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ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF

IN THE JUSTICE COURT OF RECORD OF MISSOULA COUNTY,
STATE OF MONTANA

STATE OF MONTANA, Plaintiff, -vs- WADE AUSTIN CULVER, Defendant.	Dept. Cause No. AFFIDAVIT OF PROBABLE CAUSE
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STATE OF MONTANA)
 : ss
County of Missoula)

ANDREW JENKS, Deputy County Attorney, Missoula County,
Montana, being first duly sworn upon oath, deposes and says:

I have read the law enforcement reports regarding the investigation of
WADE AUSTIN CULVER for allegedly committing the offenses of:

COUNT I: ATTEMPTED DELIBERATE HOMICIDE, a felony, in
violation of §§ 45-4-103 and 45-5-102, MCA. **Additionally, in compliance
with Mont. Code Ann. § 46-1-401, Count I is subject to Mont. Code**

Ann. § 46-18-221's dangerous weapon sentencing enhancement as the Defendant knowingly displayed, brandished, or otherwise used a dangerous weapon, a knife, in the commission of the offense.

COUNT II: ASSAULT WITH WEAPON – REASONABLE APPREHENSION, a felony, in violation of § 45-5-213(1)(b), MCA;

COUNT III: ATTEMPTED AGGRAVATED BURGLARY, a felony, in violation of §§ 45-4-103 and 45-6-204(2)(a)(i), MCA;

COUNT IV: NEGLIGENT ARSON, a felony, in violation of § 45-6-102, MCA;

COUNT V: CRIMINAL MISCHIEF, a felony, in violation of § 45-6-101(1), MCA;

COUNT VI: AGGRAVATED BURGLARY, a felony, in violation of § 45-6-204(2)(a)(i), MCA;

COUNT VII: INTIMIDATION - PHYSICAL HARM OR CONFINEMENT, a felony, in violation of § 45-5-203, MCA;

COUNT VIII: STRANGULATION OF PARTNER OR FAMILY MEMBER - 1ST OFFENSE, a felony, in violation of § 45-5-215[1st], MCA;

COUNT IX: PARTNER OR FAMILY MEMBER ASSAULT - 1ST OFFENSE, a misdemeanor, in violation of § 45-5-206[1st], MCA;

COUNT X: CRIMINAL MISCHIEF, a felony, in violation of § 45-6-101(1), MCA;

COUNT XI: ASSAULT ON A PEACE OR JUDICIAL OFFICER, a felony, in violation of § 45-5-210(1)(b)(i), MCA;

COUNT XII: ASSAULT ON A PEACE OR JUDICIAL OFFICER, a felony, in violation of § 45-5-210(1)(b)(i), MCA;

COUNT XIII: ATTEMPTED ASSAULT ON A PEACE OR JUDICIAL OFFICER, a felony, in violation of § 45-5-210(1)(c), MCA;

COUNT XIV: OBSTRUCTING PEACE OFFICER OR OTHER PUBLIC SERVANT, a misdemeanor, in violation of § 45-7-302(1), MCA;

COUNT XV: RESISTING ARREST, a misdemeanor, in violation of § 45-7-301, MCA;

I believe that the facts as set forth in the law enforcement reports, probable cause statements in search warrants, and discussions with detectives, if true, constitute sufficient probable cause to justify the filing of the charges. Those facts are as follows:

The offenses stem from a series of events taking place on the morning of October 24, 2026, in Missoula County around Otis Street, specifically the Villagio Apartments, and an apartment complex on the 1300 block of Rodgers Street in Missoula, Montana. Missoula City Police Detective Hollis,

who was assigned for follow up, and Sergeant Bare noted that the two apartment complexes are in close proximity to each other. Otis Street is one block north of Rodgers Street.

COUNTS I – V (Otis Street Incident)

During the morning of October 24, 2026, Missoula City Police Officers were dispatched to the Villagio Apartment complex on Otis Street for a report of a male who had been stabbed. Dispatch advised that Jane Doe called 911 reporting her “husband was stabbed in the hallway.” The suspect was described as a male wearing a “white shirt, hat, stone washed jeans, and tennis shoes.” Jane Doe reported the suspect had “a blow torch in his hand.”

Several Missoula City Police Officers responded. Officers Hash, Fox, and Rodney arrived on scene and made their way to the 5th floor. Upon arriving on the 5th floor, Officer Hash observed a partially opened door to apartment 503. There was water on the hallway floor coming from apartment 503. Officers continued to apartment 508, the apartment of Jane Doe and John Doe, John Doe the stabbing victim.

Officers contacted Jane and John Doe. Jane Doe inquired if the suspect was caught, but officers advised no suspect was in custody at this point. Officer Hash observed John Doe had what appeared to be a stab wound on John Doe’s back. Officer Fox observed John Doe holding a cloth

to his back with blood running down his back. Jane Doe advised the suspect had “thrown a fucking torch bottle at us” and the suspect entered the Does’ apartment.

Sergeant Bare and Corporal Crass arrived on scene. Sergeant Bare advised that dispatch received several 911 calls from an apartment complex on Rodgers Street of a male “raging and destroying an apartment.” It was unclear at this time if the two events were related. Sergeant Bare requested Missoula County Sheriff’s Deputies assist.

Officers were advised that the male at Rodgers Street was the above-named Defendant. Officers were aware Defendant resided in apartment 503 at the Villagio from prior interactions.

Because it was unclear if anyone else resided in apartment 503 and it was unknown if there were other victims inside that apartment, Sergeant Bare decided to clear apartment 503 with Officer Fox and Corporal Crass. Officer Fox observed that everything in the kitchen and living room was moved and thrown around. There were multiple broken items on the ground, and the floor was covered with water. Officer Fox noticed apartment 503 smelled like smoke and there was a smoky haze in the air. Officer Fox entered the main bedroom and observed ashes on the ground in the bedroom with a burn mark on the wall as if someone had set a picture or

poster on fire. Sergeant Bare observed the burnt wall and it appeared a poster was lit on fire before it fell to the ground. Corporal Crass observed the kitchen faucet in apartment 503 had been ripped off and water was spraying on to the ceiling. Corporal Crass observes approximately 2 inches of standing water on the floor of the apartment. Corporal Crass turned off the water valve while Sergeant Bare requested fire appear on scene. Officers exited Defendant's apartment after it was cleared and determined nobody else was inside the apartment.

Meanwhile, John Doe was taken outside of the Villagio Apartments for medical assistance. Moments after getting outside, Officer Hash heard on dispatch advise that the male on Rodgers Street was the same male involved in the Otis Street incident.

Medical arrived and transported John Doe to St. Patrick's Hospital. Officer Hash and Corporal Crass returned to apartment 508 and spoke with Jane Doe.

Jane Doe advised she took her dog outside to use the bathroom and returned to her and John Doe's apartment. Jane Doe laid back in bed with John Doe when she heard a "ruckus" in the hallway outside of their apartment. Jane Doe looked through their apartment's peep hole, but did not see anyone, but noticed water on the floor. Jane Doe brought the water

issue up to John Doe. John Doe then exited the apartment into the hallway. A male came around the corner. John Doe asked the male if the male was okay. The male responded, "fuck you."

Jane Doe advised the male kept walking while continuing to scream "F you the whole time. I'm going to kill you." Jane Doe observed the male had a knife in his right hand and a torch in his left hand that was lit with a visible flame.

The Does were going back into their apartment when the male stated, "you know what? You can find me somewhere. You know what? No, fuck that." Jane Doe advised the male then threw the torch. Jane Doe advised the male then ran up to the Does' door and stabbed John Doe in the back.

Jane Doe advised they shoved the male out of the door and shut their door. The male kept trying to come into the Does' apartment, so they had to find weapons to protect themselves. Jane Doe advised she never saw this male before and did not believe he lived in the building.

Officer Hash asked clarifying questions. Jane Doe advised that the suspect was telling both Does he was going to kill both of them while holding the knife. Jane Doe advised the suspect was "pointing" the knife in an upward position while making threats and "flicking his wrist towards them." Jane Doe advised they were an arms reach away from the male when

entering back into their apartment. Jane Doe advised the suspect said “I’ll kill you bitch” when the Does were trying to get into their apartment.

Jane Doe advised she “knew something was going to happen” and “it would’ve been bad.” Jane Doe advised her safety was jeopardized. Jane Doe advised she believed the suspect would kill somebody, stating, “He [the suspect] was trying to, he didn’t just, I mean, he stabbed my stabbed my husband. But he wasn’t just trying to stab him once, he was trying to get at him.”

Officer Hash then was contacted by detectives. Officer Hash began taking photographs in the hallway and observed a large water pile in the hallway near apartment 503. Officer Hash contacted the property manager, Isabella Leskinen. Leskinen advised that the above-named Defendant resided in apartment 503. Leskinen advised she would attempt to access video surveillance for law enforcement.

Officer Hash then went to St. Patrick’s Hospital’s Emergency Room and contacted John Doe. John Doe advised there was vulgar language coming from outside the Does’ apartment. John Doe looked out the peep hole, but did not see anyone. John Doe looked out the peep hole a second time and saw a male holding a knife and a blow torch.

John Doe exited the apartment and asked the male if the male was okay. John Doe did not recognize the male. John Doe observed a large amount of water on the hallway floor. John Doe asked the male if the male needed help. The male responded, "fuck you" and began walking towards John Doe with the blow torch towards John Doe. John Doe advised he was three to four feet from his apartment door and the male continued walking towards him.

At this point, Jane Doe stuck her head out of the apartment and the male said, "fuck you bitch" towards Jane Doe. John Doe advised the male walked past the Does and began exiting. The male then turned around towards John Doe. John Doe again inquired if the male was okay. The male then stated, "you know what? Fuck it. I want to fucking kill you."

John Doe then observed the male drop the blow torch and it went out. John Doe advised the male then swung at John Doe as John Doe was trying to enter his apartment. John Doe pushed Jane Doe into the apartment and was then stabbed by the male.

Once stabbed, John Doe advised the male tried getting into the Does' apartment. John Doe was able to push the male out of the apartment after the male had one hand and one foot into the apartment.

John Doe described the knife as a “whole piece of metal . . . about eight inches long . . . the actual blade length was probably anywhere from four to five, maybe even six [inches].” John Doe advised the knife looked like a silver stead knife. John Doe also advised the blow torch was a standard blue canister torch. John Doe confirmed the male just dropped the blow torch.

John Doe advised “as soon as I saw him with the knife and the torch, it was someone’s in danger . . . I definitely felt like there was a major, major threat, like life ending threat.” John Doe advised he did not initially feel the stab wound, but later felt pressure on his should after he realized what happened.

Officer Hash learned the kitchen towel John Doe used to control the bleeding was thrown away by paramedics. Officer Hash located the towel in the ambulance bay’s garbage and seized the towel.

Affiant is aware that damage caused by water is expensive. It is anticipated that the water damage, burnt wall damage, and replacing the sink that was torn off costs more than \$1,500. Law enforcement determined Missoula Housing Authority manages the Villagio Apartments and would be the victim for any restitution currently.

Officers also noted that the Villagio Apartments have multiple tenants inside. Starting a fire endangered the welfare of those tenants.

COUNTS VI – X (Rodgers Street Incident)

While officers were responding to the incident on Otis Street, several other officers responded to Rodgers Street for a report that a male was raging, broke into an apartment, and was destroying the apartment. Dispatch reported they could hear a female screaming. 911 advised multiple calls were received regarding this incident and involved a male who was fully nude.

All officers from the Otis Street incident, except Officer Hash and Corporal Crass, responded to Rodgers Street. Upon arrival, Sergeant Bare heard a male yelling from inside apartment 304. Missoula County Sheriff's deputies advised Defendant was the sole occupant of the apartment, rented by Kate Doe. Kate Doe confirmed nobody else was in the apartment, except for her cat.

Officer Rodney contacted Kate Doe for a statement. Officer Rodney observed Kate Doe was hysterically crying and was with a group of people. Kate Doe advised that Defendant, her ex-boyfriend, kicked in her door, then started beating her. Kate Doe advised Defendant stated, "If [Kate Doe] didn't

fuck [Defendant], he is going to kill [Kate Doe] and [Kate Doe's] cat." Kate Doe was very concerned her cat was still in the apartment.

Officer Rodney inquired about weapons in the apartment. Kate Doe advised she did not have weapons, but Defendant "just took knives and started beating me with glass." Kate Doe did not believe she was injured badly, but believed her wrist was sprained.

Kate Doe advised Defendant hit her four or five times before saying she really did not know. Kate Doe advised she got away, but Defendant started throwing her stuff and trashing her apartment. Kate Doe advised Defendant and her broke up two weeks ago. Kate Doe told Defendant last night they were not getting back together.

Officer Rodney asked more clarifying questions. Kate Doe advised Defendant broke into her apartment without saying anything. Kate Doe advised Defendant previously tried to kick in her door and steal her car. During the conversation, Officer Rodney noticed Kate Doe was breathing rapidly, her voice quivered, and Kate Doe was on the verge of tears throughout the conversation.

Kate Doe advised she has a camera in her apartment and pulled up the live video on her phone. Officer Rodney observed Defendant in the apartment with everything thrown around and multiple items broken. Kate

Doe advised that “this isn’t even [Defendant’s] first time doing this; I’m the third woman.”

Officer Rodney inquired about more details. Kate Doe advised Defendant entered the apartment and “started wailing on me.” Kate Doe advised Defendant punched her in the face, then pushed her into the wall. Kate Doe fell hitting her head on the ground. Defendant then started to hit her while she was on the ground. Kate Doe was able to get up and run outside. Defendant began throwing Kate Doe’s belongings outside of her apartment and breaking items inside.

Kate Doe walked back up the stairs attempting to reason with Defendant. Defendant then came out and started to “choke” Kate Doe at the top of the stairs. Kate Doe advised that Defendant put one arm around her neck and held onto his other arm. Based on the description, Officer Rodney believed Kate Doe was put in a rear naked choke. Kate Doe advised she was choked for 10 to 15 seconds, but did not lose consciousness. Kate Doe advised she could not breathe, but in a later interview, believed she was about to lose consciousness.

Kate Doe advised a neighbor came out and yelled at Defendant. This caused Defendant to stop choking Kate Doe and retreat into the apartment. Kate Doe advised Defendant then yelled, “if you don’t come in here, I’m

going to rape you, I'm going to fucking kill you or myself and your cat." Kate Doe advised Defendant was suicidal in the past and she has taken knives from Defendant before.

After law enforcement arrested Defendant, Officer Rodney and Sergeant Bare entered Kate Doe's apartment. Officer Rodney observed the apartment was in utter chaos. Clothes were thrown across the floor, spilled food crusted around the fridge and pantry. Furniture was overturned, a lamp was shattered, and potted plants were destroyed. The sink was ripped off and about 2 inches of water filled the apartment. Sergeant Bare noted that only about five percent of Kate Doe's belongings were still intact with everything else destroyed.

Kate Doe agreed to get a medical exam for the strangulation. Kate Doe advised the entire incident was recorded and agreed to provide the video. Officer Rodney also contacted Kaitlyn Nalder, who advised she had Ring camera footage of what occurred outside of the apartment and agreed to send the footage to law enforcement.

Kate Doe was interviewed by Officer Rodney again. Kate Doe advised she heard Defendant screaming as she was lying in bed. Defendant kicked the door in and immediately came at her, starting to hit her. Kate Doe advised Defendant grabbed a wooden spoon and hit her with that. Kate Doe

reiterated being thrown up against the wall. Kate Doe got up and ran out of the apartment when Defendant started destroying her items.

Kate Doe advised Defendant made multiple statements including, “[Kate Doe] asked for this, shut the fuck up, stupid bitch.” Kate Doe advised when they were at the stairs, Defendant made statements to the effect of, “he was going to kill me if I didn’t come and fuck him, he was going to kill my cat, he was going to murder and rape me.” Defendant also made statements of “slicing up [Kate Doe’s] cat, cook [the] cat.” Defendant also made suicidal statements and said “he’s gonna burn this place to the ground.”

Kate Doe again described the way she was strangled by the stairs. Kate Doe advised she could not breathe. Kate Doe said Defendant “was going to fucking kill me” during the strangulation. Kate Doe stated, “right when he stopped it started to get scary, so that man literally save my life.” Kate Doe advised she was going to seek an order of protection. Kate Doe scored a high risk on the APRAIS questionnaire. Kate Doe was scheduled for an interview with First Step.

Meanwhile, Sergeant Bare contacted two other witnesses for the Rodgers Street incident, Vincent Crosby and Adreinne Blair.

Crosby advised he called 911 and lives in a downstairs apartment on the first floor. Crosby advised he woke up due to yelling and screaming.

Crosby heard banging and things being broken from upstairs. Crosby exited his apartment and went upstairs. He heard someone yelling at Kate Doe to have sex with him or he was going to kill her. Crosby saw Defendant run back into the apartment and Kate Doe lying on the ground near the entry way. Crosby assisted Kate Doe.

Blair advised she lives directly under Kate Doe. Blair did not see anything between Defendant and Kate Doe, but heard banging and screaming. Blair advised Kate Doe's vehicle had been heavily damaged, but did not witness who damaged the vehicle. Blair advised that Kate Doe said there was no damage to her vehicle before today. Sergeant Bare observed damage on Kate Doe's Toyota. Sergeant Bare observed that it appeared someone jumped on the hood of the vehicle multiple times as the hood was caved in. The roof of the vehicle was also caved in from someone likely jumping up and down on the vehicle.

Multiple reports from the Rodgers incident advised that Defendant was completely nude.

Affiant is aware that damage caused by water is expensive. It is anticipated that the water damage and replacing the sink that was torn off costs more than \$1,500.

COUNTS XI – XV (Law Enforcement Response and Defendant's Arrest)

While law enforcement met with the victims, other law enforcement personnel attempted to get Defendant to exit the Rodgers Street apartment. Sergeant Bare arrived on scene and observed Missoula County Sheriff's deputies already on scene. Sergeant Bare was advised by Deputies Stahlberg and Smith advised that Defendant threw a knife at them when they arrived at the apartment on Rodgers Street, which skipped past them on the stair landing. Both deputies advised they were about to defend themselves when Defendant entered back into the apartment. Sergeant Bare located a decorative type of knife made from epoxy resin that had broken. Sergeant Bare noted the knife was thrown so hard that the pieces landed approximately 105 to 120 feet out into the parking lot.

Sergeant Bare coordinated with Missoula City Police officers and Missoula County Sheriff's deputies. Deputy Smith made multiple announcements into the apartment ordering Defendant to exit with his hands empty and up. Defendant refused and Officer Fox noted Defendant would just yell obscenities towards law enforcement. Based on Defendant committing numerous violent felonies, barricading himself in Kate Doe's apartment, and Defendant being in possession at some point with knives, Sergeant Bare contacted Corporal Crass to activate the SWAT team.

While the standoff ensued, Sergeant Bare heard Defendant scream from the apartment something to the effect that if Kate Doe did not come in and have sex with Defendant, Defendant would kill her or her cat. Sergeant Bare also heard Defendant yell things such as “you think this drywall will stop me”, “get in here and suck my dick”, “I’ll burn this place to the ground”, and “you don’t think I’ll kill your cat, I’m gonna kill it.” These threats caused law enforcement grave concern for all on scene and the surrounding apartments with occupants unaccounted for. Sergeant Bare had 911 contact all residents within a one block radius to shelter in place. Sergeant Bare noted Defendant, based on his behavior and nonsensical statements, was clearly under the influence of illicit drugs.

Sergeant Bare made several contingencies plans. Several times during the standoff, Defendant came to the door and peeked out. At some point during the standoff, K-9 Officer Holmgren, who responded while off-duty, and K-9 Lux arrived on scene. It was determined that K-9 Lux would be sent into the apartment to retrieve Defendant. Deputy Smith gave K-9 specific announcements to the Defendant, at least six times, requesting Defendant surrender himself to law enforcement or he may be bitten by the K-9. Defendant did not respond and refused to exit the apartment.

Officer Holmgren retrieved K-9 Lux and escorted her up the exterior stairway to the third level at apartment 304. Officer Holmgren observed the apartment door was open and alerted K-9 Lux to Defendant's presence inside the apartment. K-9 Lux was given the command to apprehend Defendant. K-9 Lux entered the apartment. Officer Holmgren observed a wide piece of wooden baseboard, approximately five feet in length, with nails protruding from it, swing toward K-9 Lux. It was unclear if Defendant struck K-9 Lux with the wooden baseboard. K-9 Lux exited the apartment with Defendant following. Defendant was holding what appeared to be a metal pipe in his hand and was fully nude.

Officers held firearms and less lethal options towards Defendant as he exited. Officer Buchholtz fired one round of the 40mm nonlethal launcher at Defendant. The projectile impacted the right side of Defendant's chest, but was ineffective in eliciting compliance. Defendant continued to stand and yell at officers. Officers attempted to go hands-on to take Defendant into custody. At some point, Defendant dropped the metal pipe he was holding. However, Defendant actively fought with officers while they attempted to place him in handcuffs, resulting in Officer Buchholtz utilizing several closed fist strikes to attempt to gain compliance.

It took six officers to get Defendant on the ground. Once on the ground, Defendant tucked his arm under his body and continued resisting. A deputy deployed a taser to force Defendant to produce his arm. Eventually, Defendant was successfully placed in the WRAP restraint. Defendant was transported to St. Patrick's Hospital for medical clearance and later transported to the Missoula County Detention Facility. Officer Fox noted that Defendant told the nurse at St. Patrick's Hospital that Defendant had taken methamphetamine earlier in the morning.

INITIAL FOLLOW-UP INVESTIGATION

Officers requested surveillance footage from the apartment complexes. Corporal Brown and Officer Shrives conducted a walk through of the area between Otis Street and Rodgers Street. Corporal Brown and Officer Shrives located a blue gas/propane torch on the 1800 block of Shakespeare Street between Otis Street and Rodgers Street that matched the description of the blow torch held by Defendant at the Otis Street Villagio Apartments. This blow torch was photographed and seized as evidence.

Corporal Crass located a silver knife in the stairwell of the Villagio Apartments on Otis Street believed to be the knife used to stab John Doe based on John Doe's prior description of the knife. This knife was photographed and seized for evidence.

Sergeant Bare photographed and seized the various pieces of the decorative knife Defendant hurled at Deputies Stahlberg and Smith. While collecting the pieces, an individual approached Sergeant Bare advising he located Defendant's clothes. The individual advised Defendant had taken off the clothes near the front, south side, of the Rodgers Street Apartment. The individual brought the clothes to Sergeant Bare. Sergeant Bare observed the clothing was an exact match to the clothing worn by the suspect in the Otis Street apartment stabbing as described. The clothing was seized as evidence.

Detectives Hollis and Chezick were assigned for follow up investigation. Multiple search warrants were sought and granted by the Honorable Jason Marks for Defendant's residence and Defendant's blood. Detectives reviewed the 911 calls from the Rodgers Street incident. The call notes indicated that Defendant threatened to set the building on fire. It was also learned that Defendant made statements that he had been using cocaine all night.

Detective Chezick was contacted by Missoula County Detention Center Officer Shermer. Officer Shermer advised he contacted Sergeant Bare following Defendant's intake at the jail. Officer Shermer advised Defendant became lucid and made several statements. Defendant stated he was

unsure of the events that landed him in jail because Defendant had been using “acid” prior to his arrest. Defendant also expressed concern that he possibly killed someone.

The investigation is ongoing.

Defendant was previously convicted of Criminal Possession of Dangerous Drugs in Missoula County Cause Number DC-23-725. Defendant received a four-year commitment to the Department of Corrections, all suspended, and was sentenced on August 23, 2024, by the Honorable Shane Vannatta. Officer Fox reviewed Defendant’s arrest history. Defendant was previously arrested for a PFMA strangulation charge in 2023; however, the State is unsure what, if any charges, were filed.

Given the severity of the offenses here, Defendant’s continual use of dangerous drugs, and Defendant committing these offenses while he was serving another felony sentence, the State respectfully requests that bail be set in the amount of one million dollars.

DATED this 25th day of October, 2026.

/s/ Andrew Jenks
ANDREW JENKS
Deputy County Attorney

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before me, a Justice of the Peace, in
and for the State of Montana, County of Missoula.