

STATE OF MINNESOTA

DISTRICT COURT

COUNTY OF STEARNS

CRIMINAL DIVISION

STATE OF MINNESOTA )  
 ) SS.  
COUNTY OF STEARNS )

APPLICATION FOR SEARCH WARRANT AND  
SUPPORTING AFFIDAVIT

Special Agent Kenneth McDonald, being first duly sworn upon oath, hereby makes application to this Court for a warrant to search the premises hereinafter described, for the property and things hereinafter described.

Affiant knows the contents of this application and supporting affidavit, and the statements herein are true of his own knowledge, save as to such as are herein stated on information and belief, and as to those, he believes them to be true.

Affiant has good reason to believe, and does believe, that the following described property and things, to wit:

1. Jacob Erwin Wetterling DOB: 12-17-78, alive or any human remains, including but not limited to bones, dental work/teeth, decomposing flesh, hairs, and biological samples
2. Silver handgun
3. Red hockey team jacket, with the name "Jacob" stitched on the front and a St. Cloud Police logo on the back
4. Blue boy's sweatpants
5. Red t-shirt with CMYSA, a soccer ball logo, and St. Cloud MN on the front, with the number eleven and the name "Wetterling" on the back
6. Orange traffic vest, with silver trim and black drawstrings on each side
7. Blue mesh jersey
8. Boy's white tube socks
9. White boy's briefs
10. Boy's Nike high top tennis shoes, white with grey Nike swatch on the side, Nike written on the bottoms

Are at the premises described as:

The outbuildings shown and numbered on the aerial photograph attached hereto and incorporated herein as Appendix A, including: 1) small shed 2) detached garage 3) barn 4) shed 5) shed 6) shed 7) grain bin 8) small shed 9) large shed

AND the land at the address of 29748 - 91<sup>st</sup> Avenue, described as

Parcel ID 31.20826.0000. Sec/Twp/Rng 14-124-029. Description: The Northwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter (NWY-s of NE~); that part of the Southwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter (SWv.. ofNE~) described as follows: Commencing at the Northeast corner of the Southwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter (SWYt ofNEv..) thence running South 80 rods, thence running West 48 rods, thence running in a Northeasterly direction to a point 32 rods West of the Northeast corner of said Southwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter (SWv.. ofNEY4); thence running East 32 rods to the place of beginning; also the Northeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter (NEY.. ofNW~) and the South 50 acres of West Half of the Northwest Quarter (WYz ofNW14) and the West Half of the Southeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter (WYz ofSEY4 ofNE~), all of Section Fourteen (14), in Township One Hundred Twenty-four (124), Range Twenty-nine (29). Less a one (1) acre tract in the Northwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter (NWv.. ofNWv..) of Section 14, Township 124, Range 29, described as follows: Beginning at the Southeast corner of said Northwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter (NWv.. ofNW~); thence North along the East line of said Northwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter (NWYt ofNWv..) and along the centerline of the Town Road, 208 feet; thence West at right angles 208 feet, thence South at right angles 208 feet; thence East at right angles 208 feet to the point of beginning and there terminating. Also, less and except: The West 715 feet of the North 610 feet of the NE~ ofNW'14 of Section 14, Township 124, Range 29.

and further described by the aerial photos and diagrams attached hereto and incorporated herein, labeled Appendixes A, B, C and D

located in the Township of St. Joseph, County of Stearns, State of Minnesota.

This affiant applies for issuance of a search warrant upon the following grounds:

1. The property above-described was stolen or embezzled.
2. The property above-described was used as means of committing a crime.
3. The possession of the property above-described constitutes a crime.
4. The property above-described is in the possession of a person with intent to use such property as a means of committing a crime.
5. The property above-described constitutes evidence which tends to show a crime has been committed, or tends to show that a particular person has committed a crime.

The facts tending to establish the foregoing grounds for issuance of a search warrant as as follows:

Your affiant, Kenneth McDonald, is a Special Agent with the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension. Special Agent McDonald has been a licensed police officer within the State of Minnesota for the past 23 years, the last 20 of which he has worked felony level investigations of crimes against people and property. SA McDonald has personally investigated and reviewed other law enforcement records related to this investigation and believes the following to be true and correct.

On October 22, 1989 at 9:32 p.m., the Stearns County Sheriff's Department received a 9-1-1 call reporting that Jacob Erwin Wetterling, DOB: 12/17/78, had been kidnapped by an unknown male abductor.

The initial police investigation revealed that Jacob Wetterling, age 11, his brother, Trevor Wetterling, age 10, and a mutual friend, Aaron Larson, age 11, were staying at the Wetterling residence at 9422 Kiwi Court, St. Joseph, Stearns County, Minnesota. That evening, Patty and Jerry Wetterling, the parents of Jacob and Trevor, were not home and were at a friend's house.

Jacob Wetterling had contacted his parents and requested permission for the three boys to travel from the Wetterling residence to the nearby Tom Thumb store to rent a video. The Tom Thumb store was approximately three-quarters of a mile away (see Appendixes A, B, C and D, attached hereto and hereby incorporated herein). The boys planned on traveling there using their bicycles and a scooter.

After obtaining permission, the boys did travel to the Tom Thumb store located in St. Joseph, Stearns County, Minnesota. Records reveal that they rented a movie video at 9:07 p.m. and bought some candy. Travelling to the Tom Thumb store was not a routine for the boys, and the only persons that knew they were travelling there were the Wetterling parents.

While returning to the Wetterling residence along 91<sup>st</sup> Avenue, the boys were approached by an unknown male at the end of the driveway of 29748 - 91<sup>st</sup> Avenue. This address is in St. Joseph Township, Stearns County, Minnesota and is the home of Robert, Rita and Daniel Rassier. The suspect/abductor was described as wearing dark or black clothing, a nylon stocking or mask pulled over his head, gloves, and was holding a silver handgun. He spoke with a raspy voice. The suspect/abductor ordered all three boys to go into the ditch across from the Rassier's driveway. The unknown male took Jacob Wetterling by force and told Aaron Larson and Trevor Wetterling to run into the woods.

Aaron Larson and Trevor Wetterling ran into the woods for a short distance, turned around, and did not see Jacob or the suspect/abductor, nor did they see any vehicles along 91<sup>st</sup> Avenue or along the driveway of 29748 - 91<sup>st</sup> Avenue.

Aaron Larson and Trevor Wetterling ran back to the Wetterling's next door neighbor, Merlin Jersak. At 9:32 p.m., Jersak placed a 9-1-1 call to Stearns County dispatch, reporting the abduction. During the 9-1-1 call, Aaron Larson also provided dispatch with his description of what had occurred as noted above.

At the time of his abduction, Jacob Wetterling was 11 years of age, five feet tall, 75 pounds, blue eyes, brown hair, with a mole on his left cheek. He was wearing a red hockey team jacket with the name "Jacob" stitched on the front, with the St. Cloud Police logo on the back, blue boy's sweat pants, a red t-shirt with CMYSA, a soccer ball logo, and St. Cloud MN on the front with the number 11 and the name "Wetterling" on the back, an orange traffic vest with silver trim with black draw strings on each side, a blue mesh jersey, boy's white tube socks, white boy's briefs, and boy's Nike high-top tennis shoes, white with a grey Nike swatch on the side, with the name Nike written on the bottoms.

When Aaron Larson and Trevor Wetterling were interviewed, they described their journey from the Wetterling residence to the Tom Thumb store along the dark road 91<sup>st</sup> Avenue. They encountered three vehicles on the trip to Tom Thumb. Two vehicles came from town, passing them and headed in the opposite direction, and one vehicle came from behind them headed towards town. As they went by on the trip to the Tom Thumb store, they did hear what they thought to be some rustling in the weeds in the ditch near the Rassier farm driveway at 29748 91<sup>st</sup> Avenue.

Upon returning from the Tom Thumb store along 91<sup>st</sup> Avenue, they approached the Rassier farm at 29748 - 91<sup>st</sup> Avenue. Aaron described hearing footsteps in the gravel driveway as they approached. Aaron then described seeing the suspect/abductor coming from the driveway. He could see up the driveway with the help of a farm light. He saw no vehicles, and no dog was barking. The unknown gunman ordered the boys into the ditch as described earlier.

While in the ditch the boys were ordered onto their stomachs. The gunman told Trevor to shut off the flashlight he was carrying, which he did. The suspect/abductor asked what the boys' ages were. Trevor began to speak first, but he was ordered to stop. The suspect/abductor wanted the boys to speak in order from left to right. He tapped Aaron and he said his age, then Trevor, and then Jacob. He then told Trevor to run in the woods or he would shoot. Next he looked at Aaron's face and told him the same. The boys did as they were told.

Trevor and Aaron then described seeing Jacob being forcefully taken by the suspect/abductor towards the Rassier farm. After running for a short period of time, they turned and looked and did not see any vehicles on the road or the driveway of 29748 - 91<sup>st</sup> Avenue.

At the time of the abduction, Daniel Alfred Rassier, DOB: 10/25/55, was living with his parents, Robert and Rita Rassier at the residence at 29748 - 91<sup>st</sup> Avenue. However, at the time of the

abduction, Robert and Rita Rassier were vacationing in Europe. Therefore, Daniel Rassier was the only individual at the residence at that time.

That night, October 22, 1989, Dan Rassier was interviewed by law enforcement. He described a vehicle, a large tan or yellow dirty car, turning around in his driveway earlier that day, between 11:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.. He said the vehicle left his residence at a high rate of speed.

Also that night, on October 22, 1989, Rassier said he saw another vehicle turn around at his residence between 9:00 and 10:00 p.m., describing it as a smaller dark blue vehicle, coming into his driveway, turning around, and leaving. He said the headlights were on and the driver may have had them on dim, and he thought the style was similar to a Chevette. He said he saw something on the driver's side, and thought it was a flashlight or a reflection from the yard light. When later interviewed in November 1989, Rassier claimed that he may have seen Jacob in the front seat of that car.

In October of 1989, Kevin Hamilton said he did report to authorities that he heard over his police radio scanner that a child had been abducted near the Rassier farm. He did get in his vehicle, described as a midsized silver car, and go to the Rassier farm, drive up the driveway, turn around and leave. Hamilton said that this was reported to a St. Joseph police officer, but the information apparently did not get into the investigative file at that time. Kevin Hamilton came forward a second time on October 21, 2003 and did provide law enforcement with his recollection of what he did that evening. It is believed that the Hamilton vehicle is the one described by Rassier as being in his driveway between 9 and 10 p.m. on October 22, 1989.

On October 24, 1989 at 1:00 p.m., Detective Boeckers of the Stearns County Sheriff's Department interviewed Daniel Rassier at the junior high school in Cold Spring, Minnesota. During that interview, Rassier indicated that he lives at the farm with his parents, Robert and Rita Rassier, who were currently away on vacation on an extended trip to Europe.

Rassier recalled that on the evening of the abduction, he had been home performing a typing project in the upper level of the residence. Rassier stated that between 9:00 and 9:30 p.m., the family dog began barking. At that time he observed a vehicle enter the driveway, turn around, and leave. Rassier indicated that the vehicle was driving at a faster than normal rate of speed and provided the above described blue vehicle description to Detective Boeckers. Rassier also advised that earlier in the day he had seen a larger vehicle turn around in his driveway

Later on October 24, 1989, Detective Boeckers and FBI Agent Temper re-contacted Rassier for the purpose of obtaining photographs of Rassier's vehicle for comparison to the vehicle tracks in his driveway. Detective Boeckers' reports indicate that Agent Temper also interviewed Rassier again regarding his activity during the day of October 22, 1989.

On October 28, 1989, at 10:40 a.m., Detective Boeckers re-interviewed Daniel Rassier at his residence. Detective Boecker reports that upon arriving at the residence, Daniel Rassier displayed various shoes that he had worn on October 22, 1989. It was the officer's opinion that none of the shoe patterns were consistent with the shoe impressions found on the driveway near where the child had been abducted.

Upon questioning, Rassier provided Detective Boeckers with a more complete description of his activities on October 22, 1989. Rassier described many activities within the St. Cloud area, then returning to his residence at approximately 6:00 p.m. Once again, he described the typing project for school. The interview and overall investigation shows that Rassier likes to be organized. He reported that between 9:00 and 10:00 p.m., he observed a vehicle enter his driveway and turn around. At approximately 10:45 p.m. Rassier said he went to bed. Shortly thereafter, he heard his dog named Smokey begin barking. Rassier got up, and observed a flashlight in the southwest direction from his house near a woodpile. Rassier indicated that shortly thereafter he called 9-1-1, at which time he was informed by the dispatchers that members of the sheriff's office were present at his residence. Rassier stated that at that point he left his residence and spoke with officers at the scene for a short period of time. It is confirmed through police reports that Rassier did call 9-1-1 and speak with responding law enforcement officers that night. Rassier said that he then returned home and checked a number of outbuildings on the property, including a shed, a tree house, the hay barn, a shop, and the milk house. Rassier said that at about 2:00 a.m. he returned to his residence and went to bed. Rassier did not contact any other individuals in regard to learning of the abduction.

Rassier indicated that at 6:45 a.m. on October 23, 1989, he woke up, went to the milk house to feed the cats and let the horses out. At 7:30 a.m. Rassier left the residence and spoke briefly with a deputy sheriff at the scene while leaving, arriving at school at 7:55 a.m. and returning home from work at 4:10 p.m.

On October 28, 1989, at 1:10 p.m., officers asked for consent to search the Rassier residence. They obtained permission from Robert Rassier and Dan Rassier to search their house. Investigators searched the Rassier home, terminating the search at 2:15 p.m. During the search, nothing was seized from the Rassier residence.

On October 28, 1989, FBI agents interviewed Dena Boettcher. Boettcher indicated that she was a teacher at Cold Spring (ROCORI) High School and was acquainted with Dan Rassier, also a teacher at the school. She indicated that she had gone on one or two dates with Rassier. She recalled one date going to a Twins game with other couples. She said Rassier did not want to interact with the other couples. On another occasion, they went to a drive-in movie and then had a long conversation at her residence. At one point she asked Rassier if he had ever had sex. Rassier advised her that at the time he believed he had a double personality and that his other self had had sex.

On November 11, 1989, Detective Whippler from the Benton County Sheriff's Office contacted Daniel Rassier and re-interviewed him with FBI Special Agent Al Garber. The interview was in regard to Rassier making comments at school about the Wetterling case. The comments were determined by the officers to be inconsequential. Rassier also provided investigators with two of his best friends' names, both of whom were male. Rassier further indicated that he had no female friends that he socialized with and overall had very little social life.

On November 27, 1989, Dr. John Rhetts, a licensed consulting psychologist, conducted a hypnotic interview with Daniel Rassier. The purpose of the interview was to enhance Rassier's

recollection of the two vehicles he observed turning around on his property on October 22, 1989. This interview was a volunteer hypnotic interview and was videotaped.

In January of 2004, your affiant and Captain Pam Jensen of the Stearns County Sheriff's Department reviewed the video tape of the hypnotic interview Rassier provided on November 27, 1989. Your affiant and Captain Jensen also listened to the 9-1-1 tape in which Aaron Larson describes the events that occurred. Your affiant and Captain Jensen also reviewed the information in regard to Kevin Hamilton, the driver who had turned around in the Rassier driveway on October 22, 1989, who had come forward the second time, and who was subsequently eliminated as a suspect in the child abduction investigation.

On February 7, 2004 at 2:00 p.m., your affiant and Captain Jensen interviewed Daniel Rassier in regard to the current Hamilton vehicle information. Daniel Rassier voluntarily came to the Stearns County Sheriff's Department for this purpose. Your affiant and Captain Jensen reviewed the hypnotic interview with Rassier to refresh his memory, pointing out the primary objective of the hypnotic interview at the time was to see if more detailed information could be obtained about the vehicles that turned around in his driveway. However, upon having the vehicle in question investigated and eliminated as being suspect, your affiant and Captain Jensen reviewed the hypnotic interview with Rassier from that perspective, with the vehicle being eliminated. From this perspective, there were comments and reactions Rassier made throughout the hypnotic interview that raised new questions as to Rassier being the suspect/abductor. Your affiant and Captain Jensen told Rassier that they wished to discuss some of these observations with Rassier, including Rassier listing details of his activities throughout the day into the evening hours of October 22, 1989, stating examples of typing out cards, and getting ready for class the following Monday morning. The hypnotic interview showed that Rassier is very detail oriented, and in the interview, Rassier gave extensive details regarding this planning, quoting "I enjoy getting everything perfect... so I feel good about it." However, during the part of the hypnotic interview covering the time frame in which Jacob was abducted, Rassier said he lost track of time. Once the abduction time frame was over, he became more detailed in his recollection of what occurred that evening.

Also during the hypnotic interview from November 27, 1989, Rassier described how he knew a car was coming up the driveway because his dog Smokey began barking. Rassier described looking out the upstairs window, watching the vehicle coming into view. At this point in the hypnotic interview, Rassier began crying. Rassier said he ran from room to room to watch the vehicle. Rassier was very upset and notably shaking when he was discussing this. Rassier stated that if a perpetrator wanted Jacob he would have gotten him eventually. Rassier described that as the vehicle went up the driveway and turned around, that the driver might be an abductor. Rassier also said in this hypnotic interview that he may have seen Jacob with a flashlight as the car went by. When the car left, Rassier said that Smokey quit barking, and Rassier went to bed.

Further on in the hypnotic interview, Rassier recalled hearing Smokey bark again. He jumped up, looked out his window and saw spotlights down by the wood pile. Rassier commented that he was very nervous and could not get dressed and that he was very scared and in big trouble. Rassier also stated that he turned the lights off. In this hypnotic interview, Rassier seemed overly concerned about a vehicle coming in the driveway.

Continuing in the hypnotic interview, Rassier said that he called 9-1-1 and spoke with a dispatcher and learned that a boy had been abducted. He said that Smokey kept barking at the lights and he could not sleep. He was wondering why law enforcement were not looking in the out buildings. Rassier said he eventually went out and spoke with law enforcement and at that time Rassier said he went back and looked in the tree house.

Moving then to the interview in February 2004 in which your affiant and Captain Jensen discussed the contents of the videotaped hypnotic interview from 1989 with Rassier, Rassier commented that the dog Smokey would bark at any activity that occurred at the end of the driveway. Smokey would not bark if he was familiar with the person. Your affiant and Captain Jensen pointed out that Rassier said he had watched the vehicle come from the end of the driveway, turn around and leave, and that Smokey was barking at that time, so why wouldn't Smokey be barking during the time in which Jacob was being abducted? Rassier would not provide a definitive answer.

During the hypnotic interview, Rassier was asked if he knew Jacob Wetterling. Rassier indicated no and then began crying, stating he didn't think he would do this. During the hypnotic interview, Rassier's emotions were stable during the questioning about the vehicle or as he recalled the events throughout the day, however during the period in which the questions turned to Jacob's abduction, he began crying and shaking, then would recover and stop crying when questions were not related to the actual abduction. When he was asked about Jacob Wetterling again, he would again start crying.

Your affiant and Captain Jensen explained to Rassier that the boys' trip to the convenience store was not on a regular basis. Very few people knew that they were going there on the evening of October 22, 1989. It was pointed out that Aaron Larson said that when they rode by the Rassiers' driveway on the way to the video store, they heard some rustling in the weeds, and it startled all the boys and they rode their bikes and scooter faster. On the way back from the convenience store they were carrying a flashlight. As they approached the Rassier driveway, Aaron Larson said his first sense of the abductor was that he heard someone walking down the Rassier driveway on the gravel. The abductor appeared from that area and stopped them. Larson looked up the driveway and saw no vehicle and did not mention any barking dog at the time. The commands from the abductor were very precise.

It was therefore pointed out to Rassier that it was the investigators' opinion that the abductor came from the Rassier farm and no vehicle was used. It was also pointed out to Rassier that it was the investigators' opinion that whoever abducted Jacob Wetterling had to have been from the area and that no vehicles came up the road from behind the boys as they were returning from the store. It was also pointed out that in reviewing the 9-1-1 tape, dispatchers may have inadvertently been somewhat leading with the boys, citing, for example, that the abductor had a raspy voice or questioning if in fact he had a gun. Upon pointing out some of these facts, your affiant and Captain Jensen accused Rassier of taking Jacob Wetterling. Rassier did not have much of a reaction to that. However, he continuously went back to the fact that it must have been the person that turned around in the driveway. Beyond that, during the 2004 interview, Rassier never directly addressed the accusation. When confronted, Rassier would repeatedly

respond by indicating that it must have been the vehicle that turned around earlier in the afternoon. Rassier refused to allow your affiant or Captain Jensen to eliminate the vehicles as an option in the abduction.

Rassier did admit to your affiant and Captain Jensen that if he did take Jacob he would have plenty of time and locations to dispose of him on his farm. He said he felt law enforcement made mistakes by not searching his place until approximately four or five days after the abduction. It is your affiant's and Captain Jensen's opinion that Rassier seemed to be enjoying this part of the conversation, smirking at times, also noting that investigators had one problem, they had no physical evidence.

It was also pointed out to Rassier that if a child was abducted from the end of a person's driveway and law enforcement was present, why would he not contact any friends or relatives and eventually tell them about this traumatic event. Rassier made no comment about this.

On February 12, 2004, at 9:00 a.m., your affiant along with Investigator Troy Jansky went to the Rassier farm and spoke with Rita and Robert Rassier. Your affiant and Detective Jansky explained to Robert and Rita Rassier that they felt their son Dan was a suspect in the abduction of Jacob Wetterling. The Rassiers did not show much emotion after being presented this information. Robert Rassier did indicate that his son had told him that law enforcement no longer believed the vehicle that turned around in the driveway was the abductor. Robert stated that his son did make a comment that "Dad even if I did do it I had all kinds of time to get away with it" and that Dan was upset and voiced frustration with the sloppy police work that was conducted.

Your affiant and Detective Jansky inquired if Dan Rassier used a computer within the home. Rita Rassier indicated that there was a computer they shared that was kept in the basement that did have internet access. Your affiant and Detective Jansky obtained permission to search the computer to determine what had been viewed on the internet. While searching the computer, your affiant did not find any type of inappropriate material on the computer. However, during the time of this review of the computer, Rita Rassier voluntarily began making comments that if her son Dan did take Jacob Wetterling, she would provide theories on how he would do this.

Your affiant along with other law enforcement visually watched Daniel Rassier from October 15 through October 19, 2007 to obtain a better understanding of his daily activities. In summary, Rassier would leave his residence early in the morning and go to the school at Rocori where he is employed as a teacher. He'd often stay there until seven or eight at night and return home. Occasionally, on Tuesday or Wednesday nights he went to the Saint Benedict Center to play his musical instrument along with a small group of other musicians, or went to the Midwest Athletic Club in St. Cloud to exercise. No other friends or associates were noted during this timeframe.

On November 7, 2007, your affiant applied for a mail cover through the U.S. Postal Service for Dan Rassier and the address of 29748 - 91<sup>st</sup> Avenue, St. Joseph, noting that the mailing address has changed since the time of the abduction. Your affiant did receive copies of mail during the timeframe of December 11, 2007 through January 9, 2008. Your affiant reviewed the mail which Dan Rassier was receiving. Even though this time period was during the holidays, Rassier

received only one piece of mail that may have been a Christmas card and did not receive any other inappropriate mail during the timeframe.

In October of 2009, your affiant along with Captain Jensen communicated with Patty and Jerry Wetterling in regard to having Patty Wetterling wear a recording device and meet with Dan Rassier. It was decided that the meeting would be under the pretense that Patty would accidentally run into Dan and have a conversation with him.

On October 20, 2009, Patty Wetterling, wearing a body recording device and being monitored by law enforcement, met with Dan Rassier as he was coming out of a health club in St. Cloud. During the conversation, Rassier told Patty Wetterling about the car turning around in his driveway and that he felt he saw Jacob looking out the window of the car.

Patty asked Rassier if he knew what happened to Jacob. Rassier responded no, no one knows for sure, I do know that the driver of the car was the person who did it. During the conversation Patty Wetterling asked where Jacob could be. Rassier said that he has this fear in the back of his mind, and that the police have made him feel so guilty, to the extent that if other people were aware of that they could go on his property and bury Jacob, then commenting that "he would be dead," making reference to being in trouble with law enforcement. Patty Wetterling commented that nobody could come on your property and bury him without you knowing. Rassier responded by indicating they could do it easy, further commenting that they could park their car somewhere and just walk through the woods and bury him.

Rassier mentioned that law enforcement did dig around in a gravel pit on their property looking for Wetterling, indicating they only messed it up, and if someone would have buried a body back there they would never have found it the way they did it.

Patty questioned Rassier saying "well you dig around there a lot, did you ever find a body?" Rassier responded "I found a dog because I dug it up because I actually thought it was Jacob", stating this was located in a known sunken part of the property. Patty Wetterling then questioned why he was digging in the gravel. Rassier responded that he recycles cans and that was his favorite area, as they used to throw metal in that area.

During the conversation, Patty Wetterling made a comment that whoever did it has had a life of hell. Rassier commented, "I think the person that did it is probably dead."

Patty informed Rassier that the person came from his driveway and that he was carrying a gun. Rassier questioned whether the boys really did see a gun. Wetterling also described Trevor having a flashlight. Rassier questioned Trevor having had a flashlight, and asked if the abductor told him to turn off the flashlight. Rassier also questioned whether it was possible the guy did not have a mask on, and whether the abductor had a hat on. Rassier also questioned Wetterling whether or not the boys recognized the abductor's voice.

On March 19, 2010 Patty and Jerry Wetterling went to the Rassier farm to speak with Robert and Rita Rassier. As part of the conversation Patty mentioned that she had spoken with Dan in October. The parents indicated that Dan made no mention of this conversation.

Based on your affiant's training and experience, and based upon this summary of facts known through this entire investigation dating back to 1989, your affiant has reason to believe and does believe that the remains and/or clothing of Jacob Wetterling and other items described will be found on the described property, and thus requests this warrant to search the above described property for these described items.

In summary, the victims describe hearing something in the weeds as they passed the abduction site heading towards town. The abduction occurred at the end of the Rassier driveway, the property your affiant seeks permission to search. The suspect, Daniel Rassier was home alone at the time of the crime. The other victims describe seeing no vehicles, not hearing a dog barking, and noted that the abductor came from the driveway of the Rassier farm. The abductor appeared to be detail orientated and Rassier has the same traits. Rassier has stated that he has a double personality. Shortly after the abduction, in the context of the hypnotic interview, Rassier commented he was very scared and in big trouble. Also during the hypnotic interview, Rassier was very detailed in describing his day on October 22, 1989, until the time of the abduction. Rassier has admitted there are plenty of places on the farm to dispose of a body. He also has expressed concerns that Jacob Wetterling may be buried on the farm which is the described property in this application.

Your affiant along with others under his direction and control seek permission to search the land and outbuildings described, beginning with less invasive methods of searching but continuing, if necessary, using all resources available to locate the subject items of the search.

Your affiant has good reason to believe, and does believe, that the following described property and things, to-wit:

1. Jacob Erwin Wetterling DOB: 12-17-78, alive or any human remains, including but not limited to bones, dental work/teeth, decomposing flesh, hairs, and biological samples
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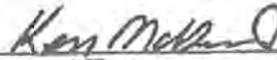
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Parcel ID 31.20826.0000. Sec/Twp/Rng 14-124-029. Description: The Northwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter (NWY-s of NE~); that part of the Southwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter (SWv.. ofNE~) described as follows: Commencing at the Northeast corner of the Southwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter (SWYt ofNEv..) thence running South 80 rods, thence running West 48 rods, thence running in a Northeasterly direction to a point 32 rods

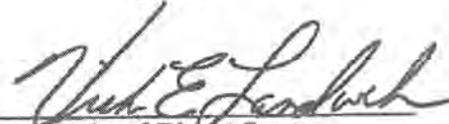
West of the Northeast corner of said Southwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter (SWv.. ofNEY4); thence running East 32 rods to the place of beginning; also the Northeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter (NEY.. of NW~) and the South 50 acres of West Half of the Northwest Quarter (WYz ofNW14) and the West Half of the Southeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter (WYz ofSEY4 ofNE~), all of Section Fourteen (14), in Township One Hundred Twenty-four (124), Range Twenty-nine (29). Less a one (1) acre tract in the Northwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter (NWv.. ofNWv..) of Section 14, Township 124, Range 29, described as follows: Beginning at the Southeast corner of said Northwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter (NWv.. of NW~); thence North along the East line of said Northwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter (NWYt ofNWv..) and along the centerline of the Town Road, 208 feet; thence West at right angles 208 feet, thence South at right angles 208 feet; thence East at right angles 208 feet to the point of beginning and there terminating. Also, less and except: The West 715 feet of the North 610 feet of the NE~ ofNW14 of Section 14, Township 124, Range 29. and further described by the aerial photos and diagrams attached hereto and incorporated herein, labeled Appendixes A, B, C and D, all located in the Township of St. Joseph, County of Stearns, State of Minnesota.

**WHEREFORE, Affiant Kenneth McDonald requests a search warrant be issued, commanding your affiant, a peace officer and/or Capt. Pam Jensen, and/or Deputy Nate Watson, and/or Deputy Steve Mathews, and/or FBI Special Agent Shane Ball, and all other personnel under their direction and control, to search the hereinbefore described premises for the described property and things and to seize said property and things and keep said property and things in custody until the same be dealt with according to law.**

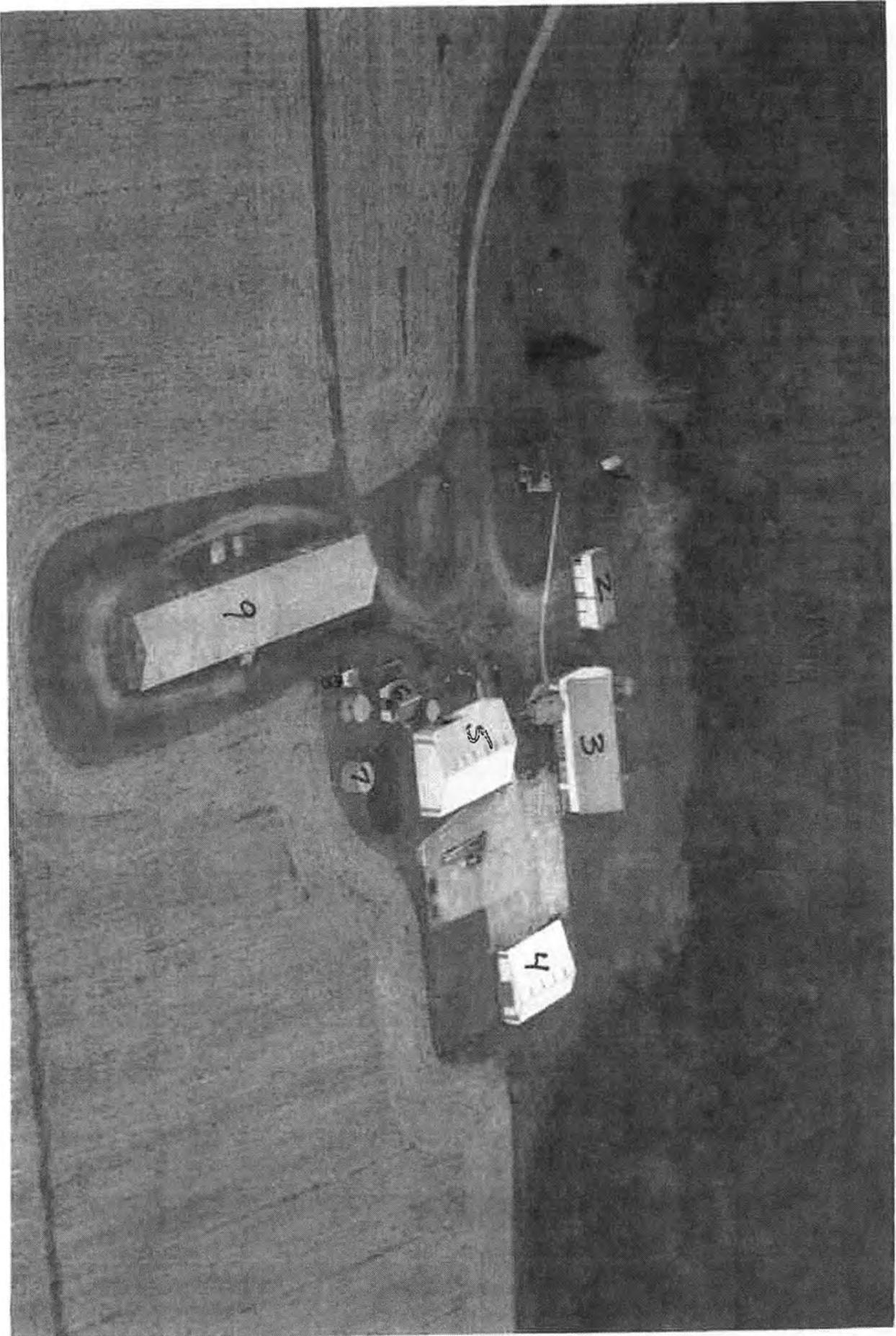
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Affiant

Subscribed and sworn to before me this

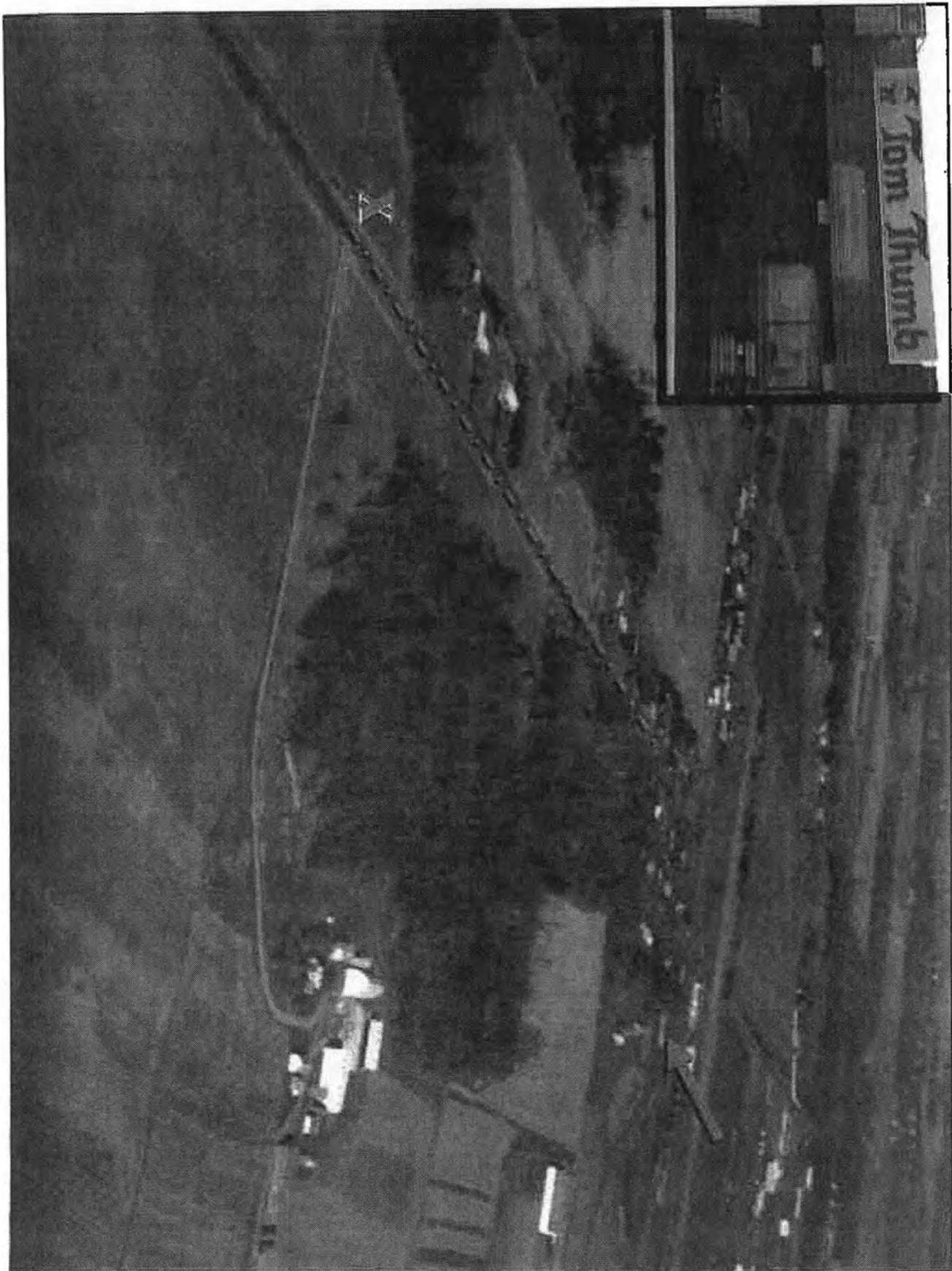
28<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2010

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Judge of District Court

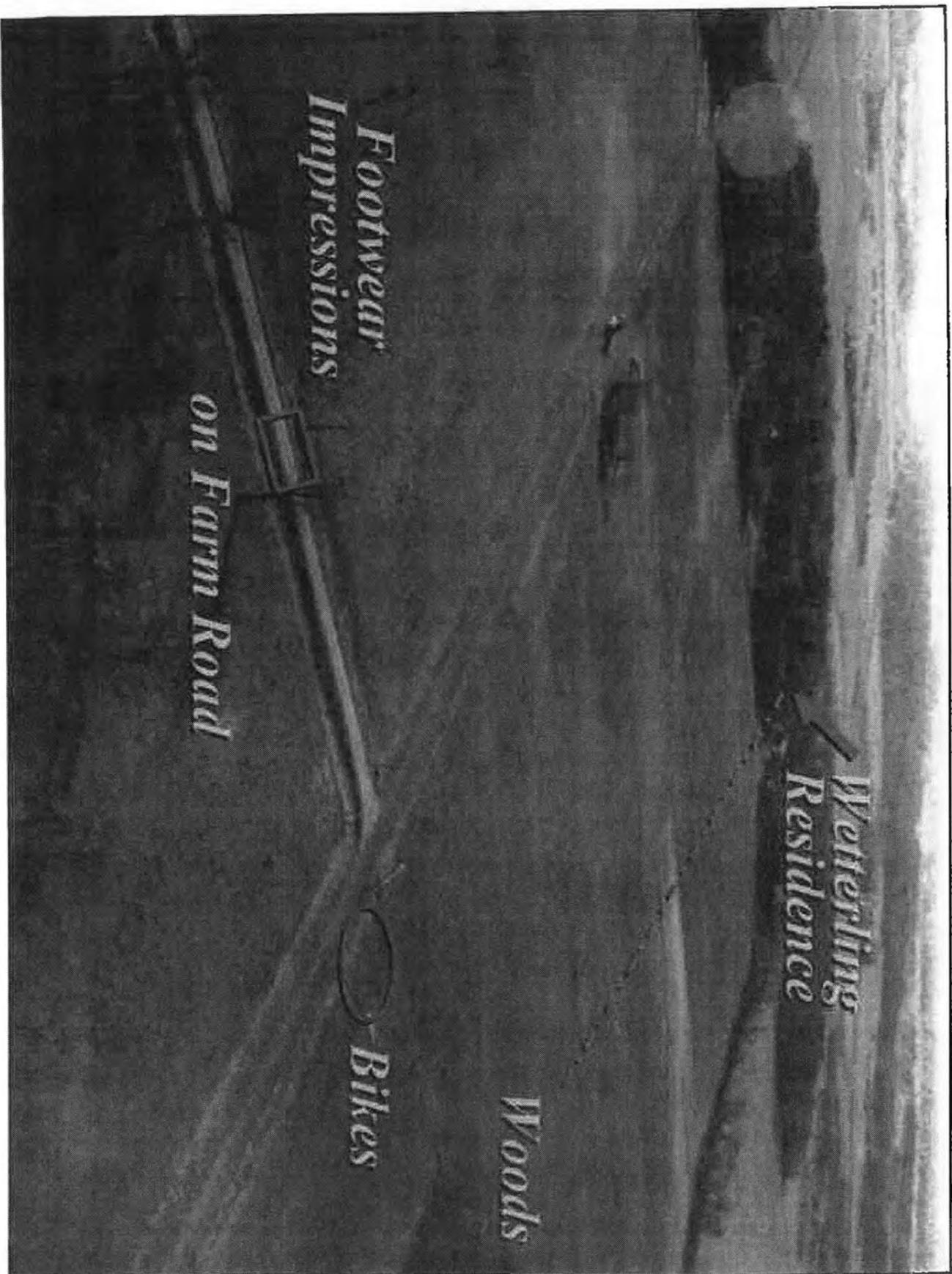
Appendix A



Appendix B



Appendix C





**SEARCH WARRANT**

STATE OF MINNESOTA

DISTRICT COURT

COUNTY OF STEARNS

CRIMINAL DIVISION

**TO: KENNETH MCDONALD, AND/OR CAPTAIN PAM JENSEN AND/OR DEPUTY NATE WATSON, AND/OR DEPUTY STEVE MATHEWS AND/OR FBI SPECIAL AGENT SHANE BALL, PEACE OFFICER(S) OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA.**

WHEREAS, **KENNETH MCDONALD** has this day on oath, made application to the said Court applying for issuance of a search warrant to search the following described PREMISES:

The outbuildings shown and numbered on the ariel photograph attached hereto and incorporated herein as Appendix A, including: 1) small shed 2) detached garage 3) barn 4) shed 5) shed 6) shed 7) grain bin 8) small shed 9) large shed

AND the land at the address of 29748 - 91<sup>st</sup> Avenue, described as

Parcel ID 31.20826.0000. Sec/Twp/Rng 14-124-029. Description: The Northwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter (NWY-s of NE~); that part of the Southwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter (SWv.. ofNE~) described as follows: Commencing at the Northeast corner of the Southwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter (SWYt ofNEv..) thence running South 80 rods, thence running West 48 rods, thence running in a Northeasterly direction to a point 32 rods West of the Northeast corner of said Southwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter (SWv.. ofNEY4); thence running East 32 rods to the place of beginning; also the Northeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter (NEY.. ofNW~) and the South 50 acres of West Half of the Northwest Quarter (WYz ofNW14) and the West Half of the Southeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter (WYz ofSEY4 ofNE~), all of Section Fourteen (14), in Township One Hundred Twenty-four (124), Range Twenty-nine (29). Less a one (1) acre tract in the Northwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter (NWv.. ofNWv..) of Section 14, Township 124, Range 29, described as follows: Beginning at the Southeast corner of said Northwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter (NWv.. ofNW~); thence North along the East line of said Northwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter (NWYt ofNWv..) and along the centerline of the Town Road, 208 feet; thence West at right angles 208 feet, thence South at right angles 208 feet; thence East at right angles 208 feet to the point of beginning and there terminating. Also, less and except: The West 715 feet of the North 610 feet of the NE~ ofNW14 of Section 14, Township 124, Range 29.

and further described by the ariel photos and diagrams attached hereto and incorporated herein, labeled Appendixes A, B, C and D.

located in the Township of St. Joseph, County of Stearns, State of Minnesota, for the following described property and things:

1. Jacob Erwin Wetterling DOB: 12-17-78, alive or any human remains, including but not limited to bones, dental work/teeth, decomposing flesh, hairs, and biological samples
2. Silver handgun
3. Red hockey team jacket, with the name "Jacob" stitched on the front and a St. Cloud Police logo on the back
4. Blue boy's sweatpants
5. Red t-shirt with CMYSA, a soccer ball logo, and St. Cloud MN on the front, with the number eleven and the name "Wetterling" on the back
6. Orange traffic vest, with silver trim and black drawstrings on each side
7. Blue mesh jersey
8. Boy's white tube socks
9. White boy's briefs
10. Boy's Nike high top tennis shoes, white with grey Nike swatch on the side, Nike written on the bottoms

WHEREAS, the application and supporting affidavit of **KENNETH MCDONALD** were duly presented and read by the Court, and being fully advised in the premises.

COPIES TO: COURT • PROS.ATTY • PEACE OFFICER • PREMISES/PERSON

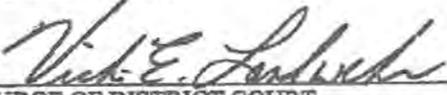
NOW, THEREFORE, the Court finds that probable cause exists for the issuance of a search warrant upon the following grounds:

1. The property above-described was stolen or embezzled.
2. The property above-described was used as means of committing a crime.
3. The possession of the property above-described constitutes a crime.
4. The property above-described is in the possession of a person with intent to use such property as a means of committing a crime.
5. The property above-described constitutes evidence which tends to show a crime has been committed, or tends to show that a particular person has committed a crime.

The Court further finds that probable cause exists to believe that the above-described property and things are at the premises described.

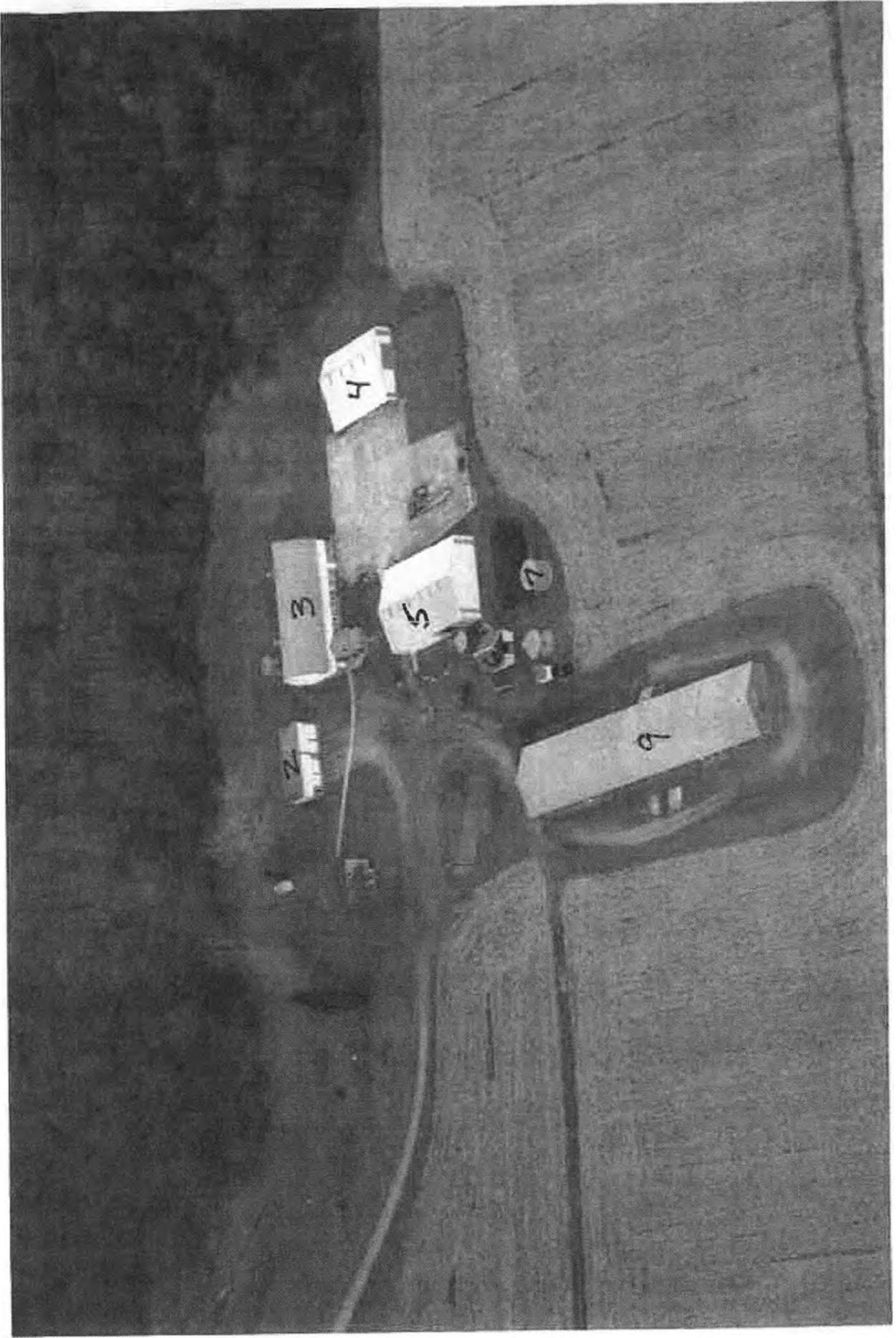
NOW, THEREFORE, YOU, KENNETH MCDONALD, AND/OR PAM JENSEN, AND/OR NATE WATSON, AND/OR STEVE MATHEWS, AND/ OR SHANE BALL, THE PEACE OFFICER(S) AFORESAID, AND ALL OTHER PERSONNEL UNDER YOUR DIRECTION AND CONTROL ARE HEREBY COMMANDED TO SEARCH THE ABOVE-DESCRIBED PREMISES FOR THE ABOVE-DESCRIBED PROPERTY AND THINGS, AND TO SEIZE SAID PROPERTY AND THINGS AND TO RETAIN THEM IN CUSTODY SUBJECT TO COURT ORDER AND ACCORDING TO LAW.

BY THE COURT:

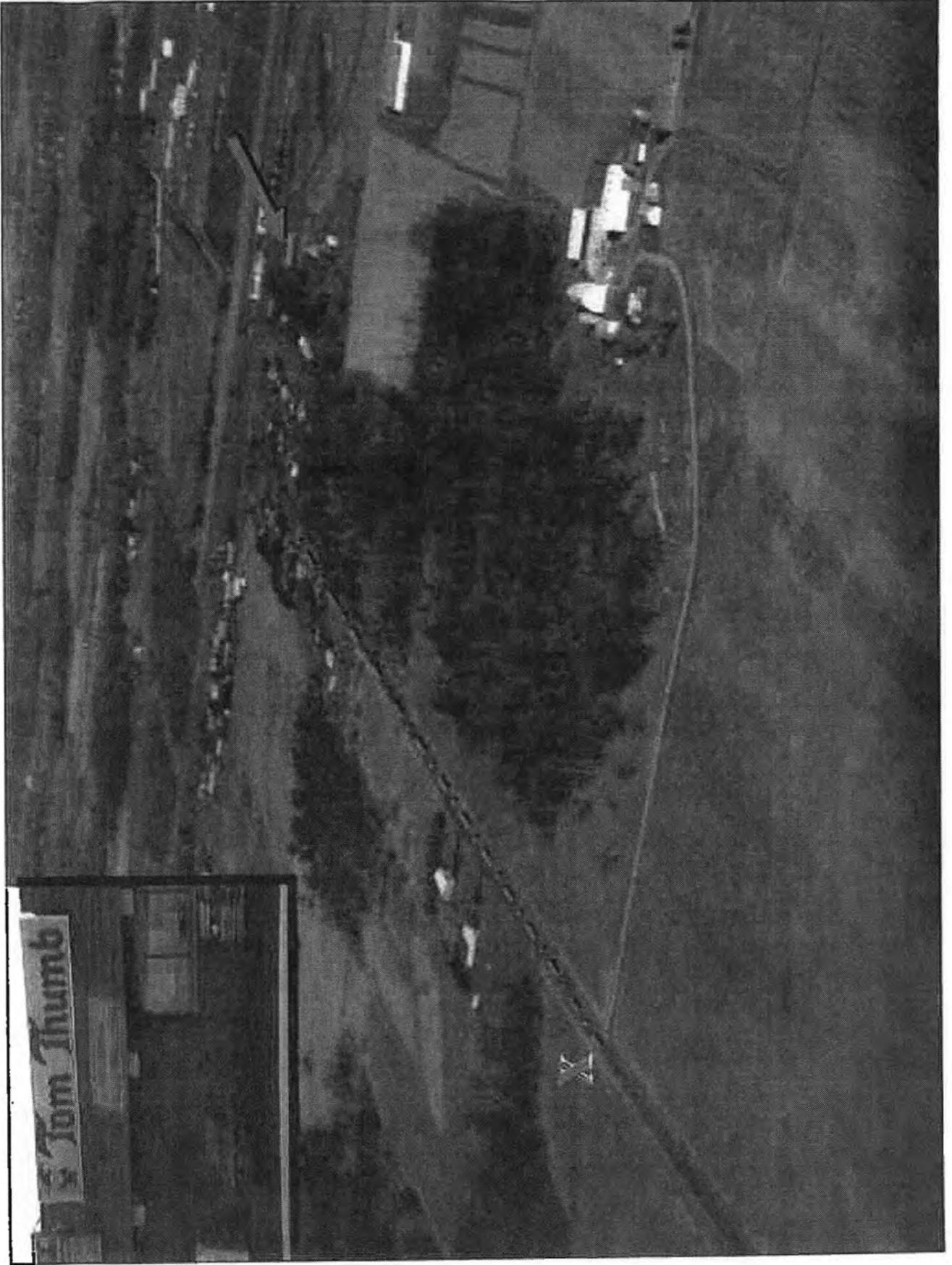
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
JUDGE OF DISTRICT COURT

Dated: June 28, 2010

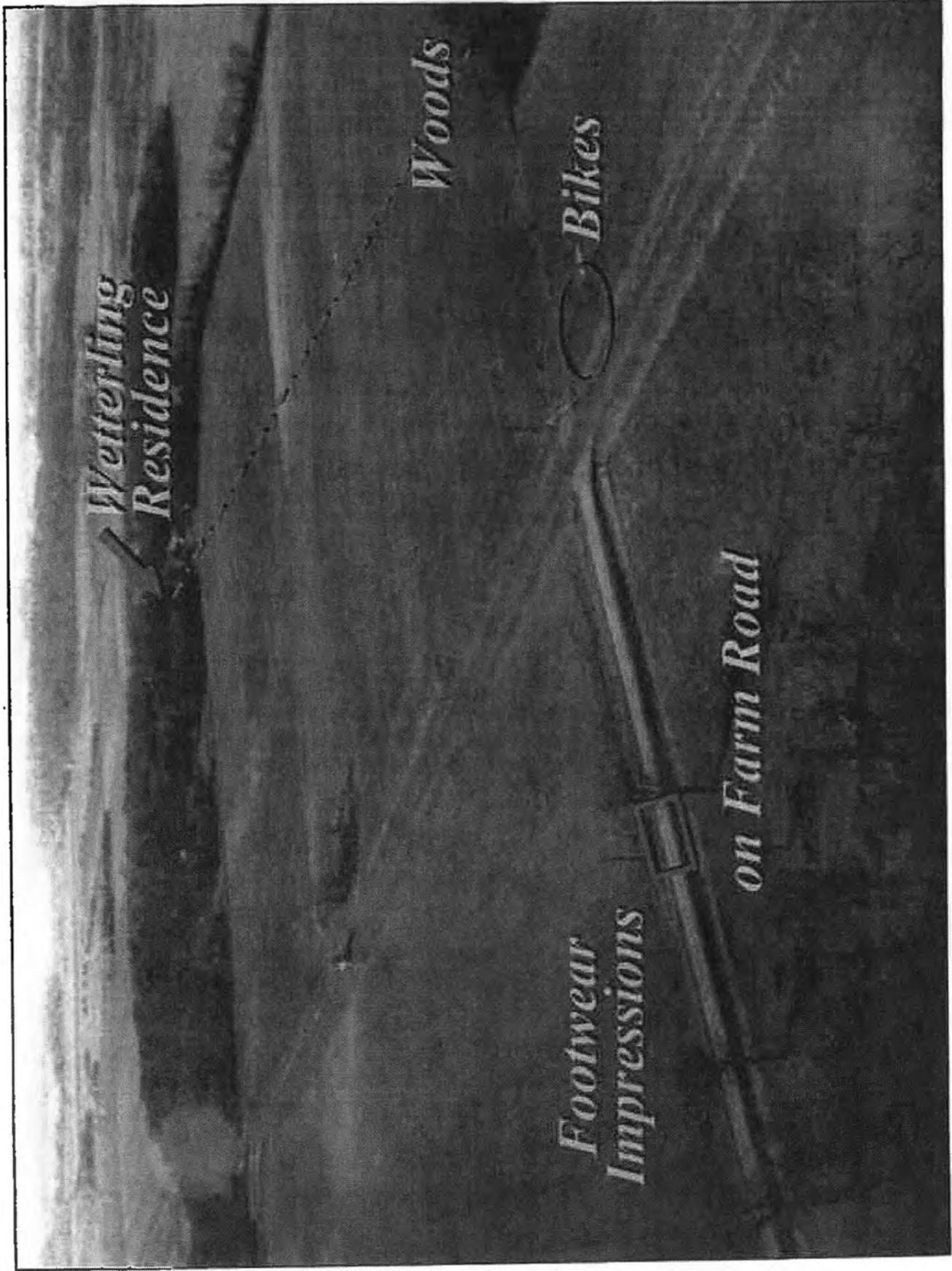
Appendix A



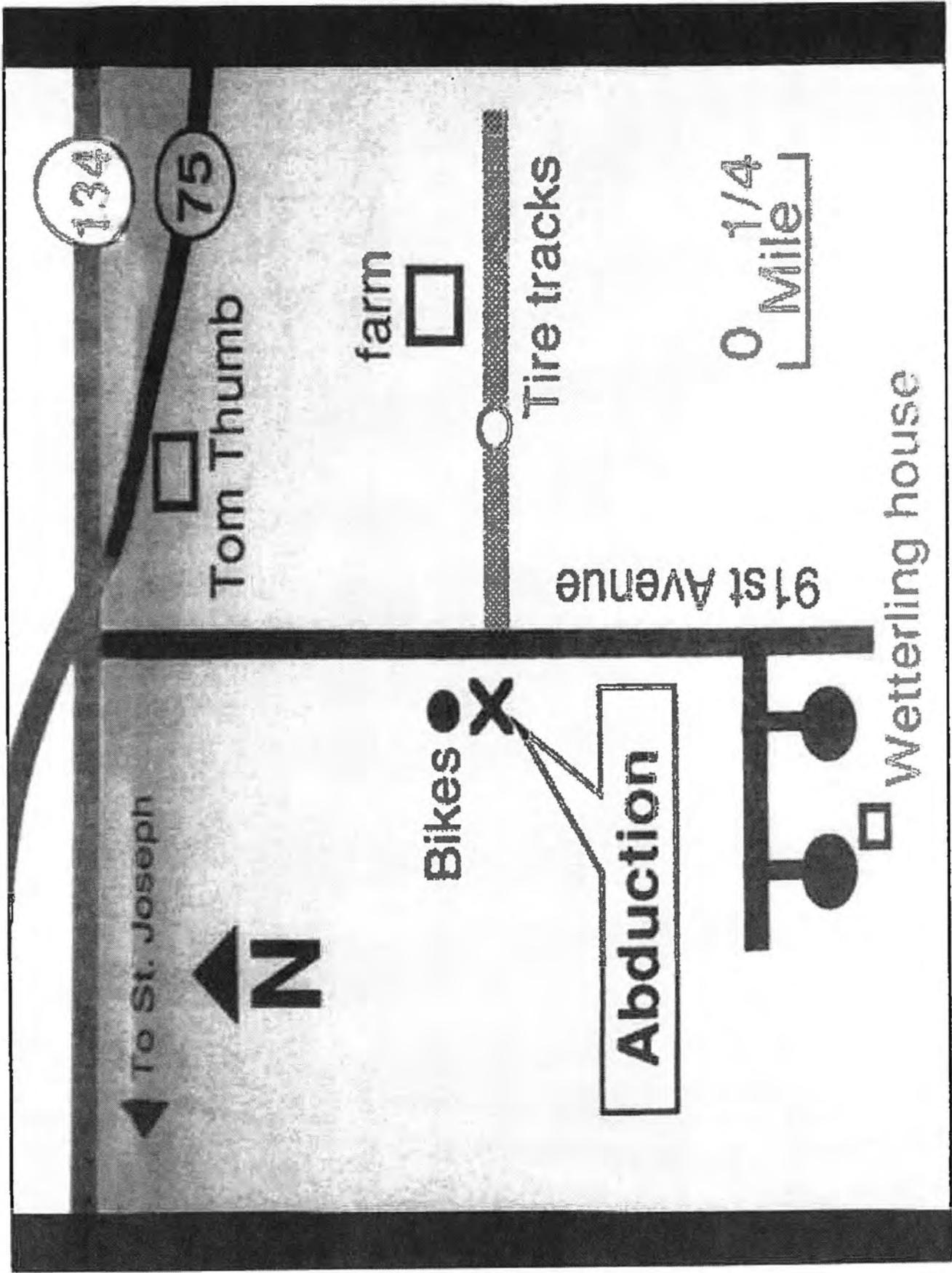
Appendix B



Appendix C



Appendix D



VL=Judge Vicki Landwehr

KM=Special Agent Ken McDonald, BCA

JK=Janelle Kendall, Stearns County Attorney

VL ...approximately 11:56 a.m. on June 28, 2010. I have the county attorney, ah, Janelle Kendall along with Special Agent Kenneth McDonald ah in my office with an application for a search warrant for ah premises located in Stearns County, St. Joseph, Minnesota. Um, requesting ah permission to search the outbuildings of that location ah as well as ah, some more invasive measures if the property seeking to be discovered cannot be located ah on a search simply of the ah buildings, um, searching for ah human remains of Jacob Wetterling along with ah objects, (inaudible) handgun and the clothing that was believed to have been worn by Jacob Wetterling on the date that ah, he was abducted which was October 22, 1989. I have reviewed the search warrant request and I guess my first question really relates to the, um, well I'm assuming the basis for the search warrant request is just a culmination of incidents and information gathered with respect to this Dan Rassier, is that correct?

KM That's correct.

VL Um, and I guess until this point ah, given the culmination of incidents including the hypnosis and the ah, conversation that Patty Wetterling had with Dan Rassier as well as conversations that ah the police have had with Mr. Rassier, his reactions appear to be somewhat unusual and suspect is that fair?

KM That's fair.

VL Um, obviously my concern is that whether there's enough here to get the search warrants, I would certainly agree that the entire set of circumstances seem somewhat um, suspicious and his reactions seem suspicious, so, um, maybe I could ask you, Ms. Kendall, ah, kinda about what you perceive as the legal basis for getting this search warrant at this point.

JK In terms of probable cause being it more likely than not that there's something there, that's what we're-we're giving you everything. Um, when Agent McDonald came to us and said what do we put in the warrant, I said everything (slight laugh) um, so that the judge really has a full picture of what leads you to this point. Now obviously in 21, 22 years of investigation there is more, out there...

VL Sure.

JK ...um, we put this much in to come to you and if the court would like more, if there's specific things that the court wants to know more about that's why we thought we might need a recording and we might need a court reporter because it was hard to know how much to put in.

VL Okay. Well I mean I get the impression from reading the application for the search warrant that, um, there is at least some sense after talking to Mr. Rassier's parents that they have, their own suspicions, um and again I'm not sure that that really amounts to probable cause, but it certainly ah, would obviously be law enforcement to become more suspicious...

JK Um-hm.

VL ...I would, expect. Ah, Mr. Rassier's reactions to being questioned again seem, suspicious. Um, and his comments about, suggesting that the police should have searched his property more thoroughly would, seem to be sus-suspicious to the court. Ah, I guess if there is anything that, your office or the police have Ms. Kendall that could tie him a little more directly, um, I would like to know that, I'm not saying I won't sign it but I guess I would like to know that.

JK Everything that I know is in that warrant, so it's been ah, I would direct those to-to you Ken.

KM I'm thinking...

VL That's fine.

KM Like Janelle said we just a- a lot of it in the warrant so I'm trying to think of...

VL Sure.

KM ...additional information. Um. One thing I didn't, where does this record go? Just...

VL I don't know that it's really going anywhere right now, I...

JK I will transcribe it and add it to the application, so it will be part of the application as well...

VL Okay.

JK ...anything that we say...

KM Okay.

JK ...here is also part of it, so when that becomes public, this becomes public as well.

VL Okay.

KM I didn't-we have hold back information for each investigation...

VL Sure.

KM ...and I didn't put that in there.

VL Okay.

KM For that reason. Um, some of that is where, you know, the abductor went up, had the boys lie on the ground, he was very systematic in he did grope them, he felt each of their gentiles and was asking their ages and what not.

VL Okay.

KM And made the selection presumably based upon at least part of that.

VL Okay.

KM Um, that with I didn't get into the gender ah preference of Rassier...

VL Okay.

KM ...we have done some background on him, he doesn't, we searched the computer, but if our knowledge he-he teaches young boys at that age...

VL Right.

KM ...other than that, we cannot find him with history of dating men or women or having relationships so...

VL Okay.

KM ...um, other information we have is, you know, (inaudible) why would someone do one particular crime like this and then stop and never do anything more.

VL Right.

KM Um, we have, ah, conducted investigation, he-he mentioned that he travels in Europe or at least did, ah, he made some strange comments about being on a train but never really specifying, we tried to investigate that through INTERPOL...

VL Okay.

KM ...with not much success, um, he is in habit of-runner and some of the theories are that he runs to suppress, um, he runs marathons throughout the United States, that too we have...

VL Okay.

KM ...followed him and contacted law enforcement in each of those, and no similar crimes, but a newspaper article, again this is all very circumstantial, but...

VL Sure.

KM ... (inaudible) a newspaper article interviewed him once about running and he mentions that he runs to suppress pain. You know and you can interpret that to well he running-and suppressing pain with running or is he running away from something.

VL Sure. Okay.

KM Um, I-that, based on the information on that vehicle turning around, I mean that was a focus our investigation for a long period of time, well the most logical things to me is it happened right at the end of the driveway...

VL (inaudible)

KM ...and his parents happened to be gone and...

VL Sure.

KM ...and there was no vehicle seen along those lines...

VL Okay.

KM ...which is already in the warrant.

VL Well the other thing that I thought was interesting is his parent-ah, the way he could recall such details ah before and after but having a little more problems with the-the time frame right exactly around the abduction. Um, I guess since we are putting this on the record, I want to be specific about one thing also. Um, I don't think it's a big part of the application for the search warrant, but, I know um, (inaudible name) used to be (inaudible) It's now (inaudible), um, I wouldn't say we're close friends, but my husband and I do socialize with her and her husband occasionally, um, she's obviously a very small paragraph in here and she's never told me anything about this, so, the first I learned about this was reading the search warrant. Um, I am going to execute the search warrant ah with the information contained in the application, ah, as well as, ah, the information that has been ah supplemented by ah Agent McDonald.

(short pause)

VL I'm assuming that ah, lots of times search warrants are confidential but I'm assuming you want absolutely no information about this...

JK Yes your Honor, and that is the application to seal as well, until and unless any criminal charges were to arise out of this incident that these would be kept with Agent McDonald's file um and we were just talking about keeping a copy in a secure location in our office that would not be accessible generally to the office, but it might be safer honestly to just keep it with you, however you want to do that Ken, but yes, that is the motion to seal (inaudible).

VL Alright. I would ask that you raise your right hand. You swear the information contained in the application for the search warrant is true and correct?

KM I do. Can we shut this off now? Or do you want to keep it on?

VL You can shut it off.

KM Okay.

(end of tape).

STATE OF MINNESOTA, COUNTY OF STEARNS DISTRICT

COURT

RECEIPT, INVENTORY, AND RETURN

I, Kenneth McDonald, received the attached search warrant issued by the Honorable Landwehr, on June 28, 2010, and have executed it as follows:

Pursuant to said warrant, on June 28, 2010, at 0800, I searched the (premises) described in said warrant, and left a true and correct copy of said warrant (at) residence September 8, 2016

I took into custody the property and things listed below (attach and identify additional sheets if necessary):

See attached MN BCA Laboratory crime scene evidence receipt

Strike when appropriate:

- I left a receipt for the property and things listed above with a copy of the warrant September 8, 2016
- 

I, Kenneth McDonald, being first duly sworn, upon oath, depose and say that I have read the foregoing receipt, inventory, and return, and the matters stated are true and correct, except as to such matters stated therein on information and belief, and as to those, I believe them to be true.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this  
\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

Notary Public \_\_\_\_\_ County, MN

My commission expires \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature



MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Bureau of Criminal Apprehension

1430 Maryland Avenue East
St. Paul, MN 55106

TEL: 651-793-2900
TTY: 651-282-6555
FAX: 651-793-2901

Laboratory Number
S890-1699

Agency Case Number
89

LABORATORY CRIME SCENE EVIDENCE RECEIPT

Stearns County S.O.

COUNTY:

TYPE OF CASE: Kidnapping

Attn: Cpt. Pam Jensen

Related Case # 's:

CIRCUMSTANCES AND PURPOSE OF ANALYSIS

Offense Date: 10/25/1989
Offense Location: St. Joseph, MN
Case Comments: Stearns Co
LGG Team Leader

PRINCIPALS:

ITEM DESCRIPTION OF EVIDENCE:

Collection Date: 07/01/2010 Collection Time: 17:30 Collection Type: ATS - Collected at scene
Collection Location:

Table with 3 columns: Item No., Packaging and Type, Source/Description. Contains 18 rows of evidence items.

Submitted By

Received By

Crime Scene

Audrey Myfield

7/1/10

Submission Date

STATE OF MINNESOTA

IN DISTRICT COURT

COUNTY OF STEARNS

SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

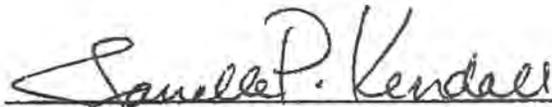
COURT FILE NO.   N/A  

In Re: Disappearance of Jacob Wetterling

**MOTION PURSUANT TO MINNESOTA  
RULE OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE 33.04**

The undersigned Stearns County Attorney hereby moves the Court, pursuant to Minnesota Rule of Criminal Procedure 33.04(d)(2) for an Order that the attached Applications for Search Warrants and supporting Affidavits, the actual Search Warrants, and the Receipts, Inventories, and Return Forms not be filed as required by Minnesota Rule of Criminal Procedure 33.04(b) within the ten (10) day time period after authorization. This Motion is based on the attached Affidavit of Investigator Ken McDonald, Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, the Investigator in charge of the investigation into the disappearance of Jacob Wetterling. If the attached Search Warrants and Search Warrant Applications and supporting Affidavits, the actual Search Warrants and the Receipts, Inventories, and Return Forms, are filed, release of the information contained therein could cause future, related searches to be unsuccessful and could create a substantial risk of severely hampering this ongoing investigation. It is requested that the documents be filed upon commencement of any criminal prosecution utilizing evidence obtained in or as a result of said searches.

Dated: June 28, 2010

  
Janelle P. Kendall, Reg. No. 0211291  
Stearns County Attorney  
Administration Center, RM 448  
705 Courthouse Square  
St. Cloud, MN 56303  
(320) 656-3880

STATE OF MINNESOTA

IN DISTRICT COURT

COUNTY OF STEARNS

SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

COURT FILE NO. N/A

In Re: Disappearance of Jacob Wetterling

**AFFIDAVIT OF INVESTIGATOR  
KEN MCDONALD**

State of Minnesota )  
                                  )ss.  
County of Stearns )

The undersigned, Investigator Ken McDonald, Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, states that he is one of the investigators involved in the investigation into the disappearance of Jacob Wetterling as summarized in the attached search warrants. Your affiant states that this investigation is ongoing, that no arrests have been made at the point of this Affidavit being completed, and that several avenues of investigation are being pursued. Your affiant further states that the release of the information contained within the Applications for Search Warrants and supporting Affidavits; Search Warrants and Receipts, Inventories, and Return Forms, could therefore cause future, related searches to be unsuccessful and could create a substantial risk of severely hampering this ongoing investigation.

Ken McDonald  
Investigator Ken McDonald  
Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension

State of Minnesota )  
                                  )ss.  
County of Stearns )

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 28<sup>th</sup>

day of June, 2010, by Investigator Ken McDonald

Victor E. Lindbeck  
Notary Public                      Judge of District Court

STATE OF MINNESOTA

IN DISTRICT COURT

COUNTY OF STEARNS

SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

COURT FILE NO. N/A

In Re: Disappearance of Jacob Wetterling

**ORDER**

Based upon the attached Motion submitted by Stearns County Attorney Janelle P. Kendall and the Affidavit of Investigator Ken McDonald, Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, and pursuant to Minnesota Rule of Criminal Procedure 33.04(d)(2), the Court finds reasonable grounds to believe that the filing of the Search Warrant Applications, the supporting Affidavits, the actual Search Warrants, and the Receipts, Inventories, and Return Forms could cause future, related searches to be unsuccessful and could create a substantial risk of severely hampering this ongoing investigation of the disappearance of Jacob Wetterling.

Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED that the original and copies of the Search Warrant Applications, supporting Affidavits, the actual Search Warrants, and the Receipts, Inventories, and Return Forms be withheld from filing and be retained by Investigator Ken McDonald, Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that upon commencement of any criminal proceeding utilizing evidence obtained in or as a result of said search, or at any other time as directed by the Judge, that said documents shall be filed forthwith.

Dated: June 28, 2010



Judge of District Court