

**MISSOURI STATE HIGHWAY PATROL
PROBABLE CAUSE STATEMENT**

STATE OF MISSOURI }
COUNTY OF BARRY }
DATE: 7/15/26

MISSOURI STATE HIGHWAY PATROL
CASE#: 260127126
OCN#: n/a

I, J.L. Mason, knowing that false statements on this form are punishable by law, state that the facts contained herein are true.

1. I have probable cause to believe that, the below listed offender has committed the offense(s) of: Murder, 1st degree RSMO 565.020-001 Y20200904.0

Name: Scott, David Ray

D.O.B.:

Address:

S.S.N.:

Little Rock, AR,

2. The facts that support a finding of probable cause to believe crime(s) was/were committed and that the accused committed the crime(s) are as follows:

On October 9, 1999, at approximately 0330 hours, the Barry County Sheriff's Office responded to a call for service of a human body, which was located on the railroad tracks north of Missouri Package (a commercial business), on Business 37, in Seligman, Barry County, Missouri. The deceased was identified as Justin Isaiah Hocutt, a white male, date of birth August 16, 1985. The Sheriff's Office coordinated with the Arkansas and Missouri Railroad to conduct the investigation, with the primary investigating agency being the railroad. At the time of his death, Juvenile Hocutt was 14 years of age.

Through the original investigation, it was determined that on October 8, 1999, Juvenile Hocutt was visiting Catrina Johnson (his juvenile girlfriend) at her residence, located at Rt. 1 Box 1179 B (now known as 29016 Main St), Seligman, Barry County, Missouri. Sometime around 4-5:00 am, Harold Johnson, Catrina's father, woke up and discovered both juveniles lying together in the living room floor. Harold confronted Juvenile Hocutt. As a result of being found together, Harold, "Wesley" Scott, "Ray Ray" Scott, and David Scott, began to physically assault Juvenile Hocutt. Wesley, Ray Ray, and David were identified as the stepbrothers of Catrina. A witness inside the residence (witness 2) observed the beating and watched as the group strangled Juvenile Hocutt by placing a rope around the juvenile's neck. The witness heard the group making statements about going to the tracks. Investigators also learned that Brenda Scott, the mother of Wesley, Ray Ray, and David also participated in the beating. It was reported that Juvenile Hocutt was beaten with a stick, a cane, a baseball bat, or a similar object during the beating. Witness # 1 was also inside the residence and observed Harold confronting Juvenile Hocutt and the beating that ensued.

When Juvenile Hocutt's body was located on the tracks, the positioning of his body was a short distance from the Johnson/Scott residence, which was located directly across the street from the railroad tracks. It was believed that Juvenile Hocutt was struck multiple times by a passing train before the discovery of his body.

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Numerous police officers and law enforcement agencies participated in the original investigation. Multiple witness statements were collected and numerous statements identified Harold Johnson, Brenda Scott, Wesley Scott, Ray Ray Scott, and David Scott as the subjects responsible for Juvenile Hocutt's death and the placement of his body onto the railroad tracks. However, the original investigation eventually was designated a cold case and/or unsolved. It is unknown to current members of the investigative team (MSHP & the Barry County Sheriff's Office Investigators), why the case is unsolved and why subjects responsible for the death haven't been charged criminally.

While reviewing the autopsy report, the doctor determined that based on medical evidence observed at the time of the autopsy, Juvenile Hocutt was alive at the time he was placed on the railroad tracks and struck by a train.

Below is a brief outline of the current investigation:

It should be noted, during the current investigation, multiple witnesses expressed concerns for their safety if they participated or assisted law enforcement. As a result, the witnesses will be identified by number and not by name. It should also be known that multiple witnesses, Harold Johnson, and Brenda Scott are now deceased.

Throughout the years following the homicide, witness # 1 has made statements to multiple individuals that Brenda Scott beat Justin with a stick and Brenda's sons (at least two, Ray Ray and Wesley) were involved in the beating/death. In addition, Ray Ray Scott and Wesley Scott have also made numerous comments about their involvement in the juvenile's death.

On February 18, 2026, I met with Sheriff Danny Boyd and other investigators with the department. Per Sheriff Boyd, in 1999 Justin Hocutt was found deceased after being struck by a train multiple times. Sheriff Boyd indicated that current investigators with the Sheriff's Office have reviewed the original investigation and believe Juvenile Hocutt's death was a result of a violent confrontation. His body was then placed on the track in an attempt to hide evidence of the assault.

On February 18, 2026, witness # 3 was interviewed. On the day Justin Hocutt's body was discovered on the railroad tracks, witness # 3 observed Brenda Scott purchasing five gallons of bleach.

On February 19, 2026, witness # 4 was interviewed. On the night the witness believed the homicide occurred, the witness observed Wes Scott fighting Justin Hocutt in the front yard/ditch near 29016 Main St. Wes didn't like Justin Hocutt and was jealous of his relationship with Catrina. Brenda and Ray Ray were watching the fight. During the altercation, the witness believed Brenda struck Justin in the head with a cast iron skillet. The witness was uncertain what happened to Juvenile Hocutt after the fight. The witness observed this from a nearby vacant apartment. Later in the evening, witness # 1 informed witness # 4 that they (the Scott's) didn't like Justin and they killed him. Witness # 4 returned to the vacant apartment the following night and found one of the Johnson's

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inside (the witness believed this was Gary) with a bunch of kids, cleaning. When the witness left the previous day the apartment was clean. The witness advised the apartment had a strong odor of bleach throughout, which the witness didn't use because of a recent medical procedure. The witness wondered if Justin Hocutt was brought into the apartment during or after the homicide. On the night of the homicide, the street light near the roadway was shot out, making it so dark no one could see.

On March 20, 2026, witness # 5 was interviewed. Prior to Justin's death, the witness was sitting on the front porch of a nearby residence. Justin was in the front yard of the apartments and was having some sort of disagreement with two of Catrina's older stepbrothers. She observed and overheard brothers, David and Ray Scott, arguing with Justin. David and Ray were confronting Justin about some sort of incident involving Catrina. Justin and Catrina had been caught together in some manner. As the confrontation occurred, Justin was back peddling, with his hands/arms raised in the air, and was apologetic. Justin repeatedly stated something similar to "my bad". They were aggressively walking towards Justin, but the situation didn't escalate into a physical altercation. As Justin was leaving the yard, Ray said something similar to, "we'll talk soon Justin." Later, the witness observed Catrina having a "huge meltdown" with her stepbrothers and Brenda. Catrina was crying, stating that they (Justin and Catrina) didn't do anything wrong. Catrina's stepmother forced her back into the apartment.

On April 23, 2026, witness # 6 was interviewed. The witness stated around 0500 hours, on "the morning that it happened" a lot of noise was coming from Harold and Brenda's apartment. The witness advised it sounded like someone was fighting because they heard a lot of screaming, cussing, and yelling. After Angela Johnson and Steven Chadwell discovered Justin's body, they responded to the residence of the witness and informed the witness of their discovery. The witness questioned them on why they didn't notify the adults at the Johnson/Scott residence. Chadwell and Johnson advised that they did; however, Harold and Brenda told them to notify them (the witness). Approximately two days later, Wes Scott was at the residence of the witness and the witness overheard Wes saying that he was wearing the boys hat and the hat still had brain matter on it. In addition, the witness overheard Wes Scott say something similar to "I didn't mean to do it, brother." Later, the witness took Harold Johnson and Brenda Scott to a law office for legal assistance. Harold and Brenda were sitting in the back seat of the van when Harold informed "Brenda, I told you, you shouldn't have hit him in the head with a baseball bat." Brenda replied, "Shut up, Harold. We're not in the van by ourselves."

On May 6, 2026, witness # 7 was interviewed. In approximately 2015, Wes Scott and the witness were sitting on the front porch of the witnesses residence. Wes drank three beers during the visit. They talked about Catrina and/or Mr. Hocutt's death. Wes stated they (he and Ray, his brother) came in and started punching on Mr. Hocutt. Mr. Hocutt stopped moving. Ray informed Wes that he believed he (Ray) hit Mr. Hocutt too hard.

On May 12, 2026, witness # 8 was interviewed. While walking on the railroad tracks, the witness and Angela Johnson (Catrina's sister, who lived at the same residence as Catrina) discovered the boy's (Justin's) body. The body was located approximately one

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hundred yards from Angela's residence. The body was on the railroad tracks and was positioned in a 10:00 o'clock direction from the Johnson/ Scott residence.

On May 19, 2026, witness # 9 was interviewed. The witness participated in a law enforcement interview of witness # 1. During the interview, witness # 1 identified two of Brenda Scott's sons as the subjects responsible for Justin's death. Witness # 9 recalled Wesley was one of the sons. However, the witness had difficulty recalling the second son. I mentioned the names of Ray and David. Witness # 9 immediately recalled the second son/suspect as Ray. Per witness # 1, Justin snuck over to the Johnson/Scott residence. At some point, Harold Johnson (Catrina's father), caught Justin and Catrina together at the house. Wesley and Ray "stomped Justin's head in with their boots", stated witness # 1.

On May 19, 2026, former Barry County Detective Brian Martin was interviewed. Per Mr. Martin, he conducted a recorded interview of witness # 1, which was attended by witness # 9. On the evening prior, when the Johnson's and Scott's went to bed, Mr. Hocutt wasn't at the residence. However, some of the Johnson's and Scott's were employed as chicken catchers and had to be to work during the early morning hours. When they woke up, they found Mr. Hocutt and Catrina lying on the floor together. Mr. Martin believed Brenda Scott was the instigator and Harold Johnson (Catrina's father and boyfriend of Brenda) likely helped. Wesley and Ray Ray Scott killed Mr. Hocutt in the living room. They beat Mr. Hocutt with sticks and a pipe. Mr. Martin confirmed that Brenda kept a stick behind her door that was used on anyone who visited the residence that "needed an attitude adjustment".

☒ I believe the defendant will not appear in court to respond to a criminal summons or poses a danger to the community because: is a danger to the community. During the investigation, David Scott was found to participate in the murder of Juvenile Justin Hocutt. David Scott participated in beating, stomping, and/or striking Mr. Hocutt with an object causing Juvenile Hocutt to be incapacitated and/or unresponsive. During unresponsiveness, David Scott coordinated with other suspects to transport Juvenile Hocutt to a nearby railroad track, where the juvenile was struck by a passing train.

TPR [Signature] #331
Signature

7-15-2026

Date