

State of Minnesota  
County of Dakota

District Court  
1st Judicial District

Prosecutor File No. CA-2023-01568  
Court File No. 19HA-CR-23-1468

**State of Minnesota,**  
Plaintiff,

**COMPLAINT**  
Order of Detention

vs.

**TROY MICHAEL MITTENESS DOB: 03/08/1967**

1705 Riverwood Drive  
Burnsville, MN 55337

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 in the 2nd Degree (With Intent) (Not Premeditated)**

Minnesota Statute: 609.19.1(1), with reference to: 609.11.4

Maximum Sentence: One year a day-40 Years

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 06/02/2022

Control #(ICR#): 23003891

Charge Description: On or about June 2, 2022, in the County of Dakota, Minnesota, TROY MICHAEL MITTENESS, did cause the death of a human being with intent to effect the death of that person or another, but without premeditation and at the time of offense, the Defendant or an accomplice did use a dangerous weapon, to wit: a knife.

**STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE**

In late June 2023, Burnsville police investigated reports of mail theft allegedly committed by Troy Michael Mitteness, DOB 3/8/1967 (Defendant herein). In the course of the investigation, police learned some proceeds from the mail thefts were deposited into an account belonging to Sandra Viola Mitteness, DOB 11/22/39 (Victim herein), who was Defendant's mother. Police asked Defendant as to the Victim's whereabouts so they could question her about the deposits into her account. Initially, Defendant told police that the Victim was in Milbank, South Dakota. He subsequently told police the Victim had died on June 14, 2022. During the execution of a search warrant of Defendant's home related to the mail theft investigation, police located an obituary for the Victim indicating she died on June 14, 2022. Police found an envelope from a funeral home with the obituary, and contacted the funeral home. The funeral home denied ever providing post-mortem care or funeral related services to the Victim at any time. In addition, no other family members or friends had seen the Victim in several months. Accordingly, Burnsville police opened a missing person file for the Victim and continued efforts to locate her.

Officers interviewed several family members, all of whom said they believed the Victim had died in the last 12 months because Defendant had told them that. Defendant told several family members that the Victim had fallen down the stairs and was in a hospital in June of 2022. When family members asked about visiting the Victim in the hospital, Defendant told them she had COVID and couldn't have visitors. Family members advised Burnsville police that Defendant had sold the Victim's vehicle to a relative (Witness 1) after he said she had died. Officers interviewed Witness 1, who indicated that Defendant wanted to get rid of the Victim's car quickly, even offering the car for free. Witness 1 reported he took possession of the car and sold it to a third party. Police located the new owner who was still in possession of Victim's car. The new owner allowed officers examine the car, and an alternative light source gave preliminary indications of the presence of blood in the trunk.

Officers executed a search warrant on Defendant's home on July 6, 2023. Physical evidence officers conducted some preliminary testing on the stairs of the home, which gave the indication of the presence of blood and samples were collected for subsequent testing. Officers also located a mattress and box spring that had large dark red stains that were swabbed and indicated the presence of blood.

Burnsville detectives met with Defendant at the Dakota County Sheriff's Office. Defendant was

advised of his *Miranda* rights and agreed to speak with the detectives. During the interview, Defendant admitted to killing the Victim because he had spent all of her money, and she was becoming suspicious and wanted to see her finances. Before killing her, Defendant advised he researched online how to kill an elderly person without poison and decided to stab her while she was in her bed. He also researched the best spots to stab someone to make their death quick and painless. He told the detectives that he killed the Victim on June 2, 2022, in his Burnsville, Dakota County home, by stabbing her in the neck with a large kitchen knife. After she had been dead for a couple of days, Defendant dismembered her body and placed her body parts in multiple different large plastic tote bins that he had in his garage. He then drove with the bins in his car from Burnsville toward Appleton, Minnesota, and discarded parts of the Victim's body by throwing them in the ditch as he drove. Defendant advised that he did this because he did not want to get caught. Defendant advised that he had discarded two of the plastic totes behind a dumpster at an abandoned rest stop on Highway 7 towards Willmar, Minnesota.

Officers drove to the location described by Defendant during his statement and found a large shipping container resembling a dumpster on private property. Officers spoke with the property owners, who related the following facts. The property had previously been a rest stop. After they purchased the property, they located 2 plastic tote bins behind the shipping container which they had moved to a burn pile. Officers found the tote bins in the burn pile and collected them as evidence. The tote bins are the same type of tote bins officers had located in Defendant's garage during the execution of the July 6, 2023, search warrant of Defendant's home.

---

**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**

Bryan Bye  
Detective  
100 Civic Center Parkway  
Burnsville, MN 55337-3867  
Badge: 112

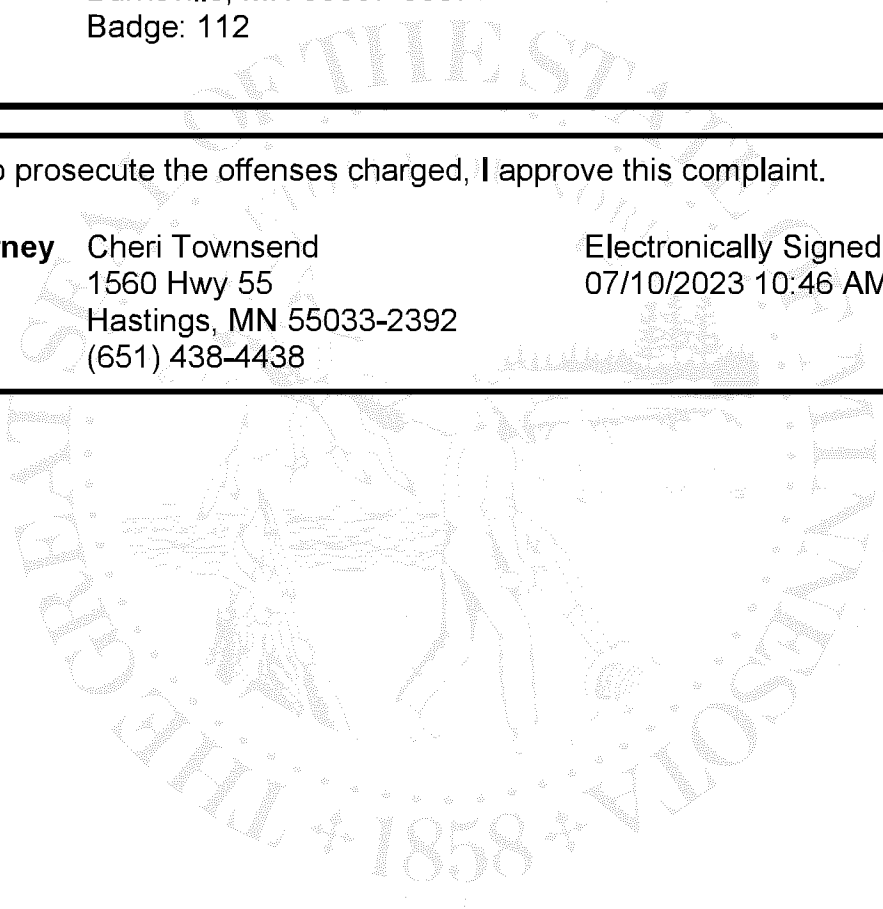
Electronically Signed:  
07/10/2023 10:49 AM  
Dakota County, Minnesota

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

**Prosecuting Attorney**

Cheri Townsend  
1560 Hwy 55  
Hastings, MN 55033-2392  
(651) 438-4438

Electronically Signed:  
07/10/2023 10:46 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: \$  
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: July 10, 2023.

**Judicial Officer** Karen Asphaug  
Judge of District Court

Electronically Signed: 07/10/2023 11:37 AM

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

**COUNTY OF DAKOTA  
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

**State of Minnesota**

Plaintiff

vs.

**Troy Michael Mitteness**

Defendant

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

Signature of Authorized Service Agent: