

State of Minnesota
County of Hennepin

District Court
4th Judicial District

Prosecutor File No. 20A02288
Court File No. 27-CR-20-4437

State of Minnesota,

Plaintiff,

vs.

ZARA JO CASE DOB: 04/05/1984

990 15th Ave SE
Apt 1
Minneapolis, MN 55414

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 - Without Intent - While Committing a Felony

Minnesota Statute: 609.19.2(1), with reference to: 609.19.2(1), 609.11.4

Maximum Sentence: 40 YEARS

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 02/15/2020

Control #(ICR#): 20041521

Charge Description: That on or about February 15, 2020 in Hennepin County, Minnesota, ZARA JO CASE did, without intent to effect the death of any person, cause the death of Victim, a human being, while committing or attempting to commit the felony offense of assault in the second degree with a dangerous weapon, a knife.

Minimum Sentence: 1 YEAR AND 1 DAY

STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

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

On or about February 15, 2020, at approximately 5:23 a.m., officers were dispatched to 990 15th Avenue S.E. in the City of Minneapolis, Hennepin County, Minnesota. A resident from Apartment 2 in the building, identified herein as Witness 1, had called 911 to report a neighbor dispute. Officers arrived and spoke with Witness 1, who reported that a female, later identified as Defendant ZARA JO CASE (04/05/1980), had broken Witness 1's window from the outside. Witness 1 also reported that Defendant was trying to force her way into his home and that he had to block the door with a refrigerator.

Officers encountered Defendant, who was naked from the waist down and extremely intoxicated. Defendant was saying strange and incoherent things and when officers asked her if she was on drugs, she responded "absolutely not." Officers eventually convinced her to go back into her boyfriend's apartment. As officers returned to their squad car, Defendant's boyfriend, Victim JOSEPH ABRAHAM MCRUNNEL (10/12/1980), came outside and spoke to officers. Victim was also intoxicated but was cooperative and helpful.

As officers were speaking with Victim, at 5:43 a.m., Witness 1 again called 911 stating that Defendant was again trying to push her way into his apartment. Officers located Defendant, and with victim's help, once again convinced Defendant to return to her apartment. Officers cleared the call at approximately 6:05 a.m.

Approximately one minute later, officers responded back to the location on a call of a female on the street corner screaming about her boyfriend stabbing himself. Officers returned and located Defendant and Victim in Victim's apartment. Victim had a stab wound to his chest. Medics also observed bite marks with bruising to his right shoulder and arm, as well as lacerations to his abdomen.

Defendant was hysterical and resisted arrest. She kept yelling that Defendant had stabbed himself. Officers asked Victim who stabbed him and he responded "some fucking people." Victim later appeared to not think he had been stabbed, saying "it's a tattoo" and "I just touched myself, I hurt myself." Officers on scene observed broken glass and thought Victim may have cut himself on that. First responders did not think the wound was fatal at first.

Victim later died at HCMC. The Hennepin County Medical Examiner determined the manner of death to be a homicide and the cause of death to be a stab wound to Victim's chest that was 10.5 centimeters deep and severed Victim's right ventricle.

Officers later executed a search warrant at Victim's apartment and found a large kitchen knife with blood on it lying on the floor of the bedroom.

Officers interviewed Defendant. She first stated "I stabbed him. That's all there is to it. We were fucking shit faced, angry. He accidentally got stabbed and now he's dead. I am going to prison forever." Defendant also said she had recently gotten out of rehab and was addicted to methamphetamine and alcohol for 15 years. Then, she claimed she did not remember what happened.

Officers interviewed Victim's parents, neighbors, and friends. They reported that Victim is a calm, passive person with no history of self-harm or suicidal tendencies. Conversely, they reported that Defendant is volatile and confrontational when high or drunk.

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

Mark Suchta
Sergeant
350 S 5th St
Minneapolis, MN 55415-1389
Badge: 6995

Electronically Signed:
02/19/2020 08:54 AM
Hennepin County, Minnesota

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

Prosecuting Attorney

Patrick Lofton
Assistant County Attorney
300 S 6th St
Minneapolis, MN 55487
(612) 348-5550

Electronically Signed:
02/19/2020 08:47 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: \$750,000.00

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: February 19, 2020.

Judicial Officer

Angela Willms
Judge

Electronically Signed: 02/19/2020 09:13 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.

Zara Jo Case

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:

DEFENDANT FACT SHEET

Name: Zara Jo Case
DOB: 04/05/1984
Address: 990 15th Ave SE
Apt 1
Minneapolis, MN 55414

Alias Names/DOB:

SID: MN15JE1672

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 #: 790481

SILS Tracking No. 3158141

Alcohol Concentration:

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	2/15/2020	609.19.2(1) Murder - 2nd Degree - Without Intent - While Committing a Felony	Felony	H2831		MN0271100	20041521
	Penalty	2/15/2020	609.11.4 Minimum Sentences of Imprisonment-Use Dangerous Weapon	Felony	H2831		MN0271100	20041521
	Penalty	2/15/2020	609.19.2(1) Murder - 2nd Degree - Without Intent - While Committing a Felony	Felony	H2831		MN0271100	20041521