# Family of Transgender Man Shot by Police in Mental Health Crisis Seeks Justice



Kathy, Patrick, and Tory Lynch posed for a portrait holding a photo of their son and twin brother, Aaron, at their home in McLean, Virginia. Aaron, a 26-year-old transgender man, was shot and killed by a Fairfax County police officer on July 7, 2022, while experiencing a mental health crisis.

Aaron and his fraternal twin sister were born in March 1996. Assigned female at birth, Aaron showed early signs of his true identity, which he openly declared at age three. Aaron chose the name Jasper Aaron Lynch and was known for his intellect, having interests in philosophy, theology, and poetry. Despite support from his family for his transition, Aaron faced continuous misgendering, leading to feelings of extreme sadness. He was diagnosed with dissociative identity disorder and regularly saw a therapist.

On the night of his death, Aaron experienced a psychotic episode. Fairfax County police were called to the Lynches' home. According to an investigative report, when police arrived, Aaron ran towards them inside the house, wielding a wine bottle. Despite one officer tackling him, another fired four shots. When Aaron attempted to get up, an officer shot him in the neck, causing his death.

Fairfax County Commonwealth’s Attorney Steve T. Descano determined the use of deadly force was justified, and the officer involved was reinstated. Following the incident, Fairfax police introduced additional mental health training and increased the presence of mental health clinicians to aid in crisis situations. However, the Lynches are preparing to file a lawsuit against Fairfax County over Aaron's death.

Aaron’s tragic death highlights the complexity of handling mental health crises and the challenges faced by transgender individuals in these situations.