

State of Minnesota
County of Blue Earth

District Court
5th Judicial District

Prosecutor File No. 0070113958
Court File No. 07-CR-26-3820

State of Minnesota,

Plaintiff,

vs.

MELISSA RUTH CULHANE DOB: 10/14/1982

408 N Broad Street #3
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: Giving Peace Officer False Name-of Another Person

Minnesota Statute: 609.506.2

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

Offense Level: Gross Misdemeanor

Offense Date (on or about): 08/06/2026

Control #(ICR#): 26016506

Charge Description: On or about August 6, 2026, in the County of Blue Earth, Minnesota, Melissa Ruth Culhane did, with intent to obstruct justice, give the name and date of birth of another person to a peace officer when that officer made inquiries incident to a lawful investigatory stop or lawful arrest, or inquiries incident to executing any other duty imposed by law.

STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

On August 6, 2026, Deputy Grassmann of the Blue Earth County Sheriff's Office was dispatched to the Rapidan Dam area for a report of individuals trespassing. The complainant identified a male and female trespassing on the old dam. Deputy Grassman began looking for the individuals and located a vehicle with a male and female occupant driving away from the dam area. Deputy Grassman noted that the vehicle's registration was expired and initiated a traffic stop.

Deputy Grassman approached the vehicle and indicated the reason for the stop. The male passenger, Witness 1, stated that they had been in the cemetery area near the dam. Deputy Grassman asked the female party who was driving, later identified as Melissa Ruth Culhane (DOB: 10/14/1982), for identification since she was driving the vehicle with expired registration.

Culhane told Deputy Grassman that she didn't have her driver's license on her person. Culhane then proceeded to give Deputy Grassman the name and date of birth of another person, Witness 2. Deputy Grassman checked the information and noted that the image of that other person did not match Culhane (the driver).

Deputy Grassman went back to the vehicle and notified Culhane that the information didn't match. Culhane then gave Deputy Grassman her actual name and date of birth of Melissa Ruth Culhane (DOB: 10/14/1982) and told Deputy Grassman that she was concerned that she may have active warrants out of Nicollet County.

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:
09/14/2026 07:13 AM
Blue Earth County, Minnesota

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

Prosecuting Attorney

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

Electronically Signed:
09/11/2026 04:00 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: September 14, 2026.

Judicial Officer

Susan DeVos

Electronically Signed: 09/14/2026 09:37 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.

Melissa Ruth Culhane

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: