

State of Minnesota
County of Blue Earth

District Court
5th Judicial District

Prosecutor File No. 0070113214
Court File No. 07-CR-26-1493

State of Minnesota,
Plaintiff,

COMPLAINT
Order of Detention

vs.

JACOB JOHN KNOWLES DOB: 04/01/1995

1560 Peitz Avenue
Waconia, MN 55387

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: Criminal Sexual Conduct - 1st Degree - Penetration - Armed w/Dangerous Weapon

Minnesota Statute: 609.342.1(b), with reference to: 609.342.2(a)

Maximum Sentence: 30 years or \$40,000 fine, or both. **609.11 may apply, but not to clauses (g) and (h). See 609.109 or 609.3455 for possible increased sentence due to offender status.**

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 04/06/2026

Control #(ICR#): 26010840

Charge Description: On or about April 6, 2026, in Blue Earth County, Minnesota, Jacob John Knowles engaged in sexual penetration with another person and was armed with a dangerous weapon consisting of a metal pipe or an article used or fashioned in a manner to lead the victim to reasonably believe it to be a dangerous weapon and used or threatened to use the weapon or article to cause the victim to submit.

COUNT II

Charge: Criminal Sexual Conduct-1st Degree-Penetration-Use force as defined in section 609.341, subd 3(1)

Minnesota Statute: 609.342.1(d), with reference to: 609.342.2(a)

Maximum Sentence: 30 years or \$40,000 fine, or both.

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 04/06/2026

Control #(ICR#): 26010840

Charge Description: On or about April 6, 2026 at 9:00 PM, in the County of Blue Earth, Minnesota, Jacob John Knowles did engage in sexual penetration with another person and used force as defined in 609.341, subd. 3(1).

COUNT III

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): 04/06/2026

Control #(ICR#): 26010840

Charge Description: On or about April 6, 2026, in the County of Blue Earth, Minnesota, Jacob John Knowles, did assault another with a dangerous weapon.

COUNT IV

Charge: Assault-3rd Degree-Substantial Bodily Harm

Minnesota Statute: 609.223.1

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

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 04/06/2026

Control #(ICR#): 26010840

Charge Description: On or about April 6, 2026, in the County of Blue Earth, Minnesota, Jacob John Knowles did assault another, and inflicted substantial bodily harm,

COUNT V

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): 04/06/2026

Control #(ICR#): 26010840

Charge Description: On or about April 6, 2026, in the County of Blue Earth, Minnesota, Jacob John Knowles, 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 April 10, 2026, Ofc. Joel Hermanson with the Mankato Department of Public Safety was dispatched on a report of a sexual assault that occurred in the City of Mankato. The caller, Victim 1, reported that she was sexually assaulted at a hotel in Mankato.

Ofc. Hermanson met with Victim 1 at the Public Safety Center and spoke with her about the incident. Victim 1 stated that she met the suspect, later identified as Jacob John Knowles, on a dating app a few days before the incident. The sexual assault occurred on Monday, April 6, 2026. Victim 1 and Knowles had conversations of a sexual nature via text message and agreed to meet up for a date.

Knowles picked up Victim 1 at her apartment. Knowles asked Victim 1 to reserve a hotel. Victim 1 hesitated to do so because she was not old enough to reserve a hotel room. Knowles became upset with Victim 1 and threatened to hit her with a metal pipe. Victim 1 stated she saw the metal pipe tucked in Knowles's waistband. Victim 1 described the metal pipe as being about the length of her arm with a diameter of approximately 1 inch.

Victim 1 made the hotel reservation and stated she was fearful that Knowles would hurt her with the pipe if she did not. Knowles and Victim 1 arrived at the hotel and Knowles had to use his identification card to complete the room booking as Victim 1 was under the appropriate age to check into the hotel.

Knowles and Victim 1 then went to a hotel room. Knowles was upset that Victim 1 could not use her identification at check-in. Knowles punched Victim 1 several times in the face while holding her shoulder with his hand. Victim 1 stated that Knowles slapped and punched her face, punched her on her upper chest, slapped her on her hips and buttocks.

Knowles then took off his clothes and took off Victim 1's clothes and began to have vaginal sex with Victim 1 despite Victim 1 telling Knowles no. Victim 1 stated that she told Knowles no, yelled no and scratched and hit Knowles. Victim 1 stated that Knowles responded that he liked it.

Knowles told Victim 1 that he liked young girls and at one point asked Victim 1 to, "tell me you are 14," and "pretend you're 14." Victim 1 refused to do so, and Knowles threatened to put the metal pipe inside her.

Knowles eventually stopped having sex with Victim 1 and fell asleep. Victim 1 stated she got her phone from the other side of the room and texted her roommate, Witness 1, asking for help. At this point Knowles awoke and asked Victim 1 what she was doing. Knowles then began having vaginal sex with Victim 1 again. Victim 1 stated she did not say anything this time. Victim 1 stated that Knowles continued to hit her, tried to strangle her and watched porn while he had sex with her.

Victim 1 stated that Witness 1 arrived at the hotel and asked the front desk to call the room. Victim 1 stated that Knowles heard the phone ring and got upset. Victim 1 stated that Witness 1 also called Victim 1's phone. Victim 1 answered the phone and claimed that everything was okay. Knowles was upset that someone had called and grabbed Victim 1 by the shoulder and punched and slapped her in the face. Victim 1 showed Officers Hermanson the injuries she had received as a result of the assault.

Knowles then went to leave the hotel room and told Victim 1, "don't leave until I text you or I'll kill you." Victim 1 stated she believed Knowles was capable of carrying out the threat and stated she thought she was going to die throughout her time in the hotel room.

Knowles left the hotel room and Victim 1 later texted Witness 1 that Knowles had left. Victim 1 stated that

Witness 1 and her boyfriend, Witness 2, had gotten the license plate of Knowles vehicle as he drove away from the hotel. Ofc. Hermanson completed a check of the vehicle and found it to be registered to Knowles.

Victim 1 went to the hospital where she underwent a sexual assault forensic exam. Victim 1 had sustained a broken jaw as a result of the assault.

Deputies from the Carver County Sheriff's office were able to locate Knowles and take him into custody.

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

Jeff Knutson
Sergeant
710 S Front St
Mankato, MN 56001-3803
Badge: 3148

Electronically Signed:
04/13/2026 09:37 AM
Blue Earth County, Minnesota

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

Prosecuting Attorney

Michael Hanson
Assistant County Attorney
401 Carver Road
PO Box 3129
Mankato, MN 56002
(507) 304-4600

Electronically Signed:
04/13/2026 09:04 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 13, 2026.

Judicial Officer Mark Betters
District Court Judge

Electronically Signed: 04/13/2026 09:50 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.

Jacob John Knowles

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: