

DATE: AUGUST 23, 2023

TIME: 10:39:05

AFFIDAVIT OF PROBABLE CAUSE FOR ARREST

In The Matter Of: **MELANIE E MULLINS**

W/F

AGE: 38

32CR 23-145

Re: Request for Magistrates Determination for Probable Cause for Warrant of Arrest for the Defendant on the following charges:

**MURDER IN THE 1ST DEGREE, A CLASS "Y" FELONY IN VIOLATION OF A.C.A. 5-10-102 (a)(2)
(1 COUNT)**

THE UNDERSIGNED, BEING DULY SWORN, FOR HIS AFFIDAVIT FOR PROBABLE CAUSE FOR ARREST, DEPOSES AND SAYS:

On Wednesday, the 9th day of August 2023, the Independence County Sheriff's Department received a call for service at a residence in the area known as the Hutchison Mountain community in reference to a male subject who had been stabbed and on the way to the hospital in a private vehicle. Deputies responded to the residence, while Batesville Police Department officers went to the hospital to intercept the victim.

Deputies arrived on scene to find the suspect, Melanie Mullins, sitting in a chair and complied with orders to be detained. Deputies asked Mullins what was going on and she stated she and the victim had been in an argument and the lethal event took place. Mullins was placed into a patrol vehicle for a potential later interview. At this time, it was found that the victim had passed on the way to the hospital and had ran out of fuel at a local industrial business where the police department located the deceased.

Investigators arrived at the crime scene and processed the crime scene to locate large areas of blood in and around the driveway with a filet knife in the driveway with some dried blood and a broken knife blade tip. Once the crime scene was processed, the scene was released back to the property owner.

Mullins was transported to the sheriff's department for a formal interview on the incident that occurred. Mullins was provided a blank statement of rights form for completion. Mullins was instructed to read the form and the form was read to Mullins. Mullins marked each selection with "YES" that she understood her rights and initialed beside each selection. Mullins read over the statement of rights waiver of rights to speak and signed the form and placed all required information, except a phone number and address as she stated she had neither, acknowledging that she understood her rights and was willing to answer questions at that time.

The audio and visual formal interview was conducted with Mullins admitted to the death of the victim. Mullins stated the night before she and the victim had went to his house to get some of her property to bring back to the incident location. Mullins stated the victim was acting strange so she took the murder weapon from the victim's house because she felt she would need it. Mullins stated she knew something was off and she would have to kill the victim. Mullins stated on the way back she hid the knife beneath her leg and to her side.

Mullins said they arrived back at the residence and the victim was still acting off. Mullins stated they were arguing some and the victim left. Mullins stated it was not long before the victim pulled back in saying he had her phone to bring back. Mullins stated she was in the darkness and tried to have the victim come to her so he would not see the knife in her hands. Mullins stated he never would so she told him she had something for him and approached him.

Mullins stated she tried to stab him then and missed. Mullins stated she chased the victim to his truck tried to stab him in the truck. Mullins believes she stabbed him then, but the victim pushed his door open and grabbed a wooden stick. Mullins stated he swung the wooden stick at her and she did not think he struck her, but was not sure. Mullins stated she was never afraid of the victim at that time and wanted to kill him. Mullins stated she stabbed him in the chest and he ran away with her chasing after him.

Mullins stated the victim hid behind her aunt who was watching the events unfold, until somehow the victim ended up on his back and Mullins jumped on top of him and repeatedly stabbed him uncontrollably. Mullins stated she had to finish the job she started and wanted him dead. Mullins mentioned she thought about slicing his throat or cutting his head off, but could not stop herself from stabbing him in the chest and all over his upper body. Mullins stated the only reason she did not get to finish is because her aunt called for her uncle from the inside of the residence to come pull her off of the victim. Mullins stated even when she was pulled off the victim and he was in the truck she tried to stab him more and chased the truck off the property as they were leaving for the hospital.

Mullins stated several times in the interview that she wanted the victim dead for things he had done to other women in the past as well as actions towards her, although no violence took place towards her from the victim on the date of the incident. Mullins stated she planned to kill him and wanted him dead. Mullins stated the reason she took

the knife from his house was because she felt the victim was acting off and she knew that she had to kill him to keep him from hurting any other people.



CO-AFFIANT
LIEUTENANT ZACH RAWLINS
Independence County Sheriff's Department
1750 Myers Avenue
Batesville, Arkansas, 72501

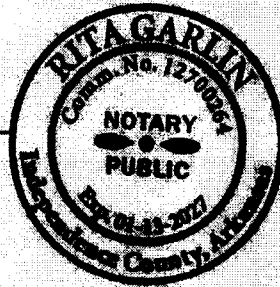


AFFIANT
Deputy Michael Moody
Independence County Sheriff's Department
1750 Myers Avenue
Batesville, Arkansas, 72501

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME THIS 23rd DAY OF August, 2023.

Rita Garlin
JUDGE, NOTARY PUBLIC OR CLERK

My Commission Expires: 01/13/2027



FINDING OF PROBABLE CAUSE FOR ARREST

I hereby find that the foregoing sworn Affidavit demonstrates reasonable and probable cause for the issuance of a warrant of arrest for the defendant for the charges listed in the attached Information and that the defendant should be arrested and bound over for trial.



JUDGE

Dated and signed this 23 day of August, 2023.