

State of Minnesota
County of Hennepin

District Court
4th Judicial District

Prosecutor File No. 18A09524
Court File No. 27-CR-19-22161

State of Minnesota,

Plaintiff,

vs.

TASHA TOKINA TENNIN DOB: 09/25/1982

8205 Queens Ave N
Brooklyn Park, MN 55444

Defendant.

COMPLAINT

Warrant

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: Manslaughter - 2nd Degree - Commit or Attempt to Commit Violation

Minnesota Statute: 609.205(5), with reference to: 609.205

Maximum Sentence: 10 YEARS AND/OR \$20,000

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 01/31/2018

Control #(ICR#): 18005912

Charge Description: That between January 31, 2018 and February 1, 2018, in Hennepin County, Minnesota, TASHA TOKINA TENNIN, caused the death of Victim by committing or attempting to commit a violation of Minn. Stat. 609.378 (Neglect or Endangerment of a Child).

COUNT II

Charge: Manslaughter - 2nd Degree - Culpable Negligence Creating Unreasonable Risk

Minnesota Statute: 609.205(1), with reference to: 609.205

Maximum Sentence: 10 YEARS AND/OR \$20,000

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 01/31/2018

Control #(ICR#): 18005912

Charge Description: That between January 31, 2018 and February 1, 2018, in Hennepin County, Minnesota, TASHA TOKINA TENNIN, caused the death of Victim by her culpable negligence whereby TASHA TOKINA TENNIN created an unreasonable risk and consciously took a chance of causing death or great bodily harm to Victim.

STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

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

On February 1, 2018, at 7:34 a.m. police and emergency medical personnel were dispatched to a residence in Brooklyn Park, Hennepin County, Minnesota on a report of an unresponsive child.

The 911 caller, later identified as TASHA TOKINA TENNIN, Defendant herein, reported that her eight-year-old son, hereafter "Victim," was "not responding" and was "staring into space." The first-responding police officer arrived at Defendant's residence at 7:39 a.m. and observed Victim lying on the floor in the living room. Victim was not breathing and had no pulse. Victim's skin was "ice cold" and "well below ambient room temperature" in the house. Defendant told the officer that she had attempted to wake Victim for school that morning, and he did not respond. Defendant claimed she then carried Victim from his bed downstairs to the living room and called 911.

The officer immediately began life-saving efforts as additional first responders arrived. Multiple witnesses, including other officers, paramedics, firefighters, and a medical examiner's investigator, observed that Victim's body was "ice cold," "extremely cold," and "very cold, as if he had been outside." Investigators noted that the air temperature outside was between negative and single digits with snow on the ground. Victim's body, however, was not frozen or wet, and there were no footprints in the snow on the exterior of the home. Defendant made no comments to officers or medical personnel at the scene about noticing Victim's body was cold when she carried him upstairs nor did she offer any explanation for it. The thermostat in the house was set at 72 degrees.

Victim was pronounced deceased 35 minutes after first responders arrived at 8:14 a.m.

On February 1st and in the days following, Defendant repeatedly described Victim as having been ill, extremely lethargic, and without an appetite when he came home from school on January 31st. Detectives interviewed numerous staff members at Victim's school, who all reported that Victim had seemed normal, healthy, and energetic on January 31st. One witness reported that the last time she saw Victim that day, he had been playing and jumping on the trampoline.

On the morning of Victim's death, first-responders observed that Victim appeared to have urinated in his pajamas at some point. A police sergeant present on the scene observed a puddle of frozen liquid near the doormat in the attached garage. When police returned to the home with a search warrant on February 8th, the frozen liquid was gone, and there was a white film on the floor where it had been. A DNA profile obtained from a swab of the floor was insufficient for interpretation.

After an autopsy and death investigation, the medical examiner found no anatomical cause for Victim's death and no significant natural disease or new injuries. Scattered across Victim's back, the medical examiner documented approximately 17 linear and looped lesions and scars which a physician specializing in child abuse pediatrics would later opine were "clinically diagnostic of physical abuse or inflicted injury." Toxicology testing revealed an extremely elevated glucose level, which is a finding consistent with death from hypothermia.

During a walk-through of Defendant's home on February 5, 2018, detectives asked Defendant, "How do you think [Victim] died?" Defendant stood silently for more than 35 seconds before saying, "The cold. He was cold. Maybe he was outside." The detective then asked if it was possible that Victim was outside the night he died, and Defendant answered, "I'd say no." The detective then asked if Victim had been locked in

the garage the night he died. Defendant stood silently for 17 seconds until the detective asked the question again. Defendant finally answered, "No."

Several months later, Victim's siblings made new disclosures to a foster parent relating to the circumstances of Victim's death. One of Victim's siblings, hereafter "Witness 1," was forensically interviewed at CornerHouse. During the interview, Witness 1 reported that Victim got in trouble after he returned home from school on January 31st. Witness 1 said that Defendant told Victim to "sit in the garage," and Defendant left Victim locked in the garage until the next morning. The next morning, Witness 1 reported, Victim "didn't breathe," and Defendant carried him into the living room, "put him on a warm blanket," "tried to wake him up," and then called an ambulance.

Defendant is not in custody.

The State respectfully requests that this case issue as a warrant due to the nature of the offense. In addition, in June 2018, Defendant, while using methamphetamine, experienced an acute psychotic episode and was hospitalized. Defendant's still-untreated mental illness and substance abuse raise additional concern for public safety and the likelihood she would appear for Court.

The State will seek an aggravated sentence in this case based upon particular cruelty and based upon the fact that other young children in the home saw, heard, or otherwise witnessed portions of the offense.

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

John Blasingame
Detective
5400 85th Ave N
Brooklyn Park, MN 55443
Badge: 95

Electronically Signed:
09/09/2019 10:20 AM
Hennepin County, MN

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

Prosecuting Attorney

Paige L Starkey
300 S 6th St
Minneapolis, MN 55487
(612) 348-5550

Electronically Signed:
09/09/2019 10:06 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: \$300,000.00

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: September 9, 2019.

Judicial Officer

Peter A Cahill
District Court Judge

Electronically Signed: 09/09/2019 10:40 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.

TASHA TOKINA TENNIN

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: TASHA TOKINA TENNIN
DOB: 09/25/1982
Address: 8205 Queens Ave N
Brooklyn Park, MN 55444

Alias Names/DOB:

SID:

Height:

Weight:

Eye Color:

Hair Color:

Gender: FEMALE

Race: Black

Fingerprints Required per Statute: Yes

Fingerprint match to Criminal History Record: No

Driver's License #:

SILS Person ID #: 580055

SILS Tracking No. 3028275

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	1/31/2018	609.205(5) Manslaughter - 2nd Degree - Commit or Attempt to Commit Violation	Felony	H5903		MN0270300	18005912
	Penalty	1/31/2018	609.205 Manslaughter - 2nd Degree	Felony	H5903		MN0270300	18005912
2	Charge	1/31/2018	609.205(1) Manslaughter - 2nd Degree - Culpable Negligence Creating Unreasonable Risk	Felony	H5903		MN0270300	18005912
	Penalty	1/31/2018	609.205 Manslaughter - 2nd Degree	Felony	H5903		MN0270300	18005912