

State of Minnesota
County of Blue Earth

District Court
5th Judicial District

Prosecutor File No. 0070114007
Court File No. 07-CR-26-4131

State of Minnesota,

Plaintiff,

vs.

JUSTIN PAUL LAVEN DOB: 07/14/1981

324 N 4th Street
Mankato, MN 56001

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: Threats of Violence-Reckless Disregard Risk

Minnesota Statute: 609.713.1

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

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 08/16/2026

Control #(ICR#): 26025947

Charge Description: On or about August 16, 2026, in the County of Blue Earth, Minnesota, Justin Paul Laven, did, threaten, directly or indirectly, to commit any crime of violence with purpose to terrorize another, or in a reckless disregard of the risk of causing such terror.

STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

On August 16, 2026, Officer Herwig of the Mankato Department of Public Safety responded to an incident in a neighborhood within the City of Mankato. The complainant, Witness 1, reported that an individual, later identified as Justin Paul Laven (DOB: 07/14/1981), had threatened to shoot her dogs and kill her kids and that her kids were very shaken up by the interaction.

Officer Herwig spoke with Witness 1 who stated that her kids opened the door for one of the dogs to go outside and both dogs ran out of their house. Witness 1 stated that her kids ran after the dogs to get them back inside. At the same time, an individual that lives nearby was driving by in a black truck with a male passenger with him.

Another individual who witnessed the incident, Witness 2, told Officer Herwig that she was helping the kids catch the dogs and get them back home. Witness 2 told Officer Herwig that two men in a black pickup truck were yelling at the kids. Witness 2 stated that Laven, seated in the front passenger seat, yelled "I'm going to kill you" and "I'm going to kill the dogs." Witness 2 stated that she was afraid for the safety of the child due to the interaction.

Officer Herwig continued his investigation and spoke with one of the children, age 11, Victim 1. Victim 1 told Officer Herwig that the dogs were off the leash on accident and she was trying to get the dogs back home. Victim 1 stated that Laven called her a bitch and threatened to kill her and to kill her dogs.

Victim 1 was frightened and told Witness 1 about the incident.

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:
10/01/2026 03:41 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:
10/01/2026 11:42 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 1, 2026.

Judicial Officer

Kristine Weeks
District Court Judge

Electronically Signed: 10/01/2026 04:02 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.

Justin Paul Laven

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: