

State of Minnesota
County of Blue Earth

District Court
5th Judicial District

Prosecutor File No. 0070113628
Court File No. 07-CR-26-3021

State of Minnesota,

Plaintiff,

vs.

WANDA LEE VELA DOB: 10/31/1983

32594 810th Avenue
Madelia, 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: 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): 12/15/2025 to 06/03/2026

Control #(ICR#): 26011753

Charge Description: On or between December 15, 2025 and June 3, 2026, in the County of Blue Earth, Minnesota, Wanda Lee Vela 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: Receiving Stolen Property

Minnesota Statute: 609.53.1, with reference to: 609.52.3(3)(a)

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

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 12/15/2025 to 06/03/2026

Control #(ICR#): 26011753

Charge Description: On or between December 15, 2025 and June 3, 2026, in the County of Blue Earth, Minnesota, Wanda Lee Vela did receive, possess, transfer, buy or conceal any stolen property or property obtained by robbery, knowing or having reason to know the property was stolen or obtained by robbery and the value of the property is over \$1,000.00 but less than \$5,000.00.

STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

Victim 1 was in the hospital for approximately four months, from December 15, 2025, until April 15, 2026. During that time Wanda Lee Vela (DOB: 10/31/1983) agreed to take care of Victim 1's cat.

On April 17, 2026, Victim 1 contacted Blue Earth County Dispatch and reported that, while Victim 1 was in the hospital, Vela stole items from Victim 1's residence in Blue Earth County and pawned them.

Victim 1 reported the following items stolen: (1) Nintendo Switch 2 and multiple controllers (serial number provided by Victim 1--\$500 estimated value); (2) Nintendo Switch Lite (serial number provided by Victim 1--\$120 estimated value); (3) Sony Bluetooth speaker (\$350 estimated value); (4) Talaria Sting RMX4 e-bike (serial number provided by Victim 1--\$4,000.00 estimated value); (5) Troy Lee Designs Stage MIPS helmet (\$355.54 estimated value); and (6) Thor hammer (\$50.00 estimated value).

On March 9, 2026, Vela reported an e-bike stolen from Address 1 in Blue Earth County. Witness 1 told police Witness 1 and Vela lived together at Address 1. Witness 1 said Witness 1 believed Vela was stealing items from Victim 1 when Witness 1 and Vela lived together at Address 1. Witness 1 said Witness 1 saw Vela with a "Thor hammer" in Vela's vehicle, for example.

Victim 1 eventually remembered the stolen e-bike was equipped with a GPS monitor that allowed Victim 1 to track its location. When Victim 1 tracked it, Victim 1 learned it was at Address 2.

Patrol Investigator McClinton spoke with Investigator Butler from the Watonwan County Sheriff's Office, who was familiar with the residents at Address 2. Victim 1 reported to McClinton that Vela was dating one of the known residents at Address 2.

Patrol Investigator McClinton drafted an application for a warrant to search the premises at Address 2. The application was approved by a District Court Judge in the Fifth Judicial District.

When police executed the search warrant on June 3, 2026, they recovered an e-bike with the serial number provided by Victim 1. Vela was present at Address 2 at that time. Witness 2, a resident at Address 2, said Vela told Witness 2 the e-bike belonged to a friend.

Vela told McClinton Vela had been living at Address 2 for about a month.

Police also discovered Vela pawned a Bluetooth speaker with the serial number Victim 1 provided, on February 7, 2026. On February 14, 2026, Vela pawned a Nintendo Switch 2 with the serial number Victim 1 provided.

Both items were sold by the pawn store and not recovered.

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:
07/27/2026 10:16 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:
07/24/2026 04:04 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 27, 2026.

Judicial Officer

Mark Betters
District Court Judge

Electronically Signed: 07/27/2026 10:43 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.

Wanda Lee Vela

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: