

# OFFICE OF THE ANOKA COUNTY ATTORNEY

Tony Palumbo, County Attorney

---



2100 3rd Avenue, Suite 720, Anoka, MN 55303  
763-324-5550  
anokacounty.us/attorney  
twitter.com/AnokaCountyAtty  
facebook.com/AnokaCountyAttorneysOffice

## **Media Contact:**

Elizabeth Mohr, ACAO Community Relations Coordinator  
elizabeth.mohr@co.anoka.mn.us  
763-324-5471 (desk)  
612-619-8345 (cell)

**Sept. 11, 2020**

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -- **UPDATED****

### **Second suspect charged in Lino Lakes homicide**

The Anoka County Attorney's Office has charged an additional defendant in connection with the Aug. 27 shooting death of a Lino Lakes man.

Melissa Madelyne Zielinski, 47, is charged with one count of aiding and abetting second-degree intentional murder.

Her brother, Nicholas Walter Zielinski, 43, was previously charged with one count of second-degree intentional murder.

Melissa Zielinski made her first appearance today in Anoka County District Court. Bail was set at \$2 million.

Melissa Zielinski's criminal complaint is attached for reference. The previous press release and criminal complaint regarding Nicholas Zielinski is [here](#).

State of Minnesota  
County of Anoka

District Court  
10th Judicial District

Prosecutor File No. CA-2020-01810  
Court File No. 02-CR-20-5418

---

**State of Minnesota,**  
Plaintiff,

**COMPLAINT**  
Order of Detention

vs.

**MELISSA MADELYNE ZIELINSKI DOB: 04/28/1973**

720 Spring Street  
Sandstone, MN 55072

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: Murder in the 2nd Degree (With Intent) (Not Premeditated)**

Minnesota Statute: 609.19.1(1), with reference to: 609.11.5, 609.05.1

Maximum Sentence: 3-40 Years Imprisonment

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 08/27/2020

Control #(ICR#): 20211535

Charge Description: On or about August 27, 2020, in the County of Anoka, Minnesota, MELISSA MADELYNE ZIELINSKI, did intentionally aid, advise, or conspire with another, who caused the death of a human being, namely KMH, with intent to effect the death of that person or another, but without premeditation and at the time of offense, the Defendant or an accomplice did use or possess a firearm, to wit: a semi-automatic 9mm handgun.

## STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

At approximately 2:35 PM on August 27, 2020, officers from the Lino Lakes Police Department and the Anoka County Sheriff's Office responded to a report of a shooting at a residence located at 6987 West Shadow Lake Drive, in the City of Lino Lakes, within Anoka County.

Upon arrival, officers spoke with TMH (an adult male, fully identified in the reports) who stated that within the past few minutes he had arrived at his home at the above address from grocery shopping. TMH indicated that as he pulled in, he noticed an unfamiliar black SUV in the driveway. TMH then entered into the kitchen, where he encountered two unknown individuals, a male and a female. TMH reported that he followed them outside, asking who they were and what they were doing. The male stated words to effect of "your son stole on me" and "I'll take you out, too." The male and female then drove away in the black SUV. TMH told officers that he then went downstairs and observed that his son, Karl Mitchell Henderson, DOB 1-15-1998, was face down in a large pool of blood in his bedroom. First responders confirmed that Mr. Henderson had been shot in the abdomen and was deceased.

During the initial stages of the investigation, several neighbors with "Ring" doorbells captured images of the black SUV leaving the area. Preliminary analysis of the images suggested that the vehicle was potentially a GMC Terrain or similar-sized General Motors SUV.

While processing the decedent's bedroom, Anoka County Sheriff's Office Crime Scene Unit recovered a Hi-Point 9mm handgun on the floor near the deceased that was not known to have been possessed by anyone at the home. The Midwest Regional Forensic Laboratory conducted DNA testing on swabbings from the grip of the Hi-Point, and developed a major male DNA profile that matched to a Nicholas Walter Zielinski (DOB 6-5-1977). Mr. Zielinski's address was determined, and officers learned that a female at the same address was the owner of a black GMC Terrain SUV. TMH was then shown a photo-lineup which included the Mr. Zielinski. TMH positively identified Mr. Zielinski as the male he confronted leaving his home.

As investigation continued with efforts to identify the female involved, officers spoke with a number of people who independently reported that the female was likely to be Mr. Zielinski's sister MELISSA MADELYN ZIELINSKI (DOB 4-28-1978), the defendant. Officers determined that the defendant resided in Sandstone, Minnesota.

Officers obtained cell phone tracking information on both Zielinski's phones. Mr. Zielinski's phone leaving the area near his home in Duluth, Minnesota on the morning of the shooting. The phone travels via I-35 to Sandstone, MN, then south to the immediate area of the shooting, arriving at that location within the time frame of the shooting. After the shooting, Mr. Zielinski's phone leaves at a time consistent with TMH's account, stops in Sandstone again, then continues back to the area of his residence in Duluth. The defendant's phone shows it in the Twin Cities metro area on the morning of the shooting, then joins with Mr. Zielinski's phone near the immediate area of the shooting, then back to Sandstone. An apparently accidental photograph of what appears to be the inside of a pocket was taken with the defendant's phone at 2:42 PM the day of the shooting, and is geo-tagged to a location 4.3 miles from the shooting on a route back to I-35.

Several text and other messaging communications were also discovered on the defendant's phone. One message string from the day before the shooting, August 26th, appeared as follows:

Outgoing Message: "We are going to collect some money that's owed to me hopefully."

Incoming Response: "So you and Nick are going to go muscle some money"

Outgoing Reply: "Hopefully. I waited long enough"

Further investigation revealed that a friend of the defendant, JNP, was planning on purchasing the home where she lived in Sandstone, to avoid her potentially being evicted. JNP told officers that the closing on that home was due to take place the day after the shooting, August 28. JNP informed officers that just hours before the closing, he was informed that approximately \$4000 was required to as 'cash needed to close.' JNP told officers that he supplied the money from his account, but that on the morning of the closing, August 28, the defendant unexpectedly provided him with \$3000 in cash to offset the amount due.

## 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**

Bill Jacobson  
Detective  
13301 Hanson Boulevard NW  
Andover, MN 55304  
Badge: 333

Electronically Signed:  
09/11/2020 08:18 AM  
Anoka County, Minnesota

Being authorized to prosecute the offenses charged, I approve this complaint.

**Prosecuting Attorney**

Wade A. Kish  
Assistant County Attorney  
2100 3rd Ave  
Anoka, MN 55303-2265  
(763) 324-5550

Electronically Signed:  
09/11/2020 08:13 AM

**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 2100 Third Avenue, 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: September 11, 2020.

**Judicial Officer** Kristin Larson  
District Court Judge

Electronically Signed: 09/11/2020 08:51 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.

**Melissa Madelyne Zielinski**

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: