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Doctor arrested in wife's death

By [Ken Raymond](#) Published: February 15, 2001 12:00 AM CDT

A prominent Oklahoma City doctor was arrested Wednesday after police found a woman's body in his home in the Quail Creek housing addition.

Dr. John Hamilton, 52 an obstetrician, gynecologist and frequent target of protesters opposed to abortions was booked into the Oklahoma County jail Wednesday night on a murder complaint.

The Oklahoman has learned that the victim was Susan Hamilton, 54, the doctor's wife.

Shortly after 11 a.m., police responded to a "trouble unknown call at the couple's house in the 3000 block of Brush Creek Road. Officers found a woman with "visible trauma to the body, said Capt. Jessica Cummins, a police spokeswoman. The woman was pronounced dead at the scene.

A cause of death was not released Wednesday. From the beginning, police treated the death as a homicide.

John Hamilton was taken to police headquarters for questioning. About 5 p.m., he was arrested.

"He was devastated, said Mack Martin, John Hamilton's attorney.

Police would not speculate on a motive for the killing, but neighbors were stunned as word of Susan Hamilton's death spread through the affluent community.

"They were always together, a neighbor said. "They seemed like the ideal couple. I'd hate to think Dr. Hamilton had anything to do with this.

Susan Hamilton was a member of Chapel Hill United Methodist Church and had taught Sunday school classes. She was a member of Quail Creek Country Club.

She also was active with the Oklahoma County Medical Society Alliance's kitchen tours.

For hours, police and news crews blocked the roadway leading to the house. After discovering the body, police strung crime scene tape around the sprawling 1½-story brick house and waited on the periphery for a warrant that would allow them to search the house and remove the body.

Dozens of cars pulled up and drove slowly away, the drivers' heads turning to follow the house until they passed out of sight.

Many passersby didn't know a violent death had occurred inside the house. They didn't see the front door gaping open, the wind blowing the pale curtains on the windows.

About five hours after the body was discovered, police obtained a warrant. Technical investigators began a search for clues. The state medical examiner took custody of the body.

Those who knew the couple were left to wonder why.

Diane McDaniel was John Hamilton's patient for 20 years.

"If asked if he could do it, I'd say there is no way he could have killed anything, she said. "He is a very kind man. I wouldn't think he would hurt a fly.

One neighbor remembered Susan Hamilton as "a beautiful person who was apologetic that her husband's job brought protesters into the otherwise quiet neighborhood.

"Way back when the anti-abortion people were really active, they used to picket out in front of their (the Hamiltons) house all the time, the neighbor said.

Problems with protesters grew so bad that John Hamilton had to call for police assistance more than once, Martin said.

"He does a lot of abortions, Martin said. "He's had a lot ... of problems at his residence with picketers ... due to the fact that he does abortions. At his home, though, he's had to call the police.

In 1984, John Hamilton sold the Oklahoma City Clinic for Women, 10908 N Western, in part because the clinic was swarmed by anti-abortion protesters. He is listed as the administrator of the clinic.

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