

*NOT SUPERVISOR APPROVED*

*Evansville Police Department*

OCA: **2411213**

THE INFORMATION BELOW IS CONFIDENTIAL - FOR USE BY AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY

**Case Status:** *OPEN*

**Case Mng Status:** *ACTIVE*

**Occurred:** *06/13/2024*

**Offense:** *MURDER*

**Investigator:** *HELM, J. E. (2X1314)*

**Date / Time:** *06/14/2024 17:51:06, Friday*

**Supervisor:** *(0)*

**Supervisor Review Date / Time:** *NOT REVIEWED*

**Contact:**

**Reference:** *Affidavit Juvenile*

**AFFIDAVIT OF PROBABLE CAUSE**

CASE NUMBER: 24-11213

I, Detective J. Helm, believe that on or about the 13th day of June, 2024 at 14:00 hundred hours at 4584 Spring Valley Rd., in the City of Evansville, County of Vanderburgh, State of Indiana, the defendant, Christian T. Gonzalez, a juvenile DOB 03/09/08 did commit the crime(s) of:

CT I Murder [L1]

IC CODE: 35-42-2-1(G)(1)

CT II False Informing [BM]

IC CODE: 35-44.1-2-3

The undersigned, being a law enforcement officer with the Evansville Police Department, and being duly sworn upon his/her oath, states that the below information constitutes probable cause for the above crimes, incorporated herein is also any attached sheets which are made a part of this sworn affidavit:

On 06/14/24, at 08:49 hundred hours, police and medics were dispatched to 4584 Spring Valley Rd. in reference to an unresponsive four-year-old female. The victim was transported to the hospital in critical condition, and it was determined she had very little brain activity upon admittance. She was observed to have finger-shaped bruises to her left jaw-line and neck area. Additional red marks were present on the right side of her neck, and a human bite mark was discovered on her right forearm.

I, Detective J. Helm, initially spoke with the victim's mother, Destiny Rhoades, outside the apartment. She said when she left for work that morning, around 06:55 hundred hours, the victim was asleep by herself on the mattress they share in the living room. I asked if the victim was in good health, and Destiny said she was other than a runny nose she'd had for a few weeks. Destiny said the actual residents of the apartment were Carley and Cydney Hooper. She said she moved in with them a couple months prior. Destiny said Megan Fuchs was also staying there but only for a week or so.

I spoke to Cydney on scene in a patrol vehicle. She said she was upstairs asleep in her room when her sister, Carley, woke her up. Carley was frantic and said the victim wasn't breathing. Cydney said they woke Megan up, who was sleeping upstairs in Carley's room at the time, and then went downstairs. Cydney said she observed Destiny's boyfriend, who she only knew as Alex, sitting on the mattress next to the victim.

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"Alex" was later identified as Christian Gonzalez, a juvenile who was reported missing from Fort Wayne, IN by his grandmother, Maria Gonzalez, on 04/11/24. Christian was previously reported missing on 01/26/24 and located in Evansville on 02/24/24. Maria believed he was with Destiny Rhoades at that time. Christian was placed at Hillcrest but then escaped that same day. Officers located him again, this time at 4406 Cox Ave. which was Destiny's address at the time. Christain was detained a second time and placed at YCC (24-03436). Destiny was arrested for Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor (24-03473).

When Cydney mentioned Destiny having a boyfriend, I asked her if he also lived with them at the apartment. Cydney said he did. Cydney said Alex moved in when Destiny did and that he came down from Fort Wayne with her in April. I immediately found it suspicious that Destiny told me she left the victim sleeping alone on the mattress when she went to work that morning, and never mentioned a boyfriend when I asked her who lived in the apartment with her.

Cydney described Alex as "eerily calm" given the victim's apparent dire condition. Cydney said he acted the same way the previous day when she noticed the bruises on the victim. At the time, I was not yet aware of the victim's physical appearance, so I inquired about the bruises. Cydney said on 06/13/24, she and Destiny went to work at 11:00 hundred hours. They left the victim with Alex downstairs while Carley and Megan were upstairs sleeping. Cydney said prior to leaving, the only visible injury she recalled the victim having was a scratch to her left cheek. Cydney said the victim got that scratch from a dog jumping on her while visiting Destiny's friend, Ashley, the day before.

Cydney said she got off work around 14:00 hundred hours while Destiny was scheduled to stay until 16:00 hundred hours. When Cydney returned home, Alex asked her to look at the victim because he said she woke up crying saying the cat scratched her neck. Cydney said she observed some red marks on the victim's neck but more concerning were bruises she observed on her face and a bite mark on her arm. When she pointed them out to Alex, he said he didn't even notice those. He said the cat must've caused those too.

Cydney said she didn't believe the injuries were caused by the cat because the bite mark was a human bite mark. The bite mark was also too big for the victim to have done it to herself. Cydney asked the victim what happened to her, but all she said was the cat did it. By that time, Megan had come downstairs and she and Cydney decided to take the victim to her mother's workplace (McDonalds). When Destiny saw the victim's injuries, Cydney said Destiny started crying and gave her a hug. It was then that Destiny asked the victim what happened and the victim said Alex bit her.

They all returned to the apartment, woke Carley up and had a discussion with Alex about what happened to the victim. Cydney said Alex initially denied biting the victim but then eventually admitted he did bite her. Alex said the victim bit him first, so he was trying to show the victim what it felt like. I asked Cydney if she ever witnessed Alex

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physically abuse the victim any other times. She said she hadn't, but she did say Destiny told her that Alex had hit the victim and left a mark before they lived with them in the apartment.

I asked Cydney if the victim displayed any odd behavior or health concerns after they discovered her injuries on 06/13/24. Cydney said she spent time with the victim on the back porch, and noticed she experienced multiple spells where she would stare blankly ahead and wouldn't respond. Cydney thought they might have been some kind of seizures. Another thing Cydney mentioned was that the victim threw up. She said when she arrived home from work on 06/13/24 at the same time she noticed the victim's injuries, she noticed a towel was on the mattress in the living room. Cydney said Alex told her that he gave the victim Kool Aid and she threw it up on the mattress.

I spoke to Carley after speaking to Cydney. Carley confirmed Destiny started living with them in the apartment sometime in April. Carley said Destiny had court in April, so she had to come to Evansville from Fort Wayne. Carley said she let Destiny stay with them while her court proceedings progressed.

Carley said she worked third shift and arrived home around 08:30 hundred hours that morning. When she entered the apartment, she immediately noticed the victim laying on the mattress. She said her eyes were wide open and her lips were blue. Carley said she "looked dead," so she ran upstairs and woke up Cydney and Megan. Carley said she called 911 and had Cydney go to McDonalds to get Destiny.

It wasn't until this part of my interview with Carley that she mentioned a person named Alex being in the apartment too. Carley apologized and said she "totally forgot about Alex." I asked her who Alex was, and she said he was Destiny's boyfriend. Carley said he came down from Fort Wayne with Destiny in April and lived with them as well. Carley said Alex "watches [the victim] while Destiny works."

Carley said Alex was on the mattress next to the victim when she got home that morning. Carley said when she asked Alex what was wrong with the victim, he replied, "she sleeps with her eyes open." I asked Carley if the victim had any medical conditions, and she said she didn't think so. She said Destiny and Megan took her to the park on 06/13/24 and she didn't act herself. Carley said she was told she didn't want to play and was "spacing out."

I mentioned the paramedics observing bruises on the victim before they took her to the hospital. Carley said she saw those too. I asked her when she first saw them. That's when Carley said she originally saw them the previous day. I mentioned one of the marks on the victim looking like a bite mark, and she said Alex admitted to biting the victim on 06/13/24. I asked Carley if Alex could've hurt the victim more than biting her, and she said "possibly." She said she's witnessed him get mad, but also said she never saw him spank the victim either.

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By that time, I hadn't been made aware of any male still on scene or in custody. I asked Carley where Alex was, and she said she didn't know. Several times she mentioned he could still be inside the apartment, and at one point, asked me if I wanted her to get him. The apartment had been secured pending the application of a search warrant, but the decision was made to clear it in case Alex was still inside. I entered the apartment and went up the stairs while announcing who I was and asking for anyone inside to make themselves known. When I reached the top of the steps, I started to push open the bathroom door when a male began to exit with his hands raised. He confirmed he was Alex and I placed him in handcuffs.

Alex was transported to EPD Headquarters. Officers dealing with Alex said he told them his name was Alex Gonzalez but he went by the last name Gomez. He said his date of birth was 08/15/03. When officers could not confirm his identity, I suspected Alex was actually Christian Gonzalez. I asked him what his name was once more, and he said it was Alex. I said, "So you aren't Christian Gonzalez, the same Christian Gonzalez that is reported missing out of Fort Wayne and was already caught once with Destiny?" He said he wasn't. I told him it was going to be really easy to find out as soon as I accessed the body camera footage from Christian's arrests earlier in the year. That's when he lowered his head and admitted he was Christian Gonzalez.

I made contact with Christian's guardian, Maria Gonzalez, on the phone. She said she wasn't able to come to Evansville so we could attempt an interview with Christian. Therefore, he was not interviewed and transported to YCC.

On 06/16/24, I was informed the victim passed away at the hospital as a result of her injuries. An autopsy will be performed at a later date.

Your affiant believes that any person who supplied the above information to your affiant speaks from personal knowledge and observation and are reliable and credible inasmuch as they volunteered information to your affiant in the course of your affiant's investigation as a law enforcement officer. Your affiant believes there is a factual basis for the above information as your affiant's personal observation corroborated said information.

I affirm under the penalties of perjury that the foregoing representations are true to the best of my knowledge.

Affiant: J. Helm 2x1314 J. Helm 2x1314 Date: 06/17/24

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Guardian Information

Parent/Guardian/Custodian

Guardian`s Name: *Maria Gonzalez*

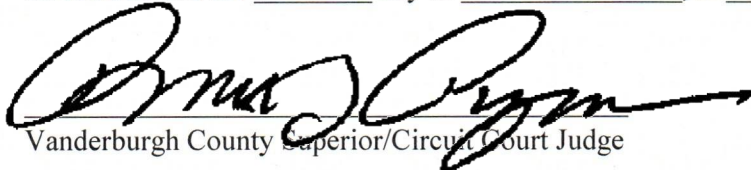
Address: *2136 Eby Ave. Fort Wayne, IN*

Telephone Number: *260-804-5152*

DETERMINATION OF AUTOMATIC WAIVER

Upon reviewing the above information, the Court finds per Indiana statute that the Juvenile should be housed in a secure adult detention facility.

So ordered this the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

  
Vanderburgh County Superior/Circuit Court Judge

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Supervisor Signature