

State of Minnesota  
County of Blue Earth

District Court  
5th Judicial District

Prosecutor File No. 0070113239  
Court File No. 07-CR-26-1944

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**State of Minnesota,**  
Plaintiff,

**COMPLAINT**  
Summons

vs.

**RITA DANIELLE STEELE DOB: 07/21/1990**

521 E Skylark Trail  
Mankato, MN 56001-7028

Defendant.

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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: Theft-Take/Use/Transfer Movable Prop-No Consent**

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

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

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 03/28/2026

Control #(ICR#): 26009434

Charge Description: On or about March 28, 2026, in the County of Blue Earth, Minnesota, Rita Danielle Steele 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 is more than \$1,000.00 but not more than \$5,000.00.

## STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

In the morning on March 30, 2026, Officer Ellis from the Mankato Department of Public Safety was dispatched to Business 1 in the City of Mankato after Witness 1 reported a theft that occurred there on March 28, 2026.

Witness 1 reviewed surveillance video footage and observed a White middle-aged woman pass all points of sale inside Business 1 without paying for a dual slope rotary laser level kit worth \$756.99 in the woman's shopping cart.

The same woman was involved in the theft from Business 1 on March 28, 2026, of an impact drill valued at \$349.99 and a cordless nailer valued at \$459.00.

The total value of the items stolen from Business 1 is \$1,565.98.

Officer Pike advised Officer McClinton that Rita Danielle Steele (DOB: 07/21/1990) was involved in multiple theft incidents around the same time at Businesses 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. In an interview with Officer Pike, Steele admitted to committing the relevant thefts and pawning the stolen items at Business 6.

Officer McClinton reviewed Steele's APS record and noted that Steele pawned multiple items, around the time of the reported thefts, that matched descriptions of the stolen items from Business 1.

The APS record included a photograph of Steele. In the photograph, Steele is wearing the same clothing as the woman in the surveillance video from Business 1.

## 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**

Matthew Huettl  
Patrol Sergeant  
710 S Front St  
Mankato, MN 56001-3803  
Badge: 3142

Electronically Signed:  
05/13/2026 11:16 AM  
Blue Earth County, Minnesota

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

**Prosecuting Attorney**

Christopher K Lowe  
Assistant County Attorney  
401 Carver Road  
PO Box 3129  
Mankato, MN 56002  
(507) 304-4600

Electronically Signed:  
05/12/2026 04:08 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: May 13, 2026.

**Judicial Officer**

Kristine Weeks  
District Court Judge

Electronically Signed: 05/13/2026 11:29 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.

**Rita Danielle Steele**

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: