

FILED
07-18-2025
Circuit Court, Iowa Co
Lia N. Leahy, Clerk
2025CF000077

STATE OF WISCONSIN	CIRCUIT COURT	IOWA COUNTY
STATE OF WISCONSIN Plaintiff,	DA Case No.: 2025IO000371 Assigned DA/ADA: Zachary P. Leigh Agency Case No.: DVPD250144 Court Case No.: 25 CF ATN:	
vs.		
GAVIN P. THOMPSON 806 1/2 North Main Street Dodgeville, WI 53533	CRIMINAL COMPLAINT	
DOB: 05/06/2002 Sex/Race: M/B Eye Color: Hazel Hair Color: Black Height: 6 ft 00 in Weight: 150 lbs		
Defendant.		

For Official Use

Your complainant, being first duly sworn, states that:

Count 1: FIRST DEGREE INTENTIONAL HOMICIDE

The above-named defendant on or about Tuesday, July 15, 2025, in the City of Dodgeville, Iowa County, Wisconsin, did cause the death of VICTIM 1, with intent to kill that person, contrary to sec. 940.01(1)(a), 939.50(3)(a) Wis. Stats., a Class A Felony, and upon conviction shall be sentenced to imprisonment for life.

Count 2: ARMED BURGLARY

The above-named defendant on or about Tuesday, July 15, 2025, in the City of Dodgeville, Iowa County, Wisconsin, did intentionally enter a dwelling without the consent of the person in lawful possession of the place, and with intent to steal, money and a car, while armed with a dangerous weapon, to-wit: a knife, contrary to sec. 943.10(2)(a), 939.50(3)(e) Wis. Stats., a Class E Felony, and upon conviction may be fined not more than Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000), or imprisoned not more than fifteen (15) years, or both.

Count 3: OPERATING A MOTOR VEHICLE WITHOUT OWNER'S CONSENT

The above-named defendant on or about Tuesday, July 15, 2025, in the City of Dodgeville, Iowa County, Wisconsin, did intentionally take and drive a vehicle, a black Hyundai Kona, without the consent of the owner, Victim, contrary to sec. 943.23(2), 939.50(3)(h) Wis. Stats., a Class H Felony, and upon conviction may be fined not more than Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000), or imprisoned not more than six (6) years, or both.

Count 4: HIDING A CORPSE

The above-named defendant on or about Tuesday, July 15, 2025, in the City of Dodgeville, Iowa County, Wisconsin, did hide a corpse with the intent to conceal a crime, contrary to sec. 940.11(2), 939.50(3)(f) Wis. Stats., a Class F Felony, and upon conviction may be fined not more than Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000), or imprisoned not more than twelve (12) years and six (6) months, or both.

PROBABLE CAUSE:

Your complainant has read and reviewed the law enforcement reports referenced below and believes them to be true and correct as these reports were created by law enforcement officers while they were acting in their official capacity.

The undersigned bases this complaint upon the following excerpts:

Your complainant is Chief Brandon Wilhelm of the City of Dodgeville Police Department, who, in said capacity, has read and reviewed the law enforcement report he prepared, and the law enforcement chronological summary evidence report prepared by Detective Sergeant Brian Fitzsimons of the Iowa County Sheriff's Department. All statements, observations, and conclusions herein are based on verified investigative actions, video evidence, forensic observation, and an audio/video recorded interview with the suspect, Gavin P. Thompson.

On July 15, 2025, the Dodgeville Police Department responded to a suspicious incident at VICTIM'S ADDRESS, City of Dodgeville, County of Iowa, State of Wisconsin. A family member of the resident, VICTIM, reported finding signs of a possible disturbance in the home after VICTIM failed to show up for a planned outing and ceased responding to text messages after 11:25 AM.

Upon their arrival at the residence, family members discovered:

- The Victim's car was not at the residence.
- A blood-stained flip-flop on the porch.
- Suspected bloodstains and fine droplet patterns on the floor inside the front door.
- A damaged pair of eyeglasses (believed to belong to Victim) on the floor.
- The Victim's purse, keys, and other personal items still in the home.

Officers secured the residence and the Wisconsin State Crime Lab was requested to process the scene. Upon processing the scene, the Crime Lab noted signs of a struggle in the home and multiple areas of fine blood spatter in the entry area, blood on the couch in the living room, and linear drag marks and smearing in the kitchen and hallway consistent with a person or object being dragged.

Law enforcement began speaking to neighbors to gather information. Through those efforts video was gathered which, though obstructed at times by a flag, clearly shows that at 2:16 PM, the bumper of Victim's vehicle was in the driveway at VICTIM'S ADDRESS. At 3:06 PM, it is clearly evident that the vehicle is no longer parked at that location.

Officers were also able to recover video of a person of interest wearing a blue shirt, camouflage jacket, and yellow shoes walking around the southeast area of Dodgeville at various times during the day. That same individual was spotted on a residential video camera in the 400 block of East Division Street around 2:23 PM. At 2:33 PM, the Victim's car is seen on the same camera driving away from the residence.

Based on this footage, Detective Sgt. Fitzsimons reviewed prior body-worn camera footage from June 8, 2025, when he had made contact with a subject during a motorist assist call on Highway 151 near County Road YZ. The subject had identified himself via Wisconsin driver's license as Gavin P. Thompson. His physical description—and particularly the distinctive yellow shoes—matched the footage from the residential cameras.

Law enforcement entered the Victim's vehicle as stolen and were able to use license plate reader technology to follow the movements of the vehicle. After leaving Dodgeville, the Victim's vehicle

traveled south into Illinois, then turned west into Iowa, and finally into Nebraska. In the early morning hours of July 16, 2025, Nebraska State Patrol located the vehicle on Interstate 80, where they were able to determine that it was not the Victim driving, and attempted to stop the vehicle by conducting a traffic stop.

The driver failed to yield and instead fled at high speed, initiating a vehicle pursuit. Nebraska State Patrol relayed that the driver exhibited reckless behavior during the pursuit and showed utter disregard for traffic and public safety. The vehicle eventually crashed into a deep ravine near the median of I-80. The driver then fled on foot from the crash scene. Nebraska State Patrol and assisting agencies initiated a manhunt in the area.

Upon securing the vehicle, Nebraska State Patrol troopers discovered a deceased adult female located on the rear floorboard of Victim's vehicle. She was later positively identified by the Nebraska Medical Examiner's Office, Medical Examiner Dr. Jeremy Berg, as Victim. Also recovered from the vehicle were a black-handled knife, green latex rubber gloves, and a blood-soaked shirt.

Approximately four hours after the crash, the Nebraska law enforcement team located and detained a subject walking along the highway. The subject was identified as Gavin P. Thompson.

Mr. Thompson met Special Agent James Pertzborn while in custody in Nebraska. After waiving his right to an attorney, Mr. Thompson told investigators that he had obtained the keys to the vehicle from an unknown person in a house located in Dodgeville, Wisconsin. He did not know the identity of the vehicle's owner and stated that he needed the car "to get somewhere in life," though he did not have a specific destination in mind.

Mr. Thompson explained that he needed money and a car because he had recently lost his job. He picked the Victim's house because it appeared to be a calm place. He explained that he entered the house. Mr. Thompson described the events that took place in the house as a "bad situation/altercation" and referred to the event as involving "a death." Mr. Thompson explained that he entered the residence uninvited, stating, "I just walked into her house and did not knock." Thompson stated there was one individual inside the residence at the time of entry, described as a white female who appeared older than him. When asked what occurred after he entered, he responded, "emotions collided," and reiterated, "a death."

When asked if she gave him the keys, he replied that she did not.

He stated, "she was loud, and we had emotions," further clarifying, "I just think we were both scared." He said that he attempted to calm the situation by using a soft voice and stated his intention to obtain the car keys. He also said that she might have been watching TV.

When asked how the death occurred, Thompson replied, "by knife, I believe." He confirmed the knife he had brought was used. When asked specifically what he did, he stated, "just forced towards their body," indicating the stomach as the initial point of contact. He confirmed that she stopped screaming and fell to the floor.

Upon being shown an image of the house located at VICTIM'S ADDRESS in Dodgeville, he confirmed it was the house he had entered. He also confirmed an image of the black Hyundai Kona was the vehicle he took from the residence. He indicated that he concealed the knife in his pocket and that he only had one knife. He confirmed that he did not force entry into the home, stating the door was unlocked. He also acknowledged being concerned that other people might have heard her being loud.

When asked if he understood the likely outcome of stabbing someone, he stated his intention was “not exactly” to cause her death, explaining that he “was just trying to get the car.”

After the stabbing, he concluded she was dead. He admitted to dragging or pulling her body to the car and acknowledged being concerned about being seen while doing so. When asked what he would have done if others had been outside watching, he responded, “maybe multiple people would've gotten hurt.” When asked if he would have hurt others, he stated, “yeah, there's definitely a good chance.”

Thompson went on to explain that he attempted to clean the residence while wearing green gloves that he found in the Victim’s residence. He also took “a couple hundred” dollars and the car keys.

When asked why he took the Victim with him, Thompson replied that it “was the right thing to do” but admitted he was unsure what to do with her. When asked if he intended to hide the body, he answered, “yeah, I just didn't know.”

He acknowledged fearing legal consequences, stating, “yeah, that was a thought,” and said that part of his effort to clean the scene was to avoid trouble. He stated that someone who goes into a house and stabs someone should get “jail time” and admitted that he thought about that.

On July 18, 2025, the Iowa County Coroner’s Office made contact with the Iowa County Sheriff's Office to report updates regarding the status and findings related to the deceased Victim. According to Coroner Bill Ovren of Nebraska, preliminary documentation provided by the Nebraska Medical Examiner’s Office lists the cause of death as “sharp force injuries to the head, neck, torso, and extremities.”

Complainant believes the information provided by all officers mentioned herein to be reliable as they are law enforcement officers who have on prior occasions provided information to complainant and other law enforcement agencies that has been substantiated and confirmed to be accurate. The complainant believes the information provided by Bill Ovren to be reliable, as he is a Coroner and regularly provides information to law enforcement. Your complainant states that he believes the statements of Gavin P. Thompson to be truthful and reliable because said statements were made against his own self-interest.

Subscribed and sworn to before me on 07/18/25

Electronically Signed By:

Zachary P. Leigh

District Attorney

State Bar #: 1092494

Electronically Signed By:

Chief Brandon Wilhelm

Complainant