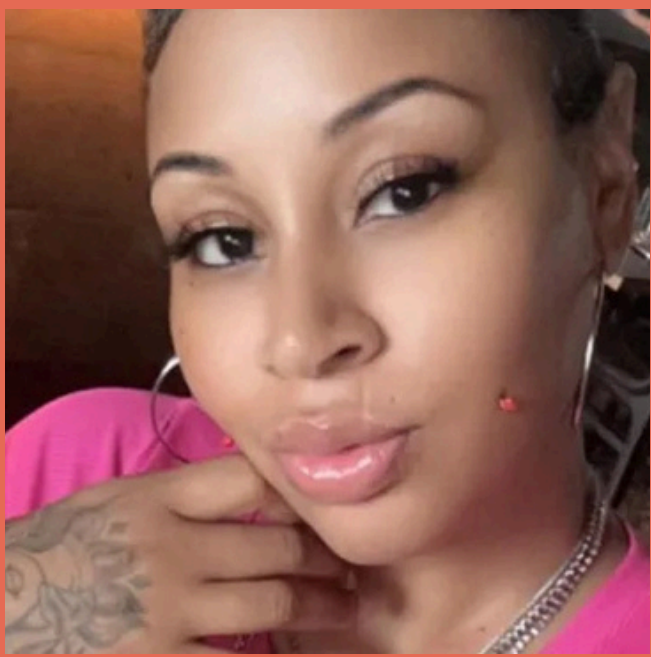


# WE REMEMBER



VIOLENCE FREE  
MINNESOTA



## MARIAH "RIAH" SAMUELS

THE COALITION TO  
END RELATIONSHIP  
ABUSE REMEMBERS  
**MARIAH "RIAH"  
SAMUELS**

MINNESOTA'S 17TH  
CONFIRMED VICTIM  
OF INTIMATE PARTNER  
HOMICIDE IN 2025

Mariah "Riah" Samuels, 34, was shot and killed in her car on September 14, 2025 outside her home in Minneapolis. Mariah's ex-boyfriend David Wright, 50, is charged with second-degree murder and illegal gun possession. Wright initially fled the scene, but was later apprehended by police. There were 15 discharged cartridge casings near Mariah's body. A few hours before she was killed, Mariah texted her sister that Wright was violating the Order for Protection she had against him.

On August 26, Mariah petitioned for the Order for Protection in court. Wright received a copy of the order on August 29. In the petition, Mariah wrote that on August 21, Wright appeared outside her home to "drop off a gift" and called and texted her while outside, threatening to blow up her home. He then stalked her to a home a few blocks away where she was dropping off her son. There, he repeatedly hit her with a gun and his hand, strangled her, and threatened to shoot her and anyone else who came out of the home. According to the Star Tribune, Minneapolis police did not forward a case for consideration of charges from this assault to the County Attorney's Office. At this time, no known statement has been given by the police indicating their reasoning for not forwarding the case.

Wright was previously convicted of assault for threatening another girlfriend with a firearm in 2002. He was legally prohibited from possessing a firearm at that time. He was again convicted of domestic assault in 2010 for an offense in 2008. Another woman was granted Orders for Protection against him in 2020 and 2022 for stalking. At the time of Mariah's murder, Wright was on supervised release after being sentenced in the U.S. District Court in Minnesota in 2009 to a 15-year term for illegal gun possession.

**Mariah worked as a dog groomer for several years and was "very loving with her animals," which included four cats and two lizards. She was described as "sweet, outgoing, and free-spirited," and a "devoted mother, cherished daughter, loving sister, and friend." Mariah "Riah" Samuels leaves behind two young boys.**