

State of Minnesota
County of Blue Earth

District Court
5th Judicial District

Prosecutor File No. 0070114368
Court File No. 07-CR-26-4323

State of Minnesota,
Plaintiff,

COMPLAINT
Summons

vs.

RICARDO CANTU JR DOB: 01/20/1995

137 Laurinda Lane
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: Domestic Assault-Felony

Minnesota Statute: 609.2242.4

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

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 09/05/2026 to 09/06/2026

Control #(ICR#): 26029424

Charge Description: On or between September 5, 2026 and September 6, 2026, in the County of Blue Earth, Minnesota, Ricardo Cantu Jr did, against a family or household member, as defined in M.S.A. 518B.01 Subd. 2, intentionally inflicted or attempted to inflict bodily harm upon another and has two or more previous qualified domestic violence-related offense convictions or adjudications of delinquency within ten years following discharge from sentence or disposition for that offense. To Wit: Mr. Cantu was convicted of Misdemeanor Domestic Assault on March 12, 2025, in 07-CR-24-814, and Felony 4th Degree Assault on September 8, 2025, in 07-CR-24-3708.

COUNT II

Charge: Malicious Punishment of a Child-Prior Listed Offense-Less than SBH

Minnesota Statute: 609.377.3

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

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 09/05/2026 to 09/06/2026

Control #(ICR#): 26029424

Charge Description: On or between September 5, 2026 and September 6, 2026, in the County of Blue Earth, Minnesota, Ricardo Cantu Jr, did, as a parent, legal guardian, or caretaker, by an intentional act or a series of intentional acts with respect to a child, evidenced unreasonable force or cruel discipline that is

excessive under the circumstances; and the defendant has a previous conviction or adjudication of delinquency in the previous five years for an offense under sections 609.377, 609.221 to 609.2231, 609.224, 609.2242, 609.342 to 609.345, or 609.713.

STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

On September 12, 2026, Officer Sokolov from the Mankato Department of Public Safety assisted with a report of suspected child abuse at a residence within the City of Mankato. Officer Sokolov received a report from Hennepin County Child Protection services that Ricardo Cantu, Jr., (DOB: 01/20/1995) had assaulted Victim 1, Cantu's minor child, aged 6 years old.

Detective Hullopeter from the Mankato Department of Public Safety investigated the report and spoke with the reporting party, Witness 1. Cantu had parenting time with Victim 1, age 6, and Victim 2, age 4, every-other-weekend. Witness 1 reported that Victim 1 told her that Cantu hit Victim 1 with a belt on her abdomen/stomach. Witness 1 reported that Victim 1 had been with Cantu over the weekend of September 5th and 6th.

Witness 1 reported that she observed Victim 1's abdomen/stomach and there is a visible mark. Witness 1 and Witness 2 took photos of Victim 1's injury and provided them to Detective Hullopeter. Detective Hullopeter noted that Victim 1 had a visible green/purple bruise on her stomach and that the mark appeared consistent with a mark from a belt.

Witness 1 also reported that Victim 1 stated that Cantu will lock Victim 1 and Victim 2 in a room for long periods of time. Victim 1 stated that Cantu also assaults his significant other in the home when they are present. Victim 1 also reported to Witness 3 that Cantu had hit her "so hard" on the stomach. Victim 1 stated that her stomach hurt. Victim 1 told Witness 3 that her dad, Cantu, hits her in the stomach.

Detective Hullopeter spoke with Witness 1 again who stated that Cantu admitted to Witness 1 that he had hit Victim 1 with a belt. Witness 1 also stated that Cantu told her that the kids don't listen to him so he used the belt on Victim 1. Witness 1 stated that Victim 1 reiterated that her bruise is from dad, Cantu, hitting her on the stomach with a belt.

Cantu has at least two prior convictions for Qualifying Domestic Violence Related Offenses within the last 10 years. Cantu was convicted of Felony 4th Degree Assault on a Peace Officer on September 8, 2025, in 07-CR-24-3708, and Misdemeanor Domestic Assault on March 12, 2025, in 07-CR-24-814.

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

Ken Baker
Commander/Patrol Division
710 S Front St
Mankato, MN 56001-3803
Badge: 3144

Electronically Signed:
10/13/2026 11:09 AM
Blue Earth County, Minnesota

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

Prosecuting Attorney

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

Electronically Signed:
10/13/2026 10:37 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: October 13, 2026.

Judicial Officer

Bradley C Walker
District Court Judge

Electronically Signed: 10/13/2026 11:25 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.

Ricardo Cantu Jr

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: