

AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF CHARGES

Now comes, Chris Berry, a Detective with the Lawrence County Sheriff's Office, being duly sworn and on my oath does state and affirm as follows:

I am a Detective Lt. with the Lawrence County Sheriff Office. I am a certified Law Enforcement Officer in the State of Missouri and have been employed with the Lawrence County Sheriff Office for a total of 25 years. I have worked in law enforcement for 30 years.

On December 1, 2019 the Lawrence County Sheriff Office received a call for service at 17868 Lawrence 2059, Miller MO for a missing person being Coy A. Cole [REDACTED] from a family member.

While watching the Surveillance videos of the financial transactions we were able to ID a person of interest in this investigation Matthew D. Abney a former roommate of Coy Cole was using Mr. Cole Debt card on 11-22-19 and Mr. Cole was not present for the transactions.

[REDACTED] advised that earlier in the day on November 19, 2019 Mr. Abney had placed herself and Mr. Cole in the middle of the living room floor on their knees, at 17868 Lawrence 2059, Miller, Lawrence County, MO when Mr. Abney shot Mr. Cole in the arm and shot at her and missed.

[REDACTED] advised that Mr. Abney had taken all of the keys to Mr. Cole's vehicles and her cell phone and Mr. Cole's cell phone destroying the cell phones.

[REDACTED] stated that on or about November 19, 2019 Mr. Abney came into 17868 Lawrence 2059, Miller, Lawrence County, MO and shot several times, with [REDACTED] hearing Mr. Cole saying "NO Matt" and [REDACTED] saw Mr. Cole dead in his chair in the living room.

[REDACTED] advised that Mr. Abney and Ray Fryling were at the home on or around November 19, 2019 when Mr. Abney and Mr. Fryling were talking about removing the bullet that was in the wall under the window sill that had been shot into Mr. Cole's arm.

[REDACTED] advised that this bullet was removed from the wall and given to Mr. Fryling.

[REDACTED] admitted that herself, Ray Fryling and Matthew D. Abney were at 17868 Lawrence 2059, Miller, Lawrence County, MO the residence of Mr. Cole on or around November 19, 2019 when Ray Fryling and Matthew Abney wrapped Mr. Cole body up in a Shower curtain.

[REDACTED] admitted that she couldn't help load the body but Mr. Cole's body was loaded by Mr. Abney and Mr. Fryling onto a small trailer with two chairs that belonged to Mr. Cole. This small trailer with the body of Mr. Cole and the chairs was taken to 23503 Lawrence 1150, Verona, Lawrence County, Missouri where it was unloaded and burned.

[REDACTED] advised that Abney had wanted the White SUV for himself and he took the SUV for his personal use from that point.

[REDACTED] advised that while this incident was occurring that Mr. Fryling said that if she said anything about this situation that he would kill her family and make her watch as he did so and then kill her.

█████ advised that on or around December 5, 2019 Mr. Abney picked up ██████ and drove to the home on 23503 Lawrence 1150, Verona, Lawrence County, Missouri. Were Mr. Abney physically assaulted her with a Silver revolver .32 cal. and his fist causing her to have facial fractures and breaking her right hand resulting in her being seen at Emergency room.

Our office spoke with Matthew Abney and after Miranda warnings were advised Mr. Abney confessed that on approximately November 19, 2019, he was in the living room at 17868 Lawrence 2059, Miller, Lawrence County, Missouri when Mr. Cole was shot in the Abdomen area while Mr. Cole was seated in a Tan chair. Mr. Abney admitted that he assisted in loading the body of Mr. Cole and taking the body to 23503 Lawrence 1150, Verona, Lawrence County, Missouri where it was burned.

During the course of the investigation it was discovered that the White SUV that was ID as belonging to Mr. Cole were being driven by Mr. Abney and he was staying at 23503 Lawrence 1150, Verona, Lawrence County, Missouri

Our Office was able to get the last known location of the vehicle and we were able to make contact with the White SUV and during an inventory search we did discovered a .32 cal silver handgun inside the vehicle that was loaded.

On 12-09-2019 our Office executed a Search Warrant at Ray Fryling property at 23503 Lawrence 1150, Verona, Lawrence County, Missouri and while executing the search warrant. We discovered in a fresh burn pile, Human remains and parts to a Tan chair were recovered.

The facts and information contained herein are true and correct. All statements made herein are true with the knowledge that false statements and declarations are punishable under the law.

Affiant asks the Prosecuting Attorney of Lawrence County to consider the above facts for determination of probable cause to charge:

Matthew D. Abney W/M DOB: ██████-1983 ██████ who is in the Missouri Dept. of Corrections system at this time.

Murder 1st Degree, Robbery, Tampering with Victim, Tampering with Evidence, Assault 1st Degree of T/M,


Chris D. Berry
Detective LT

Lawrence County
Sheriff's Department, Mt. Vernon, Mo.

12/23/19
Date