

This Complaint and Affidavit is to be:

Agency Form Number: **202400002319**

Arrest Date: **02/21/2024**

Filed with Court Clerk (cc: CA)  Submitted to County Attorney

Filed with JCO - Defendant is a Juvenile **OFFENDER**

**THE STATE OF IOWA**

VS.

**IN THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT IN AND FOR**

**LINNCOUNTY**

Last <b>VAN PATTEN</b>		First <b>DAKOTA</b>		Middle <b>LYLE</b>	Suffix
Address			City <b>CEDAR RAPIDS</b>		State <b>IA</b> Zip Code <b>52405</b>
DL#	State <b>IA</b>	DL Class <b>C</b>	DL Endorsements	DL Restrictions	
Date of Birth	Gender <b>MALE</b>	Race <b>WHITE - W</b>		Ethnicity <b>NOT OF HISPANIC ORIGIN - N</b>	
Height <b>6' 01"</b>	Weight <b>180 LBS</b>	Eye Color <b>HAZEL - HAZ</b>		Hair Color <b>BROWN - BRO</b>	

**OFFENSE**

State County Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Code Section <b>710.2</b>	Crime Description <b>KIDNAPPING 1ST DEGREE</b>		Speed	in Zone
Class <b>FELA</b>	Serious P.I. <input type="checkbox"/>	Fatal Accident <input type="checkbox"/>	Civil Damage Assessment <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>	
Location Type <b>26 - PARK</b>					
Literal Description					
Address		City <b>CEDAR RAPIDS</b>		State <b>IA</b>	Zip Code <b>52405</b>
Is Date and Time of Incident Known? <b>NO</b>	Incident Date or Low Range <b>02/17/2024</b>	Upper Date Range <b>02/18/2024</b>	Incident Time or Low Range <b>23:20</b>	Upper Time Range <b>03:10</b>	

**STATUS OF OFFENDER/JUVENILE**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TAKEN INTO CUSTODY	CUSTODY <b>1 - JAILED</b>	SUMMONS TO APPEAR (Citation Issued)
<input type="checkbox"/> WARRANT REQUESTED	NO CONTACT ORDER REQUESTED	RELEASED TO PARENT/GUARDIAN

**NARRATIVE**

Narrative of Offense Committed

On or about the above stated date and time, the Defendant did

confine or remove Melody Hoffman from one place to another, knowing that he had neither the authority nor the consent of Melody Hoffman to do so with the intent to secretly confine her or with the intent to inflict serious injury upon her and as a consequence of the kidnaping Melody Hoffman suffered torture and serious injury, and/or aided and abetted another in the commission of the offense, at Morgan Creek Park, 7212 E Ave. NW, Cedar Rapids, Linn County, Iowa.

**VICTIM INFORMATION (Optionally displayed, especially if NCO is requested)**

Last <b>HOFFMAN</b>	First <b>MELODY</b>	Middle <b>MARIE</b>	Suffix
Business/Organization/State/County/Municipality Name			
Address	City <b>MARION</b>	State <b>IA</b>	Zip <b>52302</b>

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AFFIDAVIT

**STATE OF IOWA, LINN COUNTY**

I, the undersigned, being duly sworn, state that all facts contained in this Complaint and Affidavit, known by me or told to me by other reliable persons form the basis for my belief that the defendant committed this crime

State all facts and persons relied upon supporting elements of alleged crime

On February 18, 2024, the Iowa County Sheriff's Office responded to a report of a deceased person at a pond at 220th Trail and 38th Ave. in Amana, Iowa County, Iowa. The deceased person was identified as Melody Hoffman, age 20. The Iowa State Medical Examiner's Office indicated that the preliminary opinion on Hoffman's cause of death was by strangulation. She also had numerous stab and slash wounds to her body. Investigators from the Marion Police Department, the Division of Criminal Investigations, the Linn County Sheriff's Office and the Iowa County Sheriff's Office conducted an investigation into her death and disappearance and by talking to witnesses and tracking activity on her iPhone and her Apple watch through her iPhone they were able to determine that she was picked up by the defendant in a vehicle around 11:00 p.m. on February 17, 2024, and remained with him until she died. Investigators determined that she was at Morgan Creek Park in Linn County when her Apple Watch recorded her heartbeat intensify before it either stopped or the device deactivated. The vehicle the defendant was in was located by investigators and a search warrant revealed the presence of Melody's phone case, a white Apple Watch band with blood on it, a bungee cord, a towing rope, gloves and clothing matching the clothing she was wearing in a bag in the trunk of his car. The defendant and another individual bound Hoffman with duct tape at Morgan Creek Park around her wrists, placed her in the trunk of the car and drove with her from Linn County to several different

locations until they reached the pond in Iowa County where he helped rip off her clothes before she was left at that location.


**FORT, PHIL M149**

Signature of Complainant or Officer, Officer Name & Number

**GENERAL PROBABLE CAUSE**

Defendant Implicated <b>07 - IDENTIFIED BY WITNESSES, 09 - NEAR SCENE OF CRIME, 13 - CAUSED PERSONAL INJURY, 14 - OTHER PHYSICAL EVIDENCE</b>		
Operating Motor Vehicle in County	Other Physical Evidence	Attempted To Inflict Injury

**STATE OF IOWA, LINN COUNTY**

	Subscribed and sworn to before me by the person(s) signing the Complaint and Affidavit(s) on 02/21/2024
	Notary Name <b>MIKE ROZEK</b> Signature of Verifying Party
	Commission Number <b>796719</b> My Commission Expires <b>06/14/2024</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Peace Officer <input type="checkbox"/> Notary <input type="checkbox"/>