

State of Minnesota
County of Blue Earth

District Court
5th Judicial District

Prosecutor File No.
Court File No.

BEC-16-0394
07-CR-16-920

State of Minnesota,
Plaintiff,

COMPLAINT
Order of Detention

vs.

PAIGE ANN GERDTS DOB: 09/12/1994

220 Mary Lane
Mankato, MN 56093

Defendant.

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: Counterfeiting of currency - Uttering or possessing.

Minnesota Statute: 609.632.3, with reference to: 609.632.4(b)(3)(ii)

Maximum Sentence: 5 years and/or \$10,000

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 03/09/2016

Control #(ICR#): 16006749

Charge Description: Paige Ann Gerdts

On or about March 9, 2016, in the County of Blue Earth, said Defendant, Paige Ann Gerdts did, with intent to defraud, utter or possess with intent to utter any United States postal money order, United States currency, Federal Reserve note or other obligation or security of the United States having reason to know that it is forged, counterfeited, falsely made, altered or printed; and the counterfeited item is used to obtain or in an attempt to obtain property or services having a value of no more than \$1,000, or the aggregate face value of the counterfeited item is no more than \$1,000, and the person has been convicted within the preceding five years for an offense under this section, section 609.24; 609.245; 609.52; 609.53; 609.582, subdivision 1, 2, or 3; 609.625; 609.63; or 609.821, or a statute from another state or the United States in conformity with any of those sections, and the person received a felony or gross misdemeanor sentence for the offense, or a sentence that was stayed under section 609.135 if the offense to which a plea was entered would allow the imposition of a felony or gross misdemeanor sentence.

STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

On March 9, 2016, at approximately 5:43 p.m., Officer Brent Gagnon of the Mankato Department of Public Safety was dispatched to the Pure Pleasure Store in Mankato, Blue Earth County, on the report of a customer attempting to purchase merchandise with a counterfeit \$20 bill. Officer Gagnon was made aware that the female, who was later identified as Paige Ann Gerdts (D.O.B. 9/12/94), was still inside the store and was aware of law enforcement contact.

Upon arriving at the store, Officer Gagnon made contact with an employee who stated that Gerdts had attempted to purchase, with a \$20 bill, a small pipe-like device that is commonly used to smoke narcotics. The employee believed the \$20 bill to be counterfeit. The employee stated that the bill was tested with a counterfeit pen and it displayed a dark brown line, indicating the bill was not authentic. The employee stated he asked Gerdts if she had any other counterfeit bills in her possession. The employee stated that Gerdts produced and turned over four additional \$20 bills.

Officer Gagnon spoke to Gerdts who stated she did not have any remaining \$20 bills and that she had given the employee all five of her \$20 bills. Gerdts stated that she attempted to purchase a small pipe used for smoking marijuana with the \$20 bill. At that time, Gerdts stated she was not aware that the bill was fake.

Officer Gagnon looked at the five \$20 bills and observed that they appeared to be 'washed.' Officer Gagnon observed that the backing did not feel like an authentic U.S. \$20 bill. The color appeared to be significantly darker. The bill was blurred and was inconsistent with an authentic U.S. \$20 bill. Officer Gagnon also observed that the serial number was the same on all five bills. The bills did not contain an embedded security strip. Officer Gagnon observed that the bills had been tested with a counterfeit pen and they all displayed a dark line, indicating the bills were not authentic.

Gerdts stated she had been given the five \$20 bills from a male friend approximately two weeks ago. A record check revealed that Gerdts had an active warrant, so Officer Gagnon took Gerdts into custody. The warrant was later confirmed.

Upon arriving at the Blue Earth County Jail, Officer Gagnon read Gerdts her Miranda Warning and she agreed to speak to Officer Gagnon. Gerdts stated that approximately two weeks ago she was at a hotel using methamphetamine when a male friend placed some money in her coat pocket, which was hanging over a chair, after Gerdts commented that she was having money issues. Gerdts stated she later looked at the money that had been placed in her coat pocket and thought it looked 'odd' due to the color. Gerdts stated she compared the \$20 bills from her pocket to a \$1 bill from her pocketbook and observed how the \$20 bills looked darker. Gerdts stated she was told by several friends that the \$20 bills were 'funny money.' Gerdts stated that at one point a friend told her to burn the money. Gerdts admitted that she was nervous that the money was 'fake' and did not spend it until today. Gerdts stated she had not used any of the fake \$20 bills anywhere else in Mankato and that she only had the five \$20 bills, totaling \$100.00.

A record check revealed that Gerdts was convicted of felony Receiving Stolen Property under Minnesota Statute 609.53 in court file 81-CR-13-89 in 2013.

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

Jeremy Clifton
Police Commander
710 S Front St
Mankato, MN 56001-3803
Badge: 3149

Electronically Signed:
03/10/2016 03:07 PM
Blue Earth County, MN

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

Prosecuting Attorney

Steven Kelm
401 Carver Road
PO Box 3129
Mankato, MN 56002
(507) 304-4600

Electronically Signed:
03/10/2016 02:07 PM

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 Carver Rd, Mankato, MN 56002-0347 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: \$
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: March 10, 2016.

Judicial Officer Greg Anderson
District Court Judge

Electronically Signed: 03/10/2016 03:36 PM

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

**COUNTY OF BLUE EARTH
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

State of Minnesota

Plaintiff

vs.

PAIGE ANN GERDTS

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: