

**DATE: JUNE 6, 2023**

**TIME: 08:54:13**

**AFFIDAVIT OF PROBABLE CAUSE FOR ARREST**

32CR 23-112

In The Matter Of: **MATTHEW EARL SPEAKMAN**

W/M

AGE: 18

Re: Request for Magistrates Determination for Probable Cause for Warrant of Arrest for the Defendant on the following charges:

**MURDER IN THE FIRST DEGREE, A CLASS "Y" FELONY IN VIOLATION OF A.C.A. 5-10-102 (a)(2)  
(1 COUNT)**

**THEFT OF PROPERTY, A CLASS "C" FELONY IN VIOLATION OF A.C.A. 5-36-103 (a)(1)(b)(2)  
(1 COUNT)**

**POSSESSION OF DRUG PARAPHERNALIA, TO WIT; METHAMPHETAMINE, A CLASS "D" FELONY IN  
VIOLATION OF A.C.A. 5-64-443 (a)(2)  
(1 COUNT)**

THE UNDERSIGNED, BEING DULY SWORN, FOR HIS AFFIDAVIT FOR PROBABLE CAUSE FOR ARREST, DEPOSES AND SAYS:

On Wednesday, the 17<sup>th</sup> day of May 2023, the Independence County Sheriff's Department received a call for service at a residence in Sulphur Rock, Arkansas in reference to a hysterical female caller stating that the subject in the residence was deceased and believed he had been killed by somebody because his 2009 Nissan Murano vehicle was missing as well.

While deputies were enroute, information was passed on from the previous day that officers had an encounter with Matthew Speakman in the early morning hours on this same date. The encounter was due to Speakman being near the community of Bethesda within Independence County, Arkansas and having an accident in the vehicle that was now known to be missing. Attempts to notify and locate the now known to be deceased owner at that time were unsuccessful by attempting contact at his residence as well as via phone.

Upon deputies arriving on scene and entering the small residence to notice a male subject, who appeared to be deceased. A deputy briefly cleared the residence for other victims or suspects with none being found. The deputy checked on the male subject and determined that he was deceased and noticed the water still running in the bathtub. The deputy did turn the water off at that time with a gloved hand to possibly preserve any potential evidence within the confines of the immediate area to keep it from being washed further away or destroyed. Vital Link ambulance services arrived shortly after and were escorted in to check on the victim to verify the death.

The residence was secured by deputies until a search warrant could be obtained for the residence. The search warrant was then conducted on the residence. Deputies began to further

investigate the crime scene noticing blood cast off on the shower wall and bloody shoeprints on the floor of the living area coming from the bathroom area. Items of evidence and photographs were collected.

The Independence County Coroner's Office was contacted at this time and arrived to take possession of the body to be sent to the Arkansas State Crime Lab for autopsy processing. The body was photographed showing injuries to the head of the deceased with no further injuries noted. Upon removing the deceased from the bathtub, deputies located a hammer, hammer handle, and three (3) large rocks within the bathtub. The Arkansas State Crime Lab will further process and photograph the deceased in a controlled setting during the time of autopsy.

Later on in the afternoon, on Wednesday, the 17<sup>th</sup> day of May 2023, a deputy with the Independence County Sheriff's Department located Mathew Speakman in the area of Sulphur Rock, Arkansas and made contact with him. The deputy spoke with Speakman and checked him for weapons resulting in a methamphetamine smoking device with residue being found on his person. During the course of contact, Speakman offered for the deputy to check his shoes for contraband. The deputy did check the shoes and noticed them to have the pattern of the bloody shoeprints found inside the residence of the deceased. The deputy gained consent to photograph the shoes from Speakman. The deputy asked Speakman to come in to speak about smoking device and his usage of the vehicle, among other things and Speakman consented to coming in to speak with investigators. Speakman was brought to the Independence County Sheriff's Department for a formal interview.

Upon arrival at the sheriff's department, a formal interview was conducted by providing a blank statement of rights form to Speakman for completion. Speakman was instructed to read the form and the form was read to Speakman. Speakman marked each selection with "YES" that he understood his rights and initialed beside each selection. Speakman read over the statement of rights waiver of rights to speak and signed the form and placed all required information on the form acknowledging that he understood his rights and was willing to answer questions at that time.

The audio and visual formal interview was conducted with Speakman admitting to the methamphetamine smoking device being on his person and stating he took the item from the vehicle of the deceased. Speakman admitted to being in possession of the vehicle and when confronted about the deceased and his shoeprints being present, Speakman stated, "y'all need the truth don't y'all." Speakman stated the victim was nude trying to seduce him into sex and he found a hammer on the coffee table and struck him in the head at least four (4) times and one time with a large set of rocks. Speakman stated he struck the victim one time in the head in the living area and the rest of the strikes took place after the victim crawled to the bathtub and was inside the bathtub. Speakman stated he was defending himself, but stated Anderson stopped fighting against him after only a couple strikes with the hammer and Speakman stated he continued to strike him in fear that he would try to have sex with him anyways. Speakman was asked if he ever thought about calling to get help for Anderson and he said he should have,

but was afraid of jail and being in trouble. Speakman stated he left the residence in the victim's vehicle after causing his death.

Detective Michael Moody #107  
AFFIANT

Detective Michael Moody  
Independence County Sheriff's Department  
1750 Myers Avenue  
Batesville, Arkansas, 72501

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME THIS 6 DAY OF June, 2023.  
[Signature]  
JUDGE, NOTARY PUBLIC OR CLERK

My Commission Expires: \_\_\_\_\_

### FINDING OF PROBABLE CAUSE FOR ARREST

I hereby find that the foregoing sworn Affidavit demonstrates reasonable and probable cause for the issuance of a warrant of arrest for the defendant for the charges listed in the attached information and that the defendant should be arrested and bound over for trial.

[Signature]  
JUDGE

Dated and signed this 6 day of June, 2023.