

Statement of Probable Cause County of Vernon

Date: 09/08/2026

I, **Det. Sgt. Bradly Keithly** knowing that false statements on this form are punishable by law state that the facts contained herein are true.

I have probable cause to believe that on, **09/07/2026**, the following criminal offense(s) were committed in Nevada, MO by the person(s) listed below:

Name: **Frank Christopher Bailey- Hostetter**

<u>Charge</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Charge Code</u>
UNLAWFUL USE OF WEAPON	F/A	571.030-015Y20205299.0
POSSESSION OF A DEFACED FIREARM	M / B	571.050-001Y20205299.0
RECEIVING STOLEN PROPERTY	M / D	570.030-051Y20202899.0

That the facts supporting this belief are as follows:

- On 09/08/2026 officers were dispatched to a residence inside the City of Nevada, Missouri for a report of an individual who had just been shot.
- When Officers arrived on scene, they located the victim who was an 18 year old male laying on the ground in the living room of the home.
- It was discovered that the male victim had been shot in the groin area one time with a 9mm hollow point.
- Once Vernon County Ambulance staff arrived on scene, the victim was transported to Mercy Joplin to be treated for his injury.
- While on scene officers made contact with Frank Hostetter. Frank told officers that he had found a 9mm pistol in an alleyway near the Nevada Library earlier in the evening. Frank stated that when he found the pistol, he saw that the pistol did not have a serial number and that it had appeared to have been removed.
- Frank told officers that he had brought the firearm to the victim's residence so he could show it off to the victim.
- Frank told officers that while he was messing with the pistol, he thought that it was unloaded and pulled the trigger while pointing it at the victim. That is when the pistol discharged and shot the victim.
- Officers located the pistol which is described as a Ruger LC9S 9mm. with the serial number scratched off. The pistol was located with one spent X-Treme brand shell casing in the chamber and five unspent X-Treme brand hollow point casings in the magazine. The firearm was located inside a "WE THE PEOPLE" carbon fiber holster.
- On 09/08/2026 officers made contact with the victim's family and learned that the victim lost a testicle due to the gunshot wound.
- On 09/08/2026 I, Det. Sgt. Keithly went to the Vernon County Jail and spoke with Frank Hostetter. Before asking Frank any questions, I advised him of his Miranda Warning which Frank stated that he understood and wished to speak with me.
- While speaking to Frank, he told me that he was under the influence of methamphetamine on 09/07/2026 when he discharged the firearm. Frank told me that he and the victim are "like brothers" and that he would never intentionally hurt the victim. Frank told me that he was pointing the pistol at the victim, and that the victim told Frank not to point it at him because the pistol was loaded. Frank stated that his body went numb and he pulled the trigger. Frank stated that after he pulled the trigger and shot the victim, he immediately began medical treatment on the victim until first responders arrived on scene.

12. On 09/05/2026 the Nevada Police Department took a report of a stolen Ruger LC9 9mm pistol with a carbon fiber "WE THE PEOPLE" holster. This pistol matches the same description as the firearm that was in Frank Hostetter's possession.

If appropriate, check the applicable box and complete the following for the issuance of a warrant.

☐ I believe that the defendant will not appear in court in response to a criminal summons because:

☒ I believe that the defendant poses a danger to: The community because Frank Hostetter was under the influence of methamphetamine when he shot the victim with a stolen firearm.

Signature: 

Agency Name: Nevada Police Department

Agency Case Number: 26-1273