

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF RICE

DISTRICT COURT
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT

COPY

COURT FILE NO.: UU-CR-10-1193
PROSECUTOR FILE NO.: A-10-0316

State of Minnesota,

Plaintiff,

v.

William Francis Melchert-Dinkel DOB: 07/20/1962
510 Littleford Lane
Faribault, MN 55021

Defendant.

Summons Warrant
 Order of Detention
 Amended
 Tab charge Previously Filed

The Complainant, being duly sworn, makes complaint to the above-named Court and states that there is probable cause to believe that the Defendant committed the following offense(s):

Count 1

Suicide - Aiding

In Violation Of: 609.215 subd. 1

Penalty: Imprisonment for not more than 15 years or a fine of not more than \$30,000 or both

On or about July 27, 2005, within the County of Rice, defendant William Francis Melchert-Dinkel did advise, encourage, or assist another in taking the other's own life, to-wit: did advise and encourage Mark Drybrough, of Coventry, UK, using internet correspondence, and Mark Drybrough did take his own life.

Count 2

Suicide - Aiding

In Violation Of: 609.215 subd. 1

Penalty: Imprisonment for not more than 15 years or a fine of not more than \$30,000 or both

On or about March 9-10, 2008, within the County of Rice, defendant William Francis Melchert-Dinkel did advise and encourage another in taking the other's own life, to-wit: did advise and encourage Nadia Kajouji of Ottawa, Ontario, Canada using internet correspondence and Nadia Kajouji did take her own life.

RICE COUNTY, MN
FILED

APR 23 2010

COURT ADMINISTRATOR

STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

The Complainant states that the following facts establish probable cause:

Your Complainant and/or Signing Officer designated below, being duly sworn, has reviewed police reports relating to the above-named Defendant and the allegations contained herein, and/or has spoken with peace officers having knowledge of the incident, and based upon that information, believes the following to be true and correct.

On March 25, 2008, Sargent William Haider of the St. Paul Police Department, on assignment to the Internet Crimes Against Children Task force, received information from a person identified as Celia Blay, from White Waltham, Maidenhead Berks, in the United Kingdom, reporting an online predator using deception to manipulate people to commit suicide. The information from Blay stated the predator encouraged people to hang themselves and use a web cam to allow him to view the death. Blay identified the individual and reported the person using the online name of "li dao", "falcon girl", "falcongir1", "cami", "cami D" and "cami M-D" as Bill Francis Melchert-Dinkel. Blay also gave Sgt. Haider Mr. Melchert-Dinkel's numerous email addresses which included falcongir12@gmail, falcongir1507@yahoo, li_dao05@yahoo, falcongir12@gmail, falcon_girl_507@hotmail. Sgt. Haider received additional information from Blay on March 26, 2008, and over the next several months, indicating that Mr. Melchert-Dinkel was continuing to use various on-line identities, posing as a young, kind, sympathetic woman who worked as an emergency room nurse, and encouraging people to commit suicide.

On March 26th, 2008, the Faribault Police Department was contacted to check the welfare of an individual located at the the Melchert-Dinkel residence in Faribault, Minnesota. The report indicated it was regarding a suicide pact made by someone at the Melchert-Dinkel residence with another party who was believed at the time to be deceased in Canada. The Faribault PD confirmed that William Frances Melchert-Dinkel (dob 07/20/1962) lived in Faribault at the noted address. Officers went to the address and found no one was present. It was subsequently learned the family had been gone for a vacation at the time the officers stopped to check on the welfare of Mr. Melchert-Dinkel. Mr. Melchert-Dinkel eventually contacted the Faribault PD and advised everyone living at his home was fine. Officer Kosanda of the Faribault PD spoke with Mr. Melchert-Dinkel and gave him contact information for the Canadian law enforcement office investigating the disappearance of Nadia Kajouji.

On January 7, 2009, Sergeant Haider and Commander Neil Nelson traveled to the residence of William Francis Melchert-Dinkel in the city of Faribault, in Rice County, Minnesota, to ask about his involvement with discussions of suicide on the internet. After being invited into the Melchert-Dinkel home by Mr. Melchert-Dinkel, the officers identified themselves and explained they wished to speak to him regarding internet related issues. Mr. Melchert-Dinkel stated "I think I know what you mean". When asked to explain his statement he stated he had "some concerns about some of the internet activity that has been going on here regarding issues with suicide and so forth." He further explained there had been discussions on internet chat rooms, such as Yahoo and Google, involving people dealing with depression from his residence. He stated he and his wife work in the health care field and they had discussions on the internet with people dealing with depression and suicide, and that the discussions had gotten inappropriate. He stated he had personally been involved in inappropriate discussions. When asked if his wife should be involved in the interview, he further stated his wife had nothing to do with the discussions and she had no involvement.

Mr. Melchert-Dinkel admitted to being an internet advisor in suicide methods, such as pharmaceuticals, because of his health care background as a nurse. He stated he specifically goes on Google, ash.methods which is a website people use to find suicide methods. He would use the online names Cami, Li Dao,

and Falcongirl, and tell people he was a female nurse. He admitted to telling people he was a nurse and advising he was familiar with suicide methods such as hanging or narcotics. He admitted to being more of an advocate than a counselor. He further stated he stopped the contacts and discussions after the holidays(referring to Christmas of 2008) due to moral , ethical and legal reasons. Mr. Melchert-Dinkel indicated his interest in death and suicide could be considered an obsession and that his daughters had seen his discussions on the internet and he had told them his discussions were not right.

Mr. Melchert-Dinkel admitted to encouraging and advising people about suicide by hanging, and "what they could expect to experience with it". He explained how he would explain instructions for hanging using a slip knot. The knot would be placed behind the left ear because that would be the most effective position for compression of the left and right carotid artery which would cause unconsciousness in 10 to 15 seconds, brain death and total death in 10 to 20 minutes. The rope could be hung from a beam or using other methods. Mr. Melchert-Dinkel was asked to give specific examples of someone he might have had this discussion with and he stated he had spoken with people from England. He did not know of any specific outcome, but presumed the outcome was suicide because he had not heard back from them. Mr. Melchert-Dinkel was specifically asked what his role was and if he believed he assisted anyone in committing suicide and he stated he held the role of advocate to commit suicide, and he believed he had aided people to commit suicide. At this point in the interview Mr. Melchert-Dinkel indicated he felt terrible regarding the advice to commit suicide he provided to others.

Mr. Melchert-Dinkel was asked about any suicide pact he might have made in the last six months. He stated he had made a suicide pact with a woman from Ottawa, Canada and explained the woman had jumped into a frozen river. He had learned about the successful suicide from his contact with the Ottawa Police Department which had traced him through his computer. He described the suicide pact as between him and the woman in Ottawa as they had agreed to commit suicide and that he had played a larger role in her death than he had initially disclosed. He admitted to making other suicide pacts prior to and after the Ottawa woman's suicide which he described as being an "accessory to someone ending their life". He would advise the person as to how and what methods were best for suicide success and painlessness. Mr. Melchert-Dinkel estimated he had assisted 5 or less individuals in killing themselves.

Mr. Melchert-Dinkel was asked about an email address retrospook@ntlworld.com or the name Mark Drybrough from England. He did not specifically recall the name or "handle", but vaguely remembered that it was related to a hanging. He stated he remembered seeing in another chat room that a paper had reported that a person in the United States of America had "assisted him in doing it". He indicated he knew it was himself that the paper was referring to, due to the fact that the "handle" given was "Li Dao", which was his "handle". He also confirmed he had claimed to have watched a party in England hang themselves via web cam. However, he denied watching anyone's suicide, though in his suicide pacts with others he would agree to view through a web cam.

Mr. Melchert-Dinkel did state that he thought assisting suicide was illegal, and that it was illegal in Minnesota. He agreed to allow officers to search his home and signed a waiver agreeing to the search of his computer. He admitted to entering into 10 to 11 suicide pacts online with individuals all over the world. He admitted he moved from advising suicides to encouraging suicide. He stated age and circumstances would determine whether or not he discussed suicide methods or encouraged suicide. He explained suicide pacts were made with those "most intense" on committing suicide. He noted others on line would catch on to the suicide encouragement and would post warnings. The warnings would be posted messages such as, "Watch out, for Li Dao is out to encourage people to die rather than help". He

again estimated he most likely encouraged dozens of persons to commit suicide and characterized it as the thrill of the chase. He could not be certain as to the numbers because the successful suicide was hard to verify and that there could be dozens, which he found to be a scary thought. He stated he only encouraged suicide and never told anyone to do it, but told them it was up to them. He admitted there have been cases where people he counseled to commit suicide have died and he encouraged them by telling them it was ok to let go, that they would be better in heaven, and that his caring nature went too far.

After interviewing William Melchert-Dinkel, Sgt. Haider contacted Staff Sgt. Uday Jaswal of the Ottawa Police Department in Canada to relate information provided by Melchert-Dinkel about the suicide pact he had entered into with Nadia Kajouji. Sgt. Haider obtained further information from the Ottawa Police Department regarding Ms. Kajouji. Ms. Kajouji attended Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada, and on March 9, 2008 she had gone missing. Police investigating her disappearance had determined she had been online with a person from Faribault, Minnesota using an e-mail address of falcon_girl (screen name Cami), discussing suicide and entering into a suicide pact with the person. Cami (Mr. Melchert -Dinkel) and Nadia (Ms. Kajouji) discussed different methods of suicide, including jumping into a river, which Nadia said she intended to do, and hanging, which was recommended by Cami (Mr. Melchert -Dinkel). They agreed on timing, with Nadia going first and jumping from a bridge over a river (to avoid creating a mess, per Mr. Melchert-Dinkel) and Cami (Mr. Melchert-Dinkel) going second by hanging the following day. Nadia Kajouji committed suicide sometime on March 9, 2008 or March 10, 2008. She told her roommate she was going skating on the evening of March 9, 2008, and was not seen again until her body was found in the Rideau River on April 20, 2008. The medical examiner determined the cause of death to be drowning and/or hypothermia consistent with suicide based on the facts surrounding her death.

The forensic examination of the computer belonging to William Melchert-Dinkel disclosed a photograph of Nadia Kajouji and emails and correspondence between Mr. Melchert-Dinkel and persons struggling with depression and suicidal thoughts, which corroborated his statements to law enforcement officers.

Sgt. Haider contacted Peter Faulkner, Intelligence Officer, West Midlands Police Department, Coventry Central, United Kingdom(UK), and requested all documentation related to the suicide on July 27, 2005 of UK resident Mark Drybrough, date of birth 04/13/1973, 48 King Edward Road, Hillfields, Coventry, CV1 5BJ. On March 19, 2010 Sgt. Haider received information from West Midlands Police Department which included police reports and Coventry Coroner reports. Although photos of the suicide scene had been taken by police in 2005, the photos were destroyed upon a ruling by the coroner of death by suicide. The police reports included a witness statement by Carol Drybrough (sister of the victim), indicating she had gone to her brother's apartment on July 27, 2005 and located a suicide note attached to the front door. She forced her way into Mr. Drybrough's bedroom and saw her brother hanging from a ladder. She untied the rope from his neck as the rope was too thick to cut. West Midlands PD Sudden Death Report of Officer James Edmonds, APS 5116, indicated that upon arrival by police, the victim's body was "lying down face up on the floor" with "deep marks around neck believed to be rope marks". A statement was taken from Elaine Drybrough (mother of the victim), dated August 16, 2005 indicating a computer belonging to the victim was turned over to West Midlands PD. A report by James Harper, West Midlands PD, dated August 16, 2005 lists the seizure of victim's computer, webcam, CD's and floppy discs. Harper's details state "It is believed that Mark was aided and abetted by a man called Li from Minnesota. The computer contains details of e-mails and shows various websites which have been visited by the deceased."

Property records reports indicate evidence recovered included a suicide note, a white climbing rope used during commission of the suicide, and the victim's computer.

The Coventry Coroner's information was in Coroner's Officer's Report No. 01005-2005, July 28, 2005. According to the "Circumstances" portion of this report, it was noted, "His sister immediately went up stairs and after forcing her way into a bedroom found the deceased hanging with a rope attached to a loft ladder and the other end tied around his neck." The Coroner's Office indicates an inquest was held on February 14, 2006, resulting in a verdict that "[Drybrough] took his own life when suffering a severe psychiatric illness". The Coroner's Memo states, "During the investigation and at the inquest it was revealed that the deceased had been using his computer to gain access to the Internet and had entered into a live chat for people considering suicide. No criminal offences were disclosed at the time."

The Coroner's Post Mortem Report, Pathology Department-Walsgrave Hospital, 07/28/2005: External Examination: states, "The body was that of a young man of average physique which showed a deep ligature groove 1cm wide in the upper part of the neck, 9.5cm above the sternal notch which was rising towards the left and to the back of the neck." During the interview of suspect William Melchert-Dinkel on January 7, 2009, he stated his instructions for hanging as "Slip knot. And knot behind the left ear" and that the knot behind the left ear was "the most effective position for compression of the left and right carotid".

Officer Edmonds of the Coventry and Warwickshire Police states "A loft ladder was positioned against a wall with a White Climbing rope attached."

The forensic analysis of Mark Drybrough's computer found the following correspondence online between Spooky AKA Mark Drybrough and li_dao, AKA William Melchert-Dinkel: "Spooky" wrote: "Does anyone have details of hanging methods where there isn't access to anything high up to tie the rope to. I've read that people have taken their own lives in jail, anybody know of inventive methods used, the ones you don't get to read in the paper".

An email was sent as a reply to this post on 07/01/2005 from IP address 68.190.155.172 from email address li_dao05@yahoo.com to email address retrospook@ntlworld.com stating in part:

"Depending on how tall you are, preferable under 6 feet tall, you can easily hang from a door using the knob on onw [the other] side to tie the rope to, sling it over the top of the door, attach the noose or loop to yourself then step off and hang successfully. If you are a bit tall you can still do a partial suspension hanging that way by having the noose etc fairly high up and attaching it to yourself, then lowering yourself into a sitting position or kneeling down so you hang that way."

It was determined that email address li_dao05@yahoo.com belongs to suspect MELCHERT-DINKEL and email address retrospook@ntlworld.com to victim Mark Drybrough.

NOTICE: FAILURE TO APPEAR FOR A COURT APPEARANCE IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE UNDER MINN. STAT. S. 609.49.

Complainant requests that Defendant, subject to bail or conditions of release, be:
(1) arrested or that other lawful steps be taken to obtain Defendant's appearance in court; or
(2) detained, if already in custody, pending further proceedings; and that said Defendant otherwise be dealt with according to law.

COMPLAINANT'S NAME:

COMPLAINANT'S SIGNATURE:

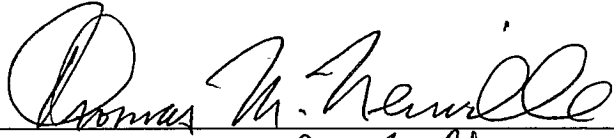
Sergeant William Haider



Subscribed and sworn to before the undersigned this 23 day of April, 2010

NAME/TITLE:

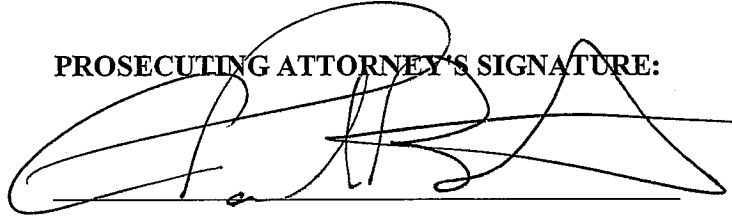
SIGNATURE:


Judge of Dist. Ct

Being authorized to prosecute the offenses charged, I approve this complaint.

Date: 4-23-10

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY'S SIGNATURE:



Name: G. Paul Beaumaster
Rice County Attorney
Rice County Attorney's Office
218 Third St. N.W.
Faribault, MN 55021
(507) 332-6103
Attorney Registration Number: 196642

FINDING OF PROBABLE CAUSE

From the above sworn facts, and any supporting affidavits or supplemental sworn testimony, I, the Issuing Officer, have determined that probable cause exists to support, subject to bail or conditions of release where applicable, Defendant's arrest or other lawful steps to be taken to obtain Defendant's appearance in court, or Defendant's detention, if already in custody, pending further proceedings. Defendant is therefore charged with the above-stated offense(s).

SUMMONS

THEREFORE, YOU THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT, ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to appear on the 25th day of May, 2010 at 10:30 am before the above-named court at Rice County Courthouse to answer this complaint.
218 N.W. 3rd Street Faribault, MN
55021

WARRANT

To the Sherriff of the aboved-named county; or other person authorized to execute this warrant: I hereby order, in the name of the State of Minnesota, that the above-named Defendant be apprehended and arrested without delay and brought promptly before the above-named court (if in session), and if not, before a Judge or Judicial Officer of such court without unnecessary delay, and in any event not later than 36 hours after the arrest or as soon as such Judge or Judicial Officer is available to be dealt with according to law.

Execute in MN Only *Execute Nationwide* *Execute in Border States*

ORDER OF DETENTION

Since the above-named Defendant is already in custody, I hereby order, subject to bail or conditions of release, that the above-named Defendant continue to be detained pending further proceedings.

Bail: _____

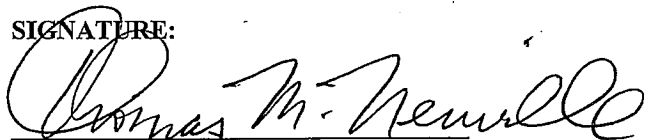
Conditions of Release:

This complaint, duly subscribed and sworn to, is issued by the undersigned Judicial Officer this 23 day of April, 2010.

JUDICIAL OFFICER:

NAME: Thomas Newville
TITLE: Judge

SIGNATURE:



Sworn testimony has been given before the Judicial Officer by the following witnesses:

COUNTY OF RICE
STATE OF MINNESOTA

State of Minnesota

Plaintiff

vs.

William Francis Melchert-Dinkel

Defendant

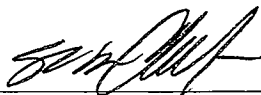
Clerk's Signature or File Stamp:
ADMINISTRATOR

APR 23 2010

RETURN OF SERVICE

I hereby Certify and Return that I have served a copy of this Summons upon the Defendant(s) herein-named.

Signature of Authorized Service Agent:



STATUTE AND OFFENSE GRID

Cnt	Statute Type	Offense Date	Statute Number & Description	Offense Level	MOC	GOC	Controlling Agencies	Control Number(s)
1	Chrg/Penalty Chrg/Penalty	07/27/2005	609.215 subd. 1 Suicide - Aiding 609.215 subd. 1 Suicide - Aiding	F	H7H02	N	MN0620900 Arresting	08191944
2	Chrg/Penalty Chrg/Penalty	03/09/2008 to 03/10/2008	609.215 subd. 1 Suicide - Aiding 609.215 subd. 1 Suicide - Aiding	F	H7H02	N	MN0620900 Arresting	08191944