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MELINDA BRINLEE
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By _____ Deputy

STATE OF OKLAHOMA
PLAINTIFF,

VS.

NAME: MARK EDWIN WARD

DOB: 06-1986

SS#: [REDACTED]

)
)
) DISTRICT COURT OF LATIMORE COUNTY
) STATE OF OKLAHOMA
)

NO. CM-24-174

AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF OKLAHOMA – COUNTY OF LATIMORE

The Affiant Morris "Sonny" Stewart, an Agent of the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation (OSBI), who on oath deposes and says that the following constitutes evidence of the commission of a crime:

On Tuesday, October 8, 2024, JESSICA LITTLEJOHN notified the Wilburton Police Department that her son, sixteen-year-old W.D.W, was assaulted by his biological father, MARKUS WARD. The incident occurred at the WARD residence located at 2664 NW 1040th Avenue, Wilburton Oklahoma in Latimer County. Wilburton Police collected witness statements and notified the Latimer County District Attorney's Office who requested a full OSBI investigation into the matter.

W.D.W provided information that he was the biological son of MARKUS WARD and JESSICA LITTLEJOHN. MARKUS and JESSICA had joint custody of W.D.W. since he was an infant. W.D.W. lived with each parent for a week at a time up until 2023 when he elected to live with MARKUS and his stepmother LINDSEY WARD full time.

In 2023 W.D.W. had gotten into a verbal argument with JESSICA at her residence. During the incident W.D.W. called MARKUS to pick him up. After MARKUS arrived at the residence W.D.W. pushed past JESSICA leaving the residence and entered MARKUS'S vehicle. JESSICA informed MARKUS that W.D.W. had pushed her out of the way to leave the residence. MARKUS opened the vehicles passenger door where W.D.W. was seated and backhanded him across the face with an open hand. MARKUS then pulled W.D.W. out of the vehicle and forced him back into JESSICA'S residence.

During W.D.W.'s Spring Break in the spring of 2024, he was standing in the kitchen at MARKUS'S residence. W.D.W. had a vape in his front pocket. MARKUS walked up behind W.D.W. and felt the vape on the outside of his pocket. W.D.W. turned to look at MARKUS over his right shoulder when MARKUS punched him in the face with a closed fist. W.D.W. received a "busted lip" and was bleeding from cuts inside his mouth caused by his braces. MARKUS took the vape from W.D.W. before leaving the residence.

W.D.W. provided information that over Labor Day weekend 2024, MARKUS had located a vape in W.D.W.'s pocket. MARKUS backhanded W.D.W. across the face with an opened hand. He then forced the VAPE into W.D.W.'s mouth forcing him to breath through the device for about a minute. MARKUS then grabbed W.D.W. by the neck and pushed him up against the exterior of a vehicle and squeezed his neck to the point W.D.W. could not breath. This incident occurred at MARKUS residence and LINDSAY WARD was present during the assault. W.D.W. was later grounded from driving his pickup and the use of his cellphone and other electronic devices.

W.D.W. was allowed to drive LINDSAY'S vehicle to work and school while grounded. W.D.W. located an old cellphone of LINDSAY in the vehicle which he was using to communicate with his girlfriend over social media applications.

During the morning hours of Friday October 4, 2024, LINDSAY came into W.D.W.'s room to wake him for a Homecoming Football Breakfast. During this time, she observed her old cellphone charging in his room and she confiscated it. MARKUS was out of town for work related training during this time. During the evening of October 4, 2024, W.D.W. had played in the Wilburton Homecoming Football game and during the game he sprung his ankle.

During the morning hours of October 5, 2024, W.D.W. was seated on the couch at MARKUS'S residence with his ankle propped up. During this time MARKUS began searching W.D.W.'s bedroom and a short time later MARKUS approached W.D.W. with a cellphone he had located. MARKUS threw the phone at W.D.W. which hit him in the face. MARKUS returned to the room to continue his search. During this time MARKUS collected all of the charging blocks and cables he could find. After MARKUS exited the room, he approached W.D.W. from behind and threw the items at W.D.W. striking the back of his head, which caused a laceration that bled.

Later in the evening of October 5, 2024, MARKUS and LINDSEY had left their residence. While they were away W.D.W. located a tablet that belonged to LINDSEY and attempted to download an application in order to communicate with his girlfriend. The tablet notified LINDSEY of the usage. After MARKUS and LINDSEY arrived home, they questioned W.D.W. if he had used the tablet. W.D.W. lied about using it and LINDSEY located it in his bedroom under a dresser.

After the tablet was located, MARKUS threw W.D.W. to the ground, kicked him, and told him to get out of his house. W.D.W. attempted to leave but every time he attempted to stand up. MARKUS would throw him down again. Eventually, W.D.W. made it outside and MARKUS told him to get on the trampoline, and if he got off of it, he would "beat his ass." MARKUS returned with a belt which he used to strike W.D.W. 10-15 times. MARKUS then bent W.D.W. over and kneed him in the chest and then kicked him in the

genital area. MARKUS then threw W.D.W. to the ground and kned him in the chest, which knocked the air out of W.D.W... MARKUS then instructed W.D.W. to get in a vehicle at the residence. After MARKUS entered the vehicle, he struck W.D.W. in the face with a closed fist. MARKUS made W.D.W. get out of the vehicle and instructed W.D.W. to go back into the house. W.D.W. refused advising he wanted to go to JESSICA'S residence.

MARKUS grabbed W.D.W. again and bent him over, then began hitting him in the face. W.D.W. was concerned that MARKUS was going to knock him out because every time he was struck, his eyes would flash white. During this time, W.D.W.'S upper and bottom lips were busted, which caused the inside of his mouth to bleed from his braces.

Eventually MARKUS directed W.D.W. to get in his vehicle and he drove him to JESSICA'S residence. During the drive MARKUS called JESSICA and informed her "I am bringing you your son because if I don't, I am going to kill him by the end of the night".

Upon arriving at JESSICA'S residence W.D.W. went inside and spit out the blood he was holding in his mouth. During this time W.D.W.'s stepfather KYLE LITTLEJOHN went outside and spoke to MARKUS. At one point MARKUS attempted to come inside the residence however KYLE would not allow him to enter.

JESSICA provided information that she had witnessed MARKUS backhand W.D.W. at her residence in the fall of 2023, which made W.D.W.'S mouth bleed. On Saturday October 5, 2024 at around 2200 hours, she received a call from MARKUS. During the call he informed her he was bringing her, her son, because if he did not, he would kill him. A short time later, MARKUS and W.D.W. arrived at her residence. W.D.W. entered the front door. He had blood all over his face and was walking quickly to the kitchen. JESSICA observed W.D.W. spit a large amount of blood into the sink. JESSICA went into the kitchen to help W.D.W... W.D.W. was scared and shaking. The inside of his mouth was cut all the way around the inside of his lips as a result of being hit with braces. Both of his eyes were swelling, and she later felt a knot on the back of his head that had a small laceration, and a belt mark across his buttocks with a buckle impression on his hip. The following morning JESSICA photographed W.D.W.'s injuries.

KYLE LITTLEJOHN provided information that he witnessed MARKUS strike W.D.W. in the face in the fall of 2023 at his residence. On the night of October 5, 2024 KYLE observed W.D.W. enter his residence with blood all over him. He witnessed W.D.W. spit blood into the sink. KYLE went out to speak with MARKUS who admitted to him that he had lost his temper.

A.W. provided information during a forensic interview. A.W. was the eleven-year-old half-sister of W.D.W... A.W. was the biological daughter of MARKUS WARD. A.W. visited MARKUS and LINDSEY WARDs residence every other weekend. A.W. disclosed that she witnessed MARKUS hit and punch W.D.W. more than ten times while at

MARKUS'S residence. On October 5, 2024 A.W. witnessed MARKUS throw a "big block charging port" at the back of W.D.W.'s head which caused it to bleed. She observed MARKUS grab W.D.W. by the throat and slam him against a door. MARKUS was "choking him out" and stated "why do you do this!". MARKUS took W.D.W. outside and kned him in the stomach, however A.W. could not see anything else after they went behind a trampoline. A.W. provided several other examples of MARKUS assaulting W.D.W. during the forensic interview.

MARKUS WARD declined to be interviewed during the course of the investigation. However, a statement was provided to an OSBI agent. In the statement MARKUS confirmed that he disciplined W.D.W. with a belt and accidentally hit him with an opened hand in the face while attempting to block W.D.W. from swinging at him. MARKUS advised in the statement that W.D.W.'s bruising to his eyes were caused from "horseplay at school".

Based upon this information, the undersigned prays that this Honorable Court issue a finding of fact that probable cause exists to believe that the crime has been committed and that there is probable cause to believe that the defendant above named committed that crime.

I have read the forgoing statement and know that contents thereof to be true and correct under penalty of perjury.




Affiant Morris Stewart

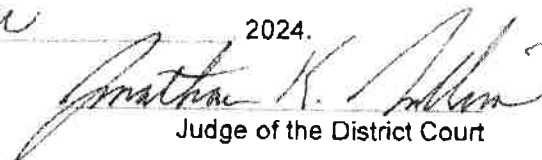
Subscribed and sworn before me this 25 day of November, 2024

My commission expires: 02/20/28


Notary Public

The undersigned judge of this court, upon sworn testimony and/or affidavit, hereby determines there to be probable cause to detain the defendant.

Dated this 26 day of November, 2024.


Judge of the District Court