

THE EIGHTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
DISTRICT COURT, SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS

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CLERK OF THE SEDGWICK COUNTY DISTRICT COURT

CASE NUMBER: SG-2023-CR-001839

PII COMPLIANT

State of Kansas )

vs. )

ALEXANDER J LEWIS )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

Case Number: 2023-CR-001839

**Redacted Affidavit**

**AFFIDAVIT**

STATE OF KANSAS     )  
                                  ) ss:  
SEDGWICK COUNTY    )

**ALEXANDER J. LEWIS**  
**B/M; DOB: XX-XX-2001**  
**SSN: XXX-XX-2202**  
**LEO # 23C103846**  
**KADR: 3087A2303350**

I, Ryan T. Tyrrell #2286, of lawful age, being first duly sworn on oath, depose and state:

Your Affiant is a Police Detective with the Wichita Police Department (WPD). In that capacity, Affiant was assigned to assist in the follow-up investigation of WPD case number **23C103846**. This incident occurred on August 26, 2023, in Wichita, Sedgwick County, Kansas. During this investigation, Affiant learned the following information:

On August 26, 2023, officers were dispatched to 3945 E. 17<sup>th</sup> St N. Apt 1107 on the report of a homicide. Sedgwick County Emergency Communications received a phone call from [REDACTED] (45, B/F) who reported that her son, **Alexander J. Lewis (22, B/M)**, called her and told her that he had strangled his girlfriend, **Zaiylah Q. Bronson (19, B/F)**, and that she was no longer alive. On August 26, 2023, at 1114 hours, Sedgwick County Emergency Communications received a separate call from Lewis who reported that he had been in a fight with his girlfriend during which he had strangled her. Lewis reported that it occurred at her residence and his girlfriend was now with him.

Upon their arrival at 3945 E. 17<sup>th</sup> St N. Apt 1107, officers checked the residence but found no one inside. During this time, Sedgwick County Emergency Communications was able to conduct a location ping of Lewis' cellular phone, which showed it to be within 100 meters of 7677 E. 21<sup>st</sup> St N building #1. Officer Fields #2587 and Officer Ho #2675 were dispatched to the 21<sup>st</sup> St N address. After conducting a records search on Lewis' cellular phone number, Officer Fields learned that Lewis lived at 7677 E. 21<sup>st</sup> #101 and that he drove a 2009 black Kia Rio bearing North Carolina plate-# [REDACTED]. Upon their arrival, Officers Fields and Ho located Lewis' Kia Rio parked in front of apartment #101. The vehicle was unoccupied, and officers could see in plain view a black purse, which was sitting on the front passenger seat.

After officers knocked repeatedly on apartment #101, Lewis eventually answered the door and was taken into custody outside of the apartment. After placing him into custody, the officers asked Lewis where Zaiylah was located. Lewis told them "I got scared. I was over at her place; I didn't know what to do. My keys are on the box in the living room, she's in my car." Officer Fields asked Lewis if he was referring to the trunk of his vehicle to which he confirmed it was.

Officer Ho retrieved Lewis's car keys from inside his apartment and opened the trunk of his Kia Rio. Inside the trunk, Officer Ho found a white blanket covering Zaiylah's body, who laid inside unresponsive. After checking for a pulse, and not locating such, the officers began chest compression on Zaiylah until the arrival of Medic 39. Zaiylah was later pronounced deceased at 1206 hours on August 26, 2023, by Medic 39.

On August 26, 2023, your Affiant conducted a telephone interview with ██████████ who said she was in North Carolina, who reported that she'd received a telephone call from her son, Lewis, at 1129 hours Eastern Standard Time, 1029 hours Central Standard Time, on this date from ██████████. During the call, Lewis told ██████████ that he wanted to come home and that he had hurt Zaiylah. ██████████ asked for Zaiylah's telephone number, so that she could talk to her about the situation, but he refused to provide it. ██████████ asked Lewis if Zaiylah was still alive to which he told her "no." Lewis then told ██████████ that he had strangled her with his pants during an argument in which he'd "lost control."

During the phone call with Lewis, ██████████ reported hearing vehicle noises in the background and told him to drive back to his apartment and contact the police. ██████████ reported that Zaiylah is currently pregnant, with a due date in February of 2024, which she was aware of after having received a video from Zaiylah's ultrasound medical appointment.

Lewis said on August 26, 2023, your Affiant conducted a post-Miranda interview with Lewis. Lewis reported that he'd been in a dating relationship with Zaiylah since January of 2023. During their relationship, Lewis stated that she'd cheated on him and spoken with other men multiple times which has caused them relationship issues. Approximately 3 ½ months ago, Zaiylah found out that she was pregnant with their child.

Lewis said on August 25, 2023, he called Zaiylah at her employment during which time she received a call from an unknown male on the business's telephone line, the conversation of which he was able to hear in the background. Lewis questioned her as to why the male had contacted her which led to them arguing. At 2132 hours on August 25, 2023, Zaiylah arrived at Lewis' apartment unannounced. Lewis and Zaiylah continued their argument from earlier in the day which ended with her breaking up with him and quickly leaving his residence, having been there approximately thirty minutes.

Lewis said after Zaiylah's departure, he stayed at his apartment "stressing" over the situation. Zaiylah eventually sent Lewis text messages about how she's going to find another man, who will listen to her, in addition to other things he believes were meant to "piss him off on purpose." During past arguments, Lewis stated that Zaiylah became upset with him for leaving her "be" and not pursuing her more, so he decided to go to her apartment.

Lewis said at approximately 2200 hours on August 25, 2023, he went to Zaiylah's apartment on 17<sup>th</sup> St N. When Zaiylah answered the door, she was on the phone with another male which he said made

him feel “very upset.” Lewis and Zaiylah continued to argue throughout the night without sleeping. Lewis said that she eventually got him to the point that he was “so done” with all the things she puts on him.

Lewis said that shortly before calling his mother on August 26, 2023, having continued to argue with Zaiylah throughout the night, he wanted her to stop talking so he “grabbed her.” Lewis reiterated multiple times about how he didn’t mean to do so and that he didn’t mean to hurt her. While sitting next to each other on the couch in the living room, as Zaiylah sat facing away from him as she continued speaking, Lewis stated that he “grabbed her” by placing his left arm around her neck, supporting the top of her head with his right hand, and squeezed her neck. When asked how long he’d held her for, Lewis stated “I don’t know, all I just felt was anger and I was still talking to her, so I don’t know how long.” Lewis said that he held Zaiylah in said manner during which time she slapped his arm and was unable to speak until she stopped moving. Lewis then panicked and checked Zaiylah for any signs of breathing or a pulse but didn’t find such.

Lewis said he then retrieved a blanket from atop Zaiylah’s bed in her bedroom. He carried her, wrapped in the blanket, outside to his vehicle and placed her into the trunk. After getting into his vehicle, Lewis called his mother who encouraged him to go home and call the police. Lewis drove from Zaiylah’s apartment back to his own, but before arriving, he returned to Zaiylah’s apartment to retrieve his “beanie” style hat, which he’s left behind. Lewis then returned to his apartment where he called 911. Regarding the ax and shovel found in the trunk of his vehicle along with Zaiylah’s body, Lewis reported that he’d bought the items a few months back and had only been storing them there.

On August 27, 2023, your Affiant contacted [REDACTED] (23, W/F), who is an assistant property manager for Seventeenth Management which provides management services for Zaiylah’s apartment. Hannah confirmed that Zaiylah was the only lessor of her apartment. [REDACTED] also provided your Affiant with video from two surveillance cameras located on Zaiylah’s apartment which captures the door of her apartment, the adjacent courtyard, along with the 1700 block of North Gentry to the west of the apartment.

While reviewing the surveillance video provided by [REDACTED], your Affiant observed the following activity:

- 2214 hours, 8/25/23: A female matching Zaiylah’s description arrives alone in a beige Ford Focus and enters Zaiylah’s apartment.
- 2230 hours, 8/25/23: A black Kia Rio travels southbound on Gentry from 17<sup>th</sup> St N and parks south of Zaiylah’s apartment building on Gentry.
- 2232 hours, 8/25/23: A black male matching Lewis’ description, wearing a black hooded sweatshirt with a white design on the front, exits the vehicle alone and proceeds to open its trunk.
- 2234 hours, 8/25/23: After manipulating the contents of the trunk for approximately two minutes, the male then proceeds to enter the south entrance of the courtyard outside of Zaiylah’s apartment.

- 2238 hours, 8/25/23: After loitering around the courtyard and an adjacent stairwell, the male approaches Zaiylah's apartment door and appears to be allowed inside.
- 0120 hours, 8/26/23: The male, female, and a black dog exit Zaiylah's apartment into the courtyard where they remain for approximately two minutes before returning to the apartment together.
- 0522 hours, 8/26/23: The male, female, and black dog exit Zaiylah's apartment into the courtyard where they remain for approximately 1 minute before returning to the apartment together.
- 0813 hours, 8/26/23: The male, female, and black dog exit Zaiylah's apartment into the courtyard where they remain for approximately two minutes before returning to the apartment together.
- 0946 hours, 8/26/23: The door of Zaiylah's apartment partially opens for approximately six seconds before being shut. No one is able to be seen inside.
- 0957 hours, 8/26/23: The door of Zaiylah's apartment opens slightly for approximately one minute before being shut. No one is able to be seen inside.
- 1015 hours, 8/26/23: The male exits Zaiylah's apartment alone, closes the door, and appears to be manipulating the door handle for approximately twenty seconds. The male then walks to the street through the south entrance of the courtyard. Once in the street, the male jogs down the street to the black Kia Rio. The male moves the vehicle northward and parks along the east curb of Gentry in close proximity to Zaiylah's apartment. After parking, the male retrieves a black backpack from the trunk, which he holds in his left hand, and returns inside of Zaiylah's apartment.
- 1022 hours, 8/26/23: The male opens the door of Zaiylah's apartment, stands in the threshold of the door for approximately eight seconds before shutting it.
- 1024 hours, 8/26/23: The male exits Zaiylah's apartment, no longer wearing the black hooded sweatshirt as before, and carries a large object wrapped in a white blanket in both arms, from which two feet appear to dangle near his left arm. The male carries the object to the black Kia Rio where he places it on the street briefly before loading it into the trunk. The male then returns inside the apartment.
- 1027 hours, 8/26/23: The male exits Zaiylah's apartment with the black backpack on his left shoulder while carrying a black dog in his right hand and a small black bag in his left hand. The male loads the items into the cabin of the Kia Rio and leaves north bound on Gentry to 17<sup>th</sup> St N where he turns east bound.
- 1042 hours, 8/26/23: The male returns in the black Kia Rio from traveling west bound on 17<sup>th</sup> St N and parks on Gentry along the east curb near Zaiylah's apartment facing south. The male walks to the apartments, enters briefly before exiting while holding a black cellular phone in his left hand. The male then leaves in the Kia Rio south bound on Gentry.
- 1136 hours, 8/26/23: Wichita Police Department officers arrive at Zaiylah's apartment.

On August 27, 2023, a search warrant was executed on Lewis' Kia Rio. In the trunk of the vehicle, officers located an ax and a shovel. On the floor of the front passenger's seat, officers located a black backpack and a crumpled piece of white notebook paper. Written upon the paper was an apparent note Zaiylah wrote which had been left unsigned and addressed "Dear Family." Inside the backpack, officers found a roll of duct tape, several bottles of water, clothing, a handheld flashlight, a head mounted flashlight, multiple towels, and trash bags. On the front passenger's seat, officers found a black hooded sweatshirt with white on the front, matching what the male had been seen wearing in the surveillance video, along with a purse containing Zaiylah's wallet, with her identification, and car keys.

On August 27, 2023, your Affiant assisted with the execution of a search warrant at Zaiylah's apartment located at 3945 E. 17<sup>th</sup> St N Apt 1107. In the bedroom closet, your Affiant located a bag containing documents, diapers, and other baby related items. Amongst the bag's contents, your Affiant located the positive results of a pregnancy test taken by Zaiylah on June 5, 2023, at the Choices Medical Clinic located at 538 S. Bleckley. Zaiylah's fetus's gestational age was estimated at 4 weeks. In addition to the test results, your Affiant found multiple ultrasound photos taken of Zaiylah at the Choices Medical Clinic. In two of the photos, dated June 20, 2023, the fetus's gestational age was listed at 6 weeks, 2 days. In the other four photos, dated August 18, 2023, the fetus's gestational age was listed at 14 weeks, 5 days.

In the living room of the apartment, located on top of the entertainment center, your Affiant located an open spiral bound notebook beside a writing pen. Though the exposed piece of white paper was blank, your Affiant was able read, indented into the page, the words "Dear Family" in the upper left corner corresponding to the location of such words on the note located in the floor of Lewis's Kia Rio.

On August 28, 2023, Deputy Coroner-Medical Examiner Dr. Scott Kipper M.D. conducted an autopsy on the Zaiylah's body. Dr. Kipper stated the cause of death as "pending," marked the manner of death as "Pending Investigation," and noted the following preliminary findings:

- Evidence of strangulation – Several contusions of neck, petechiae of conjunctive and left cheek; focal hemorrhage of right sternocleidomastoid muscle.
- Pregnant – Male fetus without evidence of congenital abnormality.
- Pending toxicology.

On August 28, 2023, Det. Howard #2124 executed a search warrant on Lewis' black Samsung cellular phone which had been seized during a search warrant executed at his apartment located at 7677 E. 21<sup>st</sup> St N. Apt 101. After performing a search of the devices' data, Det. Howard learned of web searches made by Lewis on August 25, 2023, and August 26, 2023. Several web searches on the evening of August 25, 2023, regarded stun guns, lethal weapons, and "weapons that can kill." At 8:02:59 AM on August 26, 2023, a web search was made of "choke hold," which preceded Zaiylah last being seen on the apartment's surveillance system by approximately 10 minutes. After multiple web searches regarding abortion, two

searches were made at 08:51:32 AM and 08:52:09 AM of "snapping necks." At 10:57:51 AM, web searches resumed regarding murder with the last one being searched for at 11:06:33 AM.

**FURTHER AFFIANT SAITH NOT.**

Ryan T. Tyrrell #2286  
Ryan T. Tyrrell #2286, AFFIANT

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me on this 30<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2023.

Dan Harty  
NOTARY PUBLIC

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