

State of Minnesota  
County of Hennepin

District Court  
4th Judicial District

Prosecutor File No. 16A09549  
Court File No. 27-CR-16-21659

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**State of Minnesota,**  
Plaintiff,

**COMPLAINT**  
Order of Detention

vs.

**CORY CLIFFORD MORRIS DOB: 10/31/1994**

1907 FRANKLIN AVE SE  
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55414

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: 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): 08/13/2016

Control #(ICR#): 16295377

Charge Description: That on 8/13/2016, in Hennepin County, Minnesota, CORY CLIFFORD MORRIS, 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 has investigated the facts and circumstances of this offense and believes the following establishes probable cause:

On August 14, 2016, at 4:59 p.m., Minneapolis police, fire, and ambulance personnel responded to a residence in Minneapolis, Hennepin County, Minnesota, on the report that a father called 911 and admitted killing his baby. When police officers arrived on the scene, they observed paramedics and firefighters performing rescue CPR on an infant girl (DOB 3/23/2016), "Victim" herein. Victim was unconscious and her skin appeared discolored and covered in dried blood. The firefighters were the first to arrive to the residence and they found the baby on the changing station, lying in a pool of blood. Officers observed blood spatter all over the wall and floor near the changing station in the baby's room.

Officers apprehended CORY CLIFFORD MORRIS, Defendant herein, who admitted to the initial responders that he struck the baby with a closed fist multiple times. His clothing, hands and arms were covered in dried blood and officers observed swelling to his right hand.

Victim was transported to the Hennepin County Medical Center where emergency medical personnel attempted unsuccessfully to treat her critical injuries. Victim was pronounced deceased from blunt force trauma. Victim had severe bruising and swelling to her face and chest area.

After receiving Constitutional warnings, Defendant admitted killing his child. He stated Victim's mother, J.A., is his girlfriend and he lives with her. Defendant stated that J.A. left for work that day and Defendant was home alone with Victim. He stated he was watching TV when Victim began making noises, which he described as baby talk. Defendant stated he took Victim out of her baby swing and carried her into her bedroom, where he placed her on the changing table. Victim continued making noises and he hit her to quiet her. He admitted he punched her approximately fifteen times in the face with a closed fist. He stated he punched her approximately seven times in the chest with a closed fist. Defendant admitted squeezing her chest with both hands.

Officers spoke with J.A., who explained Defendant watches the baby three to four times a week while she is at work. J.A. stated that on August 13, 2016, she went to work and left Victim in Defendant's care. J.A. stated Defendant can go from happy to mad easily. She stated Defendant had gotten mad at her in the past and has grabbed her or thrown things.

The medical examiner confirmed the baby died from blunt force trauma.

Defendant is 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**

Twila Kay Vilella  
Sergeant Investigator  
350 S 5th St  
Minneapolis, MN 55415-1389  
Badge: 7418

Electronically Signed:  
08/16/2016 11:52 AM  
Hennepin County, Minnesota

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

**Prosecuting Attorney**

Christina Warren  
300 S 6th St  
Minneapolis, MN 55487  
(612) 348-5550

Electronically Signed:  
08/16/2016 10:56 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 on \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ AM/PM before the above-named court at 401 Fourth Avenue S, Minneapolis, MN 55415 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: \$2,000,000.00  
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: August 16, 2016.

**Judicial Officer**

Charles Porter

Electronically Signed: 08/16/2016 11:54 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.

**CORY CLIFFORD MORRIS**

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: