

State of Minnesota
County of Ramsey

District Court
2nd Judicial District

Prosecutor File No. 0620550944
Court File No. 62-CR-23-3782

State of Minnesota,

COMPLAINT

Plaintiff,

Warrant

vs.

JOSEPH STEVEN JORGENSON DOB: 06/25/1983

89 Century Ave. N #211
Maplewood, MN 55119

Defendant.

The Complainant submits this complaint to the Court and states that there is probable cause to believe Defendant committed the following offense(s):

COUNT I

Charge: Murder - 2nd Degree - With Intent-Not Premeditated

Minnesota Statute: 609.19.1(1)

Maximum Sentence: 40 years

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 04/21/2023 to 05/16/2023

Control #(ICR#): 23072222

Charge Description: On or between April 21, 2023 and May 16, 2023, in the County of Ramsey, Minnesota, the defendant, Joseph Steven Jorgenson, did cause the death of MNS with intent to effect the death of MNS.

STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

On May 1, 2023, officers received a call regarding a person missing person from an apartment at 1428 Seventh Street East, St. Paul, Ramsey County. The caller wanted to report his daughter, MNS (DOB: 05/23/1989) was missing. The caller said MNS struggles with drug addiction and mental health issues. She was supposed to go into a drug treatment center but never showed up. The caller last had contact with MNS on April 18, 2023 by phone. MNS seemed paranoid and afraid. The caller believed his daughter was afraid of a boyfriend.

Officers spoke to SS who has a child with MNS. SS had also not heard from MNS which was out of the ordinary for her because she usually checks in with him because of their child. MNS usually doesn't go more than 8 hours without calling SS to check on their son. SS was very concerned for MNS's safety. MNS told SS she had lost her wallet containing her credit cards and EBT card. MNS went online and saw her EBT card had been used, but she never reported it to police.

MNS called SS from various phone numbers, but she last called him on April 21, 2023. MNS told him that Joe had once wrapped a rope around her neck and "things got out of hand" and she ran from the apartment. SS was under the impression that the incident MNS mentioned happened weeks before they spoke of it.

Investigators spoke with a neighbor of MNS's who reported that she previously saw MNS with a black eye and red marks on her neck. She asked MNS if she had been assaulted, and MNS said yes. The neighbor offered to call police, but MNS asked her not to stating, "It will just make things worse."

Investigators spoke with an apartment manager and learned that MNS has a boyfriend named, "Joe" who frequents the apartment, but is not on the lease. The manager provided a phone number for "Joe." Investigators were able to determine the phone number belonged to **JOSEPH STEVEN JORGENSON (DOB: 06/25/83)**. The manager was shown Jorgenson's photo and confirmed he was the man she knew as MNS's boyfriend.

An apartment surveillance camera is located right by MNS's apartment. On May 24, 2023, investigators learned that the apartment manager had located surveillance video of MNS running from her apartment on April 21, 2023. Jorgenson ran after MNS, grabbed her, turned her around, and pushed her back into the apartment. MNS was last seen entering the apartment on April 21, 2023 at approximately 5:55 – 6:00 PM, but there is no video showing MNS ever exiting the apartment again.

Several videos showed Jorgenson coming and going from MNS's apartment between April 21, 2023 and April 28, 2023. Management determined Jorgenson accessed the apartment 28 times during this time frame. Management said that MNS only had one set of keys to the apartment. Surveillance video showed Jorgenson using a key to enter the apartment on each occasion he accessed the apartment.

Surveillance video from 4:55 PM on April 28, 2023, showed Jorgenson carrying two duffle bags and a suitcase from the apartment. Jorgenson loaded the baggage into a pickup truck bearing Minnesota license plates NLV677, got into the passenger seat, and drove off inside it. The pickup registers to a man named NH who lives at the apartment building at 89 Century Avenue in Maplewood.

Investigators spoke with a family friend, BL, who said even when MNS was high on narcotics or in crisis she would not go more than 24 hours without contacting her family or friends. BL said he once spoke to Jorgenson on the phone after MNS went missing. Jorgenson told BL that MNS left for the store, but never returned. Jorgenson did not know where MNS was. BL said that Jorgenson claimed to be worried that a

man named Coselle had hurt MNS. Jorgenson said Coselle was a creep and then blurted out, "That's why was looking in the woods for her." BL has not talked to Jorgenson since that conversation.

Jorgenson made no attempts to contact police to report MNS as missing. Nobody besides Jorgenson entered MNS's apartment after she disappeared.

An officer made entry into MNS's apartment with a property manager. A window screen to a bedroom window was on the floor. A TV in the living room had a cracked screen in several places. The manager said the screen had not previously been cracked. The glass to the microwave was broken and appeared to have been cleaned up. The bedsheet in MNS's bedroom was partially removed and a foam pad on top of the mattress had a large hole cut and removed from it. There were red stains at the foot of the bed. The manager said that there were items that had been removed from MNS's closet.

Officers obtained a warrant to search and process MNS's apartment for forensic evidence. The warrant was executed on May 25, 2023. Crime scene technicians located evidence of large amounts of blood in the apartment's living room primarily on the couch, the floor of the living room, and the kitchen. It was apparent that someone had attempted to clean up the blood.

It is believed that someone was seriously injured or killed in the apartment. Preliminary analysis shows that it was MNS's blood recovered that was recovered from the scene.

It was noted that MNS's apartment was well kept. MNS's family and friends described MNS as a "neat freak." It was noted, during the search of her apartment, that the bed was missing a fitted sheet which was out of place compared to the rest of the apartment.

A warrant was obtained to track Jorgenson's cell phone. Another warrant was obtained for Jorgenson's Facebook account. Data from the Facebook return showed an apartment at 89 Century Avenue North as being linked to his account. The vehicle that Jorgenson got into the front passenger seat of registered to that same address. In messages, Jorgenson told people that he has a roommate.

On April 5, 2023, Jorgenson sent MNS a message that read, "N u owe me 2 bc u called the cops on me 2 times. Very clear I was of that being punishable by hanging. I'm giving u this plea bargain opportunity. So yw." Jorgenson later sent another message reading, "Hope u die of a kidney infection u bitch cunt terrible fucking mother."

Further investigation showed that MNS receives resources through the State of Minnesota including an EBT card. A warrant was obtained to retrieve records of MNS's EBT account. Investigation showed that there were several transactions after the date she was last seen on April 21, 2023:

On May 9, 2023, Jorgenson used MNS's EBT card to make an ATM transaction occurred at the Speedway located at 11 Century Avenue North in Maplewood.

On May 11, 2023, Jorgenson used MNS's EBT card to make a transaction at the Cub Foods located at 1177 Clarence Street, St. Paul, Ramsey County.

On May 9, 2023, Jorgenson used MNS's EBT card at the Dollar Tree at 7150 Valley Creek Plaza in Woodbury.

On May 11, 2023, Jorgenson used MNS's EBT card at the Dollar Tree at 7085 Tenth Street North in Oakdale.

In some of the videos where he used MNS's EBT card, Jorgenson wore the same Minnesota Twins baseball he wore when he left MNS's apartment.

On May 9, 2023, Jorgenson bought a cleaning bucket, two boxes of saran wrap, paper towels, garbage bags, liquid cleaner, latex gloves, and disinfectant wipes from the Dollar Tree store.

On May 11, 2023, Jorgenson bought more paper towels, four boxes of saran wrap, cleaning products, and disinfectant wipes from the Dollar Tree store.

Another man identified as ZD also used MNS's EBT card.

On June 8, 2023, investigators reviewed additional messages found in Jorgenson's Facebook return and noticed a conversation with a female later identified as LEB. During the conversation, the two discuss LEB visiting Jorgenson's apartment. Jorgenson sent LEB a picture of the balcony of his apartment. In the photo was a bike, two lawn chairs, and an outdoor rug.

A video posted on LEB's public Facebook page on June 7, 2023 showed her scanning the area. LEB focused on a pink blanket on a lower balcony and commented about the blanket indicating she thought there was a body under it. LEB then said, "It smells like death over here." As LEB scanned the area, the same bike, lawn chairs, and outdoor rug appeared that were seen in Jorgenson's photo. Maplewood officers were sent to the area and located the same pink blanket at 89 Century Avenue North, but there was nothing under it.

Investigators also obtained a search warrant for information regarding Jorgenson's Gmail and Google account. Google data revealed that Jorgenson made the following Google searches:

- ◊ On April 21, 2023, Jorgenson Google "Jugular."
- ◊ On May 1, 2023, Jorgenson Googled, "What do police do with a missing person's report."
- ◊ On May 3, 2023, Jorgenson Googled, "How to clear cookies from android phone."
- ◊ On May 27, 2023, Jorgenson Googled, "How to remove gps lime scooter."
- ◊ On June 4, 2023, Jorgenson Googled, "Lime for soil."

Lime can be used to speed up the decomposition process of a body and to reduce the smell of decomposition.

Police obtained warrants for Jorgenson's apartment at 89 Century Avenue North, Maplewood, Ramsey County.

When officers executed the warrant at his apartment, Jorgenson barricaded himself in his bedroom and started a fire. Once SWAT made entry, Jorgenson fought with officers and attempted to disarm them. Jorgenson was eventually taken into custody and transported to Regions Hospital for evaluation.

Jorgenson's roommate, NW, was also home when the warrant was executed. NW had also locked himself in his bedroom. He was taken into custody without further incident. NH was transported to the St. Paul Police Department for an interview.

NH told police that he has a traumatic brain injury that took away his sense of smell. He has known Jorgenson for 30 years. NH works Monday through Friday and had little interaction with Jorgenson or the

women Jorgenson brought to the apartment.

LEB was also at the apartment when police executed the search warrant. LEB had multiple bruises, scratches, and her neck was red. LEB told investigators that Jorgenson had strangled and threatened to kill her. LEB said Jorgenson said something like, "The neighbors won't hear you scream."

Officers spoke to ZD who was friends with Jorgenson. ZD said he met MNS once or twice, but he really didn't get to know her. When ZD asked Jorgenson about MNS, Jorgenson told ZD she had been placed in a mental health facility. ZD told police Jorgenson had given him MNS's EBT card and its PIN to use. ZD assumed Jorgenson had permission to use the card.

The apartment manager told officers they had received several complaints about a "foul smell" coming from Jorgenson and NH's apartment around May 15 or 16, 2023. The smell impacted the entire building, and the manager described the smell as like a dead animal or something that had died. On May 18, 2023, the manager and a maintenance employee gained entry to the apartment to inspect it. Jorgenson was verbally hostile, and he physically denied access to a bedroom where the smell seemed to be coming from. The manager told Jorgenson and NH they needed to clean the apartment within a week, and they complied. Shortly afterwards, the manager and maintenance employee saw Jorgenson carrying and dragging large black duffle bags out of the apartment. They commented to each other that it looked like Jorgenson was "carrying a dead body."

The St. Paul Police Department Forensic Services Unit processed Jorgenson's apartment and reported that there was a large pool of blood found in the front closet—the same closet where the reported "foul odor" emanated from. The blood soaked through the carpet and carpet pad, and it appeared that there was other biological matter on the carpet in addition to "recent maggot activity." There was also blood located in the same closet where Jorgenson had attempted to start the fire. Officers also recovered two padlock keys in Jorgenson's apartment after his arrest.

A review of Jorgenson's phone location revealed that his phone had pinged in the area of an iStorage unit located at 881 Weir Drive in Woodbury on May 18, 2023. Someone using NH's name began renting a storage unit at the facility on May 5, 2023. The code assigned to the unit was used to access the facility on May 18, 2023 at the same time Jorgenson's phone pinged in the area.

Investigators obtained a warrant to search the unit rented by NH. When investigators first arrived on scene, a strong odor consistent with decomposing flesh was noticed outside the storage unit. The storage unit's two padlocks were cut by investigators to gain access. Investigators later obtained the keys recovered from Jorgenson's apartment. The padlocks were damaged when gaining entry to the storage unit, but one key appeared to fit the one of the padlocks.

Inside the unit was a large cooler wrapped in plastic, a blue duffle bag, and a small carry-on size suitcase. One of the bags was identified as being one of the same bags Jorgenson was seen in video removing from MNS's apartment.

There was a green tote on top of the cooler containing cleaning supplies consistent with those earlier purchased by Jorgenson.

The forensic services unit began removed two coolers and a duffle bag from the unit. The coolers and bag had a strong smell of decomposing flesh coming from them. The coolers and bag contained items wrapped in plastic that were placed inside additional bags. The contents could not be opened until they were brought to the medical examiner's office.

The coolers and bag were examined with an X-ray machine. The coolers and bag contained a human body. A torso appeared to be in the large cooler pulled from the unit. The arms and legs appeared to be in the large bag, and a head was in the smaller cooler removed from the unit.

Investigators reviewed video again from MNS's apartment focusing on the bags Jorgenson removed from the apartment. In further review, it is believed Jorgenson dismembered MNS at her apartment and carried out her remains in the various bags.

The Ramsey County Medical Examiner's Officer conducted an autopsy on the recovered remains. The first set of remains, the torso, was removed from the large cooler. The torso was extensively wrapped in saran wrap and placed in multiple layers of bags. The next set of remains removed was the head which was also wrapped in multiple layers of saran wrap and bags. The third set of remains was then removed from the duffel bag. The remains consisting of two arms, two thighs, and the remaining parts of the legs and feet that were also wrapped in a large amount of saran wrap. Great care had been taken to wrap the remains. It took an extended amount of time for the medical examiner to just remove the remains from their wrappings. The medical examiner was able to identify the remains as MNS through known tattoos and dental records.

The cause of MNS's death is pending further testing and evaluation. The manner of MNS's death is homicide.

Jorgenson is currently in custody on other charges.

NOTICE: Pursuant to Minnesota Statute 609.49, subd. 1 (a) A person charged with or convicted of a felony and released from custody, with or without bail or recognizance, who intentionally fails to appear when required after having been notified that a failure to appear for a court appearance is a criminal offense, or after having been released on an order or condition that the release personally appear when required with respect to the charge or conviction, is guilty of a crime for failure to appear and may be sentenced to not more than one-half of the maximum term of imprisonment or fine, or both, provided for the underlying crime for which the person failed to appear, but this maximum sentence shall, in no case, be less than a term of imprisonment of one year and one day or a fine of \$1,500, or both.

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SIGNATURES AND APPROVALS

Complainant requests that Defendant, subject to bail or conditions of release, be:
(1) arrested or that other lawful steps be taken to obtain Defendant's appearance in court; or
(2) detained, if already in custody, pending further proceedings; and that said Defendant otherwise be dealt with according to law.

Complainant declares under penalty of perjury that everything stated in this document is true and correct. Minn. Stat. § 358.116; Minn. R. Crim. P. 2.01, subds. 1, 2.

Complainant

Jeremy Ryan
Sergeant
367 Grove St
St Paul, MN 55101
Badge: 138

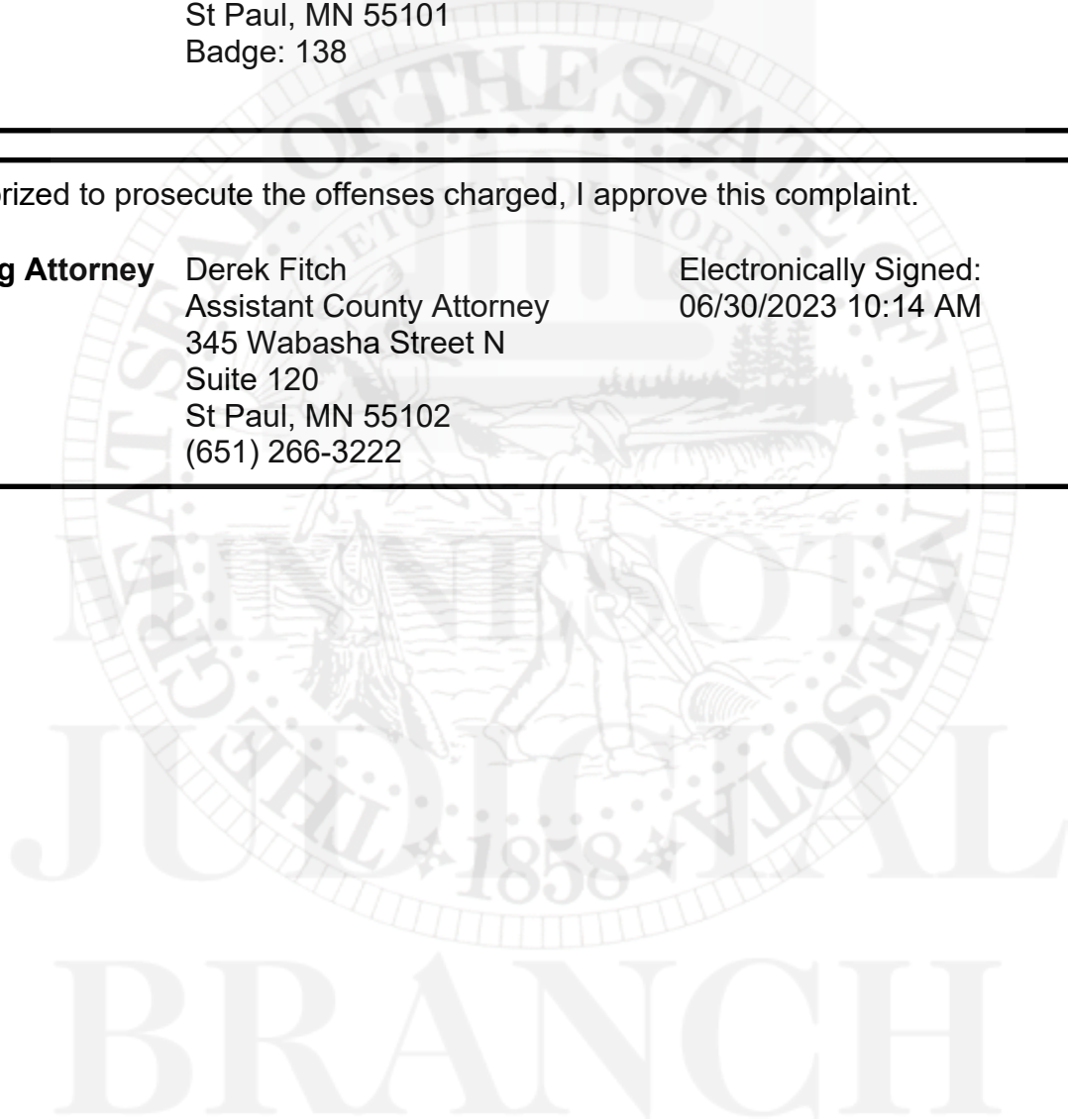
Electronically Signed:
06/30/2023 10:22 AM
Ramsey County, Minnesota

Being authorized to prosecute the offenses charged, I approve this complaint.

Prosecuting Attorney

Derek Fitch
Assistant County Attorney
345 Wabasha Street N
Suite 120
St Paul, MN 55102
(651) 266-3222

Electronically Signed:
06/30/2023 10:14 AM



FINDING OF PROBABLE CAUSE

From the above sworn facts, and any supporting affidavits or supplemental sworn testimony, I, the Issuing Officer, have determined that probable cause exists to support, subject to bail or conditions of release where applicable, Defendant's arrest or other lawful steps be taken to obtain Defendant's appearance in court, or Defendant's detention, if already in custody, pending further proceedings. Defendant is therefore charged with the above-stated offense(s).

SUMMONS

THEREFORE YOU, THE DEFENDANT, ARE SUMMONED to appear as directed in the Notice of Hearing before the above-named court to answer this complaint.

IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR in response to this SUMMONS, a WARRANT FOR YOUR ARREST shall be issued.

WARRANT

To the Sheriff of the above-named county; or other person authorized to execute this warrant: I order, in the name of the State of Minnesota, that the Defendant be apprehended and arrested without delay and brought promptly before the court (if in session), and if not, before a Judge or Judicial Officer of such court without unnecessary delay, and in any event not later than 36 hours after the arrest or as soon as such Judge or Judicial Officer is available to be dealt with according to law.

Execute in MN Only

Execute Nationwide

Execute in Border States

ORDER OF DETENTION

Since the Defendant is already in custody, I order, subject to bail or conditions of release, that the Defendant continue to be detained pending further proceedings.

Bail: \$5,000,000.00
Conditions of Release:

This complaint, duly subscribed and sworn to or signed under penalty of perjury, is issued by the undersigned Judicial Officer as of the following date: June 30, 2023.

Judicial Officer

Richard H. Kyle Jr
District Court Judge

Electronically Signed: 06/30/2023 11:36 AM

Sworn testimony has been given before the Judicial Officer by the following witnesses:

**COUNTY OF RAMSEY
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

State of Minnesota

Plaintiff

vs.

Joseph Steven Jorgenson

Defendant

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER RETURN OF SERVICE
I hereby Certify and Return that I have served a copy of this Warrant upon the Defendant herein named.

Signature of Authorized Service Agent:

62-CR-23-3782
DEFENDANT FACT SHEET

Filed in District Court
State of Minnesota
6/30/2023

Name: Joseph Steven Jorgenson
DOB: 06/25/1983
Address: 89 Century Ave. N #211
Maplewood, MN 55119

Alias Names/DOB:

SID: MN07126566

Height:

Weight:

Eye Color:

Hair Color:

Gender:

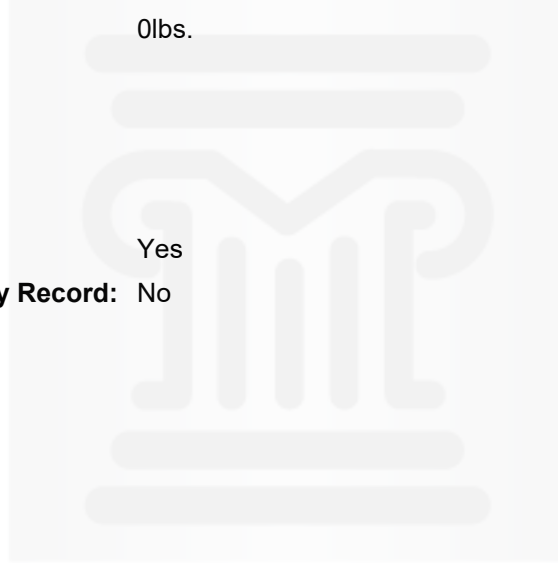
Race:

Fingerprints Required per Statute: Yes

Fingerprint match to Criminal History Record: No

Driver's License #:

Alcohol Concentration:



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STATUTE AND OFFENSE GRID

| Cnt Nbr | Statute Type | Offense Date(s) | Statute Nbrs and Descriptions | Offense Level | MOC | GOC | Controlling Agencies | Case Numbers |
|---------|--------------|-----------------|---|---------------|-------|-----|----------------------|--------------|
| 1 | Charge | 4/21/2023 | 609.19.1(1) Murder - 2nd Degree - With Intent-Not Premeditated | Felony | H2801 | N | MN0620900 | 23072222 |



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