



OFFICE OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY ATTORNEY

PETER J. ORPUT COUNTY ATTORNEY

Press Release

Contact: Siv Mjanger, Criminal Division Chief
Phone: 651-430-6108

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: August 27, 2020

Forest Lake Teacher Charged with Sexual Assault of Students

County Attorney Pete Orput today announced that James Edward Carter, 56, of Forest Lake, has been charged with three counts relating to sexual assault of two former juvenile students. Carter was charged with two of counts of Second Degree Criminal Sexual Conduct and one count of Fourth Degree Criminal Sexual Conduct. The charges arose out of an investigation conducted by the Washington County Sheriff's Office.

According to the complaint, law enforcement investigated reports of sexual abuse of two juvenile males. Both juvenile males reported that their former middle school teacher had sexually assaulted them on several occasions at his home. Carter would employ his students and former students to perform work at his home and provide gifts to them.

Orput took this opportunity to commend the juvenile males for having the courage to come forward. Orput stated, "Protecting children is our greatest priority. The defendant wholly abused his position of authority as a teacher and trusted adult to these young boys. This abuse and breach of trust erodes the very foundation of our education system and will never be tolerated."

Criminal Complaint to Follow

State of Minnesota
County of Washington

District Court
10th Judicial District

Prosecutor File No.
Court File No.

CR-2020-1291
82-CR-20-3266

State of Minnesota,

Plaintiff,

vs.

JAMES EDWARD CARTER DOB: 05/20/1964

143 Lake St S
Forest Lake, MN 55025

Defendant.

COMPLAINT

Warrant

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 Sex Conduct-2nd Degree-Victim 13-15-Position Authority

Minnesota Statute: 609.343.1(b), with reference to: 609.343.2(a)

Maximum Sentence: 25 years and \$35,000

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 04/01/2019 to 07/05/2020

Control #(ICR#): 20036553

Charge Description: engage in sexual contact with another person at least 13 but less than 16 years of age, to wit: Victim 1, DOB 7-5-2004, said defendant being more than 48 months older than the victim and currently or recently in a position of authority over Victim 1

COUNT II

Charge: Criminal Sex Conduct-2nd Degree-Fear Great Bodily Harm

Minnesota Statute: 609.343.1(c), with reference to: 609.343.2(b)

Maximum Sentence: 25 years and \$35,000

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 08/06/2020 to 08/06/2020

Control #(ICR#): 20036553

Charge Description: engage in sexual contact with Victim 1, DOB 7-5-2004, and circumstances existing caused Victim 1 to have reasonable fear of imminent great bodily harm

COUNT III

Charge: Criminal Sex Cond-4th Degree-Victim 13-15-Act greater than 48m Old

Minnesota Statute: 609.345.1(b), with reference to: 609.345.2

Maximum Sentence: 10 years and \$20,000

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 12/31/2018 to 12/31/2018

Control #(ICR#): 20036553

Charge Description: engage in sexual contact with Victim 2, DOB 12-23-2002, who was at least 16 but less than 18 years of age while more than 48 months older than Victim 2, and currently or recently in a position of authority over Victim 2

STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

The Complainant states that the following facts establish probable cause:

Your Complainant is a licensed peace officer in the State of Minnesota, employed by the Washington County Sheriff's Office. Your complainant states the following to establish probable cause:

In August of 2020, law enforcement received a sexual assault report involving JAMES EDWARD CARTER, DOB: 5/20/1964, DEFENDANT herein. The sexual assault occurred at defendant's residence located at XXX Lake Street South in Forest Lake, Washington County, MN. Washington County Sheriff's Office initiated an investigation and learned the following:

The defendant resides in Forest Lake, Washington County, MN and is a teacher employed by the Forest Lake Area School District where he teaches industrial tech ("shop") at the middle school. The defendant has and continues to employ several teenage males and former students to work at his personal properties on various projects in exchange for cash. Two of these males, Victim 1, DOB: 7-5-2004 and Victim 2, DOB: 12-23-2002, reported that the defendant had touched them inappropriately on separate occasions after developing close friendships with each of them.

Victim 1, DOB: 7-5-2004, attended Century Junior High from 7-9 grades. Victim 1 first met the defendant after getting into a fight in school that resulted in Victim 1 being required to complete community service. Victim 1 was given the option of completing his community service work helping the defendant clean his classroom and doing other odds and ends. The defendant then became Victim 1's advisory teacher and the two of them started to build a friendship. The defendant would often take Victim 1 out to restaurants and would always pay for him. The defendant also bought Victim 1 a "mustang" hat as he knew Victim 1 liked mustangs. The defendant hired Victim 1 to work on various home projects in exchange for cash. Victim 1 would also attend church with the defendant and Victim 2 on Sunday mornings; most recently they would watch the church service on TV at defendant's residence.

The defendant developed a friendship with Victim 1. Victim 1 trusted the defendant and considered him a "nice guy."

In the spring of 2019 while at defendant's residence in Forest Lake, the defendant asked Victim 1 if he wanted a massage. On six occasions, the defendant instructed Victim 1 to go in the basement and lay face down on yoga mats. The defendant would then massage Victim 1's back and legs. The defendant would turn the lights off and cover Victim 1's head with a towel. On three separate occasions, the defendant told Victim 1 to turn over and the defendant massaged his legs and groin area. On the other occasions, the defendant had Victim 1 turn over and he not only massaged Victim 1's legs and groin, but massaged Victim 1's penis over his clothes. The massaging lasted about ten minutes each time. The defendant told Victim 1 that "this is between us" and he would get in trouble if anyone knew. Victim 1 turned 16 on July 5, 2020.

The last time the defendant touched Victim 1 was on August 6, 2020. Victim 1 was 16 years old and the defendant 56 years old. Victim 1 remembered the clothing he was wearing in detail. That morning, Victim 1 went to defendant's residence to work on remodeling projects. The defendant took Victim 1 to Big Apple Bagels for breakfast. The two of them then returned to the defendant's residence located at XXX Lake St. South in Forest Lake to continue to work on the remodel. The defendant then took Victim 1 to Don Julio's for lunch. As usual, the defendant paid for both meals. Victim 1 planned to go home after lunch, but the defendant told him he had more work for Victim 1 back at the house. When they arrived at the house, the

defendant told Victim 1 he wanted to show Victim 1 his guns. They went into the basement and the defendant let Victim 1 hold all of the guns. The defendant then told Victim 1 he wanted to give him a massage. He told Victim 1 to lay down on the ground face down on yoga mats. The defendant turned the lights off and covered Victim 1's head with a towel. Before the massage started a "water" guy showed up. The defendant went outside to meet the guy and left Victim 1 in the basement. The defendant then returned and proceeded to massage Victim 1. The defendant sat on Victim 1's legs and pinned him down. He massaged Victim 1's body and proceeded to massage Victim 1's penis on the outside of his clothing. While Victim 1 was laying on the floor, he saw a hammer lying nearby. After seeing the guns and the hammer nearby, Victim 1 was afraid to tell the defendant to stop as he feared the defendant would hurt him. The defendant finally stopped and let Victim 1 get up and leave.

On the evening of August 18, 2020, Victim 1 and Victim 2 were spending the night at Victim 2's residence and had planned to attend "church" at the defendant's residence the following morning. Victim 1 told Victim 2 that he did not want to go to defendant's house the following day. Victim 1 then disclosed to Victim 2 that he was uncomfortable going to defendant's house as the defendant had touched him inappropriately. In hearing Victim 1's disclosure, Victim 2 shared that he too had been touched sexually by the defendant. Until that day, Victim 2 had believed he was the only one.

Victim 2, DOB: 12/23/2002 was a student in defendant's "shop" class in middle school during 8th and 9th grade. The defendant praised Victim 2 as being a skilled craftsman. The defendant then pursued a friendship with Victim 2 and would invite Victim 2 to his classroom to work on extra projects. From that time until the summer of 2020, the defendant hired Victim 2 to work on various projects around his residences. From 2018 until present time, the defendant purchased several unsolicited gifts for Victim 2 including a dirt bike, riding gear/clothing, a fishing depth finder, expensive work boots, snowmobile equipment and a \$5,000 lawn mower for Victim 2 to use for his lawn mowing job. The defendant often took Victim 2 and the other boys who work for him out to eat and always paid for them.

On December 31, 2018 the defendant took Victim 2 with his newly purchased dirt bike out to ride on the lake. Afterwards they returned to defendant's home. The defendant then asked Victim 2 if he wanted a massage. Victim 2 felt obligated to say yes as defendant had purchased the dirt bike, so he agreed to go into defendant's basement. The defendant instructed Victim 2 to lay down on two yoga mats with his face down. The defendant massaged Victim 2's legs and "butt area." The defendant told Victim 2 to roll over and he complied. The defendant then massaged Victim 2's legs and moved up towards his groin. The defendant then started to rub Victim 2's penis. This lasted for 10-15 seconds when Victim 2 got up and told defendant, "don't ever let that happen again." Victim 2 did not return to the defendant's residence for several months.

Over the following year and a half, the defendant asked Victim 2 if he could give him massages on several occasions and Victim 2 refused. The defendant would often slap Victim 2 and the other boys working on projects on the butt. The defendant would also ask for hugs before they would leave and engaged in "sack slapping" (slapping the testicles of another) on the boys.

Both Victim 1 and Victim 2 described the defendant's residence and that the defendant had several surveillance cameras on the outside of the home and in the basement. A search warrant was conducted of the XXX Lake St. South residence. The residence was as describe by both victims and cameras were located where the Victims said they would be. While officers were at the defendant's residence executing the search warrant, a third young male arrived (16 years old) and confirmed he too was a student of the defendant's and was there to work. In addition to Victim 1, Victim 2 and the third male that arrived, there were nine additional high school aged males that were identified by name as students that "worked" for the defendant on various projects.

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

Bjorn Erickson
Detective
15015 62nd Street N
PO Box 3801
Stillwater, MN 55082-3801
Badge: 146

Electronically Signed:
08/26/2020 12:39 PM
Washington County, Minnesota

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

Prosecuting Attorney

Siv I Mjanger
PO Box 6
15015 62nd Street North
Stillwater, MN 55082
(651) 430-6115

Electronically Signed:
08/26/2020 12:32 PM

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 14949 62nd Street N PO Box 3802, Stillwater, MN 55082-3802 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: \$500,000.00

Conditions of Release: No contact with minors

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 26, 2020.

Judicial Officer

Juanita Freeman
Tenth Judicial District Judge

Electronically Signed: 08/26/2020 01:57 PM

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

**COUNTY OF WASHINGTON
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

State of Minnesota

Plaintiff

vs.

James Edward Carter

Defendant

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

Signature of Authorized Service Agent:

DEFENDANT FACT SHEET

Name: James Edward Carter
DOB: 05/20/1964
Address: 143 Lake St S
Forest Lake, MN 55025

Alias Names/DOB:

SID:

Height:

Weight:

Eye Color:

Hair Color:

Gender: MALE

Race: White

Fingerprints Required per Statute: Yes

Fingerprint match to Criminal History Record: No

Driver's License #:

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	4/1/2019	609.343.1(b) Criminal Sex Conduct-2nd Degree-Victim 13-15-Position Authority	Felony	L3033	N	MN0820000	20036553
	Penalty	4/1/2019	609.343.2(a) Criminal Sexual Conduct-2nd Degree-Penalty-Stat. Max.	Felony	L3033	N	MN0820000	20036553
2	Charge	8/6/2020	609.343.1(c) Criminal Sex Conduct-2nd Degree-Fear Great Bodily Harm	Felony	L3A54	N	MN0820000	20036553
	Penalty	8/6/2020	609.343.2(b) Criminal Sexual Conduct-2nd Degree-Penalty-90 Mos. Presumptive Sentence	Felony	L3A54	N	MN0820000	20036553
3	Charge	12/31/2018	609.345.1(b) Criminal Sex Cond-4th Degree-Victim 13-15-Act >48m Old	Felony	L7003	N	MN0820000	20036553
	Penalty	12/31/2018	609.345.2 Criminal Sex Cond-4th Degree-Penalty	Felony	L7003	N	MN0820000	20036553