NATIONAL TRIAL ADVOCACY COMPETITION, 2026

Organised by

Adv. Shardulrao Sudhakarrao Jadhavar College of Law

in collaboration with

Jadhavar College of Law, Pune

27th and 28th November 2026

NATIONAL TRIAL ADVOCACY COMPETITION 2026

TRIAL PROPOSITION

STATE OF ASHVALE
VERSUS
KABIR ASHWORTH

Before the Court of the Principal Sessions Judge,
Winterfell, Ashvale

Sections 103 & 238
Ashvale Nyaya Sanhita, 2023

BRIEF FACTS OF THE CASE

1. Kabir Ashworth, aged 52 years, resided with his wife Priya Ashworth, aged 47 years, and their only daughter, Meher Ashworth, aged 21 years, at 12, Birchwood Lane, Ashgrove Colony, Winterfell. Kabir was employed as a Senior Software Engineer in a private technology company. Meher was a final-year college student at Winterfell Government College. The family also employed Devraj Malhotra, aged 24 years, as live-in domestic help, and Meena Devi, aged 45 years, as a daily cook. Vikram Rathi, aged 38 years, had been employed by the family as a driver for approximately four years.

2. The Ashworth residence was a two-storey independent house situated in Ashgrove Colony. Meher's bedroom was situated on the ground floor, adjoining the entrance passage, while Kabir and Priya's bedroom was on the first floor. A CCTV camera installed in the entrance passage covered the main entrance and the approach to Meher's room, with its recordings stored in a Digital Video Recorder (DVR) kept in a cupboard in the passage. The house also had a rear door leading towards a common external service staircase connecting the rooftops of adjoining houses. The rooftop area contained individual water tanks and was accessible through the common staircase, which was used by domestic staff of the adjoining houses.

3. In the months preceding the incident, Kabir had, on several occasions, noticed Meher and Devraj spending time together beyond what he considered appropriate. He had observed them sharing conversations and spending time together late in the evenings. Kabir had also expressed his unease regarding the relationship in vague terms to Priya, who regarded his concerns as an expression of overprotectiveness. Separately, approximately a fortnight before the incident, Vikram had sought a salary advance from Kabir, which Kabir declined, resulting in some tension between the two.

4. On 14 February 2026, Meena Devi left the Ashworth residence after preparing dinner at approximately 8:30 PM. Priya retired to her bedroom at about 10:00 PM, as was her usual routine. Devraj completed his duties and retired to his room adjoining the kitchen and utility area at approximately 10:30 PM. Kabir, who had attended a business dinner that evening, returned to the residence at approximately 10:50 PM and entered through the main entrance.

5. At approximately 11:45 PM, Vikram Rathi was present near the gate of the Ashworth residence on his motorcycle. According to the account subsequently given by him, he had gone there intending to leave a resignation letter for Kabir but did not meet him and left shortly thereafter. His presence near the property was subsequently corroborated by the neighboring resident, Radhika Oberoi, who recalled hearing a motorcycle near the Ashworth gate at approximately that time.

6. During the early hours of 15 February 2026, an incident occurred inside the Ashworth residence in which Meher Ashworth and Devraj Malhotra sustained fatal injuries. Devraj suffered multiple stab injuries, while Meher sustained injuries consistent with manual strangulation. The precise time at which the deaths occurred could not be conclusively established and was subsequently estimated by the autopsy surgeon to fall within a period of approximately four hours.

7. On the morning of 15 February 2026, Meena Devi arrived at the residence at approximately 7:00 AM and repeatedly rang the doorbell. There was no response from inside the house. Devraj, who ordinarily attended to the main door in the morning, did not respond. Priya subsequently woke up on hearing the repeated ringing, opened the main door and allowed Meena to enter. At approximately 7:15 AM, Priya went towards Meher's room and discovered Meher and Devraj lying inside. Both were unresponsive. Kabir thereafter emerged from his room and joined Priya at the scene.

8. The police were informed shortly thereafter and an investigation was commenced at Ironhold Police Station. The scene was examined and relevant articles and biological material were collected. The investigating agency also examined the household CCTV system, mobile-phone records and other material available at the residence. During the investigation, Kabir's DNA profile was found in biological/contact material recovered from Meher Ashworth's clothing, fingernail scrapings and the bedsheet from the room. The DNA examination could not determine when the material was deposited or the circumstances in which the contact occurred.

9. The investigation further revealed that the CCTV recording covering a portion of the relevant period had been deleted through the ordinary user interface of the household DVR. The investigation found that the monitoring password had been shared among Kabir, Priya and Vikram for legitimate household purposes. The DVR logs established that the relevant recording had been deleted but did not identify which authorized user had carried out the deletion. The investigating agency also examined the movements and circumstances of Vikram and Priya during the relevant period.

10. During the course of investigation, Kabir was also found to have sustained a superficial cut on his right palm and two linear abrasions on his forearm. A partially burnt fabric fragment was subsequently recovered from the common incinerator area of the colony. The investigation further resulted in the recovery of the knife from the rooftop water tank. The prosecution alleges that these recoveries and the surrounding circumstances demonstrate that Kabir not only caused the deaths but also attempted to cause the disappearance of material evidence so as to screen himself from legal consequences.

11. On 18 February 2026, Kabir Ashworth was arrested in connection with the deaths. The FSL DNA and trace examination report and the cyber-forensic report concerning the household DVR were subsequently received during the investigation. The weapon was

recovered from the rooftop water tank on 2 March 2026, and the partially burnt fabric fragment was recovered from the colony's common incinerator area on 6 March 2026. Upon completion of the investigation, a charge-sheet was filed against Kabir under Sections 103 and 238 of the Ashvale Nyaya Sanhita, 2023.

12. The competent Court took cognizance of the offences and the case was thereafter committed to the Court of the Principal Sessions Judge, Winterfell. Charges were framed against Kabir Ashworth under Section 103 of the Ashvale Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 for murder and Section 238 of the Ashvale Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 for causing disappearance of evidence of an offence with intent to screen the offender. Kabir pleaded not guilty to the charges and claimed trial. The matter is presently listed for complete trial.

13. The present case is governed by the substantive, procedural and evidentiary laws of the State of Ashvale, which are declared to be *pari materia* with the corresponding laws in force in India. Accordingly, for the purposes of this Trial Proposition, the provisions of the Ashvale Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, the Ashvale Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 and the Ashvale Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023 shall be read and interpreted in the same manner as the corresponding provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023.

14. The participants shall proceed on the basis that all facts, documents, statements, scientific reports, electronic records and other materials forming part of the present Trial Proposition are placed before the Court in accordance with the applicable procedural and evidentiary law, and their admissibility, evidentiary value and effect shall be determined in accordance with law. For the purposes of this Trial Problem, the electronic records and forensic reports relied upon by the parties shall be treated as having been produced before the Court in accordance with the applicable evidentiary requirements.

ANNEXURE LIST

Annexure	Document
Annexure 1	First Information Report dated 15 February 2026
Annexure 2	Scene of Crime / Observation and Seizure Memo dated 15 February 2026
Annexure 3	Site Plan of the Ashworth Residence
Annexure 4	Post-Mortem Examination Reports of Meher Ashworth and Devraj Malhotra
Annexure 5	FSL DNA / Biological Science Report
Annexure 6	Cyber-Forensic / CCTV-DVR Report
Annexure 7	Mobile / Digital Extraction / CDR Report
Annexure 8	Statements of Prosecution and Defense Witnesses
Annexure 9	Medical Examination Report of Kabir Ashworth
Annexure 10	Recovery Memo and FSL / Trace Examination Report relating to the recovered fruit knife
Annexure 11	Recovery Memo and FSL / Trace Examination Report relating to the partially burnt fabric fragment
Annexure 12	Final Report / Charge-Sheet

ANNEXURE 1
FIRST INFORMATION REPORT
(Under Section 173 of the Ashvale Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023)

District: Ashvale Police Station: Ironhold Police Station, Winterfell Year: 2026
FIR No.: 47/2026 Date: 15-02-2026

1. **Act and Sections:** Ashvale Nyaya Sanhita, 2023- Section 103

2. **Occurrence of Offence:**

Date: 15/02/2026

Time: During the night of 14/02/2026 and early morning of 15/02/2026; exact time not known.

3. **Information Recorded By:** Inspector Farhan Qureshi, Ironhold Police Station, Winterfell.

4. **Type of Information:** Written.

5. **Place of Occurrence:** 12, Birchwood Lane, Ashgrove Colony, Winterfell, State of Ashvale. The occurrence is reported to have taken place inside the bedroom of Meher Ashworth situated on the ground floor of the aforesaid residential premises.

6. **Complainant / Informant**
   Name: Mrs. Priya Ashworth
   Age: 47 years
   Nationality: Ashvalian
   Address: 12, Birchwood Lane, Ashgrove Colony, Winterfell, State of Ashvale.

7. **Basis on Which FIR is Lodged:** Written complaint given by Mrs. Priya Ashworth regarding the discovery of two persons, namely Meher Ashworth and Devraj Malhotra, lying dead inside the residential premises.

8. **Details of Known / Unknown / Suspected Accused with Full Particulars**

   Known Suspected Accused:
   Mr. Kabir Ashworth, aged 52 years, husband of the complainant and father of deceased Meher Ashworth, residing at 12, Birchwood Lane, Ashgrove Colony, Winterfell.

   Other persons whose role is required to be verified during investigation:
   Mr. Vikram Rathi, aged 38 years, family driver, residing at 17, Green Park Road.

9. **Reason for Delay in Reporting by the Complainant / Informant:** No delay.

10. Particulars of Injuries Sustained

Deceased No. 1: Meher Ashworth: Multiple visible injuries and marks suggestive of violence noticed at the scene.
Deceased No. 2: Devraj Malhotra: Multiple apparent sharp-force injuries with visible bleeding.
Exact nature and cause of injuries to be ascertained through medical examination and post-mortem.

11. Brief Facts of the Case

Today, on 15/02/2026 at about 07:20 A.M., I, Priya Ashworth, wife of Kabir Ashworth, aged 47 years, residing at 12, Birchwood Lane, Ashgrove Colony, Winterfell, came to the Ironhold Police Station and gave this complaint regarding the death of my daughter Meher Ashworth and Devraj Malhotra, who was working as live-in domestic help in our house.

I live at the above-mentioned address with my husband Kabir Ashworth and my daughter Meher Ashworth. Devraj Malhotra has been working and residing with us as live-in domestic help for approximately two years. Meena Devi works as our cook and Vikram Rathi works as our family driver.

On the night of 14/02/2026, Meena Devi left our house after completing her work at about 08:30 P.M. My husband had gone out for a business dinner. I went to my bedroom at about 10:00 P.M. and thereafter went to sleep. My husband returned home at about 10:50 P.M.

At about 07:00 A.M. on 15/02/2026, I heard the doorbell ringing repeatedly. I came out of my room and found that Meena Devi had arrived at the house for her usual morning work. The main door of our house was locked from inside, so I opened the door and allowed her to enter.

Thereafter, I went towards my daughter Meher's room to wake her up. At about 07:15 A.M., when I reached her room, I found Meher and Devraj lying motionless inside the room. I noticed blood in the room and both of them appeared to have suffered serious injuries. I became frightened and raised an alarm.

My husband Kabir also came out of his room after hearing the commotion and came towards Meher's room. I did not see anybody attacking either Meher or Devraj and therefore I cannot say who caused their deaths or the exact time when the incident took place.

For the past few weeks, there had been some tension in our house regarding my daughter Meher and Devraj. My husband Kabir had expressed his disapproval regarding their

association. I do not know whether any quarrel or confrontation took place between them during the night.

I also state that I did not notice any damage to the main entrance door of the house. I do not know whether any person entered or left the house through any other route during the night.

I am shocked and unable to understand how my daughter and Devraj came to be killed inside our house. I request the police to investigate the matter, find out the person responsible for their deaths and take appropriate legal action.

12. **Action Taken :** Since the above information reveals the commission of a cognizable offence punishable under Section 103 of the Ashvale Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, FIR No. 47/2026 is hereby registered. Inspector Farhan Qureshi, Rank: Inspector of Police, Ironhold Police Station, has taken up the investigation.

    The Investigating Officer proceeded to the place of occurrence along with police personnel for inspection of the scene, preparation of the observation and seizure memo, inquest proceedings, collection of material evidence and examination of witnesses.

    The bodies of the deceased persons were secured and sent for post-mortem examination.

13. **FIR Read Over to the Informant:** The contents of the FIR have been read over and explained to the complainant, Mrs. Priya Ashworth. She has admitted the contents to be correctly recorded and has signed the same.

Sd/-
Priya Ashworth
Complainant / Informant
Date: 15/02/2026
Time: 07:20 A.M.

Sd/-
Inspector Farhan Qureshi
Investigating Officer
Ironhold Police Station
Winterfell, State of Ashvale

Date of Dispatch to the Court: 15/02/2026

ANNEXURE 2
OBSERVATION MAHAZAR

District: Ashvale
Police Station: Ironhold Police Station, Winterfell
Crime No.: 47/2026
Offences: Section 103, Ashvale Nyaya Sanhita, 2023

Rank and Name of Police Officer making observation:
Inspector Farhan Qureshi, Ironhold Police Station, Winterfell

Name and Address of Witness

Attesting Witness No. 1
Name: Radhika Oberoi
Age: 44 years
Address: 14, Birchwood Lane, Ashgrove Colony, Winterfell

Attesting Witness No. 2
Name: Arun Mehta
Age: 51 years
Address: 10, Birchwood Lane, Ashgrove Colony, Winterfell

Place where observations were made:
House of Mr. Kabir Ashworth
12, Birchwood Lane, Ashgrove Colony, Winterfell, State of Ashvale

Date and Time of making observation:
15/02/2026; 08:05 A.M. to 10:15 A.M.

List of Observation Made:

- The residential premises is a two-storeyed independent house with a main entrance opening into the common living/passage area.
- The bedroom of Meher Ashworth is situated on the ground floor of the house.
- The body of a female, identified as Meher Ashworth, aged 21 years, was found inside the said bedroom.
- The body of a male, identified as Devraj Malhotra, aged 24 years, was also found inside the same bedroom.
- Multiple injuries were visible on the body of Devraj Malhotra and blood was found on the floor and on articles in the immediate vicinity.
- Marks and injuries were visible around the neck of Meher Ashworth.
- Bloodstains were found on portions of the floor, bedding and bedsheet of the room.

- The bedroom was not found to be extensively disturbed or ransacked and several articles belonging to the deceased were found in the room.
- A bedside table was present beside the bed of Meher Ashworth. No knife or other obvious sharp-edged weapon was found on the bedside table or inside the bedroom.
- No visible signs of forced entry or damage were found on the main entrance door of the house.
- The main entrance door was capable of being locked from inside.
- A CCTV camera was installed in the common passage of the house and covered the main entrance and part of the ground-floor passage.
- A DVR and connected storage equipment relating to the household CCTV system were found in a cupboard situated in the passage.
- The DVR and connected storage equipment were taken into police custody for further examination.
- The rear portion of the house contained a door leading towards the courtyard and an external staircase leading to the rooftop.
- The external staircase leading to the rooftop was accessible from the rear portion of the premises.
- The rooftop contained water tanks and other household utility installations.
- No weapon suspected to have been used in the commission of the offence was found during the inspection of the bedroom, ground floor or rooftop at the time of preparation of this Observation Mahazar.
- Blood samples/swabs were collected from the relevant portions of the floor and other bloodstained surfaces.
- Samples from the bedding and bedsheet were collected for forensic examination.
- Fingernail samples of Meher Ashworth were preserved for forensic examination.
- The clothing of both deceased persons was preserved and taken into police custody for further examination.
- The relevant articles and samples collected from the scene were separately packed, sealed and labelled in the presence of the attesting witnesses.
- Photographs of the place of occurrence, bodies, bloodstained areas, bedroom, passage, CCTV equipment and rear staircase were taken during the inspection.

Statement of the Witnesses/Panchas

I, Radhika Oberoi, residing at 14, Birchwood Lane, Ashgrove Colony, Winterfell, and I, Arun Mehta, residing at 10, Birchwood Lane, Ashgrove Colony, Winterfell, were requested by the Investigation Officer, Inspector Farhan Qureshi, Ironhold Police Station, to remain present as witnesses during the observation of the premises situated at 12, Birchwood Lane, Ashgrove Colony, Winterfell.

We were informed that two persons had been found dead inside the house. We accompanied the Investigation Officer and police personnel inside the premises and observed the ground floor and other relevant portions of the house.

We saw the bodies of Meher Ashworth and Devraj Malhotra inside the bedroom of Meher Ashworth. We also saw bloodstains on the floor and bedding and observed injuries on the bodies.

The police officials inspected the bedroom, the entrance passage, the CCTV equipment and the rear portion of the premises. We saw the police officials collect various samples and articles from the room and seal them in separate packets.

We also accompanied the police officials to the rooftop and observed the water tanks and the staircase leading towards the rooftop. No weapon was recovered during the said inspection.

The observation commenced at approximately 08:05 A.M. and was completed at approximately 10:15 A.M. We have verified the contents of this Observation Mahazar and have endorsed our signatures below.

Sd/-
Radhika Oberoi
Attesting Witness No. 1

Sd/-
Arun Mehta
Attesting Witness No. 2

Sd/-
Inspector Farhan Qureshi
Investigating Officer
Ironhold Police Station, Winterfell

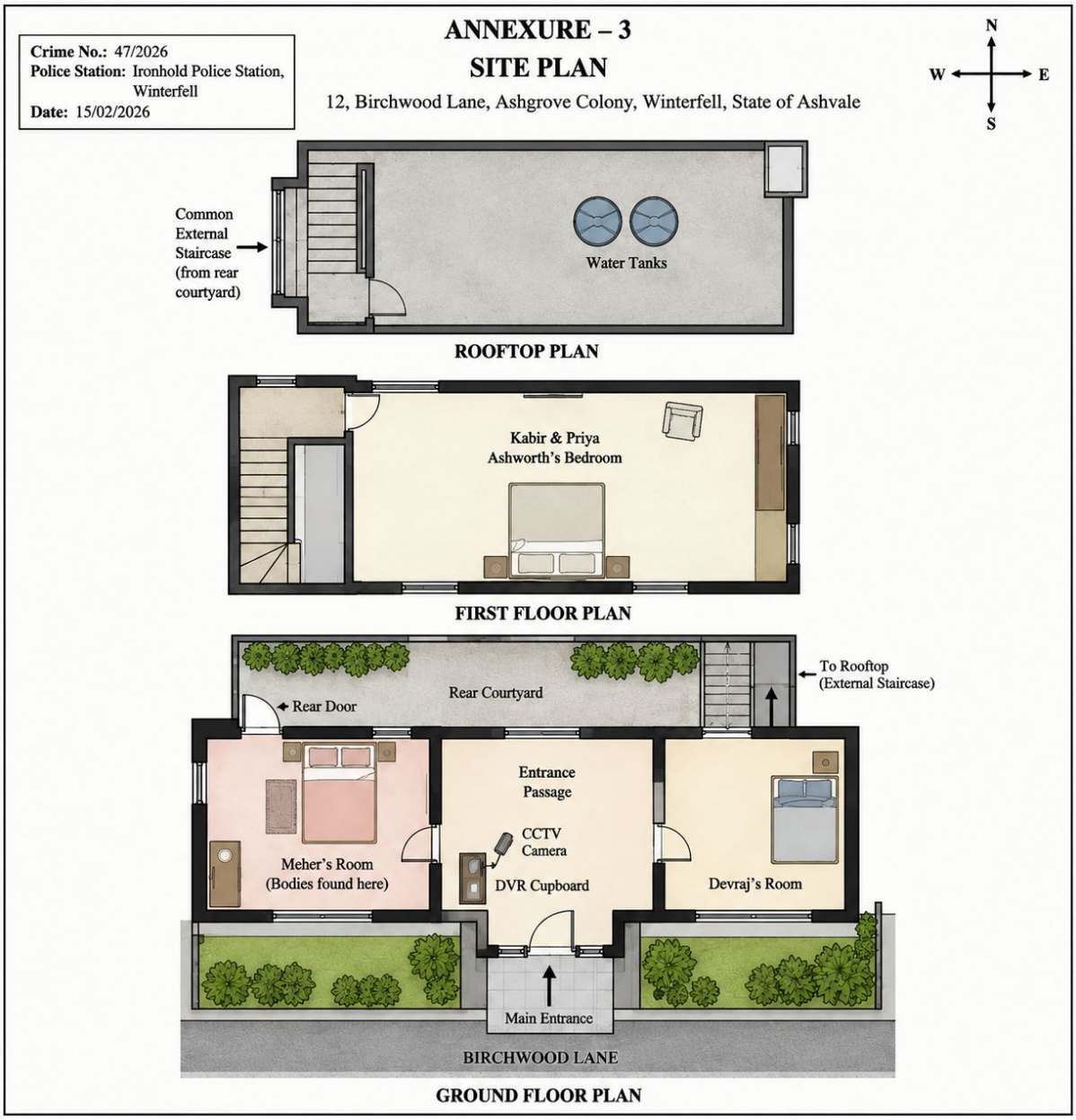
Date: 15/02/2026

ANNEXURE 3
SITE PLAN

Place: 12, Birchwood Lane, Ashgrove Colony, Winterfell, State of Ashvale
Crime No.: 47/2026
Police Station: Ironhold Police Station, Winterfell
Date: 15/02/2026

SITE PLAN OF THE ASHWORTH RESIDENCE

The following site plan represents the relevant portions of the premises at 12, Birchwood Lane, Ashgrove Colony, Winterfell, as observed during investigation.



DETAILS MARKED IN THE SITE PLAN

A. Main entrance of the Ashworth residence.
B. Common entrance passage on the ground floor.
C. Bedroom of Meher Ashworth, where the bodies of Meher Ashworth and Devraj Malhotra were discovered.
D. Position of the household CCTV camera in the entrance passage.
E. Cupboard in the entrance passage containing the household DVR.
F. Rear door opening towards the courtyard.
G. Common external staircase leading from the rear courtyard to the rooftop.
H. Rooftop area containing the household water tanks.
I. First-floor portion of the residence containing the bedroom occupied by Kabir Ashworth and Priya Ashworth.
J. Room allotted to Devraj Malhotra on the ground floor.
K. Location of relevant bloodstaining and other material evidence in and around Meher Ashworth's bedroom.

Note: The site plan is not drawn to scale and is intended only to indicate the relative location of the relevant portions of the premises.

Prepared by:
Inspector Farhan Qureshi
Investigating Officer
Ironhold Police Station, Winterfell

Date: 15/02/2026

ANNEXURE 4
POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION REPORTS

POST-MORTEM REPORT -I

WINTERFELL CIVIL HOSPITAL, STATE OF ASHVALE
Post-Mortem Report No.: PM/47/2026-A
Date of Examination: 15/02/2026
Time of Examination: 11:30 A.M.
Police Station: Ironhold Police Station, Winterfell
Crime No.: 47/2026

Name of Deceased: Meher Ashworth
Age: 21 years
Sex: Female
Identification: Identified by her mother, Priya Ashworth

Body received from: Inspector Farhan Qureshi, Ironhold Police Station, Winterfell

External Examination

- The body is that of a young adult female, moderately built and nourished.
- Rigor mortis is present in the body. Post-mortem changes are consistent with death having occurred several hours prior to examination.

The following injuries are noted:

- Multiple linear abrasions and pressure marks over the front and sides of the neck.
- Petechial hemorrhages are present in the conjunctivae.
- Minor abrasions are present over the forearms and hands.
- No firearm or sharp-force injury is noted on the body.

Internal Examination

- On dissection of the neck, hemorrhagic infiltration is noted in the underlying soft tissues.
- The hyoid bone is found fractured.
- The lungs are congested and show features consistent with asphyxia.
- No significant natural disease sufficient to account for death is detected.

Opinion

Cause of Death: Asphyxia due to manual strangulation.

The injuries over the neck are ante-mortem in nature and are consistent with force having been applied manually.

Estimated Time Since Death: The time since death is estimated to be approximately 8 to 12 hours prior to the commencement of post-mortem examination, subject to the limitations inherent in post-mortem estimation.
The findings are broadly consistent with death having occurred between approximately 11:00 P.M. on 14/02/2026 and 03:00 A.M. on 15/02/2026.

Final Opinion: Death is homicidal in nature.

Sd/-
Dr. Ananya Kulkarni
Senior Forensic Medical Officer
Winterfell Civil Hospital
Date: 15/02/2026

POST-MORTEM REPORT - II

WINTERFELL CIVIL HOSPITAL, STATE OF ASHVALE
Post-Mortem Report No.: PM/47/2026-B
Date of Examination: 15/02/2026
Time of Examination: 01:15 P.M.
Police Station: Ironhold Police Station, Winterfell
Crime No.: 47/2026

Name of Deceased: Devraj Malhotra
Age: 24 years
Sex: Male
Identification: Identified by Priya Ashworth and household records

Body received from: Inspector Farhan Qureshi, Ironhold Police Station, Winterfell

External Examination

- The body is that of a young adult male, moderately built and nourished.
- Rigor mortis is present in the body. Post-mortem changes are consistent with death having occurred several hours prior to examination.

The following injuries are noted:

- Multiple penetrating stab wounds over the chest and upper abdominal region.
- The wounds are consistent with injuries caused by a sharp, single-edged weapon.
- The margins of the principal wounds are clean and sharply defined.
- Abrasions and minor injuries are present over the hands and forearms, consistent with possible defensive action.

Internal Examination

- On internal examination, the stab wounds are found to have penetrated the chest and abdominal cavities.
- There is extensive internal hemorrhage corresponding to the sharp-force injuries.
- The injuries are sufficient in the ordinary course of nature to cause death.
- No significant natural disease sufficient to account for death is detected.

Opinion
Cause of Death: Hemorrhagic shock due to multiple ante-mortem stab injuries.
The injuries are consistent with being caused by a sharp, single-edged weapon.
The weapon used cannot be identified with certainty from the post-mortem examination alone.

Estimated Time Since Death: The time since death is estimated to be approximately 8 to 12 hours prior to the commencement of post-mortem examination, subject to the limitations inherent in post-mortem estimation.

The findings are broadly consistent with death having occurred between approximately 11:00 P.M. on 14/02/2026 and 03:00 A.M. on 15/02/2026.

Final Opinion: Death is homicidal in nature.

Sd/-
Dr. Ananya Kulkarni
Senior Forensic Medical Officer
Winterfell Civil Hospital
Date: 15/02/2026

ANNEXURE – 5
FORENSIC SCIENCE LABORATORY REPORT

DNA / BIOLOGICAL SCIENCE DIVISION
Forensic Science Laboratory, Ashvale
Report No.: FSL/DNA/117/2026
Reference: Ironhold Police Station, Crime No. 47/2026
Offences: Section 103, Ashvale Nyaya Sanhita, 2023
Requisitioned by: Inspector Farhan Qureshi, Ironhold Police Station, Winterfell
Date of Receipt of Exhibits: 16/02/2026
Date of Examination: 17/02/2026 to 21/02/2026

Names of Deceased:

1. Meher Ashworth, Female, 21 years
2. Devraj Malhotra, Male, 24 years

DESCRIPTION OF ARTICLES RECEIVED FOR EXAMINATION

S. No.	Article / Sample	Laboratory Exhibit No.
1.	Fingernail scrapings of Meher Ashworth – right hand	DNA-01
2.	Fingernail scrapings of Meher Ashworth – left hand	DNA-02
3.	Bloodstained portion of bedsheet recovered from Meher's room	DNA-03
4.	Blood swab collected from floor of Meher's room	DNA-04
5.	Swab/sample collected from clothing of Meher Ashworth	DNA-05
6.	Swab/sample collected from clothing of Devraj Malhotra	DNA-06
7.	Reference blood sample of Meher Ashworth	DNA-07
8.	Reference blood sample of Devraj Malhotra	DNA-08
9.	Reference blood sample of Kabir Ashworth	DNA-09

TESTS CONDUCTED

- Preliminary biological screening;
- DNA extraction;
- Quantification of extracted DNA;

- STR-based DNA profiling;
- Comparison of obtained profiles with the reference samples supplied.

RESULTS OF EXAMINATION

1. A complete DNA profile corresponding to Meher Ashworth was obtained from the reference sample marked DNA-07.
2. A complete DNA profile corresponding to Devraj Malhotra was obtained from the reference sample marked DNA-08.
3. A complete DNA profile corresponding to Kabir Ashworth was obtained from the reference sample marked DNA-09.
4. The bloodstained material contained in Exhibit DNA-03 was found to contain a mixture of biological material attributable to more than one individual. The major profile was consistent with Devraj Malhotra, while additional male DNA was detected.
5. The blood swab marked DNA-04 contained a DNA profile consistent with Devraj Malhotra.
6. The sample obtained from the clothing of Meher Ashworth, marked DNA-05, contained biological material attributable to Meher Ashworth along with an additional male DNA profile.
7. The additional male DNA profile detected in Exhibits DNA-03 and DNA-05 was found to be consistent with the DNA profile of Kabir Ashworth.
8. DNA obtained from the fingernail scrapings of Meher Ashworth, particularly Exhibit DNA-01, contained a mixed profile. The profile included DNA consistent with Meher Ashworth and a male contributor whose profile was consistent with Kabir Ashworth.
9. The profile obtained from Exhibit DNA-06, being the sample from the clothing of Devraj Malhotra, was consistent with Devraj Malhotra. No conclusive individual identification of an additional contributor could be made from that exhibit.

CONCLUSION

The DNA profile of Kabir Ashworth is consistent with male DNA detected in biological/contact material recovered from the body/clothing-associated samples of Meher Ashworth and from the bloodstained bedsheet recovered from the room.

The findings establish that Kabir Ashworth's DNA is present in the examined exhibits. The DNA analysis cannot determine when such biological or contact material was deposited and cannot, by itself, establish the circumstances in which the contact occurred.

The DNA results do not by themselves establish the identity of the person who caused the fatal injuries to either deceased.

Note: No opinion regarding the time or manner of deposition of the identified DNA can be given from the DNA examination alone.

Sd/-
Rajeev Sinha
Senior Scientific Officer
DNA / Biological Science Division

Forensic Science Laboratory, Ashvale

Date: 22/02/2026

ANNEXURE – 6
CYBER FORENSIC REPORT

CCTV / DVR ANALYSIS

FORENSIC SCIENCE LABORATORY, ASHVALE
Cyber Forensics Division

Report No.: FSL/CYBER/089/2026
Reference: Ironhold Police Station, Crime No. 47/2026
Offences: Sections 103 and 238, Ashvale Nyaya Sanhita, 2023

Requisitioned By: Inspector Farhan Qureshi, Ironhold Police Station, Winterfell

Date of Receipt of Device: 16/02/2026
Date of Examination: 17/02/2026 to 21/02/2026

DESCRIPTION OF ARTICLE RECEIVED

S. No.	Article	Description
1.	CCTV DVR	Digital Video Recorder installed at 12, Birchwood Lane, Ashgrove Colony, Winterfell
2.	Storage Device	Internal storage unit containing household CCTV recordings
3.	System Data	System logs, user-interface records and available metadata extracted from the DVR

CCTV SYSTEM DETAILS

- The residential premises was fitted with a household CCTV system consisting of cameras covering the main entrance and portions of the common ground-floor passage.
- The DVR was located in a cupboard situated in the common passage of the residence.
- The DVR was operational and its storage device was found capable of storing recorded footage from the connected cameras.
- The system permitted access to the recordings through an ordinary user interface protected by a household password.

EXAMINATION CONDUCTED

- The DVR and its storage device were examined using forensic imaging and data-recovery procedures.
- The available video recordings, system metadata and access/deletion logs were examined to determine the availability and continuity of recordings for the relevant period.
- Deleted and overwritten portions of the storage medium were also examined to the extent technically recoverable.

FINDINGS

1. The CCTV system was found to have recorded footage from the connected cameras during the period preceding the incident.
2. The recording corresponding to the period from approximately **12:30 A.M. to 03:00 A.M. on 15/02/2026** was not available in the DVR.
3. Examination of the system data indicates that the said portion of the recording had been **deleted through the ordinary user interface of the DVR**.
4. The deletion operation was recorded in the available system data as having occurred after the relevant recording had been created.
5. The system logs do not contain sufficient information to identify the individual person who accessed the DVR and carried out the deletion.
6. The DVR system did not maintain a reliable user-level audit trail capable of distinguishing between individual household users.
7. The password required to access the CCTV system was a household password and, during investigation, it was found that the password was known to **Kabir Ashworth, Priya Ashworth and Vikram Rathi**.
8. The available system data does not establish which of the said persons, if any, accessed the DVR at the relevant time.
9. No reliable biometric, individual-user authentication or other unique identifier was found in the examined DVR system which could attribute the deletion operation to a particular person.
10. The examination did not reveal sufficient recoverable video data from the deleted period to reconstruct the complete CCTV footage for the period between approximately 12:30 A.M. and 03:00 A.M.
11. Recordings immediately preceding and following the deleted period were examined and were found to be consistent with the normal operation of the CCTV system.

OPINION

The CCTV/DVR examination establishes that the recording corresponding approximately to the period **12:30 A.M. to 03:00 A.M. on 15/02/2026 was deleted through the ordinary interface of the household DVR**.

The available system data **does not permit attribution of the deletion to any particular individual**.

The forensic examination cannot determine from the DVR data alone who performed the deletion.

Sd/-
Rajeev Sinha
Senior Scientific Officer
Cyber Forensics Division
Forensic Science Laboratory, Ashvale

Date: 22/02/2026

ANNEXURE 7
CALL DETAIL RECORD / MOBILE DIGITAL EXTRACTION REPORT

FSL ASHVALE
Digital Evidence Examination Unit

Report No.: FSL/MOB/041/2026
Crime No.: 47/2026
Police Station: Ironhold Police Station, Winterfell
State: Ashvale

Date of Receipt: 17.02.2026
Date of Examination: 18.02.2026 – 20.02.2026
Date of Report: 21.02.2026

Requisitioned By:
Inspector Farhan Qureshi
Investigating Officer
Ironhold Police Station

MATERIAL EXAMINED

Sl. No.	Particulars
1.	Call Detail Record extract relating to mobile number used by **Kabir Ashworth**
2.	Call Detail Record extract relating to mobile number used by **Vikram Rathi**
3.	Limited subscriber and call-event information supplied by the concerned telecom service provider

PERIOD EXAMINED

The records supplied for examination principally cover the period **14.02.2026 to 15.02.2026**, with particular reference to the period between **08:00 P.M. on 14.02.2026 and 07:30 A.M. on 15.02.2026**.

FINDINGS

1. **Mobile Number of Kabir Ashworth**

The records relating to the mobile number used by Kabir Ashworth show recorded network activity consistent with his presence at or in the vicinity of the business-dinner venue up to approximately **10:45 P.M. on 14.02.2026**.
No call or message record examined by this Unit establishes Kabir Ashworth's presence at the Ashworth residence after his departure from the dinner venue.
The records do not provide a continuous location history of the handset after approximately 10:45 P.M.

2. **Mobile Number of Vikram Rathi**

The records relating to the mobile number used by Vikram Rathi were examined for the same period.
No call or message of apparent relevance to the occurrence was identified between the mobile number of Vikram Rathi and the mobile numbers examined in connection with the occurrence during the relevant night.
The records do not establish whether Vikram Rathi was physically present inside or outside the Ashworth residence.

3. Nature and Limitation of Records

The material supplied for examination consists principally of call-event and associated network records. It does not constitute continuous GPS or real-time location tracking.
The records therefore cannot, by themselves, establish the precise physical location of either handset at every point of time during the relevant period.

SUMMARY OF RELEVANT CALL EVENTS

Date	Approx. Time	Number / Person	Nature of Record	Observation
14.02.2026	Up to 10:45 P.M.	Kabir Ashworth	Network/call activity	Consistent with presence at/in vicinity of dinner venue
14.02.2026	After 10:45 P.M.	Kabir Ashworth	Limited subsequent activity	Does not establish precise location
14–15.02.2026	Relevant night	Vikram Rathi	Call/message records	No relevant communication identified
15.02.2026	Morning	Kabir Ashworth / Vikram Rathi	Records examined	No communication establishing involvement in occurrence

OPINION

On examination of the records supplied:

1. The mobile records place the handset used by **Kabir Ashworth** at or in the vicinity of the business-dinner venue until approximately **10:45 P.M. on 14.02.2026**.
2. The records do not establish the precise location of Kabir Ashworth's handset after that time.
3. No relevant communication involving the mobile number used by **Vikram Rathi** was identified during the relevant night.
4. The examined records do not, by themselves, establish the physical presence of either Kabir Ashworth or Vikram Rathi inside the Ashworth residence during the relevant period.

Prepared and examined by:
Digital Evidence Examination Unit
FSL Ashvale

Date: 21.02.2026

Seal of FSL Ashvale

ANNEXURE 8
STATEMENT OF WITNESS

PROSECUTION WITNESS – PW-1
Name: Priya Ashworth
Age: 47 years
Occupation: Homemaker
Address: 12, Birchwood Lane, Ashgrove Colony, Winterfell, Ashvale
Statement recorded by: Inspector Farhan Qureshi, Investigating Officer
Police Station: Ironhold Police Station, Winterfell
Date of Recording: 15.02.2026

I reside at 12, Birchwood Lane, Ashgrove Colony, Winterfell, along with my husband, Kabir Ashworth, and my daughter, Meher Ashworth. Devraj Malhotra was employed in our household for domestic and household assistance and was residing in the premises. Meher was 21 years of age. She was studying and generally spent most of her time either in her room or outside the house with her friends. Devraj had been working with us for some time and was also familiar with the routine of the household.

For the past few months, I had noticed that Meher and Devraj had become friendly with each other. I had occasionally seen them talking together or spending time in and around the house. I did not consider it unusual initially.

My husband, however, did not approve of the closeness between Meher and Devraj. On a few occasions he had expressed his displeasure to me and had told me that he did not think it was appropriate for Meher to spend so much time with Devraj. I had told him that Meher was an adult and that we should not interfere unnecessarily. I do not remember my husband having any serious quarrel with either Meher or Devraj about this matter.

On 14.02.2026, the day before this statement, the household routine was normal. Meena Devi, who works as our cook, prepared dinner and left the house at about 8:30 P.M. My husband had gone out for a business dinner. He returned home at approximately 10:50 P.M. I was aware that he had returned because I heard him come into the house. I had already retired to my room by that time. I went to sleep thereafter.

I remember waking up sometime during the night and, at the time when I was questioned by the police, I stated that I had checked on Meher around midnight. I now do not clearly remember getting out of my room at that time. I had been asleep and was extremely disturbed after discovering what had happened in the morning. I cannot say with certainty whether I actually went to Meher's room around midnight or whether I was mistaken about the time and events when I gave my initial account.

I did not hear any loud quarrel, scream or other unusual sound during the night.

At approximately 7:00 A.M. on 15.02.2026, I was awakened by repeated ringing of the doorbell. I got up and found that the main entrance door of the house was locked from inside. Meena Devi was standing outside the house. She had been ringing the bell because nobody had opened the door for her. I opened the main door and allowed Meena to enter. I remember feeling that something was unusual because Devraj ordinarily attended to the door in the morning.

After opening the door, I remained in the house for some time. At approximately 7:15 A.M., I went towards Meher's room. The door of Meher's room was not fully closed. When I entered the room, I saw Meher lying on the floor. There was blood visible in the room and on the bedding. Devraj was also lying inside the room.

Both of them appeared to be motionless. I became frightened and started screaming. Kabir came downstairs shortly thereafter. He appeared confused and asked what had happened. He came into the room with me.

Kabir went near Meher and Devraj and touched them while checking whether either of them was alive. I also tried to determine whether there was any sign of life. I cannot say whether either of them was alive when I first entered the room.

I did not see Kabir attack either Meher or Devraj. I did not see any other person inside the room when I entered. There was no visible damage to the main entrance door or any indication to me that the door had been forced open. I cannot say who entered or left the house during the night. I also cannot say how the deaths occurred or who caused them. I informed the police about the incident and gave them the information available to me. I have nothing further to state.

Sd/- Priya Ashworth
Priya Ashworth

Date: 15.02.2026

Recorded by:
Sd/- Inspector Farhan Qureshi
Investigating Officer
Ironhold Police Station, Winterfell, Ashvale

PROSECUTION WITNESS – PW-2

Name: Meena Devi
Age: 45 years
Occupation: Cook
Address: 8, Rose Lane, Ashgrove Colony, Winterfell, Ashvale

Statement recorded by: Inspector Farhan Qureshi, Investigating Officer
Police Station: Ironhold Police Station, Winterfell
Date of Recording: 15.02.2026

I have been working as a cook at the residence of Kabir Ashworth, situated at 12, Birchwood Lane, Ashgrove Colony, Winterfell, for approximately three years. I know Kabir Ashworth, his wife Priya Ashworth, their daughter Meher Ashworth and Devraj Malhotra, who was working in the household and residing at the premises. On 14.02.2026, I prepared dinner at the Ashworth residence and left at about 8:30 P.M. At that time, Kabir was not at home as he had gone out for a business dinner. Priya, Meher and Devraj were present and I did not notice anything unusual before leaving.

I returned to the house at about 7:00 A.M. on 15.02.2026 as part of my usual morning routine. I rang the main doorbell several times, but nobody opened the door. I also knocked on the door and waited for some time, but there was no response from inside. This appeared unusual to me because Devraj would ordinarily open the door for me in the morning. After some time, Priya came and opened the door. She appeared disturbed. I entered the house and shortly thereafter Priya went towards Meher's room. I then heard Priya scream and went towards the room, where I saw Meher and Devraj lying inside. Both appeared to be dead and there was blood visible in the room. Kabir came downstairs shortly thereafter, but I did not see him assault either of them and I cannot say what happened during the night.

About two days before the incident, I had noticed some tension in the household concerning Vikram Rathi, who worked as a driver for Kabir. Vikram had been discussing his wages or money with Kabir. I did not hear the entire conversation and therefore cannot say exactly what was said between them. I do not know whether that matter had anything to do with the deaths. I did not see anyone enter or leave the house after I arrived on the morning of 15.02.2026, and I have no personal knowledge as to who caused the deaths of Meher Ashworth and Devraj Malhotra.

Sd/- Meena Devi
Meena Devi

Date: 15.02.2026

Recorded by:
Sd/- Inspector Farhan Qureshi
Investigating Officer
Ironhold Police Station, Winterfell, Ashvale

PROSECUTION WITNESS – PW-3

Name: Dr. Ananya Kulkarni
Age: 41 years
Occupation: Medical Officer / Forensic Medical Practitioner
Place of Posting: Winterfell Civil Hospital, Ashvale
Statement recorded by: Inspector Farhan Qureshi, Investigating Officer
Police Station: Ironhold Police Station, Winterfell
Date of Recording: 15.02.2026

I am working as a Medical Officer at Winterfell Civil Hospital and have experience in conducting medico-legal post-mortem examinations. On 15.02.2026, I conducted the post-mortem examination of Meher Ashworth and Devraj Malhotra. In the case of Meher Ashworth, I observed pressure marks and abrasions around the neck, petechial haemorrhaging and injuries consistent with a struggle. On internal examination, there was haemorrhagic infiltration of the soft tissues of the neck and fracture of the hyoid bone. In my opinion, the cause of death was asphyxia due to manual strangulation. The injuries were ante-mortem and, in my opinion, the death was homicidal in nature.

In the case of Devraj Malhotra, I observed multiple penetrating injuries over the chest and upper abdomen caused by a sharp-edged weapon. The injuries were consistent with the use of a single-edged blade. I also observed injuries on the hands and forearms which could be consistent with defensive injuries. There was substantial internal haemorrhage, and in my opinion the cause of death was haemorrhagic shock resulting from the multiple stab injuries. The injuries were ante-mortem and the death was homicidal in nature.

On the basis of the post-mortem findings, the deaths could broadly be placed within a period of approximately **11:00 P.M. on 14.02.2026 to 3:00 A.M. on 15.02.2026**. The stated period is an estimate based on the medical findings and surrounding circumstances available to me and is not capable of being fixed to an exact time. I cannot, merely from the post-mortem findings, state the precise time at which either deceased died or identify the person responsible for the deaths.

I prepared and signed the respective post-mortem reports, which bear my signatures and contain my observations and opinion regarding the cause and approximate time of death.

Sd/- Dr. Ananya Kulkarni
Medical Officer
Winterfell Civil Hospital

Date: 15.02.2026

PROSECUTION WITNESS – PW-4

Name: Farhan Qureshi
Rank: Inspector
Police Station: Ironhold Police Station, Winterfell
Designation: Investigating Officer

I was posted as Inspector at Ironhold Police Station, Winterfell, on 15.02.2026. At about 7:20 A.M., information was received regarding two persons having been found dead at 12, Birchwood Lane, Ashgrove Colony. I reached the premises and found Meher Ashworth and Devraj Malhotra lying deceased inside Meher's bedroom. I inspected the scene, prepared the Observation and Seizure Memo and arranged for photographs and collection of relevant articles. There was blood present in the room and on the bedding. No weapon was found in the room during the initial inspection. The main entrance did not show visible signs of forced entry. The household CCTV/DVR system installed in the passage was also taken into police custody for forensic examination.

During investigation, the post-mortem examinations of both deceased were conducted and the relevant biological and physical exhibits were sent to FSL Ashvale. The FSL DNA report subsequently received by me recorded DNA consistent with Kabir Ashworth in contact/biological material recovered from articles connected with Meher and the scene. The report also states that the examination cannot determine when the DNA was deposited. The cyber-forensic examination of the household DVR showed that the recording between approximately 12:30 A.M. and 3:00 A.M. on 15.02.2026 was unavailable and that the relevant portion had been deleted through the ordinary user interface. The cyber-forensic examination, however, did not identify the individual who carried out the deletion. I also collected the relevant mobile records of Kabir Ashworth and Vikram Rathi. The records placed Kabir's mobile activity at or near the business-dinner venue until approximately 10:45 P.M., but did not establish his precise location thereafter. No relevant communication involving Vikram's number was identified during the relevant night.

During further investigation, on 02.03.2026, a fruit knife was recovered from the water tank situated on the common rooftop of the premises through the external staircase. The weapon was sent for forensic examination. On 06.03.2026, a partially burnt fabric fragment was recovered from the common incinerator area of Ashgrove Colony and was also sent for examination. Kabir Ashworth was medically examined during the investigation and was found to have a minor cut on his right palm and linear abrasions on his forearm. The investigation also revealed that the CCTV password was known to more than one person having access to the premises. I recorded the statements of the relevant witnesses, collected the medical, forensic and digital material and completed the investigation.

After completion of investigation, I filed the charge-sheet against Kabir Ashworth for offences punishable under **Sections 103 and 238 of the Ashvale Nyaya Sanhita, 2023**. The FIR, Observation and Seizure Memo, site plan, post-mortem reports, FSL reports, cyber-forensic report, mobile/CDR extract and recovery documents were prepared or collected during the course of investigation and form part of the case record. I identify the documents and material objects produced before the Court as those collected or prepared during investigation.

Sd/- Inspector Farhan Qureshi
Investigating Officer
Ironhold Police Station, Winterfell, Ashvale

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

DEFENCE WITNESS – DW-1

Name: Anjali Deshmukh
Age: 36 years
Occupation: Independent Digital Forensic Consultant
Address: 21, Lakeview Apartments, Winterfell, Ashvale

I am an independent digital forensic consultant and have been examining digital storage devices and CCTV systems for several years. I was engaged by the defence to independently examine the available material relating to the household CCTV/DVR system installed at the Ashworth residence. I examined the forensic copy and technical material relating to the DVR and reviewed the cyber-forensic findings already placed on record. The system consisted of cameras covering the main entrance and portions of the common ground-floor passage, with the recording device kept in a cupboard in the passage.

My examination confirmed that the recording corresponding approximately to **12:30 A.M. to 3:00 A.M. on 15.02.2026** was unavailable. The available system information indicates that the relevant recording was deleted through the ordinary user interface of the DVR. However, the system did not contain a reliable user-level audit trail capable of identifying the particular person who operated the system or carried out the deletion. There was also no biometric authentication, individual operator profile or other unique identifier associated with the deletion event.

I was informed that the password used for operating the household CCTV system was known to Kabir Ashworth, Priya Ashworth and Vikram Rathi. In such circumstances, the fact that the recording was deleted establishes that an authorised user interface was used, but it does not, by itself, establish which of the persons having knowledge of or access to the password performed the operation. The available data also does not permit the complete deleted portion of the recording to be reconstructed.

In my professional opinion, the available digital evidence can establish the **deletion of the CCTV recording**, but it cannot reliably attribute that deletion to Kabir Ashworth alone. I cannot state who actually deleted the recording, and I have no independent knowledge of who was present inside the Ashworth residence at the relevant time.

Sd/- Anjali Deshmukh
Independent Digital Forensic Consultant

DEFENCE WITNESS – DW-2

Name: Vikram Rathi
Age: 38 years
Occupation: Driver
Address: 17, Green Park Road, Ashgrove Colony, Winterfell, Ashvale

I had been working as a driver for Kabir Ashworth for approximately four years. I was familiar with the Ashworth residence and its usual household routine. I had access to the premises during the course of my work and was also aware that the house had a rear service staircase leading towards the common rooftop. In the days before the incident, I had a disagreement with Kabir Ashworth regarding my wages and was considering leaving his employment. I had discussed the issue with him and had intended to submit my resignation.

On the night of 14.02.2026, I was near the Ashworth residence at approximately 11:45 P.M. I had gone there carrying a resignation letter which I intended to leave for Kabir. I stopped near the gate but did not enter the house. I remained there only for a short period and ultimately decided not to go inside. I then left the area on my motorcycle. I did not see Meher Ashworth or Devraj Malhotra that night and did not hear any quarrel or disturbance from inside the house.

I subsequently came to know that Meher and Devraj had been found dead. During the investigation, the police questioned me about my presence near the house on the night of the incident. I told them that I had gone there intending to leave a resignation letter for Kabir. Before that, I had told members of my family that I had gone out for a night ride. I had not wanted to discuss my employment problems with my family at that time. I understand that my presence near the house may appear suspicious, but I did not enter the premises and had no involvement in the deaths.

I deny having killed Meher Ashworth or Devraj Malhotra, entering the house that night, deleting any CCTV recording or placing any weapon in the rooftop water tank. I have no knowledge of who caused the deaths or who subsequently removed any article from the house.

Sd/- Vikram Rathi
Vikram Rathi

DEFENCE WITNESS – DW-3

Name: Radhika Oberoi
Age: 44 years
Occupation: School Teacher
Address: 14, Birchwood Lane, Ashgrove Colony, Winterfell, Ashvale

I reside at 14, Birchwood Lane, Ashgrove Colony, which is in the immediate vicinity of the residence of Kabir Ashworth. I have known the Ashworth family as neighbours for several years. On the night of 14.02.2026, I was at my residence. At approximately 11:45 P.M., I heard the sound of a motorcycle coming from the direction of the Ashworth residence. I looked outside from my house, but I could not clearly see the person who was near the gate. After a short while, I heard the motorcycle leave. I cannot identify the person who was riding it.

The night was otherwise relatively quiet. I did not hear any loud argument, screaming, shouting, breaking of objects or other sound which, to me, appeared to be a violent disturbance coming from the Ashworth residence. I was inside my house for most of the night and cannot say what was happening inside the Ashworth residence. I did not go to the residence and did not see anyone enter or leave it.

I came to know about the deaths of Meher Ashworth and Devraj Malhotra only the following morning when there was activity and police presence around the house. During the investigation, I was informed that Vikram Rathi had been present near the Ashworth residence at around 11:45 P.M. I can only state that I heard a motorcycle at approximately that time; I cannot personally identify Vikram as the person who was there.

I have no personal knowledge of who entered the Ashworth residence during the night or who caused the deaths of Meher Ashworth and Devraj Malhotra. I have stated only what I personally heard and observed on the night in question.

Sd/- Radhika Oberoi
Radhika Oberoi

DEFENCE WITNESS – DW-4

Name: Kabir Ashworth
Age: 52 years
Occupation: Senior Software Engineer
Address: 12, Birchwood Lane, Ashgrove Colony, Winterfell, Ashvale

I am a Senior Software Engineer and reside at 12, Birchwood Lane, Ashgrove Colony, Winterfell, with my wife Priya Ashworth and my daughter Meher Ashworth. Devraj Malhotra was employed in our household and was residing at the premises. On 14.02.2026, I attended a business dinner and returned home at approximately 10:50 P.M. I entered the house through the main entrance and thereafter went upstairs to my room. I was tired and went to sleep. I did not see Meher or Devraj after returning home and did not hear any argument, shouting or other unusual sound during the night.

I became aware that something was wrong the following morning when I heard the commotion downstairs. I came out of my room and found Priya near Meher's room. When I entered the room, I saw Meher and Devraj lying inside. I was shocked and confused. I went near them and touched them while checking whether either of them showed any signs of life. I did not know that doing so could affect any subsequent forensic examination. I had no reason at that time to believe that the police would later treat such contact as evidence against me.

I admit that I had previously expressed my disapproval of the closeness between Meher and Devraj. I had spoken to Priya about it because I was concerned about Meher and the situation in the household, but I never intended to harm either of them. I also knew the password used to operate the household CCTV system. However, Priya and Vikram Rathi also knew the password, and I did not delete or alter any recording. I have no knowledge of how the recording between 12:30 A.M. and 3:00 A.M. came to be unavailable.

I did not place any knife in the rooftop water tank and did not burn or dispose of any clothing or other evidence. The minor cut on my right palm and the abrasions on my forearm do not establish that I killed anyone. I deny having caused the deaths of Meher Ashworth and Devraj Malhotra or having attempted to conceal any offence. I have stated the truth to the best of my knowledge and recollection.

Sd/- Kabir Ashworth
Kabir Ashworth

ANNEXURE 9
MEDICAL EXAMINATION REPORT OF ACCUSED

WINTERFELL CIVIL HOSPITAL
Department of Forensic Medicine

Medico-Legal Examination Report No.: MLR/47/2026
Police Station: Ironhold Police Station, Winterfell
Crime No.: 47/2026

Name of Person Examined: Kabir Ashworth
Age: 52 years
Sex: Male
Occupation: Senior Software Engineer
Address: 12, Birchwood Lane, Ashgrove Colony, Winterfell, Ashvale

Date & Time of Examination: 15.02.2026 at 10:15 A.M.
Brought by: Inspector Farhan Qureshi, Ironhold Police Station

GENERAL CONDITION
The person examined was conscious, oriented and able to give relevant answers. He was ambulatory and did not show any apparent signs of severe physical distress at the time of examination.

INJURIES NOTED
1. A **superficial incised wound approximately 1.5 cm in length** was present over the right palm.
2. Two **linear superficial abrasions**, approximately 3 cm and 4 cm respectively, were present over the right forearm.
3. No other significant external injury was noted on general examination.

OPINION
The injuries were **simple in nature** and did not require any major surgical intervention.
The nature and appearance of the injuries are compatible with having been caused by a **sharp object and/or contact with a rough surface**, depending upon the particular injury.
The injuries are not, by themselves, sufficient to determine the precise manner, circumstances or time in which they were sustained.

Sd/-

Dr. Ananya Kulkarni
Medical Officer
Department of Forensic Medicine
Winterfell Civil Hospital

Date: 15.02.2026

Hospital Seal

ANNEXURE 10

RECOVERY MEMO AND FORENSIC EXAMINATION REPORT

RECOVERED FRUIT KNIFE

RECOVERY MEMO

ANNEXURE 10-A

District: Ashvale
Police Station: Ironhold Police Station, Winterfell
Crime No.: 47/2026
Offences: Sections 103 and 238, Ashvale Nyaya Sanhita, 2023
Investigating Officer: Inspector Farhan Qureshi
Date of Recovery: 02.03.2026
Place of Recovery: Common Rooftop / Water Tank Area, Ashgrove Colony, Winterfell

PARTICULARS OF ARTICLE RECOVERED

Particular	Details
Article	One fruit knife
Description	Single-edged knife with a metal blade and handle
Place where found	Inside the water tank situated on the common rooftop
Condition	Wet and showing signs of prolonged exposure to water
Identification	Seized and marked as Article K-1
Photograph	Taken at the place of recovery before removal
Subsequent action	Sealed and forwarded for forensic examination

RECOVERY

During further investigation of Crime No. 47/2026, the Investigating Officer and accompanying police personnel inspected the common rooftop area accessible through the external service staircase situated at the rear portion of the Ashworth residence.

The rooftop contains water tanks and other household utility installations and is accessible through the common external staircase. During the inspection, one fruit knife was found inside the water tank situated on the rooftop.

The article was removed from the water tank, photographed and examined in its recovered condition. The knife was found to be wet and showed signs consistent with prolonged immersion in water. The article was thereafter placed in suitable evidence packaging, sealed, labelled as **Article K-1**, and taken into police custody for forensic examination.

The recovery was recorded by the Investigating Officer and the article was forwarded to the Forensic Science Laboratory, Ashvale, for examination concerning its physical characteristics and any recoverable biological or trace material.

Sd/-
Inspector Farhan Qureshi
Investigating Officer
Ironhold Police Station
Winterfell, Ashvale

Date: 02.03.2026

ANNEXURE 10-B

FORENSIC SCIENCE LABORATORY REPORT

TRACE / BIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION DIVISION

Forensic Science Laboratory, Ashvale

Report No.: FSL/TRACE/25/2026
Reference: Ironhold Police Station, Crime No. 47/2026
Offences: Sections 103 and 238, Ashvale Nyaya Sanhita, 2023
Requisitioned by: Inspector Farhan Qureshi, Ironhold Police Station, Winterfell

Date of Receipt of Article: 02.03.2026
Date of Examination: 03.03.2026 to 05.03.2026
Date of Report: 06.03.2026

ARTICLE RECEIVED

Laboratory Exhibit	Description
K-1	One fruit knife recovered from the rooftop water tank of the Ashworth residence

CONDITION OF ARTICLE

The article was received in sealed condition bearing the identification particulars of Ironhold Police Station, Crime No. 47/2026.

The knife was found to be wet at the time of recovery and exhibited signs consistent with prolonged exposure to water. The condition of the article was taken into consideration while conducting the examination.

EXAMINATION CONDUCTED

The article was examined for:

1. Physical characteristics and general condition;
2. Presence of recoverable biological material;
3. DNA profiling of any recoverable biological material, where technically possible; and
4. Comparison of any obtained profile with the reference samples supplied during investigation.

FINDINGS

1. The article examined as **K-1** is a single-edged fruit knife.
2. Biological/trace material was detected on portions of the article; however, the condition of the material was affected by the prolonged exposure of the article to water.

3. DNA analysis yielded a **partial/degraded male DNA profile** from the recoverable material.
4. The obtained partial profile was found to be **consistent with the reference DNA profile of Kabir Ashworth**.
5. The quality and extent of the recovered profile were insufficient to establish an exclusive identification of Kabir Ashworth as the person who handled the article.
6. The examination does not establish the precise time at which the biological material was deposited on the knife.
7. The examination does not establish the circumstances in which the DNA material came to be present on the knife.
8. The DNA/trace findings cannot, by themselves, establish that Kabir Ashworth used the knife during the occurrence.

OPINION

The biological/trace material recovered from Article K-1 yielded a **degraded partial male DNA profile consistent with the reference profile of Kabir Ashworth**.

However, owing to the condition of the article and the degraded nature of the recovered material, the examination does not establish that Kabir Ashworth was the person who used or handled the knife during the occurrence.

The examination cannot determine the time or circumstances of deposition of the identified biological material.

Sd/-
Rajeev Sinha
Senior Scientific Officer
Trace / Biological Science Division
Forensic Science Laboratory, Ashvale

ANNEXURE 11

RECOVERY MEMO AND FORENSIC EXAMINATION REPORT

PARTIALLY BURNT FABRIC FRAGMENT

RECOVERY MEMO

ANNEXURE 11-A

District: Ashvale
Police Station: Ironhold Police Station, Winterfell
Crime No.: 47/2026
Offences: Sections 103 and 238, Ashvale Nyaya Sanhita, 2023
Investigating Officer: Inspector Farhan Qureshi
Date of Recovery: 06.03.2026
Place of Recovery: Common Incinerator Area, Ashgrove Colony, Winterfell

PARTICULARS OF ARTICLE RECOVERED

Particular	Details
Article	Partially burnt fabric fragment
Description	Small partially burnt textile/fabric fragment
Place of recovery	Common incinerator area of Ashgrove Colony
Condition	Partially burnt and damaged
Identification	Marked as Article T-1
Subsequent action	Sealed and forwarded for forensic examination

RECOVERY

During further investigation of Crime No. 47/2026, the Investigating Officer inspected the common incinerator area situated within Ashgrove Colony.

A partially burnt fabric fragment was noticed amongst the material present in the common incinerator area. The fragment was photographed in situ and was thereafter carefully collected for forensic examination.

The recovered article was found to be partially burnt and damaged, with portions of the original fabric remaining intact. The article was placed in suitable evidence packaging, sealed and labelled as **Article T-1**.

The recovered fabric fragment was forwarded to the Forensic Science Laboratory, Ashvale, for examination of its fibre characteristics and comparison with relevant reference material collected during investigation.

Sd/-
Inspector Farhan Qureshi
Investigating Officer

Ironhold Police Station
Winterfell, Ashvale

Date: 06.03.2026

ANNEXURE 11-B

FORENSIC SCIENCE LABORATORY REPORT

FIBRE / TRACE EXAMINATION DIVISION

Forensic Science Laboratory, Ashvale

Report No.: FSL/FIBRE/30/2026
Reference: Ironhold Police Station, Crime No. 47/2026
Offences: Sections 103 and 238, Ashvale Nyaya Sanhita, 2023
Requisitioned by: Inspector Farhan Qureshi, Ironhold Police Station, Winterfell

Date of Receipt of Article: 06.03.2026
Date of Examination: 07.03.2026
Date of Report: 07.03.2026

ARTICLE RECEIVED

Laboratory Exhibit	Description
T-1	Partially burnt fabric fragment recovered from common incinerator area of Ashgrove Colony
T-2	Reference fabric sample obtained from clothing belonging to Kabir Ashworth

EXAMINATION CONDUCTED

The article was examined for:

1. Physical and microscopic characteristics of the surviving textile fibres;
2. Fibre type and structural characteristics;
3. Presence of burnt and heat-affected portions; and
4. Comparison with a reference fabric sample obtained from clothing belonging to Kabir Ashworth and forwarded during investigation.

FINDINGS

1. The article marked **T-1** consisted of a partially burnt textile/fabric fragment.
2. The surviving portions of the fabric contained fibres whose physical and microscopic characteristics were capable of examination.
3. The fibre characteristics of Article T-1 were found to be consistent with the fibre characteristics of the reference fabric sample marked T-2.
4. The reference sample marked T-2 was obtained from clothing belonging to Kabir Ashworth
5. The comparison, however, does not permit the recovered fragment to be identified as having necessarily originated from Kabir Ashworth's garment.
6. The partial burning and damage to the fabric limited the extent of comparison that could be undertaken.

7. The examination cannot establish the identity of the person who placed or disposed of the fabric fragment in the common incinerator area.
8. The examination cannot determine the exact time at which the fabric was burnt, deposited or recovered.

OPINION

The fibre characteristics of the partially burnt fabric fragment marked **T-1** are **consistent with the relevant reference material associated with Kabir Ashworth**, but the examination does not permit a conclusive identification of the fragment as having originated from a garment worn by him.

The fibre examination does not establish who deposited or burnt the fabric fragment or when the same occurred.

Sd/-
Rajeev Sinha
Senior Scientific Officer
Trace / Fibre Examination Division
Forensic Science Laboratory, Ashvale

ANNEXURE 12
FINAL REPORT / CHARGE-SHEET
IN THE COURT OF THE PRINCIPAL SESSIONS JUDGE, WINTERFELL, ASHVALE
FINAL REPORT UNDER THE ASHVALE NAGARIK SURAKSHA SANHITA, 2023

Particulars	Details
District	Ashvale
Police Station	Ironhold Police Station
Crime No.	47/2026
Date of FIR	15.02.2026
Date of Occurrence	Night of 14/15.02.2026
Sections	103 and 238, Ashvale Nyaya Sanhita, 2023
Complainant	Priya Ashworth
Investigating Officer	Inspector Farhan Qureshi
Accused	Kabir Ashworth
Deceased	Meher Ashworth and Devraj Malhotra
Date of Filing of Final Report	April 2026

1. PARTICULARS OF THE ACCUSED

Kabir Ashworth, aged 52 years, occupation Senior Software Engineer, resident of 12, Birchwood Lane, Ashgrove Colony, Winterfell, Ashvale.
The accused was arrested on **18.02.2026** during the course of investigation and was subsequently produced before the competent Court.

2. BRIEF FACTS OF THE CASE

On 15.02.2026 at approximately 7:20 A.M., information was received at Ironhold Police Station regarding two persons found dead at 12, Birchwood Lane, Ashgrove Colony, Winterfell. On reaching the premises, the police found **Meher Ashworth** and **Devraj Malhotra** deceased inside Meher Ashworth's bedroom. The scene was inspected and relevant articles were seized. No weapon was found inside the room during the initial inspection and there was no apparent damage to the main entrance indicating forced entry.

Investigation revealed that Meher Ashworth and Devraj Malhotra had been residing in the same premises and that the accused, Kabir Ashworth, was a member of the household. The investigation further revealed that the accused had previously expressed disapproval of the closeness between Meher and Devraj. On the night of the occurrence, the accused had attended a business dinner and returned to the Ashworth residence at approximately 10:50 P.M. The post-mortem examinations subsequently conducted on the deceased placed the deaths broadly between **11:00 P.M. and 3:00 A.M.**

During investigation, biological material and other articles recovered from the scene were sent to FSL Ashvale. The FSL DNA examination reported DNA consistent with Kabir Ashworth in contact/biological material recovered from articles connected with the deceased and the scene. The report records that the timing of such DNA deposition cannot be determined. Examination

of the household DVR further revealed that the CCTV recording for approximately **12:30 A.M. to 3:00 A.M.** was unavailable and that the relevant portion had been deleted through the ordinary user interface. The cyber-forensic examination could not identify the individual who performed the deletion.

During further investigation, a fruit knife was recovered on **02.03.2026** from the water tank situated on the common rooftop accessible through the external service staircase. The recovered weapon was sent for forensic examination. On **06.03.2026**, a partially burnt fabric fragment was recovered from the common incinerator area of Ashgrove Colony and was also sent for examination. The accused was also medically examined during investigation and was found to have a superficial injury to his right palm and abrasions over his forearm.

3. INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED

The following steps were undertaken during investigation:

- Registration of FIR on the complaint of Priya Ashworth;
- Inspection and documentation of the scene of occurrence;
- Preparation of Observation and Seizure Memo and Site Plan;
- Inquest proceedings in respect of both deceased;
- Post-mortem examinations at Winterfell Civil Hospital;
- Collection and preservation of biological and physical evidence;
- Seizure and forensic examination of the household DVR;
- DNA/trace examination at FSL Ashvale;
- Examination of relevant mobile/CDR records of Kabir Ashworth and Vikram Rathi;
- Medical examination of accused Kabir Ashworth;
- Recovery of the fruit knife from the rooftop water tank;
- Recovery of partially burnt fabric from the colony's common incinerator area;
- Recording of statements of witnesses; and
- Collection and examination of the relevant medical, forensic and digital records.

4. MATERIAL EVIDENCE COLLECTED

The investigation has resulted in collection of the following material:

Sl. No.	Document / Material	Reference
1.	First Information Report	Annexure 1
2.	Observation and Seizure Memo	Annexure 2
3.	Site Plan	Annexure 3
4.	Post-Mortem Reports	Annexure 4
5.	FSL DNA / Biological Science Report	Annexure 5
6.	Cyber-Forensic / CCTV-DVR Report	Annexure 6
7.	Mobile / CDR Report	Annexure 7
8.	Witness Statements	Annexure 8
9.	Medical Examination Report of Accused	Annexure 9
10.	Knife Recovery Memo and FSL / Trace Report	Annexure 10
11.	Burnt Fabric Recovery Memo and FSL / Trace Report	Annexure 11

5. PROSECUTION WITNESSES

The prosecution proposes to examine the following witnesses:

Witness	Name	Role
PW-1	Priya Ashworth	Wife of accused; household witness and discoverer of bodies
PW-2	Meena Devi	Cook; morning-doorbell and household-routine witness
PW-3	Dr. Ananya Kulkarni	Medical witness; conducted post-mortem examinations
PW-4	Inspector Farhan Qureshi	Investigating Officer

The FSL DNA, trace/biological, fibre and cyber-forensic reports authored by Rajeev Sinha, Senior Scientific Officer, FSL Ashvale, are relied upon as documentary/forensic reports and are proposed to be produced through PW-4. Rajeev Sinha is not cited as a prosecution witness

6. CASE AGAINST THE ACCUSED

Upon completion of investigation and consideration of the material collected, it is alleged that Kabir Ashworth had the opportunity and access to commit the deaths during the relevant period and that the circumstances collected during investigation, including the forensic material, deletion of the relevant CCTV recording and subsequent recoveries, connect him with the occurrence and subsequent disappearance of material evidence.

It is further alleged that the recovered knife and partially burnt fabric fragment represent articles removed or disposed of after the occurrence with the intention of screening the offender from legal consequences.

The investigation has accordingly found sufficient material to proceed against Kabir Ashworth for the offences stated below.

7. OFFENCES MADE OUT

The material collected during investigation discloses, prima facie, offences punishable under:

Section 103, Ashvale Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 — Murder.

Section 238, Ashvale Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 — Causing disappearance of evidence of offence, or giving false information, with intent to screen the offender from legal punishment.

8. FINAL OPINION

In view of the statements of witnesses and the medical, forensic, digital and physical evidence collected during investigation, there is sufficient material to proceed against **Kabir Ashworth** for offences punishable under Sections **103 and 238 of the Ashvale Nyaya Sanhita, 2023**.

The accused is therefore sent up for trial before the competent Court.

The witnesses and documents mentioned herein may kindly be summoned and taken on record in accordance with law.

Submitted by:

Sd/- Inspector Farhan Qureshi
Investigating Officer
Ironhold Police Station
Winterfell, Ashvale

Date: April 2026

Official Seal of Ironhold Police Station

LIST OF EXHIBITS / VISUAL & MATERIAL EVIDENCE

Exhibit No.	Description
Exhibit A-1	Photograph of the Front View of the Ashworth Residence
Exhibit A-2	Photograph of the Main Entrance and Front Door
Exhibit A-3	Photograph of the Main Door – Interior View
Exhibit A-4	Photograph of the Entrance Area / Ground-Floor Approach
Exhibit B-1	Crime Scene Photograph – Meher's Bedroom
Exhibit C-1	CCTV / DVR Recording Status showing the recording gap between approximately 12:30 A.M. and 3:00 A.M.
Exhibit C-2	CCTV Camera Field of View – Ground-Floor Entrance Passage
Exhibit D-1	Photograph of the Rooftop Water Tank Area
Exhibit E-1	Photograph of the Fruit Knife Recovered from the Rooftop Water Tank
Exhibit F-1	Photograph of the Colony Common Incinerator – Recovery Location
Exhibit F-2	Photograph of the Partially Burnt Fabric Fragment

EXHIBIT A

PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE ASHWORTH RESIDENCE – EXTERIOR AND MAIN ENTRANCE

Case: State of Ashvale v. Kabir Ashworth
Crime No.: 47/2026
Police Station: Ironhold Police Station, Winterfell
Exhibit: A

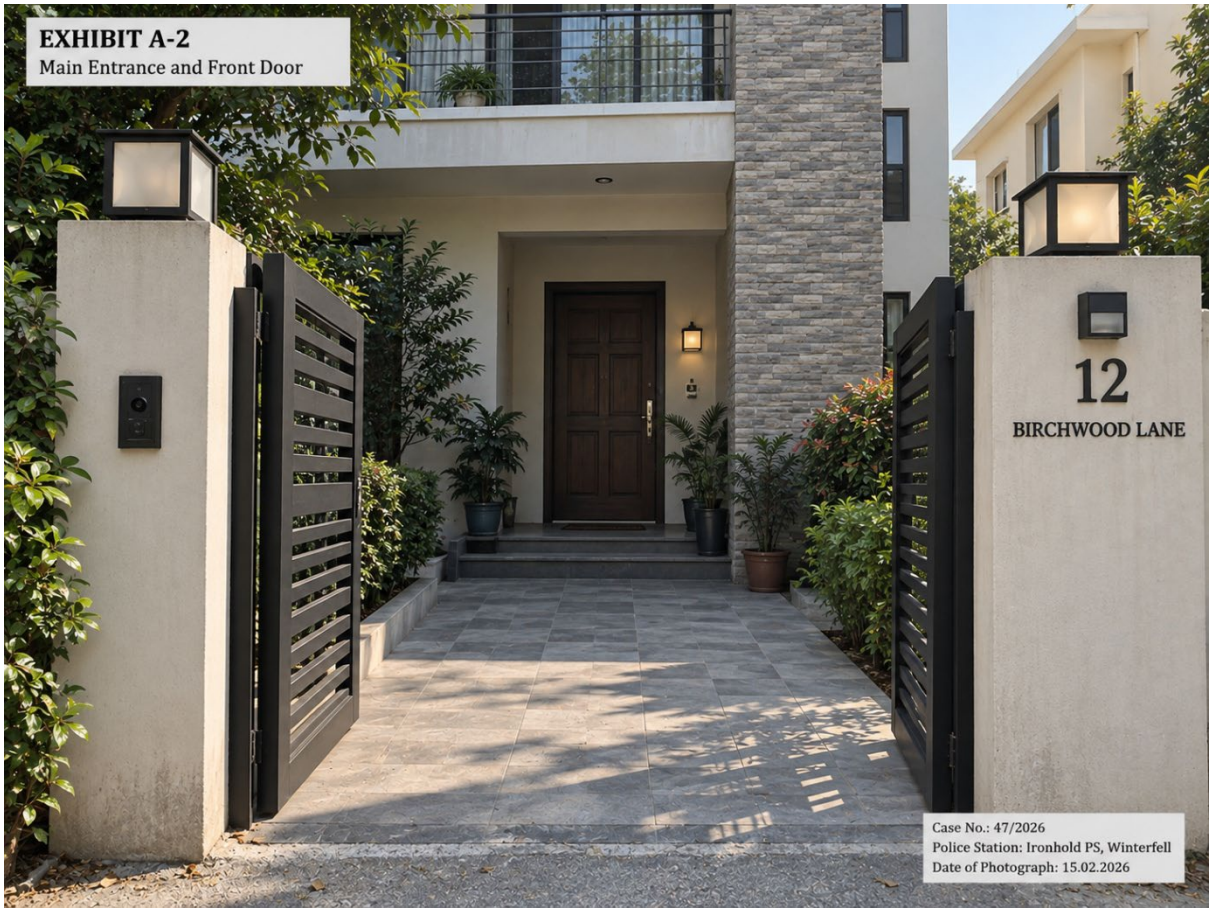
Photograph A-1: Front View of the Ashworth Residence



Description:
Photograph showing the exterior/front elevation of the two-storey independent residential house situated at **12, Birchwood Lane, Ashgrove Colony, Winterfell, Ashvale**.

The photograph shows the main gate opening towards Birchwood Lane and the front portion of the residential premises.

Photograph A-2: Main Entrance and Front Door



Description:
Photograph showing the main entrance of the Ashworth residence, including the front gate, entrance pathway and the main door of the house.

The main entrance is the principal access point from Birchwood Lane into the residence.

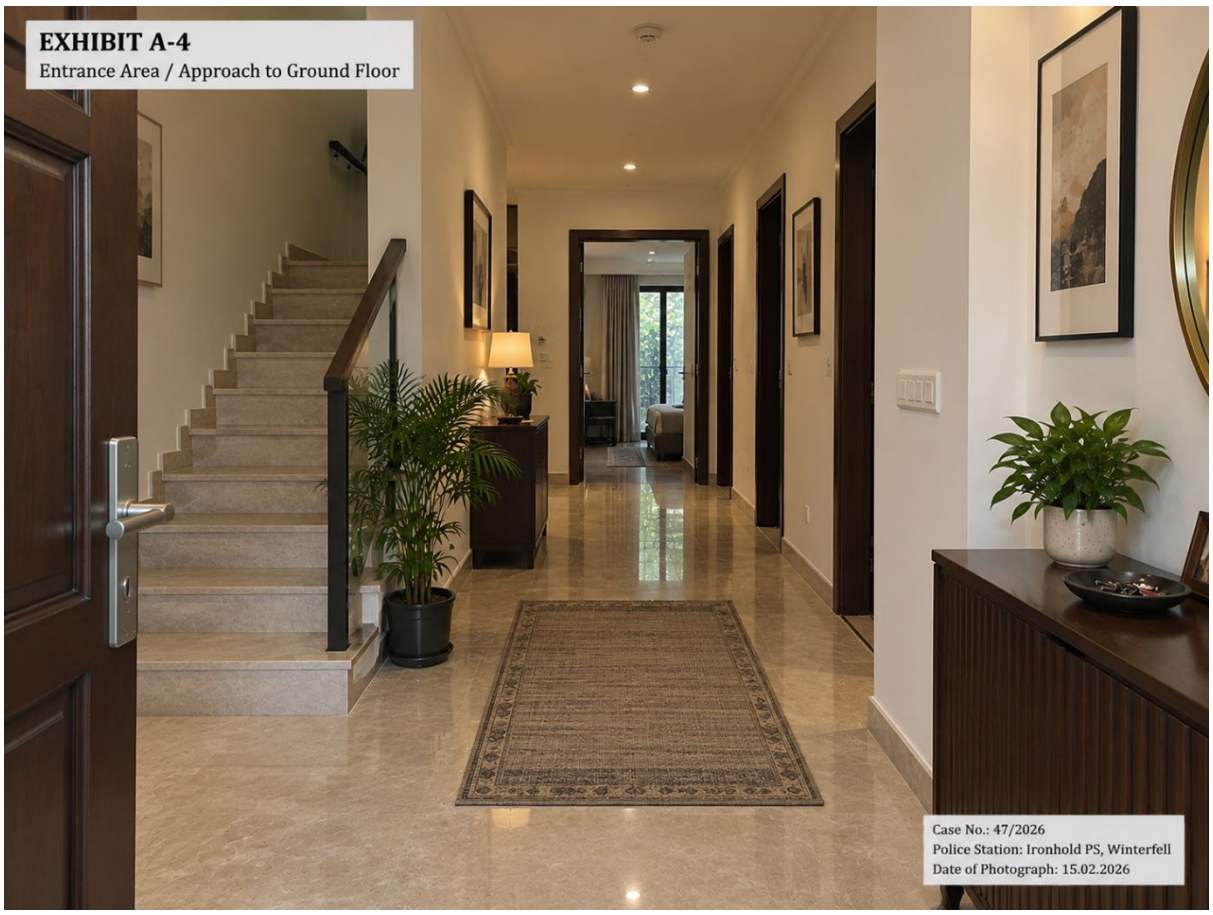
Photograph A-3: Main Door – Interior View



Description:
Photograph showing the interior side of the main entrance door and its locking arrangement, as observed during the inspection of the premises on **15 February 2026**.

No visible signs of damage or forced entry were observed on the main entrance door at the time of inspection.

Photograph A-4: Entrance Area / Approach to Ground Floor



Description:
Photograph showing the entrance area from inside the residence and the approach towards the ground-floor portion of the house.

The ground-floor passage leads towards the bedroom occupied by **Meher Ashworth** and other common areas of the residence.

EXHIBIT B

CRIME SCENE – MEHER'S BEDROOM

Exhibit B-1: Crime Scene Photograph

The photograph depicts the bedroom occupied by Meher Ashworth, taken during the investigation on **15 February 2026**, after the bodies of the deceased had been removed from the scene.

The room is shown in a disturbed condition, with articles and bedding displaced. Bloodstains are visible at certain locations within the room. White forensic markings indicating the approximate positions of the two deceased persons at the time of scene examination are visible, one on the floor and the other on the bed. The entrance to the room had been cordoned off during the investigation.

The photograph forms part of the visual documentation of the scene of occurrence.



Exhibit B-1
Crime Scene – Meher's Bedroom
Case No.: 47/2026
Ironhold Police Station, Winterfell
Date: 15.02.2026

EXHIBIT C

CCTV / DVR RECORDING STATUS

Exhibit C-1: CCTV Recording Timeline

A visual extract from the household CCTV/DVR system showing the recording status for the relevant period of the night of **14–15 February 2026**.

The CCTV system was operational and contained recordings before the relevant period. The recording corresponding to the period between approximately **12:30 A.M. and 3:00 A.M.** was found to be unavailable/deleted during forensic examination. Recordings before and after the said period were available.

The visual extract does not identify the person who accessed or deleted the recording.

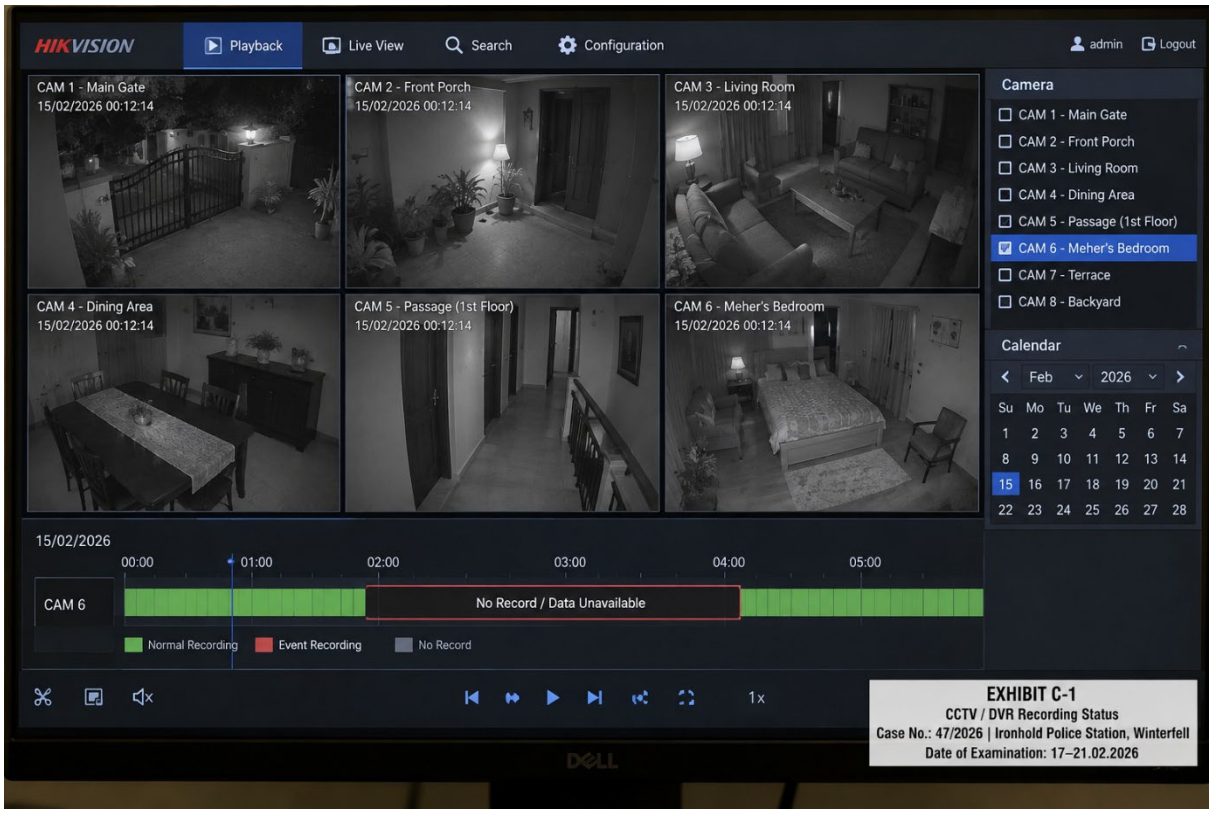


Exhibit C-1
CCTV / DVR Recording Status
Case No.: 47/2026
Ironhold Police Station, Winterfell
Date of Examination: 17–21.02.2026

EXHIBIT C-2

CCTV CAMERA FIELD OF VIEW

CCTV Coverage Diagram showing the approximate field of view of the CCTV camera installed in the ground-floor entrance passage of the Ashworth residence.

The diagram depicts the portions of the main entrance and the approach towards Meher Ashworth's bedroom falling within the camera's field of view, as well as portions of the premises outside such coverage.

Note: The diagram is intended only to depict the approximate physical coverage of the CCTV camera and does not establish the presence or movement of any particular person.

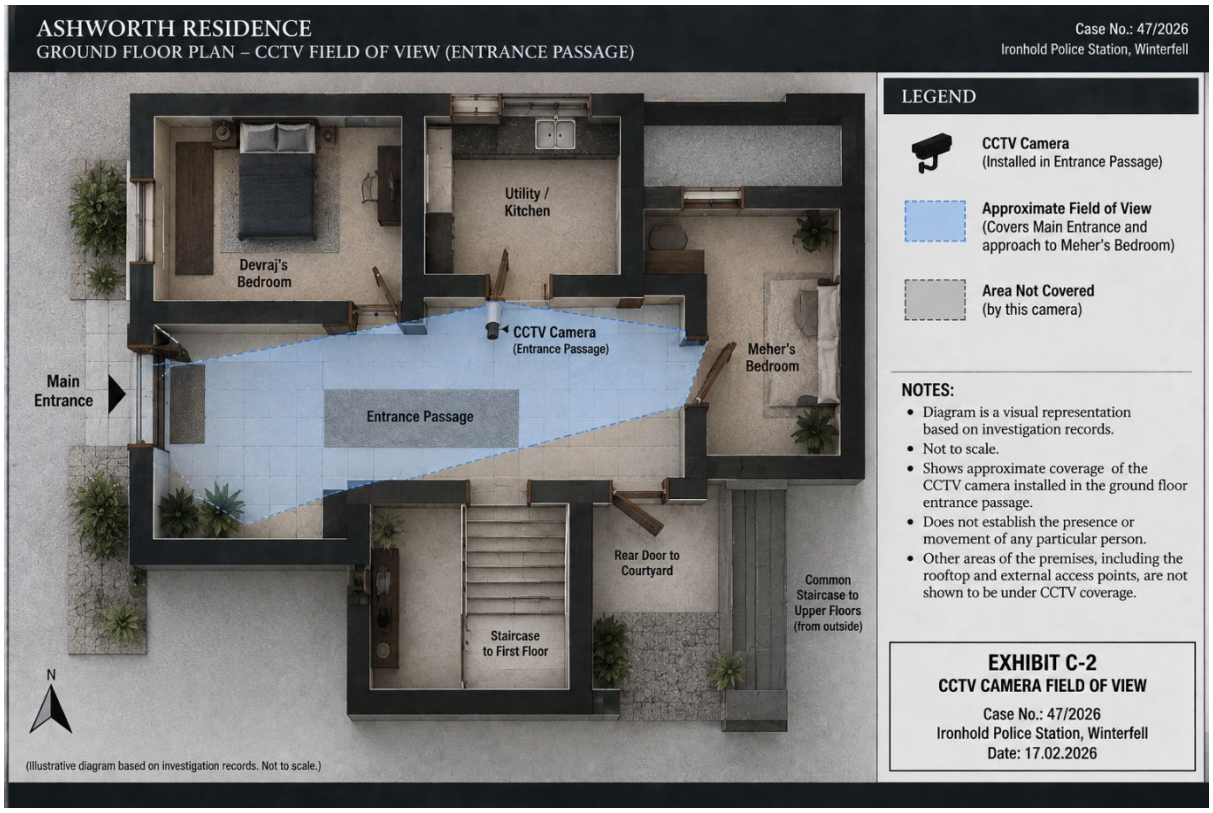


EXHIBIT D

ROOFTOP AND COMMON WATER TANK

Exhibit D-1: Rooftop Water Tank Area



Photograph showing the rooftop terrace of the Ashworth residence, including the water tank area and the common external staircase leading to the rooftop.

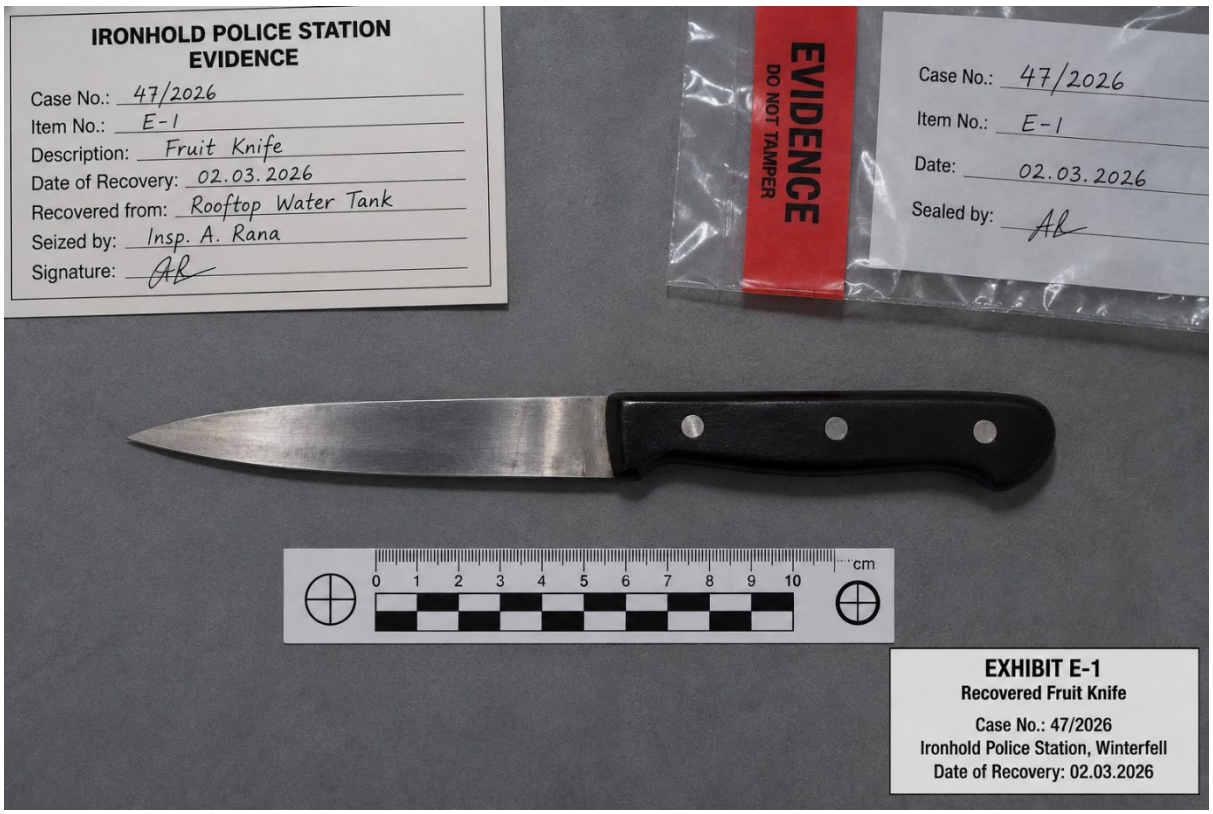
The rooftop area is accessible through the common external staircase used by household staff of the adjoining residences.

Exhibit D-1
Rooftop Water Tank Area
Case No.: 47/2026
Ironhold Police Station, Winterfell
Date of Photograph: 02.03.2026

EXHIBIT E

RECOVERED FRUIT KNIFE

Exhibit E-1: Photograph of Recovered Knife



Photograph showing the fruit knife recovered from the rooftop water tank during further investigation on **02 March 2026**.

The knife is shown as recovered and documented by the investigating agency, with an evidence scale.

Exhibit E-1
Recovered Fruit Knife
Case No.: 47/2026
Ironhold Police Station, Winterfell
Date of Recovery: 02.03.2026

EXHIBIT F

BURNT FABRIC – RECOVERY FROM COMMON INCINERATOR

Exhibit F-1: Recovery Location



Photograph showing the colony's common incinerator area from which a partially burnt fabric fragment was recovered during investigation on **06 March 2026**.

Exhibit F-1
Common Incinerator – Recovery Location
Case No.: 47/2026
Ironhold Police Station, Winterfell
Date of Recovery: 06.03.2026

Exhibit F-2: Partially Burnt Fabric Fragment



Photograph showing the partially burnt fabric fragment recovered from the common incinerator area and subsequently preserved for forensic examination.

Exhibit F-2
Partially Burnt Fabric Fragment
Case No.: 47/2026
Ironhold Police Station, Winterfell
Date of Recovery: 06.03.2026

This Trial Problem has been conceptualized and drafted by Adv. Simarjeet Singh Satia, practicing before the Supreme Court of India, High Court of Delhi and other courts and tribunals. The proposition is intended solely for academic and educational purposes as part of the Trial Advocacy Competition. The names of persons, places, institutions, police stations, courts and other entities appearing in the proposition are fictional and have been created for the purposes of the competition. Any resemblance to actual persons, cases, incidents or institutions is purely coincidental.

IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS: Participants shall confine their submissions, examination of witnesses and arguments strictly to the facts, documents, exhibits and legal framework contained in this Trial Problem. No fact, evidence, witness, document, circumstance or investigative material shall be presumed, invented or introduced beyond what is expressly provided in the proposition. The laws of the fictional State of Ashvale shall be treated as *pari materia* with the corresponding laws of India as specified in the proposition. The parties may rely upon applicable statutory provisions, judicial precedents and principles of law, subject to the proposition, the charges framed against the accused and the legal framework set out herein. The Annexures and Exhibits shall be read as part of the Trial Problem and shall be proved, challenged and appreciated in accordance with the applicable law.