

N I N T H
J U D I C I A L
C I R C U I T
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F L O R I D A

"PROCEDURES FOR EMERGENCY ARREST AND SEARCH WARRANTS"

"True emergencies are rare and most warrants should be handled by a judge during normal court hours. Warrants should be sought outside of normal court hours only where a suspect would escape or evidence would be lost if immediate action is not taken. The suspect's location should be specifically known at the time the warrant is sought. Alternatively, an emergency warrant can be sought if the suspect's identity is known but his/her location is unknown and the suspect is a threat to the safety and welfare of a citizen or the community. Emergency warrants of these types should be sought only when law enforcement is waiting to immediately proceed on the search or arrest warrant." ~ *Memorandum by the Chief Judge, November 9, 2015*

AFFIRMATION OF WARRANT EXIGENCY

Lieutenant Charles Denmark has approved this application for an arrest warrant, and affirms the emergency nature of the warrant is as outlined above.

Previously Assigned to **Div:**

-HI-

AGENCY CASE NUMBER: **OCSO 24-011313**

COURT CASE NUMBER:

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND
FOR OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA**

AFFIDAVIT FOR SEARCH WARRANT

**STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF OSCEOLA**

Comes now the affiant, **Detective Matthew Chiang; 10015**, a sworn law enforcement officer, to-wit: a **Deputy Sheriff** for the **Sheriff of Orange County**, submitted via a secure electronic file system before the below signed **Judge, in and for Osceola County, Florida, Ninth Judicial Circuit**, who makes this application and states under oath that affiant has probable cause to believe that evidence, to-wit:

Items of value are specified as; weapons including, knives, blunt objects, firearms, ammunition for firearms, projectiles, casings, fingerprints, blood, hair, DNA, fibers, other items of serology to include clothing and/or other items that could have come into contact with the victim or suspect at the time of the incident; cellular devices and the data contained within to include but not limited to video, images, contacts, text messages, voicemails, web information, call logs, owner information, application database files, GPS locations. Infotainment systems that contain digital logs providing information related to geolocation information, Bluetooth connectivity history, contact information, call history, and any other device information provided by a digital device connection by searching any electronic devices capable of storing digital data, to include the infotainment center, by retrieving said digital data from these devices.

which is evidence of a felony violation of the laws of the State of Florida relating to **Interference with Child Custody**, to-wit: Florida Statute **787.03(1)**, is currently being kept in certain property in Osceola County, Florida, which property is believed to be under the control of **Stephen Sterns**, or persons unknown and which property has, or is located at, the unique address of [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Osceola County, Florida, and is particularly described and can be located as follows:

DESCRIPTION:

[REDACTED]

DIRECTIONS:

Environ Monit Assess (2008) 142:111–120
DOI 10.1007/s10661-008-9402-2

[REDACTED]

Your affiant, **Detective Matthew Chiang; 10015**, is and has been since **February 2021**, a duly sworn **Deputy Sheriff** for the **Sheriff of Orange County**.

Detective Chiang is a Deputy Sheriff with the Orange County Sheriffs Office Sex Crimes Unit. Detective Chiang is law enforcement officer of the State of Florida in that Detective Chiang is empowered by law to conduct investigations of and to make arrests for offenses enumerated within the meanings of Florida State Statutes.

Detective Chiang has been employed by the Orange County Sheriff's Office since February 2021. Detective Chiang has received training pertaining to investigating drug/narcotics investigations, aggravated persons crimes (murder, attempted murder, home invasion, robbery, sexual battery) etc-in addition to the nexus between the before mentioned crimes and money laundering as well as additional related offenses.

Detective Chiang's training and experience as a Deputy Sheriff form the basis of the opinions and conclusions set forth below, which I drew from the facts set forth herein.

As a result of your affiant's training and experience, your affiant has probable cause to believe the following:

On February 26, 2024 at approximately 2000 hours, the 13-year old victim, [REDACTED], was reported missing by her mother, [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] advised [REDACTED]'s step-father, Stephan Sterns, picked her up from home and dropped her off at [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED] on February 26, 2024. [REDACTED] then went to pick up [REDACTED] from school at dismissal and learned [REDACTED] never showed to school.

An interview was conducted with [REDACTED]'s step father, Stephan Sterns, who advised he picked [REDACTED] up and dropped her off in front of Peace United Methodist Pre-School, 13502 Town Loop Blvd, Orlando, FL, which was down the street from the school, at 0840 hours. [REDACTED] begins class at 0930 hours. A License Plate Reader captured Stephan's vehicle with Florida tag "IYLL82" driving away from the school at 0810 hours. During the interview with Stephan, he provided consent to search his phone, however he stated had accidentally performed a factory reset on his phone on February 26, 2024, the same day [REDACTED] went missing. Stephan provided his phone number to be 407-256-1832.

After an extensive canvass of the area and interviews with [REDACTED]'s family and friends, it was unusual for [REDACTED] to be dropped off down the street from the school and not stay in communication with family and friends.

Based on the totality of the circumstances, It is believed a suspect has intentionally interfered with a parent or guardian's custodial rights to a minor.

Your affiant requests this search warrant to search the apartment [REDACTED] was last known to be located at and obtain evidence to assist in this investigation.

Based on the foregoing and your affiant's knowledge, training and experience, **Detective Matthew**

Chiang; 10015 has probable cause to believe that **Items of value are specified as; weapons including, knives, blunt objects, firearms, ammunition for firearms, projectiles, casings, fingerprints, blood, hair, DNA, fibers, other items of serology to include clothing and/or other items that could have come into contact with the victim or suspect at the time of the incident; cellular devices and the data contained within to include but not limited to video, images, contacts, text messages, voicemails, web information, call logs, owner information, application database files, GPS locations. Infotainment systems that contain digital logs providing information related to geolocation information, Bluetooth connectivity history, contact information, call history, and any other device information provided by a digital device connection by searching any electronic devices capable of storing digital data, to include the infotainment center, by retrieving said digital data from these devices.,** which is evidence of a criminal violation under Florida State Statutes **787.03(1)**, to-wit: **Interference with Child Custody**, is currently being kept at the location whose address is [REDACTED].

WHEREFORE, your affiant makes this affidavit and requests the issuance of a Search Warrant in due form of law authorizing a search of the above-described property by officers of the law for evidence heretofore described and for the seizure and safekeeping of said evidence, subject to the order of a Court having jurisdiction thereof.

Your affiant also requests authorization for use of a powered aerial vehicle in accordance with F.S.S. 934.50 during the execution of the warrant in the interest of officer safety to prevent an ambush or to locate anyone hiding in the residence prior to law enforcement making entry.

s/Detective Matthew Chiang; 10015

AFFIANT

SWORN TO and SUBSCRIBED before me this **27** day of **February, 2024**.

s/Sergeant Theresa Angizer/ 2791

PLACED UNDER OATH BY

CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

SEARCH WARRANT

AGENCY CASE No: OCSO 24-011313

IN THE NAME OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA:

COURT CASE No:

DIV: - HI -

TO: THE SHERIFF FOR OSCEOLA COUNTY, FLORIDA, OR ANY OF HIS/HER SWORN DEPUTIES OR SPECIAL DEPUTIES; OR CHIEFS OF POLICE AND THEIR DULY SWORN OFFICERS; OR ANY INVESTIGATOR OF THE SEVERAL STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE; AND/OR TO ANY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER, STATE OR FEDERAL.

WHEREAS, a sworn, written application for a search warrant has been made this day via a secure electronic file system been presented to me, The Honorable, R. White Judge, in and for Osceola County, Florida, Ninth Judicial Circuit,

AND WHEREAS, the facts made known to me in the APPLICATION AND AFFIDAVIT FOR SEARCH WARRANT, sworn to before me by **Detective Matthew Chiang; 10015**, a sworn law enforcement officer, to-wit: a sworn **Deputy Sheriff**, for the **Sheriff of Orange County** on this date, have caused me to certify and find that there is probable cause to believe that certain evidence, to-wit: **Items of value are specified as; weapons including, knives, blunt objects, firearms, ammunition for firearms, projectiles, casings, fingerprints, blood, hair, DNA, fibers, other items of serology to include clothing and/or other items that could have come into contact with the victim or suspect at the time of the incident; cellular devices and the data contained within to include but not limited to video, images, contacts, text messages, voicemails, web information, call logs, owner information, application database files, GPS locations. Infotainment systems that contain digital logs providing information related to geolocation information, Bluetooth connectivity history, contact information, call history, and any other device information provided by a digital device connection by searching any electronic devices capable of storing digital data, to include the infotainment center, by retrieving said digital data from these devices.**

which is evidence of a felony violation of the State of Florida, relating to **Interference with Child Custody**, to-wit: Florida State Statute **787.03(1)**, is currently being kept in certain property in Osceola County, Florida, which property is believed to be under the control of **Stephen Sterns**, or persons unknown and which property has, or is located at, the unique address of [REDACTED] Osceola County, Florida and is particularly described and can be located as follows:

Description: [REDACTED]

Directions: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

NOW, THEREFORE, YOU or either of you, with such lawful assistance as may be necessary, **ARE HEREBY COMMANDED**, in the day time, nighttime or on Sunday, as the exigencies of the situation may require, **TO ENTER AND SEARCH**, including by use of powered aerial vehicle, the above-described property and when applicable any outbuildings and vehicles on the property or curtilage thereof and any person on said premises and reasonably believed to be engaged in or connected with said illegal activity, **FOR THE EVIDENCE** described in the warrant, and if same or any part thereof be found, you are hereby authorized to seize and secure said evidence, giving proper receipt therefore and delivering a completed copy of this warrant to the person in control of the property, or in the absence of any such person, leaving a completed copy where the evidence is found, and making a return of your doings under this warrant within ten (10) days of the date hereof, and you are further directed to bring said evidence so found before the Court having proper jurisdiction to be disposed of according to law.

WITNESS my hand this

28 day of February, 2024
B.A.

JUDGE, NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

COURT CASE NUMBER: _____

CASE NUMBER: OCSO 24-011313

SEARCH WARRANT INVENTORY AND RECEIPT

See Attached Orange County Sheriff's Office Property Receipt

DATED this _____ day of _____, _____

Detective Matthew Chiang; 10015

RETURN

**STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF OSCEOLA**

Received this Search Warrant on the **27** day of **February, 2024**, and executed the same in **Osceola** County, Florida, on the **27** of **February, 2024**, by searching the premises described therein and by taking into my custody the property described in the above Inventory and Receipt and by having read and delivered a copy of this Search Warrant and Inventory and Receipt to :

NAME OF PERSON YOU LEFT A PROPERTY FORM WITH AT THE PLACE YOU SEARCHED OR IF NO ONE WAS HOME PUT "LEFT AT SCENE"

I, **Detective Matthew Chiang; 10015**, the officer by whom the Warrant was executed, do swear that the above Inventory and Receipt contains a true and detailed account of all the property taken by me on said Warrant.

Detective Matthew Chiang; 10015

SWORN TO and SUBSCRIBED before me
this _____ day of _____, _____.

NOTARY PUBLIC/DEPUTY COURT CLERK