

STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

Grain Valley Police -BM

DATE:	December 26, 2023	Blue Springs Police Case Number	2023-1523
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I, **Det. Kevin Lange** a police officer with the Blue Springs Police Department knowing that false statements on this form are punishable by law, state that the facts contained herein are true.

1.) I have probable cause to believe that on **December 25, 2023**, at **705 SW Woodland circle, Grain Valley, Mo 64029**, **Franklin S. Eason** committed one or more criminal offense(s).

2.) The facts supporting this belief are as follows:

On Monday, December 25, 2023, at approximately 1907 hours, Grain Valley Police Department was dispatched to 705 SW Woodland Circle in reference to a shooting.

Upon arrival, officers found a white male victim #1, who had suffered a fatal gunshot wound. He was located in the dining room area, face down position.

Officers did an emergency sweep of the residence observing one semiautomatic handgun in the kitchen sink, and a second one on the counter next to the sink. The kitchen is located in the southwest portion of the residence.

When Grain Valley Police Officers entered the residence, he encountered the suspect, Franklin Eason, who spontaneously uttered that he was the one who had shot victim #1. Franklin Eason was immediately taken into custody and transferred to Headquarters for booking.

Apparently two witnesses were present during the shooting, Witness #1 and Witness #2. Witness #2 is friends with the suspect and has resided at the residence for approximately one year.

Witness #1 had been dating the victim for approximately two years and was currently living at the residence with her three children.

Both witness #1 and Witness #2, voluntarily came to police Headquarters to give statements.

Grain Valley Detectives interviewed Witness #2 who said that all four had been sitting at the kitchen table. The victim #1 was sitting on the north side, Franklin Eason, to the east, Witness #2 to the south and Witness #1 to the west.

Witness #2 said he had made the decision to move out and had told victim #1 this a couple of days prior to the incident.

For some unknown reason victim #1 became angry and started shouting at both Witness #2 and Franklin Eason. Victim #1 eventually went into a room and returned with a handgun and was waving it around.

Per witness #2, victim #1 eventually laid the handgun down on the table between Franklin Eason and victim #1 and that is when Franklin Eason picked up the gun and shot victim #1 at least two times, maybe three times. Witness #2 observed Franklin Eason messing with the gun after he had fired because the gun had jammed.

Witness #2 said he and Witness #1 then went to check on her children. Franklin Eason came in and told them had he shot victim #1, because victim #1 would have shot one of them.

I asked Witness #2 if anyone had been drinking, he claimed no one had.

I asked Witness #2 if he knew the victim to have any type of mental illness or was on any prescription drugs, he said, not that he was aware of.

Grain Valley Police Officers contacted the Missouri Highway Patrol Crime Scene Unit who responded and processed the crime scene collecting various pieces of evidence which included two handguns and three shell casings.

Grain Valley Detectives interviewed Witness #1 who said after Franklin Eason had fired the two shots, she and Witness #2 had gone to a bedroom down the hall to check on her children and that is when they heard a third shot.

Grain Valley Detectives also had interviewed witness #3 and witness #4 who had received a telephone call from the suspect at 1720 hours indicating he had shot victim #1.

On Tuesday, December 26, 2023, at approximately 1320 hours, Grain Valley Detectives contacted Franklin Eason at Blue Springs Police Department jail and Mirandized him, at which time he agreed to speak with us. He signed the form indicating this and the interrogation was also recorded.

Franklin Eason explained victim #1 was upset over Witness #2 wanting to move out, which agitated the victim. The victim wanted Franklin Eason, to "beat" Witness #2, up, but Franklin Eason refused.

Franklin Eason said victim #1 went into the front room and retrieved a handgun and racked the slide before coming into the kitchen waving it around.

At one point the victim laid the gun down on the table at which time Franklin Eason said he picked the gun up firing two rounds at victim #1 before the gun jammed. Franklin Eason said victim #1 fell to the floor, Witness #1 & #2, left the kitchen.

Franklin Eason said since the gun had jammed and victim #1 was making "gurgling noise", he laid the jammed gun on the kitchen counter, walked into the front room, located a second handgun, walked back into the kitchen and fired a third round into victim #1 to stop his suffering.

Franklin Eason said he also laid the second gun on the kitchen counter. Franklin Eason then called witness #3 and #4 and told them what he had done. He said witness #3 and #4 lived over an hour away in Kansas, so he waited until they arrived before calling the police.

When asked if Franklin Eason was ever placed in danger of being shot or assaulted by victim #1 on this night, he said no, he was just protecting his friend, Witness #2.

3.) I believe that the defendant poses **a danger to the community and to any other person because he had no regard for taking his father's life.**

Detective Kevin Lange #2082
Printed Name

/s/ Kevin Lange
Signature