

State of Minnesota
County of Blue Earth

District Court
5th Judicial District

Prosecutor File No. 0070114000
Court File No. 07-CR-26-3887

State of Minnesota,

Plaintiff,

vs.

JOSEPH MICHAEL BURNS DOB: 03/07/1978

207 James Avenue
Mankato, MN 56001

Defendant.

COMPLAINT

Summons

The Complainant submits this complaint to the Court and states that there is probable cause to believe Defendant committed the following offense(s):

COUNT I

Charge: Domestic Assault-Misdemeanor-Intentionally Inflicts/Attempts to Inflict Bodily Harm on Another

Minnesota Statute: 609.2242.1(2)

Maximum Sentence: 90 days or \$1,000 fine, or both.

Offense Level: Misdemeanor

Offense Date (on or about): 05/16/2026

Control #(ICR#): 26001279

Charge Description: On or about July 29, 2026, in the County of Blue Earth, Minnesota, Joseph Michael Burns, did, against a family or household member, as defined in M.S.A. 518B.01 Subd. 2, intentionally inflict or attempt to inflict bodily harm upon another.

STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

On July 29, 2026, Chief Honsey of the Mapleton Police Department responded to an incident within the City of Mapleton in Blue Earth County. Chief Honsey spoke with Witness 1 who stated that her son, Victim 1, had reported that he had been hit by his father, Joseph Michael Burns (DOB: 03/07/1978), a couple of months prior.

Chief Honsey spoke with Witness 1 who stated that, on May 16th, 2026, Victim 1 had reported that his dad, Burns, had hit him in the chest. Witness 1 stated that Victim 1 was crying when she returned home from work. Victim 1 told Witness 1 that his heart hurt. Witness 1 asked why his heart hurt and Victim 1 stated that it was because his dad hit him. Witness 1 then looked under Victim 1's shirt and noticed two large, red, handprint welts on Victim 1's chest.

Witness 1 provided a photo from May 16th to Chief Honsey, which showed the injuries to Victim 1. Chief Honsey noted that the photo shows a large, reddened area over the center of Victim 1's chest and appears to show a handprint on Victim 1's chest.

Chief Honsey spoke with Witness 2, who had spoken with the children in common between Witness 1 and Burns. Witness 2 stated that other children had disclosed that Burns hit Victim 1.

On August 1st, 2026, Chief Honsey spoke with Burns regarding this incident. Burns stated that Victim 1 lied to him and that he hit Victim 1. Burns didn't recall when it occurred. Burns told Chief Honsey that he gave Victim 1 plenty of chances prior to hitting him. Burns admitted that when he hit Victim 1 "it might have been a little hard."

SIGNATURES AND APPROVALS

Complainant requests that Defendant, subject to bail or conditions of release, be:
(1) arrested or that other lawful steps be taken to obtain Defendant's appearance in court; or
(2) detained, if already in custody, pending further proceedings; and that said Defendant otherwise be dealt with according to law.

Complainant declares under penalty of perjury that everything stated in this document is true and correct. Minn. Stat. § 358.116; Minn. R. Crim. P. 2.01, subds. 1, 2.

Complainant

Benjamin M Honsey
Chief of Police
104 2nd Ave NE
PO Box 342
Mapleton, MN 56065
Badge: 4871

Electronically Signed:
09/16/2026 10:10 AM
Blue Earth County, Minnesota

Being authorized to prosecute the offenses charged, I approve this complaint.

Prosecuting Attorney

Benjamin R. Chapman
Assistant County Attorney
401 Carver Road
PO Box 3129
Mankato, MN 56002
(507) 304-4600

Electronically Signed:
09/16/2026 09:35 AM

FINDING OF PROBABLE CAUSE

From the above sworn facts, and any supporting affidavits or supplemental sworn testimony, I, the Issuing Officer, have determined that probable cause exists to support, subject to bail or conditions of release where applicable, Defendant's arrest or other lawful steps be taken to obtain Defendant's appearance in court, or Defendant's detention, if already in custody, pending further proceedings. Defendant is therefore charged with the above-stated offense(s).

☒ SUMMONS

THEREFORE YOU, THE DEFENDANT, ARE SUMMONED to appear as directed in the Notice of Hearing before the above-named court to answer this complaint.

IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR in response to this SUMMONS, a WARRANT FOR YOUR ARREST shall be issued.

☐ WARRANT

To the Sheriff of the above-named county; or other person authorized to execute this warrant: I order, in the name of the State of Minnesota, that the Defendant be apprehended and arrested without delay and brought promptly before the court (if in session), and if not, before a Judge or Judicial Officer of such court without unnecessary delay, and in any event not later than 36 hours after the arrest or as soon as such Judge or Judicial Officer is available to be dealt with according to law.

☐ *Execute in MN Only*

☐ *Execute Nationwide*

☐ *Execute in Border States*

☐ ORDER OF DETENTION

Since the Defendant is already in custody, I order, subject to bail or conditions of release, that the Defendant continue to be detained pending further proceedings.

Bail: \$

Conditions of Release:

This complaint, duly subscribed and sworn to or signed under penalty of perjury, is issued by the undersigned Judicial Officer as of the following date: September 16, 2026.

Judicial Officer

Susan DeVos

Electronically Signed: 09/16/2026 10:34 AM

Sworn testimony has been given before the Judicial Officer by the following witnesses:

COUNTY OF BLUE EARTH
STATE OF MINNESOTA

State of Minnesota

Plaintiff

vs.

Joseph Michael Burns

Defendant

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER RETURN OF SERVICE

*I hereby Certify and Return that I have served a copy of this
Summons upon the Defendant herein named.*

Signature of Authorized Service Agent: