IN THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT IN AND FOR WAPELLO COUNTY

THE STATE OF IOWA
COUNTY OF WAPELLO
vs.

Before Magistrate_____
Criminal Number_____

SETH ANDREW TECHEL
8723 Fox Hills Rd.
Agency, Iowa 52530
[redacted]

COMPLAINT AND AFFIDAVIT

COUNT 1: The defendant, Seth A Techel, is accused of the crime of **Murder in the 1st degree** in violation of Section 707.2 of the Iowa Criminal Code/2009 in that the defendant on or about the 26th day of **May, 2012**, murdered **Lisa M. Techel** in Wapello County, Iowa.

COUNT 2: The defendant, **Seth A. Techel**, is accused of the crime of **Nonconsensual termination of a human pregnancy** in violation of Section 707.8 of the Iowa Criminal Code/2009 in that the defendant on or about the 26th day of **May, 2012**, terminated the pregnancy of **Lisa M. Techel** without the consent of **Lisa M. Techel** during the act of murdering **Lisa M. Techel**.

Complainant DCI
Signature of Complainant
Tony Birmingham

STATE OF IOWA, County of **WAPELLO** ss.:

I, the undersigned, being duly sworn, state that the following facts known by me or told to me by other reliable persons form the basis for my belief that the Defendant committed this crime.

On May 26th, 2012 Lisa M. Techel (Lisa) was discovered deceased inside her residence at 8723 Fox Hills Road located in Agency, Iowa. The investigation determined that she died as the result of a gun-shot wound from a slug. Lisa was married to Seth A. Techel (hereafter referred to as defendant) and lived with him at 8723 Fox Hills Rd. At the time of her death, Lisa, was approximately 17 weeks pregnant with a child.

Defendant placed a call from his residence to 911 at approximately 5:23 a.m. on the morning of May 26th and indicated that "his wife had been shot" and "she wasn't breathing." Emergency personnel responded to the address and determined Lisa Techel to be deceased. Defendant indicated to responding law enforcement that he was in the shower shortly after 5 a.m. and heard what he thought to be a loud noise or a gunshot. Defendant then stated that he exited the shower and went into their (Lisa and Defendant) nearby bedroom where he says he discovered Lisa in bed suffering from a gun-shot wound.

A search warrant was obtained for the residence at 8723 Fox Hills Road. Among the items that were discovered at the scene were a shotgun in the yard nearby the residence and a "trac phone" which was located in a vehicle belonging to defendant.

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On May 26, 2012 law enforcement interviewed Lucas Howell. Howell stated he lived with Lisa and defendant for about six months, until just recently. Howell stated to law enforcement that he temporarily moved from the residence on or about May 17, 2012 for medical reasons. Howell stated to law enforcement that he removed all his possession from the residence and one of the only things at the residence still was a Mossberg 500 12 gauge shotgun that contained a red dot Tasco scope and had wood grain stock. Howell stated he was unsure as to the location of the shotgun in the residence but believed it was on the gun rack by the front door or in a storage closet inside the Techel residence. Howell indicated that when he left the Techel residence, he left on good terms. When law enforcement spoke with Howell he was in an immobilizer cast on his left arm and investigation revealed that Howell was at his parents' home during the time the murder took place.

On May 27, 2012 law enforcement conducted a search of the property around the residence. Approximately ninety (90) feet in a northwesterly direction from the front door of the residence law enforcement located, what is believed to be, Lucas Howell's Mossberg 12 gauge shotgun in tall grass. This shotgun contained one spent shotgun casing still in the chamber of the gun, along with four (4) additional "live" rounds.

Howell was interviewed again on May 29th, 2012. Howell stated his Mossberg shotgun was located near the front door and not in the storage closet or gun rack as said the first time. Howell stated to law enforcement that defendant wanted the guns in the residence loaded, but is unsure of the type of ammunition that it was loaded with last. Howell stated he has not shot the gun for over a month. Howell stated that defendant had shot the gun in the past.

Through the course of this investigation information was received indicating that defendant was possibly romantically involved with Rachel McFarland. This communication and interaction with McFarland was ongoing since approximately October 2011. McFarland was able to confirm that defendant bought the Trac phone around February 2012 so that he would be able to communicate exclusively with McFarland without Lisa finding out. The phone number for this trac phone was determined to be (641) Information was also received which indicated defendant had utilized multiple avenues of communication to discretely communicate with McFarland, to include Facebook, email and a trac phone.

Defendant was interviewed by law enforcement on May 26th. Defendant denied being involved in the death of Lisa and the unborn child. Defendant also initially denied that he was participating in any extra-marital activity. Law enforcement eventually confronted defendant on his lie and he admitted to participating in extra-marital activity. Defendant was asked what his cell phone number was and responded by stating his cell phone number was 641 Law enforcement then asked defendant if he had any other cell phones, Defendant Techel responded by stating that he did not. Defendant Techel was asked about firearms in his house. In response, defendant listed five firearms including a handgun owned by Lisa Techel. Defendant failed to list the shotgun owned by Lucas Howell that was stored at his residence, which is believed to be the murder weapon. Defendant also indicated during his interview with law enforcement that he knew Lisa was pregnant.

Further information obtained during the investigation indicates that a couple weeks prior to Lisa's murder, defendant communicated to McFarland that it will all be better in a "couple weeks." Defendant communicated to McFarland that he was not happy with his marriage. In a text message sent from defendant to McFarland on Friday May 25th, 2012, one (1) day before Lisa's murder, defendant indicated via text message that Lisa was "mad" and "sad." McFarland understood this to mean that defendant had informed Lisa that he was not happy with their marriage. Defendant informed McFarland that Lisa wanted defendant to be home when Lisa returned home from work on May 25th so she could pack.

On May 27, 2012, at or about 4:30pm law enforcement released the property at 8723 Fox Hills Rd back to defendant. It should be noted that law enforcement stood in a wooded area on a neighboring property not far from where the Mossberg shotgun had been located earlier in the day by law enforcement to conduct surveillance. Law enforcement observed two vehicles arrive at the residence at or about 7:00pm. About twenty (20) minutes after vehicles arrived, a male recognized by law enforcement surveillance as defendant walked to the area the Mossberg shotgun had been located. While having conversation with Doug

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Techel who was also recognized as defendant's father, defendant appeared to be looking around the area where the Mossberg shotgun had been located. A short time later both departed the area. This area is an area in which the grass is taller and able to cover an object from detection from law enforcement. Additionally, during the late night hours on the night of May 26th, the defendant arrived back at the crime scene and spoke to the deputies at the scene. The defendant asked the deputies if anyone was watching the back of the house. The area that the defendant was referring to was the general area where shotgun was located.

Initial investigation indicates it would have likely been impossible for Lisa Techel to inflict the gunshot wound to herself.

Thus far, no evidence has been discovered that indicates any intruder or other subject was in the Techel household at the time of the homicide, other than defendant. Furthermore, no evidence has been discovered that indicates Lisa had any enemies who would want to cause her harm. There were no signs of forced-entry to the residence and there are no known items that were taken from the residence.

DCI
Signature of Affiant
Tony Birmingham
SMB

Subscribed and sworn to before me by the person(s) signing the complaint (and affidavit(s)) on this 30th day of May, 2012.

_____
Signature of Notary

Complaint and affidavit(s) filed and probably cause found that the defendant committed the offense charged.

Signature of Magistrate