

FROM SEARCH WARRANT SUPPORTED BY AFFIDAVIT GENERATED
THROUGH ILLEGAL POLICE CONDUCT
[PUBLIC ACCESS]

NOW COME the People, by and through Christian Champagne, District Attorney, in the County of La Plata, and as their response to the Defendant's motion state as follows:

#### Facts

	Facts
1.	On November 18, 2012, Dylan Redwine went missing while in the custody of his father, the Defendant. On November 28, 2012, a search warrant of the Defendant's home revealed  at locations associated with the Defendant's home and Dodge pick-up truck. In late June of 2013, Dylan Redwine's remains were located roughly 8 miles up a dirt road from the Defendant's home. In early August of 2013, La Plata County Sheriff's deputies received assistance from
	follow up on whether had been inside the Defendant's home.
2.	On August 5, 2013, police officers called Mark Redwine on his cellular phone and asked his permission to enter his property and home with  The Defendant gave consent to go on his property over speaker phone and two sheriff's deputies and two heard the conversation and his verbal consent. After the showed an interest in the Defendant's home consistent with the presence of human remains, sheriff's

deputies called him again and asked permission to en	iter the home. The Defendant			
expressed concerns over potential damage to his wind				
assured him they would pay for any damage, the Defendant gave them permission to				
enter his home. This conversation was also heard by	two sheriff's deputies and two			
over speaker phone. While inside, the				
	. The conversations regarding			
consent to enter the property and the home are docum	nented in the police reports and			
in discovery.				

- 3. Law enforcement officers then applied for a search warrant based in part on the evidence acquired during the consensual canine search of the Defendant's home, and it was granted. See attached People's Exhibit 1.
- 4. In good faith and reliance upon that lawful order, La Plata County Sheriff's Deputies seized evidence in this case.
- 5. Now the Defendant challenges the validity of that warrant.

### Law

- 6. "Probable cause for a search warrant exists when the affidavit in support of the warrant alleges sufficient facts to warrant a person of reasonable caution to believe that contraband or other evidence of criminal activity is located at the place to be searched." Bartley v. People, 817 P.2d 1029, 1032-1033 (Colo. 1991) (citing People v. Arellano, 791 P.2d 1135, 1137 (Colo.1990); see also People v. Hill, 690 P.2d 856, 859 (Colo.1984); People v. Hearty, 644 P.2d 302, 309 (Colo.1982). In assessing whether this constitutional standard for probable cause has been satisfied, an affidavit for search warrant must be interpreted in a common sense and realistic fashion. Id. (citing Arellano, 791 P.2d at 1137-38; see also Hill, 690 P.2d at 859; People v. Ball, 639 P.2d 1078, 1082 (Colo.1982)). Due consideration should be given to a law officer's experience and training in evaluating the significance of the officer's observations relevant to probable cause. Id. (citing Ball, 639 P.2d at 1082).
- 7. A probable cause determination is limited to the four corners of the affidavit. *People v. Meraz*, 961 P.2d 481, 483 (Colo. 1998) (en banc).
- 8. The analysis of probable looks at the totality of the circumstances. *People v. Altman*, 960 P.2d 1164 (Colo. 1998) (en banc). The probable cause standard does not lend itself to mathematical certainties and should not be laden with hypertechnical interpretations or rigid legal rules; instead, judges, considering all of the circumstances, must make a practical, common-sense decision whether a fair probability exists that a search of a particular place will reveal contraband or evidence of a crime. *Id.* (citations omitted).
- 9. Because the exclusionary rule is designed to deter police misconduct and not judicial error, the "good faith exception" exists where a police officer is executing a court issued

search warrant. *Id.* C.R.S. 16-3-308 codified the "good faith exception," creating a presumption that the officer is acting in good faith by relying upon a court issued warrant. *Id.* The inquiry by the court must be whether it was objectively reasonable for the officer to rely upon the warrant, and only if no reasonable officer would have relied upon the warrant is the exception inapplicable. *Id.* 

- 10. Police officers are not appellate judges, and therefore the determination by an appellate court that a warrant is invalid does not mean a police officer's reliance upon that warrant was objectively unreasonable. *Id.* Finally, where the "good faith exception" applies, the Colorado Supreme Court has determined that further analysis regarding probable cause in the warrant affidavit is not required. *Id.*
- 11. Under *United States v. Leon*, four circumstances in which an officer could not reasonably rely on a warrant: (1) where the magistrate was misled by knowingly or recklessly false information; (2) where the magistrate wholly abandoned his or her judicial role; (3) where the warrant is so facially deficient that the executing officers cannot reasonably determine the particular place to be searched; and (4) where the warrant is based on an affidavit so lacking in indicia of probable cause as to render official belief in its existence entirely unreasonable. 468 U.S. 897, 923 (1984).
- 12. The first prong relates to the veracity of the affiant. The test for veracity is the "totality-of-circumstances" as seen in *Illinois v. Gates*, meaning that the duty of the reviewing Court is merely to ensure that the issuing magistrate had a "substantial basis for concluding" that probable cause existed. 462 U.S. 213, 216 (1983).
- 13. While in *Franks v. Delaware*, to challenge the veracity of an affidavit, the defendant must meet a variety of requirements, Colorado has a two-part test to establish whether a veracity hearing is needed. The defendant (1) establishes a good faith basis in fact for the challenge and (2) describes with specificity the precise statements being challenged. *People v. Warner*, 251 P.3d 556, 560 (Colo. App. 2010).
- 14. A defendant is permitted a hearing on the veracity of an affidavit for a search warrant only if they can prove with "substantial preliminary showing that a false statement knowingly and intentionally, or with reckless disregard for the truth was included in the affidavit." *Id*.
- 15. If this burden is met, the defendant must then prove by a preponderance of the evidence that with the false material is set aside, the remaining material in the affidavit is insufficient to establish probable case. *Id*.

- 16. To meet their burden, the motion to suppress must, also, contain one or more affidavits supporting their good faith basis with which specific statements will be challenged to allow the prosecution to prepare for the hearing. *People v. Dailey*, 639 P.2d 1068, 1075 (Colo. 1982).
- 17. Therefore, in circumstances where the Defendant cannot satisfy the two-prong test of *Dailey*, or under circumstances where there is enough evidence to establish probable cause after redacting the false statements as seen in *Franks*, then no hearing will be administered to challenge veracity. 639 P.2d at 1075; 438 U.S. at 155-56.
- 18. If granted a hearing to challenge the validity of the affidavit for the search warrant, the defendant bears a burden of proving by the preponderance of the evidence, the falsity of the statement(s) included in the affidavit and without the statement, that the search warrant would have never been granted due to lack of probable cause. At the hearing, the Court must determine "whether there are erroneous statements in affidavit." *Warner*, 251 P.2d 560. If the Court does declare there are erroneous statements, then they must next determine whether the source of the error is intentional falsehood or reckless disregard of the truth on the part of affiant. *Id*.
- 19. It should be noted that this applies only to falsehoods attributed to the affiant, and not necessarily to the information and sources relied upon by the affiant. In *Warner*, false statements from sources other than the affiant may not be excluded if the trial determines that sanctions or no sanctions are appropriate. 251 P.2d at 260.
- 20. A defendant may not rely purely on the affidavit to prove falsity of the statements. Warner at 561-62. Not only must the defendant not rely on the affidavit to resolve the dispute, there must be proof that the falsity of the statements led to an illegal search warrant, making evidence from the search inadmissible. Id. If the defendant is unable to establish a preponderance of the evidence, then the Court shall deny the motion. Id.

# Analysis

21.	As a threshold matter, a search conducted pursuant to a judicially approved search
	warrant is presumed to be a valid search. Here, the search warrant affidavit, when
	viewed in the totality of the circumstances within the four corners of the warrant,
	establishes probable cause.

22.	A indicate the presence of	in the place where the victim
	was last seen alive and	is sufficient to justify a search warrant
	for further efforts to search for evidence of a	homicide, especially after the victims
	remains have been found roughly 8 miles up	the road since the last search of the home.
	The claim of alternate explanations offered by	
	the warrant, which in this case the People do	not believe will be validated by the experts
	in the case, do not negate that probable cause	

- 23. Further, the information in the affidavit was not illegally obtained because the Defendant gave valid consent to enter his home (See People's Response to D-41). Not only did officers ask for permission, they explained the reason they were entering the home and they abided by the parameters of the consent given by the Defendant. They did not exert undue influence through any threats or promises to overcome his will, nor does the Defendant articulate with particularity any such influences in his motion. Unless such evidence is suppressed, this issue is not before the court and the information should be considered in the four corners of the warrant.
- 24. Additionally, the Defendant's assertion that there are material omissions is without merit. His sole claim on this front is that and that the affiant knew this but mislead the court. This is incorrect for two reasons:

  [See People's response to D-40], and there has been no showing by the Defendant the affiant had information that the
- 25. More importantly for the four corners analysis, the Court need not consider D-36-40 or People's Responses thereto because this is a four corners analysis which does not factor in extraneous information, and the court is "required to presume those attestations were valid." *People v. Cox*, 2018 CO 88, ¶¶ 15-16.
- 26. Officers in the field often reasonably rely upon outside sources of information or fellow officers, and here, they were relying on an expert canine handler with legitimate credentials who informed them of material evidence establishing probable cause to seek a search warrant for the home. In this instance, the affiant actually requested the expert credentials of the canine handler and attached them to the affidavit in further support of the reliability of the evidence in the probable cause determination.
- 27. There is nothing substantially misleading about the information in the warrant and therefore the information need not be reducted from the probable cause analysis.
- 28. In this context, the burden is on the Defendant to show that there is a material omission, and he has not done so.
- 29. Finally, the Defendant's assertion that law enforcement searched beyond the scope of the probable cause is incorrect, as the affidavit and the items sought bear a clear nexus to the locations upon which the canine alerted.
- 30. Under these circumstances, although the Court need not apply the good faith exception as there is clearly probable cause in the four corners of the warrant, certainly law enforcement's reliance on the Court's order in these circumstances was objectively reasonable.

### Conclusion:

- 31. When considered under the totality of the circumstances and within the four corners of the warrant, there is probable cause for the search in this case. Further, there are no false statements or material omissions in reckless disregard for the truth.
- 32. Finally, because the Defendant has failed to meet his burden by a preponderance of the evidence, the People respectfully request that the court deny his motion for a hearing and find probable cause through a four corners analysis.

WHEREFORE, the People respectfully request this Honorable Court DENY Defendant's Motion To Suppress Evidence Derived From Search Warrant Supported By Affidavit Generated Through Illegal Police Conduct.

Respectfully submitted this March 14, 2019.

CHRISTIAN CHAMPAGNE DISTRICT ATTORNEY 6<sup>th</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT

/s/ Fred Johnson Fred Johnson #42479 Special District Attorney

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on November 13, 2018, I delivered a true and correct copy of the foregoing to the parties of record via e-service.

/s/ Christian Champagne

Christian Champagne