

State of Minnesota
County of Hennepin

District Court
4th Judicial District

Prosecutor File No. 24A02662
Court File No. 27-CR-24-5454

State of Minnesota,

Plaintiff,

vs.

ESPERANZA RAE HARDING DOB: 01/17/2004

NPA
MN

Defendant.

COMPLAINT

Order of Detention

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: Murder - 2nd Degree - With Intent-Not Premeditated

Minnesota Statute: 609.19.1(1), with reference to: 609.19.1

Maximum Sentence: 40 YEARS

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 02/28/2024

Control #(ICR#): 24002289

Charge Description: That on or about 2/28/2024, in Bloomington, Hennepin County, Minnesota, ESPERANZA RAE HARDING, caused the death of Victim, a human being, with intent to effect the death of that person or another, but without premeditation.

STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

Complainant, a licensed peace officer with the Bloomington Police Department, has investigated the facts and circumstances of this offense and believes the following establishes probable cause:

On March 6, 2024, Minneapolis Police Officers were dispatched to Children's Hospital on a missing child call. Upon arrival, officers located the child's mother, ESPERANZA RAE HARDING, the defendant herein. The defendant was claiming that her child, hereinafter referred to as Victim, died of natural causes in the hospital on March 1st. The hospital had no record of Victim being admitted or dying at the hospital. The Medical Examiner's Officer had no record of Victim.

Given the suspicious nature of the defendant's claim, officers sat down for an interview with the defendant. The defendant continued to claim that Victim died at the hospital but was providing inconsistent information. Eventually, the defendant admitted that Victim did not die at the hospital, but in fact, died at a hotel in Bloomington on February 28, 2024. The defendant admitted that Victim drowned in the bathtub and that she wrapped up his body, put it in a backpack, and threw it in a dumpster.

The defendant was interviewed again by Bloomington Police once they were brought into the case. The defendant provided additional details regarding Victim's death. The defendant stated that she had been dating a man named Edwin Trudeau who did not like her child and that he wanted her to give Victim up for adoption. She stated that Trudeau wanted her to prove that he was her top priority.

The defendant stated that on February 28th, she was alone in her hotel room in Bloomington, Hennepin County, Minnesota and was taking a bath. She stated that Victim was in the other room and started crying. The defendant admitted that she was upset that she could not enjoy her bath. According to the defendant, she then put Victim in the full bathtub and drowned him. The defendant took a photo of Victim floating face down in the full tub. The photo was recovered from her phone. She said she picked Victim up out of the water after he was "done moving, done twitching."

The defendant stated that she started texting Trudeau during the incident. Officers were able to recover the text messages. Around 4:45 p.m., the defendant texted and said "he doing to much rn, I cant fucking sleep, Im trying tho, Im about to do something bad, Please answer me, He going to no be here much longer." She followed up with another text stating, "I cant he going die, Im done, If u took the time to fill a bath that I cant use he can use it, Im sorry". Two minutes later, the defendant texted and said that Victim was dead. She sent subsequent texts referring to herself as a monster for what she had done and asking Trudeau how to get away with it.

The defendant told officers that Trudeau came to the hotel room after she had killed Victim. She stated that Trudeau gave an effort at CPR, which was unsuccessful, and that they then had sex in the other room while Victim lay dead on the bathroom floor. According to the defendant, she packed up Victim in a backpack and threw Victim into a dumpster in the hotel parking lot.

The defendant stated that she knew she was going to do time because she killed her own kid.

Victim's body has yet to be located.

The defendant is currently in custody.

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

Kerri Nolden
Detective
1800 W Old Shakopee Road
Bloomington, MN 55431
Badge: 237

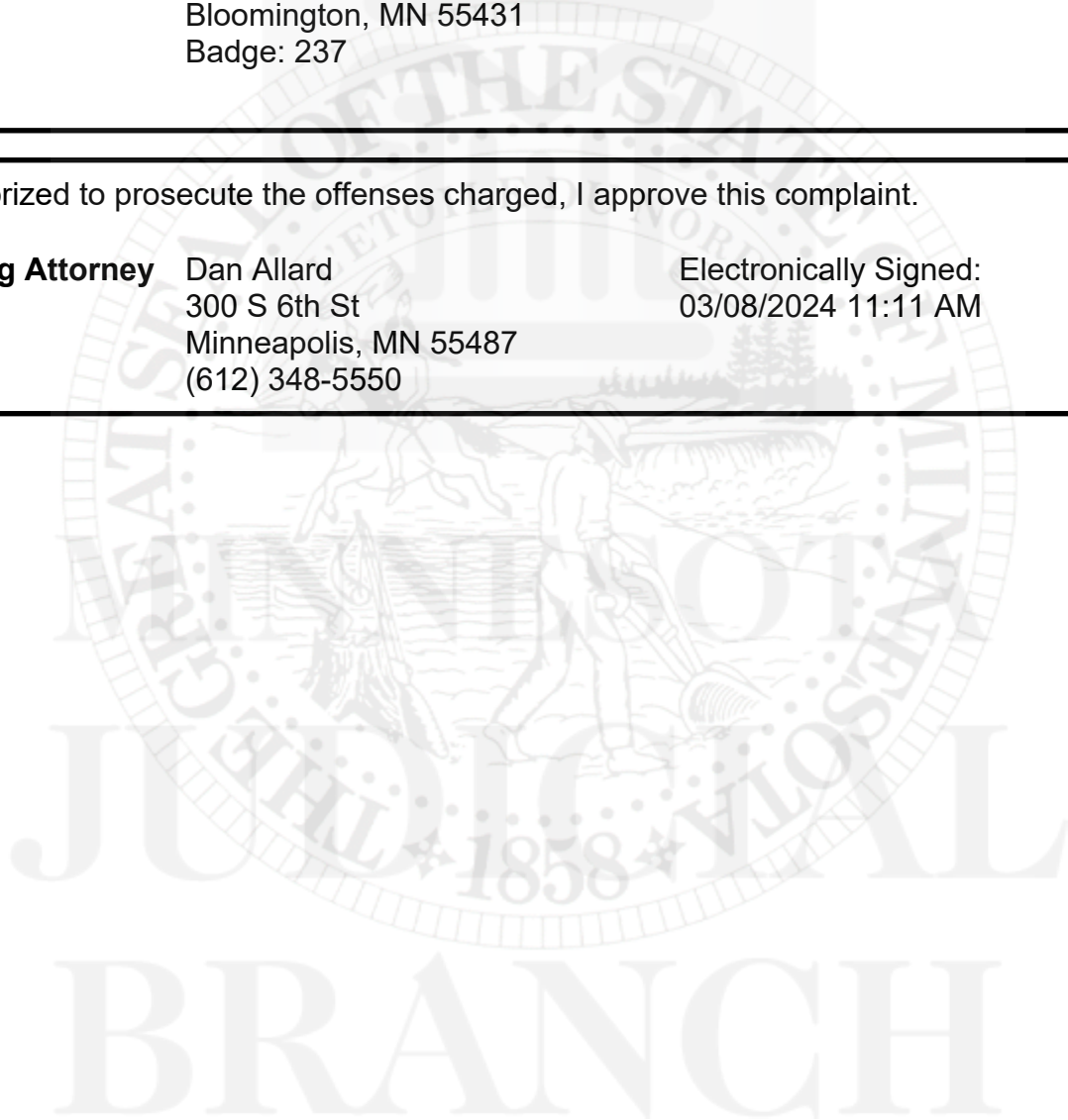
Electronically Signed:
03/08/2024 11:15 AM
Hennepin County, Minnesota

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

Prosecuting Attorney

Dan Allard
300 S 6th St
Minneapolis, MN 55487
(612) 348-5550

Electronically Signed:
03/08/2024 11:11 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: \$1,500,000.00

Conditions of Release: No Contact with Co-Defendant(s)

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: March 8, 2024.

Judicial Officer

Laurie Miller
District Court Judge

Electronically Signed: 03/08/2024 11:38 AM

Sworn testimony has been given before the Judicial Officer by the following witnesses:

**COUNTY OF HENNEPIN
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

State of Minnesota

Plaintiff

vs.

ESPERANZA RAE HARDING

Defendant

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

Signature of Authorized Service Agent:

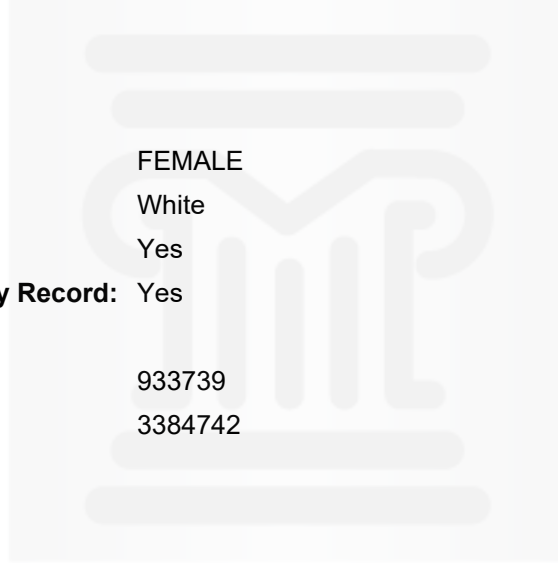
27-CR-24-5454
DEFENDANT FACT SHEET

Filed in District Court
State of Minnesota
3/8/2024

Name: ESPERANZA RAE HARDING
DOB: 01/17/2004
Address: NPA
MN

Alias Names/DOB:
SID: MN24ES5898

Height:
Weight:
Eye Color:
Hair Color:
Gender: FEMALE
Race: White
Fingerprints Required per Statute: Yes
Fingerprint match to Criminal History Record: Yes
Driver's License #:
SILS Person ID #: 933739
SILS Tracking No. 3384742
Alcohol Concentration:



MINNESOTA
JUDICIAL
BRANCH

STATUTE AND OFFENSE GRID

Cnt Nbr	Statute Type	Offense Date(s)	Statute Nbrs and Descriptions	Offense Level	MOC	GOC	Controlling Agencies	Case Numbers
1	Charge	2/28/2024	609.19.1(1) Murder - 2nd Degree - With Intent-Not Premeditated	Felony	H2504		MN0270100	24002289
	Penalty	2/28/2024	609.19.1 Murder - 2nd Degree	Felony	H2504		MN0270100	24002289



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