

State of Minnesota  
County of Blue Earth

District Court  
5th Judicial District

Prosecutor File No. 0070112841  
Court File No. 07-CR-26-603

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State of Minnesota,

Plaintiff,

vs.

**ZEAL JAMES NHIAL DOB: 04/14/2001**

No Perm Address  
Mankato, MN 56001-3079

Defendant.

**COMPLAINT**

Order of Detention

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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: Predatory Offender - Knowingly commits act or fails to fulfill registration requirement**

Minnesota Statute: 243.166.5(a)(1)

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

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 02/01/2026

Control #(ICR#): 26003207

Charge Description: On or about February 1, 2026, in the County of Blue Earth, Minnesota, Zeal James Nhial did, as a person required to register under section 243.166 who was given notice, knows, or reasonably should know of the duty to register, knowingly commit an act or failed to fulfill a requirement that violates any provision of this section.

## STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

Zeal James Nhial (DOB: 04/14/2001) is required to register as a Predatory Offender in the State of Minnesota. Sergeant Wood from the Mankato Department of Public Safety has been assigned to the Predatory Offender Registration Tracking Team since 2016.

Early in the morning on February 1, 2026, Sergeant Wood was on foot patrol in downtown Mankato when she observed Nhial, whom she recognized. Knowing that Nhial is required to register, Wood later review Nhial's registration checklist and offender file and noted several inaccuracies including with his primary address, secondary address, and vehicle information. The inaccuracies are relating to information Nhial is required to provide accurately under Minnesota Statutes § 243.166, subdivision 4a. Both of Nhial's listed addresses are in Blue Earth County. For the second vehicle listed in Nhial's offender file, there was no make or model listed. The temporary tag number listed for the second vehicle came up expired when Wood ran it. When Wood ran the VIN number, there was no license plate associated with it. and Nhial's driving status showed as Revoked.

Due to Nhial's registration non-compliance, Wood tried to locate him. After going to known addresses for Nhial where Nhial was not present, Wood conducted queries of Nhial's vehicle through Axon ALPR and determined a location for Nhial's vehicle. Wood went to that location and noted the vehicle had a license plate affixed to it, which Wood determined Nhial must have done since January 9, 2026, when the vehicle was known to have a temporary tag.

Police were not able to find Nhial until the early morning hours of February 14, 2026, at which time he was arrested for violating Predatory Offender Registration ("POR") requirements. Nhial has two other criminal cases originating in 2025 stemming from allegations of POR violations. Nhial was charged with a POR violation on December 9, 2025, because of missing information in Nhial's offender file for the second vehicle listed.

## 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**

Katelyn Kaiser  
Patrol Officer  
710 S Front St  
Mankato, MN 56001-3803  
Badge: 3157

Electronically Signed:  
02/17/2026 09:17 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:  
02/17/2026 09:08 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: February 17, 2026.

**Judicial Officer**

Timothy J. Looby  
Judge of District Court

Electronically Signed: 02/17/2026 09:50 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.

**Zeal James Nhial**

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: