

State of Minnesota
County of St. Louis

District Court
6th Judicial District

Prosecutor File No. 0690214191
Court File No. 69VI-CR-23-793

State of Minnesota,

Plaintiff,

vs.

ROBERT JAMES COPE DOB: 10/21/1992

302 11Th Street South
Virginia, MN 55792

Defendant.

COMPLAINT

Order of Detention

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: Attempted Murder in the Second Degree

Minnesota Statute: 609.19.1, with reference to: 609.17.1, 609.11.5

Maximum Sentence: 20 years

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 07/08/2023

Control #(ICR#): 23097292

Charge Description: On or about July 8, 2023, in the County of St Louis, Minnesota, Robert James Cope did attempt to cause the death of Victim 1.

COUNT II

Charge: Assault in the First Degree-Great Bodily Harm

Minnesota Statute: 609.221.1, with reference to: 609.11.5

Maximum Sentence: 20 years, or \$30,000 fine, or both

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 07/08/2023

Control #(ICR#): 23097292

Charge Description: On or about July 8, 2023, in the County of St Louis, Minnesota, Robert James Cope did assault another, to wit: Victim 1, and inflicted great bodily harm.

COUNT III

Charge: Assault in the Second Degree-Dangerous Weapon-Substantial Bodily Harm

Minnesota Statute: 609.222.2, with reference to: 609.11.5

Maximum Sentence: 10 years or \$20,000 or both

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 07/08/2023

Control #(ICR#): 23097292

Charge Description: On or about July 8, 2023, in the County of St Louis, Minnesota, Robert James Cope did assault another, to wit: Victim 1, with a dangerous weapon, to wit: a firearm, and inflicted substantial bodily harm.

COUNT IV

Charge: Assault in the Second Degree-Dangerous Weapon

Minnesota Statute: 609.222.1, with reference to: 609.11.5

Maximum Sentence: 7 years or \$14,000 fine or both.

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 07/08/2023

Control #(ICR#): 23097292

Charge Description: On or about July 8, 2023, in the County of St Louis, Minnesota, Robert James Cope did assault another, to wit: Victim 1, with a dangerous weapon, to wit: a firearm.

COUNT V

Charge: Felon in Possession of a Firearm or Ammunition

Minnesota Statute: 624.713.1(2), with reference to: 624.713.2(b), 609.11.5

Maximum Sentence: 15 Years or \$30,000 fine or both

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 07/08/2023

Control #(ICR#): 23097292

Charge Description: On or about July 8, 2023, in the County of St Louis, Minnesota, Robert James Cope did possess a firearm/ammunition, while prohibited for having been convicted or adjudicated delinquent of a crime of violence.

COUNT VI

Charge: Domestic Assault

Minnesota Statute: 609.2242.4

Maximum Sentence: 5 years or \$10,000 fine, or both

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 07/08/2023

Control #(ICR#): 23097292

Charge Description: On or about July 8, 2023, in the County of St Louis, Minnesota, Robert James Cope did assault a family or household member, to wit: Victim 1, within ten years of the first of any combination of two or more previous qualified domestic violence-related offense convictions or adjudications of delinquency.

STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

The Complainant states that the following facts establish probable cause:

Complainant is a duly licensed peace officer and a member of law enforcement and knows the content of this Complaint to be true of his/her own knowledge and/or based on the reports of other peace officers. All of the conduct described herein occurred within the County of St. Louis, State of Minnesota, unless otherwise noted.

On or about July 8, 2023, at approximately 10:20 AM, law enforcement was dispatched to a shooting at a residence on 9th Street South in Virginia, St. Louis County, Minnesota. Dispatch advised law enforcement that a male named Robert shot his brother in the head, and Robert was still on scene trying to hug his brother.

Officers Buhr and Hodgkins arrived on scene approximately one minute after the call was aired. Upon arrival on scene, the door to the residence swung open and Officer Buhr observed a male, later identified as Robert James Cope, dob: 10/21/1992, hereinafter referred to as Defendant. Officer Buhr ordered Defendant out of the house and Defendant complied. Defendant had blood on numerous parts of his body, including his face, arms, and chest. Defendant was detained.

Officer Hodgkins proceeded to the second floor of the residence. In a bedroom, Officer Hodgkins located Defendant's brother, Victim 1, lying on the floor with blood near his head. Victim 1 was agonal breathing and unresponsive. DC and KT were in the bedroom with Victim 1. DC and KT were identified as Defendant and Victim 1's parents.

Officer Hodgkins located a Ruger 9MM in the hallway, just outside the bedroom. Officer Hodgkins removed the magazine and ejected an unspent cartridge from the chamber. A spent cartridge casing was also located in the hallway. The firearm was later inspected by Officer Buhr. Officer Buhr noted that the firearm appeared to have blood on the back of the frame with a hair stuck in it. The magazine contained six unspent cartridges.

Responding paramedics believed Victim 1 suffered a gunshot wound to the head, with an entrance wound behind his left earlobe and an exit wound on his neck. Victim 1 was airlifted to Essentia Health in Duluth and survived his first surgery. The doctor told Victim 1's parents that the bullet nicked the cerebellum of Victim 1's brain. After surgery, Victim 1 was on a ventilator in the ICU.

Defendant was transported to the hospital. While Defendant was being attended to by medical staff, Officers Buhr and Hodgkins stood by for safety. Officer Buhr heard the Defendant make the following statements: "After I went in the bathroom, I came back out and then all of a sudden, I had a gun", and "I came out of the bathroom and when I came to, I had a gun coming back from the firing of what happened".

The Defendant was transported from the hospital to the jail. During transport, Officer Hodgkins heard the Defendant say, "I woke up from a dream and was told to shoot my brother".

Detective Kral took a statement from KT. KT told Detective Kral that she was downstairs, and Defendant went up the stairs. When Defendant was upstairs, KT heard a shot. KT ran up the stairs and found Defendant over Victim 1. Victim 1 was bleeding. DC then came up the stairs and called 911.

In the last ten years, Defendant has three felony convictions for Threats of Violence and a felony conviction

for Domestic Assault.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE: Pursuant to Minn. Stat. 609.49., intentional failure to appear for duly scheduled court appearances may result in additional criminal charges, and in addition to any arrest warrant that may otherwise be issued by the Court.

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

Jared Kral
Detective
327 1st Street S
Virginia, MN 55792
Badge: 7VI122

Electronically Signed:
07/12/2023 09:57 AM
St. Louis County, Minnesota

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

Prosecuting Attorney

Bonnie Norlander
Assistant St. Louis County
Attorney
300 S 5th Avenue
Virginia Courthouse, #222
Virginia, MN 55792
(218) 749-7101

Electronically Signed:
07/12/2023 08:58 AM

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 as directed in the Notice of Hearing before the above-named court 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: \$

Conditions of Release:

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: July 12, 2023.

Judicial Officer

Rachel C Sullivan
District Court Judge

Electronically Signed: 07/12/2023 11:05 AM

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

COUNTY OF ST. LOUIS
STATE OF MINNESOTA

State of Minnesota

Plaintiff

vs.

Robert James Cope

Defendant

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

Signature of Authorized Service Agent:

DEFENDANT FACT SHEET

Name: Robert James Cope
DOB: 10/21/1992
Address: 302 11Th Street South
Virginia, MN 55792

Alias Names/DOB:
SID: MN12FU0764
Height:
Weight: 145lbs.
Eye Color:
Hair Color:
Gender:
Race:
Fingerprints Required per Statute: Yes
Fingerprint match to Criminal History Record: Yes
Driver's License #: C100745367812 (MN)
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	7/8/2023	609.19.1 Murder - 2nd Degree	Felony	H2811		MN0691400	23097292
	Modifier	7/8/2023	609.17.1 Anticipatory Crimes-Attempts	No-Level	H2811		MN0691400	23097292
	Modifier	7/8/2023	609.11.5 Minimum Sentences of Imprisonment-Firearm	Felony	H2811		MN0691400	23097292
2	Charge	7/8/2023	609.221.1 Assault-1st Degree-Great Bodily Harm	Felony	A1111		MN0691400	23097292
	Modifier	7/8/2023	609.11.5 Minimum Sentences of Imprisonment-Firearm	Felony	A1111		MN0691400	23097292
3	Charge	7/8/2023	609.222.2 Assault-2nd Degree-Dangerous Weapon-Substantial Bodily Harm	Felony	A2211		MN0691400	23097292
	Modifier	7/8/2023	609.11.5 Minimum Sentences of Imprisonment-Firearm	Felony	A2211		MN0691400	23097292
4	Charge	7/8/2023	609.222.1 Assault-2nd Degree-Dangerous Weapon	Felony	A2111		MN0691400	23097292
	Modifier	7/8/2023	609.11.5 Minimum Sentences of Imprisonment-Firearm	Felony	A2111		MN0691400	23097292
5	Charge	7/8/2023	624.713.1(2) Possess Ammo/Any Firearm - Conviction or Adjudicated Delinquent for Crime of Violence	Felony	W1643		MN0691400	23097292
	Penalty	7/8/2023	624.713.2(b) Possesses any type of firearm/ammo - Crime of Violence - ineligible under 624.713.1(2)	Felony	W1643		MN0691400	23097292
	Modifier	7/8/2023	609.11.5 Minimum Sentences of Imprisonment-Firearm	Felony	W1643		MN0691400	23097292
6	Charge	7/8/2023	609.224.4 Domestic Assault-Felony	Felony	AJ111		MN0691400	23097292