

State of Minnesota
County of Blue Earth

District Court
5th Judicial District

Prosecutor File No.
Court File No.

BEC-16-1430
07-CR-16-3568

State of Minnesota,

Plaintiff,

vs.

MERISSA MARIE MERRITT DOB: 11/06/1978

20771 Foley Rd - Basement Apt
Mankato, MN 56001

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: Check Forgery-Falsely Endorse

Minnesota Statute: 609.631.2(2), with reference to: 609.631.4(3)(a)

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

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 08/29/2016 to 09/02/2016

Control #(ICR#): 16013524

Charge Description: Merissa Marie Merritt

On or between August 29, 2016 and September 2, 2016, in the County of Blue Earth, said Defendant, Merissa Marie Merritt, did falsely endorse or alter a check or checks so that it purports to have been endorsed by another and the aggregate value of the forged check(s) was over \$250.00.

COUNT II

Charge: Check Forgery-Offer/Possess W/Intent to Defraud

Minnesota Statute: 609.631.3, with reference to: 609.631.4(3)(a)

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

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 08/29/2016 to 09/02/2016

Control #(ICR#): 16013524

Charge Description: Merissa Marie Merritt

On or between August 29, 2016 and September 2, 2016, in the County of Blue Earth, said Defendant, Merissa Marie Merritt did with intent to defraud, offered, or possessed with intent to offer, a forged check whether or not it is accepted; and the aggregate value of the forged check(s) was over \$250.00 but less

than \$2,500.00.

STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

On September 7, 2016, Detective Brian Martin of the Blue Earth County Sheriff's Office was advised of a check forgery that had occurred in Blue Earth County. Detective Martin received initial information regarding the incident from an officer with the Winnebago Police Department.

Detective Martin made contact with Complainant, an adult female. She provided the following information. On August 29, 2016, she went to her bank with Merissa Marie Merritt, DOB 11-6-1978. At the bank, Merritt inquired about opening an account. Complainant and Merritt then went to another location and Complainant went into the location while Merritt stayed in the vehicle. She left her purse in the vehicle with Merritt. When Complainant returned to the vehicle, she noticed her purse had been moved. She then dropped off Merritt. Complainant inspected her purse and found that two checks, #3119 and #3120, were missing. She called her bank to advise them to watch for the checks. She confronted Merritt about taking the checks and she denied taking them. Complainant then called the police to make a report. Complainant later found out that two checks had been written to Witness 1 and Witness 2 for rent and security deposit on an apartment located in Blue Earth County, that they were renting out to Merritt. Complainant advised that she did not write the checks that were issued to Witness 1 and Witness 2. She also did not give Merritt permission to write the checks or to take the checks.

Detective Martin spoke to an employee at Complainant's bank. The employee indicated that on September 2, 2016, the checks were debited from Complainant's account. The employee stated that each check was written for \$700. The bank observed that the signatures on the two checks did not match Complainant's signature. The bank notified Complainant of the fraud and then returned the checks to TCF. The checks were dated August 29, 2016 and August 30, 2016.

Deputy Welle arrived at the Justice Center with Merritt. Detective Martin conducted an interview with her after providing her with a Miranda warning. During the interview, Merritt initially stated that Complainant wrote the checks for her apartment. Detective Martin confronted her with the facts that he had already talked to the bank, Witness 1, Witness 2, and Complainant. Merritt then admitted that she took the checks out of Complainant's purse and it was Merritt's handwriting on the checks. Merritt also admitted she had signed the checks, trying to make it look like Complainant's signature. Merritt admitted that she gave the checks to Witness 1 and Witness 2 while at Bray Park in Blue Earth County.

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

Paul Barta
Captain
401 Carver Rd
Mankato, MN 56002-0228
Badge: 2721

Electronically Signed:
09/08/2016 02:27 PM
Blue Earth County, MN

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

Prosecuting Attorney

Ryan S. Hansch
401 Carver Road
PO Box 3129
Mankato, MN 56002
(507) 304-4600

Electronically Signed:
09/08/2016 02:21 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: September 8, 2016.

Judicial Officer Greg Anderson
District Court Judge

Electronically Signed: 09/08/2016 02:36 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.

MERISSA MARIE MERRITT

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: