

**Plaintiff:**

- State of Iowa
- City of Grinnell

**Grinnell Police Department**  
 IN THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT FOR  
 POWESHIEK COUNTY

- COMPLAINT AND AFFIDAVIT (Chapter 804, Code of Iowa – BOND REQUIRED) CITATION IN LIEU OF ARREST, AND
- COMPLAINT (Chapter 805, Code of Iowa – NO BOND REQUIRED)

**vs.**

Defendant – Name, DOB, Address  
**Steven Alan Vogel DOB: 1/5/89**  
**1203 Spring Street**  
**Grinnell, Iowa 50112**

Court Information  
 Docket #: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Citation #: \_\_\_\_\_

GPD Case #: PDI20200780

**Indictment/Complaint**

The defendant is accused of the crime of **Murder 1<sup>st</sup> Degree (Class A Felony)** in violation of the **Code of Iowa Section/Grinnell Municipal Code Section 707.2(1)(a)** that the defendant, on or about the **between September 1<sup>st</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>, 2020** at the following location; **1203 Spring Street** in Grinnell and/or Poweshiek County, IA did unlawfully: **Having malice aforethought, willfully, deliberately, and with premeditation kill Michael Ronnell Williams.**

*Sgt. Dan Jh*  
 Signature of Complainant

**Affidavit**

I, the undersigned, further state that the following facts known by me or told to me by other reliable persons for the basis for my belief that the defendant committed the crime stated above:

On September 16, 2020, at approximately 4:15 p.m., witness J.B. was traveling west bound in the 8100 block North 67th Avenue East in rural Kellogg, Iowa, when she noticed a pickup truck traveling the wrong direction on the road. Witness J.B. said the vehicle was occupied by two white males; one wearing a "gator style" mask, and one wearing a "standard" mask. Witness J.B. described the truck as having a rubber maid totes, a bicycle, and a mattress in the bed of the truck. At approximately 4:30 p.m. on the same date, brother and sister, witness D.A. and E.A. were traveling west bound on in the 8100 block of North 67th Avenue East in rural Kellogg, Iowa. Witness D.A. and E.A saw smoke and flames in the ditch along the north side of the road. Witness D.A. got out of her vehicle and stood along the north edge of the road. Witness D.A. and E.A. told their grandparents, witnesses J.A and N.A., about the fire. At approximately 5:30 p.m., witness N.A. called Jasper County 911 to report a fire.

At approximately 5:42 p.m., Jasper County Deputy Kira Lazenby arrived in the 8100 block of North 67th Avenue East, in rural Kellogg. Deputy Lazenby located a fire in the North ditch off the road. At 5:44 p.m., members of the Kellogg Fire Department (KFD) also arrived in the 8100 block of North 67th Avenue East, where they located the fire in the ditch on the north side of the road. KFD personnel extinguished the flames using a fire extinguisher. Once the fire was extinguished, the charred body of a male was found. The scene surrounding the body was searched and processed by the Jasper County Sheriff's Office, and the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation. This reveled a male dressed and wrapped in cloth and plastic. There was evidence of the body being bound by rope and duct tape.

On September 17, 2020, Dr. Michelle Catellier, with the Iowa Office of the State Medical Examiner, "IOSME" conducted an autopsy of the body. On September 18, 2020 the "OSME" advised law enforcement that they had positively identified the deceased as Michael Ronnell Williams. Dr. Michelle Catellier, made a preliminary determination that the cause and manner of death was homicide, consistent with strangulation.

On September 17, 2020 witness T.G. contacted law enforcement and reported information about a homicide in Jasper County. Witness T.G. reported to law enforcement that "Steve" killed Michael Williams on the previous Saturday in Grinnell. Witness T.G reported "Steve" strangled, Michael Williams.

On September 17, 2020 law enforcement interviewed witness B.B. Witness B.B. told law enforcement that witness N.H. told her that "Steven Vogel" killed Michael Williams. Witness B.B. told law enforcement that witness N.H saw the body of Michael Williams wrapped up in the basement at "Steven Vogel's mother's house, located at 1203 Spring Street in Grinnell, Iowa.

On September 17, 2020 law enforcement conducted a search warrant at; 1203 Spring Street in Grinnell, Iowa, this is at the residence of; Steven Vogel, Julia Cox, and Roy Garner. During the execution of the search warrant law enforcement conducted interviews with Julia Cox and Roy Garner. Law enforcement located a green 1999 Dodge Dakota, Iowa plate HRG069 parked at 1203 Spring Street. Law enforcement located this same Dodge Dakota at a dump site located in Tama County at; a half mile north of 350th Street on B Avenue in rural Tama County. Several items of evidentiary value were located at the dump site, including; plywood, carpet, bleach bottles, rubber gloves, plastic, socks, and a receipt with Steven Vogel's name on it.

Law enforcement interviewed Roy Garner on September 17<sup>th</sup>, and on September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020. Roy Garner told law enforcement that on September 16, 2020 he drove his green 1999 Dodge Dakota, Iowa plate HRG069 to a rural area near a bridge that had guard rail. Roy Garner said Julia Cox and Steve Vogel were with him. Roy Garner said Julia Cox and Steve Vogel got out of his truck and pulled a roll of carpet out of the bed onto the road. Roy Garner said Steven Vogel then pulled the roll of carpet down into the ditch. Roy Garner then told law enforcement that he drove Steven Vogel to Marshalltown and dropped him off at Steven Vogel's sisters. Roy Garner said he and Julia Cox then proceeded to a rural area in Tama County, where they dumped the remaining items in the back of Roy Garner's 1999 Dodge truck, into the ditch.

Law Enforcement interviewed Julia Cox on September 17<sup>th</sup>, and on September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020. Julia Cox told Law Enforcement that she was aware that there was a long object covered with a brown blanket in the basement where she resides with Roy Garner at; 1203 Spring Street in Grinnell. Julia Cox said she was aware that the object was wrapped up in a brown blanket that she had herself obtained from a dumpster. Julia Cox said she observed the object laying inside the bedroom inside the basement. Julia Cox said that Steven Vogel loaded the object into the back of Roy Garner's green 1999 Dodge truck. Julia Cox said she then loaded rubber maid totes and a bicycle into the bed of Roy Garner's truck. Julia Cox told law enforcement that Roy Garner, Steven Vogel and she stopped at Casey's West in Grinnell, and Steven Vogel purchased fuel in cash before they left Grinnell. Julia Cox said Roy Garner drove her and Steven Vogel to a rural area near Mariposa Park, Kellogg, Iowa. Julia Cox said she helped Steven Vogel pull the object out of the back of Roy Garner's green 1999 Dodge truck. Julia Cox stated the smell was making her sick. Julia Cox said Steven Vogel then pulled the object into the ditch. Julia Cox said that Roy Garner then proceeded drive her and Steven Vogel to Marshalltown where Steven Vogel was dropped off at his sister's apartment. Julia Cox said she and Roy Garner then drove to a rural area in Tama County where they threw trash into the ditch.

On September 17, 2020 law enforcement spoke with Jennifer Vogel who told law enforcement that she received a text message from her mother Julia Cox at approximately 2:20 PM. The text message stated that Julia Cox was on her the way to her apartment in Marshalltown. Jennifer Vogel told law enforcement that Julia Cox had not arrived at her house by 4:22 PM, and that she sent her a text message at 4:45 PM asking where she was at. Jennifer Vogel then went to Walmart to buy a pair pants for Steven Vogel who had told her that he needed pants. Julia Cox, Roy Garner, and Steven Vogel arrived at Jennifer Vogel's apartment at approximately 4:45 PM. Roy Garner and Julia Cox dropped Steven Vogel off at Jennifer Vogel's apartment in Marshalltown. Jennifer Vogel told law enforcement that Steven Vogel had totes and a bicycle with him when Roy Garner and Julia Cox dropped Steven Vogel off at her apartment.

On September 18, 2020 law enforcement interviewed Cody Johnson who told law enforcement that on September 13, 2020, Steven Vogel arrived at his residence. Steven Vogel asked Cody Johnson if he would give him ride back to his residence located at; 1203 Spring Street in Grinnell. Steve Vogel told Cody Johnson that Michael Williams was is in the basement. When Cody Johnson and Steven Vogel arrived at Steven Vogel's house they went into the basement, where Cody Johnson observed the feet of Michael Williams, who was wrapped up in something. Cody Johnson said that Steven Vogel told him that he had "clubbed," Michael Williams. Cody Johnson told law enforcement that he and Steven Vogel then attempted to remove the body of Michael Williams from the basement, and were unable to do so. Cody Johnson told law enforcement that a couple of days later on September 15, 2020, Steven Vogel came back to his house and wanted to obtain drugs in exchange for help to get Michael Williams out of his basement.

On September 18, 2020 law enforcement interviewed witness N.H. Witness N.H told law enforcement that on September 13, 2020 he went to Steven Vogel's house located at; 1203 Spring Street in Grinnell. Witness N.H told law enforcement

that he and Steven Vogel went into the basement and observed the body of Michael Williams. Witness N.H said Steven Vogel lifted a mattress showing him the body of Michael Williams, and told N.H., he's dead. N.H said that Steven Vogel told him that he strangled Michael Williams. N.H. explained to law enforcement that Michael Williams was wrapped up in a milky colored plastic. N.H. said he went back to; 1203 Spring Street a couple of days later, and Steven Vogel asked him if he would help him move Michael William's body out of the basement.

On September 21, 2020 law enforcement spoke with witness R.P. who is Michael William's cousin. R.P. reported to law enforcement that she last spoke with her cousin on September 12, 2020 at 2:11 p.m. Central Time. This is the last known contact with Michael Williams.

During the course of the investigation law enforcement learned that Steven Vogel and Michael Williams were acquaintances with an established relationships spanning several years.

THEREFORE, Complainant requests that the defendant, subject to bail or conditions of release where applicable:

- (1) be arrested or that other lawful steps be taken to obtain the defendant's appearance in court; or
  - (2) be detained, if already in custody, pending further proceedings; or
- and that said defendant be otherwise dealt with according to law.

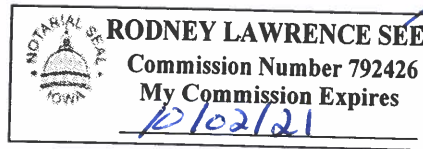
STATE OF IOWA, POWESHIEK: ss – COMPLAINT/AFFIDAVIT: I, the undersigned Affiant, being duly sworn upon oath, do depose and state that all the above information, hereby adopted by reference, is true and correct.

*[Handwritten Signature]*  
Signature of Complainant/Affiant

*[Handwritten Signature]*  
Signature of Notary/Magistrate/Judge

Subscribed and sworn before me by the person(s) signing the complaint and affidavit(s) on this the 21st day of September, 2020

Seal of Notary



*Rodney See 79-4*

Complaint and Affidavit/Citation in Lieu of Arrest, and Complaint

COMPLAINT AND AFFIDAVIT: I, the Defendant herein, have been directed to appear  place in jail  for initial appearance at 8:30 A.M. on the day of in Court at the Poweshiek County Courthouse in Montezuma, IA.

CODE OF IOWA, SECTION 805.5 FAILURE TO APPEAR, Any person who willfully fails to appear in court as specified by the citation shall be guilty of a simple misdemeanor. Where a defendant fails to make a required court appearance, the court shall issue as arrest warrant for the offense of failure to appear, and shall forward the warrant and the original citation to the clerk. The clerk shall enter a transfer to the issuing agency on the enforcement of the warrant. Upon arrest of the defendant, the warrant and the original citation shall be returned to the court, and the offenses shall be heard and disposed of simultaneously. I hereby promise to appear in said court at said time and place:

Signature of Defendant

Magistrate/Judge Findings

Complaint and affidavit(s) filed and probable cause found that the defendant committed the offense charged.

Signature of Magistrate/Judge