

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF JACKSON COUNTY, MISSOURI
AT KANSAS CITY**

Police# 16-027925
Prosecutor# 095431623
1616-CR
OCN# W0009397

COMPLAINT

STATE OF MISSOURI

vs.

**Courtenay S. Block
2631 Lawn Ave.
Kansas City, MO 64127
DOB: 03/13/1992; Race/Sex: B/M;
SS# [REDACTED]
Defendant.**

**Count I. Endangering The Welfare Of A Child Creating Substantial Risk - 1st Degree - 1st
Offense - No Sexual Conduct (568.045-005Y20033899.0)**

The Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Jackson, State of Missouri, upon information and belief, charges that the defendant, in violation of Section 568.045, RSMo, committed the class C felony of endangering the welfare of a child in the first degree, punishable upon conviction under Sections 558.011 and 560.011, RSMo, in that on or about April 21, 2016, in the County of Jackson, State of Missouri, the defendant knowingly acted in a manner that created a substantial risk to the life and body and health of S.K., (DOB 8/12/13), a child less than seventeen years old, by possessing an unattended, loaded handgun in close proximity to S.K.

The range punishment for a class C felony is imprisonment in the custody of the Missouri Department of Corrections for a term of years not less than two (2) years and not to exceed seven (7) years; or by imprisonment for a special term not to exceed one (1) year in the county jail or other authorized penal institution; or by a fine not to exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000); or by both imprisonment and a fine. If money or property has been gained through the commission of the crime, any fine imposed may be not more than double the amount of the offender's gain from the commission of the crime up to a maximum of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000).

Count II. Armed Criminal Action (571.015-001Y19755299.0)

The Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Jackson, State of Missouri, upon information and belief, charges that the defendant, in violation of Section 571.015, RSMo, committed the felony of **Armed Criminal Action**, punishable upon conviction under Section 571.015.1, RSMo, in that on or about April 21, 2016, in the county of Jackson, State of Missouri, the defendant committed the felony of **Endangering the Welfare of a Child** charged in Count I, all allegations of which are incorporated herein by reference, and the defendant committed the foregoing felony of **Endangering the Welfare of a Child** by, with and through, the knowing use, assistance and aid of a deadly weapon.

The range of punishment for the offense of Armed Criminal Action in violation of section 571.015 RSMo. is imprisonment in the custody of the Missouri Department of Corrections for a term of years not less than three (3) years without eligibility for parole, probation, conditional release or suspended imposition or execution of sentence for a period of three (3) calendar years.

Count III. Tampering With Physical Evidence In Felony Prosecution (575.100-001Y19755099.0)

The Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Jackson, State of Missouri, upon information and belief, charges that the defendant, in violation of Section 575.100, RSMo, committed the class D felony of tampering with physical evidence, punishable upon conviction under Sections 558.011 and 560.011, RSMo, in that on or about April 21, 2016, in the County of Jackson, State of Missouri, the defendant concealed a 9 mm handgun with the purpose to impair its availability in an official investigation, and thereby impaired and obstructed the prosecution of Courtenay Block for the crime of endangering the welfare of a child, a felony.

The range punishment for a class D felony is imprisonment in the custody of the Missouri Department of Corrections for a term of years not less than two (2) years and not to exceed four (4) years; or by imprisonment for a special term not to exceed one (1) year in the county jail or other authorized penal institution; or by a fine not to exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000); or by both imprisonment and a fine. If money or property has been gained through the commission of the crime, any fine imposed may be not more than double the amount of the offender's gain from the commission of the crime up to a maximum of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000).

The facts that form the basis for this information and belief are contained in the attached statement(s) of facts, made a part hereof and submitted as a basis upon which this court may find the existence of probable cause.

Wherefore, the Prosecuting Attorney prays that an arrest warrant be issued as provided by law.

THE STATE OF MISSOURI

vs.

Courtenay S. Block

JEAN PETERS BAKER

Prosecuting Attorney
Jackson County, Missouri
by,

Nichole Erickson (#52086)
Assistant Prosecuting Attorney
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WITNESSES:

SK, Prosecuting Atty. Office, Kansas City, MO 64106

PROBABLE CAUSE STATEMENT FORM

Date: 4-22-16

CRN: 16-27925

I, Det. Alex Lepper #3929 (Name and identify law enforcement officer, or person having information as probable cause.)

knowing that false statements on this form are punishable by law, state that the facts contained herein are true.

I have probable cause to believe that on 4-21-2016, at 2631 Lawn Avenue in (Date) (Address)

Kansas City, Jackson County Missouri Courtenay Shaquel Block (County) (Name of Offender(s))

b/m, 3-13-1992, 6'1", 159 lbs, SSN [redacted] committed one or more criminal offense(s). (Description of Identity)

The facts supporting this belief are as follows:

On 4-21-16 at approximately 1337 hours, officers of the Kansas City, Missouri Police Department were dispatched to 2635 Lawn, Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri in regard to a shooting. Upon their arrival to the dispatched address they contacted the suspect in front 2635 Lawn, later identified as Courtenay S. Block, b/m, 3-13-1992, during the course of his interview process. Block was observed by officers holding the unresponsive child victim in his arms. The victim, identified as Block's biological daughter, had apparent unknown head trauma. The victim was transported by EMS to an area hospital and was subsequently pronounced deceased. In addition, responding officers located a second child, approximately 3 years old, asleep in the northeast bedroom of Block's residence (2631 Lawn). No other persons were located or identified as being in the residence at the time of the victim's injury. Block remained at the scene, and was transported to police headquarters for questioning. The Jackson County Medical Examiner examined the victim on 4/22/16 and determined that there was stippling underneath the gunshot wound in the forehead and further determined the cause of death to be a penetrating gunshot wound to the head.

Witness #1 stated on 4-21-16 at approximately 1335 hours stated he heard what he believed to be a gunshot and observed a black male exit the front of the residence located at 2631 Lawn, yelling something similar to, "Help my baby."

Witness #1 stated he observed the black male go back inside the residence and then re-emerge from the residence holding the child victim in his arms with a dark towel or shirt on the victim's head. Witness #1 stated he called 911 for the victim. Witness #1 stated the black male gave the victim to EMS workers who transported the victim away from the scene.

On 4-21-16 at approximately 1700 Witness #2, the biological mother of the victim, was contacted by detectives and it was apparent that she was unaware of what had happened to the victim. Witness #2 stated on 4-21-16 at approximately 1320 hours she left 2631 Lawn with her five year old son, and was picked up by a friend, and went to the friend's residence. Before Witness #2 left 2631 Lawn Ave, she placed the victim next to Block who was in bed in the northwest bedroom, and advised Block she was leaving the victim with him. The Witness stated Block was aware she was leaving and the victim was with him. Witness #2 stated she knows Block has a handgun which he carries for protection and the Witness provided a general description of the gun.

PROBABLE CAUSE STATEMENT FORM

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The Witness stated Block normally stores it above removable ceiling tiles in the living room. Witness #2 stated she has not seen the handgun in approximately 2-3 weeks. Witness #2 was only aware of the victim's injury during the course of the interview process, and had no apparent prior knowledge of the incident which caused the injury to the victim.

After being advised of his Miranda Rights, Block agreed to speak with detectives about the incident. Block initially stated on 4-21-16 at approximately 1330 hours he was sleeping on his bed in the northwest bedroom of the residence located at 2631 Lawn. He stated he awoke to the sound of the victim crying and observed the victim standing next to the bed with a head injury. Block stated he observed his handgun on the floor next to the victim, and stated he believed the victim shot herself although he didn't witness the shooting. Block denied being responsible for the victim's injuries. Block stated he picked up his handgun, and the victim, and walked to the bathroom of the residence, where he concealed the gun inside a vent in the floor. Block stated he then walked outside with the victim and notified a neighbor, who called the police. Block stated he gave the victim to EMS who then transported the victim to a nearby hospital. Block stated he normally keeps his handgun loaded, either under the pillow on his bed in the northwest bedroom or under the mattress of the same bed. Block stated the handgun would've been in either location before he fell asleep. Block acknowledged he was aware Witness #2 had left the residence. Block stated a 3 year old was in the residence at the time, but was asleep in the northeast bedroom of the residence. Block advised detectives the handgun would be in the residence as well as marijuana. It should be noted a handgun was located within the residence which was consistent with the description provided by Witness #2. Block was observed to have blood on his person and clothing during the interview process.

A search of 2631 Lawn revealed a 9mm handgun with a spent shell casing lodged in the chamber, and eight live rounds in the magazine. The magazine was observed loaded in the handgun. The handgun was observed in the floor vent in the bathroom covered by a child's t-shirt. Blood was observed in the northwest bedroom and an apparent fresh bullet hole in the ceiling above the bed area within the northwest bedroom. An apparent bullet fragment was observed on the bed. A plastic baggy containing a green leafy substance was discovered under the blankets in the bed of the northwest bedroom. The green leafy substance tested positive for marijuana with the Duquenois-Levine test kit. The green leafy substance was weighed in the plastic baggie as approximately 13 grams.

Printed Name Det. Alex Lepper

Signature

The Court finds probable cause and directs the issuance of a warrant this _____ day of _____.

Judge

Circuit Court of _____ County, State of Missouri.