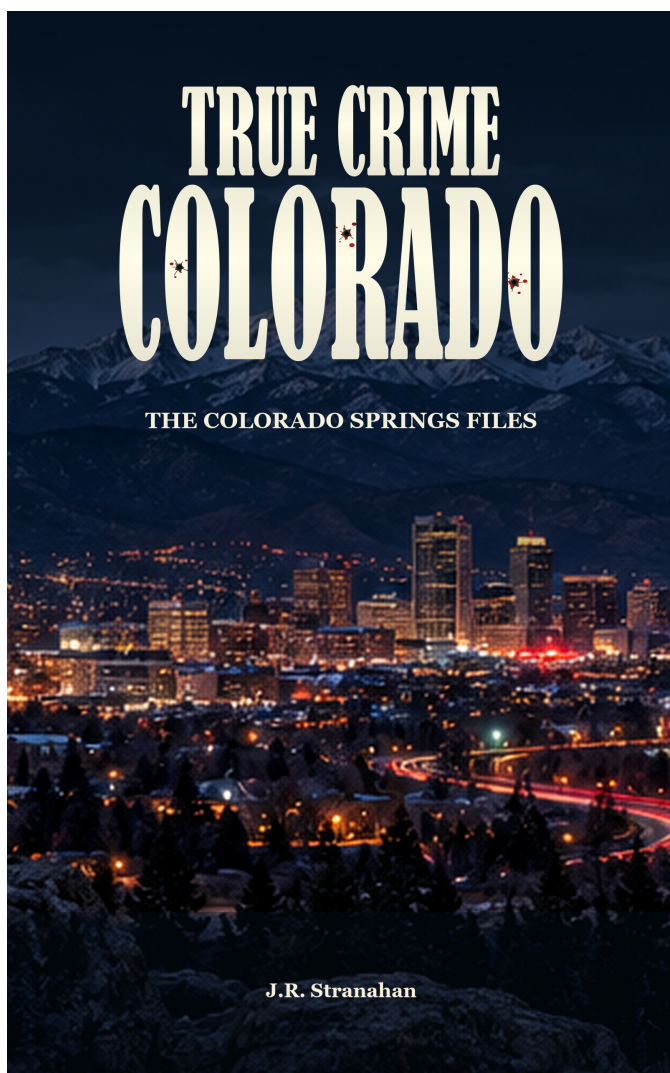




True Crime Colorado: The Colorado Springs Files

J.R. Stranahan

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The Murder of Gannon Stauch

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File 1: The Murder of Gannon Stauch

Place and period: El Paso County, 2020-2023

Present legal status: Letecia Stauch was convicted of first-degree murder, child abuse resulting in death, tampering with a deceased human body, and tampering with evidence and received life imprisonment without parole plus additional terms.

This file belongs first to Gannon Stauch, his family, classmates, search volunteers, and the Colorado Springs 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

Gannon disappeared from the family's El Paso County home. That fact is the fixed point for this portion of *The Murder of Gannon Stauch*. The account keeps the people harmed, the routines interrupted, and the community consequences in view. In El Paso County, 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: Letecia Stauch was convicted of first-degree murder, child abuse resulting in death, tampering with a deceased human body, and tampering with evidence and received life imprisonment without parole plus additional terms.

For Gannon Stauch, his family, classmates, search volunteers, and the Colorado Springs community, the procedural vocabulary cannot be allowed to eclipse consequence. His stepmother gave changing

accounts of his whereabouts. 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 2020-2023 record from El Paso County contains a point that resists shorthand: Searches and forensic examination documented violence inside the home. The present legal posture is equally specific: Letecia Stauch was convicted of first-degree murder, child abuse resulting in death, tampering with a deceased human body, and tampering with evidence and received life imprisonment without parole plus additional terms. 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. Gannon's remains were later recovered in Florida. 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 Gannon Stauch, his family, classmates, search volunteers, and the Colorado Springs community privately thought.

Location matters in this file. El Paso County determined which agencies, courts, and communities carried the case, while 2020-2023 marks the span over which the public learned it. The jury rejected the insanity defense and returned guilty verdicts. 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: Gannon disappeared from the family's El Paso County home. 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: Letecia Stauch was convicted of first-degree murder, child abuse resulting in death, tampering with a deceased human body, and tampering with evidence and received life imprisonment without parole plus additional terms.

The case file gives different kinds of information different weight. His stepmother gave changing accounts of his whereabouts. 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 Gannon Stauch, his family, classmates, search volunteers, and the Colorado Springs community.

The first account

By the time *The Murder of Gannon Stauch* reached public memory, sequence had become easy to lose. Gannon's remains were later recovered in Florida. 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: Letecia Stauch was convicted of first-degree murder, child abuse resulting in death, tampering with a deceased human body, and tampering with evidence and received life imprisonment without parole plus additional terms.

There is no need to enlarge the evidence to make this file serious. The jury rejected the insanity defense and returned guilty verdicts. 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 El Paso County.

The public record speaks most reliably when attribution travels with the claim. Here is the supported proposition: Gannon disappeared from the family's El Paso County home. 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 Gannon Stauch, his family, classmates, search volunteers, and the Colorado Springs community at the same time.

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Consider the detail in its proper scale: Searches and forensic examination documented violence inside the home. It is neither disposable nor self-executing. Its force depends on where it sits among the other records from El Paso County. 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.

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Building a chronology

The most useful context is the context that changes interpretation. His stepmother gave changing accounts of his whereabouts. In the El Paso County 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.

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Physical evidence

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Witness evidence

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Digital and documentary trails

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Charging choices

By the time *The Murder of Gannon Stauch* reached public memory, sequence had become easy to lose. Gannon's remains were later recovered in Florida. 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: Letecia Stauch was convicted of first-degree murder, child abuse resulting in death, tampering with a deceased human body, and tampering with evidence and received life imprisonment without parole plus additional terms.

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The courtroom

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The most useful context is the context that changes interpretation. Searches and forensic examination documented violence inside the home. In the El Paso County 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.

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Appeal and review

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Uncertainty

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Institutions

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Status at manuscript lock

The controlling status for this account is: Letecia Stauch was convicted of first-degree murder, child abuse resulting in death, tampering with a deceased human body, and tampering with evidence and received life imprisonment without parole plus additional terms. 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 Gannon Stauch

- Colorado Judicial Branch, case opinions:

<https://www.coloradojudicial.gov/supreme-court/opinions>

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