

## Search Warrant

**State of Texas**  
**County of Taylor**

THE STATE OF TEXAS to the Sheriff or any Peace Officer of Taylor County, Texas or any Peace Officer of the State of Texas, GREETINGS:

Whereas, the affiant, Jonathan Merrick, is a Peace Officer under the laws of Texas, and did heretofore this date subscribe and swear to said facts before me, and whereas I find that the verified facts stated by the Affiant in the Affidavit show that the Affiant has probable cause for the belief that expresses therein and establish existence of proper grounds for issuance of this Warrant; now, therefore, you are commanded to enter the place, 910 S. 27<sup>th</sup> St. , Abilene, Taylor County, Texas, and to seize property including but not limited to: the shoes belonging to Luke Matthew Sweetser ( [REDACTED] ), and bring them before me.

HEREIN FAIL NOT, but you then and there this Warrant within three (3) days, exclusive of the day of its issuance and showing how you executed same.

ISSUED this the 16<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2016, to certify which witness my hand this date at

4:31 , P. M.



Magistrate

Thomas Wheeler  
350<sup>th</sup> District Court

## Affidavit for Search Warrant

**State of Texas**  
**County of Taylor**

I, Jonathan Merrick, being a peace officer under the law of Texas and being duly sworn, on oath makes the following statements and accusations:

1. There is in Abilene, Taylor County, Texas, a place described and located as follows: The government building located at 910 S. 27<sup>th</sup> St., Abilene, Taylor County, Texas, further described as the Taylor County Adult Detention Facility.
2. Said suspected place is in the charge of and controlled by the following named Party: Luke Matthew Sweetser ( [REDACTED] ) located at the Taylor County Adult Detention Facility.
3. There is a suspected place and premises the following items constituting evidence of a criminal offense or constituting evidence tending to show that a particular person committed a criminal offense: Any and all items related to the offense of PC 19.02 Murder including but not limited to: The shoes belonging to Luke Matthew Sweetser ( [REDACTED] )
4. Affiant has probable cause for said belief by reason of the following facts:

Your affiant, Jonathan Merrick, is a Police Officer with the Abilene Police Department currently assigned to Criminal Investigations, investigating crimes against persons. Your affiant has been with the Abilene Police Department for 8 years. I have training in criminal investigations which includes murder, aggravated assaults, and sexual assaults.


On 12/16/2016, Abilene Police Officers responded to 3774 Woodridge Dr., Abilene, Texas in reference to an injured subject call. Upon arrival Officers found a 54-year-old White Male, who was later identified as Thomas Alexander Niblo, White Male, [REDACTED], shot several times inside of his residence of 3774 Woodridge Dr., Abilene, Texas. Thomas Niblo was transported to the Hendrick Medical Center where he later succumbed to his injuries.

The investigation revealed there is an ongoing family dispute over a large inheritance. It was discovered that the dispute was between Luke Matthew Sweetser, his wife, Ellouise Sweetser, and the deceased. During the search of the crime scene several items of evidence were located. One of those evidence items was a partial shoe print. Photos were taken of this print. Your affiant would like to obtain the shoe and shoe size located at the Taylor County Adult Detention Facility belonging to Luke Matthew Sweetser ( [REDACTED] ) for comparison with the aforementioned evidence item obtained from the scene.

Wherefore, your Affiant asks for issuance of a warrant that will authorize him to search said suspected place and premises for said persons and personal property and seize the same.

  
Affiant

Subscribed and sworn before me by said Affiant on this the 16<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2016.

  
Magistrate  
Theremis Wheeler  
35<sup>th</sup> District Court



**OFFICER'S RETURN ON SEARCH WARRANT**

**FOR: THE HONORABLE JUDGE WHEELER**

**DATE: 12-16-16**

Come to hand on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of December, A.D., 2016, at 4:31 PM o'clock and executed on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of December, A.D., 2016, at 5:09 PM o'clock by seizing and taking the following described property:

- Size 13 black Allen Edmonds dress shoes belonging to Luke Sweetser

Which said property was found by me at 910 South 27<sup>th</sup> Street Abilene, Taylor County, Texas (Taylor County Jail).

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end, positioned above a solid horizontal line.

Detective Merrick  
Abilene Police Department