

State of Minnesota
County of Blue Earth

District Court
5th Judicial District

Prosecutor File No. 0070114130
Court File No. 07-CR-26-3682

State of Minnesota,

Plaintiff,

vs.

JAMES SCOTT DONALD DOB: 10/15/1984

252 E Watonwan Street
Lake Crystal, MN 56055

Defendant.

COMPLAINT

Order of Detention

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: Traffic - DWI - Operate Motor Vehicle Under Influence of Alcohol

Minnesota Statute: 169A.20.1(1), with reference to: 169A.25.2

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

Offense Level: Gross Misdemeanor

Offense Date (on or about): 09/02/2026

Control #(ICR#): 26018610

Charge Description: On or about September 2, 2026, in the County of Blue Earth, Minnesota, James Scott Donald, did, drive, operate, or was in physical control of any motor vehicle when he/she was under the influence of alcohol, and two or more aggravating factors were present when the violation was committed.

COUNT II

Charge: Traffic - DWI - Operate Motor Vehicle - Alcohol Concentration 0.08 Within 2 Hours

Minnesota Statute: 169A.20.1(5), with reference to: 169A.25.2

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

Offense Level: Gross Misdemeanor

Offense Date (on or about): 09/02/2026

Control #(ICR#): 26018610

Charge Description: On or about September 2, 2026, in the County of Blue Earth, Minnesota, James Scott Donald, did, drive, operate, or was in physical control of any motor vehicle, when his/her alcohol concentration at the time, or as measured within two hours of the time, of driving, operating or being in physical control of the motor vehicle was 0.08 or more, and two aggravating factors were present when the violation was committed.

COUNT III

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): 09/02/2026

Control #(ICR#): 26018610

Charge Description: On or about September 2, 2026, in the County of Blue Earth, Minnesota, James Scott Donald 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 September 2, 2026, Deputy Arkell of the Blue Earth County Sheriff's Office was on patrol near Lake Crystal within Blue Earth County. Deputy Arkell observed a motorcycle, operated by James Scott Donald (DOB: 10/15/1984), with a juvenile passenger, Victim 1, traveling at speeds greater than normal traffic for the area and greater than the posted speed limits. Deputy Arkell's radar identified Donald to be going 76mph in a 65mph zone. Deputy Arkell initiated a traffic stop.

After stopping the motorcycle, Donald staggered to get off from the motorcycle and was unsteady on his feet. Deputy Arkell observed that Donald spilled the contents of his wallet on the ground while looking for his insurance and that his eyes were watery and bloodshot. Deputy Arkell also noted that Donald's speech was slurred and a moderate odor of an alcoholic beverage was coming from his person. Deputy Arkell asked Donald if Donald had consumed any alcohol and Donald admitted to having consumed one beer.

Deputy Arkell then conducted standardized field sobriety testing with Donald. Deputy Arkell noted numerous clues throughout the field sobriety testing and asked Donald to take a PBT test. Donald agreed to take the PBT test and blew a .124. Donald was then placed under arrest.

Deputy Arkell read Donald the Implied Consent Advisory and Donald agreed to take the DMT breath test. The result of Donald's DMT breath test was a .12 BAC. The test was conducted within two hours of his driving conduct.

Deputy Arkell noted that Victim 1, Donald's 14 year-old juvenile child, was on the motorcycle with him while Donald was driving at speeds above the posted speed limits and while under the influence of alcohol above the legal limit.

Donald has one prior qualified impaired driving incident for a DWI conviction within the last 10 years in 07-CR-21-1964 (convicted on 11/03/2021).

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

Jim Othoudt
Deputy Sheriff
401 Carver Rd
Mankato, MN 56002-0228
Badge: 2703

Electronically Signed:
09/03/2026 10:29 AM
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:
09/03/2026 10:08 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: September 3, 2026.

Judicial Officer Mark Betters
District Court Judge

Electronically Signed: 09/03/2026 10:37 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.

James Scott Donald

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: