

State of Minnesota  
County of Blue Earth

District Court  
5th Judicial District

Prosecutor File No. 0070113010  
Court File No. 07-CR-26-963

---

**State of Minnesota,**

Plaintiff,

vs.

**JOHN FITZGERALD THOMAS DOB: 07/26/1966**

524 Tanager Path  
Mankato, MN 56001

Defendant.

---

**COMPLAINT**

Order of Detention

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: Assault-2nd Degree-Dangerous Weapon-Substantial Bodily Harm**

Minnesota Statute: 609.222.2

Maximum Sentence: 10 years or \$20,000 or both

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 03/07/2026

Control #(ICR#): 26006905

Charge Description: On or about March 7, 2026, in the County of Blue Earth, Minnesota, John Fitzgerald Thomas, did assault another with a dangerous weapon and inflicted substantial bodily harm.

**COUNT II**

**Charge: Criminal Vehicular Operation - Substantial Bodily Harm - Gross Negligence**

Minnesota Statute: 609.2113.2(1), with reference to: 609.2113.2

Maximum Sentence: 5 years or \$10,000 fine, or both

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 03/07/2026

Control #(ICR#): 26006905

Charge Description: On or about March 7, 2026, in the County of Blue Earth, Minnesota, John Fitzgerald Thomas, did cause substantial bodily harm to another as a result of operating a motor vehicle in a grossly negligent manner.

**COUNT III**

**Charge: Domestic Assault-Felony**

Minnesota Statute: 609.2242.4, with reference to: 609.2242.4

Maximum Sentence: 5 years or \$10,000 fine, or both

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 03/07/2026

Control #(ICR#): 26006905

Charge Description: On or about March 7, 2026, in the County of Blue Earth, Minnesota, John Fitzgerald Thomas did, against a family or household member, as defined in M.S.A. 518B.01 Subd. 2, intentionally inflicted or attempted to inflict bodily harm upon another and has two or more previous qualified domestic violence-related offense convictions or adjudications of delinquency within ten years following discharge from sentence or disposition for that offense.

#### **COUNT IV**

**Charge: Assault-3rd Degree-Substantial Bodily Harm**

Minnesota Statute: 609.223.1

Maximum Sentence: 5 years or \$10,000 fine, or both

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 03/07/2026

Control #(ICR#): 26006905

Charge Description: On or about March 7, 2026, in the County of Blue Earth, Minnesota, John Fitzgerald Thomas did assault another, and inflicted substantial bodily harm,

#### **COUNT V**

**Charge: Traffic - DWI - Operate Motor Vehicle Under Influence of Controlled Substance**

Minnesota Statute: 169A.20.1(2), with reference to: 169A.27.2

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

Offense Level: Misdemeanor

Offense Date (on or about): 03/07/2026

Control #(ICR#): 26006905

Charge Description: On or about March 7, 2026, in the County of Blue Earth, Minnesota, John Fitzgerald Thomas, did, drive, operate, or was in physical control of any motor vehicle when he/she was under the influence of a controlled substance.

## STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

On March 7, 2026, John Fitzgerlad Thomas (Passenger) and Victim (Driver) were traveling in a vehicle on HWY 14 within Blue Earth County, Minnesota. Victim called 911 and reported the crash indicated that her ex-husband had caused the crash. Several law enforcement officers arrived on scene. Thomas and Victim currently live together even though they are currently divorced. Thomas and Victim got into a verbal argument that turned into a physical altercation which resulted in a one vehicle crash with injuries to the occupants. According to Victim Thomas grabbed the steering wheel with both hands and steered it towards the ditch. The vehicle was traveling at highway speeds on HWY 14 that has a posted speed limit of 65 miles per hour. Thomas attempted to hit the sign, but Victim was trying to avoid it. Victim believes that Thomas attempted to kill her. Victim also indicated that on March 2, 2026, Thomas relapsed with drugs and alcohol. Victim stated that Thomas had taken Percocet not prescribed to him as well as drank alcohol. Thomas also started using methamphetamines again. There was a Witness in a vehicle traveling behind Victim and Thomas during the crash. They indicated that "Car went off just north of the train tracks," and "Not sure what's going on here but sounds like a domestic situation."

While driving Thomas stated to Victim. "If you die today do you think the kids are gonna think that you are doing right by not letting me have a car," and what's going to happen when they don't have either parent." Thomas's actions and behavior caused the vehicle to leave the roadway traveling down a hill, and into a marsh. Victim sustained substantial bodily harm with fractures and compression deformities in her back. Victim also reported a difficulty of breathing. Thomas was arrested and transported to Blue Earth County Jail by Officer Skolov of the Mankato Department of Public Safety after being evaluated at MCHS. Thomas provided a urine sample which tested positive for cocaine and methamphetamine. Thomas's Criminal history indicates Domestic Assault convictions from 6/25/2019, 12/5/2022, and 11/27/2023.

## 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**

Adam Gray  
Operations Commander  
710 S Front St  
Mankato, MN 56001-3803  
Badge: 3117

Electronically Signed:  
03/09/2026 02:07 PM  
Blue Earth County, Minnesota

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

**Prosecuting Attorney**

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

Electronically Signed:  
03/09/2026 01:09 PM

**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: March 9, 2026.

**Judicial Officer**

Mark Betters  
District Court Judge

Electronically Signed: 03/09/2026 02:26 PM

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.

**John Fitzgerald Thomas**

Defendant

*LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER RETURN OF SERVICE  
I hereby Certify and Return that I have served a copy of this Order of  
Detention upon the Defendant herein named.*

Signature of Authorized Service Agent: