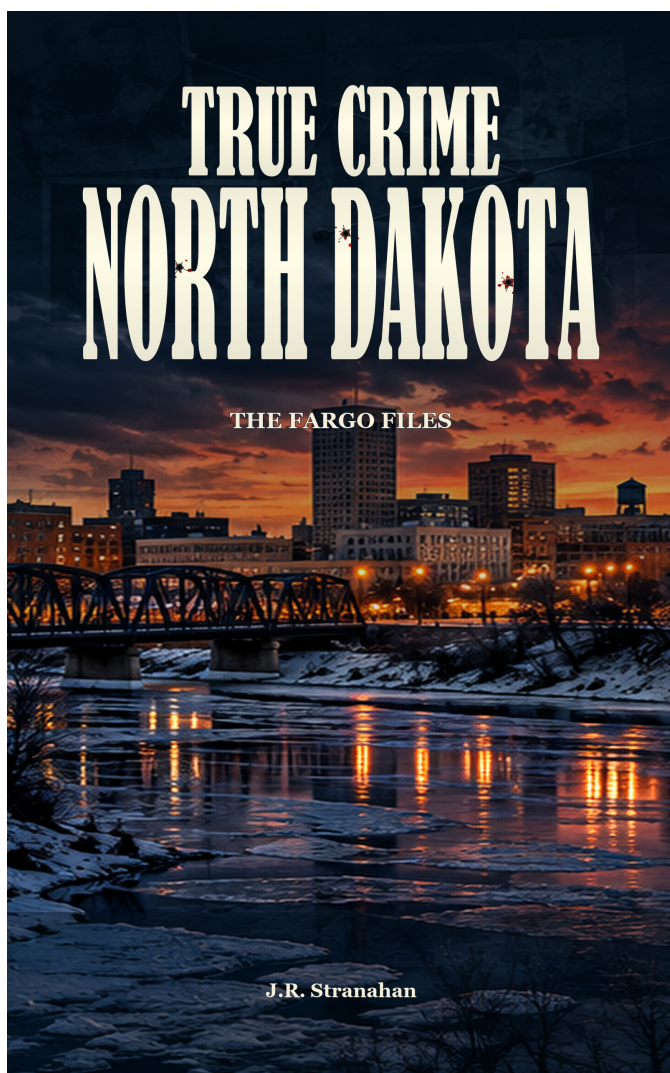




True Crime North Dakota: The Fargo Files

J.R. Stranahan

Read a complete chapter.

The Murder of Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind

This free sample contains a complete chapter from the edition sold on True Crime America. Its source notes are included. The chapter text is reproduced from that edition; this is not the complete book.

Explore the full edition

One purchase includes the complete PDF and EPUB. Visit the book page for its contents, current price and availability.

<https://truecrimeamerica.us/north-dakota/books/fargo-files/>

All rights reserved. This sample is supplied for personal reading.

File 1: The Murder of Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind

Place and period: Fargo, 2017-2019

Present legal status: Brooke Crews pleaded guilty to murder and received life without parole. William Hoehn was convicted of conspiracy to commit kidnapping and giving false information; his life sentence was vacated and he was resentenced to twenty years.

This file belongs first to Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind, her child, her family, and the Fargo community. 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

Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind disappeared after entering a neighbor's apartment. That fact is the fixed point for this portion of The Murder of Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind. The account keeps the people harmed, the routines interrupted, and the community consequences in view. In Fargo, 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: Brooke Crews pleaded guilty to murder and received life without parole. William Hoehn was convicted of conspiracy to commit kidnapping and giving false information; his life sentence was vacated and he was resentenced to twenty years.

For Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind, her child, her family, and the Fargo community, the procedural vocabulary cannot be allowed to eclipse

consequence. Her newborn child was later found alive in that apartment. The detail belongs here because it changes the chronology, not because it supplies atmosphere. The account keeps the people harmed, the routines interrupted, and the community consequences in view. Keeping that boundary visible lets the reader understand both the institutional response and the loss that made the response necessary.

The 2017-2019 record from Fargo contains a point that resists shorthand: Investigators recovered Savanna's body from the Red River. The present legal posture is equally specific: Brooke Crews pleaded guilty to murder and received life without parole. William Hoehn was convicted of conspiracy to commit kidnapping and giving false information; his life sentence was vacated and he was resentenced to twenty years. The account keeps the people harmed, the routines interrupted, and the community consequences in view. 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. Crews resolved her case by guilty plea. From there, the inquiry moves through source, timing, corroboration, and legal consequence. The account keeps the people harmed, the routines interrupted, and the community consequences in view. None of those steps authorizes invented dialogue or a claim about what Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind, her child, her family, and the Fargo community privately thought.

Location matters in this file. Fargo determined which agencies, courts, and communities carried the case, while 2017-2019 marks the span over which the public learned it. Hoehn's distinct conviction and corrected sentence must not be described as a murder conviction. The account keeps the people harmed, the routines interrupted, and the community consequences in view. 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: Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind disappeared after entering a neighbor's apartment. The answer does not automatically prove motive, identity, or every charge in the case. The account keeps the people harmed, the routines interrupted, and the community consequences in view. The remaining status is stated without embellishment: Brooke Crews pleaded guilty to murder and received life without parole. William Hoehn was convicted of conspiracy to commit kidnapping and giving false information; his life sentence was vacated and he was resentenced to twenty years.

The case file gives different kinds of information different weight. Her newborn child was later found alive in that apartment. A contemporaneous observation, a laboratory result, a charging allegation, and an appellate finding do not perform the same job. The account keeps the people harmed, the routines interrupted, and the community consequences in view. Describing those jobs plainly is especially important when the story concerns Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind, her child, her family, and the Fargo community.

The first account

By the time *The Murder of Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind* reached public memory, sequence had become easy to lose. Crews resolved her case by guilty plea. Restoring sequence shows what investigators knew, what prosecutors alleged, what the defense contested, and what a court or jury ultimately resolved. What witnesses reported at the time remains separate from what investigators later inferred. An older headline cannot replace the current status: Brooke Crews pleaded guilty to murder and received life without parole. William Hoehn was convicted of conspiracy to commit kidnapping and giving false information; his life sentence was vacated and he was resentenced to twenty years.

There is no need to enlarge the evidence to make this file serious. Hoehn's distinct conviction and corrected sentence must not be

described as a murder conviction. That proposition is consequential on its own. What witnesses reported at the time remains separate 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 Fargo.

The public record speaks most reliably when attribution travels with the claim. Here is the supported proposition: Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind disappeared after entering a neighbor's apartment. The source may recount an allegation, summarize trial proof, or state a judgment, and the language must match that function. What witnesses reported at the time remains separate from what investigators later inferred. That practice protects the accuracy of the case and the dignity of Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind, her child, her family, and the Fargo community at the same time.

At this stage of the file, absence is also information. The available materials establish this much: Her newborn child was later found alive in that apartment. They do not establish every rumor that accumulated during 2017-2019. What witnesses reported at the time remains separate 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: Investigators recovered Savanna's body from the Red River. It is neither disposable nor self-executing. Its force depends on where it sits among the other records from Fargo. What witnesses reported at the time remains separate 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. Crews resolved her case by guilty plea. 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.

What witnesses reported at the time remains separate from what investigators later inferred. The controlling endpoint is recorded separately: Brooke Crews pleaded guilty to murder and received life without parole. William Hoehn was convicted of conspiracy to commit kidnapping and giving false information; his life sentence was vacated and he was resentenced to twenty years.

What happened to Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind, her child, her family, and the Fargo community generated records made for different audiences: investigators, lawyers, judges, jurors, officials, and the public. Hoehn's distinct conviction and corrected sentence must not be described as a murder conviction. Those records overlap, but they are not interchangeable. What witnesses reported at the time remains separate 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. Her newborn child was later found alive in that apartment. In the Fargo record, that detail helps explain why a particular investigative or legal step followed. Dates and sequence preserve the difference between early uncertainty and later knowledge. 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. Investigators recovered Savanna's body from the Red River. Families, institutions, and communities continued to live with the result after 2017-2019. Dates and sequence preserve the difference between early uncertainty and later knowledge. The legal status is reported in its own terms: Brooke Crews pleaded guilty to murder and received life without parole. William Hoehn was convicted of conspiracy to commit kidnapping and giving false information; his life sentence was vacated and he was resentenced to twenty years. It does not imply that every question or consequence disappeared.

Crews resolved her case by guilty plea. That fact is the fixed point for this portion of *The Murder of Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind*. Dates and sequence preserve the difference between early uncertainty and later knowledge. In *Fargo*, 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: Brooke Crews pleaded guilty to murder and received life without parole. William Hoehn was convicted of conspiracy to commit kidnapping and giving false information; his life sentence was vacated and he was resentenced to twenty years.

For Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind, her child, her family, and the Fargo community, the procedural vocabulary cannot be allowed to eclipse consequence. Hoehn's distinct conviction and corrected sentence must not be described as a murder conviction. The detail belongs here because it changes the chronology, not because it supplies atmosphere. Dates and sequence preserve the difference between early uncertainty and later knowledge. Keeping that boundary visible lets the reader understand both the institutional response and the loss that made the response necessary.

The 2017-2019 record from *Fargo* contains a point that resists shorthand: Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind disappeared after entering a neighbor's apartment. The present legal posture is equally specific: Brooke Crews pleaded guilty to murder and received life without parole. William Hoehn was convicted of conspiracy to commit kidnapping and giving false information; his life sentence was vacated and he was resentenced to twenty years. Dates and sequence preserve the difference between early uncertainty and later knowledge. 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. Her newborn child was later found alive in

that apartment. From there, the inquiry moves through source, timing, corroboration, and legal consequence. Dates and sequence preserve the difference between early uncertainty and later knowledge. None of those steps authorizes invented dialogue or a claim about what Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind, her child, her family, and the Fargo community privately thought.

Location matters in this file. Fargo determined which agencies, courts, and communities carried the case, while 2017-2019 marks the span over which the public learned it. Investigators recovered Savanna's body from the Red River. Dates and sequence preserve the difference between early uncertainty and later knowledge. The result is a chronology with identifiable custodians rather than a collection of free-floating claims.

Physical evidence

This part of the account begins with a modest question: what did the cited source actually establish? Its answer is plain: Hoehn's distinct conviction and corrected sentence must not be described as a murder conviction. The answer does not automatically prove motive, identity, or every charge in the case. An item's evidentiary value depends on collection, testing, context, and the limits of what it can prove. The remaining status is stated without embellishment: Brooke Crews pleaded guilty to murder and received life without parole. William Hoehn was convicted of conspiracy to commit kidnapping and giving false information; his life sentence was vacated and he was resentenced to twenty years.

The case file gives different kinds of information different weight. Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind disappeared after entering a neighbor's apartment. A contemporaneous observation, a laboratory result, a charging allegation, and an appellate finding do not perform the same job. An item's evidentiary value depends on collection, testing, context, and the limits of what it can prove. Describing those jobs plainly is especially important when the story concerns Savanna

LaFontaine-Greywind, her child, her family, and the Fargo community.

By the time *The Murder of Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind* reached public memory, sequence had become easy to lose. Her newborn child was later found alive in that apartment. Restoring sequence shows what investigators knew, what prosecutors alleged, what the defense contested, and what a court or jury ultimately resolved. An item's evidentiary value depends on collection, testing, context, and the limits of what it can prove. An older headline cannot replace the current status: Brooke Crews pleaded guilty to murder and received life without parole. William Hoehn was convicted of conspiracy to commit kidnapping and giving false information; his life sentence was vacated and he was resentenced to twenty years.

There is no need to enlarge the evidence to make this file serious. Investigators recovered Savanna's body from the Red River. That proposition is consequential on its own. An item's evidentiary value depends on collection, testing, context, and the limits of what it can prove. The account therefore avoids borrowing certainty from unrelated defendants, other jurisdictions, or later cases that happen to resemble events in Fargo.

The public record speaks most reliably when attribution travels with the claim. Here is the supported proposition: Crews resolved her case by guilty plea. The source may recount an allegation, summarize trial proof, or state a judgment, and the language must match that function. An item's evidentiary value depends on collection, testing, context, and the limits of what it can prove. That practice protects the accuracy of the case and the dignity of Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind, her child, her family, and the Fargo community at the same time.

At this stage of the file, absence is also information. The available materials establish this much: Hoehn's distinct conviction and corrected sentence must not be described as a murder conviction. They do not establish every rumor that accumulated during 2017-2019. An item's evidentiary value depends on collection, testing, context, and the limits

of what it can prove. Refusing to bridge those gaps with speculation keeps the unresolved portions visible instead of disguising them as narrative momentum.

Witness evidence

Consider the detail in its proper scale: Investigators recovered Savanna's body from the Red River. It is neither disposable nor self-executing. Its force depends on where it sits among the other records from Fargo. Credibility depends on opportunity to observe, consistency, corroboration, motive, and courtroom testing. 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. Crews resolved her case by guilty plea. 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. Credibility depends on opportunity to observe, consistency, corroboration, motive, and courtroom testing. The controlling endpoint is recorded separately: Brooke Crews pleaded guilty to murder and received life without parole. William Hoehn was convicted of conspiracy to commit kidnapping and giving false information; his life sentence was vacated and he was resentenced to twenty years.

What happened to Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind, her child, her family, and the Fargo community generated records made for different audiences: investigators, lawyers, judges, jurors, officials, and the public. Hoehn's distinct conviction and corrected sentence must not be described as a murder conviction. Those records overlap, but they are not interchangeable. Credibility depends on opportunity to observe, consistency, corroboration, motive, and courtroom testing. 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. Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind disappeared after entering a neighbor's apartment. In the Fargo record, that detail helps explain why a particular investigative or legal step followed. Credibility depends on opportunity to observe, consistency, corroboration, motive, and courtroom testing. 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. Her newborn child was later found alive in that apartment. Families, institutions, and communities continued to live with the result after 2017-2019. Credibility depends on opportunity to observe, consistency, corroboration, motive, and courtroom testing. The legal status is reported in its own terms: Brooke Crews pleaded guilty to murder and received life without parole. William Hoehn was convicted of conspiracy to commit kidnapping and giving false information; his life sentence was vacated and he was resentenced to twenty years. It does not imply that every question or consequence disappeared.

Investigators recovered Savanna's body from the Red River. That fact is the fixed point for this portion of *The Murder of Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind*. Credibility depends on opportunity to observe, consistency, corroboration, motive, and courtroom testing. In Fargo, 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: Brooke Crews pleaded guilty to murder and received life without parole. William Hoehn was convicted of conspiracy to commit kidnapping and giving false information; his life sentence was vacated and he was resentenced to twenty years.

Digital and documentary trails

For Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind, her child, her family, and the Fargo community, the procedural vocabulary cannot be allowed to eclipse consequence. Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind disappeared after entering a neighbor's apartment. The detail belongs here because it changes the chronology, not because it supplies atmosphere. Records preserve timing and contact, but their meaning still depends on authentication and context. Keeping that boundary visible lets the reader understand both the institutional response and the loss that made the response necessary.

The 2017-2019 record from Fargo contains a point that resists shorthand: Her newborn child was later found alive in that apartment. The present legal posture is equally specific: Brooke Crews pleaded guilty to murder and received life without parole. William Hoehn was convicted of conspiracy to commit kidnapping and giving false information; his life sentence was vacated and he was resentenced to twenty years. Records preserve timing and contact, but their meaning still depends on authentication and context. 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. Investigators recovered Savanna's body from the Red River. From there, the inquiry moves through source, timing, corroboration, and legal consequence. Records preserve timing and contact, but their meaning still depends on authentication and context. None of those steps authorizes invented dialogue or a claim about what Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind, her child, her family, and the Fargo community privately thought.

Location matters in this file. Fargo determined which agencies, courts, and communities carried the case, while 2017-2019 marks the span over which the public learned it. Crews resolved her case by guilty plea. Records preserve timing and contact, but their meaning still depends on

authentication and context. 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: Hoehn's distinct conviction and corrected sentence must not be described as a murder conviction. The answer does not automatically prove motive, identity, or every charge in the case. Records preserve timing and contact, but their meaning still depends on authentication and context. The remaining status is stated without embellishment: Brooke Crews pleaded guilty to murder and received life without parole. William Hoehn was convicted of conspiracy to commit kidnapping and giving false information; his life sentence was vacated and he was resentenced to twenty years.

The case file gives different kinds of information different weight. Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind disappeared after entering a neighbor's apartment. A contemporaneous observation, a laboratory result, a charging allegation, and an appellate finding do not perform the same job. Records preserve timing and contact, but their meaning still depends on authentication and context. Describing those jobs plainly is especially important when the story concerns Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind, her child, her family, and the Fargo community.

Charging choices

By the time *The Murder of Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind* reached public memory, sequence had become easy to lose. Crews resolved her case by guilty plea. 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, while a plea or verdict resolves only the counts and defendants actually adjudicated. An older headline cannot replace the current status: Brooke Crews pleaded guilty to murder and received life without parole. William Hoehn was convicted of conspiracy to commit kidnapping and giving false information; his life sentence was vacated and he was resentenced to twenty years.

There is no need to enlarge the evidence to make this file serious. Hoehn's distinct conviction and corrected sentence must not be described as a murder conviction. That proposition is consequential on its own. An indictment states allegations, while a plea or verdict resolves only the counts and defendants actually adjudicated. The account therefore avoids borrowing certainty from unrelated defendants, other jurisdictions, or later cases that happen to resemble events in Fargo.

The public record speaks most reliably when attribution travels with the claim. Here is the supported proposition: Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind disappeared after entering a neighbor's apartment. The source may recount an allegation, summarize trial proof, or state a judgment, and the language must match that function. An indictment states allegations, while a plea or verdict resolves only the counts and defendants actually adjudicated. That practice protects the accuracy of the case and the dignity of Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind, her child, her family, and the Fargo community at the same time.

At this stage of the file, absence is also information. The available materials establish this much: Her newborn child was later found alive in that apartment. They do not establish every rumor that accumulated during 2017-2019. An indictment states allegations, while a plea or verdict resolves only the counts and defendants actually adjudicated. 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: Investigators recovered Savanna's body from the Red River. It is neither disposable nor self-executing. Its force depends on where it sits among the other records from Fargo. An indictment states allegations, while 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.

The language of this chapter changes when the legal posture changes. Crews resolved her case by guilty plea. 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. An indictment states allegations, while a plea or verdict resolves only the counts and defendants actually adjudicated. The controlling endpoint is recorded separately: Brooke Crews pleaded guilty to murder and received life without parole. William Hoehn was convicted of conspiracy to commit kidnapping and giving false information; his life sentence was vacated and he was resentenced to twenty years.

The courtroom

What happened to Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind, her child, her family, and the Fargo community generated records made for different audiences: investigators, lawyers, judges, jurors, officials, and the public. Her newborn child was later found alive in that apartment. Those records overlap, but they are not interchangeable. A trial tests admissible proof under defined rules and does not recreate every event or rumor surrounding a case. 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. Investigators recovered Savanna's body from the Red River. In the Fargo record, that detail helps explain why a particular investigative or legal step followed. A trial tests admissible proof under defined rules and does not recreate every event or rumor surrounding a case. 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. Crews resolved her case by guilty plea. Families, institutions, and communities continued to live with the result after 2017-2019. A trial tests admissible proof under defined rules and does not recreate every event or rumor surrounding a case. The legal status is reported in its own terms: Brooke Crews pleaded guilty to murder and received life without parole. William Hoehn was convicted of conspiracy to commit kidnapping and giving false information; his life sentence was vacated

and he was resentenced to twenty years. It does not imply that every question or consequence disappeared.

Hoehn's distinct conviction and corrected sentence must not be described as a murder conviction. That fact is the fixed point for this portion of *The Murder of Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind*. A trial tests admissible proof under defined rules and does not recreate every event or rumor surrounding a case. In *Fargo*, 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: Brooke Crews pleaded guilty to murder and received life without parole. William Hoehn was convicted of conspiracy to commit kidnapping and giving false information; his life sentence was vacated and he was resentenced to twenty years.

For *Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind*, her child, her family, and the *Fargo* community, the procedural vocabulary cannot be allowed to eclipse consequence. *Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind* disappeared after entering a neighbor's apartment. The detail belongs here because it changes the chronology, not because it supplies atmosphere. A trial tests admissible proof under defined rules and does not recreate every event or rumor surrounding a case. Keeping that boundary visible lets the reader understand both the institutional response and the loss that made the response necessary.

The 2017-2019 record from *Fargo* contains a point that resists shorthand: Her newborn child was later found alive in that apartment. The present legal posture is equally specific: Brooke Crews pleaded guilty to murder and received life without parole. William Hoehn was convicted of conspiracy to commit kidnapping and giving false information; his life sentence was vacated and he was resentenced to twenty years. A trial tests admissible proof under defined rules and does not recreate every event or rumor surrounding a case. One proposition may be established while a neighboring proposition remains disputed. Treating them separately is not hesitation; it is accurate reporting.

Appeal and review

A headline can make this episode appear settled in a sentence. The underlying record is narrower. Hoehn's distinct conviction and corrected sentence must not be described as a murder conviction. From there, the inquiry moves through source, timing, corroboration, and legal consequence. Appellate review addresses claimed legal error on a fixed record rather than conducting a second trial. None of those steps authorizes invented dialogue or a claim about what Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind, her child, her family, and the Fargo community privately thought.

Location matters in this file. Fargo determined which agencies, courts, and communities carried the case, while 2017-2019 marks the span over which the public learned it. Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind disappeared after entering a neighbor's apartment. Appellate review addresses claimed legal error on a fixed record rather than conducting a second trial. 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: Her newborn child was later found alive in that apartment. The answer does not automatically prove motive, identity, or every charge in the case. Appellate review addresses claimed legal error on a fixed record rather than conducting a second trial. The remaining status is stated without embellishment: Brooke Crews pleaded guilty to murder and received life without parole. William Hoehn was convicted of conspiracy to commit kidnapping and giving false information; his life sentence was vacated and he was resentenced to twenty years.

The case file gives different kinds of information different weight. Investigators recovered Savanna's body from the Red River. A contemporaneous observation, a laboratory result, a charging allegation, and an appellate finding do not perform the same job. Appellate review addresses claimed legal error on a fixed record rather than conducting a

second trial. Describing those jobs plainly is especially important when the story concerns Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind, her child, her family, and the Fargo community.

By the time *The Murder of Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind* reached public memory, sequence had become easy to lose. Crews resolved her case by guilty plea. Restoring sequence shows what investigators knew, what prosecutors alleged, what the defense contested, and what a court or jury ultimately resolved. Appellate review addresses claimed legal error on a fixed record rather than conducting a second trial. An older headline cannot replace the current status: Brooke Crews pleaded guilty to murder and received life without parole. William Hoehn was convicted of conspiracy to commit kidnapping and giving false information; his life sentence was vacated and he was resentenced to twenty years.

There is no need to enlarge the evidence to make this file serious. Hoehn's distinct conviction and corrected sentence must not be described as a murder conviction. That proposition is consequential on its own. Appellate review addresses claimed legal error on a fixed record rather than conducting a second trial. The account therefore avoids borrowing certainty from unrelated defendants, other jurisdictions, or later cases that happen to resemble events in Fargo.

Uncertainty

The public record speaks most reliably when attribution travels with the claim. Here is the supported proposition: Investigators recovered Savanna's body from the Red River. The source may recount an allegation, summarize trial proof, or state a judgment, and the language must match that function. The account marks gaps in the record instead of filling them with motive, dialogue, or private thought. That practice protects the accuracy of the case and the dignity of Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind, her child, her family, and the Fargo community at the same time.

At this stage of the file, absence is also information. The available materials establish this much: Crews resolved her case by guilty plea. They do not establish every rumor that accumulated during 2017-2019. The account marks gaps in the record instead of filling them with motive, dialogue, or private thought. 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: Hoehn's distinct conviction and corrected sentence must not be described as a murder conviction. It is neither disposable nor self-executing. Its force depends on where it sits among the other records from Fargo. The account marks gaps in the record instead of filling them with motive, dialogue, or private thought. 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. Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind disappeared after entering a neighbor's apartment. 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. The account marks gaps in the record instead of filling them with motive, dialogue, or private thought. The controlling endpoint is recorded separately: Brooke Crews pleaded guilty to murder and received life without parole. William Hoehn was convicted of conspiracy to commit kidnapping and giving false information; his life sentence was vacated and he was resentenced to twenty years.

What happened to Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind, her child, her family, and the Fargo community generated records made for different audiences: investigators, lawyers, judges, jurors, officials, and the public. Her newborn child was later found alive in that apartment. Those records overlap, but they are not interchangeable. The account marks gaps in the record instead of filling them with motive, dialogue, or private thought. 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. Investigators recovered Savanna's body from the Red River. In the Fargo record, that detail helps explain why a particular investigative or legal step followed. The account marks gaps in the record instead of filling them with motive, dialogue, or private thought. General crime lore would add volume but not understanding, so it is left outside the account.

Institutions

The end of a proceeding is not always the end of a case's public life. Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind disappeared after entering a neighbor's apartment. Families, institutions, and communities continued to live with the result after 2017-2019. Police, prosecutors, defense counsel, courts, laboratories, journalists, and families occupy different roles in the record. The legal status is reported in its own terms: Brooke Crews pleaded guilty to murder and received life without parole. William Hoehn was convicted of conspiracy to commit kidnapping and giving false information; his life sentence was vacated and he was resentenced to twenty years. It does not imply that every question or consequence disappeared.

Her newborn child was later found alive in that apartment. That fact is the fixed point for this portion of The Murder of Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind. Police, prosecutors, defense counsel, courts, laboratories, journalists, and families occupy different roles in the record. In Fargo, 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: Brooke Crews pleaded guilty to murder and received life without parole. William Hoehn was convicted of conspiracy to commit kidnapping and giving false information; his life sentence was vacated and he was resentenced to twenty years.

For Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind, her child, her family, and the Fargo community, the procedural vocabulary cannot be allowed to eclipse consequence. Investigators recovered Savanna's body from the Red River. The detail belongs here because it changes the chronology, not because it supplies atmosphere. Police, prosecutors, defense counsel, courts, laboratories, journalists, and families occupy different roles in the record. Keeping that boundary visible lets the reader understand both the institutional response and the loss that made the response necessary.

The 2017-2019 record from Fargo contains a point that resists shorthand: Crews resolved her case by guilty plea. The present legal posture is equally specific: Brooke Crews pleaded guilty to murder and received life without parole. William Hoehn was convicted of conspiracy to commit kidnapping and giving false information; his life sentence was vacated and he was resentenced to twenty years. Police, prosecutors, defense counsel, courts, laboratories, journalists, and families occupy different roles in the record. 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. Hoehn's distinct conviction and corrected sentence must not be described as a murder conviction. From there, the inquiry moves through source, timing, corroboration, and legal consequence. Police, prosecutors, defense counsel, courts, laboratories, journalists, and families occupy different roles in the record. None of those steps authorizes invented dialogue or a claim about what Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind, her child, her family, and the Fargo community privately thought.

Location matters in this file. Fargo determined which agencies, courts, and communities carried the case, while 2017-2019 marks the span over which the public learned it. Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind disappeared after entering a neighbor's apartment. Police, prosecutors, defense counsel, courts, laboratories, journalists, and families occupy

different roles in the record. The result is a chronology with identifiable custodians rather than a collection of free-floating claims.

After the judgment

This part of the account begins with a modest question: what did the cited source actually establish? Its answer is plain: Crews resolved her case by guilty plea. The answer does not automatically prove motive, identity, or every charge in the case. Later sentencing, review, release, dismissal, or continued investigation can alter legal posture without altering the underlying loss. The remaining status is stated without embellishment: Brooke Crews pleaded guilty to murder and received life without parole. William Hoehn was convicted of conspiracy to commit kidnapping and giving false information; his life sentence was vacated and he was resentenced to twenty years.

The case file gives different kinds of information different weight. Hoehn's distinct conviction and corrected sentence must not be described as a murder conviction. A contemporaneous observation, a laboratory result, a charging allegation, and an appellate finding do not perform the same job. Later sentencing, review, release, dismissal, or continued investigation can alter legal posture without altering the underlying loss. Describing those jobs plainly is especially important when the story concerns Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind, her child, her family, and the Fargo community.

By the time *The Murder of Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind* reached public memory, sequence had become easy to lose. Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind disappeared after entering a neighbor's apartment. Restoring sequence shows what investigators knew, what prosecutors alleged, what the defense contested, and what a court or jury ultimately resolved. Later sentencing, review, release, dismissal, or continued investigation can alter legal posture without altering the underlying loss. An older headline cannot replace the current status: Brooke Crews pleaded guilty to murder and received life without parole. William Hoehn was convicted of conspiracy to commit kidnapping and

giving false information; his life sentence was vacated and he was resentenced to twenty years.

There is no need to enlarge the evidence to make this file serious. Her newborn child was later found alive in that apartment. That proposition is consequential on its own. Later sentencing, review, release, dismissal, or continued investigation can alter legal posture without altering the underlying loss. The account therefore avoids borrowing certainty from unrelated defendants, other jurisdictions, or later cases that happen to resemble events in Fargo.

The public record speaks most reliably when attribution travels with the claim. Here is the supported proposition: Investigators recovered Savanna's body from the Red River. The source may recount an allegation, summarize trial proof, or state a judgment, and the language must match that function. Later sentencing, review, release, dismissal, or continued investigation can alter legal posture without altering the underlying loss. That practice protects the accuracy of the case and the dignity of Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind, her child, her family, and the Fargo community at the same time.

At this stage of the file, absence is also information. The available materials establish this much: Crews resolved her case by guilty plea. They do not establish every rumor that accumulated during 2017-2019. Later sentencing, review, release, dismissal, or continued investigation can alter legal posture without altering the underlying loss. Refusing to bridge those gaps with speculation keeps the unresolved portions visible instead of disguising them as narrative momentum.

Status at manuscript lock

The controlling status for this account is: Brooke Crews pleaded guilty to murder and received life without parole. William Hoehn was convicted of conspiracy to commit kidnapping and giving false information; his life sentence was vacated and he was resentenced to twenty years. 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 Savanna LaFontaine-Greywind

- North Dakota Supreme Court, State v. Hoehn: <https://law.justia.com/cases/north-dakota/supreme-court/2019/20180400.html> - MPR/AP, Hoehn resentencing: <https://www.mprnews.org/story/2019/10/07/accomplice-in-killing-of-savanna-greywind-gets-20-years>

Continue reading.

True Crime North Dakota: The Fargo Files

Explore the remaining cases and choose your complete edition in PDF and EPUB.

See the book and current price →

<https://truecrimeamerica.us/north-dakota/books/fargo-files/>