

State of Minnesota
County of Blue Earth

District Court
5th Judicial District

Prosecutor File No. 0070112722
Court File No. 07-CR-26-373

State of Minnesota,
Plaintiff,

COMPLAINT
Warrant

vs.

BENJAMIN WADE WILLIAMS DOB: 11/30/1982

322 E Cherry Street
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: Harassment - Causes or reasonably expect to cause substantial emotional distress to other person

Minnesota Statute: 609.749.2(b)(3), with reference to: 609.749.2(c)(1)

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

Offense Level: Gross Misdemeanor

Offense Date (on or about): 01/21/2026

Control #(ICR#): 26002186

Charge Description: On or before January 21, 2026, in the County of Blue Earth, Minnesota, Benjamin Wade Williams, did directly or indirectly, or through third parties, manifests a purpose or intent to injure the person, property, or rights of another by the commission of an unlawful act to wit: Victim 2

COUNT II

Charge: Harassment - Causes or reasonably expect to cause substantial emotional distress to other person

Minnesota Statute: 609.749.2(b)(3), with reference to: 609.749.2(c)(2)

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

Offense Level: Gross Misdemeanor

Offense Date (on or about): 01/21/2026

Control #(ICR#): 26002186

Charge Description: On or before January 21, 2026, in the County of Blue Earth, Minnesota, Benjamin Wade Williams, did follows, monitors, or pursues another, whether in person or through any available technological or other means to wit: Victim 2

COUNT III

Charge: Harassment - Causes or reasonably expect to cause substantial emotional distress to other person

Minnesota Statute: 609.749.2(b)(3), with reference to: 609.749.2(c)(3)

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

Offense Level: Gross Misdemeanor

Offense Date (on or about): 01/21/2026

Control #(ICR#): 26002186

Charge Description: On or before January 21, 2026, in the County of Blue Earth, Minnesota, Benjamin Wade Williams, did return to the property of another if the actor is without claim of right to the property or consent of one with authority to consent, to wit: Victim 2

STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

On January 22, 2026, at approximately 7:54 a.m., the Blue Earth County Dispatch center received several 911 calls which mapped to an address in the City of Mankato. The caller, Victim 1 said that Victim 1 did not know what to do and hung up the phone. Upon arrival, Officer Jessica Ellis met with Victim 1 at the front door. Victim 1 advised that Victim 1 had been hit in the face by Williams, whom law enforcement knows as Benjamin Wade Williams.

Victim 1 advised that Victim 1 was not injured and did not need any medical attention; however, said that Victim 1 had a headache from the assault. Officer Ellis noticed that Victim 1 was constantly touching the right side of his cheek bone. Officer Ellis noticed that there was an inflamed mark that was not consistent with the other side of his cheek area. Victim 1 said that Victim 1 wanted to pursue criminal charges for the assault. Officer Ellis was able to take a couple of photos of the face of Victim 1.

Victim 1 told Officer Ellis about the incident. Victim 1 said that Victim 2 is a “special friend.”

Victim 1 clarified that they are in a romantic relationship. Victim 1 was around yesterday and last night when Williams was harassing and stalking Victim 2. Williams has been harassing and stalking Victim 2 didn't relay what their relationship was. Williams was at the property banging on the doors and windows on the property throughout yesterday and into the late evening. The back door was not as secured due to damage, most likely caused by Williams. Williams was able to gain access to the apartment space. Victim 1 had barricaded and placed boards across the door into the main living space during the overnight hours. The barricade consisted of two boards that were placed over the door and screwed in place. A large ladder was also placed up and pressed against the door. By doing this, the family was locked into the apartment space with no other means to exit in case of an emergency.

Earlier that morning, Victim 1 was taking the boards down so Victim 2 could take a child to school. Just as boards were undone, and Victim 2 was packing up the child to leave, Williams was at the door to the main living area within the apartment. Williams barged his way into the apartment and punched Victim 1 in the face.

The punch knocked Victim 1 to the ground, and Victim 1 was in a vulnerable position. Williams then told Victim 1 “I will kill you” along with other choice words and exchanges. Victim 1 was able to get up off the ground and the two were scuffling with each other, Victim 2 got in between the two and Williams then left the property once he understood police were being called. Williams exited the property and damaged Victim 1's car and left a note on the windshield.

Victim 1 said that Victim 1 was vulnerable and was expecting something like this to happen. Victim 1 added that Williams has been amplifying his efforts around Victim 2. Victim 1 went around the apartment and showed Officer Ellis that Williams had been throwing snow and ice chunks at Victim 2's bedroom window. Victim 1 added that the window that faces the alley and is directly next to the door. Williams had been banging and knocking on the window and pulling on the door.

Victim 1 added Williams was bothering them last night to the point, that Victim 2 then left the property to “draw Williams away from the home.” Victim 2 went to Business 1 where police were called because Victim 2 was upset and agitated. The two were separated; however, Williams returned to the property, and threw snowballs at the bedroom window and picked at the door and other back windows to the property.

Victim 1 told Officer Ellis that Williams was not welcome at the property and had not been welcome for quite some time. Victim 1 took Officer Ellis to Victim 2's bedroom and she observed ice smashed against the window. Victim 1 said that this went on most of the night if not the whole night off and on. Victim 1 did know where Williams would stay and or where he would go or what he may or may not drive.

Officer Wayne Terry spoke with Victim 2 who then arrived on scene. Victim 2 said that Williams has been

stalking and harassing Victim 2 for quite some time. Officer Terry asked Victim 2 to come to the LEC for a more formal statement about the incident as Victim 2 was shaken up.

Officer Terry and I also spoke with the property manager, who advised that Williams was trespassed from the property to include Victim 2's home and had been served the notice while in the BEC Jail just days before. Officer Terry located Williams on camera in and around the front door to Victim 2's apartment. Efforts were made to locate Williams; however, we were not able to locate his person. Officer Ellis made phone contact with Williams's current Probation Officer and made them aware of the complaint. Williams's probation officer issued an A&D.

On 01/22/2026 Detectives of the Mankato Police Department located Williams at the corner of Front Street and Cherry Street in the City of Mankato. Williams was taken into custody, and transported to the BEC jail and interviewed.

The Miranda Warning was read to Williams. Williams told Officer Terry he understood his rights and agreed to speak with him. Williams said that after the incident at Business 1 where bouncers called 911, he had two contacts with police. 26-2179, 26-2183, 26-2186. During one of these contacts, he said he was told not to go to Victim 2's residence that night. Log notes reflect that Williams was told to call tomorrow and schedule a time to collect his property. Williams said he was told by an officer not to go to Victim 2's residence. Williams said he returned home and did not go back to the residence. However, City of Mankato Milestone camera footage shows Williams trying to make entry through the front door that is locked. That was at 11:09 p.m. CSO, McCurty, reviewed the video and completed a report. The video also showed Williams leaving the residence through the front door with a package that he placed outside. Victim 2 stated that a package was removed from the upstairs hallway and moved outside.

Officer Joel Hermanson states that on January 21st, at around 11:20 p.m., he was dispatched to a report of a male attempting to enter an apartment at Victim 2's address. Officer Hermanson arrived and spoke with Victim 2. Victim 2 was inside the apartment, down the hallway from the entrance Officer Hermanson had gone through, when she heard a male outside the east door of the building, known to her to be Williams. Williams was yelling and she told him to go away. She heard the door open and footsteps in the hallway outside the apartment. She assumed Williams made entry into the shared hallway and had then exited through the west door of the apartment. Officer Hermanson checked the west door of the building and found it to be unlocked. Victim 2 stated she always locks that door, and that it can only be unlocked from the inside. Officer Hermanson checked the east door of the building and found it was secure when closed. Victim 2 indicated the locks had recently changed, and Williams was not supposed to have a key. Officers attempted to arrange a civil standby between Victim 2 and Williams. Officer Hermanson noted that this upset victim 2 and she abruptly ended the conversation by closing the door.

Sgt. Brent Gagnon patrolled the area and located Williams nearby. Williams immediately walked to the fully marked police car that Sgt. Gagnon was driving and requested an officer provide a civil standby as he needed to gather a few belongings from Victim 2's apartment. Williams initially mentioned he had been at his residence, and had not recently been at Victim 2's apartment.

Again Williams requested officer to provide a civil standby so he could collect a few articles of clothing and medication belonging to him. Victim 2 indicated it would not be a good time for Williams to collect any of his belongings. Sgt. Gagnon asked Williams again the last time he had attempted to make contact with Victim 2 at her residence. Williams then stated he had been there recently, approximately 10-15 mins prior to contacting Sgt. Gagnon. Additionally, Williams stated he had been pulling on the alley side door, attempting to make contact with Victim 2 so he could collect his belongings.

Sgt. Gagnon instructed Williams to cease all contact with Victim 2 for the remainder of the night, per her request, and advised him to stay away from the apartment, as Victim 2 did not want any contact with him. Sgt. Gagnon provided instructions to Williams on how to request a civil standby during business hours on 1/22/26. Williams was released and allowed to return home.

Later in the evening, at around 12:25 a.m. on January 22nd, Victim 2 called again and stated someone had

thrown something at one of her windows, and she suspected it was Williams. Officer Hermanson checked the area and was unable to locate Williams. Sgt. Wood conducted a check of City Milestone Surveillance Video and advised that Williams had picked up an object and thrown it at a window of the apartment. Officer Hermanson noted that Victim 2 called again at 1:34 a.m. stating that Williams had returned and she saw him outside. He continued to throw things at her window.

Sgt. Wood conducted a further review of City Milestone Surveillance Video and advised Officer Hermanson that Williams had returned multiple times and thrown more objects at windows at the residence.

Victim 2 told Officer Terry that on January 16th, she went to check on her property and she saw that a door was open and the lock was broken. Victim 2 was securing the door, and was on the inside, when Williams kicked it open. At the same time, she was getting txt messages from Witness that Williams was just at the residence, and was kicking the door. The key that Williams was suspected to have was previously stolen and no longer worked because the locks had been changed.

Victim 2 agreed to take Williams to Cub Foods on south Riverfront. When Williams returned to the car she asked him to get out, and he refused. Victim 2 drove Williams to the Salvation Army, and he again refused to get out of the car. She then drove him to the area of Cherry and Broad St, and he again refused to get out. Victim 2 said she started honking her horn to attract attention, and Williams finally got out of her car.

Victim 2 said that on January 19th, Williams repeatedly walked back and forth in front of where she works.

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

Jeff Knutson
Sergeant
710 S Front St
Mankato, MN 56001-3803
Badge: 3148

Electronically Signed:
01/29/2026 07:48 AM
Blue Earth County, Minnesota

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

Prosecuting Attorney

Patrick R. McDermott
Blue Earth County Attorney
401 Carver Road
PO Box 3129
Mankato, MN 56002
(507) 304-4600

Electronically Signed:
01/29/2026 07:29 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: \$6,000.00

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: January 29, 2026.

Judicial Officer

Kristine Weeks
District Court Judge

Electronically Signed: 01/29/2026 08:25 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.

Benjamin Wade Williams

Defendant

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER RETURN OF SERVICE
I hereby Certify and Return that I have served a copy of this Warrant upon the Defendant herein named.

Signature of Authorized Service Agent: