

## Search Warrant

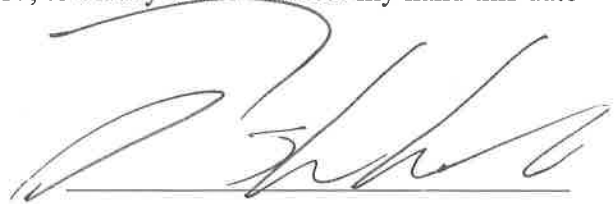
**State of Texas**  
**County of Taylor**

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 whose name appears on the affidavit attached hereto is a Peace Officer under the laws of Texas, and did heretofore this date subscribe and swear to said Affidavit before me and whereas I find that the verified facts stated by the Affiant in said 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 suspected place, 1618 Sylvan Drive, Abilene, Taylor County, Texas, including but not limited to: cellphones, computes, tablets, any electronic storage devices, journals, papers, contracts, and footwear with identifiable tread pattern.

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 12th day of January, 2017, to certify which witness my hand this date at 2:43, P. M.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thomas Wheeler', written over a horizontal line.

Judge Thomas Wheeler 350<sup>th</sup> Dist Court

## Affidavit for Search Warrant

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

I, Tim Pipes, 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 suspected place described and located as follows: A single-family residence located at 1618 Sylvan Drive, Abilene, Taylor County, Texas, further described as a red brick house with a gray shingle roof, green siding, and a glass storm door that faces to the East. The numbers 1618 are prominently displayed in gold numbering on a black placard on the wall just North of the front door, and there is a carport, garage, and a driveway on the South side of the residence facing Green Meadow Road.
2. Said suspected place is in the charge of and controlled by the following named parties: Luke Matthew Sweetser, a white male born on [REDACTED] and Elloise Sweetser, a white female born on [REDACTED]
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 Texas Penal Code 19.02 MURDER including but not limited to: a .40 caliber handgun, .40 caliber ammunition, spent .40 caliber shell casings, cellphones, computes, tablets, electronic storage devices, journals, papers, contracts, and footwear with identifiable tread pattern.
4. Affiant has probable cause for said belief by reason of the following facts:

Your affiant was called to assist with a homicide investigation where police patrol officers responded to a residence in the 3700 block of Woodridge and found a male subject was deceased in his bedroom. The victim had sustained several gunshot wounds. Empty .40 caliber shell casings were recovered from the scene. There was no forced entry discovered and the witness, the victim's wife, heard several gunshots before running from the residence in fear. Marks and tracks were discovered in the mud leading to the creek behind the victim's house.

During the investigation, it was discovered that the victim's father had recently passed away and there was reported strife between family members concerning the executors of the related will. The victim and his mother had been named as

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using an assumed or false name, as well as a false address. Your affiant knows from training and experience that individuals purchase and activate such cell phones in assumed or false names and addresses to avoid detection of the cell phone or data usage associated with a specific person or their identifying information, and the cell phone can therefore be used for unlawful purposes, criminal activity, or otherwise avoid detection or association of commonly used cellular phone functions which could contain evidence of a crime associated with their own identifying information and associated data. Detectives investigating this case have learned from confidential sources that Luke Sweetser has communicated with his family on occasions while incarcerated inside the Taylor County Jail, other than those recorded through normal means or official records at the Taylor County Jail.

Your affiant has learned through his training and experience that persons involved in criminal activity often utilized cellphones, computers, laptops, tablets, and written journals to research, discuss, and identify their goals, plan their activities, achieve their plans, objectives, accomplishments, and to take, store, and display photos, and to keep records of their progress and success. Electronic storage devices can contain and/or store this type of information and data. Written journals and diaries can contain this type of information, as well. Furthermore, electronic devices can contain geographical information that can corroborate their locations at a given time.

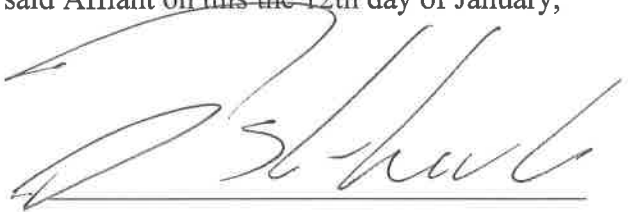
During the course of the investigation, detectives observed and recovered evidence at the crime scene that included images of muddy footprints left on the bathroom door inside the victim's residence, which were believed to have been left by the suspect. It was believed that the suspect kicked the door two times to try and gain access to the locked bathroom. Assistant Police Chief Wrenn examined these images at the request of an Abilene Police Forensics Unit Detective. Using those images, Assistant Chief Wrenn was able to enhance the faint outline of the footwear tread-print with a "replace color" tool in Photoshop software, allowing detectives to observe a discernable footwear tread impression, identified with distinct round nubs and measured in excess of 12 inches in length. Luke Sweetser is believed to wear a size 13 shoe. Detectives did not have access to the discernable tread pattern when Luke's residence was previously searched subsequent to search warrants. It is believed that footwear belonging to Luke is kept at his residence which could now be examined and compared to the enhanced photographic evidence associated with the footwear impression from the victim's bathroom door, believed to have been left by the suspect.

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Therefore, your affiants ask for the issuance of this warrant to search said suspected place.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Affiant

Subscribed and sworn before me by said Affiant on this the 12th day of January, 2017.

  
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Judge Thomas Wheeler 350<sup>th</sup> Dist Court