

OFFICE OF THE ANOKA COUNTY ATTORNEY

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Aug. 23, 2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lino Lakes Man Charged in Sex Assault of Toddler

Sterling Robert Stewart, 29, of Lino Lakes, was charged today in Anoka County District Court with first-degree criminal sexual conduct, first-degree assault and malicious punishment of a child. At Stewart's first court appearance this morning, Anoka County District Judge Bethany Fountain Lindberg set bail at \$750,000 without conditions or \$300,000 with conditions. Stewart's next court appearance is scheduled for Sept. 20.

According to the criminal complaint, a 21-month-old girl was hospitalized with multiple injuries over her body, including her head, abdomen and genitals. The child's mother said the injuries appeared after the girl was left in Stewart's care for a short time. Medical professionals said the girl suffered a severe assault and that her injuries were not consistent with Stewart's assertion that the girl fell off a couch.

"I applaud the efforts of the Lino Lakes Police Department and the Anoka County Sheriff's Office for their excellent work on this case," Anoka County Attorney Tony Palumbo said. "This office will work closely with the victim's family to make sure, if these charges are proven, that the criminal justice system holds the defendant fully responsible for these heinous injuries."

State of Minnesota
County of Anoka

District Court
10th Judicial District

Prosecutor File No.
Court File No.

CA-2016-01374
02-CR-16-5505

State of Minnesota,
Plaintiff,

COMPLAINT
Order of Detention

vs.

STERLING ROBERT STEWART DOB: 04/27/1987

7912 Marilyn Drive
Lino Lakes, MN 55014

Defendant.

The Complainant submits this complaint to the Court and states that there is probable cause to believe Defendant committed the following offense(s):

COUNT I

Charge: Criminal Sexual Conduct in the 1st Degree

Minnesota Statute: 609.342.1(a), with reference to: 609.342.2(a), 609.342.2(b)

Maximum Sentence: 12-30 Years plus conditional release term and/or \$12,000.00 - \$40,000.00

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 08/20/2016

Control #(ICR#): 16005051

Charge Description: On or about August 20, 2016, in the County of Anoka, Minnesota, STERLING ROBERT STEWART, did engage in sexual penetration with a person under 13 years of age and the actor is more than 36 months older than the complainant.

COUNT II

Charge: Assault in the First Degree (Great Bodily Harm)

Minnesota Statute: 609.221.1

Maximum Sentence: 0-20 Years and/or \$9,000.00 - \$30,000.00

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 08/20/2016

Control #(ICR#): 16005051

Charge Description: On or about August 20, 2016, in the County of Anoka, Minnesota, STERLING ROBERT STEWART, did assault another and inflict great bodily harm.

COUNT III

Charge: Malicious Punishment of a Child

Minnesota Statute: 609.377.5, with reference to: 609.377.5

Maximum Sentence: 0-5 Years and/or \$3,000.00 - \$10,000.00

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 08/20/2016

Control #(ICR#): 16005051

Charge Description: On or about August 20, 2016, in the County of Anoka, Minnesota, STERLING ROBERT STEWART, did as a parent, legal guardian, or caretaker, by an intentional act or a series of intentional acts with respect to a child, evidence unreasonable force or cruel discipline that is excessive under the circumstances, and the punishment results in substantial bodily harm.

STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

On August 21, 2016, 21-month old Child A was taken to a local hospital with multiple injuries. Doctors noted that Child A was very lethargic with multiple bruises on her face and body, including bruising to her genitals.

Child A was transferred to Children's Hospital for further evaluation by Midwest Children's Resource Center. During examination, Dr. Hudson, a Child Abuse Pediatrician, noted that Child A had the following injuries: injury and bruising to her scalp, extensive facial bruising, swollen lower lip, trauma to upper lip and upper frenulum, extensive bruising to her upper chest, petechial marks on her neck, left arm bruise, extensive abdominal bruising with indications of internal injury to her liver, genital and anal trauma, and a bruised hymen.

According to Child A's mom CJS (DOB 08-17-87), on August 20, 2016, she and her children went to the home of Sterling Robert Stewart (DOB 04-27-87), the Defendant herein, in Lino Lakes, Anoka County, Minnesota. Child A did not have any injuries prior to arriving at the Defendant's home. While they were there, CJS had a headache and took a two-hour nap. Child A was left in the care of the Defendant. When CJS woke up, Child A was wrapped in a blanket, asleep. The Defendant told CJS that Child A had a "blowout" so he washed her clothing. When CJS noticed bruising to Child A's face, the Defendant said Child A had fallen off the couch while she was sleeping and hit a rocking horse. CJS left a short time later with her children and discovered additional injuries to Child A when she got home.

Medical professionals evaluating Child A determined that she had suffered a severe assault and that none of her injuries were consistent with what the Defendant described. The injuries to Child A's neck were indicative of either forcefully manipulating Child A by her clothing or using hands to forcefully grab Child A by her chest and neck. The injury to Child A's hymen is clinically diagnostic of penetrating trauma to Child A's vagina. Doctors noted that abdominal bruising is extremely uncommon and suggests severe trauma to the abdomen.

As a result of her injuries, Child A required hospitalization.

SIGNATURES AND APPROVALS

Complainant requests that Defendant, subject to bail or conditions of release, be:
(1) arrested or that other lawful steps be taken to obtain Defendant's appearance in court; or
(2) detained, if already in custody, pending further proceedings; and that said Defendant otherwise be dealt with according to law.

Complainant declares under penalty of perjury that everything stated in this document is true and correct. Minn. Stat. § 358.116; Minn. R. Crim. P. 2.01, subds. 1, 2.

Complainant	Jim Schilling 640 Town Center Parkway Lino Lakes, MN 55014	Electronically Signed: 08/22/2016 05:04 PM Anoka County, Minnesota
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Being authorized to prosecute the offenses charged, I approve this complaint.

Prosecuting Attorney	Brenda S.R. Sund Assistant Anoka County Attorney 2100 3rd Ave Anoka, MN 55303-2265 (763) 323-5550	Electronically Signed: 08/22/2016 04:23 PM
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FINDING OF PROBABLE CAUSE

From the above sworn facts, and any supporting affidavits or supplemental sworn testimony, I, the Issuing Officer, have determined that probable cause exists to support, subject to bail or conditions of release where applicable, Defendant's arrest or other lawful steps be taken to obtain Defendant's appearance in court, or Defendant's detention, if already in custody, pending further proceedings. Defendant is therefore charged with the above-stated offense(s).

SUMMONS

THEREFORE YOU, THE DEFENDANT, ARE SUMMONED to appear on _____, _____ at _____ AM/PM before the above-named court at 325 E Main Street, Anoka, MN 55303 to answer this complaint.

IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR in response to this SUMMONS, a WARRANT FOR YOUR ARREST shall be issued.

WARRANT

To the Sheriff of the above-named county; or other person authorized to execute this warrant: I order, in the name of the State of Minnesota, that the Defendant be apprehended and arrested without delay and brought promptly before the court (if in session), and if not, before a Judge or Judicial Officer of such court without unnecessary delay, and in any event not later than 36 hours after the arrest or as soon as such Judge or Judicial Officer is available to be dealt with according to law.

Execute in MN Only

Execute Nationwide

Execute in Border States

ORDER OF DETENTION

Since the Defendant is already in custody, I order, subject to bail or conditions of release, that the Defendant continue to be detained pending further proceedings.

Bail: \$

Conditions of Release:

This complaint, duly subscribed and sworn to or signed under penalty of perjury, is issued by the undersigned Judicial Officer as of the following date: August 23, 2016.

Judicial Officer

Sharon Hall
Judge of District Court

Electronically Signed: 08/23/2016 08:50 AM

Sworn testimony has been given before the Judicial Officer by the following witnesses:

**COUNTY OF ANOKA
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

State of Minnesota

Plaintiff

vs.

Sterling Robert Stewart

Defendant

*LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER RETURN OF SERVICE
I hereby Certify and Return that I have served a copy of this Order of
Detention upon the Defendant herein named.*

Signature of Authorized Service Agent:

DEFENDANT FACT SHEET

Name: Sterling Robert Stewart
DOB: 04/27/1987
Address: 7912 Marilyn Drive
Lino Lakes, MN 55014

Alias Names/DOB:

SID:
Height: 5' 9"
Weight: 160lbs.
Eye Color: Hazel
Hair Color: Blond or Strawberry
Gender: MALE
Race: White
Fingerprints Required per Statute: Yes
Fingerprint match to Criminal History Record: Yes
Handgun Permit: No
Driver's License #: Q007100710007 (MN)
Alcohol Concentration:

STATUTE AND OFFENSE GRID

Cnt Nbr	Statute Type	Offense Date(s)	Statute Nbrs and Descriptions	Offense Level	MOC	GOC	Controlling Agencies	Case Numbers
1	Charge	8/20/2016	609.342.1(a) Criminal Sexual Cond-1st Degree-Penetration or Contact with Person Under 13-Actor >36m older	Felony	L1B71		MN0020700	16005051
	Penalty	8/20/2016	609.342.2(b) Criminal Sexual Conduct-1st Degree-Penalty-Presumptive 144 mo.	Felony	L1B71		MN0020700	16005051
	Penalty	8/20/2016	609.342.2(a) Criminal Sexual Conduct-1st Degree-Penalty-Stat Max	Felony	L1B71		MN0020700	16005051
2	Charge	8/20/2016	609.221.1 Assault-1st Degree-Great Bodily Harm	Felony	A1155		MN0020700	16005051
3	Charge	8/20/2016	609.377.5 Malicious Punishment of a Child-Substantial Bodily Harm	Felony	I1072		MN0020700	16005051
	Penalty	8/20/2016	609.377.5 Malicious Punishment of a Child-Substantial Bodily Harm	Felony	I1072		MN0020700	16005051