

FILED

COMPLAINT

2017 AUG 14 PM 2:30

STATE OF IOWA

IN THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT

CLERK OF DISTRICT COURT Webster County, Fort Dodge, Iowa  
WEBSTER COUNTY, IOWA

vs.

No. FECR355601

NAME: MACKENZIE LEE KNIGGE

Agency Case Number: 2017-22545

ADDRESS: 524 East Front St., Apt. 1  
Clare, IA 50524

DOB: 06/18/1991

Defendant.

The above-named Defendant is accused of the crime(s) of Murder in the First Degree in violation of Iowa Code Sections 707.1 and 707.2, in that on or about the 5<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2017, at the 524 East Front Street, Clare, Webster County, Iowa, said Defendant, while having malice aforethought, willfully, deliberately, and with premeditation killed Jessica Lyne Gomez (aka Jessica Lyne Ebner).

Class of Offense: Class "A" Felony

**AFFIDAVIT**

I, the undersigned, being duly sworn, state that all facts contained in the Complaint and Affidavit, known by me or told to me by other reliable persons form the basis of my belief that the defendant committed this crime.

**State all facts and persons relied upon supporting elements of the alleged crime:**

On Monday, August 7, 2017, Webster County Sheriff's deputies were dispatched to Mackenzie Knigge's apartment, 524 East Front Street, Apartment 1, Clare, Webster County, Iowa, after receiving a report of large amounts of blood within the residence. Upon arrival, Deputy Alex Winner observed a large amount of blood in the bathroom and other items consistent with a homicide and attempts to conceal evidence of a homicide. With these observations a search warrant was obtained for the residence and the Division of Criminal Investigation's Crime Scene Team was contacted to conduct the search. During the search, a large amount of blood was observed in and around the bathtub in the only bathroom within the apartment. Based on officers' observations of the scene, it appears a body was pulled over the edge of the bathtub onto a surface other than the bathroom floor, in order to remove the body from the residence without spreading additional blood throughout the residence. It also appears that some attempt was made to clean the area. Several pieces of electrical cord, cut into short pieces, were located in the bathtub along with the blood. A short piece of electrical wire was found with blood on it in the hallway of the apartment. The above items, along with bleach, face masks and a roll of plastic were located and seized by law enforcement as evidence of the crime and the attempt to conceal the crime.

On the same date, law enforcement officers conducted interviews with known friends and associates of Mackenzie Knigge and Phillip Williams. Through those interviews it was learned that Williams was released from the custody of the Hamilton County, Iowa, jail on or about July 18, 2017, and soon after

was introduced to Knigge through a mutual friend. The two began a relationship that by all accounts still exists. It was also learned that on August 5, 2017, Knigge made statements to at least one friend that her and Williams had killed someone. She also made statements that she and Williams were going to have to destroy their cellular telephones. Also on Saturday, August 5, 2017, Knigge and Williams visited the residence of at least two known friends asking for bleach and/or plastic bags, items known to law enforcement to be used in attempting to conceal evidence of a crime. Knigge and Williams were last seen by these witnesses during the morning hours of August 5, 2017, and were operating a silver Pontiac van at the time. At approximately 1:26 p.m. on August 5, 2017, Knigge and Williams are observed at Wal-Mart in Fort Dodge, Iowa, purchasing latex gloves, aerosol cleaning products, bleach, plastic sheeting and facemasks. They were observed leaving Wal-Mart in a silver Pontiac van.

Jessica Gomez (aka Jessica Ebner) is known to be friends with and associated with Mackenzie Knigge. It is known to law enforcement that Gomez was kicked out of a residence she was living in several weeks ago and that she began a relationship with Williams around July 29, 2017, occasionally staying overnight at 524 East Front Street, Apartment 1, Clare, Iowa. During the course of this investigation officers learned that Gomez was last seen or contacted during the afternoon of Friday, August 4, 2017. She was not heard from or seen since. On Monday, August 7, 2017, a vehicle belonging to Gomez was located at approximately 4:20 p.m., in the area of Easter Avenue and 150<sup>th</sup> Street, near the town of Clare, Webster County, Iowa.

During the evening and overnight hours of August 5 into August 6, 2017, Knigge, Williams, two known associates and a young child are observed on camera at the Economy Inn in Fort Dodge, Iowa. Two rooms are registered to the individuals. The two associates report to law enforcement that they were with Knigge and Williams at Wal-Mart on another occasion in Fort Dodge, Iowa, on Saturday, August 5, 2017, and that Williams requested that one of the associates get a fuel container from within the store for Williams to purchase. The associate reports he did as requested and returned to Williams with a fuel container but that Williams indicated the first container selected was not large enough and that he needed to get a larger one. After making the purchases at Wal-Mart, the parties return to the Economy Inn. Later in the night, Knigge and Williams are seen leaving the hotel alone, not returning for several hours. Later on the morning of Sunday, August 6, 2017, Knigge, Williams, the associates and young child are seen entering the van and leaving the area.

Based on the investigation conducted by law enforcement officials, Knigge, Williams, the two associates and young child are believed to have fled the State of Iowa to the area of Lafayette, Indiana. On August 10, 2017, officers with the Lafayette Police Department conducted surveillance on known addresses for the above listed individuals and were able to locate the silver Pontiac van. The van was previously reported as stolen with the Lafayette, Indiana, Police Department by the registered owner. On August 10, 2017, a traffic stop was conducted on the vehicle as the vehicle was northbound on 19<sup>th</sup> Street, from Union Street in Lafayette, Indiana, by Lafayette police officers. Knigge, the two associates and the young child were occupants of the vehicle at the time of the traffic stop and all parties within the van were arrested related to their possession of or presence within the stolen vehicle or on unrelated arrest warrants. The young child was taken into protective custody by the State of Indiana. Williams was located on August 11, 2017, in Bloomington, Indiana, and was arrested on an outstanding arrest warrant through the State of Indiana.

On August 12, 2017, a body was discovered on Indiana Avenue, just north of 150<sup>th</sup> Street, near Clare, Webster County, Iowa. This location is approximately 3.5 miles from the apartment located at 524 East Front Street, Clare, Iowa, and approximately 4.5 miles from where Gomez's vehicle was recovered. The body was burned and has not yet been positively identified, but is believed to be that of Jessica Gomez (aka Jessica Ebner). Along with the body were other items of evidentiary value, consistent with the observations and items recovered at the apartment located at 524 East Front Street, Apartment 1, Clare,

Iowa, and consistent with the purchases made by Knigge and Williams throughout the day on August 5, 2017.

(Sign):  1-57

Print Name: Scot Ely Address: 2437 235<sup>th</sup> Street, Fort Dodge, Iowa Phone: (515) 972-4213

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 13 day of August, 2017.



  
NOTARY PUBLIC

Name of Investigating or Arresting Officer(s): Special Agent Ray Fiedler, Special Agent Jim Thiele, Special Agent Scot Ely