

09-20-2024

Clerk of Circuit Court

Dodge County, WI.

2024CF000306

STATE OF WISCONSIN

CIRCUIT COURT

DODGE COUNTY

STATE OF WISCONSIN

Plaintiff,

**AMENDED CRIMINAL
COMPLAINT**

Vs.

Zachariah S Rasch
c/o Dodge County Jail
216 W Center Street
Juneau, WI 53039
DOB: 07/29/1981 Also Known As
Zachariah Scott Rasch
Defendant.

Court Case #: 2024CF000306

The undersigned, being first duly sworn, state that :

**Count 1: FIRST DEGREE INTENTIONAL HOMICIDE, DOMESTIC ABUSE
ASSESSMENTS**

The above-named defendant on or about Tuesday, June 11, 2024, in the Town of Clyman, Dodge County, Wisconsin, did cause the death of Victim A, with intent to kill that person, contrary to sec. 940.01(1)(a), 939.50(3)(a), 973.055(1) Wis. Stats., a Class A Felony, and upon conviction shall be sentenced to imprisonment for life.

And further, invoking the provisions of sec. 973.055(1) Wis. Stats., because this charge is an act of domestic abuse, and further, invoking sec. 973.055(1), Wis. Stats., the court shall impose the domestic abuse assessment of \$100 for this offense because this charge is an enumerated crime under sec. 973.055(1)(a)1, Wis. Stats., and the conduct constituting the violation involved an act by the defendant against his or her spouse, against an adult with whom the defendant resides or formerly resided, or against an adult with whom the defendant has created a child.

Count 2: HIDING A CORPSE

The above-named defendant between June 12, 2024 and June 25, 2024, in the Town of Clyman, Dodge County, Wisconsin, did mutilate a corpse with the intent to conceal a crime, contrary to sec. 940.11(2), 939.50(3)(f) Wis. Stats., a Class F Felony, and upon conviction may be fined not more than Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000), or imprisoned not more than twelve (12) years and six (6) months, or both.

Probable Cause:

Based on the investigative reports of Detective Justin Kontny, the detective bureau and several deputies of the Dodge County Sheriff's Office, all of which, your complainant believes to be truthful and reliable.

On June 23, 2024, Deputy Zachary Kuckkahn, of the Dodge County Sheriff's Office was dispatched to a possible missing adult at Main Street in the village of Clyman, Dodge County, Wisconsin. Victim A's stepmother called dispatch reporting that the last time she heard from Victim A was June 11, 2024 through a text message. Victim A's stepmother stated that her phone went straight to voicemail. Deputy Kuckkahn was able to speak to one of Victim A's friend's, RR. RR stated that she received text messages from Victim A, but they did not seem like they were from Victim A based on the fact she was talking bad about her family. RR also requested that Victim A call her or video chat with her and Victim A failed to do so. This also caused RR to believe that she was not communicating with Victim A. As result of the this initial information, Detective Kontny and Detective Rolfs made contact with Victim A's residence and her mother, who resides at that residence. Detective Kontny requested consent to check Victim A's bedroom at the residence, which was granted by Victim A's mother. On entry into the room, Detective Kontny noted that a black Samsung cellphone was on the nightstand near the bed, which was collected as evidence. Kontny photographed the room and took note of information such as a calendar on the wall with multiple appointments and obligations. Detective Rolfs noticed the calendar had all the dates crossed off in a similar manner for the month of June with June 9, 2024, being the last date crossed off.

On June 23, 2024, Deputy Kuckkahn made contact with Zachariah Rasch at his Wood Road residence in the town of Clyman. Rasch was in the drive-way when Deputy Kuckkahn walked up the drive-way and a Mitsubishi Eclipse SUV is observed on Deputy Kuchahn's body camera. During this conversation, Rasch stated that he did not know where Victim A was located.

Lieutenant Taylor Nehls reviewed surveillance video from the Goodwill in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin and observed Rasch's silver Mitsubishi Eclipse pull into the parking lot at 11:07 A.M. on June 11, 2024. Victim A gets out of the front passenger seat and Zachariah Rasch gets out of the driver's seat. Inside video shows Rasch and Victim A shopping separately. They both purchased items and walked out of the store together at approximately 11:32 A.M.

Law Enforcement learned that on June 17, 2024, Rasch terminated his parental rights to his children, who are currently in placement outside of the home.

On June 26, 2024 at approximately 12:48 am, a search warrant was executed on Zachariah Rasch's residence, where he resides with his parents. The property is located on Wood Road off of Highway J in the Township of Clyman, Dodge County, Wisconsin.

The defendant, Rasch, was ordered out of his bedroom. Detective Kasey Young observed Zachariah Rasch walk out of the residence with mesh shorts on and no shirt. In his front pocket was a cellphone in a red case. Detective Kasey Young secured the cellphone. Attempts were made to search the residence, however, given the hours of darkness and the significant amount of property, the scene was held until June 26, 2024 in the morning. Multiple vehicles were taken from the residence for processing off scene. Two of the vehicles belonged to the defendant: a 2005, red Chevy Cobalt and blue Dodge Ram.

Detective Kontny was able to utilize online land records search and located two parcels in Adams County, Wisconsin, owned by the "Samuel K and Rachel M. Rasch Revocable Trust" the two parcels included an approximate 40 acre plot located south of State Highway 82 on the east side of 9th Avenue. Another approximate 80 acre plot was located under the same ownership near 10th Avenue and Fawn Court. The tax information showed the owners reside at W7343 County Road J, Juneau, WI 53039, which is adjacent to Zachariah Rasch's residence at N3251 Wood Road. Detective Kontny later verified the 40 acre plot to have a fire number of 3356 on 9th Avenue in the town of Springville, WI 53934.

Search warrants were approved and executed on June 26, 2024 for the land Detective Kontny had earlier located in Adams County by the Adams County Sheriff's Office. During the search of the 40 acre plot with fire number of 3356 on 9th Avenue in the town of Springville, Zachariah Rasch's 2023 Mitsubishi Eclipse was located parked in a manner that it was concealed from vehicles passing by. Specifically, it was parked tight to a camper believed to be owned by Zachariah Rasch.

Detective Michael Lake responded to the Adams County Impound on 06/27/2024 and observed the Mitsubishi Eclipse Cross (plate AUH4251) seized from 3356 9th Avenue in Springville, Wisconsin. Detective Lake reported that he saw multiple spots of what appeared to be blood spatter on the interior passenger compartment, in the area of the front passenger seat. This included spots on the front passenger window, air vent, armrest area of the door, door panel, center console, and front passenger headrest. Detective Lake further reported seeing a larger amount of what appeared to be blood on the front passenger seatbelt. The same appeared on the seat near the backrest and under the seat on/near the floorboard. The vehicle was entered into evidence and escorted to the Wisconsin State Crime Lab for analysis.

The analysis of the Mitsubishi Eclipse by the State Crime Lab showed that two samples collected from the inside of the vehicle tested positive for blood. The DNA analysis of the blood collected from the passenger side Mitsubishi Eclipse was consistent with the DNA profile developed for Victim A.

Based upon law enforcement findings, it is believed that the Mitsubishi Eclipse was parked at the Wood Rd. address in the afternoon of June 11th and did not leave the Wood Rd. address until June 24th when it was driven to the Adams County Property.

INSPECTION OF BURN SITE

On June 26, 2024, at around 3:30 P.M., Detective Andrew Rolfs and Detective Kontny responded to N3251 Wood Road in the town of Clyman to observe the scene. Kontny observed an area that was cleared out with visible burn residue on the ground, yet it did not appear to be a regular site for burning as it was flat and consistently level with the surrounding ground. The area was also obviously cleaned recently as there were no larger partially burnt items or even loose ash visible consistent with camp fires or trash fires Kontny has previously observed in his experience. The surrounding vegetation had noticeable wilt and browning leaves from an apparent recent high heat fire. Kontny knelt down to the fire and observed further that there was a layer of melted residue caked on the ground. Kontny picked up a piece of the residue and smelled it; he felt an immediate burn in his nostrils and took notice of a very heavy chemical odor.

Kontny later had Emergency Management use "Hydriion Spill Stick" test to determine risk levels for hazardous material spill clean-up and it registered immediately as strong acid showing an orange/red colored result indicating the pH level.

Detective Rolfs and Detective Kontny had informed Lieutenant Taylor Nehls that they had gone to N3251 Wood Road and believed they located the burn site where Victim A was disposed of by chemical exposure/saturation and burning. This information was communicated to Dodge County Medical Examiner PJ Schoebel. Medical Examiner PJ Schoebel sought assistance from Dr. Jordan Karsten (Forensic Anthropologist/UW Oshkosh) to examine the burn area further to see if there was any more possible evidence.

On June 30, 2024, Lieutenant Nehls met with Medical Examiner PJ Schoebel, Dr. Jordan Karsten, and research specialist Hailey Hintz at the Dodge County Sheriff's Office. Lieutenant Nehls, Dr. Jordan Karsten, and his assistant Hailey Hintz, went to the scene at N3251 Wood Road to further examine the burn pit near the metal shed where Kontny had earlier observed the heavy chemical odor and gathered evidence (also examined by Dr. Karsten). They located a bone suspected to be part of a human temporal bone structure in the burn area. Due to the finding, further coordination took place to have the Wisconsin Crime Lab respond later in the day for a more thorough exam of the burn area. Numerous bone fragments were found during the excavation, as well as a tooth, and were collected as evidence.

TOOTH EXAMINATION

Dr. Gabriel Legros D.D.S., Forensic Dentist, conducted an examination on the tooth (recovered from the burn site on 06/30/2024) and identified it as "maxillary left second molar #15". Dr. Legros was able to compare the postmortem radiographs taken the day of the examination to antemortem images from Victim A's dental records recorded on March 15, 2023 from "Polished Smiles Dental" in Watertown, Wisconsin. Dr. Legros provided a letter on July 2, 2024 that included the statement, it is my opinion to within a reasonable degree of scientific and clinical reliability that Dodge County case #24-18526 can be positively identified as belonging to [Victim A] .

FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGICAL FINDINGS

Dr. Jordan Karsten detailing his findings regarding his analysis of the bones recovered from the discovered burn area. Dr. Jordan Karsten provided the following summary of his findings at the conclusion of the included report under the heading, "SUMMARY OF FORENSIC ANTHROPOLOGICAL FINDINGS":

"Systematic scientific excavation of the surface burn associated with case R24-1767 resulted in the recovery of several skeletal fragments that are diagnostically human. These include the petrous pyramid of a right temporal bone, a maxillary left second molar, portions of a lumbar vertebra, and the anterior aspect of a vertebral body. Several other bone fragments were also recovered. However, their small size precluded their identification as conclusively human. The context of discovery suggests that many of these are also human."

"The limited number of recovered skeletal remains, as well as their highly fragmentary nature, do not allow for the estimation of a biological profile for the decedent. No reliable methods exist for sex, age, ancestry, and stature estimation from such a limited amount of anatomical data."

"The pattern of thermally-induced changes indicates that the decedent was exposed to a fire of considerable temperature for a relatively prolonged period of time."

CELLPHONE OF ZACHARIAH RASCH

During a manual review of the cellphone seized from Zachariah Rasch, Detective Kasey Young made note of the following items located in the contents of the phone:

Thursday, April 4, 2024

07:19 PM visited website "Can the police find your exact location via an IP address?"

07:23 P.M. Google search history "can police trace ip address"

07:54 P.M. Google search history "can a mobile hotspot be traced"

07:59 P.M. Google search history "how fast can police trace an ip address"

Tuesday, May 28, 2024

12:20 A.M. website visit "Do you die instantly from a gunshot to the head? Do you feel any..."

12:40 A.M. website visit "What is the difference between head shooting and chest shooting..."

12:41 A.M. Google search history "will a gunshot to the head instant death"

12:48 A.M. Google search history "will a 9mm kill an animal if shot to the head"

Wednesday, June 6, 2024

11:26 P.M. Google search history "how long can you get widows benefits"

11:30 P.M. Google search history "can u get widows benefits if taxes were never filed"

Monday, June 11, 2024

11:18 A.M. Google search history "Will 9mm kill an animal if shot to the head"

Wednesday, June 12, 2024

10:16 A.M. Google search history "carpet cleaner"

10:16 A.M. website visited "carpet cleaners at Menards"

Thursday, June 14, 2024

06:14 P.M. Google search history "do raccoons eat bones"

Wednesday, June 19, 2024

12:57 P.M. Google search history "2023 eclipse cross replacement passenger seat"

12:58 P.M. website visited "Mitsubishi Eclipse Cross Front Bucket Seats Cloth Charcoal Gray In"

02:34 P.M. Google search history "can you clean a vehicle interior with cold water"

03:56 P.M. Google search history "do opossums eat bones"

06:42 P.M. Google search history "is sulfuric acid flammable"

06:43 P.M. Google search history "what happens when you add gas to sulfuric acid"

07:11 P.M. Google search history website visit "BASIC GUIDE TO FOURTH AMENDMENT PROTECTIONS"

07:14 P.M. Google search history "can police get search warrants on Sunday in wisconsin"

07:14 P.M. Google search history 968.13 wis. Stat (website visit)

07:17 P.M. Google search history "how fast can police get a warrant"

09:16 P.M. Google search history "Wisconsin missing person alert"

09:17 P.M. Google search history "missing people in Wisconsin"

09:17 P.M. Google search history "active missing persons near me"

Sunday June 23, 2023

07:14 P.M. Google search history "can police get search warrants on a sunday in wisconsin"

Monday June 24, 2024

06:43 P.M. Google search history "is sulfuric acid flammable"

06:42 P.M. Google search history "what happens when u add gas to sulfuric acid"

06:44 P.M. Google search history visited website related to "What chemistry reaction will happen if I mix petrol and sulphuric acid"

Tuesday June 25, 2024

9:16 P.M. Google search history " Wisconsin missing person alert"

9:17 P.M. Google search history "active missing person near me"

9:17 P.M. Google search history "missing people in wisconsin"

Through review of financial records and video surveillance, law enforcement determined that Zachariah Rasch used Victim A's debit card to make multiple transactions between June 15, 2024 and June 23, 2024.

On June 15, 2024, Zachariah Rasch is observed on video surveillance using Victim A's debit card to purchase the following items from Menard's in Beaver Dam: Venom brand Chemical Resistant Nitrile Gloves, Bissel Pro Oxy Spot & Stain Formula - 32 ounce, Hoover brand Spot & Stain Remover, two 32 ounce Santeen S-T Professional Strength Liquid Drain Opener, Hoover CleanSlate Pet Carpet & Upholstery Spot Cleaner, Turtle Wax Power Out! Automotive Carpet Cleaner, OxiClean Total Interior Floor Mat & Carpet Cleaner, Ozium Original Gel Auto Air Freshener, OxiClean Duo-Wipes Multi-Purpose Cleaning Wipes

On June 16, 2024, Zachariah Rasch is observed on video surveillance using Victim A's debit card to purchase the following items from Blain's Farm & Fleet store of Watertown: Arm & Hammer Plus Oxi Laundry Detergent and a 27 gal plastic storage tote.

On June 16, 2024, Victim A's debit card was used to purchase the following items from Ace Hardware store of Watertown: four 32oz bottles of Santeen Industrial Strength S-T Liquid Drain Opener.

On June 23, 2024, Zachariah Rasch is observed on video surveillance using Victim A's debit card to purchase the following items from Menard's in Beaver Dam: Six 32 ounce bottles of Santeen S-T Drain Cleaner.

Santeen Industrial Strength S-T Liquid Drain Cleaner is 93% Sulfuric Acid.

On June 26, 2024, Detective Kontny and Detective Rolfs interviewed Rasch at the Dodge County Sheriff's Office. Rasch was read the entirety of his Miranda rights and he agreed to waive the same and answer questions. Rasch stated that Victim A and him were married, but Victim A filed for divorce about a year ago.

During this interview, Rasch initially denied using Victim A's debt card, but when confronted with the video surveillance, Rasch admitted he was lying to Detective Kontny and Detective Rolfs. Rasch stated he had been using Victim A's account to make numerous unauthorized purchases without her consent. He stated that Victim A consented to him purchasing tires at Wal-Mart, but the other purchases were not authorized.

Rasch admitted to being with Victim A on June 8, 2024 in the Wisconsin Dells. When asked what vehicle he drove to the Dells, Rasch stated a Dodge Ram. Rasch also stated that he had a red Chevy Cobalt. Rasch initially denied owning or operating a silver 2023 Mitsubishi Eclipse. Later in the interview Rasch admitted to spending the night in Adams county at a camper with Victim A. He initially denied knowledge of the property in Adam's county. When asked about the silver Mitsubishi Eclipse, after he admitted he owned the vehicle, he stated he did not know where that vehicle was. Rasch was shown the FLOCK camera photo from June 24, 2024 of the Mitsubishi Eclipse and he admitted to driving the vehicle on that date to the property in Adams County. He previously told law enforcement the vehicle had been repossessed. When confronted with inconsistencies throughout the interview, Rasch would just say, "I don't know where she is."

When asked regarding purchasing large quantities of Santeen Drain Cleaner (mostly sulfuric acid), Rasch responded that he was trying to get rid of animals around his parent's house on Wood Road after holes kept popping up. He later claimed that after using the drain cleaner to combat the chipmunks at his parent's property, he got rid of the bottles by burning them.

Subscribed and Sworn to me on 09/20/24

Electronically Signed By:

Electronically Signed By:

Detective Justin Kontry

Shawn N Woller

Complainant

Assistant District Attorney

State Bar #: 1084308