

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE
STATE OF OKLAHOMA SITTING IN AND FOR OTTAWA COUNTY

THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA,)
)
Plaintiff,)
)
VS.)
)
David Ray Carlson)
1417 Hackleman Road)
Whitesboro, TX 76273)
)
RACE: White)
SEX: Male)
DOB: May 17, 1975)
DL#: 2724371/TX)
)
Defendant,

NO CF-2025-208

FILED
DISTRICT COURT
OTTAWA CO. OKLA.

SEP 25 2025

CASSIE KEY COURT CLERK
BY [Signature]

AFFIDAVIT FOR THE ISSUANCE OF AN ARREST WARRANT

The undersigned, upon oath, deposes and states as follows, to-wit:

I, Lieutenant Dustin Thornton, am a Trooper with the Oklahoma Highway Patrol and am recognized as a peace officer under Oklahoma Statute Title 47-2-117.A and have the authority under Oklahoma Statute Title 47-2-117B.10 to conduct collision investigations.

I have complied with the provisions of Oklahoma Statute Title 70, Section 3311 and am entitled to such professional standing as a full time, certified law enforcement officer in the State of Oklahoma.

I am a graduate of the 59th Oklahoma Highway Patrol Academy and took my oath of office and was sworn in by the Chief Justice of the Oklahoma Supreme Court.

I have received numerous hours of continuing education in the field of law enforcement and have been awarded the Certificate of Advanced Level of Peace Officer Certification by the Director of the Council of Law Enforcement Education and Training.

I have been trained in motor vehicle collision investigations and the evidence that can be gathered from collision vehicles, scene, and individuals.

I have completed training in the areas of collision investigation, accident reconstruction, and motor vehicle death investigations.

On August 18, 2025, a fatal collision occurred between a semi tractor-trailer combination and an Oklahoma Turnpike Authority pickup and employees on Interstate 44 (Will Rogers Turnpike) near Mile Marker 315.3, in Ottawa County. Troopers JOE GREEN and BRETT WATSON were the first members to arrive. Lieutenant DUSTIN THORNTON also responded to the scene.

During the scene investigation, it was determined that DAVID CARLSON was traveling eastbound in a 2024 Freightliner Cascadia in the outside lane. ZACHARY RINEHART was driving a 2020 RAM pickup, also Eastbound, and had stopped on the outside shoulder. COLTON ARMSTRONG was sitting in the passenger seat while RINEHART was outside of the truck. RINEHART and ARMSTRONG are employees of the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority. RINEHART and ARMSTRONG were tasked with picking up trash and debris along the Interstate. CARLSON departed the road to the right and struck the rear of the RAM, propelling it into RINEHART, who was walking around the front of the RAM. After impact, the Freightliner, RAM, and Rinehart came to rest on the South side of Interstate 44 in the grass. RINEHART died as a result of his injuries, and ARMSTRONG was critically injured.

Initial statements made by CARLSON were that his cellphone fell off a magnetic mount and he was attempting to retrieve it by pulling it up by the cord, when suddenly his truck jerked right and impacted the RAM. CARLSON stated he thought he hit a bump or debris. During the interview with CARLSON, he stated that while he was retrieving his phone, he could have accidentally hit the steering wheel.

THORNTON collected 2 aftermarket dash cameras from the Freightliner and received written consent to search them from CARLSON.

On August 19, 2025, THORNTON traveled to Santa Fe Towing. THORNTON photographed and downloaded the Detroit Engine Control Module (ECM) of the Freightliner using DDEC Reports. Troop S Troopers WATSON, PARKER, and CARL TURNER conducted a post-crash inspection with the Freightliner and found the only violations were a result of the collision. Due to the claim of a potential mechanical issue by CARLSON, THORNTON inspected the steering components and did not observe any damage or defects. The data from the Freightliner ECM showed the cruise control was active and CARLSON was traveling approximately 70 miles per hour 2 seconds before impact and approximately 53 mph at impact. Braking was activated at -0.1 seconds before impact.

THORNTON traveled to Collins Towing and photographed the RAM and harvested the airbag control module. THORNTON downloaded the module on August 21, 2025. The module reported that the RAM was stopped with the transmission in park at the time of the collision.

THORNTON contacted Buffalo Run Casino and inquired about the video footage of the collision. THORNTON made a formal request through the Bureau of Indian Affairs to

obtain the video. THORNTON received the footage on August 25, 2025. This video shows RINEHART and ARMSTRONG stop and be struck by CARLSON.

On August 21, 2025, THORNTON began the search of the dash cameras seized from CARLSON'S truck. THORNTON started with the Rand McNally. There were no videos recorded internally or on the external microSD card. THORNTON examined the Car CamCorder. THORNTON first examined the microSD card and found 43 videos had been recorded. THORNTON was unable to search the internal memory due to the menu instructions being in a foreign language. THORNTON found that video MOV01006 recorded the collision. While watching the video, THORNTON observed what sounded like a movie or television series playing in the background and was observing CARLSON'S driving behavior. CARLSON appeared to be having trouble maintaining his lane and, at times, driving onto the rumble strips on the shoulder, suggesting he may have been distracted at times during the 2-minute and 2-second video. The video shows CARLSON drifting over onto the shoulder, driving on top of the rumble strips, and striking the RAM. It appeared that when CARLSON drove onto the rumble strips, his driving behavior was unaffected, and he only took evasion action just before the impact. THORNTON did not observe a "jerk" in the steering as CARLSON described.

THORNTON called CARLSON later that afternoon. THORNTON asked CARLSON what movie he was watching. CARLSON stated that he was not watching a movie; he was listening to iHeart Radio. When THORNTON advised CARLSON that the Car CamCorder recorded the collision, and it sounded like an "Anime" movie or series was playing in the background. CARLSON admitted to having an "Anime" series playing on his cellphone through the "Crunchy Roll" app that he was also using for GPS. CARLSON went on to say that he only plays the Anime series for noise to keep from zoning out. CARLSON stated he has watched all of the episodes anyway. THORNTON asked CARLSON if the phone was facing him and the series was playing on the screen, and he stated yes, but again, he only uses it for noise. THORNTON asked CARLSON, even if he has watched all of the episodes, realistically, would he look at the screen if it was playing, and he stated yes.

On August 25, 2025, THORNTON received a request to call a person who stated he witnessed the driving behavior of CARLSON before the collision. THORNTON contacted JOHN BARNER. BARNER stated that he observed the driving behavior of the white semi-truck after he got on the Will Rogers Turnpike at Afton (MM 302). BARNER stated the white semi was weaving in the lane, so BARNER went around him. BARNER stated he could see the semi continue to weave in his lane until he could no longer see it. BARNER stated that when he came back through the collision, he observed the crashed white semi as the same one that was weaving in the lane before the collision.

Based on this, I ask that a warrant be issued for DAVID RAY CARLSON, that he may be brought before a magistrate and held to answer for the offense(s) of:

CRIME(S) ALLEGED:

COUNT 1: 21§711

Manslaughter in the First Degree

The facts aforementioned in this affidavit are not necessarily a complete recitation of all the pertinent facts and evidence in this case but are only presented for a determination of probable cause.

Based on this information, the undersigned prays that this Honorable court issue a finding of fact that probable cause exists to believe that the said defendant has committed a crime and that there is probable cause to believe the defendant above-named committed that crime.



AFFIANT

Lieutenant Dustin Thornton #90
Oklahoma Highway Patrol

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 19th day of September 2025.

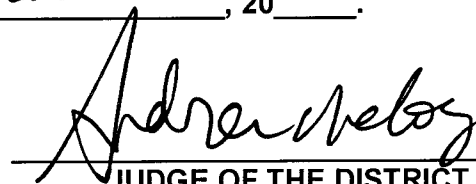



NOTARY PUBLIC

FINDING OF PROBABLE CAUSE

On this 24 day of September, 2025, the above cause came before me, the undersigned Judge of the District Court, upon the Affidavit of Lieutenant Dustin Thornton requesting that a warrant of arrest be issued for the within named defendant, that he might be arrested and held to answer for the above offense. Based upon said Affidavit, I am satisfied and do hereby find that the aforementioned offense was committed and that there is probable cause to believe the within named Defendant has committed said offense and that a warrant of arrest should issue.

Dated this 24 day of September, 2025. 2:00 PM



JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT

Manslaughter 1st 50,000