

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT  
OF THE EIGHTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
IN AND FOR BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

STATE OF FLORIDA

WMPD Case No. 2021-00022330

VS.

**ERICA B. DOTSON**

Court Case No.

**WARRANT FOR ARREST**

IN THE NAME OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA, TO ALL AND SINGULAR, THE SHERIFFS  
AND THEIR DULY SWORN DEPUTIES OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA:

WHEREAS, AN AFFIDAVIT HAS BEEN MADE BY Detective A. Campos #113 of the West Melbourne Police Department, Brevard County, Florida, and it appears to the Court, from having read said affidavit, that there is sufficient probable cause to believe that on June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021, the defendant **Erica B. Dotson**, did commit a violation of the laws of the State of Florida, to wit: **Felony First Degree Murder, Aggravated Child Abuse** contrary to section **782.04(1)(a)(2)(h), 827.03(1) and Aggravated Manslaughter of a Child**, contrary to section **782.07(3)**, Florida Statutes, which occurred at **Grand Oaks Apartments at 295 Lago Cir unit #303**.



**ERICA B. DOTSON, WHITE FEMALE BORN 4/18/1994, SSN [REDACTED]  
APPROXIMATELY 5 FEET 4 INCHES WEIGHING 175 LBS, FL DL D325202946380  
WITH A LAST KNOWN ADDRESS OF 295 LAGO CIR UNIT #303 WEST  
MELBOURNE, FL 32904**

YOU ARE THEREFORE COMMANDED TO ARREST INSTANTER the said defendant, **Erica B. Dotson**, and bring her before me to be dealt with according to law.

**Felony First Degree Murder (Capital Felony),** Bond Amount \$ none

**Aggravated Manslaughter of a Child (F1),** Bond Amount \$ none

**Aggravated Child Abuse (F1),** Bond Amount \$ none

**Conditions of release:**

no contact with Joshua Manns

**7/13/2021**

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF \_\_\_\_\_, 2021.

*[Signature]*  
7/13/2021 1:30:55 PM  
JUDGE OF THE CIRCUIT/COUNTY COURT  
EIGHTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

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WMPD Case No. 2021-00022330

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ERICA B. DOTSON

Court Case No.

**AFFIDAVIT FOR ARREST WARRANT**

State of Florida

County of Brevard

BEFORE ME, Sgt. Michael Perez #762 a sworn law enforcement officer, personally came Detective A. Campos #113, of the West Melbourne Police Department, who being duly sworn deposes and says: that Affiant has reason to believe and does believe that probable cause exists for the arrest of **Erica B. Dotson, White Female Born 4/18/1994, SSN [REDACTED] approximately 5 feet 4 inches weighing 175 lbs, FL DL D325202946380 with a last known address of 295 Lago Cir unit #303 West Melbourne, FL 32904** for a violation of the laws of the State of Florida, to wit: **Felony First Degree Murder, Aggravated Child Abuse** contrary to section 782.04(1)(a)(2)(h), 827.03(1) and **Aggravated Manslaughter of a Child, contrary to section 782.07(3)**, Florida Statutes, which occurred at [REDACTED]

THE FACTS tending to establish the grounds for this application and the probable cause of Affiant believing that such facts exist are as follows:

On June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 1921 hours the West Melbourne Police Department responded to [REDACTED] in reference to a report of a [REDACTED] child not breathing. When Patrol officers arrived on scene, ascending the stairs to reach the third floor apartment they encountered a female carrying a child down the stairs and met on the second floor landing. The female, later identified as [REDACTED] Erica Dotson, was carrying the child to law enforcement and medical professionals that were responding. The Patrol Supervisor immediately determined the child was deceased, as rigor mortis had set in. The child appeared to be bruised significantly, his face was swollen and there were obvious signs of trauma. The Patrol Supervisor contacted the Criminal Investigations Unit and several members responded.

██████████ advised that she had awoke that morning at approximately 0515 hours and "snuggled" with the child who was alive. She left for work at approximately 0615 hours. The child was left in the care and custody of ██████████ (Joshua A. Manns). At just after 1800 hours Manns and ██████████ had a brief conversation about her possibly going to look at a puppy after work. At just after 1900 hours, the time she would have been leaving work, Manns called her again and suggested she not drive. He then went on to say that the child was not "good." Over the next several minutes Manns provided a story to ██████████ eventually explaining the child was dead or likely dead having drowned. Upon learning that Manns had not called 911 or for help in another manner, she herself called 911 as she was frantically driving to the apartment. She arrived only moments before police and found the child on the bathroom floor. Brevard County Fire Rescue (dispatch), having been transferred the call from the Melbourne Police Department, obtained Manns' phone number and name from ██████████ when they learned that she was not with the child. They contacted Manns at the number to access the situation and give CPR instructions. During this short call, which Manns had answered, they learned that Manns had already left the area.

A hand written note was found in the apartment, apparently left by Manns for ██████████. The note, among other things, stated that Manns suffered a seizure while the child was in the bathtub and when Manns awoke the child was floating in the tub. Manns went on to say that he attempted CPR and "nothing worked." Investigators made observations about the apartment that there were empty bottles of children's Tylenol and dosing cups all over the apartment, as well as rags wrapped around bags of water as if they had been frozen and used as cold compresses. The observations led the investigators to believe that the child may have been receiving treatment at home, rather than being taken to a clinic, doctor or hospital. The condition of the child's swollen face would almost certainly cause any doctor or nurse seeing his condition to call law enforcement for suspected abuse. Before paramedics arrived the child's body was observed with his left arm sticking straight up, his head extremely swollen and severe bruising to his right eye, contusions on his forehead, as well as other bruising on the face and jaw.

A search was conducted to find Manns, who had fled the apartment prior to ██████████ arriving. During the next several hours it was learned that Manns' cell phone had been turned off, when Law Enforcement attempted to locate him using the GPS functions of the phone and the cell towers that it might access. Despite being turned off prior to our attempt to locate Manns, a Verizon Representative advised that the last activity on the phone, placed it in the Orlando area. At 1923 hours on 06/11/21 the phone had "hit" a cell tower located at 53 W Central Blvd in Orlando Florida within a .24 radius. Later this evening on June 11 an investigator from the Brevard County Medical Examiner's Office had responded to the scene and estimated the child had likely been dead 6 to 8 hours earlier than 2200 hours, when he was on scene. This would suggest the child died between 1400 and 1600 hours on this day.

On June 11 ██████████ gave a consent to search ██████████ and cell phone, however a search warrant for the residence and cell phone were also timely obtained.

Over the next several days many pertinent facts and information was discovered.

On 06/14/21 a WMPD Detective and Crime Scene attended the autopsy of the child. The medical Examiner performing the autopsy noted significant injuries and evidence that the child had been receiving and suffering from very significant injuries over a period of time, as recent as 1 day and as far passed as 3 weeks. There were significant observations of bruising, hemorrhaging and blood clots with varying degrees of evidence of healing or attempts for the body to heal. A large amount of the hemorrhaging was in the head and optic nerves, which included or caused significant brain swelling. The head was markedly boggy (swollen, soft, spongy and doughy). In addition to this were other injuries such as: a broken tooth, which was broken and "pushed" into the gums, a laceration to the jaw, a right rib fracture, left lower arm fracture, rupture to the esophagus, sharp impact injuries to the head, which included a single stab wound of the upper scalp and 6 stab wounds (3 fresh & 3 healing) to the right scalp. The cause of death was due to Battered Baby Syndrome due to repeated sharp and blunt impact bodily injuries, and the manner of death was Homicide. The child's body suffered cardiac arrest due to the numerous injuries including to the internal hemorrhages of the thyroid gland, heart, and lungs from repeated impacts. There was no evidence of drowning found.

The Medical Examiner stated that this was clear and significant case of Battered Child Syndrome, with evidence of abuse having occurred at least over a 2 - 3 week period.

In addition to the most recent injuries the child suffered were previous suspicious injuries which had been discovered. It was learned that in February of 2019 the child had suffered a broken leg (tibia), of which the Department of Children and Family Services had investigated. It had been reported that the child suffered a right broken leg by running and tripping over the legs of his biological father. At the time the child, [REDACTED] and Manns [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] However, this was an unwitnessed event and history was provided by the [REDACTED] [REDACTED] moved out of the apartment in Cocoa Beach [REDACTED] Manns and took [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] child, and Joshua Manns [REDACTED] area in September, 2020. The biological father had no further contact with his child after November, 2020 as [REDACTED] cut off all access to the child. On December 9, 2020 the biological father filed a petition to establish paternity seeking visitation and access to his son. On December 16, 2020 [REDACTED] filed a Domestic Violence w/Children Injunction against the father which the court granted on January 4, 2021. The biological father had not given up trying to see his son. He retained an attorney and was still seeking access to his son at the time of death.

On March 25, 2021 the child had suffered another broken leg (tibia) of the left leg. [REDACTED] reported she was walking with the child when he tripped and fell off a curb, twisting his ankle. He had immediate pain and inability to bear weight on his leg. [REDACTED] presented the child to the emergency room at HRMC. DCF was contacted due to history and concern of possible non-accidental trauma again. At that time [REDACTED] child and Manns [REDACTED] and the biological father was living in another part of the county and could not have contact with his son due to the injunction. The medical examiner opined that tripping or falling off a curb would not cause the broken bones in the child's leg.

On 06/14/21 a DCF Investigator being assigned this case, went to the daycare where the child attended. The DCF Investigator learned that the child had been observed having what they considered "suspicious" injuries that were not fully investigated or properly reported to DCF. Among these incidents were reports that the child had made disclosures to the daycare staff that Manns had caused a burn on his arm (not reported) and that Manns would strike him in the head if he was too loud and woke him or [REDACTED] up. It had been reported and was later verified by the daycare records that 06/02/21 was the last day the child attended the daycare. On that day injuries to his face had been observed and it was reported that they confronted [REDACTED] about it. The story was that the family had been spending time by the pond and the child fell, rolled into or near the water and was attacked by a duck.

On 06/15/21 a WMPD Detective responded to the apartment complex to make contact with neighbors to attempt to get other information. On that day WMPD learned that a neighbor living directly underneath the apartment [REDACTED] had heard heavy banging throughout the morning on 06/11/21. They described the noise in that it sounded like a bowling ball being thrown around. They could not recall hearing any screaming, yelling or crying and as such did not report this unusual noise to anyone. This would have been they day and time that Manns was left home with the child, while [REDACTED] was at work.

In addition to 06/11/21 work records obtained indicated that Manns took time off for a Covid shot then went on a planned medical leave of absence. The combination of his schedule and these different scheduled leave events, document that his last day of work was 05/27/21. WMPD was also able to document that [REDACTED] Erica Dotson contacted the Daycare after June 2<sup>nd</sup> advising [REDACTED] would not be attending daycare for the rest of the summer. There were statements obtained from staff at the daycare that [REDACTED] had several questionable injuries in the past and when Erica would give an explanation of how the injuries occurred the staff advised they did not make sense. It was also advised that [REDACTED] has made comments that "[REDACTED] Josh" would hit him in the head and Erica would advise [REDACTED] has been telling lies lately covering up for [REDACTED] statement.

I also spoke with [REDACTED] Erica [REDACTED] who also provided a statement, [REDACTED] was visiting around Christmas time 2020 when she observed a bruise on [REDACTED] neck area, when she asked [REDACTED] what happened he immediately stated "Josh hit me". Erica over heard and again quickly told [REDACTED] "Remember what happened last time you lied!" again telling [REDACTED] that [REDACTED] has been seeing a therapist due to abuse from the biological father and [REDACTED] has also started lying recently.

The forensic search of [REDACTED] cell phone revealed many text messages between Erica Dotson and Joshua Manns.

There are many texts between Erica Dotson and Joshua Manns of love and support of each other. [REDACTED] sent texts thanking Manns for taking over watching the child, taking care of and for imposing discipline [REDACTED] including to putting the child in [REDACTED] in time-outs. These episodes were frequent, with Manns complaining that the child victim was not using the toilet; this would lead to punishment of the child and Manns would complain that the child would hit Josh (6' tall, 200 lbs), head-butt him and bite him. This would cause for more punishment of the

child with [REDACTED] being aware and [REDACTED] texting her support of Josh when dealing with [REDACTED] such as "Love you, appreciate you always dealing with him for me". Another time after Manns had texted her that "he's in big trouble" "he (victim) was losing it, going crazy", with [REDACTED] texting during this episode "F'him", "he's being a jerk, put him to bed, no fun today" at 1:00 pm. While many of their text messages ended with "I love you" to each other, during the texts the child victim was referred to as a "jerk" or "sorry he's being suck a dick".

On 2/13/21 [REDACTED] stated that the father claimed the victim on his taxes. Josh told her to "call your lawyer Monday". On 3/9/21 Erica texts Josh that she sent those documents to the lawyer and and told her about the taxes and what she expected to happen. On 4/10/21 Erica sent Josh a screenshot of an IRS Refund Status Result texting him "Thank. Fucking. God." Josh texted back "So they accepted it? With you claiming [REDACTED]?" She replied "Yes" and then after saying she would pay rent and pay off the couch and bed she further texts Josh "But after that baby you've worked so hard you deserve everything you want. Maybe a day trip to the mall to go shopping for literally everything you need?"

Leading up to the broken leg that occurred on March 25, Erica was complaining to Josh about the child making her mad and the child not listening to her. A text exchange on 3/23/21 at 9:13 pm was as follows: (ED is Erica Dotson, JM is Joshua Manns)

*ED-It's OK he just made me really mad because he was screaming at the top of his lungs when I told him to go to bed*

*ED- He doesn't listen to me and then he gets mad at me about it*

*JM- I'll talk to him tomorrow*

*JM- I'm sorry he's like that with you*

*ED- Yea he's totally fine when you're around*

A text exchange on 3/24/21 was:

*ED- That sound super nice babe. Try to sleep earlier because getting [REDACTED] in the morning is a lot of work.*

*ED- At least with me he's super whiny and always complains about what I fix him for breakfast or how cold it is.*

*JM- Wow shy do you put up with that? Lol*

*JM- Just put him in timeout for like one literal minute and he calms down*

*ED- He doesn't calm down with me*

On March 25, 2021 the child suffered another broken leg (tibia) of the left leg. [REDACTED] reported she was walking with the child when he tripped and fell off a curb, twisting his ankle. He had immediate pain and inability to bear weight on his leg. [REDACTED] presented the child to the emergency room at HRMC. DCF was contacted due to history and concern of possible non-accidental trauma again. At that time [REDACTED] child and Manns [REDACTED] and the biological father was living in another part of the county and could not have contact with his son due to the injunction. The medical examiner opined that tripping or falling off a curb would not cause the broken bones in the child's leg.

On March 25 the following text exchanges from the hospital were: and she is concerned about the court case with the father.

ED: *It's packed as fuck in here*

JM: *I'm sorry baby*

JM: *How is he doing*

JM: *Is he asleep?*

ED: *Sleeping yea*

JM: *I feel so bad for him*

JM: *Dude just can't catch a break man*

ED: *Yea the more I look at it the more I think it's broken*

JM: *I know. Poor guy is gonna have a cast on for like a month*

ED: *I know man. Idk what to do*

ED: *Like this is gonna come up in court I just know it*

JM: *Nah I think it'll be fine*

JM: *I mean yeah it sucks because he's hurt, and I feel really bad for him. But I mean it was obviously an accident*

ED: *I'm just scared for us all right now*

JM: *Scared?*

ED: *I mean in general I'm traumatized from the last time and now the added stress of will this come up in court?*

ED: *What if it's a really bad break and he needs surgery? I can afford these bills*

ED: *Cant\**

JM: *Baby I doubt it's that serious. He fell a few inches. Yeah it's still bad enough to hurt him, but it's doubtful that he would need surgery*

Still at the hospital in the early morning hours of March 26 the following text exchanges were regarding the leg injury, his black eye and CPS (DCF) becoming involved:

ED: *It's another spiral fracture*

JM: *What?*

JM: *Oh my god...*

JM: *What the fuckkk*

ED: *Like clean the whole house up because CPS will be there in the morning*

JM: *Do you wanna call me?*

ED: *Just like any personal stuff*

ED: *No I'll call you when we get done*

JM: *Is it bad? What are they saying?*

ED: *The doctor had asked me a second time where we were again*

ED: *Nothing really I had to ask what happened and which bones*

ED: *They have it wrapped up idk if they'll do the cast here or not*

JM: *I'm confused they are sending CPS here in the morning?*

ED: *And of course he has a black eye*

ED: *Idk that's what happened last time*

ED: *Spiral fractures are like that man they're super common for child abuse*

ED: *That's what they said last time*

JM: *You need to call the daycare tomorrow and tell them you need a report from that black eye*

ED: *I asked and they said they didn't see it and when they asked [REDACTED] he said it was from the bathtub*

Still at the hospital about a half hour later, the following texts were about the broken bones and the victim's hair falling out:



ED: They're admitting him  
 ED: Idk what's going on  
 ED: They're getting the doctor  
 JM: I should have came with you. I'm sorry man.  
 JM: You can call me whenever you want to.  
 JM: I hope he's okay  
 ED: It's both bones  
 ED: They're admitting him  
 JM: I told the doctor about the hair falling out and how this doesn't make sense and I said the same thing last time

On the afternoon of March 26 the victim was released from the hospital and Erica Dotson took [REDACTED] home. There were texts over the next couple of days about the victim being in pain, while they gave medication. On March 28, about 5:00 pm the following texts were about imposing timeouts with a broken leg:

JM: If nothing else tell him to close his eyes and take a nap.  
 JM: He should definitely be napping now lol dude needs rest  
 ED: He's just being such a jerk  
 ED: I'm trying to let him finish his snack then I'm putting my foot down  
 JM: Yeah bro I know he's hurt but he still needs to be good  
 JM: Straight up tell him he'll go in timeout if he don't listen  
 ED: I've been meaning to ask you  
 ED: How are we going to put him in timeout??  
 JM: A chair lol  
 JM: Just in the corner  
 ED: I think I'll feel way more comfortable putting him in a chair once he gets a real cast  
 JM: Why?  
 ED: He already got upset and tried to get off the couch earlier and I almost had a heart attack  
 ED: Because that's just a splint and some cotton  
 ED: I'm worried it won't protect him enough if he tried to bear weight  
 JM: Tell him to listen to you or else I'm gonna come home and put him in timeout  
 JM: For real  
 ED: I appreciate that but I'm trying to make him listen to me. Not the threat of you. Plus that's not fair to put that kind of stuff off on you. He needs to listen to me  
 ED: He did really good yesterday when I said it was nap time he said ok and took his nap  
 JM: Well put him in timeout then?  
 ED: I will.

Later in the evening on Sunday, March 28 Erica texts Joshua about getting an appointment at the orthopedic office:

ED: I kind of need to get in tomorrow though. I don't feel comfortable sending him to daycare without a real cast. And hopefully they'll call me about a wheelchair rental that maybe the insurance will pay for because I cannot afford 400 bucks.

Then on Saturday April 3, the following texts were about them getting money:

ED: Two words baby income taxes  
 ED: Or backdated child support which ever comes first  
 JM: I miss having nice stuff  
 ED: I know man but for right now we do it one nice thing or apartment  
 ED: And once all this shit gets settled we're going to be so flush  
 JM: I can't wait  
 ED: I know we don't have like a definite time but that shit is coming baby

ED: I'm just sorry they were having to wait

JM: Yeah. One day

On April 25 the following texts were exchanged with Erica complaining about the victim wanting attention and telling Josh he's right "like always":

ED: I love [REDACTED] man but the last two days in a row when I've been exhausted he's just constantly worn me the fuck out bro

ED: Like constant talking, interrupting, disagreeing with me, wanting attention, and needing me to get up and get him something every three seconds

ED: He's not really even being bad he just won't let me sit down

ED: And I can't work on my school stuff because he won't ever shut up

JM: Tell him man. Teach him to be open about that stuff

ED: But isn't that just me not being a [REDACTED]

JM: No you being a [REDACTED] is letting him think it's okay to constantly be in other people face 24/7 and not respecting boundaries and personal time.

JM: It's probably worse to not say anything to him then anything.

ED: Yea.. you're right

ED: Like always

The victim got his cast off on April 29. Joshua Manns was watching the victim on Saturday, May 1, and the following texts were exchanged around 12:30 pm which discussed the victim falling after the cast was removed:

ED: He's trying to adapt to not having a cast on and it's definitely hard for him

ED: I just know it's a long day ahead and I hate to see you off to a bad start

JM: Man I don't know. He's definitely afraid to walk. I'm pretty sure he's afraid his leg WILL hurt if he walks. Not that it does hurt. And it's been to hard to talk to him today to explain the difference lol

ED: I think the muscles definitely feel weird and he's thinking that's pain

JM: I think we'll be fine once I can't get him to eat more food and take a nap

ED: But yea I agree he's not hurting just scared of being hurt

JM: He didn't sleep good last night either I heard him tossing and turning all night.

JM: But nah man don't worry I'll fix the day for us. Probably gonna chill on or acting walking for a while because that made everything worse.

JM: He kept falling and crying because he fell.

JM: But he was falling because he was trying to stand on one leg

ED: Yea I think until he gets the boot I'm ready to hold off the walking

Later in the day, a little past 6:30 pm the following texts were exchanged which discussed a further injury occurring to his leg:

JM: Bro I'm sorry baby but he's gonna be in bed by the time you get here

JM: He's just been way too much today and he's tired and cranky again

ED: It's ok. Is it cause he's so tired?

ED: I'm sorry. I'm off tomorrow just put him in bed don't worry

ED: I don't want it to get worse

JM: Yeah I haven't even had any Juul pods today

JM: So I can't deal with this anymore. Like he spazzed out

ED: Ok so I'll get some before I come home. Do you need anything else? Like red bill

ED: Bull\*

JM: No I'm okay

ED: Just pods then ok

JM: I'm really scared for his leg man. Like I put him in bed and told him he was going to bed early and he started bouncing his legs of the bed throwing a fit  
JM: And his ankle was bruised from trying to walk earlier. He just needs rest man

On May 4 at 6:16pm Erica had the following text exchanges with Joshua that are discussing the victim's pain and Erica's frustration that the victim won't listen to her:

ED: [REDACTED] won't stop crying and ow he's doing that chattering thing and he keeps getting warmer and warmer  
JM: Baby can you chill the fuck out? Jesus man. I been told you he's just sore man. Give him Tylenol and ice. And tell him to chill. He's fine bro. What is the point in just going worst case scenario every hour man? It's nothing but stressful.  
JM: He is okay  
JM: He just needs to rest today. Just get him to calm down and he'll be fine.  
ED: I'm trying  
JM: Tell him. You literally have to tell him to calm down  
ED: I did he doesn't listen when I say calm down

Then a little later that evening Erica had the following text exchanges with Joshua which discuss the bone being broke worse:

JM: Is he feeling better yet?  
ED: He's ok as long as you don't move him  
JM: Man I gotta tell you. When you left I like was touching on his leg to see how sensitive it was in certain areas.  
JM: He didn't even wince  
ED: Maybe we can check again when you get home.  
ED: I know you think I'm over reacting and being a hypochondriac  
JM: Yeah man [REDACTED] He's okay man. I promise if I thought he broke it worse I would 100% tell you  
JM: But I don't. I've hit my broken bones before and it's just sore for a couple days and then it's better again

The next day May 5 Erica texts Joshua that "I wanna go get that boot but I don't want to take [REDACTED] with me." Josh texts back "Just go get it. He might get excited. He'll probably be happy to see it. He doesn't like his splint"

On May 7, shortly before noontime Erica had the following texts with Josh, and the victim has bruises:

ED: How my baby doing today?  
JM: Bro are you ready for this?  
ED: What ...  
JM: He slept until 11:30  
JM: Also his bruises look so much better.

Later that same afternoon, Josh sent Erica a video clip and the text exchange is:

ED: Listen I keep getting interrupted trying to watch it  
ED: I know you're not giving him coffee what is he drinking?  
JM: Blended chocolate because he's been super good today

But then about an hour later the victim now vomiting but Josh is trying to "save his leg". At the end of the text Erica expresses her support for Josh.

*JM: Projectile vomit all over the bathroom*

*JM: I told him he was drinking too much*

*ED: Oh my god babe*

*ED: Are you guys ok??*

*JM: Man he puked again after I texted you and got the rest of it out on his bed. Then he got pissed because he wanted to take a nap but I had to take his sheets*

*JM: I even told him he could lay down on the couch or in our bed and he just had a complete temper tantrum over it*

*JM: But don't worry I literally was out here doing the most to save his leg. Like he went to do that shit where he lays down and stomps the ground and I slid my hand under there*

*JM: He's calmed down now. Just upset still. No yelling or anything.*

*ED: Are you OK*

*ED: I'm sorry this happened babe*

*JM: Will you grab me red up?? I'm sorry man*

*ED: Yea babe you can have all the red up you want*

*ED: I know you mean Red Bull so I'm gonna let the joke slide.*

*ED: You deserve some wings baby*

On May 8 in the afternoon the following texts were where swelling is discussed:

*JM: I gave him Tylenol at 2 so he'll need Motrin at 5*

*JM: I wanna get the rest of that swelling down and let him rest*

*ED: Before he tries to walk again?*

*JM: Don't make him walk*

*JM: He needs to rest so the swelling goes down*

*JM: Maybe tomorrow baby*

By late afternoon Erica was home after Josh went to work and their texts were about a chipped tooth, and Erica again expresses her support for Josh, calling him a "winner":

*ED: When did [REDACTED] chip his front tooth the one next to his two front teeth on the right side*

*JM: I haven't seen it?*

*JM: Is it bad*

*JM: He's never mentioned anything about his mouth hurting to me*

*JM: Baby?*

*ED: He just told me his tooth was hurting and when I looked inside his mouth that tooth is way differently shaped than the other one it looks like it was chipped*

*ED: I don't remember him ever saying anything about it before*

*ED: He said it didn't hurt when I touched it I don't know*

*JM: It's had to be like that for a while then because that shit hurts*

*ED: I don't know I'd like you to take a look at it*

*ED: Hey did you give [REDACTED] his Claritin today*

*ED: And did you look in the mirror and tell yourself what a fucking winner you are?*

Then later in the evening on May 8, while Josh was still working, he texted Erica about the victim and the texts were about the victim's leg hurting him and the skin feeling mushy but Josh gets irritated at the end of the text exchange:

*JM: Is he feeling okay?*

*JM: Like his leg*

ED: Other than it looking super bad?

ED: He did stand on it a little bit but that was of his own choice

JM: Baby it's looking better the swelling is down a little

ED: I know just all of that is yellow now and his heel is still really bad off

ED: Like he had a serious pressure injury underneath of that cast

ED: Dr. Robinson said that was normal and it's hard to keep injuries off of the heels when we wrap them like that but that was always where he said his leg hurt was underneath of his foot

ED: I almost wonder if that still hurting him and that's why he's apprehensive about walking

ED: The skin is still new and it feels really mushy

JM: Bro can you go like an hour without making everything seem so helpless? Like why can't we just be happy his leg is getting better? Why does it always have to be so negative man. Shit he was crying at the thought of walking and he chose to stand on it? That's fucking progress man. Be proud of him and stop projecting your own phobias on [REDACTED] man. Tell him I love him and I'm proud of him. I'll see y'all tonight. I got enough to deal with, I don't have time to deal with anymore negative shit than I have to today

On May 12 about 7:00 pm Erica texted a picture to Josh saying "He asked me to take a picture. He's been standing here for a few minutes" Then she followed it up with a video clip of the victim standing on both feet (no boot on injured leg) and the child is heard saying "that the skin hurting" while touching his left leg. The child is leaning against his desk/chair set and says he is going to get in his chair. [REDACTED] says "you did really good standing" and the child said he "stand for Josh, right?" There is an obvious bruise on his forehead slightly between his eyes. Josh texts back "Tell him I'm so proud of him"

Then about an hour later on May 12 around 8:00 pm Erica had the following texts with Josh regarding blood on the victim's hair and pillow:

ED: Did [REDACTED] hit his head at all today? He hasn't fallen since I've been up but he's got dried blood in his hair

JM: Nah he was just in his chair and the bathroom and then bed. He never fell that I know of?

JM: Did you ask him what happened?

JM: I never heard him fall

ED: Jesus Christ why is [REDACTED] a walking disaster

ED: I asked him and he said he didn't fall or hit his head on anything

JM: Lol bro I don't know. Maybe he was just picking at it?

JM: Or got a little scratch somewhere on his head

JM: I honestly don't know man I haven't been home a lot lol

ED: I have no idea. It's a lot more than scratching. He must have bumped his head and not said anything

ED: It definitely happened either last night or before he went down for a nap because there's blood all over his pillow in the bed

ED: Maybe the zipper from the boppy pillow I noticed it was upside down

JM: I don't know man, I think maybe it happened yesterday and we just didn't notice?

ED: No idea. It kind of bled a little more when I washed his hair that makes me think today but I have no idea

JM: Maybe the scab busted open during his nap? I don't know man I'm barely home

On May 18 the mother mentions the wheelchair the victim has been using and the victim was still going into timeouts because he wouldn't listen. [REDACTED] (no elevator) and the text exchanges about 6pm were:

ED: Listen [REDACTED] didn't use his wheelchair at all today!!!

JM: At all? Oh man this is happening way faster now

ED: Yea I can't believe it

JM: Tell him I'm proud of him

ED: I did.

ED: He walked up the stairs!!!!

ED: Thank gosh

ED: Straight to time out but let's focus on the positives lol

JM: Oh what happened? Lol

ED: He did really go to the store walking back-and-forth to the car, helped me with everything, and then when I asked him to put the bag he was carrying in the trunk he cried, threw a fit I offered him one more chance to listen he didn't so he went straight to time out when we get home

On May 25, the victim was having more symptoms and sleeping more, including his stomach hurting, and being drenched in sweat. The mother complains about the victim's temper. Josh says the victim fell when he was stomping on the floor during a rampage. There texts starting at 3:10 pm were:

JM: Baby you should let [REDACTED] sleep for a while. He was awake when I left

ED: What? He was asleep when I got here I thought

ED: Oh my gosh now that I'm looking at the time I thought it was 4 o'clock

JM: Lol yeah just let him sleep so he can be in a better mood

ED: Idk why he's being like this. I'm sure he's in pain but it's not fair to treat other people this way. I was hoping a day at home would do him good but it only seems worse..

JM: I think he is in pain. He probably was doing wayyyy too much at daycare

JM: He needs rest

ED: He told me his stomach hurt

ED: And he was drenched in sweat when I woke him up but I think that's cause he was on two blankets

JM: Yeah well I bet it does seeing as how he fell on the chair in his room earlier when he was on a rampage

ED: I worry about his temper so much

ED: Idk where it comes from or how to help him learn to deal with it

JM: Listen why did you wake him up for?

ED: I thought it was 4 and that he'd been asleep since noon because when I looked in on him when I got home he was out

JM: No the fuck he wasn't man you always think he's sleeping smh. Dude was awake that whole time. He was awake when I left. He looked like he was just ready to sleep

JM: Like he literally was talking to me

ED: Well I'm gonna put him to bed super early

ED: And I told him that next time he poops on himself or lies it's no tv for a week

JM: Okay baby

The next day, Wednesday May 26 the victim was in daycare. There would only be two more days after this that he would attend daycare. About mid-afternoon Erica asks Josh to call the daycare for her and the texts are:

ED: Will you do me a favor? Can you call the daycare and make sure [REDACTED] is ok?

JM: What? Why

JM: I don't even know the number

JM: I called them. He's fine. Thanks for scaring the fuck outta me

JM: And making me sound crazy calling them

ED: He was crying about his foot hurting this morning and wouldn't walk. I didn't leave the wheelchair even though he was crying and asking for it. I wanted to make sure he was ok

ED: It's not crazy they literally say call anytime

JM: Oh yeah I think he just didn't feel like it. Or it was a little sore. He's walking and stuff I guess

The victim went to daycare on Thursday, May 27. The next day, May 28th, Josh was watching the victim. Josh texts Erica in the morning at 10:25am that [REDACTED] *had a bit of a rough start to the day when he realized you were at work, he was a little grumpy and had an episode, but Josh shut the victim's door and made him clean his room and now he was back to sweet little [REDACTED]* and then the following texts were again about the victim's temper and injury to his face:

JM: *Yeah I didn't wanna text you while it was happening because I didn't want you to worry. For like one hour he had a complete meltdown. Like I just heard shit getting thrown around. I honestly just said fuck it. But when he was cleaning his room he seen his hot wheels track was broken and started crying. I told him when we let our tempers control us it breaks the things we care about and that made him cry more but then I told him about what I did to my phone and how I had to pay money for a new one because I made the same mistake. That seemed to make him feel better. So there were a lot of serious lessons at 9am*

ED: *That sounds like a difficult day. Take that kid to the pool*

JM: *Oh man I'm terrified to. Like his poor forehead and cheek man*

JM: *There both so big and I can't believe my sleepy ass didn't realize how bad it looked until last night.*

JM: *They're*

JM: *I think he has a couple new ones from today? Unless I just haven't seen them before. Which to be fair is 100% possible*

JM: *Not on his face, like his legs*

ED: *Front of his legs or back?*

On May 29, J Josh is watching the victim in the morning and texts Erica about 11am asking *"Hey listen bike or no bike today?"* Erica responds to *"just stick next to him so that if he falls you can catch him before he lands on this left leg"* and she texts Josh that *"if you don't trust yourself to catch him don't let him ride the bike, because I'm not confident he's ready to fall off his bike"*. Josh responds *"if anything I'll just let him run around"*. But then the texts about the duck begin, and in the days following the duck will be blamed for more injuries on the victim. Erica texted Josh about 12:30 asking how they were doing?

JM: *[REDACTED] ran from a duck*

JM: *And like tumble rolled down the sidewalk*

ED: *And like...the duck chased him?*

ED: *Is he ok?*

JM: *Yeah, he definitely fucked himself up but not like serious. His leg is fine too*

ED: *Is he bleeding?*

ED: *Scraped up?*

JM: *He's fine*

JM: *He's probably gonna be bruised up for sure. He literally hit the ground rolling.*

JM: *I had to like jump over him and stop him from going in the lake*

ED: *Oh my gosh...*

ED: *Was it hilarious or scary?*

JM: *The duck did that stupid ass hissing shit and flapped his wings and bro just hit the flinstones feet, but forgot he was [REDACTED] so he made it all of 20 feet before he ate shit*

JM: *It was scary as fuck at first because he like smacked the sidewalk and like sonic the hedgehog rolled toward the lake.*

JM: *But after I caught him and made sure he was fine I definitely laughed*

JM: *He didn't appreciate that*

JM: *The only place he was bleeding from was his ear*

JM: *And that scab busted on his head*

ED: *Oh my gosh...*

ED: *How is he handling it? Did you give him some Tylenol already?*

JM: Yeah I did. He's fine though. I'm just not prepared for how many bruises he's gonna get from this  
lmao

JM: Like I don't see any yet except by his poor little ear

JM: It was such a tiny cut but it was like the tip of it basically so it bled a little more and he like freaked out  
at first but calmed down when we got cleaned up

June 2 would be the last time the victim was seen in public. ██████████ took him to daycare and  
about 10am and Josh wanted to know what the school said when she dropped him off. The texts  
were:

ED: Oh he was having a break down. Crying wanted his wheelchair. I told them about the duck and the  
lake and said to keep an eye on his scab on his face and his mouth.

ED: I'm gonna call on my lunch and check on him. He was not having a good morning

JM: Poor guy. You think he was just anxious about going back to school?

ED: I have no idea

Later in the afternoon Josh texted Erica to ask if she called the daycare and Erica texted back that  
she forgot to call the daycare. Erica picked up the victim after 6pm and the texts were:

JM: How is he?

ED: He was very upset today in a lot of pain Crystal talk to me about it

ED: He wouldn't eat

On Thursday June 3 the victim was not feeling well. Josh was home with him and Erica was at  
work. The texts before noon were about the victim being sweaty and sleeping:

ED: Give ██████████ some chicken with ramen for lunch it will help his throat

JM: He slept in until 10. I woke him up lol. But nah he been eating breakfast for like an hour

ED: Was he super sweaty? Cause he was last night

JM: I mean yeah bro he always sweaty at night.

JM: Also he had a bad dream and was reallllly upset so he was also stressed.

ED: Also don't be a saint just ██████████ he can watch tv if he uses the potty all day

JM: That's why I let him sleep until 10 because he had a tuff night

On June 4 there was one just one text from Erica asking Josh "Babe did you want me to grab  
anything else while I'm here?".

On June 5 there were texts where Josh texts Erica at 2:24 pm "Man I love you" and she texts him  
back "I love you too" a few minutes later.

On June 6 there are no texts between them.

On June 7 there were texts about the swelling on the victim's head starting at 9:23am:

JM: The swelling on his he's moved down

JM: Head

JM: Like it's not really swollen on the top anymore.

JM: But it literally moved down?

ED: Uh... it's all fluid anyway so idk

ED: Is it smaller?

ED: How is he doing?



JM: The spot on his head is smaller, but like I said it moved down. Like his eye is swollen. It was swollen shut when he woke up and he was obviously scared so I told him I would make it better. Honestly just him sitting up for a while helped a LOT. I got ice on it now

JM: We gotta lay him on his other side when he sleeps. He was sleeping on his hurt side when I went in there earlier

ED: Ok thank you. Did you have him rinse with salt water? Is he in any pain?

JM: No man I'll get to it. Swear. I just gotta do one thing at a time man.

In the afternoon of June 8<sup>th</sup> Erica asked if the victim went down for a nap. Josh texted back "It took me a while to get him down. He's not being bad. Just seems sluggish today."

On June 9<sup>th</sup> Erica texted Josh at 11:12 am asking about the victim. The trauma to his head and face and his eyes being swollen shut are being described in the texts as follows:

ED: How about his eyes?

JM: I'd send a picture but...

JM: He can see out of both. I swear

JM: I told him not to try too hard because I don't want him to strain his eyes though

JM: His in a way better mood

JM: The right one is concerning but I'm just happy he can see out of both now

JM: He just wants to relax really

ED: Concerning? Did the swelling go down?

JM: He asked if he can lay in bed and watch Harry Potter all day. So everything is super chill and fine

JM: I mean concerning because he woke up and it was swollen basically out of nowhere. Like it's not shut or anything but still.

JM: I think all of the swelling is starting to go down

JM: He seems to feel better. He ate more than he had in a while. Except that cake

Erica wanted to know which eye was concerning, and wants to know "But he can open both now?" Josh responds "Yes" and Erica texts "I would like to see if he can get both open now". Josh wants to know if she wants to Facetime him for a few minutes on lunch before he takes a nap but doesn't want anyone else to possibly see the picture:

JM: Okay. Did you want to fit him for a few minutes on lunch?

JM: Before he takes a nap?

ED: It depends on where I sit. I don't want anybody to see him over my shoulder

ED: I definitely can't

ED: It's too crowded in here

Josh then sends a picture of the victim that is mostly blacked out, using some type of app on the photo to cover the victim's face except for two small angled openings over the victim's eyes, where his eyes are barely able to open. Josh texts "Okay look"

JM: I'm sorry I know that's weird but I'm just uncomfortable I guess? I don't know

ED: It is weird

ED: But I'm just glad he can open both

ED: I honestly didn't think it would happen today

JM: You said there was a lot of people so I thought that would help? I don't know it felt dumb

JM: I've gotten it down a lot

JM: I've been focusing on the spot it started swelling and it's helping tremendously

By 5pm on June 9<sup>th</sup> Josh texted Erica that he was "gonna let [REDACTED] stay up so you could spend some time with him. He didn't sleep during his nap and he just pooped himself"

ED: How much poop? Did he lie about it? Did he go to timeout without arguing?

JM: I haven't done any kind of discipline yet. He's on the toilet now

JM: It was well over enough to know it wasn't just a little poop slipping out. Like decent but

JM: \*bit

JM: He did lie though

ED: Just put him to bed I guess. Sounds like he pooped himself and lied about it.

JM: I kept asking him to go poop because he was farting nonstop. And he kept saying "no, I don't have to poop" like kept telling me no and then he shit himself

ED: You can put him in timeout if you feel like he'll be ok. I don't want him to hurt himself in a fit. So timeout and then if he starts fucking around like he always does just tell him since he doesn't want to do timeout respectfully he can go to bed

JM: Okay. I'm sorry man. He's been so fucking good right up until that happened. I know you've probably had a rough day and just want a hug from him. So I've been doing everything I can to make sure he's a happy guy all day and get to enjoy some time with you.

JM: How about this?

JM: If he does his timeout and listens, would it still be cool to let him stay up late? Or no

JM: I don't want to give multiple punishments, but I also don't want to reward bad behavior, that's why I wanted your opinion

ED: Your call ok?

June 10<sup>th</sup> was Josh's birthday and Erica had arranged for a special delivery to him from Trubelieve. Erica had to make some phone calls because the delivery wasn't complete. About 9:30 am Josh texted Erica "they said since it's my birthday they would go ahead and do it. Which I don't know why there were gonna cancel a whole order over one missing item to begin with lol, but I'm just happy it all worked out."

Erica texted about an hour later and asked "How is [REDACTED]" The victim was still getting disciplined, with a 'comfy' timeout, but they claimed the victim had an attitude problem.

JM: He's doing good. His right eye is open almost as much as the left now.

JM: Which of course I'm sure it will be worse by the evening for whatever reason

ED: Is he eating ok? In a good mood? Can you try to use the saltwater and see if he can gargle? IDK if he knows how but it may help his throat

JM: Everything is going fine. I'm waiting to do the saltwater rinse until he's finished with his snack

ED: Ok thankn

ED: If you get a chance send me a pic I'd like to see his eyes

ED: I'm on lunch now btw

JM: Why do you keep wanting pictures of him while you're at work?

JM: He's safe man shit

ED: I don't meant anything negative. Just take a picture when he's looking good and save it for me when I get home. I just know yesterday it got worse by the time I got home.

JM: I already did so you could see what I be talking about

JM: I'm sorry

JM: I'm just stressed

ED: Ok thank you

JM: I'm trying to be nice and not do timeouts but he's being a dick

JM: Like throwing stuff and not listening

JM: But what am I supposed to do? He's getting better and I don't wanna risk it

ED: Yea I would say tell him that either his attitude improves or he can go to bed?

ED: I feel like being surrounded by pillows is better than the corner

ED: And also threaten no tv?

ED: Or maybe no tv for an hour?

JM: Yeah I just turned the tv off and just had him lay in bed and do nothing. Like a comfy timeout I guess

ED: Probably the safest option

On June 11<sup>th</sup> in the morning at 9:33am Erica texts Josh "Obviously we can't go to universal until next month because [REDACTED] issues" Erica still concerned about Josh's birthday and a surprise gift for him then texts:

ED: What if.. since my stimmy is in and you're home for the next few weeks

JM: Yeah?

ED: We put away the money for universal

ED: And....

ED: Get a puppy this weekend

JM: I gotta think about it lol

JM: It's a lot to consider

JM: But I do like the idea

ED: Ok...

ED: So I may have been low key planning this for your birthday

ED: So... surprise?

Erica texted Josh pictures of puppies, including one that was \$1,500. The following texts then were starting at 10:23 am:

JM: I promise I will read this later but [REDACTED] just got shwifty so my hands are full.

ED: Oh... oh no

ED: Let me know if I can help?

ED: Like calling and giving him some discipline?

JM: Everything is okay. He's just napping now.

JM: I'm tired too

ED: I'm sorry...

JM: It's okay

ED: Maybe try to nap?

JM: That's a good idea. If nothing else just rest

JM: I love you

ED: I love you too

ED: I'm taking lunch

ED: Baby?

At 3:34 pm Josh texts back to Erica "Hey sorry I was sleeping earlier, what's up?" At 3:48 pm Erica texts:

ED: Oh babe I was just worried...

ED: I know you're tired and [REDACTED] was being rude

ED: I just wanted to make sure you were ok

ED: Especially since you said nothing about those sweet babies

ED: What do you think of this baby?

ED: It's a collie

At 6:15 pm Josh texted Erica "Whenever you clock out will you call me baby" and "Also that collie is adorable".

The forensic search of Erica Dotson's phone show that she called Josh at 7:11 pm and he called her back at 7:12 pm and the call was almost seven minutes long. At 7:19 pm Erica called 911.

The forensic search of Erica Dotson's phone show the web history as follows:

6/9/2021	6/9/2021 7:40:06 PM(UTC-4)	Safari	hematoma on scalp
6/9/2021	6/9/2021 7:13:35 PM(UTC-4)	Safari	hematoma on scalp
6/9/2021	6/9/2021 7:08:54 PM(UTC-4)	Safari	knot on head toddler
6/6/2021	6/6/2021 4:22:00 PM(UTC-4)	Safari	salt water rinse for tooth
6/6/2021	6/6/2021 4:04:53 PM(UTC-4)	Safari	how long for a loose
6/6/2021	6/6/2021 4:04:53 PM(UTC-4)	Safari	how long for a loose tooth to tighten up
6/6/2021	6/6/2021 4:01:20 PM(UTC-4)	KnowledgeC	toddler loose tooth after fall
6/2/2021	6/2/2021 11:10:05 PM(UTC-4)	Safari	duck florida red neck
6/2/2021	6/2/2021 11:09:37 PM(UTC-4)	Facebook Messenger	Muscovy duck
6/2/2021	6/2/2021 11:09:20 PM(UTC-4)	Safari	duck florida red neck
5/29/2021	5/29/2021 12:46:34 PM(UTC-4)	Safari	three year old constantly injuring himself
5/21/2021	5/21/2021 9:48:30 AM(UTC-4)	Safari	children in foster care being abused
5/21/2021	5/21/2021 9:48:23 AM(UTC-4)	Safari	number of unknown children being abused
5/21/2021	5/21/2021 9:46:13 AM(UTC-4)	Safari	number of children up for adoption

5/16/2021	5/16/2021 3:20:47 PM(UTC-4)	Safari	will i get back pay child support
5/12/2021	5/12/2021 10:38:10 PM(UTC-4)	Safari	taking paternal rights away
5/12/2021	5/12/2021 10:36:48 PM(UTC-4)	Safari	why is my child support case taking so long
5/5/2021	5/5/2021 6:49:51 PM(UTC-4)	Safari	child support back pay florida
5/5/2021	5/5/2021 6:49:50 PM(UTC-4)	Safari	child support back
5/5/2021	5/5/2021 6:49:11 PM(UTC-4)	Safari	child custody other parent delaying paperwork by not filing
5/5/2021	5/5/2021 6:49:11 PM(UTC-4)	Safari	child custody when the filing parent doesnt cooperate with paperwork deadlines

Regarding the duck story, from the forensic search of Erica Dotson's cell phone there were texts from Facebook messenger from June 2 at 11:06 pm with [REDACTED] where Erica told [REDACTED] that the victim got attacked by a duck, fell into the lake, bled from his ear, bit his tongue and scrapped his face, not to mention bruises everywhere. Erica said she was preparing for a call from CPS because it looked like he got beat up. Erica claimed the duck bit the victim on his ear. [REDACTED] said she could see a goose doing this but not a duck. Erica said that the victim ran up to the duck so she thinks he scared the duck.

It should also be noted that Erica and Joshua definitely discussed different stories about how and when certain injuries occurred but between verbal statements during interviews and text messages nothing appeared to line up or be consistent. There is evidence to support the facts of Erica knowing about these life threatening injuries to include web searches of head injuries in children days before the death and she continued to leave the child with Joshua and continued to keep [REDACTED] from the view of the public as they knew law enforcement or DCF would be contacted.

After the aggravated child abuse to the victim's leg on March 25, causing broken bones in his leg, the child never fully recovered, the child was made to stand or walk on that leg, causing more injury to the leg, while the child was inflicted with more injuries, for not listening, for pooping in his pants, and for lying. The additional aggravated child abuse were inflicted injuries of head trauma and impact injuries upon his body causing internal hemorrhaging, and were acute and chronic, causing his death due to Battered Baby Syndrome.

Based on the above facts, statements and physical evidence provided, your Affiant has probable cause to believe and does believe that the above listed probable cause, all leads to the substantiation that defendant, **Erica B. Dotson, White Female Born 4/18/1994, SSN [REDACTED]** approximately 5 feet 4 inches weighing 175 lbs, FL DL D325202946380 with a last known address of 295 Lago Cir unit #303 West Melbourne, FL 32904, has committed a violation of the laws of the State of Florida, to wit: **Felony First Degree Murder, Aggravated Child Abuse** contrary to section 782.04(1)(a)(2)(h), 827.03(1) and **Aggravated Manslaughter, contrary to section 782.07(3)**, Florida Statutes.

Your Affiant, Detective A. Campos (hereinafter referred to as Your Affiant) is a sworn Law Enforcement Officer employed by the West Melbourne Police Department, County of Brevard, Florida. Your affiant has been a certified Law Enforcement Officer with the City of West Melbourne since 2013. This certification was accomplished through the Brevard Community College Police Testing Center, Melbourne, Florida in 2011 and accompanied with the successful completion of a State administered certification test. Since that time, your affiant has served in the West Melbourne Police Department's Patrol Division and held the positions of Patrol Officer. Presently, your affiant is assigned to the Criminal Investigations Division of the West Melbourne Police Department as a Detective. Responsibilities in this Division include the investigation of felony crimes. You affiant is also a member of the Strategic Response Team and a part of the Sniper unit, and has significant exposure and experience with drugs and serving search warrants. Your affiant has over 800 hours in police related and advanced training and has approximately 8 years of law enforcement experience.

WHEREAS, your Affiant makes this affidavit and prays for the issuance of an Arrest Warrant with authority to effect the arrest of **Erica B. Dotson, White Female Born 4/18/1994**, for the violation of the laws of the State of Florida, to wit: **Felony First Degree Murder, Aggravated Child Abuse** contrary to section 782.04(1)(a)(2)(h), 827.03(1) and **Aggravated Manslaughter, contrary to section 782.07(3)**.

*Det. A. Campos #113*

Detective A. Campos #113  
West Melbourne Police Department  
Affiant

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME THIS 13 DAY OF July,  
A.D. 7/13/21 BY Detective A. Campos #113 (Affiant) WHO IS PERSONALLY KNOWN TO  
ME OR WHO PRODUCED \_\_\_\_\_ AS IDENTIFICATION.

*Sgt M. Perez #762*

Sergeant M. Perez #762  
SWORN LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER  
BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

<b>PROBABLE CAUSE AFFIDAVIT</b>		FORM On View (PC Arrest) _____ PURPOSE Taken into Custody (Warrant/Capias Arrest) <b>X</b>	Capias Request _____ Summoned/Cited (NTA) _____	JUVENILE YES _____ NO <b>X</b> Referral _____ Civil Citation _____
Arresting Agency ORI <b>FL0050000</b>	Arresting Agency Name <b>BREVARD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE</b>		Arresting Agency Case/Arrest Number <b>2021-00259612</b>	OBTs Number <b>0501426444</b>
FDLE (SID) Number	FBI Number	DOC Number	Transport Time	Jail Date / Time <b>07/13/2021 16:05</b>
Location of Arrest (Include Name of Business) <b>860 CAMP RD Cocoa</b>		City	Jail Booking Number <b>2021-00008691</b>	
Offense Date OR Date Range <b>07/13/2021</b>		Arrest Date / Time <b>07/13/2021 16:11</b>	Booking Agency ORI <b>FL0050000</b>	
Charge Type (Check as many as apply) Misdemeanor _____ Traffic _____ Ordinance _____		Felony <b>X</b>		Evidence Confiscated (Check as many as apply) Vehicle _____ Firearm _____ Property _____
Name (Last, First, Middle) <b>DOTSON ERICA BETH</b>		Alias and Type		Date of Birth <b>04/18/1994</b>
Race <b>W-White</b>		Ethnicity <b>Non-Hispanic</b>	Sex <b>Female</b>	Age <b>27</b>
Height <b>5' 4</b>		Weight <b>175</b>	Eye Color <b>Brown</b>	Jacket Number <b>4945550</b>
Scars, Marks, Tattoos, Unique Physical Features (Location, Type, Description)				
Local Address (Street, Apt. Number) <b>454 WICKHAM RD 102, Melbourne, FL 32934</b>		City, State, Zip	Phone/Type (include area code)	Primary Language English <b>Y</b>
Permanent Address (Street, Apt. Number) or Parent's Name if Juvenile		City, State, Zip	Phone/Type (include area code)	Complexion <b>Medium</b>
Business Address (Name, Street) or School if Juvenile		City, State, Zip	Phone/Type (include area code)	Build <b>Medium</b>
Driver's License State / Number / Type <b>D325202946380 / FL</b>	Social Security Number* [REDACTED]	INS Number	Place of Birth <b>West Virginia</b>	Citizenship <b>U.S. Citizen</b>
Residence Type: City _____ County _____ Florida _____ Out of State _____		Mark All that Apply (Y, N, Unk) Homeless <b>N</b> Sex Offender <b>N</b> Gang Affiliation <b>N</b>		Suspected of Using (Y, N, Unk) Alcohol _____ Computer/Handheld Device _____ Drugs _____
PARENT Driver's License State / Number / Type		PARENT Social Security Number	Juvenile Civil Citation Not Referred Explanation	Juvenile Facility
*Collection of social security numbers from an arrested individual is to verify identity and may be shared with other law enforcement agencies.				
PC _____ Capias _____ Warrant <b>X</b>	Additional Charge _____	Date Issued <b>07/13/2021</b>	Writ Aff. _____ Domestic Violence _____	Order of Arrest <b>X</b>
Charge Description <b>Murder 1st Deg Premeditated</b>		Counts <b>1</b>	F.S. <b>X</b> Statute / Ordinance Number <b>782.04.1a1</b>	Reclassifier
Drug Activity	Drug Type	Amount / Unit	Bond Amount <b>NO BOND</b>	Warrant / Citation / Court Number <b>202100022330</b>
The undersigned certifies and swears that he/she has just and reasonable grounds to believe and does believe that the above named Defendant committed the following violation of law.				
On the _____ day of _____ at _____ AM _____ PM (Specifically include facts constituting cause for arrest)				
<b>SEE NEXT PAGE</b>				
In accordance with F.S.S. 938.27, I hereby request reimbursement of investigative costs consisting of _____ hrs @ \$_____ per hr and/or _____ miles @ _____ per mile for a total of \$_____.				
Affidavit Attached Yes _____ No _____ Continue for: Narrative _____ Charges _____				
<b>Mandatory Appearance in Court</b>		Location (Court and Address)		Division #
Date: Month _____ Day _____ Year _____ Time _____ AM _____ PM		I AGREE TO APPEAR AT THE TIME AND PLACE DESIGNATED TO ANSWER THE OFFENSE CHARGED OR TO PAY THE FINE SUBSCRIBED. I UNDERSTAND THAT SHOULD I WILLFULLY FAIL TO APPEAR BEFORE THE COURT AS REQUIRED BY THIS NOTICE TO APPEAR, THAT I MAY BE HELD IN CONTEMPT OF COURT AND A WARRANT FOR MY ARREST OR A TAKE INTO CUSTODY ORDER SHALL BE ISSUED.		
Signature of Defendant / Juvenile		Signature of Juvenile's Parent/Custodian		Release to: (Name) _____ Date _____ Time _____
Hold for Other Agency Name: _____		Verified By: _____	Do Not Bond Out Reason _____	
I swear/affirm the above and attached statements are true and correct <b>X</b> on <b>07/13/2021</b>		Officer's/Complainant's Signature <b>Electronically Signed</b>	ID# <b>1185</b>	Officer's/Complainant's Name (Printed) <b>Wayne Hammers</b>
Sworn and Subscribed before me, the undersigned authority this _____ day of <b>07/13/2021</b>		Notary Signature <b>Electronically Signed</b>	Notary Name (Printed) <b>Shindo, Tadashi</b>	Notary/Law Enforcement Officer in Performance of Official Duties, Personally Known <b>X</b> ID# _____

0501426444

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AGENCY NAME: BREVARD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA Arresting Agency Case Number  
 Continuation Page 2 of 2 **2021-00259612**

Defendant / Juvenile Name (Last, First, Middle) **DOTSON ERICA BETH** OBTS Number **0501426444**

Co-Defendant Name (Last, First, Middle)	Race	Sex	Date of Birth/Age	Juvenile (Y or N)
Arrested <input type="checkbox"/> At Large <input type="checkbox"/> Cited <input type="checkbox"/> Felony <input type="checkbox"/> Misdemeanor <input type="checkbox"/>				
Co-Defendant Name (Last, First, Middle)	Race	Sex	Date of Birth/Age	Juvenile (Y or N)
Arrested <input type="checkbox"/> At Large <input type="checkbox"/> Cited <input type="checkbox"/> Felony <input type="checkbox"/> Misdemeanor <input type="checkbox"/>				

PC <input type="checkbox"/> Capias <input type="checkbox"/> Warrant <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Additional Charge <input type="checkbox"/>	Date Issued <b>07/13/2021</b>	Writ Aff. <input type="checkbox"/> Domestic Violence <input type="checkbox"/> Order of Arrest <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Charge Description: <b>Manslaughter Child</b>	Counts <b>1</b> F.S. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Statute / Ordinance Number <b>782.07.3</b>	Reclassifier
Drug Activity	Drug Type	Bond Amount <b>NO BOND</b> Warrant / Citation / Court Number <b>202100022330</b>

PC <input type="checkbox"/> Capias <input type="checkbox"/> Warrant <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Additional Charge <input type="checkbox"/>	Date Issued <b>07/13/2021</b>	Writ Aff. <input type="checkbox"/> Domestic Violence <input type="checkbox"/> Order of Arrest <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Charge Description: <b>Agg Child Abuse as Agg Asslt</b>	Counts <b>1</b> F.S. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Statute / Ordinance Number <b>827.03.2a</b>	Reclassifier
Drug Activity	Drug Type	Bond Amount <b>NO BOND</b> Warrant / Citation / Court Number <b>202100022330</b>

PC <input type="checkbox"/> Capias <input type="checkbox"/> Warrant <input type="checkbox"/> Additional Charge <input type="checkbox"/>	Date Issued	Writ Aff. <input type="checkbox"/> Domestic Violence <input type="checkbox"/> Order of Arrest <input type="checkbox"/>
Charge Description:	Counts F.S. Statute / Ordinance Number	Reclassifier
Drug Activity	Drug Type	Bond Amount Warrant / Citation / Court Number

Year	Make	Model	VIN	Tag / Tag State	Primary Color	Secondary Color
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\* If Applicable, provide information related to the vehicle involved in the crime.

**WMPD 2021-00022330 CIRCUIT COURT ARREST WARRANT REF FELONY FIRST DEGREE MURDER NO BOND,, AGGRAVATED MANSLAUGHTER OF A CHILD NO BOND,, AGGRAVATED CHILD ABUSE NO BOND TOTAL BOND NONE JDG BALLOU \*\*SEE COMMENTS FOR SPECIAL CONDITIONS\*\*\***

Officer's/Complainant's Signature <b>Electronically Signed</b>	ID# <b>1185</b>	Officer's/Complainant's Name (Printed) <b>Wayne Hammers</b>
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