

State of Minnesota
County of Blue Earth

District Court
5th Judicial District

Prosecutor File No. 0070113749
Court File No. 07-CR-26-2882

State of Minnesota,

Plaintiff,

vs.

ABIGAIL ZAVALA DOB: 09/13/1993

1122 1st Avenue S
St James, MN 56081

Defendant.

COMPLAINT

Summons

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: Endanger Child-Situation Could Cause Harm or Death-G

Minnesota Statute: 609.378.1(b)(1)

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

Offense Level: Gross Misdemeanor

Offense Date (on or about): 07/02/2026

Control #(ICR#): 26020558

Charge Description: On or about July 2, 2026, in the County of Blue Earth, Minnesota, Abigail Zavala 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.

STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

On July 2nd, 2026, Officer Rutz of the Mankato Department of Public Safety was dispatched to a report of a young child in a car by himself in the parking lot of Business 1 within the City of Mankato. The complainant, Witness 1, noted that the vehicle was not running, the windows were up, and that the child, Victim 1, who was under the age of 7 at the time of the incident, had been alone in the vehicle for at least 18 minutes. Witness 1 provided a description and license plate for the vehicle.

Officer Rutz arrived at the parking lot of Business 1 and located the reported vehicle. Officer Rutz observed Victim 1 in the back of the vehicle. Officer Rutz also observed Victim 1 to be profusely sweating. All of the windows of the vehicle were rolled up, and the vehicle was turned off. Eventually Officer Rutz convinced Victim 1 to open the door of the vehicle to speak with him. Officer Rutz noted Victim 1's continued profuse sweating as a result of the heat in the vehicle.

While speaking with Officer Rutz, Victim 1 informed him that his stepdad, Co-Defendant 1, and his mother, Abigail Zavala (DOB: 09/13/1993), were inside of Business 1. Officer Rutz later spoke with Zavala and Co-Defendant 1, who stated that Victim 1 had been throwing a fit prior to going to Business 1 and would not go into Business 1 with them, so they left him in the vehicle.

Officer Rutz noted that at the time Victim 1 was in the vehicle alone, it was sunny, 82 degrees outside, with over 66% humidity, and a dew point in the 70's. Officer Rutz also noted that, based on his training and experience and research, a vehicle turned off with the windows rolled up, will often have an interior temperature increase of over 20 degrees. Officer Rutz reported that the internal temperature of the vehicle may have been well over 100 degrees. Officer Rutz noted that Victim 1's sweating was so profuse that his hair looked wet and water droplets covered his face.

Officer Rutz reviewed surveillance footage from Business 1 and noted that Victim 1 had been left alone in the hot vehicle for approximately 49 minutes before law enforcement arrived. Victim 1 was then with law enforcement for approximately an additional 26 minutes before Zavala and Co-Defendant 1 exited Business 1.

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

Jacob Price
Police Officer
710 S Front St
Mankato, MN 56001-3803
Badge: 3137

Electronically Signed:
07/16/2026 04:41 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:
07/16/2026 01:55 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: July 17, 2026.

Judicial Officer

Mark Betters
District Court Judge

Electronically Signed: 07/17/2026 09:15 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.

Abigail Zavala

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: