

State of Minnesota  
County of Blue Earth

District Court  
5th Judicial District

Prosecutor File No. 0070112973  
Court File No. 07-CR-26-858

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**State of Minnesota,**

Plaintiff,

vs.

**MARIAH JENAE SANTACRUZ DOB: 12/09/1999**

240 Jaycee Court #202  
MN 56001

Defendant.

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**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: Neglect or Endangerment of a Child/Neglect**

Minnesota Statute: 609.378.1(a)

Maximum Sentence: 364 days or \$3,000 fine, or both

Offense Level: Gross Misdemeanor

Offense Date (on or about): 03/02/2026

Control #(ICR#): 26006435

Charge Description: On or about March 2, 2026, in the County of Blue Earth, Minnesota, Mariah Jenae Santacruz, did, as a parent, legal guardian, or caretaker, intentionally caused or permitted a child to be placed in a situation likely to substantially harm the child's physical, mental, or emotional health or cause the child's death.

**COUNT II**

**Charge: Obstruct Legal Process-Interfere w/Peace Officer**

Minnesota Statute: 609.50.1(2)

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

Offense Level: Misdemeanor

Offense Date (on or about): 03/02/2026

Control #(ICR#): 26006435

Charge Description: On or about March 2, 2026, in the County of Blue Earth, Minnesota, Mariah Jenae Santacruz, did obstruct, resist, or interfere with a peace officer while the officer is engaged in the performance of official duties.

## STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

On March 3, 2026, Officer Aaron Gelle of Mankato Department Public Safety was dispatched to a residence in the city of Mankato, located within Blue Earth County, Minnesota. It was reported that Mariah Santacruz was causing a disturbance in North Mankato and had left her three small children home alone. Santacruz arrived back at her residence and met Officer Aaron Gelle. Santacruz told Officer Gelle that her children were not present and that they were at her sisters. Officer Gelle continued to ask for proof that the small children were there, but Santacruz would not allow Officer Gelle into the apartment. Officer Gelle then took a hold of her arm and advised Santacruz she was being detained. Santacruz pulled away from Officer Gelle and was told not to pull away. After Santacruz was taken into custody she advised the children were in fact at the residence alone. She was then placed under arrest and placed in the back of a patrol vehicle.

Law Enforcement entered the residence and observed a stale and musty odor of old food and garbage. The countertops were messy and full of dishes and old uneaten food that had a dried crusty layer on top. There were also dishes in the sink. There was a kitchen knife on the edge of the countertop well within the reach of a 5-year-old, as well as scissors. In the first bedroom Victim 1 age six and Victim 2 age three were both asleep in their beds. In what appeared to be Santacruz's bedroom Officer Gelle located Victim 3 who is approximately 5 weeks old. The infant was under a heavy blanket, laying on her stomach with a camera pointed directly at her face. She was surrounded by items in the middle of the bed. The floor near her was another kitchen knife. It also appeared that a sandwich baggy containing a green leafy substance most likely marijuana was on the headboard. Also on the floor was an ashtray full of burned "roaches" or marijuana leftovers.

## 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**

Jesse Gilbertson  
Patrol Sergeant  
710 S Front St  
Mankato, MN 56001-3803  
Badge: 3126

Electronically Signed:  
03/03/2026 04:16 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:  
03/03/2026 12:56 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 3, 2026.

**Judicial Officer**

Kristine Weeks  
District Court Judge

Electronically Signed: 03/03/2026 04:31 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.

**Mariah Jenae Santacruz**

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: