

State of Minnesota
County of Blue Earth

District Court
5th Judicial District

Prosecutor File No. 0070112815
Court File No. 07-CR-26-1291

State of Minnesota,
Plaintiff,

COMPLAINT
Summons

vs.

MALAIKA RENEE SANFORD DOB: 10/21/1994

8763 Hastings Circle Ne
Blaine, MN 55449-4508

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: Aid and Abet Theft-Take/Use/Transfer Movable Prop-No Consent

Minnesota Statute: 609.52.2(a)(1), with reference to: 609.05.1, 609.52.3(3)(a)

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

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 11/06/2025

Control #(ICR#): 26001840

Charge Description: On or about November 6, 2025, in the County of Blue Earth, Minnesota, Malaika Renee Sanford, did intentionally aid, advise, hire, counsel, or conspire with, or otherwise procure another to commit the crime, and/or did personally commit said crime; to wit: 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 exceeded \$1,000.00.

STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

In 2026, Officer Casillas of the Mankato Department of Public Safety spoke with Witness 1, an Organized Retail Crime Investigator for Business 1 regarding a theft that had occurred on November 6, 2025. Witness 1 said he identified the suspects as Malaika Renee Sanford DOB: 10/21/1994 and Aiyanna Neekoile Avent DOB: 08/22/2000.

Witness 1 provided a summary of the incident and provided Officer Casillas with a report detailing the theft on November 6. In summary, both Sanford and Avent selected and concealed various merchandise and then left the store without paying for the merchandise. Witness 1 said the suspects went in and out of the store multiple times with unpaid merchandise.

Witness 1 said that Sanford stole approximately \$1,044.83 worth of merchandise. Avent stole a total of approximately \$1,998.98 worth of merchandise. Witness 1 said both suspects had a history of thefts at Business 1 and its other locations. Witness 1 also recognized the suspects from a theft that occurred on November 1.

Officer Casillas compared driver's license photos of Sanford and Avent to surveillance video screenshots and believed they were the same people.

On March 14, officer Casillas spoke with Avent. Avent could not recall where she was on November 1. Avent said she no longer associates with Sanford.

Sanford did not return phone calls to Officer Casillas.

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:
03/31/2026 06:50 PM
Blue Earth County, Minnesota

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

Prosecuting Attorney

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

Electronically Signed:
03/31/2026 02:59 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: April 1, 2026.

Judicial Officer Andrea Jo Lieser
District Court Judge

Electronically Signed: 04/01/2026 08:55 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.

Malaika Renee Sanford

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: