

JEFFERSON COUNTY COURT

FILED IN THE
COMBINED COURT
TN
OCT 25 2012
JEFFERSON COUNTY
COLORADO

Def. Name: Austin Reed Sigg

D.O.B.: 01/17/1995

Case No: 2012-0020

Arresting Agency: Westminster Police Department

Date of Arrest: 10/23/2012

CHARGES

Murder in the First Degree (after deliberation) [Ridgeway]	C.R.S. 18-3-102(1) (a)
Murder in the First Degree (felony murder-kidnapping)[Ridgeway]	C.R.S. 18-3-102(1) (b)
Second Degree Kidnapping [Ridgeway]	C.R.S. 18-3-302
Criminal Attempt to commit Second Degree Kidnapping [Nowosad]	C.R.S. 18-2-101 & 18-3-302
Criminal Attempt to commit Murder in the First Degree {Nowosad}	C.R.S. 18-2-101 & 18-3-102

AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF WARRANTLESS ARREST

Detective Michael Lynch, a police officer for the City of Westminster, being duly sworn upon oath says that there is probable cause for the warrantless arrest of the named defendant for the charge(s) stated, arising out of incidents occurring at Ketner Reservoir, [REDACTED] on May 28th, 2012, and believed to be in the [REDACTED] in the City of Westminster, Jefferson County, Colorado on October 5th, 2012, and that the following facts are true and correct to the best of his/her knowledge, information and belief and support the arrest of the defendant:

On October 5th, 2012, at about 1629, Sarah Ridgeway ([REDACTED]) called Westminster 911 and reported that her 10-year-old daughter, identified as Jessica Christine Ridgeway ([REDACTED]), was missing. Sarah reported that Jessica had left their residence, located at [REDACTED] (which is located within the City of Westminster, Jefferson County, Colorado) at about 0825 that morning to walk to school. The school, Witt Elementary School, is located at 10255 West 104th Drive, approximately one-half mile from the residence. At about 1011, Sarah received a voice mail message on her cellular phone from school staff advising that Jessica was not at school. Sarah, who works an overnight shift, was sleeping and did not receive the message until she awoke after 1600. She immediately called police at that time.

Sarah explained that her mother Christine Ridgeway ([REDACTED]) stayed with Jessica overnight while Sarah was working, and that she (Sarah) had arrived home at about 0730. Jessica was still sleeping when she arrived home.

After waking, Jessica called a classmate (using the house phone), identified as [REDACTED] ([REDACTED]), to ask if they were still planning to meet at his home to walk to school together. She spoke with his father who confirmed that the two could walk to school together. [REDACTED] address is [REDACTED] and is located about one-quarter mile south of Jessica's home.

Sarah said that Jessica left the residence at about 0825-0830 and told officers Jessica was wearing blue jeans, a black "puffy" jacket with a pink lining, and black boots with "pom-poms" attached. She could not remember the shirt Jessica was wearing. She said Jessica also had purple framed prescription eye glasses, and was carrying a black and pink backpack with a Disney character ("Victorious").

10/23/2012

Sarah said that nothing unusual happened that morning prior to Jessica leaving the home, they had not fought, and that Jessica was not acting suspiciously. She told officers that it was very unusual for Jessica not to go to school. She said Jessica was a "good kid" who "got good grades" and "was always happy." Sarah denied that Jessica had any psychological or special needs disorders.

██████████ was contacted and said that Jessica had not arrived at his home to walk to school as planned. His father told officers that they waited until 0840 for her, and because school started at 0850, he drove ██████████ to school.

The school was contacted and it was confirmed that Jessica had not been at school that day. The residence was thoroughly searched, as was the neighborhood surrounding the residence and the school. Search dogs were also used, but Jessica was not located. Officer determined that Jessica's biological father, identified as Jeremy Bryant, lived in Independence, Missouri. Sarah did allude to a custodial issue between she and Jeremy related to child support, but investigators were able to confirm that Jeremy had been at work in Missouri when Jessica disappeared. An "Amber Alert" was also issued through the Colorado Bureau of Investigation.

Searches continued in the neighborhood and surrounding areas on October 6th, 2012, using law enforcement resources and civilian volunteers. The areas between Wadsworth Parkway (on the east), Indiana Street (on the west), West 92nd Avenue (on the south), and West 112th Avenue (on the north) were searched in person, by dog teams, by teams using thermal imaging and other devices, and through aerial observation. Jessica was not located.

On October 7th, 2012, a message was posted on a computer message board by a resident of the Rock Creek subdivision located in Superior, Colorado (which is unincorporated Boulder County), advising that a backpack with a water bottle had been found in the area of Andrew Drive and Christenson Avenue, and that the person who posted could be contacted to retrieve it. The water bottle had the name "Jessica Ridgeway" written on it. The person who posted the message did not correlate the name on the water bottle with the name of the missing child. Police were subsequently called and investigators responded to the location at which the backpack had been found, which was at or near 2255 Andrew Drive in the Town of Superior, Boulder County, Colorado. Interviews with residents in the area narrowed the time frame during which the backpack was believed to have been left as between 1900 and 2200MST on October 6th, 2012.

Investigators determined that the backpack matched the description of the one Jessica was last seen carrying and inside the backpack they found a pair of prescription eyeglasses with purple frames, and also found a pair of black boots with "pom-poms" on them. Jessica's mother Sarah later identified the items as belonging to Jessica. A search of the neighborhood and a neighborhood canvass of residents were conducted, but Jessica was not located.

On October 10th, 2012, your affiant was advised by investigators from the Westminster Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) that a full DNA profile from an unknown subject had been developed from evidence collected from Jessica's backpack. The profile had been entered into the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS). CODIS is a system developed and maintained by the FBI into which crime laboratories can enter DNA evidence for comparison, including evidence collected in cases in which there is no identified suspect. A match was made to a DNA profile already entered into CODIS in a different case.

On May 28th, 2012, at about 1315, on the trails around Ketner Reservoir, a 22-year-old female jogger was attacked by a male suspect. Ketner Reservoir is located within the City of Westminster, Jefferson County, Colorado. The female was grabbed from behind by a male subject who attempted to cover her mouth with a rag soaked in an unknown substance and to drag her into the underbrush near the trail. The female was able to fight or scare off her attacker, and she then called police. The female described her attacker as a white male, 20-25 years of age, approximately 5'7" to 5'9" tall with an "average" build and brown hair.

The attacker was not located after an area search and remained unidentified. During the course of his investigation into that case, Detective Michael Lynch collected the shirt the victim was wearing at the time of the attack, and submitted it to the Colorado Bureau of Investigation laboratory for analysis. From an examination of the shirt, CBI analysts were able to develop a full DNA profile from an unknown subject. The DNA profile was submitted to CODIS and later returned a match to the DNA profile from Jessica Ridgeway's backpack.

On October 10th, 2012, your affiant was advised that human remains had been discovered in an open space area approximately 1.3 miles west of the intersection of West 82nd Avenue and Quaker Street. This location is within the City of Arvada, Jefferson County, Colorado. An autopsy was performed by the Jefferson County Coroner's Office. The remains consisted of the torso of a female child. Her arms, legs, and head had been removed and were not found with the remainder of the torso. Many of the internal organs had been removed from inside the torso's cavity, and it appeared, based on the lack of blood or blood spatter, that it had been washed. The remains were later determined, through forensic testing, to be those of Jessica Ridgeway. Your affiant informs the court that a wooden cross measuring approximately 1" x 1 1/2" was found to have been inserted into Jessica Ridgeway's vagina. The cause of Jessica Ridgeway's death was not determined.

Your affiant informs the court that a multi-jurisdictional, multi-disciplinary task force was established in effort to identify the person (or persons) responsible for Jessica Ridgeway's kidnapping and murder, as well as the individual responsible for the attempted kidnapping and assault of [REDACTED]. Numerous investigative methods were used including neighborhood canvasses during which the occupants of several hundred homes in Jessica Ridgeway's neighborhood were contacted and interviewed.

Your affiant informs the court that during the course of this investigation numerous persons were identified for their potential or suspected involvement in these crimes. Court orders for production of records, pen register, trap and trace, GPS, and orders for non-testimonial evidence were sought and/or obtained. Additionally, the DNA of several hundred people was obtained and submitted to the Colorado Bureau of Investigations for analysis and comparison.

Your affiant informs the court that on October 17th, 2012 at about 8:00 p.m., as part of the neighborhood canvas, Mindy Sigg was contacted at the residence at [REDACTED]. FBI Agents Weiss and Holmes met with Ms. Sigg who reported that she lived in the home with her children, Austin (Sigg) and [REDACTED]. No search was conducted of the home.

Your affiant informs the court that on October 19th, 2012, a telephone message was left on the tip line for FBI Agent Chris Calarco. The message was from a person in the neighborhood that Agent Calarco spoke with previously. The neighbor spoke anonymously with Agent Calarco and expressed his/her concern about Austin Sigg. The concerned neighbor told the Agent that Austin Sigg worried her/him for several reasons, including the fact that Austin Sigg attends mortuary school.

Additionally, the neighbor expressed that he/she had a conversation with Mindy Sigg who spoke about concerns of body disposal and DNA issues. The citizen also spoke of Austin Sigg's access to other homes and described Austin's behavior as strange.

Your affiant informs the court that as a result of the tip submitted to Agent Calarco, on October 19th, 2012, FBI Agents Deframe and Longoria responded to the Sigg home and met with Austin Sigg. A sample of Austin Sigg's DNA was obtained via buccal swab. Your affiant informs the court that on October 20th, 2012, the swab was submitted for analysis and comparison to the Colorado Bureau of Investigations. Your affiant learned from Westminster Police Department Sergeant Rippey that the DNA analysis did not result in a match. The DNA of Austin Sigg did not match the DNA profile obtained from the swab of Jessica Ridgeway's torso, nor did it match the DNA profile developed from Jessica Ridgeway's water bottle or the DNA profile developed from [REDACTED] shirt (from Ketner Reservoir).

Your affiant informs the court that on October 23rd, 2012, at approximately 7:31 p.m. hours, Westminster Police received a telephone call from Mindy Sigg, who resides at [REDACTED] Westminster, Jefferson County, Colorado. Ms. Sigg called police to inform them that her son, Austin Reed Sigg (DOB: 01-17-1995), confessed to her that he kidnapped and murdered Jessica Ridgeway. The telephone call completed by Ms. Sigg was recorded in the Westminster Police Department Communications Center. During the course of the call, Austin Reed Sigg spoke with the police dispatcher. Your affiant reviewed the recorded telephone call and learned the following information.

Dispatch: This is Molly at the Westminster Police Department
Mindy Sigg: Hi. I need you to come to my house. My son wants to turn himself in for the Jessica Ridgeway murder
Dispatch: O.k. What's the address?
Mindy Sigg: [REDACTED]
Dispatch: What's going on there?
Mindy Sigg: He confessed to killing her
Dispatch: Can you tell me exactly what he said?
Mindy Sigg: He did it. He gave me details and her remains are in my house
Dispatch: Did you see them?
Mindy Sigg: No.

The dispatcher asked to talk with Austin Sigg and Ms. Sigg agreed. Austin got on the telephone and the dispatcher identified herself and the Westminster Police Department. The following is among the information Austin told the dispatcher:

Dispatch: Can you tell me what is going on right now or how you're feeling. Or how did this come about?
Austin Sigg: I don't exactly get why you're asking these questions. I murdered Jessica Ridgeway.
Dispatch: O.k.
Austin Sigg: I have proof that I did it. There is no question. You just have to send a squad car down here and I will answer all of the questions that you want to ask, or anyone wants to ask. As soon as, you've got to get down here.
Dispatch: What part the house are her remains in?
Austin Sigg: In the crawl space

Your affiant informs the court that Austin then provided his date of birth (January 17, 1995) and information that he is a student at Arapahoe Community College and that he was giving himself up "completely". The dispatcher asked Austin if he committed any other crimes. Austin told her that the only other "thing" that he did was "the Ketner Lake incident" where the woman "got attacked" and he also received a speeding ticket.

Officers responded to the residence located at [REDACTED] (in the City of Westminster, Jefferson County, Colorado), and contacted Austin. Westminster Police Officer Robb Phelps obtained written consent from Mindy Sigg to enter the residence and check the crawl space. Officer Phelps located several black trash bags that were consistent with those in which Jessica's torso had been found. He did not open the bags, but physical manipulation led him to believe that the bags contained a human head and several appendages.

While Officer Phelps was inside checking the crawl space, Officer A.C. Stutson was talking with Austin. He advised Austin of his rights per Miranda, and Austin and his mother waived them and allowed Austin to make a statement. During the interview, Austin told the Officer Stutson that Jessica Ridgeway's remains could be found in black trash bags that were just like the bags that her torso was found in.

Austin was arrested and transported to the Westminster Police station, where a recorded interview was conducted. He was asked about his role in the kidnapping and death of Jessica Ridgeway. Austin explained that he drove his Jeep Cherokee to Jessica Ridgeway's block and he sat in the back seat of the Jeep. Once Jessica Ridgeway walked by his vehicle, Austin grabbed her and pulled her inside. He used zip ties to bind her arms and legs together. Jessica Ridgeway screamed and Sigg promised her that she would be all right to quiet her. He drove around, making random turns for awhile before he drove to the residence he shares with his mother. Austin drove the Jeep into the garage and closed the garage door behind him. He cut the zip ties off Jessica's hands and carried her up the stairs to his bedroom. He sat her on the bed and showed her a film from Netflix. He then told her to change out of her clothing into a shirt and shorts that he set out for her in his bathroom.

After Jessica changed clothes, Austin attempted to strangle her with zip ties but he was unsuccessful because the ties dug painfully into the palms of his hands. Austin then strangled Jessica Ridgeway with his bare hands until she was no longer breathing. He then moved her into the bathtub and placed her face down in the tub and filled the tub with water to make certain she was not breathing. He admitted to using a "Sawzall" saw and a razorblade in a utility knife to remove one of Jessica's hands and one of her feet. He removed the hands and cut them into pieces, flushing the parts of the hands down the toilet. Austin later removed Jessica's head, legs and arms and placed them in plastic bags. He placed Jessica's torso in a plastic bag and placed all of the bags inside the pool shed in the backyard.

The next night, because of the heavy police presence in the area, Austin Sigg drove his Jeep Cherokee to a neighborhood north in Superior, Colorado with Jessica Ridgeway's backpack. Mr. Sigg described the items in the backpack, to include the clothing Jessica wore during the abduction on October 5, 2012 and a wooden stick that was missing bark. Austin threw the coat Jessica had been wearing into a random trashcan. He also threw away the blade from the "Sawzall" he used to dismember her. Austin explained that the purpose of placing the backpack in the northern neighborhood was to divert police from searching his residence.

Austin stated that because police were using cadaver dogs and thermal imaging, he later decided to get rid of Jessica Ridgeway's torso. He brought the torso back into the house (from the pool shed), washed it a second time, and placed it into two black plastic bags with red ties, tying the handles of both bags

together. Austin emptied the organs out of Jessica Ridgeway's body and flushed them down the toilet in his bathroom. Austin said he was careful to use gloves and not leave his fingerprints on Jessica Ridgeway's body. He drove his Jeep Cherokee to an area and discarded the bags containing the torso. Austin Sigg stated that he placed a cross in Jessica Ridgeway's pelvic area in effort to cause investigators to consider a religious zealot as being responsible for the murder. Later in the interview, Austin clarified that he actually placed the cross in the vagina of Ridgeway. This information concerning the location where Austin inserted the cross was never disseminated to the media or the public and had been held in confidence as an investigative key.

Austin stated that he placed the "Sawzall" in a large drawer in the bottom right hand cabinet of the garage. He moved the other bags containing the head, arms and legs of Ridgeway to a crawl space under the house.

Austin stated that he was also responsible for attacking a female jogger on Ketner Lake. He said that he researched how to make chloroform on the internet prior to the incident. Austin said he used bleach and acetone to make the chloroform and he poured it on a rag. He described how the jogger passed him the first time and then how he grabbed her from behind the second time she came around the lake. The jogger pushed him off and ran away. When Austin was asked by investigators what he planned to do to the jogger, he replied words to the effect of, "do to her what I did to Jessica."

During Austin's interview he made several comments relating to his thoughts at the time he grabbed Jessica and forced her into his car. Austin stated that he was out hunting for a victim on Friday October 5th, 2012 and that once he had Jessica in his car he knew that he would have to kill her. At one point during the interview Austin stated that the kidnapping of Jessica Ridgeway was the result of his "acting out of his sexual fantasy".

Austin later drove the affiant to the location where he kidnapped Jessica and pointed out the exact location where he parked and watched as Jessica approached his vehicle. Austin stated that he crawled into the backseat and grabbed Jessica as she walked beside him. Austin also directed the affiant to the location where he dumped the body on 82nd Ave also known as the Leyden Road. Austin explained that he did not know the exact location where he left Jessica's backpack but knew that it was in a northern part of the city, past the Flat Irons Mall off of US 36 (Boulder Turnpike). Austin stated that he took the backpack to this location away from his house to "throw the police off", since the authorities were searching so close to his home.

The affiant informs the court that at this time a search warrant has been issued by the Jefferson County Courts for the residence where Austin is living with his mother. The warrant authorizes the police to search for the body parts of Jessica Ridgeway which Austin states are in the crawl space of his home.

Based on the aforementioned facts and circumstances the affiant feels that the offenses including but not limited to First Degree Murder, Second Degree Kidnapping, Criminal Attempt to Commit Second Degree Kidnapping and Criminal Attempt to Commit First Degree Murder.

Based on the information provided in this application, your affiant believes that the disclosure of the requested search warrant could jeopardize the on-going investigation, could result in the flight from potential prosecution of (possible) accomplices or possibly subject any potential witness to some form of retaliation or intimidation. **Therefore, your affiant further requests that the court SEAL this affidavit and direct that no person shall disclose the existence of this affidavit to any other person until further order of the court.**

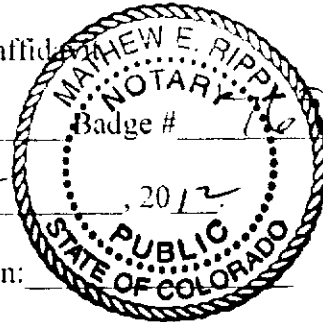
Pages attached to this affidavit are incorporated into this affidavit.

Affiant's Signature: M. L. Lynch

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 24 day of Oct, 2012

Notary Public: M. E. Rippe

Expiration: _____



My Commission Expires 02/22/2015

Judge Contacted: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____

Probable Cause for Warrantless Arrest is Found Not Found