

PROBABLE CAUSE STATEMENT

Date: 6/6/2014

Report #: 2014-14660

I, Chris Burris, a Detective with the Independence, Missouri, 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 03/07/2014, at an unknown time, Kirstin A .Stephens, (Race- White, Sex- Female, DOB- 12/12/1964, Address-806 S. Jones Road, SSN- [REDACTED]) committed one or more criminal offenses in Jackson County, Missouri.
2. The facts supporting this belief are as follows:
 - a. On 03/07/2014 at approximately 1910 hours, Independence Police Officers responded to 816 S. Jones Road, Independence, Jackson County, Missouri, in reference to a suspicious medical call. Upon the arrival of officers, they located a white male subject deceased in a bedroom of the residence. The male was shot multiple times. The decedent was identified as Charles E. Stephens, by his wife who found him. Officers spoke with the victim's wife, Kirstin A. Stephens who ran to a next door neighbor's after finding the victim to call 9-1-1. Mrs. Stephens provided an initial statement to officers on-scene. Mrs. Stephens advised after being out a majority of the day, she returned home at about 1900 hours and found the victim deceased.
 - b. Mrs. Stephens and her son, Cory J. Baird were interviewed at Police Headquarters. Mrs. Stephens gave an inconsistent statement to investigators. Mrs. Stephens admitted to having an extra marital affair. Mrs. Stephens provided a statement as to her whereabouts prior to her discovering Mr. Stephens. The statement as to her whereabouts were discredited according to video surveillance at the two places she claimed to have been.
 - c. A secondary search of the residence, revealed a rifle hidden under a bathroom jacuzzi style tub in Mrs. Stephens bathroom. The rifle was confirmed to be the murder weapon after testing at the Kansas City, Missouri Police Department's Crime Laboratory. A DNA sample was developed from the rifle. A DNA sample of Kirstin A. Stephens was matched to the profile that was recovered from the rifle. Kirstin A. Stephens' profile was the only DNA recovered from murder weapon.
 - d. Mrs. Stephens was found to be a heavy gambler and a frequent patron at local casinos. Mr. and Mrs. Stephens casino and financial records were subpoenaed and obtained. The records revealed showed both Mr. and Mrs. Stephens to be in financial distress. Mr. and Mrs. Stephens' residence, 816 S. Jones Road was sold in November 2013 for back taxes. On the day of Mr. Stephen's murder, the purchaser of the residence showed up to look at the residence. The purchaser was allowed limited access to the residence after contacting Mrs. Stephens around 0800 hours in the morning. The purchaser advised he went into the residence and saw someone completely covered up in bed, who Mrs. Stephens identified as her father.
 - e. Investigators obtained several statements from people who knew the Stephen's. Mrs. Stephens was overheard by several people, friends, associates casino employees stating that Mr. Stephens was worth more to her (Mrs. Stephens) "dead than alive."
 - f. On 04/30/2014, an Mrs. Stephens Ipad sent to the FBI Heart of America Regional Computer Forensics Laboratory was examined. The intial examination revealed a search history for "cut break lines" the day prior to Mr. Stephens' death. Previous history also revealed "Kelley Blue

Book Value” of the years and models of both Mr. and Mrs. Stephens vehicles, “How to stay in a sexless marriage” along with other suspicious inquiries.

- g. On 05/28/2014, Mrs. Stephens was arrested on a stop order issued by Detective Burris. Mrs. Stephens was interviewed and she offered a statement with time and detail discrepancies in the 2nd interview, which conflicted with the 1st interview. Upon further questioning, Mrs. Stephens asked for an attorney.

Detective Chris Burris

Print Name

 1401
Signature

THE COURT FINDS PROBABLE CAUSE:

Date

Judge