

State of Minnesota
County of Blue Earth

District Court
5th Judicial District

Prosecutor File No. 0070114025
Court File No. 07-CR-26-3547

State of Minnesota,

Plaintiff,

vs.

RYAN ROBERT WOLNER DOB: 03/13/2008

55010 Sunrise Lane
Mankato, MN 56001

Defendant.

COMPLAINT

Summons

☒ Amended

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: Machine Gun - Owns, possess, operate; Machine gun/trigger activator/ machine gun conversion kit

Minnesota Statute: 609.67.2(a)

Maximum Sentence: 20 years or \$35,000, or both

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 05/01/2026 to 05/28/2026

Control #(ICR#): 26017912

Charge Description: On or about May 1, 2026 to May 28, 2026, in the County of Blue Earth, said Defendant, Ryan Robert Wolner did own, possess, or operate a machine gun, or any trigger activator or machine gun conversion kit.

STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

On or about August 7, 2026, law enforcement became aware of a BCA Lab Report prepared by a BCA Forensic Scientist who analyzed DNA evidence on a gold firearm part, commonly referred to as a “switch”, and a known DNA sample from Ryan Robert Wolner (DOB 03/13/2008). The switch is a gun part commonly also referred to as an “auto sear” and when assembled with a Glock style pistol it allows the pistols to be fired as an automatic firearm recognized as a machine gun.

The results of that analysis of the mixture of the DNA profile on the switch identified the major male DNA profile matches Ryan Robert Wolner.

During the course of a complex investigation into the death of a 17-year-old in North Mankato that occurred on May 23, 2026, law enforcement learned the following information:

On May 27, while Ryan Wolner was in custody in the Blue Earth County Jail, law enforcement was monitoring his phone calls. Ryan Wolner contacted Witness 1 and told him to go to his house and collect his “gold fishing hook and the plastic one” because he did not want “my brother to find it”. Ryan later talked to Witness 1 about getting the “purple thing” and directed him to go “grab the purple thing”.

On May 28, law enforcement had a search warrant to search the Wolner residence. That day, agents with the Minnesota River Valley Drug Task Force were conducting surveillance at Wolner’s residence and continuing to monitor Ryan Wolner’s jail phone calls.

At 3:38 PM, Ryan calls Christa Wolner (DOB 01/26/1973) and asks her to go home before his dad gets home and to call him. Christa tells him she will finish an email and then go home.

At 3:41 PM, Ryan calls Witness 2 and asks him if he is in Mankato because he needs his gold fishing hook and it is “at his crib”. Witness 2 tells him he is in Florida and asks him if it needs to be done immediately. Ryan asks Witness 2 if he can have somebody at his house in 30 minutes to pick it up.

At 3:51 PM, Ryan called Christa again. During that call, Christa Wolner confirmed she was going home, she did not know what was going on, and she was “going home to let the dogs out I guess”. Ryan asks Christa if she can give a Pokémon card to Witness 3 and to let him know when she’s home and he will tell her where it is at. Christa agrees to contact Witness 3. Ryan tells her it is in the living room and to go to the living room. Ryan tells her to grab a kleenex before she touches it. Christa asks if it is a shiny one. Ryan tells her it is a “purple mew two” one. Christa told him she thinks she got it. Christa then tells him she didn’t touch the card and that she touched it on the side. Christa states she probably could have waited to get this for him and not everything is an emergency. Christa then gets upset and tells Ryan she is done, and she does not like having her voice on the line because they are listening and they will misconstrue everything they say.

Agents observing the conversations identified that Ryan appeared to be talking in code.

Agents also observed Christa was at their home when this call was occurring. During this time, Ryan’s father arrived home and immediately after arriving home Christa ended the phone call.

At 4:00, Ryan attempts to call Witness 3, but he did not answer.

Ryan then calls Witness 4 and tells him “don’t even respond to me gang...just give that shit to Jay or to... what’s his name, Ant...alright or hold on to it ok...that’s all I’m going to say...those are the two options bro”.

At 4:12 PM, Ryan calls Christa again. Ryan starts the conversation by asking Christa if she was “talking to dad”. Christa stated she was not talking to dad; that she was talking to a property owner. Ryan then tells her, “I don’t want you to call dad”. Christa tells Ryan not to call her.

At 4:16 PM, Ryan calls another number and tells the male that he had just talked to “Deuce” and directed him to pass it to “him”.

Following the calls between Ryan and Christa, Christa left the residence. The temperature outside was between 85 and 90 degrees. Agents noted the driver’s side window of the 2018 BMW X5 Christa Wolner was driving was rolled down. Agents believed, based on their training and experience and the information in the phone calls that Christa Wolner may have removed items of evidentiary value related to the ongoing homicide investigation. Rather than taking a direct route back to her work, Christa travelled south on 551st Ave. from their residence to County Road 90 before turning eastbound. She then turned northbound on Pintail Street, which is a gravel road. Multiple law enforcement vehicles were following her. After traveling north on Pintail Street, she turned onto Le Sueur Ave. and was pulled over by law enforcement.

Agent Ruch spoke with Christa who stated she was heading back to the office. Agent Ruch told Christa her route of travel was an odd way to get to her office. Christa agreed with that statement.

Agents searched the area of Christa's travel looking for evidence. BCA Special Agent Kritzeck located on the west side of Pintail Street, in an area where Christa's vehicle was hidden from the following law enforcement officers due to the terrain of the road, was the gold switch that the BCA identified as having a major male DNA profile that matches Ryan Wolner.

The BMW was secured and transported to the Blue Earth County Justice Center. Located in a purse in the vehicle were various items with Christa's name on them. Also in the purse, law enforcement located a metal/tin container with a Pokémon logo on it, and inside the container was a Pokémon card. Agents noted the card appeared damaged and learned it had an approximate value of \$1.00.

Witness 3 confirmed receiving a call from Ryan Wolner May 28th at 4:00, but he did not answer it. Witness 3 told agents he does not have any property at Ryan's residence. Witness 3 stated he does not know anything about Pokémon cards, he does not collect Pokémon cards, and he was not supposed to receive a Pokémon card from Ryan. Witness 3 also stated he has observed Ryan with a switch. The last time he observed Ryan with one was a few months prior and it was black and installed on a Glock 9mm handgun. The investigation is ongoing.

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:
09/01/2026 11:00 AM
Blue Earth County, Minnesota

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

Prosecuting Attorney

Todd Coryell
Assistant County Attorney
401 Carver Road
PO Box 3129
Mankato, MN 56002
(507) 304-4600

Electronically Signed:
09/01/2026 06:58 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: September 1, 2026.

Judicial Officer

Mark Betters
District Court Judge

Electronically Signed: 09/01/2026 12:47 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.

Ryan Robert Wolner

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: