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Man kills himself after fleeing from police

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An estranged relationship turned violent, then deadly Tuesday morning when a man pursued his wife to Winchester before he killed himself.

Leon Johnson, 66 of Lexington, took his own life Tuesday on Flanagan Station Road, following a brief pursuit by deputy sheriffs and Winchester Police officers. Johnson was pronounced dead at the scene from a gunshot wound to the head from a .22-caliber revolver, Clark County Sheriff Berl Perdue Jr. said.

Johnson's wife was not injured during the event, in which Johnson reportedly pointed a gun at her and struck her vehicle as they drove from Lexington to Clark County, where she has family, police said.

The incident started earlier Tuesday in Lexington and stemmed from a domestic situation between Johnson and his wife, he said.

Winchester Police Capt. James Hall said the woman told officers that there was a past history of abuse, but there was no documentation in Fayette County. On Tuesday morning, she said there was a dispute and she decided to leave, Hall said.

"She had called the police in Lexington and she just wanted to leave," Hall said.

There were no allegations of evidence of abuse Tuesday, and Lexington officers stayed at their home after the wife left to keep Johnson from following, Hall said. After the Lexington officers left, Johnson decided to leave anyway in search of his wife.

Local officers learned of the situation after receiving reckless driving complaints, Hall said, while Johnson was pursuing his wife, waving a gun and hitting her car with his. Winchester Police Officer Mike Perkins stopped the woman near Dan's Discount Pawn on Lexington Avenue, while Johnson continued through Winchester.

Perdue said Deputy Paul Howard went out Two Mile Road and spotted Johnson's car.

"He actually pointed a gun at (Howard) when he made visual contact," Perdue said. "My deputy got in a short pursuit. When he turned on Flanagan Station Road, he shot himself in the head."

Johnson's Lexus struck a ditch and a mailbox before it stopped on the edge of the road.

No one else was in the vehicle and Johnson's wife was not injured. Winchester Police did not release her name, citing an ongoing investigation.

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