

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania



APPLICATION FOR SEARCH WARRANT AND AUTHORIZATION

COUNTY OF MERCER

Docket Number MD-107-2024 (Issuing Authority):

Police Incident Number: PA24-835276

Warrant Control Number: PA24-835276-8

Tpr. Joseph MORRIS

PA State Police - Mercer

(724) 662-6162

07/03/24

AFFIANT NAME

AGENCY

PHONE NUMBER

DATE OF APPLICATION

IDENTIFY ITEMS TO BE SEARCHED FOR AND SEIZED (Be as specific as possible):

See attached Continuation.

SPECIFIC DESCRIPTION OF PREMISES AND/OR PERSON TO BE SEARCHED (Street and No., Apt. No., Vehicle, Safe Deposit Box, etc.):

A gray Nissan Sentra bearing PA Registration #LLZ7772, VIN #3N1AB7AP6FY270614 which is currently held in evidence at PSP Mercer located in Jackson Twp. Mercer County and all separately secured containers found within said vehicle.

NAME OF OWNER, OCCUPANT OR POSSESSOR OF SAID PREMISES TO BE SEARCHED (If proper name is unknown, give alias and/or description):

DaShawn Dale Depree WATKINS

VIOLATION OF (Describe conduct or specify statute):

Criminal Homicide

DATE(S) OF VIOLATION:

06/23/2024

Warrant Application Approved by District Attorney - DA File No. (If DA approval required per Pa.R.Crim.P. 202(A) with assigned File No. per Pa.R.Crim.P. 507)

Additional Pages Attached (Other than Affidavit of Probable Cause)

Probable Cause Affidavit(s) MUST be attached (unless sealed below) Total number of pages: 2

TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES IS SUM OF ALL APPLICATION, PROBABLE CAUSE AND CONTINUATION PAGES EVEN IF ANY OF THE PAGES ARE SEALED

The below named Affiant, being duly sworn (or affirmed) before the Issuing Authority according to law, deposes and says that there is probable cause to believe that the items or property identified are evidence or the fruit of a crime, or are contraband, or are expected to be otherwise unlawfully possessed or subject to seizure, and that these items or property are or are expected to be located on the particular person or at the particular place described above. I certify that this filing complies with the provisions of the Case Records Public Access Policy of the Unified Judicial System of Pennsylvania that require filing confidential information and documents differently than non-confidential information and documents.

Signature of Affiant

PA State Police - Mercer

10297

Signature of Affiant

Agency or Address if Private Affiant

Badge Number

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 2nd day of July, 2024, Mag. Dist. No.

Signature of Issuing Authority Office Address 14 W. Race St Cassville Pa (SEAL)

SEARCH WARRANT TO LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER:

WHEREAS, facts have been sworn to or affirmed before me by written affidavit(s) attached hereto from which I have found probable cause, I do authorize you to search the premises or person described, and to seize, secure, inventory and make return according to the Pennsylvania Rules of Criminal Procedure.

This Warrant shall be served as soon as practicable and shall be served only between the hours of 6AM to 10PM but in no event later than:

This Warrant shall be served as soon as practicable and may be served any time during the day or night but in no event later than: 11:05 AM, o'clock 5 JULY 2024

This Warrant shall be returned to judicial officer MRS MA-JUNIELI

The issuing authority should specify a date not later than two (2) days after issuance. Pa.R.Crim.P. 205(4).

If the issuing authority finds reasonable cause for issuing a nighttime warrant on the basis of additional reasonable cause set forth in the accompanying affidavit(s) and wishes to issue a nighttime warrant, then this block shall be checked. Pa.R.Crim.P. 206(7).

Issued under my hand this 2nd day of July 2024 at 11:05 AM, o'clock.

Signature of Issuing Authority Mag. Dist. or Judicial Dist. No. 35-3-03 Date Commission Expires 3 JAN 2028 (SEAL)

Title of Issuing Authority: [X] Magisterial District Judge [X] Common Pleas Judge

For good cause stated in the affidavit(s) the Search Warrant Affidavit(s) are sealed for days by my certification and signature. (Pa.R.Crim.P. 211)

Signature of Issuing Authority (Judge of the Court of Common Pleas or Appellate Court Justice or Judge) (Date) (SEAL)

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE ISSUING AUTHORITY



COUNTY OF MERCER

Docket Number MD-107-2024
(Issuing Authority):

Police Incident
Number: PA24-835276

Warrant Control
Number: PA24-835276-8

PROBABLE CAUSE BELIEF IS BASED UPON THE FOLLOWING FACTS AND CIRCUMSTANCES:

On 06/25/2024 at approximately 1431 hours, Sharon Police Department responded to 343 Cedar Avenue for the report of a missing juvenile. The juvenile's father, Paul LIKENS Sr., reported that his son.(here after referred to as victim), 14 yoa, was missing. He related that he last spoke with his son on 06/22/2024 by phone. LIKENS Sr advised that he and his younger son had left his residence on 06/22/2024 to visit a family member and stay in Greenville, PA for several days. He advised that he spoke with the victim on 06/22/2024 in the evening by phone. He related that the victim told him that he was going to spend the night at a friend's residence, however, the identity of the friend he was going to stay with is unknown. LIKENS Sr. advised that he has not been able to reach his son by phone since then. He advised that no other family members or friends have had any contact with the victim since the early morning hours of 06/23/2024. Paul LIKENS Sr advised that his son has never done anything like this before and that this is very abnormal.

On 06/26/2024, a known juvenile friend of the victim was interviewed. She advised that the victim was at her residence on 06/22/2024 until around 2100 or 2130 hours. She related that he left to walk home to his residence. She advised that around 0230 hours on 06/23/2024, the victim posted an image on Snapchat of a dark roadway and made a statement indicating that he was out for a late-night walk to clear his mind. She related that she had sent him a message to see if he was ok. She related that he responded once to her indicating that he was ok, but had not responded to her any further after she tried to have more conversations with him. She advised that she had been unable to reach him since that time.

Data obtained from the victim's cellular provider indicates that his cellular phone has been off since the early morning hours of 06/23/2024. Location data indicates that the victim may have been walking on foot away from his residence in a westward direction. As of 07/01/2024, no viable leads have been established to date which would indicate anyone has seen or had any contact with the victim since the early morning hours of 06/23/2024. No cellular activity has been observed transmitting from the victim's cellular account either.

Location data obtained from the victim's cellular provider indicates that he may have left the area of his residence at 343 Cedar Avenue and traveled in the direction of Budd Street and Sr 62 in the City of Sharon between 0300 and 0340 hours (EST) on 06/23/2024. Video footage was obtained from a business near this location depicted a person consistent in clothing and physical description as the victim traveling on foot south on Dock Street and then West on Budd Street. The person observed walking in this video appears to be utilizing a cell phone which is observed in his hand as the screen is observed to be on. This subject is walking slowly and pausing frequently which seems to be consistent with waiting for someone or attempting to meet up with someone. No other persons have been observed on foot in the area during this time period. The victim is then observed walking out of camera view traveling West on Budd Street in the direction of the Shenango River bridge. The last known location of the victim's cellular device appears to be in this area around 0340 hours on 06/23/2024. Family members report that the victim utilizes his cell phone on a consistent basis and uses Snapchat in addition to traditional call/text to communicate. To date, the victim's cellular phone has not been located.

On 06/25/2024, Hermitage Police Department was dispatched to respond to the area of Shenango Lake in Clark Borough, Mercer County. Dismembered human remains were recovered partially in the water. Over the next week, various dismembered human remains have been recovered in the area surrounding Shenango Lake at various remote locations. Preliminary evaluation and analysis of the remains by the Mercer County Coroner have preliminarily confirmed the remains to be that of the victim. Evaluation by a forensic pathologist indicates that the victim was dismembered by some type of cutting instrument. Upon completion of the autopsy of the recovered remains, the Coroner's Office has ruled the cause of death to be sharp force trauma to the head and the manner of death is homicide.

I, THE AFFIANT, BEING DULY SWORN ACCORDING TO LAW, DEPOSE AND SAY THAT THE FACTS SET FORTH IN THE AFFIDAVIT ARE TRUE AND CORRECT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, INFORMATION AND BELIEF. I certify that this filing complies with the provisions of the Case Records Public Access Policy of the Unified Judicial System of Pennsylvania that require filing confidential information and documents differently than non-confidential information and documents.

TPA [Signature]
Affiant Signature

07/03/24
Date

[Signature]
Issuing Authority Signature

7/5/24 (SEAL)
Date

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

COUNTY OF MERCER



AFFIDAVIT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

Docket Number **MD-107-2024**
(Issuing Authority):

Police Incident
Number: PA24-835276

Warrant Control
Number: PA24-835276-8

PROBABLE CAUSE BELIEF IS BASED UPON THE FOLLOWING FACTS AND CIRCUMSTANCES:

Phone records and video surveillance from local businesses and residences show the victim traveling to the area of the boat launch located along the Shenango River under the Budd Street overpass in the early morning hours of 06/23/2024 just before the victim's phone stops communicating with cellular towers indicating it is either shut off or destroyed. Video footage was recovered in the area of the entrance to the boat launch which depicts a vehicle traveling in and out of the boat launch around the time the victim's phone last communicated with cellular towers in this area. This vehicle was traced through various surveillance videos from the boat launch, traveling West on Budd Street, North on Sterling Avenue before turning into the Riverwalk Apartment Complex located at 275 Sterling Avenue, Sharon, PA. Video surveillance footage was recovered from the interior entranceways/hallways of building A at the complex for the early morning hours of 06/23/2024. A light skinned black male (later identified as DaShawn WATKINS) was observed carrying a large empty duffel bag out of the apartment just prior to the time of the victim's last known phone and video activity which was consistent with the vehicle leaving the parking lot and traveling to the boat launch area. WATKINS is observed returning approximately twenty to twenty-five minutes later again carrying the duffel bag which is apparently heavy and awkward again consistent in timeline with the vehicle returning to the parking lot from the boat launch area. WATKINS is observed carrying this bag into the first floor of the apartment building on the security camera footage. WATKINS was observed placing the duffel bag on the floor just inside the main fire door of the hallway and then again placing it on the floor just outside of apartment #111 as he struggled to carry it. WATKINS is observed then opening the door and carrying the bag into apartment #111. What appears to be blood in the video footage is observed on the floor in the area where WATKINS placed the large duffel bag in each location. WATKINS is observed returning shortly after to these locations in the hallway, wearing different clothing and a cloth. WATKINS is observed attempting to clean the areas of suspected blood from the hallway and entranceway floors before returning to his room. The footage also depicted WATKINS leaving and returning to the residence several times on 06/23/2024. In the early morning hours of 06/24/2024, the actor is observed carrying heavy luggage as well as several white trash bags out of his apartment and leaving the complex in a four door sedan, consistent with the vehicle he was later driving when he was taken into custody. It should be noted that during the recovery of the dismembered remains white trash bags consistent with these bags that WATKINS was seen carrying in the video to the vehicle appeared consistent with those recovered at the dump sites. On 07/02/24, a search warrant was executed on WATKINS apartment #111 at 275 Sterling Avenue as well as in the hallway traveled by WATKINS in the video. Numerous stains on the floor, walls in both the hallway and in WATKINS apartment tested positive for blood during presumptive testing and evidence collection.

Troopers responded to this area of the complex upon observing this footage and secured the entranceway/hallway and exterior of apartment #111. Trooper SNYDER observed what appears to be blood staining in the entranceway and hallway in the locations where WATKINS placed the duffel bag on the floor just outside of apartment #111. Contact was made with a male subject inside of residence who identified himself as Dominick SHAFFER. SHAFFER indicated that he just moved into the apartment on 07/01/2024. He advised that his apartment is rented/occupied by DaShawn WATKINS and he recently moved in with WATKINS. WATKINS was identified with rental records at the apartment as well. WATKINS appearance and description is consistent with the male observed in the video footage on 06/23/2024 in the early morning hours. SHAFFER indicated that WATKINS was currently at work and not at the residence. While speaking with SHAFFER, Trooper SNYDER observed what appeared to be blood inside of the threshold of the doorway of the apartment. On 07/02/2024 at approximately 1905 hours, WATKINS returned to his residence at 275 Sterling Avenue and was detained by officers at the scene. Upon taking WATKINS into custody, a large cut was observed on WATKINS left hand that had been treated with stitches and appeared to be healing at this time. At the time WATKINS returned to his residence and was taken into custody, he was operating a gray Nissan Sentra, bearing PA Registration #LLZ7772, VIN #3N1AB7AP6FY270614 which is registered to WATKINS. This vehicle was seized and transported to PSP Mercer where it was submitted into evidence for preservation purposes pending the execution of a search warrant. A cellular phone was observed inside of the vehicle on the seat.

Your affiant respectfully requests that this search warrant be granted to search the aforementioned locations for evidence pertaining to this investigation.

I, THE AFFIANT, BEING DULY SWORN ACCORDING TO LAW, DEPOSE AND SAY THAT THE FACTS SET FORTH IN THE AFFIDAVIT ARE TRUE AND CORRECT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE, INFORMATION AND BELIEF. I certify that this filing complies with the provisions of the Case Records Public Access Policy of the Unified Judicial System of Pennsylvania that require filing confidential information and documents differently than non-confidential information and documents.

[Signature] *07/03/24* *[Signature]* *7 July 2024 (SEAL)*
Affiant Signature Date Issuing Authority Signature Date

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania



APPLICATION FOR SEARCH WARRANT CONTINUATION PAGES

COUNTY OF MERCER

Docket Number MD-107-2024

(Issuing Authority):

Police Incident Number: PA24-835276

Warrant Control Number: PA24-835276-8

Continuation of:

Items to be searched and seized Description of premises/person(s) to be searched Owner/ Occupant Violations

WEAPONS - Firearms, firearm related items (including but not limited to ammunition, spent cartridges, and expended bullets/fragments) knives, tools, sharp objects, blunt objects and cutting instruments including saws, grinders or other items potentially capable of dismemberment.

TRACE EVIDENCE - Bodily fluids including but not limited to blood, saliva, seminal fluid, feces or urine, body parts, skin, human tissue, hair, fibers, glass, foreign materials, soil samples, gunshot residue or other items or materials potentially containing biological evidence or trace amounts of this evidence. Articles of clothing, cellular phones, items of indicia or other personal belongings known to be possessed by the victim at the time of disappearance or utilized by the actor in the commission of the offense.

PHYSICAL EVIDENCE - Fingerprints, palm prints, foot/shoe prints, clothing, footwear, tire impressions and tool marks. Any plastic wrap, tarps, bags or other packaging material that could be used for transporting or concealing dismembered body parts.

ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT & STORAGE - Any cellular phones, tablets, computers or other media devices capable of conducting or storing digital communications. Any and all digital recording cameras, surveillance cameras, digital smart speakers or other items capable of capturing or storing video, audio or location evidence of actions occurring during the commission of this crime.

DOCUMENTS - Any and all documents found within that record various transactions, purchases, vehicle ownership or other items of indicia or documenting locations or times.

PHOTOGRAPHIC/VIDEO DOCUMENTATION - Digital video/photographic documentation of the interior and exterior of the vehicle as well as any separately secured containers found within.

OTHER ITEMS - Cleaning products, soaps, rags, sponges, mops or other items that could be used to clean up biological evidence.

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania



**RECEIPT / INVENTORY
OF SEIZED PROPERTY**

COUNTY OF MERCER

Docket Number: MD-107-2024
(Issuing Authority):

Police Incident
Number: PA24-835276

Warrant Control
Number:

Date of Search:
07/03/24

Time of Search:
1315

Inventory Page Number:
1 of _____ Pages

Tpr. Joseph MORRIS
Affiant

PA State Police - Mercer
Agency or Address if private affiant

10297
Badge No.

The following property was taken / seized and a copy of this Receipt / Inventory with a copy of the Search Warrant and affidavit(s) (if not sealed) was

personally served on (name of person) _____

was left at (describe the location) IN GREY NISSAN SENTRA PA REG LL2772

Item Number	Quantity	Item Description	Make, Model, Serial No., Color, etc.
1	1	SUITCASE	
2	1	RED PILLOW WITH BLANKET INSIDE	
3	1	KNIFE WITH SHEATH	
4	1	BLACK KNIFE SHEATH	
5	1	OXY CLEAN WITH BRUSH TOP	
6	1	YELLOW RUBBER GLOVE	
7	1	IPHONE	
8	1	WALMART RECEIPT	
9	1	LOWES RECEIPT	
10	2	KEYS	
11	3	MEDICAL APPOINTMENT CARDS	
12	1	OXY CLEAN STAIN REMOVER	
13	9	BLOOD SWABS	
14	1	TOUCH DNA SWAB	
15	1	CARPETED TRUNK MAT	
16	1	TRUNK LEWER SAMPLE PIECE	
17	1	BOSTITCH TOOL BOX	
NOTHING FOLLOWS			

I/we do hereby state that this inventory is to the best of my/our knowledge and belief a true and correct listing of all items seized, and that I/we sign this Receipt / Inventory subject to the penalties and provisions of Title 18 Pa.C.S. 4904(b)--Unsworn Falsification to Authorities.

Signature of person Issuing Receipt / Inventory

Printed Name

Affiliation

Badge or Title

Tpr. Adam D. Peth

ADAM PETH

PSP

10114

Signature of Witness

Printed Name

Affiliation

Badge or Title

[Signature]

CHLOE SAMMATH

PSP

11032

Signature of person making search

Printed Name

Affiliation

Badge or Title

Tpr. Adam D. Peth

ADAM PETH

PSP

10114

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

COUNTY OF MERCER



RETURN of SERVICE AND INVENTORY

Docket Number: MD-107-2024 (Issuing Authority):

Police Incident Number: PA24-835276

Warrant Control Number:

Date of Search: 02/03/24 Time of Search: 1315 Property Seized as result of Search (Y/N):

Date of Return: 02/28/24 Time of Return: 1000 Officer Making Return: T.M. MOHAIKIS

Signature of Person Seizing Property: TPR. Adam D. Pata 10114

Other Officers Participating in Search: TPR. CHAD SAVANNAH

Pa.R.Grim.P. Chapter 2, Part A. SEARCH WARRANTS

Rule 202. Approval of Search Warrant Applications by Attorney for the Commonwealth - Local Option.

(a) The District Attorney of any county may require that search warrant applications filed in the county have the approval of an attorney for the Commonwealth prior to filing.

Rule 204. Person To Serve Warrant.

A search warrant shall be served by a law enforcement officer.

Rule 205. Contents of Search Warrant.

Each search warrant shall be signed by the issuing authority and shall:

- (1) specify the date and time of issuance;
(2) identify specifically the property to be seized;
(3) name or describe with particularity the person or place to be searched;
(4) direct that the search be executed either; (a) within a specified period of time, not to exceed 2 days from the time of issuance, or; (b) when the warrant is issued for a prospective event, only after the specified event has occurred.
(5) direct that the warrant be served in the daytime unless otherwise authorized on the warrant, PROVIDED THAT, for purposes of the Rules of Chapter 2, Part A., the term "daytime" shall be used to mean the hours of 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.;
(6) designate by title the judicial officer to whom the warrant shall be returned;
(7) certify that the issuing authority has found probable cause based upon the facts sworn to or affirmed before the issuing authority by written affidavit(s) attached to the warrant; and
(8) when applicable, certify on the face of the warrant that for good cause shown the affidavit(s) is sealed pursuant to Rule 211 and state the length of time the affidavit(s) will be sealed.

Rule 206. Contents of Application for Search Warrant.

Each application for a search warrant shall be supported by written affidavit(s) signed and sworn to or affirmed before an issuing authority, which affidavit(s) shall:

- (1) state the name and department, agency, or address of the affiant;
(2) identify specifically the items or property to be searched for and seized;
(3) name or describe with particularity the person or place to be searched;
(4) identify the owner, occupant, or possessor of the place to be searched;
(5) specify or describe the crime which has been or is being committed;
(6) set forth specifically the facts and circumstances which form the basis for the affiant's conclusion that there is probable cause to believe that the items or property identified are evidence or the fruit of a crime, or are contraband, or are or are expected to be otherwise unlawfully possessed or subject to seizure, and that these items or property are or are expected to be located on the particular person or at the particular place described;
(7) if a "nighttime" search is requested (i.e., 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.), state additional reasonable cause for seeking permission to search in the nighttime; and
(8) when the attorney for the Commonwealth is requesting that the affidavit(s) be sealed pursuant to Rule 211, state the facts and circumstances which are alleged to establish good cause for the sealing of the affidavit(s).

Rule 208. Copy of Warrant; Receipt for Seized Property.

- (a) A law enforcement officer, upon taking property pursuant to a search warrant, shall leave with the person from whom or from whose premises the property was taken a copy of the warrant and affidavit(s) in support thereof, and a receipt for the property seized. A copy of the warrant and affidavit(s) must be left whether or not any property is seized.
(b) If no one is present on the premises when the warrant is executed, the officer shall leave the documents specified in paragraph (a) at a conspicuous location in the said premises. A copy of the warrant and affidavit(s) must be left whether or not any property is seized.
(c) Notwithstanding the requirements in paragraphs (a) and (b), the officer shall not leave a copy of an affidavit that has been sealed pursuant to Rule 211.

Rule 209. Return with Inventory.

- (a) An inventory of items seized shall be made by the law enforcement officer serving a search warrant. The inventory shall be made in the presence of the person from whose possession or premises the property was taken, when feasible, or otherwise in the presence of at least one witness. The officer shall sign a statement on the inventory that it is a true and correct listing of all items seized, and that the signer is subject to the penalties and provisions of 18 Pa.C.S. Section 4904(b) - Unsworn Falsification to Authorities. The inventory shall be returned to and filed with the issuing authority.
(b) The judicial officer to whom the return was made shall upon request cause a copy of the inventory to be delivered to the applicant for the warrant and to the person from whom, or from whose premises, the property was taken.
(c) When the search warrant affidavit(s) is sealed pursuant to Rule 211, the return shall be made to the Justice or Judge who issued the warrant.

THE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER SHALL MAKE ALL RETURNS TO THE ISSUING AUTHORITY DESIGNATED ON THE SEARCH WARRANT.