

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF THURSTON

STATE OF WASHINGTON,

Plaintiff,

NO. 22-1-01056-34

vs.

DECLARATION OF PROSECUTOR
SUPPORTING PROBABLE CAUSE

CHAE KYONG AN,

Defendant

Elizabeth McMullen, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for Thurston County, declares the following in support of probable cause for charges in the above-entitled cause:

I am a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for Thurston County, Washington. I believe that there is probable cause to believe that the above-named defendant has committed the crime(s) of ATTEMPTED MURDER IN THE FIRST DEGREE/DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, KIDNAPPING IN THE FIRST DEGREE/DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, ASSAULT IN THE FIRST DEGREE/DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, and FELONY HARASSMENT - THREAT TO KILL/DOMESTIC VIOLENCE based on the following information from the official investigative reports:

On October 16, 2022 at approximately 1256 hours, Lacey Police Officers were dispatched to an unknown trouble at [REDACTED]. Dispatch advised a female was heard screaming, sounded "gagged" and could not talk. Call notes stated there was just constant screaming and it was unknown if it was medical or not. Dispatch advised the location was taken from a phase 2 cellular tower and it was unknown if the person could hear the call receiver or not. Call notes stated the person sounded very scared and there were random buttons being pushed. Call notes stated there was still no talking but sounded like banging and struggling and only one females voice was heard. Call notes stated there was more banging and a dog barking. Call notes then stated it got very quiet, there wasn't any more screaming and only a dog barking. Call notes then indicate it was "totally" quiet now.

Upon arrival Lacey units found an unoccupied residence with signs of a disturbance inside and the garage door left open and entrance to the residence left unsecure. The occupants of the home are Young An and her two children 20-year-old [REDACTED] and 11-year-old [REDACTED]. The home has a previous history of domestic violence and there was a valid no contact order in place between Young An and her estranged husband Chae An. It was later learned that the order was rescinded by the courts.

While officers were on scene the children who lived in the home returned to the home. [REDACTED] told the officers she, her mom, and brother had returned from church and their dad's van was in the driveway. [REDACTED] advised her parents are going through a divorce and her dad comes to the house once a week to do his laundry. [REDACTED] said her mom went into the home and she went in to get her car keys and quickly left the residence, she did not see her dad in the home. [REDACTED] said she drove her car to go to Goodwill and Baskin and Robbins, leaving her mom's Toyota Prius and dad's van at the home. [REDACTED]

1 said the only people with keys to the home are the three of them. [REDACTED] confirmed she did not see or
observe duct tape when she left for church with her mom and brother.

2 [REDACTED] was shown the video surveillance from the neighbors across the street and she recognized
3 the male in the driveway as her dad Chae An. [REDACTED] said at 13:07 she received a text message from her
mom saying there was an emergency at the location and she received a map of the residence. [REDACTED] said
4 she did not see the text because she was driving when she received it. [REDACTED] said she believed she had
seen her mom's vehicle upon returning to the house but she was not sure. Officers checked the area and
5 located the Toyota Prius parked in front of [REDACTED]

6 Also, on scene was a friend of Young An, who had received the same emergency text notification
from Young's cell phone stating she was experiencing an emergency at the residence. The friend told
7 officers she was concerned for Youngs safety because the couple was going through a divorce and had a
history of domestic violence. The friend said Young had told her that Chae previously said I'm not going
8 down alone.

9 Law enforcement obtained video surveillance from surrounding neighbors, in viewing the
surveillance law enforcement observed the van at the home when the Prius arrived at the residence and the
10 Prius park behind the van on the road. A male in white t shirt and dark colored shorts is seen opening the
garage, getting into the van, pulling the van into the garage and closing the garage. The van can be seen
11 speeding out of the neighborhood. Additionally, surveillance shows the same male exiting the Prius a few
blocks from the house and walking away on foot. [REDACTED] confirmed the male was her dad Chae An.

12 On October 17, 2022, at approximately 0051 hours, Young An arrived at a residence located at
[REDACTED] The residents of that location called 911 and a Thurston County Sheriff's Deputy
arrived and located Young hiding behind the shed on the property. The deputy drove down the driveway
13 and saw a shadowy figure hiding behind a shed in the front yard. The deputy exited their vehicle and
shined their flashlight on Young, who they recognized from her DOL photo, and observed that Young was
14 clearly in distress. When Young realized the deputy was law enforcement, she sprinted at them, screaming
and crying for help. She grabbed onto the deputy and frantically said "My husband is trying to kill me,"
15 "Help me." She had duct tape still wrapped around her neck, lower face, and ankles. There was extensive
bruising to her legs, arms, and head and her clothing and hair were coved in dirt. The deputy helped her
16 into the back of their patrol vehicle and asked her name, which she told them was Young An, which
matched the missing female from Lacey Police Department. Upon identifying her as the
17 missing/endangered abductee she exclaimed, "My husband is still out in the woods somewhere!"

18 Young appeared to be in extreme distresses and a state of trauma at the time the deputy spoke with
her. She had trouble recalling an exact account of the events and specific directions of travel. Young
19 recalled coming out of the woods near the home, and [REDACTED] house being the first home she found. She
pointed in a northeast direction and recalled running through the woods for approximately 20-30 minutes
before finding the house. Young recalled Chae kidnapping her, tying her wrists, hand and ankles in duct
20 tape, and driving her out into the middle of the woods. Chae was digging a hole in the forest when she
escaped and began running. The deputy asked about weapons to which she told them he had the shovel he
21 was using to dig and a long, thin knife which he used to stab her breasts multiple times. Young complained
about a difficulty breathing because of the duct tape. The deputy used their department issued shears to cut
22 the duct tape from around her neck. The deputy gave her a bottle of water to drink while they waited for
the fire/medical personnel to arrive and Young was transported to an area hospital.

23 Law enforcement checked the area for Chae but were unable to locate him.

1 At approximately 0737 hours Thurston County Sheriff's Department was dispatched to a
2 suspicious vehicle located on the Chehalis Western Trail and Steadman Rd Se. Upon arriving deputies
observed the vehicle on the trail belonged to Chae An and Chae An was taken into custody.

3 At 1318 hours, law enforcement collected a taped statement with Young at the hospital where she
4 had been admitted for medical treatment. Young told law enforcement that upon arriving from church she
5 told her children to leave so she could talk with her husband about their divorce and money. Young said
6 Chae became angry and she asked him to leave. Young said she went into her bedroom to change and
7 while in the upstairs master bedroom Chae attacked her punched her in the head multiple times and threw
8 her to the ground. Young said Chae then tied her hands behind her back with duct tape and taped her eyes,
thighs and ankles. Young said Chae left the room for a few moments and while he was gone using her
Apple I watch she contacted 911 and sent an emergency notification to her emergency contacts. Young
said she could hear the dispatcher talking and was trying to communicate but her mouth was covered so all
she could do was yell. Young said then Chae returned and drug her body down the hallway and down the
stairs to the floor in front of the garage door. Young said Chea realized she had her apple watch on so he
struck it with a hammer and then struck her wrists. The watch was taken off her arm and she was put in the
van.

9 Young said once in the van she was driven for a while and then put on the ground. Young said she
10 could hear Chae digging in the dirt and he stabbed her breasts with a sharp object. Young said she was
11 drug and put into the ground. Young said a heavy tree was put on top of her. Young said she could see it
12 was daylight. Young said after being put in the ground she could hear her husband walking around the hole
13 and dirt being put on top of her. Young said she would wiggle around to prevent the dirt from being on her
14 face. Young said she had a hard time breathing and tried to keep the dirt off her face. Young said she did
not know how long it was, but she was in the ground for a few hours. Young said Chea told her she was
going to die she was so scared. Young said when it was dark and she wiggled her body and was able to get
the tape off her arms and legs then take it off her eyes and she could see the van and the windows were
steaming and she could see a light on inside the van so she moved the tree off of her and got out of the hole
and ran into the wood away from the van.

15 Young said she could see headlights which lead her to the road and then could see a house. Young
said she walked up to the house and asked for help and to please call 911 and the police arrived.

16 On October 18, 2022, law enforcement again spoke with Young who provided additional details,
17 to include while driving in the van she attempted to open the back of the van using her toes. Young further
18 described being in the hole and how scared she was and that she did not want to die at the hands of her
19 husband, and she thought about her children. Young said Chae would often tell her he would kill her when
he was angry and she never though he would. Young said Chae told her he would rather kill her than give
her his retirement money. Young said she was very scared and continues to be extremely fearful of Chae.
Young told the deputy Chae did intelligence for the United States Military and that he was extremely smart
and has traveled all over the world.

20 On October 18, 2022, Chae was released from the hospital and booked into the Thurston County
21 Jail.

22 On October 18, 2022, law enforcement found the location Young described in the woods to the
23 west of Rainier Rd and south of Steadman Rd, which was a clearing off an access road with limbs and
downed trees. On the edge of the clearing was a mound of trees, as described by Young and under the trees
was a hold consistent with a grave type design. Inside the hole law enforcement could plainly see duct tape
consistent with what found in Young's home and on her person.

1 In the hole, law enforcement located duct tape buried under the loose dirt consistent with the tape
2 located on Young, along with hair found in the dirt consistent with Young's hair. The space measured 65"
3 length 30" wide by 19" deep and there was a drag mark consistent with Young's statement of being drug
4 from the van to the hole. The hole appeared to be freshly dug. Outside of the hole was a piece of duct tape
5 consistent with all the other duct tape located and had the frame of the apple watch face attached to it.

6 Under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington, I certify that the foregoing is
7 true and correct to the best of my knowledge. Signed on October 19, 2022, in Olympia, Washington.



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ELIZABETH MCMULLEN | WSBA No. 45207
Deputy Prosecuting Attorney