

SEARCH WARRANT
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA

IN THE NAME OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA:

TO: THE SHERIFF OF Hillsborough County Sheriffs Office, FLORIDA OR ANY OF HIS
LAWFUL OFFICERS:

Whereas, complaint on oath and in writing, supported by affidavit has been made before me, Judge Cory Chandler in and for Hillsborough County, Florida, by Seth Hopp Hillsborough County Sheriffs Office who says: that the Affiant is a citizen and resident the State of Florida, and who has reason to believe and does believe that a certain cellular phone located in Hillsborough County, Florida, described as follows, to-wit:

A gray Apple iPhone 15 Pro bearing serial number LQK2524D4V, impounded under Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office property report number 1090470-3.

Being the cellular phone owned or possessed by Carola Mitchell DOB: 07/27/1971

And there is now being stored on said gray Apple iPhone certain evidence, to-wit: images, text messages, files, telephone numbers, call logs, graphic files, digital media and/or digital files, and any other media that can store digital files and/or digital media. Phone records, records of Internet Service Providers, E-mails and other electronic data, including but not limited to encryption, passwords telephone numbers, Emails, Instant messages or text message storage, computer images, computer programs and system documentation; documents files or any other computer data relating to encryption, passwords.

Which can provide evidentiary value in proving a violation of the Laws of the State of Florida, to-wit: the Laws prohibiting: Robbery with a Firearm and Kidnapping.

That the facts tending to establish the grounds for this application and the probable cause of the Affiant believing that such facts exist are contained in an affidavit for search warrant, sworn to before me on this date by Seth Hopp and it appears to the Court that the Affiant is a reputable citizen of the State of Florida, and that the facts set forth in said affidavit show and constitute probable cause for the issuance of this warrant and the Court being satisfied of the existence of said grounds set forth in said application, or that there is probable cause to believe in their existence. The affidavit for search warrant made by Seth Hopp is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of this search warrant as if repeated in full, and a copy is attached.

THE COURT FURTHER FINDS:

Law enforcement personnel are authorized to direct and compel any person who is

reasonably believed by law enforcement to contain knowledge of a password(s) to the device named in this search warrant, to provide such password(s) in order to allow access to search the device pursuant to this search warrant.

WHEREFORE, your Affiant hereby makes application for a Search Warrant authorizing the Affiant, police officers of the Hillsborough County Sheriffs Office Hillsborough County, State of Florida, and Florida Department of Law Enforcement with proper and necessary assistance, including the assistance of digital forensic examiners from other agencies, to seize the described gray Apple iPhone in the daytime/nighttime, or on Sunday. After seizing the device(s) for safekeeping, Affiant is authorized within a reasonable time of the seizure to search any and all of the property and/or data within the device(s). The actual device(s) seized will be listed on a return and inventory to be filed within this Judicial Circuit within ten days of execution of this warrant. However, the search of the actual device for recovery of data and digital evidence by a computer forensic analyst may take a significant time exceeding the ten days of execution of the warrant. For this reason, the "return" inventory will be satisfied by a list of only the tangible items recovered and not the actual physical download of the device. This Court is authorizing the agency listed above to seize the device(s) and conduct a physical extraction of the data contained within the device(s) within a reasonable time from the seizure of the device(s).

WITNESS my hand and seal this 11th day of June 2024

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 Tuesday, 11 June 2024 14:16:13

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Cory Chandler

JUDGE IN AND FOR HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA

AFFIDAVIT FOR SEARCH WARRANT**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT****IN AND FOR HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA****STATE OF FLORIDA****COUNTY OF HILLSBOROUGH**

BEFORE ME, Cory Chandler in and for Hillsborough County, Florida, personally or by sworn attestation, came, Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office who, being first duly sworn, deposes and says: That the Affiant is a citizen and resident the State of Florida, and that he has reason to believe and does believe that a certain cellular phone, located in Hillsborough County, Florida, described as follows, to-wit: A gray Apple iPhone 15 Pro bearing serial number LQK2524D4V, impounded under Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office property report number 1090470-3.

Being the cellular phone owned or possessed by Carola Mitchell DOB: 07/27/1971

And there is now being stored on said gray Apple iPhone certain evidence, to-wit: images, text messages, files, telephone numbers, call logs, graphic files, digital media and/or digital files, and any other media that can store digital files and/or digital media. Phone records, records of Internet Service Providers, E-mails and other electronic data, including but not limited to encryption, passwords telephone numbers, Emails, Instant messages or text message storage, computer images, computer programs and system documentation; documents files or any other computer data relating to encryption, passwords.

Which can provide evidentiary value in proving a violation of the Laws of the State of Florida, to-wit: the Laws prohibiting: Robbery with a Firearm and Kidnapping.

The warrant seeks the authority to compel the owner of a device who is reasonably believed by law enforcement to be a user/owner of the device to provide their password, pursuant to State v. Stahl, 206 So. 3d 124 (Fla.2nd DCA 2016).

That the facts tending to establish the grounds for this application and the probable cause of affiant believing that such facts exist are as follows:

Affiant's experience and any pertinent expertise.

1. Your Affiant is an Investigative Law Enforcement Officer as defined in Florida State Statutes, and is making this application pursuant to my official duties.
2. Your Affiant is a member of the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office and has been so employed since November 2018. Your Affiant is currently assigned to the District IV General Offense Section since September 2023. Your Affiant has investigated persons for violations of person crimes, property crimes and narcotics.
3. Your Affiant has been involved in the execution of search warrants for property crimes, crimes against persons, and narcotics which has resulted in the arrests of persons for violations of Florida State Statutes.
4. Your Affiant has taken multiple investigations related courses to include: Cellular Device Investigations, Courtroom Testimony, Child Sex Crimes, Interviews and Interrogations.
5. Your Affiant is a graduate of the Florida Keys Community College located in Key West, Florida, in which a portion of the instruction dealt with persons and property crimes.
6. Your Affiant has personal knowledge of the matters set forth in this affidavit and/or the information was imparted to him in the performance of his official duties as a law enforcement officer.

Probable cause

On May 16, 2024, the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office responded to 215 South Star Drive, Ruskin, Florida in reference to an armed robbery of a person. The victim, identified as Rosario Bernal (DOB: 07/10/1973), reported an unknown white/Hispanic female arrived at the residence driving a white newer model small sport utility vehicle. The suspect initially asked where to purchase Mexican food and then asked to come inside for some water. The suspect was allowed inside and given water to drink. The suspect then produced a small black handgun from her waist band and placed the barrel against the victim's lower back and told her to give her the money. The suspect escorted the victim into her bedroom at gunpoint and forced the victim to retrieve and open her purse. The suspect removed two wallets from the purse and took out approximately \$12,000.00 in United States currency from the wallets. After taking the money, the suspect exited the residence and entered back into the white vehicle and departed the scene. Surveillance video was obtained from a nearby residence which showed a newer model white Nissan Rogue enter the trailer park traveling in the direction of the victim's residence at 1242 hours. The vehicle was then captured exiting the trailer park at 1325 hours, which is consistent with the victim's statements. The owner of the surveillance video advised he had not seen the vehicle in the trailer park previously and was familiar with the normal vehicles commonly associated with the trailer park. The victim identified the vehicle from the surveillance video as matching the vehicle the suspect was observed arriving and departing in. Based on the time of arrival, departure, and description, it appears to be the same vehicle utilized by the suspect. The suspect was unknown to the victim.

On May 17, 2024, a white Nissan Rogue bearing Texas temporary tag 8R665K5 was captured on license plate reader systems in the Ruskin, Florida area, near the original

offense location. A query of the license plate showed it to be a fraudulent tag with no vehicle or owner information assigned to it. License plate reader databases also showed the vehicle in Hillsborough County for a short period of time prior to the offense with no previously established history in the county. The vehicle was captured on traffic cameras at US-41 and 19th Avenue NE traveling southbound on May 17, 2024, at approximately 1358 hours. Based on other traffic cameras along the route, it was determined the vehicle turned off prior to passing the next major intersection of E Shell Point Road. The vehicle was again captured at US-41 and 19th Avenue NE back northbound at approximately 1401 hours, just three minutes later.

Video surveillance was located at 621 N US-41, Ruskin, Florida (Ruskin Liquors), which showed the vehicle enter the parking lot of the attached shopping center at approximately 1359 hours and proceed south through the parking lot. The vehicle was observed stopping briefly in front of 511 N US-41 (Tienda El Paisano), which is where the victim is employed. After the brief stop, with no occupants exiting, the vehicle proceeded back out to US-41 and traveled north.

On May 29, 2024, the white Nissan Rogue was again captured on license plate reader systems in the Davenport, Florida area. Based upon the license plate reader photos, the vehicle was determined to have driven into the 7-Eleven gas station located at 6023 W US-92, Davenport, Florida 33896 at approximately 1439 hours. Video surveillance from the gas station showed the vehicle pull up to a gas pump and two female occupants exiting. Both females entered the store and purchased items with cash, allowing for interior video of them to be captured. The driver of the vehicle matched several key identifying features of the suspect, provided by the victim, to include missing teeth, hair style/color, age, ethnicity, and build. Both females re-entered the vehicle and departed the gas station at approximately 1454 hours.

Based upon the surveillance video capturing a white Nissan Rogue arriving and departing the offense location, the victim identifying the vehicle from the video as the one the suspect arrived in, a matching white Nissan Rogue with a fraudulent tag being captured the next day driving to the victim's place of work, and the same vehicle being captured at the 7-Eleven gas station in Davenport, Florida with the driver closely matching the description of the suspect given by the victim, the white Nissan Rogue bearing Texas temporary tag 8R665K5 was believed to be the suspect vehicle in this case and the driver of the vehicle was believed to be the suspect who committed the offense.

A search was conducted through license plate reader databases for cameras near the location of the above-mentioned 7-Eleven gas station for the days prior and days after the temporary tag was captured. A capture of the vehicle was located bearing the assigned Texas tag of TYG7966 and was identified as the same vehicle based on unique vehicle features.

Investigation into the registered owner of the vehicle and the associated address revealed a linked Hispanic female identified as Carola Mitchell with a date of birth of 07/27/1971. A previous booking photo of Carola Mitchell showed her to closely match the description of the suspect provided by the victim, as well as closely matching the female driver captured on the above mentioned 7-Eleven gas station surveillance video. A sequential photo line-up was presented to the victim by an independent administrator and the victim positively identified Carola Mitchell as the one who committed the offense. An arrest warrant was

authored charging Carola Mitchell with Robbery with a Firearm and Kidnapping.

On June 10, 2024, Carola Mitchell was located in Bradenton, Florida, actively driving the white Nissan Rogue and was subsequently placed in custody for the arrest warrant. During the arrest, Carola Mitchell was found in possession of a gray Apple iPhone 15 Pro (S/N: LQK2524D4V) (subject of this search warrant). During a post-Miranda interview with Carola Mitchell, she claimed sole ownership of the iPhone and further stated she had the phone in her possession at all times. Carola Mitchell further stated she drives around Hispanic communities and knocks on doors to offer her fortune telling and spirit services. While offering said services, Carola Mitchell provides her phone number of (817) 323-9806 so that people can contact her at a later time to request her services. Carola Mitchell stated people contact her via phone often to request her services. Through this investigation, it has been shown that Carola Mitchell uses her fortune telling services as a ruse to gain entry into victim's homes to commit robberies or thefts of cash and jewelry. Carola Mitchell also stated she utilized the WhatsApp application on her phone to contact an individual with whom she would receive the fraudulent Texas temporary tags from.

Based upon Carola Mitchell stating she keeps her phone with her at all times, your Affiant believes there to be location data contained within the phone placing Carola Mitchell at the scene of this offense, furthering the evidence of her involvement. Based upon Carola Mitchell also providing her phone number to individuals for the purpose of soliciting her fortune telling services and then receiving communications from those individuals, your Affiant believes there are communications contained within the phone from additional victims in other related crimes.

Based on the work experience, knowledge, and training of your Affiant, coupled with the totality of the circumstances listed in this Affidavit for Search Warrant, your Affiant has reason to believe and does believe there are contacts, call logs, text messages, other telephonic communications, files, images, electronic data, and GPS location data contained within the gray Apple iPhone 15 cell phone with the associated cell phone number of (817) 323-9806 and serial number of LQK2524D4V in regards to Armed Robbery and Grand Theft related offenses within Hillsborough County, Florida and other surrounding counties. The cellular device is currently in the custody of the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office Evidence Control Section utilizing Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office property report number HS 1090470-3. As such, your Affiant requests a cellular device search warrant to search.

WHEREOF, YOUR AFFIANT makes this affidavit and prays the issuance of a search warrant in due form of law for the search of the above described cellular phone for the said data/information, heretofore described, and for the seizure and safe keeping thereof, subject to the order of this Honorable Court, by the duly constituted officers of the law.

Seth Hopp

Hillsborough County Sheriffs Office

AFFIANT

STATE OF FLORIDA)

COUNTY OF HILLSBOROUGH)

I am a law enforcement officer as defined in s. 943.10, Florida Statutes, and, pursuant to s.117.10, Florida Statutes, I am authorized to administer oaths when engaged in the performance of official duties. The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me on this 11th day of June 2024 by the individual whose name and signature appear above, and who is personally known to me and who did take an oath.

Brent Smith

Hillsborough County Sheriffs Office

WITNESS my hand and seal this 11th day of June 2024

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Cory Chandler

JUDGE IN AND FOR HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA

24-464077

**INVENTORY AND RECEIPT OF PROPERTY SEIZED
UNDER THE WITHIN SEARCH WARRANT**

EXHIBIT NUMBER	TYPE OF ITEM	LOCATION FOUND	FOUND BY
1	CELL PHONE DATA	IPHONE	S. HOPE ZISBUT

This 20th day of JUNE, A.D., 2024.

RETURN

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF HILLSBOROUGH

Received the within search warrant on the 11th day of JUNE, A.D., 2024, and executed the same in Hillsborough County, Florida, on the 11th day of JUNE, A.D., 2024, by searching the premises described herein and by taking into my custody and possession the following described property, to-wit:

SEE ABOVE LISTED INVENTORY

And I further executed the said warrant by arresting N/A and by delivering a duplicate copy of this warrant to CAROLA MITCHELL and by making and delivering to the said CAROLA MITCHELL a true inventory of the above described property.

OFFICER

I, S. HOPE ZISBUT the officer by whom the foregoing warrant was executed, do swear the above inventory contains a true and detailed account of all property taken by me on said warrant.

Sworn to and subscribed before me B. [Signature] ^(BS) 158641, Notary Public, State of Florida, this 20th day of JUNE, A.D., 2024,

My commission expires LEO, 20 .