

INTERIM COMPLAINT

STATE OF ARIZONA

Date 12/3/2025

Court Justice

Pima County, State of Arizona

VS.

Steven Joseph Birch

No. 1

Defendant's Name (Please Print)

Precinct No. 1

Arresting Agency Tucson Police Dept

Agency Case No. 2512030065

Arresting Officer Gillespie

BOND RECOMMENDATION

High Bond _____ Low Bond _____

No Recommendation ☒

Hold Without Bond _____

INTERIM COMPLAINT: To be used only where necessary to comply with the provisions of Rule 4.1, Arizona Rules of Criminal Procedure.

PLEASE PRINT CHARGING INFORMATION

The undersigned, having appeared personally and having been duly sworn does, upon information and belief, accuse Steven Joseph Birch of the crime(s) of DVI 1st Degree Murder

committed on the 30th day of November, 20 25, in Pima County, in violation of A.R.S. Section 13-3601/13-1105 (F1)

Statute(s)

12/03/2025

Date

Offense Time/Date 11/30/25 00:00

Offense Location

Arrest Time/Date

Arrest Location

OM #8877

Complaining Witness

HARDWICK PCSD

Name and Agency (Please Print)

Statement of Probable Cause:

See 2nd page

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12/3/2025

Date

Gillespie 50458

Reporting Officer / Badge No.

This court has found reasonable cause to believe that such offense was committed and that the defendant committed it.

12/3/25

Date

Whelan

Justice of the Peace / Magistrate

Defendant's Name: Steven Joseph Birch

Agency Case No. 2512030065

Statement of Probable Cause continued:

On approximately 11/30/2025 or 12/1/2025 Sandra Joyce Ray-Hanen and Steven Joseph Birch got into a physical altercation. Sandra and Steven are in a romantic relationship and live together at [REDACTED]. Steven stated he was sober at the time of the incident, despite having relapsed 2 days prior after approximately 2-3 years of sobriety from alcohol. Sandra and Steven began arguing about Sandra booking a hotel room without first discussing it with him because of finances. The argument escalated and Steven began choking Sandra. He stated she was able to talk during this time and told him to stop and leave. He stopped choking her and began walking out of the bedroom when Sandra threw an object at Steven that struck him in the back. He believed the object to be a shoe. Steven then turned around and choked Sandra again, this time killing her.

On 12/3/2025 Sandra's co-workers responded to her residence after she did not show up for work on 12/1/2025, 12/2/2025 and 12/3/2025. Her co-workers contacted Steven at the front door and asked if Sandra was there. Steven stated that he had killed her. The co-workers called 911.

Police arrived on scene and located Sandra deceased. Steven admitted post Miranda to killing Sandra. During his interview Steven showed signs and symptoms of intoxication.

Justification for Bond Recommendation: