attacks and identified institutional failures without creating a criminal judgment. That remains the controlling public record.

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## Charging choices

By the time The Lewiston Mass Shooting reached public memory, sequence had become easy to lose. The independent commission reviewed warnings, military and law-enforcement contacts, mental-health events, and use of Maine's yellow-flag process. Restoring sequence shows what investigators knew, what prosecutors alleged, what the defense contested, and what a court or jury ultimately resolved. An indictment states allegations; a plea or verdict resolves only the counts and defendants actually adjudicated. An older headline cannot replace the current status: Robert Card died by suicide before arrest or trial. State investigators and an independent commission reconstructed the attacks and identified institutional failures without creating a criminal judgment. That remains the controlling public record.

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Consider the detail in its proper scale: A large multiday search ended when Card was found dead from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. It is neither disposable nor self-executing. Its force depends on where it sits among the other records from Lewiston. An indictment states allegations; a plea or verdict resolves only the counts and defendants actually adjudicated. A measured account can explain that relationship without turning legal caution into a repetitive disclaimer.

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## The courtroom

What happened to the eighteen people killed, the wounded survivors, their families, and the communities attacked generated records made for different audiences: investigators, lawyers, judges, jurors, officials, and the public. Eighteen people were killed and thirteen were physically wounded. Those records overlap, but they are not interchangeable. A trial is structured proof under rules, not a complete replay of every event or every rumor surrounding it. Reading across them carefully prevents a later summary from erasing an earlier uncertainty or a later reversal.

The most useful context is the context that changes interpretation. A large multiday search ended when Card was found dead from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. In the Lewiston record, that detail helps explain why a particular investigative or legal step followed. A trial is structured proof under rules, not a complete replay of every event or every rumor surrounding it. General crime lore would add volume but not understanding, so it is left outside the account.

The end of a proceeding is not always the end of a case's public life. The independent commission reviewed warnings, military and law-enforcement contacts, mental-health events, and use of Maine's yellow-flag process. Families, institutions, and communities continued to live with the result after 2023-2024. A trial is structured proof under rules, not a complete replay of every event or every rumor surrounding it. The legal status is reported in its own terms: Robert Card died by suicide before arrest or trial. State investigators and an independent commission reconstructed the attacks and identified institutional failures without creating a criminal judgment. That remains the controlling public record. It does not imply that every question or consequence disappeared.

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## Appeal and review

A headline can make this episode appear settled in a sentence. The underlying record is narrower. The commission assigned responsibility to Card while also identifying missed opportunities before the shootings. From there, the inquiry moves through source, timing, corroboration, and legal consequence. An appellate court tests legal error and the governing record, not whether judges would retell the case the same way. None of those steps authorizes invented dialogue or a claim about what the eighteen people killed, the wounded survivors, their families, and the communities attacked privately thought.

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This part of the account begins with a modest question: what did the cited source actually establish? Its answer is plain: Eighteen people were killed and thirteen were physically wounded. The answer does not automatically prove motive, identity, or every charge in the case. An appellate court tests legal error and the governing record, not whether judges would retell the case the same way. The remaining status is stated without embellishment: Robert Card died by suicide before arrest or trial. State investigators and an independent commission reconstructed the attacks and identified institutional failures without creating a criminal judgment. That remains the controlling public record.

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# Uncertainty

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# Institutions

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Eighteen people were killed and thirteen were physically wounded. That fact is the fixed point for this portion of The Lewiston Mass Shooting. Police, prosecutors, defense counsel, courts, laboratories, journalists, and families each occupy different roles. In Lewiston, later retellings sometimes collapse the investigation and the judgment into one continuous story. The public record does not. It preserves the order in which information appeared and the forum in which it was tested. The present legal posture is stated separately: Robert Card died by suicide before arrest or trial. State investigators and an independent commission reconstructed the attacks and identified institutional failures without creating a criminal judgment. That remains the controlling public record.

For the eighteen people killed, the wounded survivors, their families, and the communities attacked, the procedural vocabulary cannot be allowed to eclipse consequence. A large multiday search ended when Card was found dead from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. The detail belongs here because it changes the chronology, not because it supplies atmosphere. Police, prosecutors, defense counsel, courts, laboratories, journalists, and families each occupy different roles. Keeping that boundary visible lets the reader understand both the institutional response and the loss that made the response necessary.

The 2023-2024 record from Lewiston contains a point that resists shorthand: The independent commission reviewed warnings, military and law-enforcement contacts, mental-health events, and use of Maine's yellow-flag process. The present legal posture is equally specific: Robert Card died by suicide before arrest or trial. State investigators and an independent commission reconstructed the attacks and identified institutional failures without creating a criminal judgment. That remains the controlling public record. Police, prosecutors, defense counsel, courts, laboratories, journalists, and families each occupy different roles. One proposition may be established while a neighboring proposition remains disputed. Treating them separately is not hesitation; it is accurate reporting.

A headline can make this episode appear settled in a sentence. The underlying record is narrower. The commission assigned responsibility to Card while also identifying missed opportunities before the shootings. From there, the inquiry moves through source, timing, corroboration, and legal consequence. Police, prosecutors, defense counsel, courts, laboratories, journalists, and families each occupy different roles. None of those steps authorizes invented dialogue or a claim about what the eighteen people killed, the wounded survivors, their families, and the communities attacked privately thought.

Location matters in this file. Lewiston determined which agencies, courts, and communities carried the case, while 2023-2024 marks the span over which the public learned it. On October 25, 2023, Card opened fire at Just-In-Time Recreation and Schemengees Bar and Grille in Lewiston. Police, prosecutors, defense counsel, courts, laboratories, journalists, and families each occupy different roles. The result is a chronology with identifiable custodians rather than a collection of free-floating claims.

## Status at manuscript lock

The controlling status for this account is: Robert Card died by suicide before arrest or trial. State investigators and an independent commission reconstructed the attacks and identified institutional failures without creating a criminal judgment. That remains the controlling public record. That sentence is deliberately narrower than a television summary. It does not merge co-defendants, convert accusations into findings, or imply that an appeal erased a human death. Later proceedings may change the legal posture, but they should not be projected backward onto the record described here.

# Sources from the edition

## The Lewiston Mass Shooting

- Independent Commission final report: <https://www.maine.gov/icl/sites/mainaine.gov.icl/files/2024-08/Final%20Report%20Of%20The%20Independent%20Commission%20To%20Investigate%20The%20Facts%20Of%20The%20Tragedy%20In%20Lewiston.pdf> - Maine Attorney General investigatory documents: <https://www.maine.gov/ag/news-and-library/press-releases/office-attorney-general-and-maine-state-police-announce-release>

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