

State of Wisconsin

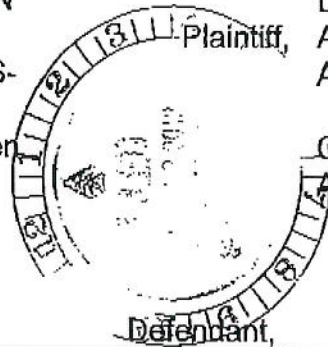
Circuit Court

St. Croix County
IA - 07/12/2012

STATE OF WISCONSIN

DA Case No.: 2012SC001906
Assigned DA/ADA: Eric G. Johnson/klf
Agency Case No.: RF2012001310

-VS-



Aaron NMI Schaffhausen
1740 13th Street SE
Minot, ND 58701
DOB: 07/25/1977
Sex/Race: M/W

Court Case No.: 2012CF000 227
ATN: 56001000077561

Criminal Complaint

Sergeant Melissa G. Zopp, of the St. Croix County Sheriff's Department, being first duly sworn, states that:

Count 1: FIRST DEGREE INTENTIONAL HOMICIDE

The above-named defendant on or about Tuesday, July 10, 2012, at 2790 Morningside Avenue, River Falls WI 54022, in the City of River Falls, St. Croix County, Wisconsin, did cause the death of Amara Rose Schaffhausen, d.o.b. 10/05/2000, with intent to kill that person, contrary to sec. 940.01(1)(a), 939.50(3)(a) Wis. Stats., a Class A Felony, and upon conviction shall be sentenced to imprisonment for life.

Count 2: FIRST DEGREE INTENTIONAL HOMICIDE

The above-named defendant on or about Tuesday, July 10, 2012, at 2790 Morningside Avenue, River Falls WI 54022, in the City of River Falls, St. Croix County, Wisconsin, did cause the death of Sophie Marie Schaffhausen, d.o.b. 12/27/2003, with intent to kill that person, contrary to sec. 940.01(1)(a), 939.50(3)(a) Wis. Stats., a Class A Felony, and upon conviction shall be sentenced to imprisonment for life.

Count 3: FIRST DEGREE INTENTIONAL HOMICIDE

The above-named defendant on or about Tuesday, July 10, 2012, at 2790 Morningside Avenue, River Falls WI 54022, in the City of River Falls, St. Croix County, Wisconsin, did cause the death of Cecilia Lee Schaffhausen, d.o.b. 05/17/2007, with intent to kill that person, contrary to sec. 940.01(1)(a), 939.50(3)(a) Wis. Stats., a Class A Felony, and upon conviction shall be sentenced to imprisonment for life.

PROBABLE CAUSE:

At approximately 1545 hours on July 10, 2012 Investigator John Wilson of the River Falls Police Department was dispatched to 2790 Morningside Avenue, City of River Falls, St. Croix County, Wisconsin to investigate a possible death complaint.

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Upon arrival, Investigator Wilson met with Sergeant Reardon of the River Falls Police Department. Sergeant Reardon reported that the River Falls Police Department had received a call from Jessica Schaffhausen. Ms. Schaffhausen reported that she had received a call from her ex-husband and the father of her children, Aaron Schaffhausen, stating that he had killed their children. Officers knocked on the door at the residence and received no reply. Sergeant Reardon and other officers entered the residence at 2790 Morningside Drive. Inside they found three children in separate bedrooms that appeared to be deceased.

Sergeant Reardon informed Investigator John Wilson when he arrived on scene that the children appeared to be deceased. However because of the odor of gas, this had not been confirmed. Investigator Wilson entered the residence along with a paramedic. Investigator Wilson and the paramedic placed protective shoe coverings and latex gloves on.

Upon entering the residence, Investigator Wilson went to the upstairs level. There he found what he believes were four different bedrooms. Investigator Wilson found that three of the bedrooms each had a child lying on what appeared to be their beds. All three children had what appeared to be dried blood on their faces. Each had blankets covering their bodies to their neck lines. Investigator Wilson did feel each of their foreheads and all were cool to the touch. Investigator Wilson also saw what appeared to be a large amount of blood on the carpeting in one of the bedrooms.

Investigator Wilson went to the basement level of the residence to check on the odor of what at first was thought to be natural gas. Upon entering the basement, Investigator Wilson immediately recognized the odor to be that of raw gasoline. Observed under the stairway was a red in color gasoline container. The container was tipped forward allowing gasoline to pour out of it.

Investigator Wilson exited the residence and began securing the area. The State Crime Lab was called to come to the scene to assist with the investigation.

Investigators interviewed the babysitter watching the Schaffhausen children on July 10, 2012. She stated that she received a phone call while the girls were eating lunch from their mother Jessica. She stated that Jessica told her Aaron would be coming to spend the day with the girls. The babysitter stated that at approximately 1:25 Aaron arrived and the girls rushed to the door, excited to see him. She stated she had about a 2 minute conversation with Aaron and then she returned to the kitchen to clean up from lunch and heard the girls take Aaron upstairs to show him their things. The babysitter stated when she was ready to leave she went upstairs to say goodbye to the girls and found them in Amara's room with Aaron. She stated she hugged them goodbye and left the house at approximately 1340 hours.

Investigator Wilson also spoke with Investigator Ducklow of the Pierce County Sheriff's Department. Investigator Ducklow had interviewed Jessica Schaffhausen. Jessica is the mother of the three children found deceased in the residence. Jessica advised

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Investigator Ducklow that at approximately 1145 hours she received a text message from her ex-husband Aaron. She stated that Aaron was supposed to be in Minot, North Dakota working a construction job. She stated he also called her at one point in the afternoon stating to her that he was in St. Paul and he wanted to spend time with the girls. Jessica stated that she agreed to let him spend time with the girls but told him he had to leave the residence by 3:30 because she was coming home and did not wish to see him. Jessica also stated to Investigator Ducklow that she received a text message from her babysitter at approximately 1330 hours saying that Aaron was at the residence. The babysitter asked in the text message if she should stay or if she could leave and Jessica stated she told her she could leave. Jessica stated that the babysitter texted at approximately 1344 hours that she was leaving and her mother was picking her up. Jessica also informed Investigator Ducklow that at approximately 1530 hours she received a phone call from Aaron. She stated that she answered the phone and Aaron said "You can come home now because I killed the kids." Jessica stated she immediately called the police and stayed on the line with police until she arrived at the police department.

Investigator Wilson was also told by Investigator Ducklow that Jessica and Aaron were officially divorced in January of 2012. She has physical placement of their three children ages 5, 8 and 11. She currently rents the residence from Aaron.

At approximately 1600 hours Officer Matthew Kennett was asked to report to the police department to assist with this case. He arrived at the police department at approximately 1630 hours and listened to a short briefing being held by Investigator Wilson. After the briefing Officer Kennett was exiting the police department onto Elm Street and walking toward 2nd Street to leave to retrieve a campus vehicle when he observed a blue Chevy vehicle pulling into a spot assigned for emergency response personnel. Officer Kennett later identified the lone male occupant of the vehicle as Aaron Schaffhausen and he was taken into custody.

Investigator Wilson was at the River Falls Police Department when he was notified that Aaron Schaffhausen was at the River Falls Police Department. Investigator Wilson did sit in with Investigator Golden whom was attempting to interview Aaron Schaffhausen. Mr. Schaffhausen was silent. Investigator Wilson did observe a red in color stain on Schaffhausen's shorts which appear to be blood. The babysitter stated in her interview that Aaron arrived at the residence wearing brown in color cargo type pants, brown or tan tie-dye shirt.

Investigator Wilson knows that Aaron Schaffhausen drove to the River Falls Police Department in a blue in color Chevrolet vehicle bearing Registration number 6TXF530 CA. The River Falls Police Department did impound this vehicle. Investigator Wilson was told that Aaron resides in Minot, ND.

Investigator Wilson states that on July 11, 2012 at approximately 1200 hours autopsies were performed on the three deceased children who were removed from the residence at 2790 Morningside Avenue, River Falls Wisconsin. Investigator Wilson states that Dr. Froloff, Assistant Medical Examiner preformed the autopsies on the three children. The

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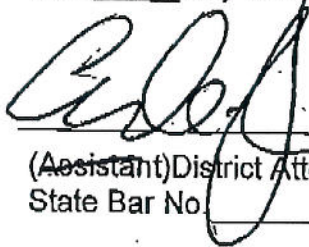
three deceased children removed from the residence were identified as Amara Rose Schaffhausen, DOB 10/5/2000, Sophie Marie Schaffhausen, DOB 12/27/2003 and Cecelia Lee Schaffhausen, DOB 5/17/2007.

On July 12th the Ramsey County Medical Examiner's office released the reports regarding the autopsies of Amara Rose Schaffhausen, Sophie Marie Schaffhausen and Cecelia Lee Schaffhausen. The provisional report regarding Amara names the manner of death as homicide and states that the cause of death was sharp force injury to the right side of the neck. The provisional report regarding Sophie names the manner of death as homicide and states that the cause of death was sharp force injury to the right side of the neck. The provisional report regarding Cecelia names the manner of death as homicide and states that the cause of death was sharp force injury to the neck and strangulation.

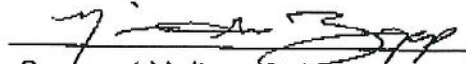
This is on information and belief of Sergeant Melissa G. Zopp based on information given to her by the following reliable informants: Law Enforcement Officers of the River Falls Police Department, St. Croix County Sheriff's Department and Pierce County Sheriff's Department.

Subscribed and sworn to before me,
and approved for filing on:

This 12 day of July, 2012.



(Assistant) District Attorney
State Bar No. _____



Sergeant Melissa G. Zopp, Complainant