

State of Minnesota
County of Blue Earth

District Court
5th Judicial District

Prosecutor File No. 0070112931
Court File No. 07-CR-26-2240

State of Minnesota,

Plaintiff,

COMPLAINT

Summons

vs.

SARAH MARCELLA ERNST DOB: 12/26/1970

802 Pinnacle Path
Mankato, MN 56001

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: Check Forgery-Falsely Endorse

Minnesota Statute: 609.631.2(2), with reference to: 609.631.4(3)(a)

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

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 10/01/2025 to 10/31/2025

Control #(ICR#): 25036991

Charge Description: On or between October 1, 2025 and October 31, 2025, in the County of Blue Earth, Minnesota, Sarah Marcella Ernst, did falsely endorse or alters a check so that it purports to have been endorsed by another and the aggregate value of the forged check(s) was over \$250.00 but not more than \$2,500.00.

COUNT II

Charge: Check Forgery-Offer/Possess W/Intent to Defraud

Minnesota Statute: 609.631.3, with reference to: 609.631.4(3)(a)

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

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 10/01/2025 to 10/31/2025

Control #(ICR#): 25036991

Charge Description: On or between October 1, 2025 and October 31, 2025, in the County of Blue Earth, Minnesota, Sarah Marcella Ernst did, intentionally aid, advise, hire, counsel or conspire with or otherwise procure another to commit the crime; to wit: with intent to defraud, offer, or possess with intent to offer, a forged check, whether or not it was accepted and the aggregate value of the forged check(s) is more than \$250.00 but less than \$2,500.00.

COUNT III

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): 10/01/2025 to 06/02/2026

Control #(ICR#): 25036991

Charge Description: On or between October 1, 2025 and June 2, 2026, in the County of Blue Earth, Minnesota, Sarah Marcella Ernst 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

In December 2025, Officer Terry of the Mankato Department of Public Safety took report from Victim 1 regarding three checks that were worth approximately \$1,900 that were cashed by someone else in October of 2025. Victim 1 explained that he provided his former landlord and his employer with a forwarding address in the City of Mankato. However, the address was slightly different than the correct address.

Victim 1 stated that he was missing two paychecks from his former employers and a deposit check from his former landlord. Victim 1 learned that they were cashed by a Sarah Ernst, later identified as Sarah Marcella Ernst, dob 12/26/1970. Victim 1 said his signature was forged on the checks when cashed to Ernst.

Law enforcement later spoke with Ernst. Ernst admitted to signing and cashing the checks made out to Victim 1. Ernst stated she had received them in the mail and figured it was just a mistake and they should have been made to her. Law enforcement asked Ernst if she spoke to someone about this. Ernst said no, she just looked up Victim 1's name online and didn't think he existed.

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:
06/02/2026 11:19 AM
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:
06/02/2026 10:40 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: June 2, 2026.

Judicial Officer

Susan DeVos

Electronically Signed: 06/02/2026 12:23 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.

Sarah Marcella Ernst

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: