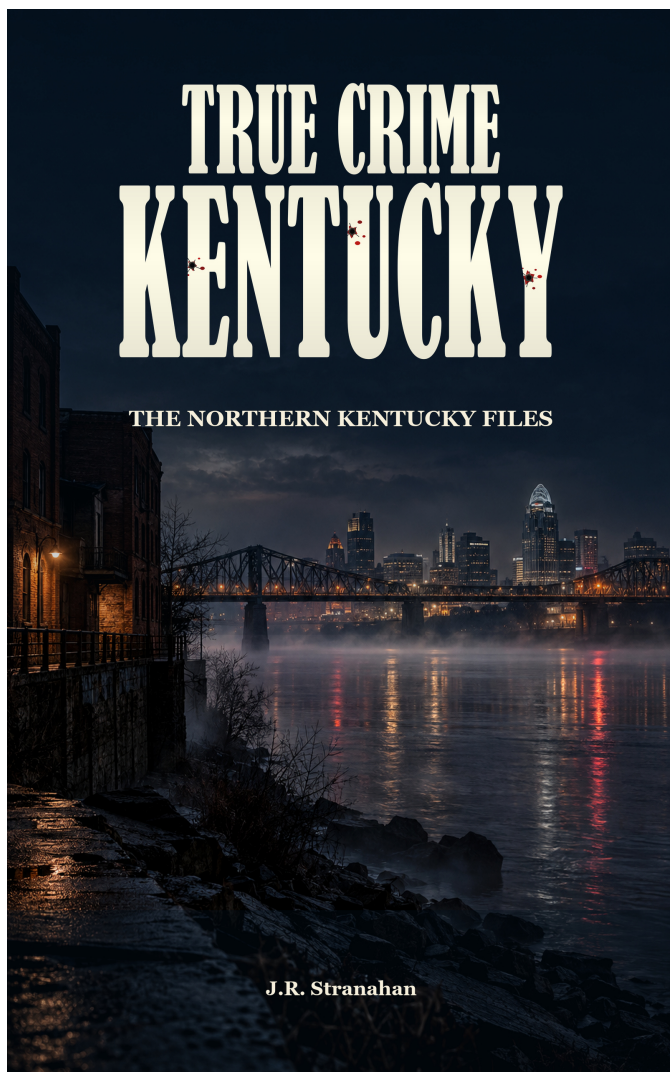




True Crime Kentucky: The Northern Kentucky Files

J.R. Stranahan

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The Murder of Ryan Poston

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File 1: The Murder of Ryan Poston

Place and period: Highland Heights, 2012-2020

Present legal status: Shayna Hubers's first murder conviction was set aside after discovery that a convicted felon served on the jury. A second jury convicted her, she received a life sentence, and the Kentucky Supreme Court affirmed.

This file belongs first to Ryan Carter Poston and his family. 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

Hubers called emergency services after shooting Poston six times in his condominium. That fact is the fixed point for this portion of *The Murder of Ryan Poston*. Begin with the person harmed, the routines interrupted, and the community that had to live with the absence. In Highland Heights, 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: Shayna Hubers's first murder conviction was set aside after discovery that a convicted felon served on the jury. A second jury convicted her, she received a life sentence, and the Kentucky Supreme Court affirmed.

For Ryan Carter Poston and his family, the procedural vocabulary cannot be allowed to eclipse consequence. She claimed self-defense, while prosecutors argued that she acted when he tried to end their relationship. 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 2012-2020 record from Highland Heights contains a point that resists shorthand: The first jury convicted her, but the trial court granted a new trial because a juror was legally disqualified. The present legal posture is equally specific: Shayna Hubers's first murder conviction was set aside after discovery that a convicted felon served on the jury. A second jury convicted her, she received a life sentence, and the Kentucky Supreme Court affirmed. 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 sixteen-day retrial ended in another murder conviction. 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 Ryan Carter Poston and his family privately thought.

Location matters in this file. Highland Heights determined which agencies, courts, and communities carried the case, while 2012-2020 marks the span over which the public learned it. The appellate opinion addresses venue, jury selection, evidence, and the boundaries of guilt-phase victim testimony. 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: Hubers called emergency services after shooting Poston six times in his condominium. 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: Shayna Hubers's first murder conviction was set aside after discovery that a convicted felon served on the jury. A second jury convicted her, she received a life sentence, and the Kentucky Supreme Court affirmed.

The case file gives different kinds of information different weight. She claimed self-defense, while prosecutors argued that she acted when he tried to end their relationship. 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 Ryan Carter Poston and his family.

The first account

By the time *The Murder of Ryan Poston* reached public memory, sequence had become easy to lose. The sixteen-day retrial ended in another murder conviction. 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: Shayna Hubers's first murder conviction was set aside after discovery that a convicted felon served on the jury. A second jury convicted her, she received a life sentence, and the Kentucky Supreme Court affirmed.

There is no need to enlarge the evidence to make this file serious. The appellate opinion addresses venue, jury selection, evidence, and the boundaries of guilt-phase victim testimony. 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 Highland Heights.

The public record speaks most reliably when attribution travels with the claim. Here is the supported proposition: Hubers called emergency services after shooting Poston six times in his condominium. 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 Ryan Carter Poston and his family at the same time.

At this stage of the file, absence is also information. The available materials establish this much: She claimed self-defense, while prosecutors argued that she acted when he tried to end their relationship. They do not establish every rumor that accumulated during 2012-2020. 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: The first jury convicted her, but the trial court granted a new trial because a juror was legally disqualified. It is neither disposable nor self-executing. Its force depends on where it sits among the other records from Highland Heights. 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 sixteen-day retrial ended in another murder conviction. 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: Shayna Hubers's first murder conviction was set aside after discovery that a convicted felon served on the jury. A second jury convicted her, she received a life sentence, and the Kentucky Supreme Court affirmed.

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Building a chronology

The most useful context is the context that changes interpretation. She claimed self-defense, while prosecutors argued that she acted when he tried to end their relationship. In the Highland Heights 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. The first jury convicted her, but the trial court granted a new trial because a juror was legally disqualified. Families, institutions, and communities continued to live with the result after 2012-2020. 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: Shayna Hubers's first murder conviction was set aside after discovery that a convicted felon served on the jury. A second jury convicted her, she received a life sentence, and the Kentucky Supreme Court affirmed. It does not imply that every question or consequence disappeared.

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Physical evidence

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Witness evidence

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Digital and documentary trails

For Ryan Carter Poston and his family, the procedural vocabulary cannot be allowed to eclipse consequence. Hubers called emergency services after shooting Poston six times in his condominium. The detail belongs here because it changes the chronology, not because it supplies atmosphere. Records can preserve timing and contact, but interpretation still depends on context and authentication. Keeping that boundary visible lets the reader understand both the institutional response and the loss that made the response necessary.

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Charging choices

By the time *The Murder of Ryan Poston* reached public memory, sequence had become easy to lose. The sixteen-day retrial ended in another murder conviction. 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: Shayna Hubers's first murder conviction was set aside after discovery that a convicted felon served on the jury. A second jury convicted her, she received a life sentence, and the Kentucky Supreme Court affirmed.

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The courtroom

What happened to Ryan Carter Poston and his family generated records made for different audiences: investigators, lawyers, judges, jurors, officials, and the public. She claimed self-defense, while prosecutors argued that she acted when he tried to end their relationship. 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. The first jury convicted her, but the trial court granted a new trial because a juror was legally disqualified. In the Highland Heights 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.

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Appeal and review

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Uncertainty

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Institutions

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Location matters in this file. Highland Heights determined which agencies, courts, and communities carried the case, while 2012-2020 marks the span over which the public learned it. Hubers called emergency services after shooting Poston six times in his condominium. 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: Shayna Hubers's first murder conviction was set aside after discovery that a convicted felon served on the jury. A second jury convicted her, she received a life sentence, and the Kentucky Supreme Court affirmed. 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 Murder of Ryan Poston

- Kentucky Supreme Court, Hubers v. Commonwealth: <https://law.justia.com/cases/kentucky/supreme-court/2020/2018-sc-0667-mr.html> -
Kentucky Court of Justice: <https://www.kycourts.gov/>

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