

State of Minnesota
County of Blue Earth

District Court
5th Judicial District

Prosecutor File No. 0070113372
Court File No. 07-CR-26-2578

State of Minnesota,
Plaintiff,

COMPLAINT
Summons

vs.

JOSEPH WILLIAM ENG DOB: 06/15/1987

809 Le Hillier Street
Mankato, MN 56001

Defendant.

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: Arson-5h Degree-Sets Fire to Real or Personal Property

Minnesota Statute: 609.5632

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

Offense Level: Misdemeanor

Offense Date (on or about): 05/02/2026

Control #(ICR#): 26009231

Charge Description: On or about May 2, 2026, in the County of Blue Earth, Minnesota, Joseph William Eng did intentionally by means of fire or explosives, set fire to or burn or cause to be burned any real or personal property of value.

STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

On May 2nd, 2026, Blue Earth County Sheriff's Deputies were dispatched to a rural Mankato address within Blue Earth County, for a camper trailer that was on fire. When Deputies arrived on scene Witness 1 and Witness 2 advised that there was no one remaining in the trailer. When checking the trailer Deputy Guetter found a bag that was smoldering on the floor of the trailer. Deputy Guetter also found a large pile of items in the middle of the trailer that appeared to have been burning at one point.

Deputy Guetter spoke with Witness 1 and Witness 2 about the fire. Witness 1 and Witness 2 advised that Co-Defendant 1 had been fighting with Joseph William Eng (DOB: 06/15/1987) earlier that day. Witness 1 and Witness 2 stated that they watched Eng enter the trailer and approximately one minute after Eng left the trailer, they witnessed flames coming from the trailer.

Deputy Guetter came back to the location the next day in an attempt to speak with Co-Defendant 1 and Eng. Deputy Guetter found Co-Defendant 1 sleeping. Co-Defendant 1 spoke with Deputy Guetter and stated that Co-Defendant 1 and Eng intentionally set fires in the trailer in an attempt to burn the place down. Co-Defendant 1 stated that Eng set a fire starting in a small bag in the back of the trailer and that Co-Defendant 1 had set the fire starting in the middle of the trailer, which started from a small cardboard box.

While speaking with Deputy Guetter, Co-Defendant 1 again confirmed for Deputy Guetter that Co-Defendant 1 and Eng wanted the trailer to burn down.

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

Paul Barta
Captain
401 Carver Rd
Mankato, MN 56002-0228
Badge: 2721

Electronically Signed:
06/26/2026 12:44 PM
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:
06/26/2026 12:25 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: June 26, 2026.

Judicial Officer

Bradley C Walker
District Court Judge

Electronically Signed: 06/26/2026 12:51 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.

Joseph William Eng

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: