

State of Minnesota  
County of Hennepin

District Court  
4th Judicial District

Prosecutor File No. 19A04906  
Court File No. 27-CR-19-10503

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**State of Minnesota,**  
Plaintiff,

**COMPLAINT**  
Warrant

vs.

**JOSHUA LEWIS DUANE DOW DOB: 01/03/1984**

5746 33RD AVE S  
Minneapolis, MN 55417

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: 609.11.5(a), 609.19.1

Maximum Sentence: 40 YEARS

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 11/21/2015

Control #(ICR#): 19087054

Charge Description: That on or about 11/21/2015, in Hennepin County, Minnesota, JOSHUA LEWIS DUANE DOW, caused the death of A.J., a human being, with intent to effect the death of that person or another, but without premeditation, while using a firearm.

Minimum Sentence: 3 YEARS

## STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

Complainant has investigated the facts and circumstances of this offense and believes the following establishes probable cause:

On November 18, 2015, law enforcement officers were first notified of the disappearance of A.J., a known adult female, when her family reported her missing. Through the course of investigation, officers learned that A.J. had died earlier that same day as a result of a gunshot wound to the head. A.J.'s ex-boyfriend, JOSHUA LEWIS DUANE DOW, "the Defendant," previously pleaded guilty to dismembering and concealing A.J.'s body following her death. Subsequent investigation demonstrates that the Defendant intentionally murdered A.J. and attempted to conceal his conduct.

A.J. and the Defendant had been in a significant romantic relationship and had a child, C.D., together. At the time of A.J.'s death, the two had recently separated, but remained in contact. The Defendant resided at a duplex in the 5100 block of Vincent Avenue North, City of Minneapolis, County of Hennepin, State of Minnesota, along with his brother, L.D., a known adult male. The events surrounding A.J.'s death began on November 17, 2015. On that date, A.J. rented a 2015 Chevrolet truck to be used by L.D. A.J. did so as L.D. had crashed his vehicle and needed one to use at the time. At approximately midnight on November 18, 2015, A.J., L.D., and the Defendant drove to downtown Minneapolis from the Defendant's residence. There, A.J. dropped the Defendant and L.D. off at one establishment before heading to a second location to meet E.O., a known adult male and acquaintance of the Defendant.

At approximately 0230 hours, E.O., L.D., and A.J. left the establishment that L.D. and the Defendant had been at. L.D. reported he tried to get A.J. to stay at his and the Defendant's house, but she did not want to do so. Electronic location data puts A.J.'s last known location near the Hennepin County Medical Center at 0516 hours. It is unknown if A.J. or another was in possession of her phone at this time.

L.D. reported to officers that he was at his home sleeping and when he heard a single gunshot inside his and the Defendant's residence. L.D. reported that the Defendant came into L.D.'s room and had indicated the Defendant had dropped the gun and it had fired. The investigation did reveal that L.D. had been awake in the early morning hours and texting with other individuals around 0500 hours.

At approximately 0720 hours, electronic location data has the Defendant's cellphone heading in the direction of a warehouse located in the 2500 block of North 2nd Street, City of Minneapolis, County of Hennepin, State of Minnesota. Officers would later learn that the Defendant had been previously employed at a business in that warehouse.

At approximately 1200 hours, L.D. reported that he woke up and found G.S., a known adult male, and the Defendant at the residence. G.S. is now deceased due to homicide, but was known to have worked in the carpet business prior to his death and drove a van. L.D. reported that L.D. and G.S. removed the sofa from the residence. G.S. denied seeing anything out of the ordinary while at the Defendant's residence.

L.D. reported that G.S. stayed at the residence and he and the Defendant went for a drive at approximately 1230 to pick up C.D. L.D. told officers that during that car ride, the Defendant reported to him that A.J. had purposefully shot herself and told L.D. to go along with the story that she was missing. The Defendant pointed a gun at L.D.'s head and told him he would shoot him and their mom if he did not cooperate.

L.D. reported he dropped G.S. off at an unknown location later in the day, while Defendant stayed at the residence to clean up. L.D. reported A.J.'s body was located in the basement wrapped in plastic similar to the same plastic used at the warehouse where he and the Defendant had both worked. L.D. reported the

Defendant also had a box from the warehouse. The Defendant and L.D. put A.J.'s body in the box and taped it shut. L.D. reported he finished painting the living room wall where he stated there was suspected blood spatter.

At approximately 2213 hours, law enforcement in Carver County took the first missing person report made by A.J.'s parents. The officer contacted the Defendant, who told the officer he had not seen A.J. since 0330 hours, but believed she had left to go to Atlanta. The Defendant agreed to meet the officer to provide a statement, but would later call to say he could not meet at that time. Instead, officers would learn from L.D. that the Defendant and L.D. moved A.J.'s body from the basement of the duplex to the aforementioned warehouse. Additionally, L.D. proceeded to dispose of various pieces of evidence, including a .38 caliber revolver that was used to facilitate A.J.'s death. The investigation would also reveal that the couch on which A.J. sat at the time of her death was chopped up and disposed of at various locations.

On November 19, 2015, the Defendant gave a statement to Carver County officials stating after A.J., L.D., and he returned to his residence from downtown Minneapolis, he and L.D. drove to a gas station in South Minneapolis to get a phone card leaving A.J. behind. The Defendant reported that they returned to his residence between 0400-0445 hours and saw A.J. walking, that she refused to return, and that was the last time he saw A.J. The Defendant stated he went home and went to sleep and that he had not heard from or seen A.J. since.

L.D. reported to investigators that he and the Defendant returned to the warehouse a second time sometime on or around November 20, 2015, and moved A.J.'s body from the first location to a separate storage locker within the warehouse.

On November 21, 2015, at approximately 1939 hours, A.J.'s parents and the Defendant arrived at the Minneapolis Police Department First Precinct to again report A.J. as a missing person. A.J.'s parents provided information to law enforcement and left. The Defendant returned in their absence and provided additional statements to law enforcement, including that A.J. has gone missing before and that he had previously threatened to take custody of C.D. away from A.J. The Defendant also admitted to police that they recently had an argument that turned physical. The officer speaking with the Defendant noted that it was unclear if the Defendant "is giving vital information out of honest concern or attempting to deflect any suspicion from himself if [A.J.] is found to be harmed or killed." Investigators also noted that the Defendant was posting messages on social media and texting family and friends during this time asking for information about A.J.'s whereabouts.

The next morning, November 22, 2015, at approximately 0830 hours, an employee arriving at the aforementioned warehouse observed the Defendant washing plastic sheeting. The Defendant also asked this employee about borrowing duct tape. The Defendant stated he had been there since 0600 hours as he had been asked to clean following a sewage backup. The Defendant then left the warehouse. At 1329 hours, the Defendant texted his former co-worker to tell him that the Defendant had stopped by the warehouse to get some personal items. At 1340 hours, the Defendant is captured on surveillance video placing items into the dumpster of a known business in North Minneapolis. At approximately 2050 hours, S.C., a known adult male, observed the Defendant back at the warehouse pushing a 3'x3'x3' box from the loading dock into the Chevy pickup truck A.J. had rented. S.C. reported that the Defendant looked flustered and that it appeared the box was heavy.

During the entirety of the day, the Defendant made repeated efforts to get into contact with L.D. Investigators are aware that L.D. attempted to report A.J.'s death at 1700 hours and was later able to connect with a Minneapolis homicide investigator at 2254 hours. Throughout that night and into the early morning hours of November 23, 2015, L.D. provided a detailed statement to officers regarding his assistance in concealing A.J.'s body. L.D. guided officers to the location where he hid the gun as well as

parts of the couch. L.D. also brought investigators to the warehouse where A.J. had been hidden and showed how he and the Defendant made entry through a window. L.D. brought investigators to the storage closet he believed A.J. was in. Investigators opened the locker and found it to be empty. Investigators would later learn that the Defendant had removed A.J. from the storage locker and dismembered her in a nearby room.

The Defendant picked up H.M., a known adult female from a downtown establishment at 0230 hours on November 23, 2015. H.M. detailed to officers how she and the Defendant drove around and the Defendant talked about how A.J. was missing. Ultimately, H.M. and the Defendant would drive back to the area where evidence had been concealed and observed officers, later determined to be homicide investigators with L.D. The Defendant and H.M. quickly left the area. H.M. told investigators that the Defendant stated that A.J. had shot herself and how he disposed of her body. In a later interview, H.M. reported to officers that the Defendant said he had killed A.J. before quickly correcting himself to saying A.J. had killed herself. H.M. would later back off this statement and indicate it did not happen. H.M. further reported that the Defendant was holding onto a handgun for the duration of their drive. The Defendant and H.M. ultimately picked up another person, L.B., a known adult female. The three then drove back to H.M.'s house where the Defendant hid in her garage awaiting assistance to get out of town. Unbeknownst to him, H.M. entered her home and call 911 to notify police of the Defendant's whereabouts. Officers responded to H.M.'s residence and took the Defendant into custody. Officers recovered a handgun as well as other items belonging to the Defendant from H.M.'s garage.

Officers conducted searches at the Defendant's residence, the warehouse where A.J. had been dismembered, and the Chevy truck used by the Defendant. Officers discovered DNA evidence in all three locations that matched A.J. Additionally, officers were able to map the Defendant's cellphone location data and discovered it was consistent with L.D.'s reports as well as the Defendant's own admissions of disposing of A.J.'s body throughout North Minneapolis. Officers also discovered that the Defendant was researching garbage collection times as well as how to disable the "OnStar" system, which is commonly found in Chevrolet vehicles.

Officers searched the facility in which the area's garbage was believed to have been transported to. Approximately 60-100 tons of waste were inspected, but officers were unable to locate A.J. DNA analysis was also performed on other pieces of evidence, notably the .38 caliber revolver used in A.J.'s death. Analysis showed A.J.'s DNA inside the bore of the gun. Notably, the handgun was recovered fully loaded. A swabbing was taken of the rounds inside the gun and found to be a single source profile belonging to A.J. Your Complainant is aware that the gun would have to have been reloaded after A.J.'s death. A mixture of DNA was recovered from a swabbing of the outside of the gun. Neither A.J. nor the Defendant could be excluded from contributing to the mixture. It was estimated that 90.8% of the population could be excluded. Investigators located photos on the Defendant's social media that included a picture of this gun as well as extensive photos of marijuana and money. The search warrant from the Defendant's residence revealed additional live ammunition, a shotgun, and gun cases in the Defendant's bedroom.

Investigators retrieved writings of the Defendant from his jail cell. Those included a letter the Defendant had written to C.D. that said he would "destroy" anyone who tried to take her from him. Additionally, L.D. turned a letter over to investigators that was sent to him by the Defendant. The letter is encouraging L.D. to not cooperate with police. The Defendant stated that L.D. is the "smoking gun" and that the Defendant will be charged with murder if L.D. comes to testify. The Defendant goes on to say that "there is no body [and] no case against [him]." The Defendant additionally notes that he would lose his rights to C.D. if charged with murder.

Investigation of the Defendant's cellphone revealed that on November 11, 2015, the Defendant sent A.J. a message stating, "You been officially beat the fuck up" and sent a message to an acquaintance stating he

“knocked [A.J.] out.” A.J. subsequently sent the Defendant a message stating she was going to leave and buy a plane ticket, to which the Defendant responded by saying he would be getting custody of C.D. and A.J. would never see her again.

Investigation revealed electronic recordings dated November 22, 2015, on the Defendant’s cellphone corresponding to messages sent the same day to contacts in the Defendant’s phone believed to be talk-to-text recordings. The Defendant is recorded saying, “Fuck [A.J.] I think this is all a big thing ‘cause I threatened [A.J.] to take custody of [C.D.]. We’re going to go through all this shit, her parents are going to get custody of [C.D.] and then [A.J.] gonna fucking appear. I don’t even think she’s missing, I think they’re setting me up ‘cause I threatened to go get custody of [C.D.]” Additionally, a custody information pamphlet was located to have been downloaded to the Defendant’s cellphone on November 22, 2015, and the Defendant’s cellphone revealed custody related searches between November 20-22, 2015.

Your Complainant requests a warrant for the Defendant's arrest as he is presently incarcerated at the Minnesota Department of Corrections.

## 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**

Chris Thomsen  
Sergeant  
350 S 5th St  
Minneapolis, MN 55415-1389  
Badge: 7201

Electronically Signed:  
05/06/2019 10:14 AM  
Hennepin County, Minnesota

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

**Prosecuting Attorney**

Mike Radmer  
300 S 6th St  
Minneapolis, MN 55487  
(612) 348-5550

Electronically Signed:  
05/06/2019 09:11 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 on \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ AM/PM before the above-named court at the address listed on the attached court summons 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: \$1,000,000.00

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: May 6, 2019.

**Judicial Officer**

Susan M. Robiner  
District Court Judge

Electronically Signed: 05/06/2019 11:17 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.

**JOSHUA LEWIS DUANE DOW**

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:

## DEFENDANT FACT SHEET

**Name:** JOSHUA LEWIS DUANE DOW  
**DOB:** 01/03/1984  
**Address:** 5746 33RD AVE S  
Minneapolis, MN 55417

**Alias Names/DOB:**  
**SID:**  
**Height:**  
**Weight:**  
**Eye Color:**  
**Hair Color:**  
**Gender:** MALE  
**Race:** Black  
**Fingerprints Required per Statute:** Yes  
**Fingerprint match to Criminal History Record:** No  
**Driver's License #:**  
**SILS Person ID #:** 540704  
**SILS Tracking No.** 3097810  
**Alcohol Concentration:**

## STATUTE AND OFFENSE GRID

| <b>Cnt Nbr</b> | <b>Statute Type</b> | <b>Offense Date(s)</b> | <b>Statute Nbrs and Descriptions</b>                                       | <b>Offense Level</b> | <b>MOC</b> | <b>GOC</b> | <b>Controlling Agencies</b> | <b>Case Numbers</b> |
|----------------|---------------------|------------------------|--|----------------------|------------|------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| 1              | Charge              | 11/21/2015             | 609.19.1(1)<br>Murder - 2nd Degree - With Intent-Not Premeditated          | Felony               | H2011      |            | MN0271100                   | 19087054            |
|                | Penalty             | 11/21/2015             | 609.19.1<br>Murder - 2nd Degree  | Felony               | H2011      |            | MN0271100                   | 19087054            |
|                | Penalty             | 11/21/2015             | 609.11.5(a)<br>Minimum Sentences of Imprisonment-Firearm Use or Possession | Felony               | H2011      |            | MN0271100                   | 19087054            |