

**FILED**  
**09-19-2025**  
**Anna Maria Hodges**  
**Clerk of Circuit Court**  
**2025CF004371**  
**Honorable Ana Berrios-**  
**Schroeder-13**  
**Branch 13**

**STATE OF WISCONSIN                      CIRCUIT COURT                      MILWAUKEE COUNTY**

**STATE OF WISCONSIN**  
**Plaintiff,**

**DA Case No.: 2025ML023896**  
**Court Case No.:**

vs.

**CRIMINAL COMPLAINT**

DUPRIEST, CHARLES ALBERT  
8000 WEST GRANTOSA DRIVE  
MILWAUKEE, WI 53218  
DOB: 04/07/1992

ZIELINSKI, AZYIA C  
1321A WEST ALBANY PLACE  
MILWAUKEE, WI 53206  
DOB: 10/21/1998

**Defendant(s).**

*For Official Use*

THE BELOW NAMED COMPLAINANT BEING DULY SWORN, ON INFORMATION AND BELIEF STATES THAT:

**Count 1: POSSESSION OF A FIREARM BY A FELON** (As to defendant Charles Albert Dupriest)

The above-named defendant on or about Tuesday, September 16, 2025, at 5555 North 27th Street, in the City of Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin, did possess a firearm, having been convicted of a felony in this state, contrary to sec. 941.29(1m)(a), 939.50(3)(g) Wis. Stats.

Upon conviction for this offense, a Class G Felony, the defendants may be fined not more than Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000), or imprisoned not more than ten (10) years, or both.

**Count 2: NEGLECTING A CHILD - SPECIFIED HARM DID NOT OCCUR AND CHILD UNDER 6 YEARS OF AGE** (As to defendant Charles Albert Dupriest)

The above-named defendant on or about Tuesday, September 16, 2025, at 5555 North 27th Street, in the City of Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin, being a person responsible for the welfare of a child, ED, [REDACTED], through his action, for reasons other than poverty, did negligently fail to provide necessary care so as to seriously endanger the physical, mental, or emotional health of the child, and the natural and probable consequences of this violation would be harm under 948.21(3) par (a), (b), (c) or (d), Wis. Stats., although the harm did not actually occur, and the child had not attained the age of six years when the violation was committed, contrary to sec. 948.21(2) and (3)(e), 939.50(3)(i) Wis. Stats.

Upon conviction for this offense, a Class I Felony, the defendants may be fined not more than Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000), or imprisoned not more than three (3) years and six (6) months, or both.

**Count 3: NEGLECTING A CHILD - SPECIFIED HARM DID NOT OCCUR AND CHILD UNDER 6 YEARS OF AGE** (As to defendant Charles Albert Dupriest)

The above-named defendant on or about Tuesday, September 16, 2025, at 5555 North 27th Street, in the City of Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin, being a person responsible for the welfare of a child, KD, [REDACTED], through his action, for reasons other than poverty, did negligently fail to

provide necessary care so as to seriously endanger the physical, mental, or emotional health of the child, and the natural and probable consequences of this violation would be harm under 948.21(3) par (a), (b), (c) or (d), Wis. Stats., although the harm did not actually occur, and the child had not attained the age of six years when the violation was committed, contrary to sec. 948.21(2) and (3)(e), 939.50(3)(i) Wis. Stats.

Upon conviction for this offense, a Class I Felony, the defendants may be fined not more than Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000), or imprisoned not more than three (3) years and six (6) months, or both.

**Count 4: NEGLECTING A CHILD - SPECIFIED HARM DID NOT OCCUR AND CHILD UNDER 6 YEARS OF AGE** (As to defendant Charles Albert Dupriest)

The above-named defendant on or about Tuesday, September 16, 2025, at 5555 North 27th Street, in the City of Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin, being a person responsible for the welfare of a child, LD, [REDACTED], through his action, for reasons other than poverty, did negligently fail to provide necessary care so as to seriously endanger the physical, mental, or emotional health of the child, and the natural and probable consequences of this violation would be harm under 948.21(3) par (a), (b), (c) or (d), Wis. Stats., although the harm did not actually occur, and the child had not attained the age of six years when the violation was committed, contrary to sec. 948.21(2) and (3)(e), 939.50(3)(i) Wis. Stats.

Upon conviction for this offense, a Class I Felony, the defendants may be fined not more than Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000), or imprisoned not more than three (3) years and six (6) months, or both.

**Count 5: NEGLECTING A CHILD - SPECIFIED HARM DID NOT OCCUR AND CHILD UNDER 6 YEARS OF AGE** (As to defendant Charles Albert Dupriest)

The above-named defendant on or about Tuesday, September 16, 2025, at 5555 North 27th Street, in the City of Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin, being a person responsible for the welfare of a child, LD, [REDACTED], through his action, for reasons other than poverty, did negligently fail to provide necessary care so as to seriously endanger the physical, mental, or emotional health of the child, and the natural and probable consequences of this violation would be harm under 948.21(3) par (a), (b), (c) or (d), Wis. Stats., although the harm did not actually occur, and the child had not attained the age of six years when the violation was committed, contrary to sec. 948.21(2) and (3)(e), 939.50(3)(i) Wis. Stats.

Upon conviction for this offense, a Class I Felony, the defendants may be fined not more than Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000), or imprisoned not more than three (3) years and six (6) months, or both.

**Count 6: NEGLECTING A CHILD - SPECIFIED HARM DID NOT OCCUR** (As to defendant Charles Albert Dupriest)

The above-named defendant on or about Tuesday, September 16, 2025, at 5555 North 27th Street, in the City of Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin, being a person responsible for the welfare of a child, CND, [REDACTED], through his action, for reasons other than poverty, did negligently fail to provide necessary care so as to seriously endanger the physical, mental, or emotional health of the child, and the natural and probable consequences of this violation would be harm under 948.21(3) par (a), (b), (c) or (d), Wis. Stats., although the harm did not actually occur, contrary to sec. 948.21(2) and (3)(f), 939.51(3)(a) Wis. Stats.

Upon conviction for this offense, a Class A Misdemeanor, the defendants may be fined not more than Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000), or imprisoned not more than nine (9) months, or both.

**Count 7: NEGLECTING A CHILD - SPECIFIED HARM DID NOT OCCUR** (As to defendant Charles Albert Dupriest)

The above-named defendant on or about Tuesday, September 16, 2025, at 5555 North 27th Street, in the City of Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin, being a person responsible for the welfare of a child, JD, [REDACTED], through his action, for reasons other than poverty, did negligently fail to provide necessary care so as to seriously endanger the physical, mental, or emotional health of the child, and the natural and probable consequences of this violation would be harm under 948.21(3) par (a), (b), (c) or (d), Wis. Stats., although the harm did not actually occur, contrary to sec. 948.21(2) and (3)(f), 939.51(3)(a) Wis. Stats.

Upon conviction for this offense, a Class A Misdemeanor, the defendants may be fined not more than Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000), or imprisoned not more than nine (9) months, or both.

**Count 8: NEGLECTING A CHILD - SPECIFIED HARM DID NOT OCCUR AND CHILD UNDER 6 YEARS OF AGE** (As to defendant Azyia C Zielinski)

The above-named defendant on or about Tuesday, September 16, 2025, at 5555 North 27th Street, in the City of Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin, being a person responsible for the welfare of a child, ED, [REDACTED], through her action, for reasons other than poverty, did negligently fail to provide necessary care so as to seriously endanger the physical, mental, or emotional health of the child, and the natural and probable consequences of this violation would be harm under 948.21(3) par (a), (b), (c) or (d), Wis. Stats., although the harm did not actually occur, and the child had not attained the age of six years when the violation was committed, contrary to sec. 948.21(2) and (3)(e), 939.50(3)(i) Wis. Stats.

Upon conviction for this offense, a Class I Felony, the defendants may be fined not more than Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000), or imprisoned not more than three (3) years and six (6) months, or both.

**Count 9: NEGLECTING A CHILD - SPECIFIED HARM DID NOT OCCUR AND CHILD UNDER 6 YEARS OF AGE** (As to defendant Azyia C Zielinski)

The above-named defendant on or about Tuesday, September 16, 2025, at 5555 North 27th Street, in the City of Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin, being a person responsible for the welfare of a child, KD, [REDACTED], through her action, for reasons other than poverty, did negligently fail to provide necessary care so as to seriously endanger the physical, mental, or emotional health of the child, and the natural and probable consequences of this violation would be harm under 948.21(3) par (a), (b), (c) or (d), Wis. Stats., although the harm did not actually occur, and the child had not attained the age of six years when the violation was committed, contrary to sec. 948.21(2) and (3)(e), 939.50(3)(i) Wis. Stats.

Upon conviction for this offense, a Class I Felony, the defendants may be fined not more than Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000), or imprisoned not more than three (3) years and six (6) months, or both.

**Count 10: NEGLECTING A CHILD - SPECIFIED HARM DID NOT OCCUR AND CHILD UNDER 6 YEARS OF AGE** (As to defendant Azyia C Zielinski)

The above-named defendant on or about Tuesday, September 16, 2025, at 5555 North 27th Street, in the City of Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin, being a person responsible for the welfare of a child, LD, [REDACTED], through her action, for reasons other than poverty, did negligently fail to provide necessary care so as to seriously endanger the physical, mental, or emotional health of the

child, and the natural and probable consequences of this violation would be harm under 948.21(3) par (a), (b), (c) or (d), Wis. Stats., although the harm did not actually occur, and the child had not attained the age of six years when the violation was committed, contrary to sec. 948.21(2) and (3)(e), 939.50(3)(i) Wis. Stats.

Upon conviction for this offense, a Class I Felony, the defendants may be fined not more than Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000), or imprisoned not more than three (3) years and six (6) months, or both.

**Count 11: NEGLECTING A CHILD - SPECIFIED HARM DID NOT OCCUR AND CHILD UNDER 6 YEARS OF AGE** (As to defendant Azyia C Zielinski)

The above-named defendant on or about Tuesday, September 16, 2025, at 5555 North 27th Street, in the City of Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin, being a person responsible for the welfare of a child, LD, [REDACTED], through her action, for reasons other than poverty, did negligently fail to provide necessary care so as to seriously endanger the physical, mental, or emotional health of the child, and the natural and probable consequences of this violation would be harm under 948.21(3) par (a), (b), (c) or (d), Wis. Stats., although the harm did not actually occur, and the child had not attained the age of six years when the violation was committed, contrary to sec. 948.21(2) and (3)(e), 939.50(3)(i) Wis. Stats.

Upon conviction for this offense, a Class I Felony, the defendants may be fined not more than Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000), or imprisoned not more than three (3) years and six (6) months, or both.

**Count 12: NEGLECTING A CHILD - SPECIFIED HARM DID NOT OCCUR** (As to defendant Azyia C Zielinski)

The above-named defendant on or about Tuesday, September 16, 2025, at 5555 North 27th Street, in the City of Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin, being a person responsible for the welfare of a child, CND, [REDACTED], through her action, for reasons other than poverty, did negligently fail to provide necessary care so as to seriously endanger the physical, mental, or emotional health of the child, and the natural and probable consequences of this violation would be harm under 948.21(3) par (a), (b), (c) or (d), Wis. Stats., although the harm did not actually occur, contrary to sec. 948.21(2) and (3)(f), 939.51(3)(a) Wis. Stats.

Upon conviction for this offense, a Class A Misdemeanor, the defendants may be fined not more than Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000), or imprisoned not more than nine (9) months, or both.

**Count 13: NEGLECTING A CHILD - SPECIFIED HARM DID NOT OCCUR** (As to defendant Azyia C Zielinski)

The above-named defendant on or about Tuesday, September 16, 2025, at 5555 North 27th Street, in the City of Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin, being a person responsible for the welfare of a child, JD, [REDACTED], through her action, for reasons other than poverty, did negligently fail to provide necessary care so as to seriously endanger the physical, mental, or emotional health of the child, and the natural and probable consequences of this violation would be harm under 948.21(3) par (a), (b), (c) or (d), Wis. Stats., although the harm did not actually occur, contrary to sec. 948.21(2) and (3)(f), 939.51(3)(a) Wis. Stats.

Upon conviction for this offense, a Class A Misdemeanor, the defendants may be fined not more than Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000), or imprisoned not more than nine (9) months, or both.

**Probable Cause:**

Complainant is a City of Milwaukee law enforcement officer. They base this complaint on information and belief and on a review of official police reports prepared by fellow City of Milwaukee police officers. These are of the kind Complainant has used in the past and found to be truthful and reliable and which Complainant knows were prepared in the ordinary and regular course of police business.

### **A. Crying baby call for service**

On September 16, 2025, at approximately 1:33 a.m., Milwaukee police were dispatched to a report of a crying child inside a locked storage unit at Storsafe, 5555 North 27th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Caller VRG ([REDACTED]) expressed concern for the baby's welfare.

Officers Dathe and Perry arrived on scene and heard a child crying inside storage unit B58. They observed a padlock securing the garage-style door. Officer Dathe also heard coughing from another child inside the unit. The Milwaukee Fire Department forced entry by cutting the padlock. Inside, they observed a bucket containing urine in the middle of the room and six children ranging in age from two months to nine years. Detectives later learned that the only light visible to the children came through the crack of the garage door.

### **B. Initial Encounter and Identification of Children**

Detectives Flores and Newell identified the six children as:

- 9-year-old CD ([REDACTED])
- 7-year-old JD ([REDACTED])
- 5-year-old ED ([REDACTED])
- 3-year-old LD ([REDACTED])
- 2-year-old KD ([REDACTED])
- 2-month-old LD ([REDACTED])

Detective Newell entered the unit and observed the six children sleeping. Five-year-old ED told Detective Newell, "We're not supposed to be loud." Shortly afterward, ED urinated in an orange bucket in the center of the unit.

Detective Newell woke up 9-year-old CD, who identified defendants Azyia Zielinski and Charles Dupriest as their parents. CD stated he was responsible for caring for his five younger siblings when his parents were away. CD reported that he stays at the storage unit about 50% of the time and that they use a bucket to urinate and defecate. CD stated he is supposed to give the two-month-old LD a bottle or pacifier and pick her up when she cries. CD told Detective Newell he was hungry and had no device to contact his parents or anyone else in an emergency.

### **C. Storage Unit**

Detective Newell noted the unit was in disarray. He observed a sectional couch and a twin mattress on which three of the children slept. The mattress had no bedsheets. He observed boxes of chips, milk, and a case of soda. There were no lights, electricity, or running water. Detectives Finkley and Farina described the smell as "putrid" despite the door being open. Detectives Finkley and Farina noted the odor was so putrid they could not remain inside even with the garage door open.

Below are photographs of the back of the storage unit with the sectional couch, twin bed, and urinated bucket:



#### D. Interview of Storsafe Employee KJB ( [REDACTED] )

Detective Farina spoke with employee KJB, who had worked at Storsafe since May 2025. KJB stated that in May 2025, while cleaning the hallway outside B58, he overheard an adult male inside say, "Sit down and be quiet."

KJB provided surveillance video showing the defendants dropping their children off at the storage unit. He also recalled seeing a twin-sized bed inside. He reported the issue to management, who issued an eviction notice for B58.

KJB further stated he became irritated with the defendants after finding a burnt marijuana blunt on a keypad in the building where B58 was located. He suspected it belonged to the defendants but could not prove it. KJB confirmed that the storage units have air conditioning that is set to 76 degrees in the summertime.

#### E. Arrest of Defendants

At approximately 2:11 a.m., Officers Dathe and Kallas located the defendants sleeping in a black Ford Expedition SUV in the parking lot. Defendants Charles Dupriest and Azyia Zielinski admitted they slept in the SUV with their dog while the six children slept in the locked storage unit without electricity. Officers noted that the SUV had three rows of seating. The middle row was entirely open and the dog slept on one seat in the back row. Both defendants stated they were homeless but later admitted the children could have stayed with family members instead of the storage unit. Officers recovered a loaded firearm in the center console of the SUV.

Detective Steele conducted a Mirandized interview with defendant Zielinski. She stated she had struggled to secure housing for seven years. Ms. Zielinski stated the family was kicked out of Joy House in July after she gave birth. She admitted the children had been sleeping in the storage unit for about one and a half months. She said they obtained food from organizations and received WIC and food stamps, as well as \$2,000 per month in Social Security benefits. She acknowledged providing the bucket for the children to urinate in. Zielinski stated the firearm belonged to her, but MR. Dupriest touched it when retrieving items from the console. Ms. Zielinski admitted both of their DNA would be on the weapon.

Detective Fraley conducted a Mirandized interview with defendant Dupriest. He confirmed the family had been kicked out of Joy House about a month earlier and that the Ford Expedition belonged to him.

He stated Zielinski received \$2,000 per month in Social Security. He admitted the children slept in the storage unit about three times per week. He acknowledged other family and friends could have housed the children.

Dupriest stated he and Zielinski slept in the SUV with their dog. He said he previously slept in the unit but stopped after the dog tore up the truck. He admitted they locked their children in the storage unit. He awoke in the SUV when police knocked on the window. Dupriest denied ever touching the gun in the console and refused to provide DNA. He stated he only had two storage units.

#### **F. Interview of Family Member LLG (REDACTED)**

Detective Finkley interviewed LLG, the older brother of defendant Dupriest. LLG stated he thought the defendants were living at a shelter. He confirmed the children had other family or friends they could have stayed with. He said he regularly spoke to Dupriest but had no idea the family was living in a storage unit. LLG came forward because he and his family wanted CPS to place the children with them.

#### **G. Forensic Interviews**

Forensic Interviewer Megan Sechler interviewed 5 year old LD. LD identified her parents as Dupriest and Zielinski. She stated she felt "sad" when locked in the storage unit and "mad" so she made the unit dirty. She said she tried to open the door but could not. She reported using a bucket to urinate and defecate, sometimes with a bag placed inside. She said she was upset the dog got to sleep in the car while she and her siblings slept in the unit. LD stated her parents went to bed while the children were still awake. She said her father carried a firearm, pointing to her hip. She also reported seeing her parents smoke and said her father told her not to talk about it.

Forensic Interviewer Kimberly Swendson interviewed 7 year old JD. JD stated he slept in the storage unit with his siblings while his parents slept in the car. He said they stayed there because they had no place to live, though sometimes they stayed with their uncle. He confirmed they used a bucket for urination and defecation and that there were no lights, only cracks through which light entered. JD said his father had five storage units and that he disliked being in the unit. He said he would not know how to get out in an emergency. JD reported his parents smoked in the unit or the car and that his father drank liquor in the car and would doze off.

Forensic Interviewer Kimberly Swendson interviewed 9 year old CD. CD reported that he spoke with police because he and his siblings were left inside the storage unit. CD stated he had not eaten anything and found what he described as a "jackpot" of snacks. He described the storage unit as containing a large amount of garbage.

CD reported that his father primarily disciplines him and that discipline consists of "whoopings." He recalled that "a while ago" his father struck him in the mouth with such force that his lip began bleeding and it hurt. CD stated that after a butt whooping he thought he needed to go to the hospital and get surgery. CD stated that all the children are subjected to "whoopings" except the baby.

CD further reported that his parents drink tequila and vodka, become drunk, and "slump over." He demonstrated to the interviewer how they stumble when intoxicated. He stated that when his parents are drunk, he is responsible for taking care of his younger siblings.

CD also stated that his mother and father smoke marijuana in the car with the children present. He reported that his father has "a bunch of guns" which he keeps in his car and on his person. Finally, CD stated that the family had been living in the storage unit for a few months and described it as boring.

## H. Charles Dupriest Third Degree Sexual Assault Conviction

Complainant further bases this complaint upon a CCAP check of the defendant DUPRIEST. CCAP reflects DUPRIEST was convicted of the felony offense of Third Degree Sexual Assault (Wis. Stat. Sec. 940.225(3)) in Ozaukee County Circuit Court case number 2010CF42. Said conviction remains of record and unreversed.

\*\*\*\*End of Complaint\*\*\*\*

### Electronic Filing Notice:

This case was electronically filed with the Milwaukee County Clerk of Circuit Court office. The electronic filing system is designed to allow for fast, reliable exchange of documents in court cases. Parties who register as electronic parties can file, receive and view documents online through the court electronic filing website. A document filed electronically has the same legal effect as a document filed by traditional means. You may also register as an electronic party by following the instructions found at <http://efiling.wicourts.gov> and may withdraw as an electronic party at any time. There is a \$ 20.00 fee to register as an electronic party. If you are not represented by an attorney and would like to register an electronic party, you will need to contact the Clerk of Circuit Court office at 414-278-4120. Unless you register as an electronic party, you will be served with traditional paper documents by other parties and by the court. You must file and serve traditional paper documents.

Criminal Complaint prepared by Thomas Hasle.  
ADA Assigned Email Address: [thomas.hasle@da.wi.gov](mailto:thomas.hasle@da.wi.gov)

Subscribed and sworn to before me on 09/19/25

Electronically Signed By:

Thomas Hasle

Assistant District Attorney

State Bar #: 1116075

Electronically Signed By:

Police Officer Luke X. LEE

Complainant