

CASE PACK • PRINTABLE EDITION

PUBLIC RECORD

The Idaho Four Murders

A plain-English guide to *State of Idaho v. Bryan C. Kohberger* — the case, the timeline, the people, and the court record, through the latest public developments.

CASE NUMBERS	CR29-22-2805 (Latah County) → CR01-24-31665 (Ada County) Post-conviction: CV01-26-15094 (Ada County)
DATE OF CRIME	November 13, 2022 • Moscow, Idaho
OUTCOME	Guilty pleas July 2, 2025 • Sentenced July 23, 2025
CURRENT STATUS	Serving life without parole; post-conviction petition pending. <i>Verified Oct 17, 2026</i> ^[32]
COURTS	Idaho Second Judicial District (Latah) → Fourth Judicial District (Ada)

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In memory of

Madison Mogen • Kaylee Goncalves

Xana Kernodle • Ethan Chapin

SECTION 00 • ORIENTATION

Before You Begin

This pack is built for readers who want to understand what actually happened in court — not rumors. Every fact here comes from public court records or published reporting, and each one is tagged with a numbered source you can check on the last pages.

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How to use it

Read the summary first, then follow the timeline. When a filing is mentioned, turn to the court-documents pages: each one has a short note on what it is, why it matters, and a direct link to the official copy on the Idaho Supreme Court's "Cases of Interest" site.^[1]

Small red numbers like ^[3] point to the numbered sources on pages 13–14.

A note on respect

Four young people lost their lives, and their families, friends and the Moscow community still live with that loss. This pack contains no crime-scene images and no graphic description. It focuses on the legal process. It does not name the surviving roommates, and it does not repeat online theories about the case.

Reading court records carefully

A **motion** or **petition** is one side's argument, not a finding. An **affidavit** is sworn testimony that has not been tested at trial. An **order** or **judgment** is what the court actually decided. This pack labels which is which.

Disclaimer

This is an independent educational resource. It is not affiliated with or endorsed by any court, government agency, law-enforcement agency, university, or the families involved. **It is not legal advice** and should not be used as a substitute for a lawyer.

Information is current as of **October 14, 2026**. The post-conviction case is still active, so details may change. Always check the official court record.

SECTION 01

The Case in Plain English

The crime

Early on Sunday, November 13, 2022, four University of Idaho students were stabbed to death in an off-campus rental house at 1122 King Road in Moscow, Idaho: Madison Mogen (21), Kaylee Goncalves (21), Xana Kernodle (20) and Ethan Chapin (20).^[4,26] Two other roommates in the house were not physically hurt.^[3] Police responded to a 911 call from the home at 11:58 a.m.^[12] Investigators later wrote in a sworn affidavit that they believed the killings happened between about 4:00 and 4:25 a.m.^[3]

The investigation

Moscow Police, Idaho State Police and the FBI worked the case for seven weeks without an arrest as it drew national attention.^[3,26] According to the probable cause affidavit, investigators relied on a leather knife sheath found at the scene with a single source of male DNA on its snap, video of a white Hyundai Elantra in the area, and cellphone records.^[3] Prosecutors later confirmed that the FBI used investigative genetic genealogy to develop the lead.^[16]

The arrest

On December 30, 2022, Bryan C. Kohberger, 28, a Ph.D. student in criminology at Washington State University in nearby Pullman, was arrested at a home in Chestnuthill Township, Monroe County, Pennsylvania.^[12,14] He waived extradition and was returned to Idaho on January 4, 2023.^[13,15]

In court

A Latah County grand jury indicted him on May 16, 2023, on four counts of first-degree murder and one count of burglary, and not-guilty pleas were entered at his arraignment.^[2,4] The State gave notice that it would seek the death penalty.^[5] Citing pretrial publicity, the court moved the case to Ada County (Boise) in September 2024, where Judge Steven Hippler took over.^[6,7]

The outcome

Weeks before trial, Kohberger accepted a plea agreement. On July 2, 2025, he pleaded guilty to all five counts, and in return the State no longer sought the death penalty. He also gave up his right to appeal.^[10,19] On July 23, 2025, he was sentenced to four consecutive fixed life terms without parole, plus ten years for burglary. He declined to make a statement, and no motive has been given in court.^[11,21,31]

Where it stands now

In July 2026, Kohberger filed a handwritten petition for post-conviction relief, asking to withdraw his plea. He alleges his lawyers were ineffective and that his plea was not voluntary. The State disputes those claims. Hearings set for October 15, 2026 and for 2027 were vacated on October 14, 2026, and will be rescheduled. His convictions and sentences remain in place.^[25,26,27]

AT A GLANCE

VICTIMS	Madison Mogen, Kaylee Goncalves, Xana Kernodle, Ethan Chapin
LOCATION	1122 King Road, Moscow, ID (Latah County)
CHARGES	4 × first-degree murder; 1 × burglary
ARREST	Dec 30, 2022 (Pennsylvania)
INDICTED	May 16, 2023
VENUE	Moved to Ada County, Sept 2024
PLEA	Guilty, July 2, 2025
SENTENCE	4 consecutive life terms w/o parole + 10 yrs
CUSTODY	Idaho Maximum Security Institution, Kuna ^[27]
OPEN MATTER	Post-conviction petition, CV01-26-15094

STILL UNKNOWN

No motive has been established in court. The guilty plea meant the evidence was never tested before a jury. The knife itself has never been found, according to reporting.^[20]

SECTION 02

Remembering the Four

They were University of Idaho students, close friends, and members of a college community that has not forgotten them. Their names come first in this pack.

Madison Mogen

AGE 21 · UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO

Kaylee Goncalves

AGE 21 · UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO

Xana Kernodle

AGE 20 · UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO

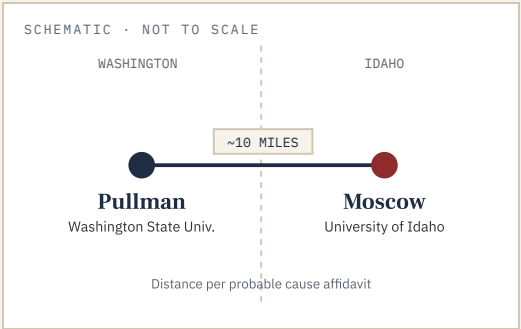
Ethan Chapin

AGE 20 · UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO

Ages as reported at the time of their deaths.^[26] To learn who they were, look to the statements and memorials shared by their families and the University of Idaho rather than to online speculation. Their families spoke about them in their own words at the July 23, 2025 sentencing hearing.^[21, 22]

Why this matters. A 2026 study of people whose loved ones were featured in true-crime media described harassment, misinformation and people showing up at their homes. One of the researchers pointed out that the Idaho Four coverage often focused on brutal details “and much less so on the four lives that were lost.”^[27]

Key Places



MOSCOW, ID	College town in Latah County. Site of the crime and original court (Second Judicial District). ^[3, 4]
PULLMAN, WA	Home of Washington State University, where Kohberger was a doctoral student; about 10 miles from Moscow. ^[3]
MONROE COUNTY, PA	Chestnuthill Township, where he was arrested on Dec 30, 2022. ^[14]
BOISE, ID	Ada County (Fourth Judicial District). Venue after Sept 2024; site of the plea and sentencing. ^[7, 11]
KUNA, ID	Idaho Maximum Security Institution, where he is serving his sentence. ^[27]

The King Road house was demolished by the University of Idaho on December 28, 2023.^[18]