

State of Minnesota  
County of Blue Earth

District Court  
5th Judicial District

Prosecutor File No. 0070113373  
Court File No. 07-CR-26-2580

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**State of Minnesota,**  
Plaintiff,

**COMPLAINT**  
Summons

vs.

**CHRISTINA LEA NELSON DOB: 02/16/1988**

320 Catfish Street  
Mankato, MN 56001

Defendant.

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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: 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, Christina Lea Nelson 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 Christina Lea Nelson (DOB: 02/16/1988) earlier that day. Witness 1 and Witness 2 stated that they watched Co-Defendant 1 enter the trailer and approximately one minute after Co-Defendant 1 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 Nelson. Deputy Guetter found Nelson sleeping. Nelson spoke with Deputy Guetter and stated that Nelson and Co-Defendant 1 intentionally set fires in the trailer in an attempt to burn the place down. Nelson stated that Co-Defendant 1 set a fire starting in a small bag in the back of the trailer and that Nelson had set the fire starting in the middle of the trailer, which started from a small cardboard box.

While speaking with Deputy Guetter, Nelson again confirmed for Deputy Guetter that Co-Defendant 1 and Nelson 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 12:45 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 12:23 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 12:56 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.

**Christina Lea Nelson**

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: