

State of Minnesota
County of Blue Earth

District Court
5th Judicial District

Prosecutor File No. 0070113294
Court File No. 07-CR-26-1684

State of Minnesota,
Plaintiff,

COMPLAINT
Order of Detention

vs.

JOSEPH DAVID BULFER DOB: 07/03/1981

1739 120th Street
Fairmont, MN 56031

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: Murder - 2nd Degree - With Intent-Not Premeditated

Minnesota Statute: 609.19.1(1)

Maximum Sentence: 40 years

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 04/26/2026

Control #(ICR#): 26012851

Charge Description: On or about April 26, 2026, in the County of Blue Earth, Minnesota, Joseph David Bulfer did cause the death of a human being with intent to effect the death of the person or another, but without premeditation.

COUNT II

Charge: Attempted Murder - 2nd Degree - With Intent-Not Premeditated

Minnesota Statute: 609.19.1(1), with reference to: 609.17.1

Maximum Sentence: 20 years

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 04/26/2026

Control #(ICR#): 26012851

Charge Description: On or about April 26, 2026, in the County of Blue Earth, Minnesota, Joseph David Bulfer did, with intent to cause the death of a human being, but without premeditation, did an act which is a substantial step toward, and more than preparation for, the commission of the crime.

COUNT III

Charge: Assault-1st Degree-Great Bodily Harm

Minnesota Statute: 609.221.1
Maximum Sentence: 20 years, or \$30,000 fine, or both
Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 04/26/2026

Control #(ICR#): 26012851

Charge Description: On or about April 26, 2026, in the County of Blue Earth, Minnesota, Joseph David Bulfer, did assault another and inflicted great bodily harm.

COUNT IV

Charge: Assault-2nd Degree-Dangerous Weapon

Minnesota Statute: 609.222.1
Maximum Sentence: 7 years or \$14,000 fine or both.
Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 04/26/2026

Control #(ICR#): 26012851

Charge Description: On or about April 26, 2026, in the County of Blue Earth, Minnesota, Joseph David Bulfer, did assault another with a dangerous weapon.

COUNT V

Charge: Possess Ammo/Any Firearm - Conviction or Adjudicated Delinquent for Crime of Violence

Minnesota Statute: 624.713.1(2)
Maximum Sentence: 5 -15 Years or \$30,000 fine or both.
Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 04/26/2026

Control #(ICR#): 26012851

Charge Description: On or about April 26, 2026, in the County of Blue Earth, Minnesota, Joseph David Bulfer did possess a firearm/ammunition, while prohibited for having been convicted or adjudicated delinquent of a crime of violence.

COUNT VI

Charge: Burglary-1st Deg-Dwelling-Occupied-Non-Accomplice Present

Minnesota Statute: 609.582.1(a), with reference to: 609.582.1a
Maximum Sentence: 6 months - 20 years or \$35,000 fine, or both
Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 04/26/2026

Control #(ICR#): 26012851

Charge Description: On or about April 26, 2026, in the County of Blue Earth, Minnesota, Joseph David Bulfer did enter a building without consent and with intent to commit a crime, or entered a building without consent and committed a crime while in the building, either directly or as an accomplice and the building is a dwelling and another person, not an accomplice, is present in it when the burglar enters or at any time while the burglar is in the building.

COUNT VII

Charge: Burglary-1st Deg-Poss Dangerous Weapon/Explosive

Minnesota Statute: 609.582.1(b)

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

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 04/26/2026

Control #(ICR#): 26012851

Charge Description: On or about April 26, 2026, in the County of Blue Earth, Minnesota, Joseph David Bulfer did enter a building without consent and with intent to commit a crime, or entered a building without consent and committed a crime while in the building, either directly or as an accomplice and the burglar possessed, when entering or at any time while in the building, any of the following: a dangerous weapon, any article used or fashioned in a manner to lead the victim to reasonably believe it to be a dangerous weapon, or an explosive.

COUNT VIII

Charge: Burglary-1st Deg-Assault Person In Build/On Property

Minnesota Statute: 609.582.1(c)

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

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 04/26/2026

Control #(ICR#): 26012851

Charge Description: On or about April 26, 2026, in the County of Blue Earth, Minnesota, Joseph David Bulfer did enter a building without consent and with intent to commit a crime, or entered a building without consent and committed a crime while in the building, either directly or as an accomplice and the burglar assaults a person within the building or on the building's appurtenant property.

STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

Mankato Department of Public Safety Police Officer Rick Wanderscheid states that on April 26, 2026, at approximately 1:35 p.m., he and other officers were dispatched to an area in the City of Mankato. The person that called the Dispatch center reported hearing a loud bang, and noticed a hole in their wall coming from the other side of the townhome. The complainant also heard banging coming from the townhome behind complainant's residence. Complainant also reported that they thought that gun shots were fired.

While enroute, a dispatcher reported that a person had called in reporting that they had been shot with an AR15. The dispatcher then heard on the open phone line that the suspect was still on scene, and that Victim 1 was dead. A dispatcher was providing updates, and reported that a male suspect, subsequently identified as Joseph David Bulfer (DOB 07/03/1981), had forced Victim 2 into the shower at the residence. Officer Wanderscheid arrived and other officers advised that there were shots fired inside and they heard Victim 2 screaming. Once the exact location was determined, Officer Wanderscheid moved up to the north side door to the residence that was open with other officers following behind him.

Based on the reports of shots being fired, Officer Wanderscheid entered the residence with other officers behind him, but did not hear any person screaming inside the residence as previously reported. While attempting to clear the ground floor of the residence, Officer Wanderscheid heard a gunshot from upstairs and immediately went upstairs following Officer Courtney Walker.

When Officer Wanderscheid reached the top landing, Officer Walker, Officer Wanderscheid, and Sgt. Matt Huettl were calling out the layout of the upstairs when a door opened and Bulfer emerged into the hallway. Officer Wanderscheid did not see Bulfer's hands until he raised them. Other officers advised that Bulfer threw a rifle into a bedroom before raising his hands. Bulfer was ordered to walk towards officers, which he did with his hands up. Not knowing at the time if there was only one suspect or who was with Bulfer, Officer Wanderscheid asked who else was there and he said "[Victim 2 was] in the bathroom" and "(inaudible) [Victim1] is fucking dead."

Bulfer was ordered to the floor, and Officer Wanderscheid held lethal cover on Bulfer while Trooper Marthaler handcuffed Bulfer; he completed a protective weapons pat on Bulfer. Trooper Marthaler pulled a cell phone from Bulfer's front right pants pocket and placed it on the floor next to him.

Officer Wanderscheid stayed with Bulfer while other officers checked the other occupants of the residence. Bulfer said "I apologize for the inconvenience." Sgt. Huettl advised dispatch to have EMS respond right away and directed Officers Walker and Wanderscheid to take Bulfer outside. Bulfer was led to the nearest Mankato squad car, squad 53, searched and placed in the rear. While walking Bulfer to the squad, Bulfer stated "Hey sorry guys. Didn't mean to get you out here today." A medic approached and asked if Bulfer needed any medical attention. Officer Wanderscheid advised that Bulfer did not appear to be physically harmed, but he was asked if he needed medics to check him and he declined, saying he just wanted to go to jail.

Officer Dylan McCarville also assisted. He provided information that when a dispatcher was on the phone with the first caller, they received another call coming from, who was later identified as, Victim 2. The following is a summary of what Victim 2 reported and what was heard on the open phone line by dispatchers:

Victim 2 - A man just shot [Victim 2].

Victim 2 - Help me.

Victim 2 - "Joseph B*****"

Bulfer - "dumb fucking cunt."

Victim 2 - Female- Nothing feels good and nothing is good.

Bulfer - "you're a fucking piece of shit."

Victim 2 - Screaming.

Bulfer - "you just caused [Victim 1] to die."

Victim 2 - Female- "you just killed [Victim 1]."

Victim 2 - "you just killed someone."

Bulfer - "how was [Victim 1]."

Bulfer - "better than me huh".

Bulfer - "how was [Victim 1]."

Bulfer - "you're a fucking asshole.

Bulfer - "get the fuck up."

Victim 2 - "please don't, please don't, stop it."

Bulfer hit Victim 2 and told Victim 2 to get in the shower.

Victim 2 - "I'm trying to help you."

Bulfer - "Do you want me to pull the trigger."

Bulfer - "with another fucking dude."

Bulfer - "with another fucking dude."

Victim 2 - "don't do this."

Bulfer - "I'm going to."

Male- "you are a piece of shit".

Victim 2 - "You hurt me now."

Bulfer - "I'm going to."

Bulfer - "you are a piece of shit."

Victim 2 - "You hurt me now."

Sgt. Ryan Marthaler with the Minnesota State Patrol assisted officers at the scene. He heard a gunshot from upstairs. Sgt. Marthaler went upstairs with other officers and eventually placed Bulfer in handcuffs. He

asked Bulfer if he had anything on him and Bulfer mentioned his cell phone, which was removed. Sgt. Marthaler assisted with clearing the rooms upstairs. When Sgt. Marthaler made entry into a bedroom, he located Victim 2 in the attached bathroom. Sgt. Marthaler noted Victim 2 was covered in blood, visibly scared and had her head down in the bathtub. Sgt. Marthaler asked Victim 2 if she was injured and she said her head and side hurt. Sgt. Marthaler eventually asked if she could walk out of the room and she said she could. Sgt. Marthaler then escorted her to a Mankato Fire Department member and he took over her care. Sgt. Marthaler then observed a male laying on the ground with obvious trauma and no sign of life. A fire department member came in and advised that Victim 1 had catastrophic injuries and verified no pulse. Sgt. Marthaler observed a rifle laying on the bed and numerous spent rifle rounds on the floor. Sgt. Marthaler also observed what appeared to be holes in the wall similar to a bullet. He then stood at the door and was requested by Sgt. Huettl to secure the room.

Agent Jeff Fischbach with the Minnesota Valley River Drug Task Force also assisted. He obtained an initial statement from Victim 2 while she was at a medical facility. She provided information that she had dated Bulfer for a period of time and she broke up with him in approximately December of last year. She started dating Victim 1 and Bulfer could not handle that. On the morning of April 26th, 2026, Bulfer wanted to talk with Victim 2, and she mentioned that she was going to church and then run some errands. Victim 2 said that she was just hanging out with her boyfriend, Victim 1, on Sunday afternoon and watching a movie.

Victim 2 said the front door was locked, and the garage door was shut. Victim 2 heard the door open and someone running up the stairs. Bulfer opened the door to the bedroom and started shooting at Victim 1 multiple times. Bulfer then put the gun to himself while yelling at her. Bulfer was yelling that she did this and this was all her fault. She said that Bulfer made her look at Victim 2. Bulfer hit her a couple times. Bulfer had her go to the bathroom. She was sitting on the toilet and Bulfer hit her with the butt stock of the rifle to her head. Bulfer kept hitting her and yelling at her that it was all her fault and that she did this. Bulfer demanded that she get into the bathtub so he could drain her blood. She entered the bathtub and was begging Bulfer not to do this as her children needed her.

Bulfer then put the gun to his head and then pointed it multiple times at her. Bulfer then shot the floor and the wall. Victim 2 said that she snuck her cell phone on her and she called 911 and left it on under her body. The next thing Victim 2 remembered was Officers showing up. Victim 2 was struck by Bulfer numerous times, with the butt of the rifle, open hand, etc. Preliminary information is that she suffered numerous contusions to her head and body; a laceration to her head; a collapsed lung; and three to four broken ribs.

The provisional autopsy revealed six entrance gunshot wounds to Victim 1's head and face, multiple entrance, exit, and graze gunshot wounds to Victim 1's torso, four entrance gunshot wounds to Victim 1's right arm and shoulder, and a gunshot wound to Victim 1's left forearm.

Preliminary information is that approximately twenty spent shell casings were recovered from the bedroom within the residence.

Numerous reports have yet to be received, including those from the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension Crime Scene Team. The investigation is ongoing, and this complaint may be supplemented in the future.

Bulfer has prior felony convictions for Threats of Violence; Burglary in the First Degree; and Domestic Assault by Strangulation.

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

Samuel McGinnis
710 S Front St
Mankato, MN 56001-3803

Electronically Signed:
04/28/2026 08:39 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:
04/28/2026 08:24 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: April 28, 2026.

Judicial Officer

Susan DeVos

Electronically Signed: 04/28/2026 09:27 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.

Joseph David Bulfer

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: