

WREG

## Police: Mother of Murder Victim Scammed



George Brown

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(Memphis 2/2/2012) Memphis police have charged a man with impersonating a bail bondsman and scamming a woman whose son was murdered.

Investigators say last October, the woman hired Jermichael Bruce to help find a man wanted for murdering her son, Dennis Gilliam.

Gilliam was killed on September 24, 2011.

Ryan Nelson is charged with murder and is now in custody.

Bruce reportedly presented himself as a licensed bail bondsman with experience in assisting local law enforcement agencies.

[Tony Williams](#) says his mother was desperate to find Nelson when he skipped town and hired Bruce to help police bring him in.

He said Bruce kept asking for and more money and eventually stopped returning her phone calls.

"That was very low down for a person to take someone's money knowing they just lost someone in their family," said Tony Williams.

Police say Mattie Williams met Bruce who was driving a white Chevrolet Impala similar to an unmarked law enforcement vehicle with two blue lights mounted in the rear window.

They say Bruce presented a contract to Williams under a bogus company, which she signed.

Mattie Williams told police she paid Bruce almost \$6,000 over a two-month period to locate the person responsible for killing her son.

Today, Bruce was arrested for Theft of Property \$1,000- \$10,000, Criminal Impersonation, and Illegal Use of Blue Lights.

Tony Williams says his mother who is out of town on a much needed vacation is relieved Bruce is behind bars.

"She would pray every day and hope this guy would help her solve the case and he really wasn't doing nothing, but just having his hands out," said Williams.

He says now the family has to deal with two different court cases.