

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

STATE OF FLORIDA

SCSO Case No. 20190000740

VS.

19CF337A

GRANT TIERNAN AMATO

Court Case No.

FILED IN OFFICE
GRANT MALOY
CLERK CIRCUIT COURT
2019 JAN 28 AM 9:26
BY SEMINOLE CO. FLA.
D.C.

AFFIDAVIT FOR ARREST WARRANT:

State of Florida
County of Seminole

BEFORE ME, Swannarie Multari, a sworn law enforcement officer, personally came Investigator Daniel Anderson Badge # 197089, of the Seminole County Sheriff Office, who being duly sworn deposes and says: that Affiant has reason to believe and does believe that probable cause exists for the arrest of GRANT AMATO,



Address: 2112 Sultan Circle Chuluota, Florida; Description: White Male, 5'10", 120 pounds, brown hair and brown eyes; DOB: May 20, 1989; Social Security Number [REDACTED] for a violation of the laws of the State of Florida, to wit: **First Degree Pre-Meditated Murder**, contrary to section 782.04 1(a) 1., Florida Statutes (2018).

THE FACTS tending to establish the grounds for this application and the probable cause of Affiant believing

Your Affiant, Investigator Daniel Anderson (hereinafter referred to as Your Affiant) is a sworn Law Enforcement Officer employed by the Seminole County Sheriff's Office. Your Affiant has been a sworn law enforcement officer since October 1987. Your Affiant is currently assigned to the Major Crimes Unit of the Seminole County Sheriff Office. Your Affiant has served as a training deputy, school resource deputy and as a Task Force Agent with the Drug Enforcement Administration. Your Affiant has investigated numerous major crimes, including homicide, aggravated battery, sexual battery, lewd and lascivious battery, money laundering and multi-national drug cases that have led to arrest and successful prosecution of responsible subjects.

WHEREAS, your Affiant makes this affidavit and prays the issuance of an Arrest Warrant with authority to enter any premises to effect said arrest, in due form for the arrest of GRANT AMATO.

On January 25, 2019 at approximately 9:17 am, Seminole County Sheriff's Office Deputies arrived at 2112 Sultan Cir, Chuluota, Florida 32766, Seminole County regarding a request to respond to the above address for an attempt to contact for a Cody Amato, Cody Amato did not show up to work and the caller, Craig Sisco stated that Cody has never missed a day of work at Advent Hospital East Orlando, previously known as Florida Hospital East Orlando. The deputies checked all doors and windows, which were all locked, and no response from knocks at every door and window, announcing themselves while walking around the house, activating their vehicle air horn, calling all cell phones for the residence that should be on scene. Cody's vehicle a 4 door green Honda bearing Florida tag TA2ER0 was in the drive way along with 2 other vehicles in the garage.

With no response from the house, Deputy Moderson entered the residence by bypassing a deadbolt with his knife to conduct a wellbeing check of the residence via the back door (southern most side of the residence). Deputy Moderson observed a white male, later identified as Chad Amato, deceased and lying on his back in the kitchen with large amounts of blood around him that was incompatible with life. Deputy Moderson then observed another white male, later identified as Cody Amato, deceased in a storage room in the fetal position with blood coming from his eyes. Deputy Moderson then found a deceased white female, later identified as Margaret Amato, deceased in the office seated in a chair slumped over the desk with blood covering her face.

Based upon prior experiences with the residents of the location, deputies knew that another subject, identified as GRANT AMATO, also lived at the house. Deputies also noted that GRANT AMATO's vehicle, a 1996 white Honda accord DX bearing Florida tag L1GH7, was also missing from the residence. Based on the known information, a lookout (BOLO) was issued for GRANT AMATO. Also a check of tag records maintained by various agencies was conducted to determine if his vehicle had been recently recorded traveling. Toll records for the white Honda Accord belonging to GRANT AMATO showed the vehicle was eastbound at State Road 408 and Dean Road at 10:51 a.m. The vehicle was subsequently recorded traveling Westbound on State Road 408 and Dean Road at 12:39 p.m. and again traveling eastbound on State Road 408 and Dean Road at 1:41 p.m. Deputies responded to the area of State Road 408 and Dean Road and attempted to locate the vehicle with no success.

Investigator Eva Multari spoke to Sloan Young, the girlfriend of Cody Amato (decedent) who told her the following; Sloan said that over the past few months there had been problems with GRANT AMATO. Sloan said that GRANT AMATO had stolen \$60,000 from Cody as well as his guns and

sold them without his permission. Sloan said that GRANT AMATO had been placed in a facility in South Florida due to him being unstable (records show this admission was voluntary). Sloan said that she and Cody had a conversation where Cody told her that he was afraid that GRANT AMATO would kill everyone.

According to Sloan, GRANT AMATO was going downhill after he had been kicked out of nurse anesthetist school. Additionally, GRANT AMATO was unemployed and his family had found out that GRANT AMATO was having a relationship with a female from Bulgaria and that he was stealing money from the family so he could contact the female. It was later learned that GRANT AMATO had stolen approximately \$200,000.00 from the family to purchase time to interact with the female on a pornographic website. Sloan also stated GRANT AMATO was arrested for stealing drugs from his prior employer and had lost his job.

On January 27, 2019, Sloan told Investigator Multari that on January 25, 2019, she was at work with Cody and at approximately 9:15 p.m., Cody told her that his father (Chad Amato) had called Cody on his cell phone and told Cody to come home, that something was wrong. Sloan asked Cody what was wrong and Cody said "stupid fucking bullshit" and left. Sloan stated that she texted Cody at 9:43 p.m. and asked if he was ok and he replied, "all ok she didn't need to worry about him." She had no contact with Cody after that text. The next morning when Cody didn't arrive for work, Sloan and Chris Sisco (Cody's coworker) were concerned and called law enforcement to check on him, resulting in the wellbeing check as described above.

On January 25, 2019, Investigators James Gallina and Lilliam Agrinoni interviewed Jason Amato, the brother of GRANT AMATO. Jason said that he was not very close to the family and he sees his family about three times a year but speaks to his mother Margaret once a week. He said that he is the emergency contact person for Cody. Jason Amato said on January 25, 2019 he received a call from Cody's employer who said he hadn't shown up for work and he was scheduled to work during a surgery that morning. Jason said he called Cody, his father Chad, and his mother Margaret, but did not receive an answer from any of them. Jason said that he was at work at the time and continued calling but never made contact with anyone. He said that he didn't call GRANT AMATO as he believed that he would be causing problems and that was the reason Cody didn't go to work. About an hour later, Jason received a call from Advent Hospital advising him that the police would be contacting him.

Investigators told Jason that there were three unidentified people inside the residence who were deceased but had not been identified. Jason said that Cody drove a green Honda, GRANT AMATO drove a white Honda, Margaret drove a light blue Toyota Camry, and Chad drove a light colored Lexus sedan.

Investigators asked Jason if there was anyone who would want to harm his family and Jason said that GRANT AMATO had been talking to an online call girl in Bulgaria and that he had been wiring an excessive amount of money to her and wasn't sure if he owed money to her. Jason said that the female had sent mail to GRANT AMATO, and Margaret had learned from the mail that GRANT AMATO had disclosed the family's address to the female and that was a concern for Margaret. Jason said that the last time he saw GRANT AMATO was on December 22, 2018 when the family had tried to convince GRANT AMATO to go to a rehab facility in Fort Lauderdale. Jason said that on

December 23, 2018, GRANT AMATO agreed to go to the facility and Chad, Margaret, and Cody drove him to the facility where he was admitted.

Jason said he was aware that GRANT AMATO had stolen \$150,000.00 from Chad Amato (decedent) which included a \$65,000.00 loan on the house. Jason said that he also knew that GRANT AMATO had taken \$50,000.00 from Cody Amato (deceased). Jason said GRANT AMATO was admitted to the facility for two week and as far as he knew, released on January 5, 2019. Jason stated the reason GRANT AMATO was admitted to the facility was due to depression. Jason said Margaret found out that GRANT AMATO had sent the female over \$200,000.00 in a three month period. Jason said he last spoke to Margaret on January 16, 2019, and she said everything seemed ok and GRANT AMATO had been applying for work.

On January 26, 2019, GRANT AMATO's, 1996, white, Honda Accord DX, Florida tag L1GH7 was located by a deputy of the Orange County Sheriff's Office. The vehicle was found in the parking lot of the Double Tree by Hilton located at 12125 High Tech Avenue, Orlando, Florida. The Orange County Sheriff's Office confirmed GRANT AMATO registered as a guest of the hotel and was assigned Room 336 on the third floor. While law enforcement was present near room 336, GRANT AMATO exited room 336 and spoke with investigators.

According to surveillance video and records located at the hotel, GRANT AMATO registered at approximately 2:47 pm on January 25, 2019. GRANT AMATO was also captured on surveillance video, at the Double Tree hotel, using a cellular phone. GRANT AMATO only registered his stay for one day at the Double Tree and was scheduled to check out at 1:30 pm on January 26, 2019. His reservation was not made until after the commission of the murders.

Your Affiant went to the hotel and made contact with GRANT AMATO. At approximately 9:30 a.m., GRANT AMATO voluntarily travelled to the Seminole County Sherriff's Office in Sanford, Florida. During a consensual interview, GRANT AMATO stated that on the night of January 24th he was in a heated argument with his father Chad (decedent) and was kicked out of the home due to him communicating with a girl over the internet. GRANT AMATO stated he met the girl on Cam Girls, an adult web camera website, and has been communicating with her since June 2018 and stated he has sent her money in the amount of \$200,000.00. GRANT AMATO said that the argument revolved around the amount of money he had spent in communicating with the female. Because of the GRANT AMATO's addiction he had been given an ultimatum by Chad (his father) that if he wanted to continue to stay at the family home GRANT AMATO would need to complete a 60 day internet and sex addiction program at a facility known as Cornerstone in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. According to GRANT AMATO, he entered the facility on December 22, 2018 and left the facility early on January 4, 2019. After leaving the facility and returning to Orlando, his family held a meeting where he was presented with a two page list he would need to follow to remain at the house. During the meeting, Chad told GRANT AMATO that if he broke any of the rules he would have to leave the house immediately. One of the rules was that he wasn't allowed to have communications with the female in Bulgaria. GRANT AMATO initially agreed to the rules his father had set, but he didn't think they were fair because he felt that the Bulgarian female was his girlfriend and they had a relationship.

According to GRANT AMATO, he continued to communicate with the female in Bulgaria using his

Twitter account and his father learned of the communication. GRANT AMATO stated that on the night of January 24, 2019, his father came home from work and confronted him about the breaking the rule regarding communicating with the female in Bulgari and told GRANT AMATO he had to leave the house. According to GRANT AMATO, his father became physical and grabbed him by the shirt, but he denied his father struck him. GRANT AMATO said that Margaret stayed out of the dispute and continued working at her desk in the first floor office. According to GRANT AMATO, over the next several hours he gathered some of his belongings and loaded them into his car while the argument continued. GRANT AMATO initially falsely stated that he had left the home at approximately 9:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., and went to Fort Christmas Road and waited on the side of the road for Cody to come home. GRANT AMATO said that he met with Cody, and Cody was going home to straighten things out, and that was the last time he saw any of his family members. Later in the interview, after being confronted with the unfeasibility of his meeting with Cody randomly, GRANT AMATO admitted that he had lied to investigators and that he had stayed at the home until Cody had arrived home. GRANT AMATO continued to say that when he left the home, Cody had said that he would continue to take care of things and make them better.

While being questioned, GRANT AMATO said that on January 25, 2019, he had returned to his neighborhood with the intent to go to his house but changed his mind at the last minute. Your affiant asked him if he had seen anything out of the ordinary and he replied "No" he had not seen anything out of the ordinary. When confronted by investigators GRANT AMATO stated that he had again been dishonest, and that in fact he had seen a police car and a news van parked on the entrance to his subdivision. When questioned about why he would not have attempted to contact his family members upon seeing the news van and police car, he had no answer as to why he did not continue to go to his home. GRANT AMATO stated additionally when pressed by investigators to his whereabouts that he had gone to Panera Bread Restaurant in the Waterford Lakes area of East Orlando. There he utilized the public Wi-Fi network to search for "Top news stories." GRANT AMATO stated the very first search result was a local news station website, possibly WESH channel 2, and he read about the shooting in his neighborhood and noticed that the fence in the video on the website looked familiar and was possibly his driveway. When questioned about why he still would not follow up to check on his family he replied, "I just didn't want to know." Throughout the interview, GRANT AMATO continued to deny responsibility for the death of his family members. However, he acknowledged he was the only one who had a motive and opportunity to commit the murders. Towards the end of the interview, while viewing crime scene photos of his dead family members, GRANT AMATO was asked if he had any remorse for the killings of his mother, father and brother. GRANT AMATO's response was his family had been blaming him for months for ruining their lives, stealing and not following the rules of the home, so he might as well be blamed for this too.

Seminole County Sheriff's Office Crime Scene Analysts, Snyder and Rubart photographed and processed the scene at 2112 Sultan Circle, Chuluota, Seminole County, Florida. The home was neat, orderly and did not appear to be ransacked. During their processing, they noted there was no forced entry into the home, and although there were numerous valuable belongings in the home, nothing was taken. Further the Analysts began to observe the positions of the deceased in the home, starting with Cody. Cody Amato was in a fetal position lying on his left side just inside the doorway of the garage entry door with a 9mm firearm nearby. According to the body cam videos from the first

responding deputies that garage entry door was shut when they arrived. However, the Analysts noticed there was blood in the door frame as well as the door jam, indicating the door was open at the time Cody was shot. A bullet impact was noted on the door molding in the area where blood was found, indicating Cody was standing in that area at the time he was shot in the head. Additionally what appeared to be a bullet hole was noted in the drywall a short distance away on the North wall, indicating the bullet struck the doorframe before entering the drywall. Based on the gunshot Cody received he would not have been able to close the door after he had been shot. The door was not equipped with any self-closing mechanism and would have had to have been manually closed.

Analysts then observed Chad in the kitchen lying on his back with a large amount of dried blood surrounding his body. There were two gunshot wounds to Chad's head and it appeared he had been shot once standing near the cabinets on the south side of the kitchen, and a second shot to the back of his head, execution style, while he was on the kitchen floor near the center island.

Analysts then observed Margaret at a desk in the office located downstairs near the kitchen. There was one gunshot wound to her head, again, execution style, that traveled through a phone on the desk and into the wall on the West side of the office.

Investigator Valerie Toodle arrived from the Lake County Medical Examiner's Office and conducted her investigation and later all decedents were transported to the Medical Examiner's Office where autopsies were performed.

On January 26, 2019, at approximately 9:00 am, Investigator Melvin Dees along with Analysts Snyder and Rubart attended the autopsy. During the autopsy of Cody, Associate Medical Examiner Jones advised that one round entered under his right eye and exited the lower half of the back of his head. She further advised that based on the injuries and the evidence she observed there would be no possibility that Cody's injuries were self-inflicted.

On January 26, 2019, at approximately 3:30 p.m., Crime Scene Analyst Eric Brothers executed a search warrant obtained for GRANT AMATO's vehicle, and during the search located a handwritten letter inside the car. The letter detailed family issues occurring at the residence, including the direct quote, "I said I'd take care of all your problems at the house and I have. No one will bother you again regarding this, just please come home." It was later learned during an interview by Your Affiant and Investigator Multari that according to GRANT AMATO he had written the letter. GRANT AMATO stated he was quoting what Cody had said to him the night GRANT AMATO was kicked out of the family home. Investigators questioned GRANT AMATO as to why he wrote the letter in first person as Cody and GRANT AMATO said it was because he was trying to document their conversation.

Also on January 26, 2019, a search warrant was executed at the Doubletree Hotel in Orlando where GRANT AMATO was staying. During the course of the search, investigators located multiple credit cards belonging to both Cody and Chad Amato, which had been taken from the family home by GRANT AMATO.

Based on the totality of the investigation probable cause exists for the arrest of GRANT AMATO for first degree pre-meditated murder for GRANT AMATO, for a violation of the laws of the State of Florida, to wit: **First Degree Pre-Meditated Murder**, contrary to section 782.04 1(a) 1 Florida

Statutes.



Daniel Anderson Investigator Badge 197089
Seminole County Sheriff's Office
Affiant

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME THIS 27 DAY OF JANUARY,
A.D. 20 19 BY Investigator Daniel Anderson WHO IS PERSONALLY KNOWN TO ME OR
WHO PRODUCED _____ AS IDENTIFICATION.



EVA MULTARI SWORN LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER
SEMINOLE COUNTY, FLORIDA

UNOFFICIAL