

State of Minnesota
County of Blue Earth

District Court
5th Judicial District

Prosecutor File No.
Court File No.

BEC-15-1603
07-CR-15-4915

State of Minnesota,

Plaintiff,

vs.

DALTON RAY HARRINGTON DOB: 09/20/1993

1025 Fairgrounds St
Garden City, MN 56034

Defendant.

COMPLAINT

Summons

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: Check Forgery-Falsely Endorse

Minnesota Statute: 609.631.2(2), with reference to: 609.631.4(2)

Maximum Sentence: 10 years and/or \$20,000

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 10/13/2015 to 10/16/2015

Control #(ICR#): 15033777

Charge Description: Dalton Ray Harrington

On or between October 13, 2015 and October 16, 2015, in the County of Blue Earth, said Defendant, Dalton Ray Harrington, did falsely endorse or alter a check so that it purports to have been endorsed by another; and the aggregate value of the forged check(s) was over \$2500.00.

COUNT II

Charge: Theft-Take/Use/Transfer Movable Prop-No Consent

Minnesota Statute: 609.52.2(a)(1), with reference to: 609.52.3(3)(a)

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

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 10/13/2015 to 10/16/2015

Control #(ICR#): 15033777

Charge Description: Dalton Ray Harrington

On or about and between October 13, 2015 and October 16, 2015, in the County of Blue Earth, said Defendant, Dalton Ray Harrington, did intentionally and without claim of right take, use, transfer, conceal or retain possession of the movable property of another without the other's consent and with intent to

deprive the owner permanently of possession of the property and the value of the property or services stolen exceeded \$1,000.00.

COUNT III

Charge: Open Sealed Letter/Telegram/Package-No Consent

Minnesota Statute: 609.795.1(1)

Maximum Sentence: 90 days and/or \$1,000

Offense Level: Misdemeanor

Offense Date (on or about): 10/13/2015 to 10/16/2015

Control #(ICR#): 15033777

Charge Description: Dalton Ray Harrington

On or between October 13, 2015 and October 16, 2015, in the County of Blue Earth, said Defendant, Dalton Ray Harrington did, knowing that the actor does not have the consent of either the sender or the addressee, intentionally opens any sealed letter, telegram, or package addressed to another.

STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

On October 26, 2015, Officer Jessica Ellis of the Mankato Department of Public Safety was dispatched on a fraud complaint to Anchor Bank in the City of Mankato. Officer Ellis spoke with V1, who reported that she is currently working with Detective Jerry Billiar from the Blue Earth County Sheriff's Office in reference to an ongoing investigation into mail theft and fraud involving Dalton Ray Harrington.

V1 advised that she needed to report a fraud involving a couple of her checks that were cashed. V1 stated she received a phone call from her bank, Anchor Bank, to report there was some fraud activity on her account. W1, the assistant vice president at the bank, observed the activity and contacted V1. W1 advised that on October 13, 2015, check number 5139 in the amount of \$3,193.56 was cashed. The check appeared to be altered with the name Dalton Ray Harrington in the payee section of the check. On October 16, 2015, check number 5138 in the amount of \$855.00, which also appeared to be altered in the payee section, was cashed.

Officer Ellis spoke with Law Enforcement Technical Support Services Officer Sue Heitter and requested her assistance. On October 28, Officer Heitter spoke with W1 from Anchor Bank. W1 advised that Harrington had cashed two checks from account holder V1 and received the money totaling \$4,048.56. On October 30, 2015, Officer Heitter went to the bank and met with W1. W1 provided the two original checks from V1's account. Upon looking at the checks, Officer Heitter noted it was evident the payee information had been altered and what appears to be the name of Dalton Harrington was written in. Officer Heitter asked W1 if Harrington had an account at Anchor Bank. W1 stated that he does not. In addition, W1 provided a copy of the bank surveillance footage from October 13 and October 16.

Officer Heitter then asked W1 for the name of the teller who handled the transaction. W1 replied that it was W2. Officer Heitter met with W2 and asked her if she recalled the transaction involving the two checks. W2 said she did and provided the description of the person cashing the checks. That description was a white male wearing a cowboy hat, approximately 22 or 23 years old, approximately 5' 8" tall with dark hair wearing a shirt with sleeves cut off so that she was able to notice his tattoos. W2 said that the male was by himself. Officer Heitter then showed W2 two surveillance photos that had been obtained from the First National Bank. The photos show Harrington, who was identified in a related theft of check and check fraud investigation involving the Sheriff's Office. Officer Heitter asked W2 if she recognized the male in the photos. W2 immediately stated that the male wearing the cowboy hat was the person that cashed both checks. W2 stated she was 100 percent certain that it was the same person.

Officer Heitter then returned to her office and reviewed the surveillance footage from October 13 and immediately recognized Harrington on the surveillance video. On November 2, Officer Heitter made contact with Harrington and set up a chance for him to come to the Public Safety Center for an interview. On November 4, Harrington came for his scheduled non-custodial interview. During the interview, Harrington stated that he was previously employed as a delivery driver for The Mankato Free Press and delivered in the areas of Madison Lake, Elysian, and Waterville. Harrington stated that he saw, by watching movies, that there is a way to commit check fraud. Harrington stated while he was delivering papers, he would see mailboxes with the red flag up and would look in the mailbox to see if there was any mail in there that might have checks. Harrington claimed he started doing the mail fraud approximately one week prior to getting caught.

Harrington said he cashed checks at various banks, including Wells Fargo, Anchor Bank, Voyager Bank, and First National Bank. Harrington admitted that he altered and forged his name on both check number 5138 and 5139 from V1's account. Harrington acknowledged he cashed check 5139 in the amount of \$3,193.56 first but then lost his wallet somewhere at the River Hills Mall and, therefore, lost the money he

had gotten from cashing the check. Harrington said he then decided to cash check number 5138 in the amount of \$855.00 and use the money for cigarettes, food, and items for the baby he and his fiancée are having. Harrington stated he just wants to get the matter taken care of and is willing to pay restitution. Harrington admitted knowing it was against the law to steal mail and alter or forge checks. Harrington said he went to the banks the checks were drawn on because he figured it would be faster than to go to his own bank.

Harrington said he used a Q-tip with acetone on it to "wipe off" the payee information written on the checks and then write his own name as payee. Harrington said he learned that you can do this by Googling it online. Harrington stated he only cashed two checks on V1's account. Harrington verified that it was him in the surveillance photo.

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

Craig Frericks
Commander
710 S Front St
Mankato, MN 56001-3803
Badge: 3102

Electronically Signed:
12/02/2015 02:48 PM
Blue Earth County, Minnesota

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

Prosecuting Attorney

Michael Hanson
Assistant County Attorney
401 Carver Road
PO Box 3129
Mankato, MN 56002
(507) 304-4600

Electronically Signed:
12/01/2015 08:51 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 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: December 3, 2015.

Judicial Officer Thomas G McCarthy
Judge of District Court

Electronically Signed: 12/03/2015 03:19 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.

DALTON RAY HARRINGTON

Defendant

LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER RETURN OF SERVICE
*I hereby Certify and Return that I have served a copy of this
Summons upon the Defendant herein named.*

Signature of Authorized Service Agent: