

State of Minnesota
County of OlmstedDistrict Court
3rd Judicial DistrictProsecutor File No. 0550071265
Court File No. 55-CR-22-7482

State of Minnesota,

Plaintiff,

COMPLAINT

Order of Detention

vs.

TIMOTHY DANIEL LOFTUS DOB: 07/19/1981901 17 Ave NE
Rochester, MN 55906

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 - 3rd Degree - Sell/Give/Distribute Controlled Substance - Schedules 1 & 2**

Minnesota Statute: 609.195(b), with reference to: 609.195(b)

Maximum Sentence: 25 years or \$40,000 fine, or both

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 05/29/2022 to 06/09/2022

Control #(ICR#): 22914567

Charge Description: On or about May 29, 2022, to June 9, 2022, in the County of Olmsted, Minnesota, Timothy Daniel Loftus did, without intent to cause death, proximately cause the death of Confidential Victim by, directly or indirectly, unlawfully selling, delivering, distributing, or administering fentanyl, a schedule I or II controlled substance

COUNT II**Charge: Interference with dead body or scene of death - Conceal body**

Minnesota Statute: 609.502.1(1), with reference to: 609.502.1a

Maximum Sentence: 3 years imprisonment, \$5,000, fine, or both

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 06/09/2022

Control #(ICR#): 22914567

Charge Description: On or about June 9, 2022, in the County of Olmsted, Minnesota, Timothy Daniel Loftus did interfere with the body or scene of death with intent to conceal the body.

The Complainant states that the following facts establish probable cause:

Your complainant is a licensed peace officer employed by the Olmsted County Sheriff's Office. In that capacity your Complainant has reviewed the police reports relating to Timothy Daniel Loftus, the above-named defendant, and the allegations contained therein. Based upon that information, your complainant believes the following to be true and correct.

On June 17, 2022, the Olmsted County Sheriff's Office received a call regarding a deceased individual found in a field at 1217 70th Ave. NE in Olmsted County, MN. The caller informed law enforcement that he was mowing the fence line of the property when he noticed a blue tarp laying in the grass. After lifting a portion of the tarp, he observed that it was concealing a human body. It was noted to law enforcement that this field was last tended to on June 6, and no tarp or human body was present at that time.

With the assistance of the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, law enforcement inspected the area where the body was found. Near the body was a green, two-wheeled cart. This type of cart is commonly referred to as a "dolly" and is used to transport large or heavy items. At the location of the body, several observations were made. The deceased individual was wrapped in a blue tarp and was secured with a rope, a tie-down strap, and duct tape. A hypodermic needle was located on the body, as well as a small plastic bag containing a pill. The body itself was severely decomposed, making identification of the body difficult during the early stages of the investigation. It was apparent that this was a secondary crime scene location, indicating that the deceased individual had been placed there by someone else.

Law enforcement began checking local files for individuals who had recently been reported missing. On June 12, Tia Mercedes Arleth (DOB 4/26/1994) was reported missing, with a last contact estimated at the end of May. Specific physical features were known about Arleth. After comparing them to the body that was found, officers concluded that the deceased individual was, in fact, Arleth. A palm print comparison done during the subsequent autopsy of Arleth's body confirmed this conclusion. A full autopsy was completed on June 18. Arleth's body was in an advanced state of decomposition, and therefore her cause of death was classified as undetermined. However, the autopsy revealed no apparent fractures or bullet holes, and the postmortem toxicology tests were positive for the presence of fentanyl in Arleth's system.

Officers began interviewing individuals who had confirmed contact with Arleth in the days leading up to May 29. Witness 1 (an adult male) stated that he went camping with Arleth on May 28, near Eyota. After they had camped one night, they came back to Rochester. Witness 1 dropped Arleth off at her residence. They planned to go camping again on the evening of May 29. However, Witness 1 stated that he returned to Eyota to camp without Arleth on May 29. Arleth's mother confirmed that Arleth was dropped off at her home after camping with Witness 1. She also explained that she subsequently took Arleth to TIMOTHY DANIEL LOFTUS'S (DOB 7/19/1981) home, which was the last time Arleth's mother had contact with her.

Arleth typically carried a cell phone with her. To date, Arleth's cell phone has not been located. Arleth's family provided law enforcement access to the administrative functions of their group cell phone plan. With that access, it was determined that Arleth's phone arrived at Loftus's residence at 5:20 PM on May 29. Arleth's phone did not leave the residence or communicate with others after that time. The phone appeared to have lost power at approximately 10:30 AM on May 31.

Investigators also spoke to Witness 2 (an adult male), who stated he was at Loftus's residence on May 29. He explained that he had consistently spent time with Loftus for approximately a month leading up to that day. Witness 2 said that while they were together on May 29, Loftus told him Arleth was coming to the residence. Witness 2 had never met Arleth and left Loftus's home before she arrived that day. Witness 2 explained that no one saw or heard from Arleth after she was dropped off at Loftus's home. Loftus also "disappeared" for several days after May 29, making himself difficult to communicate with either in person or via phone. Witness 2 told investigators that he went back to Loftus's home in mid-June. Witness 2 had previously used Loftus's dolly cart to move his tires around the garage while working on vehicles. When Witness 2 returned to Loftus's home, he noticed that Loftus's dolly cart was missing. Witness 2 viewed a picture of the dolly cart found near Arleth's body and he confirmed that it belonged to Loftus.

On June 23, law enforcement executed a search warrant at Loftus's residence. During the search, controlled substances and a 9mm handgun were located in the garage on his property. Duct tape and rope matching the specific color and type on Arleth's body was found in Loftus's garage.

Investigators spoke to Loftus on several separate occasions. Loftus confirmed that Arleth was dropped off at his house on the evening of May 29 by her mother. Loftus claims that Arleth was on her phone messaging other people the entire time she was at his home. Loftus said that Arleth left, simply walking away from his home, approximately 20 minutes after she arrived. Loftus denied providing Arleth with any controlled substances and claimed that he did not talk to her very much. However, phone records show that Arleth and Loftus messaged each other over 100 times in just the month of May.

On July 11, law enforcement spoke with Witness 3. Witness 3 said that he was released from jail on June 7 and went to Loftus's residence on June 9. Loftus confided in Witness 3 and told him that he provided Arleth with heroin and fentanyl. Loftus said Arleth died as a result of ingesting those controlled substances. Loftus told Witness 3 that Arleth's body was located in the trailer near the sidewalk of the residence. Witness 3 observed the trailer and noted that there was a blue tarp in the trailer. Numerous additional witnesses informed law enforcement that they know Loftus to sell controlled substances, including heroin and fentanyl.

Investigators were able to obtain video from June 9 from a doorbell camera in the area and from local public buses. Those videos showed that on the morning of June 9, there was a white trailer located in front of Loftus's home. Numerous items were piled into the trailer, including a blue tarp that is consistent with the tarp Arleth's body was wrapped in. Approximately 30 minutes later, Loftus's vehicle (MN FYK919) can be seen hooked up to that trailer. Approximately 90 minutes later, the white trailer is again seen in front of Loftus's home, but the blue tarp is no longer in the trailer.

A search warrant was obtained for the location data associated with Loftus's cell phone. An examination of that data revealed that in the late morning on June 9, Loftus's phone traveled away from his home in Rochester, MN to the North and the East. The route revealed by the location data matched the location where Arleth's body was found. Additionally, the location data showed that Loftus's phone stopped in the area where Arleth's body was found for approximately 9-10 minutes.

The circumstances described above show that on May 29, Arleth went to Loftus's home in Rochester, MN. While at Loftus's home, Loftus provided Arleth with controlled substances that led to her death. On June 9, Loftus transported Arleth's body to a remote location east of Rochester in Olmsted County. Arleth's body was placed in this remote area and wrapped in a tarp with the ultimate purpose to conceal its discovery.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE: YOU MUST APPEAR FOR EVERY COURT HEARING REGARDING THIS CASE. FAILURE TO APPEAR FOR COURT IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE AND MAY RESULT IN ADDITIONAL CRIMINAL CHARGES BEING IMPOSED AND PUNISHED AS PROVIDED IN MINNESOTA STATUTES SECTION 609.49.

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

Lee Rossman
Detective
101 4th Street SE
Rochester, MN 55904-3718
Badge: 1610

Electronically Signed:
11/03/2022 11:04 AM
Olmsted County, Minnesota

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

Prosecuting Attorney

A. Michael DeBolt
Assistant County Attorney
151 4th Street SE
Government Center - 3rd Floor
Rochester, MN 55904
(507) 328-7600

Electronically Signed:
11/03/2022 08:20 AM

55-CR-22-7482
FINDING OF PROBABLE CAUSE

Filed in District Court
State of Minnesota
11/3/2022

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: November 3, 2022.

Judicial Officer

Joseph Chase
District Judge

Electronically Signed: 11/03/2022 01:00 PM

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

**COUNTY OF OLMSTED
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

State of Minnesota

Plaintiff

vs.

Timothy Daniel Loftus

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:

55-CR-22-7482
DEFENDANT FACT SHEET

*Filed in District Court
State of Minnesota
11/3/2022*

Name: Timothy Daniel Loftus
DOB: 07/19/1981
Address: 901 17 Ave NE
Rochester, MN 55906

Alias Names/DOB:
SID:
Height:
Weight: 180lbs.
Eye Color:
Hair Color:
Gender:
Race:
Fingerprints Required per Statute: Yes
Fingerprint match to Criminal History Record: No
Driver's License #: L132793135569 (MN)
Alcohol Concentration:

55-CR-22-7482
STATUTE AND OFFENSE GRID

*Filed in District Court
State of Minnesota
11/3/2022*

Cnt Nbr	Statute Type	Offense Date(s)	Statute Nbrs and Descriptions	Offense Level	MOC	GOC	Controlling Agencies	Case Numbers
1	Charge	5/29/2022	609.195(b) Murder - 3rd Degree - Sell/Give/Distribute Controlled Substance - Schedules 1 & 2	Felony	H3C02		MN0550000	22914567
	Penalty	5/29/2022	609.195(b) Murder - 3rd Degree - Sell/Give/Distribute Controlled Substance - Schedules 1 & 2	Felony	H3C02		MN0550000	22914567
2	Charge	6/9/2022	609.502.1(1) Interference with dead body or scene of death - Conceal body	Felony	X1070		MN0550000	22914567
	Penalty	6/9/2022	609.502.1a Interference with dead body or scene of death - Penalty	Felony	X1070		MN0550000	22914567