

State of Minnesota
County of Blue Earth

District Court
5th Judicial District

Prosecutor File No. 0070113675
Court File No. 07-CR-26-2648

State of Minnesota,

Plaintiff,

vs.

ROSS TAYLOR HOWARD DOB: 12/20/1983

502 River Hills Court
Mankato, 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: Traffic - DWI - Operate Motor Vehicle Under Influence of Alcohol

Minnesota Statute: 169A.20.1(1), with reference to: 169A.26.2

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

Offense Level: Gross Misdemeanor

Offense Date (on or about): 06/21/2026

Control #(ICR#): 26013204

Charge Description: On or about June 21, 2026, in the County of Blue Earth, Minnesota, Ross Taylor Howard, did drive, operate, or was in physical control of any motor vehicle when he/she was under the influence of alcohol, and one aggravating factor was 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.26.2

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

Offense Level: Gross Misdemeanor

Offense Date (on or about): 06/21/2026

Control #(ICR#): 26013204

Charge Description: On or about June 21, 2026, in the County of Blue Earth, Minnesota, Ross Taylor Howard, 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 one aggravating factor was present when the violation was committed.

STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

On June 21, 2026, Deputy Nathan Dobie of the Blue Earth Sheriff's Department observed a vehicle traveling Southbound on 473rd Ave at a high rate of speed within Blue Earth County. Deputy Dobie's radar indicated, with a clear audible tone, the vehicle was traveling 100mph in a 55mph zone. Deputy Dobie then initiated a traffic stop.

While approaching driver of the 1967 red Mercury with MN license collector license plate 360578. The driver leaned out of the window and stated, "we literally just got this car out of the garage, just trying to see if it still does what it does." Deputy Dobie observed the driver's speech to be slurred. The vehicle had one passenger located in the front passenger seat. Deputy Dobie asked for the driver's license and proof of insurance. Deputy Dobie further observed driver to be slurring his words. Driver was identified as Ross Taylor Howard (DOB 12-20-1983). The Deputy indicated to Ross that he could smell an odor of an alcoholic beverage. Ross was then asked if he had anything to drink in which he stated "No."

Deputy Dobie then requested that Ross step out of the vehicle. Ross was then asked to perform field sobriety tests. During the field tests Ross showed several indicators of intoxication. Ross was then asked to take a Preliminary Breath Test (PBT). Ross asked if it was necessary to do so, and Ross asked if he could get somebody else to drive the car for him, and stated, "I'm literally a quarter mile away from the house." After arguing for approximately a minute Ross turned around and put his hands behind his back. Deputy Dobie then placed Ross into his squad vehicle and transported him to jail.

While at the jail Deputy Dobie read Ross the breath test advisory and Ross indicated that he understood and that he would submit to a breath test. The DMT evidentiary test resulted in a .17 Blood Alcohol Concentration within 2 hours of him driving and operating the 1967 Mercury vehicle. Ross also stated that he had drank about 6 beers.

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:
07/01/2026 03:44 PM
Blue Earth County, Minnesota

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

Prosecuting Attorney

Benjamin J Dolan
Assistant County Attorney
401 Carver Road
PO Box 3129
Mankato, MN 56002
(507) 304-4600

Electronically Signed:
07/01/2026 03:32 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 1, 2026.

Judicial Officer Andrea Jo Lieser
District Court Judge

Electronically Signed: 07/01/2026 03:52 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.

Ross Taylor Howard

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: