

State of Minnesota  
County of Blue Earth

District Court  
5th Judicial District

Prosecutor File No.  
Court File No.

BEC-16-0321  
07-CR-16-775

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**State of Minnesota,**

Plaintiff,

vs.

**TRAVIS DALE MELLEN DOB: 06/10/1982**

131 North Lilly Sts #1  
Lake Crystal, MN 56055

Defendant.

**COMPLAINT**

Order of Detention

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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: Domestic Assault-Felony**

Minnesota Statute: 609.2242.4

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

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 02/29/2016 to 03/01/2016

Control #(ICR#): 16000398

Charge Description: Travis Dale Mellen Also Known As Travis Dale Danberry, Travis D Mellen And Travais Dale Mellen

On or between February 29, 2016 and March 1, 2016, in the County of Blue Earth, said Defendant, Travis Dale Mellen did, against a family or household member, as defined in M.S.A. 518B.01 Subd. 2, commit an act with intent to cause fear in another of immediate bodily harm or death and has two or more previous qualified domestic violence-related offense convictions or adjudications of delinquency within ten years following discharge from sentence or disposition for that offense.

**COUNT II**

**Charge: Domestic Assault-Felony**

Minnesota Statute: 609.2242.4

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

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 02/29/2016 to 03/01/2016

Control #(ICR#): 16000398

Charge Description: Travis Dale Mellen Also Known As Travis Dale Danberry, Travis D Mellen And Travais Dale Mellen

On or between February 29, 2016 and March 1, 2016, in the County of Blue Earth, said Defendant, Travis Dale Mellen, did against a family or household member, as defined in M.S.A. 518B.01, Subd. 2, intentionally inflicted or attempted to inflict bodily harm upon another and has two or more previous qualified domestic violence-related offense convictions or adjudications of delinquency within ten years following discharge from sentence or disposition for that offense.

## STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

On March 1, 2016 at approximately 5:07 a.m., Officer Blakesley of the Lake Crystal Police Department was dispatched to a residence in the City of Lake Crystal for a call described to him as a welfare check. The complainant, an adult male, stated that at 2:41 a.m., Victim, an adult female, sent a picture of her injured face to him via text message. The message also stated something to the effect of 'I have done wrong.' Complainant was concerned because Victim was scheduled to work at 5:00 a.m. and did not show up. He attempted to call her but she did not answer.

Officer Blakesley responded to the residence and knocked on the door but did not get an answer. Eventually he looked in a window and saw an adult male sleeping on a couch approximately two feet away from the window. Officer Blakesley immediately recognized the male as Travis Dale Mellen, DOB 6-10-1982, from previous contacts. He shined a flashlight on Mellen's face and knocked on the window in an attempt to wake him but it appeared as though he was passed out. Officer Blakesley knocked so hard on the window that eventually a female came out of the bedroom to answer the door. The female answered the door and Officer Blakesley recognized her as Victim. Officer Blakesley immediately saw a laceration on her forehead.

Officer Blakesley spoke to Victim in the entryway and explained the reason why he was at the house. Victim stated she was not feeling well and did not feel like going to work. She wasn't able to give him a reason why she wasn't feeling well. Officer Blakesley asked Victim what had happened to her forehead and she stated that she fell and hit her head on the coffee table when she was drinking last night. Victim showed Officer Blakesley the coffee table and there was no sign of blood on the table or carpet, which he noted was not at all consistent with the type of injury Victim sustained.

Officer Blakesley had Victim wait in her bedroom so he could speak with Mellen. Mellen was still sleeping on the couch and he checked Mellen's hands and noticed recently scraped knuckles on his right hand that had dried blood on and around the wounds. Officer Blakesley noted that it was extremely hard to wake Mellen. He shook Mellen and yelled his name. Mellen eventually woke up but did not want to cooperate with Officer Blakesley. The only information he would give to Officer Blakesley was that he could not have hit Victim because he was sleeping. Officer Blakesley tried to explain to him that he believed the assault took place sometime last night but it appeared as though Mellen did not understand what he was trying to explain to him. Officer Blakesley indicated that Mellen was unable to have a simple conversation with him and he believed Mellen was under the influence. He asked Mellen if he was right or left handed and Mellen stated he was right handed but that the wounds on his right hand were from moving wood at work and not from an altercation with Victim.

Officer Blakesley asked Mellen to get dressed and he was becoming loud and aggressive at this time, asking Officer Blakesley what he was going to do. Officer Blakesley asked Dispatch for a second squad and Detective Brennan of the Blue Earth County Sheriff's Office responded. Mellen was eventually taken into custody and told that he was under arrest for domestic assault. Mellen told Officer Blakesley that he got off work at 7:00 p.m. and later got into an argument with Victim about puppy pads. Mellen denied anything physical happening.

Officer Blakesley went back into the residence and spoke with Victim. She stated that she and Mellen got into an argument last night after returning home from a bar, around 10:30 p.m. Victim stated the argument was about Mellen drinking and driving but nothing physical happened. Officer Blakesley again asked Victim if Mellen assaulted her and she stated 'I don't want to be the person to put him in jail, I'm fearful.' Officer Blakesley asked her why she was fearful and Victim stated 'because of him.' Officer Blakesley then asked her to tell him the truth because he did not believe she hit her head on the coffee table.

At this time, Detective Brennan arrived and spoke to Victim. She eventually told him that she had a physical altercation in her car after driving home from the bar, around 10:30 p.m. She stated she wanted to leave and Mellen did not want her to. She stated that he shoved her into the upper seatbelt attachment, causing the injury to her forehead. Victim also stated that this is the third time he has hurt her and that he has been jailed previously for domestic assault. She also showed Detective Brennan and Officer Blakesley Facebook posts that she had made the previous night, one of which referenced 'getting beat.'

A review of Mellen's probation records indicates that Mellen currently resides with Victim. A review of Mellen's criminal history reveals the following qualified domestic violence related offense convictions: felony Violation of an Order for Protection on January 6, 2016 (court file number: 07-CR-15-3634); gross misdemeanor Domestic Assault on January 6, 2016 (court file number: 07-CR-15-3447); felony Assault in the Third Degree on December 10, 2012 (court file number: 07-CR-12-1683); and misdemeanor Assault in the Fifth Degree on October 10, 2011 (court file number: 07-CR-11-320).

## 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**

Michael Maurer  
Chief Deputy  
100 East Robinson Street  
Lake Crystal, MN 56055

Electronically Signed:  
03/02/2016 11:08 AM  
Blue Earth County, Minnesota

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:  
03/02/2016 10:59 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: March 2, 2016.

**Judicial Officer**

Krista J Jass  
Judge of District Court

Electronically Signed: 03/02/2016 11:23 AM

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.

**TRAVIS DALE MELLEN**

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: