

State of Minnesota  
County of Blue Earth

District Court  
5th Judicial District

Prosecutor File No. 0070113331  
Court File No. 07-CR-26-2055

---

**State of Minnesota,**  
Plaintiff,

**COMPLAINT**  
Summons

vs.

**RITA DANIELLE STEELE DOB: 07/21/1990**

521 E Skylark Trail #4  
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: Theft-Take/Use/Transfer Movable Prop-No Consent**

Minnesota Statute: 609.52.2(a)(1), with reference to: 609.52.3(2)

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

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 03/27/2026

Control #(ICR#): 26011339

Charge Description: On or about March 27, 2026, in the County of Blue Earth, Minnesota, Rita Danielle Steele, did, intentionally and without claim of right take, use, transfer, conceal or retain possession of the movable property of another without the other's consent and with intent to deprive the owner permanently of possession of the property and the value of the property or services stolen exceeded \$5,000.00.

## STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

Officer McClinton from the Mankato Department of Public Safety assisted with an investigation into thefts from Business 1 in the City of Mankato. Witness 1, an employee of Business 1, provided McClinton with surveillance video recordings from Business 1.

McClinton viewed the recordings and observed Rita Danielle Steele (DOB: 07/21/1990) pushing a shopping cart out of Business 1 on March 27, 2026, without paying for a mower or leaf blower inside the cart. The value of the mower is \$589.00, and the value of the leaf blower is \$629.00.

McClinton viewed a recording from March 31, 2026, in which Steele is seen pushing a shopping cart out of Business without paying for three Brand 1 tools inside it.

McClinton spoke to Steele who admitted she stole multiple Brand 1 tools from Business 1. Steele said Steele stole from multiple retail stores to get money for a deposit on a new residence.

McClinton reviewed Steele's APS record and noted she had pawned several items around the time of the thefts from Business 1 that matched the descriptions of the items stolen from Business 1.

On April 9, 2026, McClinton contacted Business 2, a pawn business, about the stolen goods. On April 14, 2026, McClinton went to Business 2 and observed a mower and leaf blower, like the ones stolen from Business 1, and several Brand 1 tools.

On April 28, 2026, Witness 1 contacted McClinton and said Witness 1 suspected Steele of stealing four other Brand 1 tools from Business 1. At that time, Witness 1 was still trying to locate the thefts on surveillance video.

In total, the value of the tools Steele is suspected of stealing from Business 1 is \$6,297.00.

## 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:  
05/20/2026 08:17 AM  
Blue Earth County, Minnesota

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

**Prosecuting Attorney**

Christopher K Lowe  
Assistant County Attorney  
401 Carver Road  
PO Box 3129  
Mankato, MN 56002  
(507) 304-4600

Electronically Signed:  
05/19/2026 04:43 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: May 20, 2026.

**Judicial Officer** Mark Betters  
District Court Judge

Electronically Signed: 05/20/2026 09:38 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.

**Rita Danielle Steele**

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: