

State of Minnesota
County of Blue Earth

District Court
5th Judicial District

Prosecutor File No. 0070113246
Court File No. 07-CR-26-2057

State of Minnesota,
Plaintiff,

COMPLAINT
Summons

vs.

RITA DANIELLE STEELE DOB: 07/21/1990

521 E Skylark Trail #4
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: Theft-Take/Use/Transfer Movable Prop-No Consent

Minnesota Statute: 609.52.2(a)(1), with reference to: 609.52.3(3)(a)

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

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 03/26/2026 to 03/27/2026

Control #(ICR#): 26011223

Charge Description: On or between March 26, 2026 and March 27, 2026, in the County of Blue Earth, Minnesota, Rita Danielle Steele did, intentionally and without claim of right, take, use, transfer, conceal or retain possession of the movable property of another without the other's consent and with intent to deprive the owner permanently of possession of the property; and the value of the property or services stolen is more than \$1,000.00 but not more than \$5,000.00.

COUNT II

Charge: Theft-False Representation

Minnesota Statute: 609.52.2(a)(3), with reference to: 609.52.3(3)(c)

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

Offense Level: Gross Misdemeanor

Offense Date (on or about): 03/26/2026 to 03/27/2026

Control #(ICR#): 26011223

Charge Description: On or between March 26, 2026 and March 27, 2026, in the County of Blue Earth, Minnesota, Rita Danielle Steele did obtain for Steele or another the possession, custody, or title to property of or performance of services by another person of a value of \$500 but not more than \$1,000 by intentionally deceiving the victim with a false representation which was known to be false, made with intent to defraud, and which did defraud the person to whom it is made.

STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

On April 13, 2026, Officer Rutz from the Mankato Department of Public Safety spoke with Witness 1, an employee in Loss Prevention at Business 1, who alleged Rita Danielle Steele (DOB: 07/21/1990) has been involved in several thefts from Business 1 in the City of Mankato.

Witness 1 stated Witness 1 observed on surveillance camera Steele passing all points of sale without paying for a security camera valued at \$529.99 on March 26, 2026. Witness 1 observed on surveillance camera Steele doing the same thing on March 27, 2026, with a security camera valued at \$629.99.

While reviewing surveillance camera footage from Business 1, Witness 1 observed Steele exit in the Business 1 parking lot a blue Toyota Camry, bearing Minnesota license plate EFS 564, before entering Business 1 and stealing the \$629.99 security camera and another item valued at \$42.00.

Officer Pike spoke with Steele who confessed to stealing items from Business 1. Officer McClinton reviewed Steele's APS records and observed Steele pawned two security camera systems on March 26 and March 27, 2026.

McClinton determined that Steele also stole from Business 1 and pawned a digital frame valued at \$299.99 and a Bluetooth speaker valued at \$700.00. These items also appear in the APS records with dates of March 26 and March 27, 2026.

The total value of items stolen from Business 1 and appearing in APS records is \$2,159.97.

Steele told Officer McClinton that Steele stole from retail stores to get money to use for a deposit on a residence.

Business 2 paid Steele \$376.20 for the stolen items and loaned Steele \$251.20 using a couple of the stolen items as collateral.

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

Adam Gray
Operations Commander
710 S Front St
Mankato, MN 56001-3803
Badge: 3117

Electronically Signed:
05/20/2026 08:21 AM
Blue Earth County, Minnesota

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

Prosecuting Attorney

Christopher K Lowe
Assistant County Attorney
401 Carver Road
PO Box 3129
Mankato, MN 56002
(507) 304-4600

Electronically Signed:
05/19/2026 04:35 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: May 20, 2026.

Judicial Officer

Mark Betters
District Court Judge

Electronically Signed: 05/20/2026 09:40 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.

Rita Danielle Steele

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: