

State of Minnesota
County of Mower

District Court
3rd Judicial District

Prosecutor File No.
Court File No.

CA-06864
50-CR-20-516

State of Minnesota,

Plaintiff,

vs.

DARIAZ LEWIS HIGGINS DOB: 03/22/1984

Waupun Correctional Facility P.O. Box 351 DOC#00409013
Waupun, WI 53963

Defendant.

COMPLAINT

Warrant

Amended

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: 2nd Degree Murder-Without Intent-Felony

Minnesota Statute: 609.19.2, with reference to: 609.19.2(1)

Maximum Sentence: 40 Years

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 03/08/2019 to 03/15/2019

Control #(ICR#): 19000219

Charge Description: On or about a period inclusive of 3/8/2019 and 3/15/2019, within the County of Mower, the defendant caused the death of Victim A while committing or attempting to commit a felony offense, to wit: third degree assault.

STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

On March 11, 2019, the Milwaukee Police Department issued an Amber Alert for the two-year-old daughter (DOB/11132016) of DARIAZ LEWIS HIGGINS, DOB/032284, (the defendant herein). The child had the initials N.R. ("Victim A").

On March 13, 2019, Milwaukee Police arrested the defendant for shooting and killing Victim A's mother. The shooting occurred on March 11, 2019.

On March 15, 2019, in Steele County Minnesota, a passerby discovered the body of a child wrapped in a blanket in the east ditch north of the intersection of Hwy. 218 and Hwy. 30. Family members later identified the body as the defendant's two-year-old daughter, Victim A. The Southeast MN Regional Medical Examiner's Office arranged for the transport of Victim A's body to its office for a forensic autopsy.

The Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension ("BCA") responded to Steele County and assumed the lead role in the investigation. The BCA investigation revealed that Victim A had been at the Rodeway Inn Motel in the City of Austin, Mower County, Minnesota with the defendant from approximately February 6, 2019, until about March 10, 2019, when Victim A's body was removed from the motel and then left in the ditch in Steele County.

On March 16, 2019, Agents of the BCA executed search warrants for two rooms the defendant rented at the Rodeway Inn. The BCA Crime Scene Unit processed both rooms.

On March 18, 2019, Special Agent Swenson met with an adult male witness with the initials J.D. (Witness A) at the Law Enforcement Center in Austin. Witness A has known the defendant for many years and previously dated the defendant's mother. Witness A reported that he visited with the defendant multiple times at the Rodeway Inn during the months of February 2019 and March 2019. Witness A reported last seeing the defendant on March 9, 2019. Witness A had seen the Amber Alert and confirmed that the girl in the Amber Alert is the girl he saw with the defendant at the Rodeway Inn.

Also on March 18, 2019, Special Agent Layon travelled to Milwaukee, Wisconsin and obtained a known DNA samples from the defendant at the Milwaukee County jail.

The defendant gave a statement to Milwaukee investigators in which he positively identified a photograph of the child's body from Steele County as that of Victim A. The defendant indicated that he was at the Rodeway Inn Motel and Victim A fell off the toilet and subsequently died. The defendant said he wrapped Victim A's body in blankets and left her on the motel room floor by the bed for a couple of days.

The defendant said he went to Milwaukee, got a vehicle, and then returned to Austin. The defendant indicated that in the early morning hours of March 10, 2019, he put Victim A's body into the vehicle that he was driving. The defendant said he was with Deloise Lipsey (an adult female) and they drove toward Minneapolis in blizzard conditions. The defendant said that he stopped by the side of the road and put Victim A's body into the ditch where she was located a few days later. The defendant indicated that he knew Victim A was dead and that she had been dead for a couple of days and that he could not travel with her.

An autopsy was conducted on Victim A. The autopsy determined that Victim A died from non-accidental blunt force trauma. Victim A suffered multiple blunt force injuries to her head, scleral hemorrhaging, conjunctival petechiae and brain hemorrhages. There were also multiple blunt force injuries to Victim A's extremities. The cause of Victim A's death was blunt force trauma to her head. The injuries that contributed

to Victim A's death did not match the defendant's version of events.

The DNA sample taken from the defendant at the Milwaukee County jail confirmed that he is the father of Victim A.

The defendant left Minnesota and Wisconsin authorities arrested him there before he could be charged in Minnesota. He has been in custody in Wisconsin since the discovery of Victim A's body.

On April 20, 2021, the defendant pled guilty to shooting and killing Victim A's mother in Milwaukee on March 11, 2019. See Milwaukee County Case Number 2019CF001050. On July 26, 2021, a Milwaukee County Court sentenced the defendant to lifetime imprisonment.

The defendant is presently incarcerated at Waupun Correctional Institution (Inmate # 00409013).

The defendant is a black adult male. He reportedly weighs approximately 180 pounds. He is 5 feet 8 inches tall. He has black hair and brown eyes. He has tattoos on both arms, his neck, and face. He has a gold tooth. His FBI# is 814316RB8. His Wisconsin State ID # is WI714418.

NOTICE: You are hereby notified that failure to appear for court when required to do so is a criminal offense in the State of Minnesota, pursuant to Minn. Stat. sec. 609.49. If you are charged with or have been convicted of a felony offense, an intentional failure to appear for a court appearance is a felony offense, which is punishable by one-half of the statutory maximum term of imprisonment or fine, for the underlying crime for which you fail to appear, and is to be no less than one (1) year and one (1) day in prison, and/or a \$1,500 fine, pursuant to Minn. Stat. sec. 609.49, Subd. 1(a). If you are charged with a gross misdemeanor or misdemeanor offense, an intentional failure to appear for trial is a misdemeanor offense and may be punished by imprisonment of up to ninety (90) days in jail and/or a \$1,000 fine, pursuant to Minn. Stat. sec. 609.49, Subd. 1.

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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

Joseph Swenson
Special Agent
1430 Maryland Avenue E
St. Paul, MN 55106
Badge: 1354

Electronically Signed:
02/16/2023 01:00 PM
Ramsey County, Minnesota

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

Prosecuting Attorney

John L.V. Brooks
Assistant County Attorney
201 2nd Ave NE
Austin, MN 55912
(507) 437-9429

Electronically Signed:
02/16/2023 11:59 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: February 16, 2023.

Judicial Officer

Natalie Martinez

Electronically Signed: 02/16/2023 01:05 PM

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

**COUNTY OF MOWER
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

State of Minnesota

Plaintiff

vs.

Dariaz Lewis Higgins

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.*

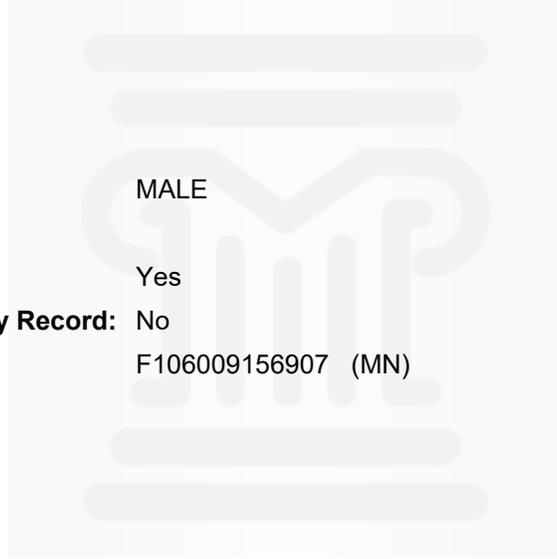
Signature of Authorized Service Agent:

DEFENDANT FACT SHEET

Name: Dariaz Lewis Higgins
DOB: 03/22/1984
Address: Waupun Correctional Facility P.O. Box 351 DOC#00409013
Waupun, WI 53963

Alias Names/DOB: Dariaz Lewis Higgins-Taylor DOB:
Dariez Louis Taylor DOB:
SID: MN03402922

Height:
Weight:
Eye Color:
Hair Color:
Gender: MALE
Race:
Fingerprints Required per Statute: Yes
Fingerprint match to Criminal History Record: No
Driver's License #: F106009156907 (MN)
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	3/8/2019	609.19.2 Murder - 2nd Degree - Without Intent	Felony	H2854	N	MNBCA0000	19000219
	Penalty	3/8/2019	609.19.2(1) Murder - 2nd Degree - Without Intent - While Committing a Felony	Felony	H2854	N	MNBCA0000	19000219



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