

State of Minnesota
County of Blue Earth

District Court
5th Judicial District

Prosecutor File No. 0070114156
Court File No. 07-CR-26-3752

State of Minnesota,

Plaintiff,

vs.

KENNETH MARK WATSON DOB: 08/07/1961

14 Country Manor
Eagle Lake, MN 56024

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: Possess child sexual abuse material; Minor under 14

Minnesota Statute: 617.247.4(b)(3)

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

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 08/27/2026

Control #(ICR#): 26018060

Charge Description: On or about August 27, 2026, in Blue Earth County, Minnesota, Kenneth Mark Watson did possess child sexual abuse material or a storage system containing child sexual abuse material, knowing or with reason to know its contents and character and the violation involved a minor under 14 years.

COUNT II

Charge: Possess child sexual abuse material; Minor under 14

Minnesota Statute: 617.247.4(b)(3)

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

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 08/31/2026

Control #(ICR#): 26018060

Charge Description: On or about August 31, 2026, in Blue Earth County, Minnesota, Kenneth Mark Watson did possess child sexual abuse material or a storage system containing child sexual abuse material, knowing or with reason to know its contents and character and the violation involved a minor under 14 years.

COUNT III

Charge: Possess child sexual abuse material; Minor under 14

Minnesota Statute: 617.247.4(b)(3)

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

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 08/31/2026

Control #(ICR#): 26018060

Charge Description: On or about August 31, 2026, in Blue Earth County, Minnesota, Kenneth Mark Watson did possess child sexual abuse material or a storage system containing child sexual abuse material, knowing or with reason to know its contents and character and the violation involved a minor under 14 years.

COUNT IV

Charge: Possess child sexual abuse material; Minor under 14

Minnesota Statute: 617.247.4(b)(3)

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

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 08/31/2026

Control #(ICR#): 26018060

Charge Description: On or about August 31, 2026, in Blue Earth County, Minnesota, Kenneth Mark Watson did possess child sexual abuse material or a storage system containing child sexual abuse material, knowing or with reason to know its contents and character and the violation involved a minor under 14 years.

COUNT V

Charge: Possess child sexual abuse material; Minor under 14

Minnesota Statute: 617.247.4(b)(3)

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

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 08/31/2026

Control #(ICR#): 26018060

Charge Description: On or about August 31, 2026, in Blue Earth County, Minnesota, Kenneth Mark Watson did possess child sexual abuse material or a storage system containing child sexual abuse material, knowing or with reason to know its contents and character and the violation involved a minor under 14 years.

COUNT VI

Charge: Possess child sexual abuse material; Minor under 14

Minnesota Statute: 617.247.4(b)(3)

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

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 08/31/2026

Control #(ICR#): 26018060

Charge Description: On or about August 31, 2026, in Blue Earth County, Minnesota, Kenneth Mark Watson did possess child sexual abuse material or a storage system containing child sexual abuse

material, knowing or with reason to know its contents and character and the violation involved a minor under 14 years.

STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

On August 27, 2026, the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension ("BCA") and Blue Earth County Sheriff's Office became aware of a cybertip from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children ("NCMEC") generated by Google that contained information related to the sexualization of a minor. The cybertip included the name Kenneth Watson as the suspect. BCA Agent Waterstreet reviewed the cybertip information. Included in the cybertip were six files, one of which was identified as apparent child pornography, two identified as possible generative artificial intelligence, and three that identified as "child clothed". Agent Waterstreet reviewed the files and noted five contained prepubescent females estimated to be between 6 and 10 years of age wearing bras and underwear in provocative poses. Also included, was a video described as follows:

File 1

The file is a video, 15:08 in length, of a prepubescent female and a pubescent female standing in front of a couch. The prepubescent female was completely nude, and the other was clothed in a tank top and skirt. The females were seen kissing each other at the beginning of the video. The prepubescent female then laid on the couch, and the other female began performing oral sex on her. The prepubescent female was seen lying next to a stuffed "teddy bear". The prepubescent female then performed oral sex on the pubescent female.

Given the prepubescent female's stature and youthful appearance, her age is predicted to be approximately 10-13 years old. The pubescent female had tattoos, but it is not believed that she is 18 years or older based on her stature and youthful appearance. This pubescent female is estimated to be between 15 and 17 years of age.

Three additional cybertips were also received identifying image files showing prepubescent females in bras and underwear only. Through investigative measures, law enforcement identified Kenneth Watson as Kenneth Mark Watson (DOB 08/07/1961).

On August 31, 2026, Blue Earth County Sheriff's Office executed a search warrant at Watson's residence in Blue Earth County. Watson and Witness 1 were present at the time. Multiple electronic devices were seized during the warrant execution, including a Samsung phone Watson had in his pocket. The Samsung phone was the same phone identified as the device used to upload the child sexual abuse material identified in the cybertip.

During the warrant execution, Watson explained he had joined artificial intelligence where he writes stories, some of which involve younger children. He also stated the stories were sexual and about "kids doing stuff to each other", and that he fantasized about children 10 years of age and older. Watson denied acting out his fantasies in real life. Watson also confirmed the email addresses associated with the cybertips belonged to him and that nobody else used those email addresses.

On September 2nd, Blue Earth County Investigator Welle conducted a celebrite phone extraction on Watson's Samsung phone. Investigator Welle observed thousands of images and he noted a high percentage of them contained girls speaking sexually and discussing sexual acts. Investigator Welle located an estimated 20,000 generative artificial intelligence images of adult and juvenile females in different forms of dress, undress, and in provocative poses. There were approximately 180 images of prepubescent females, both AI and real, that are naked, in provocative poses, and showing bare vaginas and undeveloped breasts. A video of Watson passionately kissing a young female on the lips with his hand on her face was located. Two videos show juvenile females, these juveniles are real children and able to be identified by law enforcement, in front of an elementary school located in Blue Earth County. Multiple

videos showing real young females that appeared approximately 10 years old kissing an AI generated adult female in a school playground as well as multiple additional videos of young females between 10 and 12 years old posing on a playground of a school located in Blue Earth County were located.

Investigator Welle observed a “secure folder” within the contents that contained the following images:

File 2

Description: A prepubescent female with no pants on and a white t-shirt with dragon on it is lying down. A hand is seen in the image with their hand around her right leg and their thumb pressing against the little girl's vagina. Based on the size of the girl in relation to this hand, and the small frame of her body, she is believed to be approximately 10-12 years old.

File 3

Description: This image is of a prepubescent female that is sitting on a blue blanket on the floor. This little girl doesn't have a shirt or pants on, only purple socks. The little girl has her legs spread open and both of her hands in between her legs, with her left hand separating her vagina. Based on the girl's undeveloped breasts, size, and being prepubescent, she is believed to be approximately 10-12 years old.

File 4

Description: This image shows a young prepubescent female lying on her back in a bed. This little girl is naked except for white socks on. The little girl's legs are spread wide apart and her hands are by her vaginal area, appearing to try to expose more of her vagina by spreading it apart. This little girl's undeveloped breasts are also clearly visible. Based on the above, her estimated age is 11-13 years old.

File 5

Description: This image is of a prepubescent female that is lying on her back on either a couch or bed. This little girl is completely nude, exposing her undeveloped breasts and vaginal area. With her right hand, this little girl is touching her vaginal area on the outside. The focal point of this picture is the vaginal area. Based on the above, the little girl's age is believed to be between 11-13 years old.

File 6

Description: This image is of a prepubescent female's naked vaginal and anal area, and is taken from behind the little girl, not exposing her face or most of her upper body. In this image, there are two hands. One hand is spreading apart the little girl's vaginal area, and the other hand is on the buttocks area, with one finger inserted into the little girl's anal cavity. Based on the small frame/body structure of the little girl, especially in relation to the hands in the picture, her age is believed to be 8-10 years old.

Investigator Welle discovered many more images that would qualify as child sexual abuse material in the secured folder and the above images were specifically identified for charging purposes.

When asked about the secure folder, Watson stated he would not describe the images as bad ones. He stated he put the files in that folder over a period of time, probably within the last couple of years. He stated the video of him kissing a young girl was created on his phone using a program, as are the additional videos of the young girls kissing.

The investigation is ongoing.

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

Paul Barta
Captain
401 Carver Rd
Mankato, MN 56002-0228
Badge: 2721

Electronically Signed:
09/09/2026 12:53 PM
Blue Earth County, Minnesota

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

Prosecuting Attorney

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

Electronically Signed:
09/09/2026 11:48 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 9, 2026.

Judicial Officer

Greg Anderson
District Court Judge

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

Kenneth Mark Watson

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: