

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF 6TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT, WYOMING

STATE OF WYOMING
Plaintiff,
vs

Nathan Hightman
SSN [REDACTED]
Defendant



Docket No
22-09765

AFFIDAVIT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

THE UNDERSIGNED OF LAWFUL AGE, BEING FIRST DULY SWORN, UPON OATH, STATES, AND ALLEGES AS FOLLOWS:

1. I, **Dan Stroup**, am a Law Enforcement Officer employed by the **Gillette Police Department**.
2. On **May 4, 2022**, I determined there was probable cause to charge Nathan Hightman with 2 counts of Felony Theft in violation of **Wyoming Statute 6-3-402(a)(ii)**, 1 count of **Felony Unlawful Use of a Credit Card** in violation of **Wyoming Statute 6-3-802 (a)(i)**, and 2 counts of **Crimes Against Computer Users** in violation of **Wyoming Statute 6-3-504**. These offenses occurred between 2/25/2022 and 3/19/2022 and occurred at 1665 Pathfinder Circle, which is located in the City of Gillette, County of Campbell, and State of Wyoming.
3. The following misdemeanor/traffic citations were served:
 - Misdemeanor charges should be included with the criminal information on the felony warrant issued by the Campbell County Attorney's Office.
 - No applicable misdemeanor charges.
4. The following describes the probable cause used request an arrest warrant for Nathan Hightman:

On March 20, 2022, the Gillette Police Department initiated an investigation into the disappearance of Irene Gakwa. Irene had been reported missing by her family as all contact with her ceased without explanation on or about February 24, 2022. At the time, Irene was living with her fiancé, Nathan Hightman, at 1665 Pathfinder Circle. On March 20, 2022, Office Rothleutner spoke with Nathan about Irene and her whereabouts. Nathan told Officer Rothleutner Irene had left the residence approximately one month prior (end of February). She had come home after visiting a local restaurant, packed clothing

into two plastic bags, and announced she was leaving Gillette. She then left the residence and entered a dark colored SUV and left the area. Nathan told Officer Rothleutner he had not seen or heard from Irene since. As a result, Nathan accessed Irene's bank account and removed the money. He stated his motive for doing so was to force her to contact him in the event she needed money. Nathan never heard from Irene.

As part of this missing person investigation, multiple search warrants were generated and served. Two of these warrants were to the Idaho Central Credit Union and to Capital One Visa. Both warrants requested information regarding financial transactions pertaining to Irene. Additionally, a warrant for Irene's Gmail account was served to locate account and location information. In reviewing the information gathered with these search warrants, it was determined Nathan had removed money, utilized Irene's credit card without authorization, changed the banking password, and deleted her Google account.

In reviewing the information provided by the Idaho Central Credit Union, I located 3 accounts for Irene: A checking account, a Visa Card ending in 3669, and a savings account. In examining the checking account, I determined there were eight separate transactions on Irene's account, transferring money from her account to Nathan's Zelle Account (electronic online payment). These transactions began on February 25, 2022 and continued through March 2022. According to Nathan's initial statement, Irene would have left by this time. The total amount of the 2 transfers in February 2022 totaled \$1000.00. The total for the 6 transfers in March 2022 totaled, \$2666.46. In examining the records and speaking to credit union staff, Nathan Hightman was not an authorized user on this account. According to account information, the password for Irene's account was changed on 2/25/2022. This password change, and all activity on this account after the password change originated from an electronic device using the Internet Protocol (IP) Address of 69.146.69.211. An emergency disclosure from Charter Internet services showed this IP address belonged to Nathan Hightman at 1665 Pathfinder Circle. This would indicate it was Nathan Hightman accessing Irene's account, removing the money, and changing the password to deny access to Irene.

In examining the Visa account ending in 3669, I located 16 transactions on this card after February 24, 2022, after Irene would have left. These transactions total \$604.65. The first of these transactions was to

Wal-Mart in the amount of \$36.19. Information from Wal-Mart indicated this was a purchase of a shovel, a pair of boots, and a pair of pants. Video surveillance was obtained from Wal-Mart about this particular transaction. In the video, Nathan Hightman is seen with the items purchased. Additionally, search warrants executed upon his residence located the boots and shovel.

A search warrant was served to Capital One for data on the account of Irene Gakwa. In examining the information provided, beginning on 2/25/2022, the activity on the card grew substantially when compared to earlier use. There were 13 transactions from February 25, 2022 through February 28, 2022 totaling \$804.60. There were 27 transactions from March 1, 2022 through March 19, 2022 totaling \$2426.05. In reviewing the transactions, there were 10 transactions that originated from the IP address belonging to Nathan Hightman, 69.146.69.211. There were no transactions using the IP address associated with Irene's phones. The remaining 30 transactions were in person purchases. These transactions drove the credit card beyond the \$3100.00 credit limit, thus stopping any further transactions.

Additionally, this investigation led me to obtain a search warrant for Irene Gakwa's Gmail account (igakwa11@gmail.com). In reviewing the account information, I discovered the account had been exclusively accessed from Nathan's IP address (69.146.69.211). I also determined the account had been deleted on 3/10/2022 from a device using Nathan's IP address. Again, this would have been after Irene had left the residence according to Nathan.

Based on the facts listed above, I am applying for an arrest warrant for Nathan Jason Hightman for the following charges:

Felony Theft in violation of **Wyoming Statute 6-3-402(a)(ii)** for transferring, without authorization, \$1000 (2 \$500 transactions) from Irene Gakwa's bank account to Nathan Hightman via Zelle from February 26, 2022 through February 28, 2022.

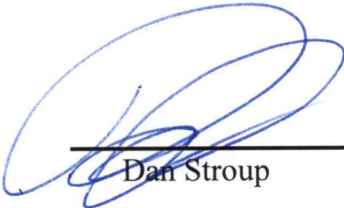
Felony Theft in violation of **Wyoming Statute 6-3-402(a)(ii)** for transferring, without authorization, \$2666.46 (5 \$500 and 1 \$166.46 transactions) from Irene Gakwa's bank account to Nathan Hightman via Zelle from March 1, 2022 through March 9, 2022.

Felony Unlawful Use of a Credit Card in violation of **Wyoming Statute 6-3-802 (a)(i)** for utilizing the credit card belonging to Irene Gakwa from February 25, 2022 through March 19, 2022 spending \$3230.65.

Crimes Against Computer Users in violation of **Wyoming Statute 6-3-504** for changing the password to Irene Gakwa's banking account on February 25, 2022, denying her the ability to access her account.

Crimes Against Computer Users in violation of **Wyoming Statute 6-3-504** for deleting the Google account igakwa11@gmail.com on March 10, 2022 denying Irene Gakwa the ability to access her account.

All of these activities occurred after Irene Gakwa was last seen on February 24, 2022.

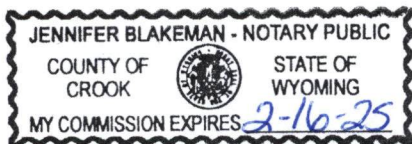


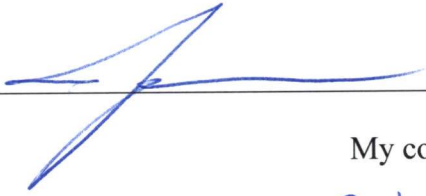
Dan Stroup

STATE OF WYOMING)
) SS
COUNTY OF CAMPBELL)

The foregoing Affidavit of Probable Cause was signed and sworn to before me by **Detective Corporal Dan Stroup** on **05/03/2022**.

Witness my hand and official seal.





Notary Public
My commission expires:
2-16-25

I do hereby find there is probable cause to support these charges.

Circuit Court Judge/Commissioner

Date/Time