

Aug. 16, 2018 1:50AM

No. 5685 P. 1

18CR2003

WARRANTLESS ARREST AFFIDAVIT

NAME WATTS, CHRISTOPHER LEE **DOB:** May 16 1985

FILED IN WELD COUNTY
DISTRICT COURTS

AGENCY Frederick Police Department

DATE FILED: August 16, 2018

CASE NUMBER 1806743

2018 AND DATE FILED August 16, 2018

CHARGES

Statute:	Title:	Felony/Misd
18-3-102 (1)(a)	Murder in the first degree	F1
18-3-102 (1)(f)	Murder in the first degree	F1
18-3-102 (1)(f)	Murder in the first degree	F1
18-8-610.5	Tampering with deceased human body	F3
18-8-610.5	Tampering with deceased human body	F3
18-8-610.5	Tampering with deceased human body	F3

OFFICER James, Matthew

Badge No: 4698

BEING DULY SWORN UPON OATH SAYS THAT THERE IS PROBABLE CAUSE FOR THE WARRANTLESS ARREST OF THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANT FOR THE CHARGES(S) STATED ABOVE, AND THAT THE FOLLOWING FACTS ARE TRUE AND CORRECT TO THE BEST OF HIS/HER KNOWLEDGE, INFORMATION, AND BELIEF AND SUPPORT THE ARREST OF THIS DEFENDANT:

1. THE CRIME(S) ALLEGED OCCURRED ON OR ABOUT 8/13/2018
AT 2825 Saratoga Trail
TOWN OF FREDERICK, STATE OF COLORADO
2. The suspect was arrested at 11:02 PM on: Wednesday, August 15, 2018

NARRATIVE

On August 13, 2018 at approximately 1340 hours Officer Coonrod was dispatched to 2825 Saratoga Trail on a check well-being (CWB) call. The reporting party, Nicole Utoft, called about her friend, Shanann Watts (01-10-1984). Nicole stated she dropped Shanann off at her residence around 0148 hours (8-13-18) after returning from a business trip that took place in Arizona. Nicole stated Shanann was fifteen weeks pregnant and was not feeling well during the trip.

Later that morning (8-13-18) Nicole became concerned because Shanann was not answering her phone calls or text messages and also missed her doctor appointment that was scheduled for 10:00 AM. Nicole went to Shanann's residence and discovered her car in the garage with car seats positioned inside of it. Shanann and her husband, Christopher Watts (DOB: 05-16-85), have two daughters, Celeste Watts (DOB: 07-17-2015) and Bella Watts (DOB: 12-17-2013).

Nicole attempted to enter the front door but a latch prevented it from opening more than three inches. Nicole

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called Christopher Watts and requested he come home to check on Shanann as she believed Shanann may be suffering or passed out due to some medical conditions.

Upon arrival, Officer Coonrod checked all windows and doors including the rear slider door and discovered all of them were locked with no way into the house. Officer Coonrod contacted Chris and asked for the code for the outside garage door key pad. Chris stated it didn't work but that he was only five minutes away. When Christopher arrived Officer Coonrod entered the home (with Chris' consent) in an attempt to locate Shanann and their two children but discovered they were not in the home.

When questioned by Officer Coonrod, Chris said Shanann arrived home from her trip around 2:00 AM. Chris said he woke up around 5:00 AM and began talking to Shanann about marital separation and informed her he wanted to initiate the separation. Chris stated it was a civil conversation and they were not arguing but were emotional.

Chris stated around 5:27 AM he backed his truck up to the garage door to load up tools and left for work and that Shanann was in bed when he left. Note: A neighbor's video surveillance system recorded this event. Chris said Shanann told him she was going to a friend's house later that day with their two children but didn't know the friend's name. Chris, who works for Anadarko, stated he went to a job site near Hudson to check on it.

At Officer Coonrod's request, Det. Baumhover responded to the scene and arrived at approximately at 2:35 PM. Upon arrival Det. Baumhover was briefed by Officer Coonrod and also learned Shanann's personal effects including her cell phone, purse, wallet, and medication were located in the house. Upon entering the residence Det. Baumhover observed Shanann's purse on a kitchen island and a suit case located at the bottom of the stairs leading to upstairs bedrooms. A pair of women's shoes were located near the front door.

Upstairs Det. Baumhover observed the bed in the master bedroom had been stripped of its bedding, which was lying on the floor. Officer Coonrod and Det. Baumhover both checked the bedding for signs of foul play but found nothing. In a loft area located between the bedrooms was Shanann's cell phone that Det. Baumhover later learned was found between two cushions of a sofa located in the loft area.

On scene Det. Baumhover asked Chris to walk me through the period of time when he last saw Shanann. Chris said Shanann arrived home from the airport at approximately 1:48 AM (8-13-18). At approximately 4:00 AM he informed Shanann he wanted to go through with a separation and they were both upset and crying. Chris said Shanann told him she was going to a friend's house that day.

Chris said at approximately 5:27 AM Chris backed his work truck into the driveway to load up tools and shortly thereafter drove off to a work site near Hudson. Neighbor, Nathaniel Trnastich's (), home video surveillance shows Nicole's vehicle leaving at 1:48 AM. At 5:27 AM Chris' truck is observed backing into the driveway and leaving a short time later.

Chris provided consent to check Shanann's phone and ultimately surrendered it to allow Det. Baumhover to examine it for information leading to Shanann's (and daughters) whereabouts. Det. Baumhover transported the phone to the Frederick Police Department where it has remained since Det. Baumhover collected it.

A neighborhood canvas was conducted for several hours later that evening by patrol and a check well-being BOLO was initiated through dispatch.

On 8/14/18 at approximately 0700, Det. Baumhover learned neither Shanann nor the girls had returned to the residence. Det. Baumhover requested an immediate press release be issued and initiated assistance from CBI and ultimately the FBI.

A two day investigation revealed Chris was actively involved in an affair with a co-worker which he denied in previous interviews

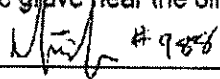
In a subsequent interview Chris () asked to speak with his father, who was present at the police department. Chris said he would tell the truth after speaking with his

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dad. After being allowed to speak with his father, Chris stated after he told Shanann he wanted a separation he walked downstairs for a moment and then returned to his bedroom to speak with Shanann again. While in the bedroom, via baby monitor located on Shanann's night stand, he observed Bella "sprawled" out on her bed and blue and Shanann actively strangling Celeste. Chris said he went into a rage and ultimately strangled Shanann to death. Chris said he loaded all three bodies onto the back seat of his work truck and took them to an oil work site identified as CERVI 319 with GPS coordinates 40.21624374, -104.36667. Chris said he buried Shanann near two oil tanks and dumped the girls inside the oils tanks.

Chris was presented an aerial photograph of the tank battery area and identified three separate locations in which he placed the bodies.

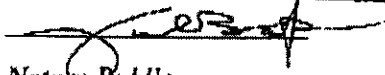
Prior to Chris' confession investigators arrived at CERVI 319 (with consent) to initiate a drone search of the area. At approximately 4:15 PM investigators spotted a bed sheet in the field near the tank battery. The sheet matched the pattern of several pillow cases and a top sheet recovered from a kitchen trash can from the Watt's residence early that day. That searched was conducted with prior consent provided by Chris. The drone search also revealed fresh movement of dirt consistent with a clandestine grave near the oil tanks.


988
Affiant's Signature

JARED R BAKES
NOTARY PUBLIC
STATE OF COLORADO
NOTARY ID 20054047787
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES MARCH 2, 2022

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 16th day of August, 2018

Expiration date: 3/2/2022


Notary Public

Address: 333 5th Street Frederick, Co 80530

After reviewing the above Affidavit in support of Warrantless Arrest, I find:

There is probable cause for the arrest.

There is not probable cause for the arrest and the Defendant is released from custody.

Date: August 16, 2018


Judge