

IN THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT IN AND FOR
POTTAWATTAMIE 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: **2026-03000066**

Arrest Date: _____

THE STATE OF IOWA

VS.

OFFENDER

Last BERTOLINO		First JOSEPH		Middle EDWARD		Suffix	
Address [REDACTED]				City JACKSONVILLE		State FL	Zip Code 32258
DL# [REDACTED]	State FL	DL Class E	DL Endorsements		DL Restrictions		
Date of Birth 08/27/1989		Gender MALE		Race WHITE - W		Ethnicity NOT OF HISPANIC ORIGIN - N	
Height 6' 00"		Weight 230 LBS		Eye Color HAZEL - HAZ		Hair Color BROWN - BRO	

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 14 - HOTEL/MOTEL/ETC.									
Literal Description 2210 ABBOTT DRIVE, CARTER LAKE, IOWA 51510									
Address 2210 ABBOTT DRIVE				City CARTER LAKE			State IA	Zip Code 51510	
Is Date and Time of Incident Known? NO		Incident Date or Low Range 04/28/2026		Upper Date Range 04/28/2026		Incident Time or Low Range 17:45		Upper Time Range 18:30	

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 Kenneth Gauff.

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

Last GAUFF		First KENNTH		Middle BRUCE		Suffix	
Business/Organization/State/County/Municipality Name							
Address 2210 ABBOTT DRIVE, 102				City CARTER LAKE		State IA	Zip 51510

AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF IOWA, POTTAWATTAMIE 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

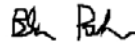
State all facts and persons relied upon supporting elements of alleged crime

On April 28th, 2026, at approximately 09:42 p.m., the Carter Lake Police Department was requested to conduct a welfare check on a male subject at the Country Inn and Suites, 2210 Abbott Drive in Carter Lake, Pottawattamie County, Iowa.

Carter Lake Police conducted the welfare check at the Country Inn and Suites room 102 located at 2210 Abbott Drive. Officers made entry and located a deceased male on the floor of room 102. The Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation was requested by the Carter Lake Police Department for assistance.

Country Inn and Suites has surveillance video that covers the property. On April 28th, 2026, at approximately 05:19 p.m. the victim, Kenneth GAUFF is observed on surveillance video entering room 102 by himself. On April 28th, 2026, Joseph BERTOLINO is observed on surveillance video entering room 102 at approximately 05:46 p.m. and leaving the room by himself at approximately 06:28 p.m. While BERTOLINO is leaving, what appears to be blood can be seen on BERTOLINO's shoes on surveillance video.

On April 28th, 2026, at approximately 11:12 p.m., I, Special Agent Blair Paulsen spoke with officers from the Lincoln Police Department. It was learned officers with the Lincoln Police Department had an incident involving BERTOLINO in Lincoln, Nebraska. BERTOLINO made statements and later gave a confession to killing GAUFF inside the hotel room 102 in Carter Lake, Iowa. The Lincoln Police Department recovered clothing items that had blood on them and a suspected murder weapon.




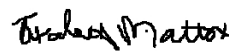
PAULSEN, BLAIR 1148

Signature of Complainant or Officer, Officer Name & Number

GENERAL PROBABLE CAUSE

Defendant Implicated 03 - ADMISSION/STATEMENTS, 07 - IDENTIFIED BY WITNESSES, 09 - NEAR SCENE OF CRIME		
Operating Motor Vehicle in County	Other Physical Evidence	Attempted To Inflict Injury

STATE OF IOWA, POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY

	Subscribed and sworn to before me by the person(s) signing the Complaint and Affidavit(s) on 04/30/2026	
	Notary Name TARALEE A MATTOX	Signature of Verifying Party 
	Commission Number 749925	<input type="checkbox"/> Peace Officer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notary <input type="checkbox"/> Prosecuting Attorney
	My Commission Expires 12/09/2028	