

STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

STATE OF MISSOURI
COUNTY OF LAWRENCE

Date: 12/3/2025

I, Detective R. Christopher Corbett, 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 between September 18th, 2025, and September 19th, 2025, that GASTON, SCOTT WILLIAM, a White Male committed one or more criminal offense(s) of:

RSMo 573.037 - Possession of child pornography

RSMo 573.035 - Promoting child pornography in the second degree

Name: GASTON, SCOTT WILLIAM – Defendant

Address: [REDACTED]

Arrested: IN CUSTODY 12/03/2025 @ 0630 hours

2. The facts supporting this belief are as follows:

1. On October 09, 2025, CyberTip Report (CTR) 220325622 was transmitted to law enforcement from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). The CTR, created by Google on September 20, 2025, identified the user account "[REDACTED]" as having uploaded twenty-nine (29) media files of suspected child sexual abuse material (CSAM), also referred to as child pornography, to the Google Photos infrastructure on or about September 19, 2025, at 02:53:54 UTC. All the files uploaded are video files. The report also identified verified mobile numbers "[REDACTED]" and "[REDACTED]", along with the IP address [REDACTED] as having been used to access the account shortly before the incident. This same IP address was previously associated with an internal investigative case, CC-2023-00429, thereby linking the CTR submission to a known subject of investigation. A search within law enforcement and other databases revealed a suspect, Scott GASTON.

a. Sample Descriptions of Files:

- i. Filename: 1b2fc95c0d091d858f95bd2700e37816.mp4

Description: A one minute and twenty-three second video depicting an adult male sexually abusing a prepubescent child as young as three. The adult male rubs his unclothed penis on the unclothed vagina of the child victim.

- ii. Filename: 965ce3e0313cb15a098a8bf0f81c9c21.mp4

Description: A twenty-four second video depicting an adult male inserting his unclothed, erect penis into the anus of infant. The infant's vagina and anus are exposed and in focus of the camera.

- iii. Filename: a6a09a830bcdf29f2e2e306b8cf03a38.mp4

Description: A fifty-eight second video depicting an adult male inserting his unclothed, erect penis into the mouth of an infant child victim.

2. On October 27, 2025, Google responded to a judicially approved investigative subpoena for subscriber information. The Google subpoena return identifies the subscriber of the Google account [REDACTED] as Scott GASTON and confirms that the same IP address "[REDACTED]" was used to create the account and access it. The return includes subscriber information, recovery information, and

Google Pay financial data. These records list the verified phone number "[REDACTED]" and the residential address [REDACTED]. The Google Pay records also show an Arvest Bank account belonging to GASTON, tied to the same address and telephone number. All identifiers in the Google return match the identifiers listed in the CTR.

3. On November 15, 2025, Yaana Managed Services responded to a judicially approved investigative subpoena for Optimum Online along with a declaration certifying the records. The Optimum Online subpoena return confirms that IP V4 address [REDACTED] was assigned to a residential internet account belonging to Scott GASTON at [REDACTED] during the time of the incident. The account has been active at that location since 2004 and lists telephone numbers "[REDACTED]" and [REDACTED], the latter of which matches the verified phone number associated with the Google account. This return shows that the offending IP address originates from the same residence linked to GASTON through the Google subscriber and financial records.
4. Information received via Integrity GIS shows Scott GASTON as the property owner at [REDACTED], [REDACTED] (Parcel ID [REDACTED]).
5. On November 19, 2025, during surveillance, a silver 2010 Ford Fusion was observed parked at the residence. Records show the vehicle is registered to GASTON's domestic partner, with Gaston listed as the Transfer on Death beneficiary. On November 20, 2025, GASTON's silver Jeep Commander was observed parked in the driveway of the residence.
6. On December 03, 2025, members of the Southwest Missouri Cyber Crimes Task Force, assisted by the Missouri State Highway Patrol, Homeland Security Investigations, and the Lawrence County Sheriff's Office, executed a judicially approved residential search warrant at [REDACTED], Lawrence County, Missouri. The residence was occupied by two adults identified as REDACTED NAME 1 and Scott GASTON, along with four children approximately twelve years of age and younger. The warrant was executed without incident, and numerous electronic devices were seized for later forensic examination. Investigators also located multiple firearms, significant quantities of ammunition, and large amounts of cash inside the residence.
7. TFO Corbett contacted GASTON and conducted an audio-recorded interview beginning at approximately 0647 hours CST. GASTON identified himself as Scott GASTON, provided his date of birth as REDACTED DOB, confirmed his telephone number as [REDACTED], and stated his email address was [REDACTED]. He confirmed that he resided at [REDACTED]. GASTON was advised of his Miranda Rights at approximately 0649 hours CST and agreed to answer preliminary questions prior to invoking his rights.
8. Under Miranda, GASTON stated that Verizon is his cellular provider, Liberty is his electric utility provider, and Suddenlink is his internet service provider. The new name for Suddenlink is Optimum Online. He confirmed the residence has an active Wi-Fi network and stated that he, Warren, and the four children all have access to it. Gaston reported that he had provided the Wi-Fi password to friends and family in the past, though he stated that the last time a visitor may have used the network was "many months" prior. He reported a high school education, specialized technical training, and completion of a police academy. At approximately 0654 hours, after learning the nature of the investigation, Gaston stated, "I am going to invoke my Miranda rights at this time, and I do not want to be involved with this at all."
9. The information obtained during the warrant execution and interview corroborates the identifiers contained in the CyberTipline Report and related subpoena returns. Gaston was located at the residence associated with IP address [REDACTED], the same address and IP tied to the Google account that uploaded suspected child sexual abuse material. The phone number, residence address, and email address provided by Gaston match or closely match identifiers contained in the Google and Optimum Online records, including the CTR-related address and subscriber information. The confirmation of Suddenlink as the internet provider is consistent with Optimum Online records showing that the same residence and IP address were active during the CTR incident.

Your affiant is employed as a detective with the Jasper County Sheriff's Office, Missouri, and a Task Force Officer ("TFO") with the Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Office, Homeland Security

Investigations, ("ICE/HSI"). Your affiant also assigned to the Southwest Missouri Cyber Crimes Task Force ("SMCCTF"). Your affiant has been employed in the field of law enforcement since 2011, including duties as a patrol officer and detective and gained expertise in the conduct of criminal investigations through training in seminars, classes, and everyday work related to conducting these types of investigations. Your affiant attended training courses provided by the Internet Crimes Against Children Program, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Homeland Security Investigations, Department of Justice, the National White Collar Crime Center, and the Missouri Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force. Additionally, your affiant is a Cellebrite Certified Operator and Cellebrite Certified Physical Analyst.

Your affiant believes probable cause exists that Scott W. GASTON knowingly and intentionally possessed, uploaded, and distributed suspected child sexual abuse material/child pornography in violation of Missouri and federal law. The CyberTipline Report identifies Google Photos uploads of suspected child sexual abuse material linked to the email account associated with GASTON, and subpoena responses from Google and Optimum Online confirm that the offending IP address, subscriber information, phone number, and recovery data all belong to him at his residence in Marionville, Missouri. GASTON was located at the residence during warrant execution and verbally confirmed the same identifiers tied to the illegal upload. These digital records, combined with his statements and the location-based evidence, establish his identity as the individual responsible for the offenses. As an experienced and trained investigator, the Affiant has reason to believe, based upon his investigation, that the following crime(s) have occurred:

- a. RSMo 573.037 - Possession of child pornography
- b. RSMo 573.035 - Promoting child pornography in the second degree

The information contained within this Affidavit is based on your Affiant's personal observations, training, and information related to Affiant by other law enforcement officers and/or agents.

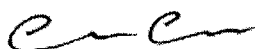
Based on the foregoing, the Affiant requests that a warrant be issued.

- ☒ I believe that the defendant will not appear in court in response to a criminal summons because:
The defendant has 17 years of prior law enforcement experience, giving him extensive knowledge of investigative procedures, court processes, and the potential consequences of the serious felony charges he is now facing. This level of familiarity increases his ability to evade court obligations and avoid prosecution. The evidence directly linking him to the possession and distribution of child sexual abuse material, combined with the substantial penalties associated with these offenses, provides a significant incentive for him to flee or refuse to appear if only summoned. These factors create a substantial risk that he will not comply with a criminal summons.

- ☒ I believe the defendant poses a danger to ☐ a crime victim / ☒ the community or to any other person because:
The defendant's 17 years in law enforcement give him specialized training, tactical knowledge, and familiarity with firearms that elevate the level of danger he presents. During the search warrant, investigators located multiple firearms, large quantities of ammunition, and significant amounts of cash throughout the residence. Four young children also live in the home, and the criminal conduct under investigation involves the exploitation of minors. The combination of his training, access to weapons, the seriousness of the offenses, and the instability indicated by his recent termination from employment demonstrates that he poses a credible and ongoing threat to the safety of the community and individuals around him.

- ☒ I certify the above information is compliant with MO Supreme Court Rule 19.10 REDACTION OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION.

Print Name: Detective R. Christopher Corbett Signature:



Agency Name: Homeland Security Investigations/Southwest Missouri Cyber Crimes Task Force
Agency Case Number: CC-25-01059