

LPD Case Number: C3-107311

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF LANCASTER COUNTY, NEBRASKA

CR24-1

IN THE MATTER OF THE SEARCH WARRANT
OF THE DESCRIBED PREMISES OF
THE LINCOLN POLICE DEPARTMENT
575 SOUTH 10TH STREET
LINCOLN, LANCASTER COUNTY, NEBRASKA

SEARCH WARRANT RETURN

STATE OF NEBRASKA)
)
) ss.
COUNTY OF LANCASTER)

The undersigned states that he received the Search Warrant issued herein on the 27th day of December, 2023, and that he executed the same on the 8th day of January, 2024, by seizing the property described in the Inventory filed herein and by delivering a copy of the Search Warrant for the said property at the place from which the property is taken.

Corey L. Weinmaster #883
COREY L. WEINMASTER #883

SUBSCRIBED to in my presence and sworn to before me this 9th day of January, 2024.

Laura M. Allen
Notary Public

LANCASTER COUNTY
2024 JAN -9 PM 3: 57
CLERK OF THE
DISTRICT COURT



002162695D02

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RECEIPT OF SEIZED ITEMS

The following is a list of the items seized and removed as evidence during the execution of a search warrant at the premise of the Lincoln Police Department, 575 South 10th Street, Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska.

Laptop computer under LPD Property Q2327819

- 526 .E01 Image files

LANCASTER COUNTY
2024 JAN -9 PM 3:57
CLERK OF THE
DISTRICT COURT

Date 1/8/24

Cory L. M... #883
Law Enforcement Officer

Witness *[Signature]* 1551

IN THE COUNTY OF LANCASTER COUNTY, NEBRASKA

STATE OF NEBRASKA)
) ss. SEARCH WARRANT
COUNTY OF LANCASTER)

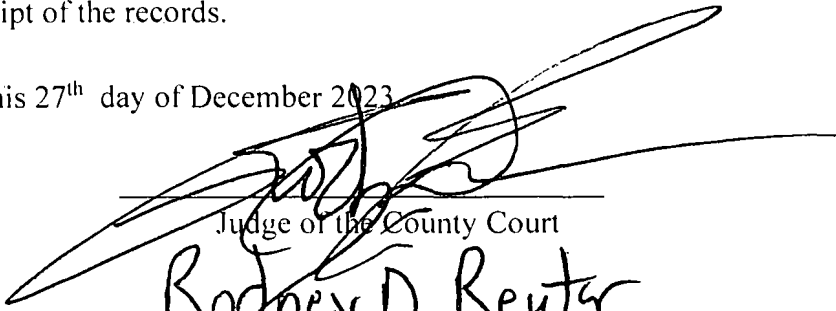
TO: Robert Norton, a Investigator with the Lincoln Police Department Special Victims Unit, Lancaster County, Nebraska, and any and all law enforcement officers.

WHEREAS, Robert Norton has filed an Affidavit before the undersigned Judge of the County Court of Lancaster County, Nebraska, and said written Affidavit, having been duly considered, the court finds that the facts set forth in said Affidavit are true, and that those facts do constitute grounds and probable cause for the issuance of a Search Warrant.

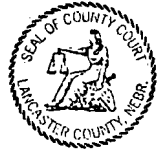
THEREFORE, you are commanded to search the places(s) listed in Attachment A to seize the listed property, as well as search the property for the digital evidence listed in Attachment B.

This search warrant shall be executed and returned within ten (10) days to a Clerk of the Lancaster District Court, Nebraska. In the event records are not received from the Service Provider within ten (10) days, your Affiant requests authorization to returned the search warrant within ten (10) days of receipt of the records.

Given under my hand and seal this 27th day of December 2023



Judge of the County Court
Rodney D. Reuter
Printed Name of Judge



LANCASTER COUNTY
2024 JAN -9 PM 3:57
CLERK OF THE
DISTRICT COURT

ATTACHMENT A

Property to Be Searched

This warrant is directed to seize and search the following;

- An unknown brand laptop computer located in the Lincoln Police Property Evidence Unit at 575 South 10th Street, Lincoln, Lancaster County, NE, labeled with Property Number Q2327819 and Case Number C3-107311.

ATTACHMENT B

Particular Things to be Seized

To the extent that the information described in Attachment A is within the possession, custody, or control of the Lincoln Police Department it is requested to search for and seize the following records for each item listed in Attachment A to include including any live and/or deleted data for the time frame of September 28, 2016 at 0001 hours CST to December 1, 2023 at 0001 hours CST, specifically for the following:

1. Evidence of other accounts associated with this device including email addresses, social media accounts, messaging “app” accounts, and other accounts that may be accessed through the digital device that will aid in determining the possessor/user of the device;
2. Evidence of use of the device the above dates, to communicate with others about the above-listed crime(s), via email, chat sessions, instant messages, text messages, app communications, social media, internet usage, and other similar digital communications;
3. Photographs, images, videos, documents, and related data created, accessed, read, modified, received, stored, sent, moved, deleted or otherwise manipulated between the above dates;
4. Evidence of use of the device to conduct internet searches relating to above-mentioned crime(s);
5. Information that can be used to calculate the position of the device between the above dates, including location data; GPS satellite data; GPS coordinates for routes and destination queries between the above-listed dates; “app” data or usage information and related location information; IP logs or similar internet connection information, and images created, accessed or modified between the above-listed dates, together with their metadata and EXIF tags;
6. Evidence of the identity of the person in possession of the device on or about any times that items of evidentiary value, located pursuant to this warrant, were created modified, accessed or otherwise manipulated. Such evidence may be found in digital communications, photos and video and associated metadata, IP logs, documents, social media activity, and similar data;

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF LANCASTER COUNTY, NEBRASKA

STATE OF NEBRASKA)
) ss. AFFIDAVIT FOR SEARCH WARRANT
COUNTY OF LANCASTER)

Robert Norton, being first duly sworn upon oath deposes and states that he is an investigator for the Lincoln Police Departments Special Victims Unit, Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska. AFFIANT states he is currently involved in the investigation of a First-Degree Sexual Assault of a Child- Nebraska State Statute 28-319.01, occurring at 6201 S. 42nd Street, Lincoln, Lancaster County Nebraska. AFFIANT has reviewed case reports regarding this investigation prepared by other involved Law Enforcement Officers.

Attachments

- Attachment A: Property to be Searched
- Attachment B: Particular Things to be Seized

Affiant's Background

Your affiant has been a police officer for the Lincoln Police Department since 2002. Since 2002 Affiant has been investigating misdemeanor and felony crimes with the Lincoln Police Department to include sexual assault, human trafficking, child enticement, and pornography. Your Affiant has training and experience in conducting criminal investigations.

This Affidavit is submitted in support of a search warrant. Since this Affidavit is being submitted for the limited purpose of securing a search warrant, your Affiant not set forth every fact known to me regarding this investigation. The statements contained in this Affidavit are based in part on the investigation that your Affiant has conducted, and information provided to your Affiant by other law enforcement officers verbally, and through written reports.

Case Facts

On December 1, 2023, a 12-year-old female identified hereafter as G.F., disclosed to a school counselor that her father, Brandon Farrar, has been sexually assaulting her since she was 5 years old. G.F. was

LANCASTER COUNTY
2024 JAN -9 PM 3:57
CLERK OF THE
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forensically interviewed and described in detail how her father sexually abused her at their residence of 6201 S. 42nd Street, Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska. G.F. stated the abuse started when she was 5 years old and her father asked her if she could lick his private or put his private inside her private. G.F. reported there were at least 5 incidents in which her father entered her bedroom at night while she was sleeping and put his penis inside her vagina. After one incident in September of 2023, G.F. noticed a white cloudy wet substance on her bed sheets. The last sexual assault occurred during the early morning hours of December 1, 2023.

On December 1, 2023 at approx. 1510 hours, Detective Messersmith #1568 and Investigator Barry #1223 with the Lincoln Police Department's Special Victims Unit contacted Brandon at his residence. Brandon is 41 years old with a birthdate of February 23, 1982. Brandon agreed to accompany investigators to the Lincoln Police Department Headquarters for an interview. Investigator Barry #1223 interviewed Brandon. The interview was audio/video recorded. Brandon waived his Miranda Rights and ultimately admitted to committing numerous sexual acts on G.F. beginning when she was approximately 8 years old. This includes approximately 10 to 20 times in which Brandon would rub his erect penis in between G.F.'s labia and ejaculate on her stomach or bedding. Brandon also admitted to digitally penetrating G.F.'s vagina and acts of cunnilingus and fellatio. Brandon was lodged in jail.

On December 7, 2023, Investigator Sara Mueller #1819 contacted Katie Farrar, Brandon's wife, at the Child Advocacy Center. During the contact, Katie told Investigator Mueller that while reviewing Brandon's laptop computer recently, she discovered numerous images of underage girls and screenshots of pornography. Katie told Investigator Mueller that she wanted to voluntarily turn over Brandon's laptop computer to law enforcement because she believed the images she viewed were pertinent to the investigation of Brandon's sexual assault of G.F.

On December 15, 2023 at approximately 1042 hours, Investigator Robert Norton contacted Katie at her residence. Katie voluntarily turned over Brandon's laptop computer to Investigator Norton. Katie also told Investigator Norton that she discovered images of unclothed girls and screenshots of young girls on Brandon's laptop computer. Investigator Norton tagged Brandon's laptop computer into the Lincoln Police Department's Property & Evidence Unit under Property Number Q2327819.

Computers and Digital Devices

Evidence of the crimes described in this application could be contained in any type of digital device. The terms “digital device” and “device” include all devices capable of capturing and/or storing digital data, such as computers, digital cameras, modems, routers, external memory drives, thumb drives, cellular telephones, GPS navigation devices, etc. Data stored on digital devices and media can be easily transferred from one device or storage media to another. Forensic experts and others with experience in retrieving and analyzing digital data have established the following:

Digital devices typically retain some evidence of all activity taken via the device or associated media; and, as such, could contain evidence of crime. For example, data, whether stored intentionally or unintentionally, can contain evidence of knowledge, intent, efforts to conceal, sell or dispose of evidence or proceeds of criminal activity, accomplice identity, association with victims, or geographic location of the device possessor at particular dates and times. This information can be in numerous forms, such as photographs; address books or contact lists; or communications with others through means such as phone calls, email, instant messaging, social media, chat sessions, or other digital communications.

Evidence can remain on the device or media for indefinite periods of time after the communication originally took place, even if deleted by the user. Information deleted by the user may be recovered by a forensic examiner throughout the working life span of the device.

Digital data can be found in numerous locations, and formats. Evidence can be embedded into unlikely files for the type of evidence, such as a photo included in a document or converted into a PDF file or other format in an effort to conceal their existence. Information on devices and media can be stored in random order; with deceptive file names; hidden from normal view; encrypted or password protected; and stored on unusual devices for the type of data, such as routers, printers, scanners, game consoles, or other devices that are similarly capable of storing digital data.

Wholly apart from user-generated files and data, digital devices and media typically store, often without any conscious action by the user, electronic evidence pertaining to virtually all actions taken on the digital device, and often information about the geographic location at which the device was turned on and/or used. This data includes logs of device use; records of the creation, modification, deletion, and/or sending of files; and uses of the internet, such as uses of social media websites and internet searches/browsing.

Device-generated data also includes information regarding the user identity at any particular date and time; usage logs and information pertaining to the physical location of the device over time; pointers to outside storage locations, such as cloud storage, or devices to which data may have been removed, and information about how that offsite storage is being used. If the device is synced with other devices, it will retain a record of that action. Digital device users typically do not erase or delete this evidence, because special software or use of special settings are usually required for the task. However, it is technically possible to delete this information.

Digital devices can also reveal clues to other locations at which evidence may be found. For example, digital devices often maintain logs of connected digital or remote storage devices. A scanner or printer may store information that would identify the digital device with which it was used. Forensic examination of the device can often reveal those other locations where evidence may be present.

As with other types of evidence, the context, location, and data surrounding information in the device data is often necessary to understand whether evidence falls within the scope of the warrant. This type of information will be important to the forensic examiner's ability to piece together and recognize evidence of the above-listed crimes.

Digital device programs frequently require passwords, phrases, codes, patterns, fingerprints, and/or user names to operate. Those may be kept inside a device/media, or outside in some other area known to the user. So, in addition to searching a digital device and media for evidence of the above-listed crime(s), investigators will need to search both the premises searched, and the digital device(s) for this information.

The forensic examiner may also need the following items in order to conduct a thorough and accurate search of the devices: computer hardware, software, peripherals, internal or external storage devices, power supplies, cables; internet connection and use information; security devices; software; manuals; and related material.

Searching the digital device itself would irreversibly alter data and/or evidence on the device. The commonly accepted best practice method to search a digital device for evidence involves creating a digital image of the device and then searching that image for the responsive evidence. Creating a forensic image does not alter any evidence on the device; it only copies the data into a searchable format. The image is then searched using search tools to locate and identify that evidence whose seizure is authorized by this warrant. The unaltered device and the image are then preserved in evidence.

Modern digital devices and media can contain many gigabytes and even terabytes of data. Due to the potential for an extremely large volume of data contained in devices and media, and that fact that evidence can be stored/located in unanticipated locations or formats and/or embedded in other items stored on the device/media, investigators typically need to use specialized equipment in their search. Such large volumes of data also mean that searches can take days or even weeks to complete. For these reasons, I request authority to remove from the search location all digital devices and media that could contain evidence authorized for seizure under the warrant for subsequent search pursuant to the terms of the warrant.

I also request authority to obtain assistance from a technical specialist, to review the digital device(s) and digital media for the best and least intrusive method of securing digital evidence that this warrant authorizes for seizure, and to assist in securing such evidence.

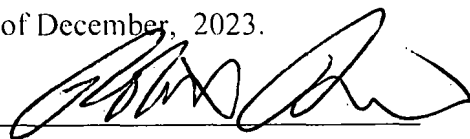
Your Affiant requests authorization to search for and seize the listed items in Attachment B, hereby attached and incorporated by reference.

Service Provider shall send the information electronically via email at lpd1443@lincoln.ne.gov or to Investigator Robert Norton at the Lincoln Police Department, 575 S 10th Street, Lincoln, NE, 68508.

This search warrant shall be executed and returned within ten (10) days to a Clerk of the Lancaster District Court, Nebraska. In the event records are not received from the Service Provider within ten (10) days, your Affiant requests authorization to returned the search warrant within ten (10) days of receipt of the records.

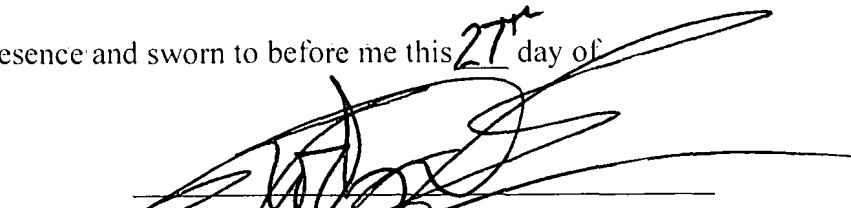
Further AFFIANT saith not;

Dated this 27th day of December, 2023.



Robert Norton, AFFIANT

SUBSCRIBED to in my presence and sworn to before me this 27th day of December, 2023.



Judge of the County Court
Rodney D Reuter
Printed Name of Judge



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