

IN THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT IN AND FOR
CARROLL COUNTY

This Complaint and Affidavit is to be:

- ☒ Filed with Court Clerk (cc: CA)
- ☐ Submitted to County Attorney
- ☐ Filed with JCO - Defendant is a Juvenile

Form Number: **2020011528**

Arrest Date: _____

THE STATE OF IOWA

VS.

OFFENDER

Last WOLFE		First ALBERT		Middle JOHN		Suffix	
Address [REDACTED]				City LANESBORO		State IA	Zip Code 51451-0141
DL# [REDACTED]	State IA	DL Class 0	DL Endorsements		DL Restrictions		
Date of Birth 06/17/1992	Gender MALE	Race WHITE - W		Ethnicity NOT OF HISPANIC ORIGIN - N			
Height 6' 01"	Weight 155 LBS	Eye Color BROWN - BRO		Hair Color			

OFFENSE

State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	County <input type="checkbox"/>	Local <input type="checkbox"/>	Code Section 707.2(1)(A)	Crime Description MURDER IN THE 1ST DEGREE		Speed	in	Zone
Class FELA			Serious P.I. <input type="checkbox"/>	Fatal Accident <input type="checkbox"/>	Civil Damage Assessment <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>		
Location Type 28 - FARM BUILDING								
Literal Description OFF ROADWAY/ROADWAY NOT FOUND								
Address 22373 150TH STREET				City CARROLL		State IA	Zip Code 51401	
Is Date and Time of Incident Known? NO		Incident Date or Low Range 05/02/2020		Upper Date Range 05/02/2020		Incident Time or Low Range 06:45		Upper Time Range 08:00

STATUS OF OFFENDER/JUVENILE

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

NARRATIVE

Narrative of Offense Committed On or about the above stated date and time, the Defendant did having malice aforethought, willfully, deliberately, and with premeditation kill _____

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

Last BALKE-THOMPSON	First CHRISTIAN	Middle DANIEL	Suffix
Business/Organization/State/County/Municipality Name			
Address		City	State Zip

AFFIDAVIT**STATE OF IOWA, CARROLL 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

Christian Balke Thompson (26) was reported as a missing person on May 5, 2020. An investigation into his disappearance determined the following:

Around April 28, 2020, Balke-Thompson purchased a 1997 green Toyota Corolla, Iowa license FGM 070, from a private party. This was his only form of transportation.

On the evening of May 1, 2020, into the early morning hours of May 2, Christian Balke Thompson and a friend (MW) went to a get-together at a residence in Rockwell City, IA, arriving in Balke-Thompson's 1997 green colored Toyota Corolla. It was learned through interviews that Balke-Thompson and MW stayed for a while and then left in the Corolla.

On May 2, 2020, around 3:00 a.m., Balke-Thompson and MW drove the Corolla to a convenience store in Lake City and then to another convenience store on the west side of Fort Dodge, where they remained until around 5:30 a.m.

May 2, 2020, at 6:45 a.m., the last reported phone ping on Balke-Thompson's phone was near 22373 150th Avenue in Carroll County. Albert Wolfe, an acquaintance and former boyfriend of MW, lived alone on this property, located approximately five miles northeast of Carroll.

On May 3, 2020, at 8:55 p.m., family and friends called the Rockwell City Police Department and requested an attempt to locate Balke-Thompson. There had been no communication with him for about 18 hours, which was reported as unusual.

On May 4, 2020, at approximately 9:00 p.m., the Carroll County Communication Center received a call about a structure fire at 22373 150th Street in Carroll County. Upon arrival, it was learned that one of Wolfe's neighbors had called 911 about a fire on Wolfe's property. The fire appeared to have started in or near a small four-door sedan that had been parked inside the shed. As a result, the shed was a total loss, and the four-door sedan was unrecognizable. Carroll County authorities at the time did not know about the connection between Balke-Thompson and the 22373 150th Avenue address.

On May 5, 2020, in the afternoon, Balke-Thompson's mom and another woman drove to the farm located at 22373 150th Street in rural Carroll. Albert Wolfe, who lived alone on the farm, came down the driveway and denied knowing anything about Balke-Thompson before kicking them off his property.

On May 5, 2020, at approximately 5:00 p.m., the Carroll County Communications Center received a call from an officer with the Rockwell City Police Department. The officer advised that friends and relatives were looking for Balke-Thompson because they had not heard from him since May 3, 2020, at around 2:00 a.m.

On May 5, 2020, at around 5:00 p.m., the Rockwell City Police Department requested assistance from the Carroll County Sheriff's Office in helping to locate Balke-Thompson.

On May 5, 2020, at 10:00 p.m., Balke-Thompson was officially entered as a missing person by the Rockwell City Police.

On May 5, 2020, in the late evening hours, law enforcement, in an attempt to locate Balke-Thompson or evidence concerning his disappearance, executed a search warrant on the Wolfe property. A Carroll County deputy and an Iowa State Patrol Trooper noticed fresh activity around the burn site, including a car buried underneath rubble. It appeared that a nearby skid loader had been used to cover the car with dirt, manure, and debris. The burned-out condition of the car and the debris piled on it made it impossible to find a vehicle identification number.

The deputy compared the engine compartment components and the rear light moldings on the burned chassis to internet images of a 1997 Toyota Corolla and determined that they were consistent.

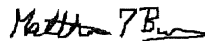
Phone calls to Balke-Thompson went directly to voicemail.

In interviews with law enforcement, Wolfe admitted to dismantling and cutting up the Corolla but denied knowing anything about Balke-Thompson's disappearance. Wolfe stated that when the car caught fire, it burned the car, the shed, and some of the contents in the shed.

Wolfe also said that he had found a phone in a plastic bag near his mailbox. It was later determined that the phone Wolfe said he had found was Balke-Thompson's phone.

During interviews with law enforcement over the next three years, MW has provided the following information. MW said she was driving the Corolla when they arrived at the Wolfe farm because Balke-Thompson was sleeping. MW said Wolfe told her to pull the car into a shed on the property. MW said she did that and then went into the house, leaving Balke-Thompson in the Corolla. MW said minutes later, she heard what MW described as a shotgun blast. MW ran to the shed and saw that Wolfe had shot Balke-Thompson. MW said Balke-Thompson was wrapped in a tarp, taken to a burn pile on the property, and set on fire. MW admitted to staying an extended time on Wolfe's farm after Balke-Thompson's death.

From June 2020 through March 2024, multiple searches of the property have been conducted. Balke-Thompson has not been found.


BURNS, MATT**1030**

Signature of Complainant or Officer, Officer Name & Number

GENERAL PROBABLE CAUSE

Defendant Implicated


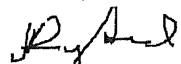
07 - IDENTIFIED BY WITNESSES

Operating Motor Vehicle in County

Other Physical Evidence

Attempted To Inflict Injury

STATE OF IOWA, CARROLL COUNTY

	Subscribed and sworn to before me by the person(s) signing the Complaint and Affidavit(s) on 01/21/2026	
	Notary Name	JUSTINE RYHERD
	Commission Number	828509
	My Commission Expires	11/17/2026
		Signature of Verifying Party  <input type="checkbox"/> Peace Officer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notary <input type="checkbox"/> Prosecuting Attorney