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IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT  
CACHE COUNTY, STATE OF UTAH

<p>THE STATE OF UTAH,  Plaintiff, vs.  ALEXANDER WILLIAM WHIPPLE Transient DOB: 08/23/1997  Defendant.</p>	<p>INFORMATION  Case No. 191100525  Judge Allen  OTN #: 57308876</p>
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The undersigned Dane S Murray, Deputy County Attorney, under oath states on information and belief that the defendant, in Cache County, State of Utah, committed the following crime(s):

COUNT 1:

CRIMINAL HOMICIDE, AGGRAVATED MURDER, a Capital Felony, in violation of Utah Code Ann. § 76-5-202, as follows:

That the above named defendant on or about 05/25/2019, did (1) intentionally or knowingly cause the death of another under any of the following circumstances:

(d) the homicide was committed incident to an act, scheme, course of conduct, or criminal episode during which the actor committed or attempted to commit aggravated robbery, robbery,

rape, rape of a child, object rape, object rape of a child, forcible sodomy, sodomy upon a child, forcible sexual abuse, sexual abuse of a child, aggravated sexual abuse of a child, child abuse as defined in Utah Code § 76-5-109 (2)(a), or aggravated sexual assault, aggravated arson, arson, aggravated burglary, burglary, aggravated kidnapping, kidnapping, or child kidnapping;

(e) the homicide was committed incident to one act, scheme, course of conduct, or criminal episode during which the actor committed the crime of abuse or desecration of a dead human body as defined in Subsection 76-9-704(2)(e);

(r) the homicide was committed in an especially heinous, atrocious, cruel, or exceptionally depraved manner, any of which must be demonstrated by physical torture, serious physical abuse, or serious bodily injury of the victim before death;

(s) the actor dismembered, mutilated, or disfigured the victim's body, whether before or after death, in a manner demonstrating the actor's depravity of mind; or

(t) the victim, at the time of the death of the victim, was younger than 14 years of age and was not an unborn child; or

(2) with reckless indifference to human life, cause the death of another incident to an act, scheme, course of conduct, or criminal episode during which the actor was a major participant in the commission or attempted commission of:

(a) child abuse, Subsection 76-5-109(2)(a);

(b) child kidnapping, Section 76-5-301.1;

(c) rape of a child, Section 76-5-402.1;

(d) object rape of a child, Section 76-5-402.3;

(e) sodomy on a child, Section 76-5-403.1; or

(f) sexual abuse or aggravated sexual abuse of a child, Section 76-5-404.1.

**COUNT 2:**

**CHILD KIDNAPPING**, a First Degree Felony, in violation of Utah Code Ann. § 76-5-301.1, as follows:

That the above named defendant on or about 05/25/2019, did intentionally or knowingly, without authority of law, by any means and in any manner, seize, confine, detain, or transport a child under the age of 14 without the consent of the victim's parent or guardian, or the consent of a person acting in loco parentis.

**COUNT 3:**

**OBSTRUCTING JUSTICE**, a Second Degree Felony, in violation of Utah Code Ann. § 76-8-306(1), as follows:

That the above named defendant on or about 05/25/2019, did , with intent to hinder, delay, or prevent the investigation, apprehension, prosecution, conviction, or punishment of any person regarding conduct that constituted a criminal offense,

(1)(a) provide any person with a weapon;

- (b) prevent by force, intimidation, or deception, any person from performing any act that might aid in the discovery, apprehension, prosecution, conviction, or punishment of any person;
  - (c) alter, destroy, conceal, or remove any item or other thing;
  - (d) make, present, or use any item or thing known by the actor to be false;
  - (e) harbor or conceal a person;
  - (f) provide a person with transportation, disguise, or other means of avoiding discovery or apprehension;
  - (g) warn any person of impending discovery or apprehension;
  - (h) warn any person of an order authorizing the interception of wire communications or of a pending application for an order authorizing the interception of wire communications;
  - (i) conceal information that was not privileged and that concerned the offense, after a judge or magistrate had ordered the actor to provide the information; or
  - (j) provide false information regarding a suspect, a witness, the conduct constituting an offense, or any other material aspect of the investigation; and
- (2) the conduct which constituted a criminal offense would be a capital felony or first degree felony.

**COUNT 4:**

**OBSTRUCTING JUSTICE, a Second Degree Felony, in violation of Utah Code Ann. § 76-8-306(1), as follows:**

That the above named defendant on or about 05/25/2019, did , with intent to hinder, delay, or prevent the investigation, apprehension, prosecution, conviction, or punishment of any person regarding conduct that constituted a criminal offense,

- (1)(a) provide any person with a weapon;
  - (b) prevent by force, intimidation, or deception, any person from performing any act that might aid in the discovery, apprehension, prosecution, conviction, or punishment of any person;
  - (c) alter, destroy, conceal, or remove any item or other thing;
  - (d) make, present, or use any item or thing known by the actor to be false;
  - (e) harbor or conceal a person;
  - (f) provide a person with transportation, disguise, or other means of avoiding discovery or apprehension;
  - (g) warn any person of impending discovery or apprehension;
  - (h) warn any person of an order authorizing the interception of wire communications or of a pending application for an order authorizing the interception of wire communications;
  - (i) conceal information that was not privileged and that concerned the offense, after a judge or magistrate had ordered the actor to provide the information; or
  - (j) provide false information regarding a suspect, a witness, the conduct constituting an offense, or any other material aspect of the investigation; and
- (2) the conduct which constituted a criminal offense would be a capital felony or first degree felony.

**COUNT 5:**

**ABUSE OR DESECRATION OF A HUMAN BODY, a Third Degree Felony, in violation of Utah Code Ann. § 76-9-704, as follows:**

That the above named defendant on or about 05/25/2019, did intentionally and unlawfully

- (a) disturb, move, remove, conceal, or destroy a dead human body or any part of it;
- (b) disinter a buried or otherwise interred dead human body, without authority of a court order;
- (c) dismember a dead human body to any extent, or damage or detach any part or portion of a dead human body; or
- (d) commit or attempt to commit upon any dead human body any act of sexual penetration, regardless of the sex of the actor and of the dead body.

This information is based on evidence obtained from the following witness(es):

Matt Woods, Logan City Police Department

Authorized this 29th day of May, 2019

By /s/ Dane S Murray

Dane S Murray

Deputy County Attorney

**PROBABLE CAUSE STATEMENT:** Detective Matt Woods of the Logan City Police Department, having probable cause to believe the defendant committed the above-listed offenses, submitted the following evidence in support of the filing of this Information:

1. At 10:02 hours on 05/25/2019, the Logan City Police Department received a report of a missing five year old female juvenile, Elizabeth Shelley. Elizabeth was missing from her residence located at 111 S 400 W in Logan, Utah.
2. Elizabeth's mother Jessica Whipple and her live-in boyfriend, Detrich Black, advised responding officers that they last saw Elizabeth in her bed at approximately 01:00 hours on 05/25/2019.

3. Jessica advised officers that she awoke at approximately 09:30 hours on 05/25/2019 and found the front door to the residence wide open. Jessica stated Elizabeth was missing from the home. Jessica stated her brother, Alexander Whipple, was also missing from the home. Jessica stated Alexander had stayed the night at their residence but did not live in the home.
4. I, Detective Matt Woods of the Logan City Police Department, arrived at the residence at approximately 11:30 hours on 05/25/2019. The investigation into Jessica's disappearance was assigned to me as the lead investigator at this point.
5. I conducted an interview with Jessica at the Logan City Police Department. During the interview, Jessica stated she was consuming alcohol with Detrich on the evening of 05/24/2019. Jessica stated she began communicating with Alexander via Facebook messenger and invited him to her residence.
6. Jessica stated Alexander arrived at the residence between 22:00 hours and 22:30 hours on 05/24/2019. Jessica stated Alexander began consuming alcohol (beer and rum) with her and Detrich. Jessica stated Elizabeth and her sister were already in bed when Alexander arrived. Jessica stated she went to bed around midnight and told Alexander he could stay the night on the couch.
7. Jessica stated she last saw Elizabeth on her bed around midnight when she went to bed. Jessica described Elizabeth as wearing a teal skirt with white lace and a red tank-top with a "Fourth of July" theme. Elizabeth's bed is located next to Jessica's bedroom door.
8. Jessica stated she awoke around 09:30 hours and was surprised Elizabeth had not woken her up already. Jessica stated she went to check on Elizabeth which is when she found the front door to the residence wide open and Elizabeth was missing. Jessica stated Alexander was also missing.
9. Jessica stated she did not know where Alexander would have gone with Elizabeth. Jessica stated Alexander did not have a vehicle and would either walk or skateboard everywhere he went. Jessica stated Alexander left his skateboard at the residence along with his cell phone.

10. I next conducted an interview with Detrich. During the interview, Detrich stated he and Jessica were drinking alcohol together on the evening of 05/24/2019. Detrich stated he put Elizabeth and their other daughter to bed around 21:00 hours. Detrich stated Jessica invited Alexander to the residence and he arrived at approximately 22:30 hours.
11. Detrich stated he, Jessica, and Alexander were drinking alcohol together and playing video games. Detrich stated the night was winding down and Jessica went to bed. Detrich stated he joined Jessica shortly after and left Alexander on the couch. Detrich stated Alexander looked like he was going to “pass-out” and believed he was going to sleep on the couch. Detrich stated he last saw Elizabeth in her bed shortly after midnight as he entered his bedroom.
12. Detrich also described Elizabeth as wearing a teal skirt with white-lace and a red tank-top with a “Fourth of July” theme printed on it.
13. Detrich stated Jessica awoke him the next morning between 09:30 hours and 10:00 hours frantically telling him Elizabeth and Alexander were missing. Detrich stated they briefly looked outside the residence before calling the police.
14. While I was conducting interviews with the parents, the decision was made by Logan City Police to activate the Child Abduction Response Team (CART). A search of the area around the home began.
15. At approximately 15:00 hours, Alexander was located by Cache County Sheriff deputies in the Hyrum/Mt. Sterling area near 2400 W 8000 S. In Alexander’s possession was a Pabst Blue Ribbon 24-ounce beer, a baseball bat, a pipe commonly used for narcotics and other personal items. Alexander was transported to the Logan City Police Department for an interview.
16. Once placed into an interview room, Alexander’s handcuffs were removed. Alexander was left in the interview room briefly by himself. Alexander began licking his hands and trying to wipe his hands clean. The decision was made to place Alexander back into handcuffs to preserve any evidence that may be on his hands.
17. I began the interview with Alexander by advising him of his Miranda Rights. Alexander stated he understood his Miranda Rights and agreed to speak with me.

18. During the interview, Alexander initially denied going over to Jessica's house on the evening of 05/24/2019. Alexander first stated he was last at Jessica's house two days prior and then told me he had gone to her house two weeks prior. When confronted about these inconsistencies, Alexander admitted he had gone over to Jessica's house the evening of 05/24/2019.
19. As the interview progressed, I asked Alexander about what occurred at Jessica's residence. Alexander stated he went over to Jessica's house and he had some alcohol with her and Detrich. Alexander stated Jessica and Detrich began getting "horny" and went into their room. Alexander stated he did not want to hear anything so he sat on the couch for five minutes while he finished his beer, then left the residence to go for a walk in Hyrum and enjoy the scenery. I asked Alexander what time this had occurred. Alexander stated it was shortly before sunrise on 05/25/2019. This timeframe was inconsistent with the timeframe given by both Elizabeth and Detrich.
20. I next began talking with Alexander about his interactions with Elizabeth on the evening of 05/24/2019. Alexander stated he had not seen Elizabeth because she had already been in bed. I began to confront Alexander about Elizabeth's disappearance. Alexander stated he did not know Elizabeth had been missing.
21. I asked Alexander why he had left the door to the residence wide open when he left. Alexander stated he did not remember leaving the door open. I asked Alexander why he left his items including his cell phone and skateboard behind. Alexander stated he didn't need to take all of his items with him when he left.
22. Throughout the interview I continued to confront Alexander about Elizabeth's disappearance and told him I believed he was responsible for her disappearance. Alexander did not admit he was responsible but he also never denied he was responsible. Throughout the interview Alexander would elude to how evil the world we live in is. Alexander would talk about his struggles as a child and how his family has treated him horribly throughout his life.
23. At times during the interview, Alexander would state that alcohol makes him "black out" and sometimes he does "criminal things" when he blacks out. Alexander would not elaborate to what these "criminal things" were.

24. While speaking with Alexander, I observed dark colored stains on his pants that appeared to be consistent with dried blood. I also observed his hands to be filthy and observed several cuts on his fingers.
25. During a break in the interview, search warrant # 1949731 was served on Alexander. A DNA sample was obtained via buccal swab. Alexander's clothing, watch, and shoes were seized as part of this warrant.
26. While I was interviewing Alexander over several hours, investigators searching for Elizabeth located several key pieces of evidence near Elizabeth's residence. A knife was located in the northwest corner of the Bear River Charter School parking lot located at 75 S 400 W. The brand of the knife was LivingKit. The knife appeared to have blood on several areas of the blade. The knife was broken near the hilt. Investigators later found one knife missing from a knife block set inside of Elizabeth's residence. The knife block set is LivingKit brand and the knife missing appears to match the set. The knife was seized as evidence.
27. Near where the knife was found, a white PVC pipe was located with a red substance consistent with blood on it. There appeared to be a partial palm print in the blood. There was also some drops of a red substance consistent with that of blood on a black plastic garden barrier. These items were seized as evidence.
28. Next to the knife is a chain-link fence gate leading to the middle of the block. Approximately 50 yards due west, investigators located a teal skirt with white lace that appeared to have been hastily buried under some dirt and bark. The skirt matched the description of Elizabeth's skirt. The skirt has stains on it that are consistent with blood. The skirt was seized as evidence. Near the skirt was a small concrete block with blood on it. The block was seized as evidence.
29. During a consent search of the entire block between 400 to 500 West and Center Street to 100 South, an empty Pabst Blue Ribbon 24-ounce beer can was found by the homeowner of 470 W Center Street. The homeowner stated he had found the beer can in his garbage can on the morning of 05/25/2019 and moved it to his recycle can. The homeowner stated he does not drink Pabst Blue Ribbon beer and that the can did not belong to him. The can was seized as evidence.



30. In conjunction with the Utah Attorney General's Office, the Logan City Police Department requested a Rapid DNA test (RDNA) be conducted on several pieces of evidence. Utah Attorney General Investigator Matthew Thompson obtained DNA samples from Elizabeth's biological parents, Jessica Whipple and Weston Shelley, in order to build a kinship profile for Elizabeth. A toothbrush belonging to Elizabeth was given to Agent Thompson in order to extract a DNA profile for Elizabeth.
31. A DNA profile was obtained from the toothbrush which showed a kinship analysis to the DNA samples provided by Elizabeth's biological parents. The kinship analysis indicates the person represented on the toothbrush profile is a daughter of Jessica Whipple and Weston Shelley.
32. Swabs of blood found on the LivingKit knife, Alexander's watch, and Alexander's hooded sweatshirt all returned positive matches to the DNA profile belonging to Elizabeth.
33. A swab of the Pabst Blue Ribbon beer can left at 470 W Center Street returned as a positive match to the DNA profile obtained from Alexander Whipple.
34. The partial palm print found in the red substance on the PVC pipe has been identified as a positive match to the right palm print of Alexander Whipple.
35. At the time of this statement, it has been over 96 hours since Elizabeth has been confirmed missing. There is evidence including Elizabeth's blood found on a knife, Elizabeth's blood found on Alexander, and Alexander's partial right palm print found in the red substance on the PVC pipe to believe Alexander has committed the aggravated murder of Elizabeth Shelley even though her body has not yet been located at this time.
36. The above stated charges have been discussed in length with the Cache County Attorney's Office and it is believed that there is probable cause that Alexander Shelley abducted Elizabeth when he removed her from her residence without the lawful authority or consent from her mother and murdered her.
37. It is believed probable cause also exists for two counts of obstruction of justice due to the fact Alexander provided false information regarding material aspects of this investigation and that he attempted to conceal evidence.

38. It is believed that probable cause exists for one count of desecration of a human body because Elizabeth's body has yet to be recovered and Alexander has taken substantial steps to move, remove, or conceal Elizabeth's body.