

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA SITTING IN AND FOR TEXAS COUNTY

THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA,)
)
 Plaintiff,)
)
 vs.)
)
 TAD BERT CULLUM)
)
 ADDR: 532225 EW 20 RD)
 Keyes, OK 73947)
 DL: ****3192)
 SSN: ***-**-4546)
 DOB: December, 1980)
)
 Defendant(s).)

Case No. CF-2024- 71

TEXAS COUNTY
FILED

APR 12 2024

M. RENEE ELLIS
COURT CLERK
By MRE Deputy

INFORMATION

FOR:

- COUNT 1: MURDER IN THE FIRST DEGREE - DELIBERATE INTENT ~ 21 O.S. § 701.7(A), a FELONY
- COUNT 2: MURDER IN THE FIRST DEGREE - DELIBERATE INTENT ~ 21 O.S. § 701.7(A), a FELONY
- COUNT 3: KIDNAPPING ~ 21 O.S. § 741, a FELONY
- COUNT 4: KIDNAPPING ~ 21 O.S. § 741, a FELONY
- COUNT 5: CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT MURDER IN THE FIRST DEGREE - DELIBERATE INTENT ~ 21 O.S. § 421, a FELONY

STATE OF OKLAHOMA, COUNTY OF TEXAS:

I, George H. Leach III, the undersigned District Attorney of said County, in the name and by the authority of the State of Oklahoma, give information that in said County of Texas and in the State of Oklahoma, TAD BERT CULLUM did then and there unlawfully, willfully, knowingly and wrongfully commit the crime(s) of:

COUNT 1: MURDER IN THE FIRST DEGREE - DELIBERATE INTENT ~ a FELONY, by aiding and abetting in the commission of the deliberate and intentional taking away of the life of a human being, on or about the 30th day of March, 2024, and then and there willfully, unlawfully and feloniously without authority of law, aid and abet in the death of Veronica Butler, who was lured to the location of Highway 95 and Road L, in Texas County, Oklahoma, and certain mortal wounds were inflicted and Veronica Butler did in fact die as a result of the wounds inflicted.

This crime is punishable by death, imprisonment for life, or imprisonment for life without parole.

COUNT 2: MURDER IN THE FIRST DEGREE - DELIBERATE INTENT ~ a FELONY, by aiding and abetting in the commission of the deliberate and intentional taking away of the life of a human being, on or about the 30th day of March, 2024, and then and there willfully, unlawfully and feloniously without authority of law, aid and abet in the death of Jillian Kelley, who was lured to the location of Highway 95 and Road L, in Texas County, Oklahoma, and certain mortal wounds were inflicted and Jillian Kelley did in fact die as a result of the wounds inflicted.

This crime is punishable by death, imprisonment for life, or imprisonment for life without parole.

COUNT 3: KIDNAPPING ~ a FELONY, on or about the 30th day of March, 2024, by aiding and abetting the forcible seizing of Veronica Butler from Highway 95 and Road L, County of Texas, Oklahoma, and confining Veronica Butler in another vehicle and transferring said victim to another location, without lawful authority and with the intent to cause Veronica Butler to be confined/imprisoned against her will.

This crime is punishable by imprisonment for not more than 20 years.

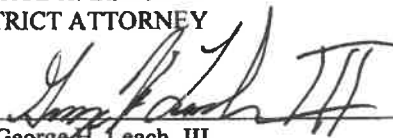
COUNT 4: KIDNAPPING ~ a FELONY, on or about the 30th day of March, 2024, by aiding and abetting the forcible seizing of Jillian Kelley from Highway 95 and Road L, County of Texas, Oklahoma, and confining Jillian Kelley in another vehicle and transferring said victim to another location, without lawful authority and with the intent to cause Jillian Kelley to be confined/imprisoned against her will.

This crime is punishable by imprisonment for not more than 20 years.

COUNT 5: CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT MURDER IN THE FIRST DEGREE – DELIBERATE INTENT ~ a FELONY, by conspiring and agreeing with Tiffany Adams, Cora Twombly, and Cole Twombly to commit the crime of Murder In The First Degree, a felony, on or about or between the 13th day of February, 2024 and the 30th day of March, 2024, by arranging and planning, the deliberate, intentional, and unlawful taking away of the life of Veronica Butler and/or Jillian Kelley and the defendant and/or co-conspirators did purchase burner phones, stun guns, and traveled to the area of Highway 95 and Road L, County of Texas, Oklahoma, in furtherance of the conspiracy.

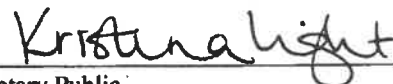
This crime is punishable by imprisonment for not more than 10 years, or a fine of not more than \$5,000, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

GEORGE H. LEACH III
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

By: 
George H. Leach, III
District Attorney

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 12th day of April, 2024.

My Commission expires: 10/13/2024


Notary Public

WITNESSES ENDORSED FOR THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA

Jason Ott, OSBI
Lt. Amie Gates, OSBI
Trevor Ridgeway, OSBI
Ryan Beck, OSBI
Brian Exinia, OSBI
David Gatlin, OSBI
Darren Atha, OSBI
Matt Wallace, OSBI
Josh Dean, OSBI
Todd Doyals, OSBI
Heather Cropper, OSBI
Miles Keene, OSBI
Jason Larue, KBI
Matt Lamatsch, KBI
Matt Boley, Texas County Sheriff's Office
Andy Walters, Texas County Sheriff's Office
Seth Bartels, Texas County Sheriff's Office
Monty Osborne, Texas County Sheriff's Office
Jason Colpetzer, Texas County Sheriff's Office
Berta Vela, Texas County Sheriff's Office
Jaron Rusch, Texas County Sheriff's Office
Stanley Harper, Texas County Sheriff's Office
Marco Crawford, Texas County Sheriff's Office
Cale Halliburton, Guymon Police Department
Carmela Gonzalez, Guymon Police Department
Kevin McIntire, DATF
Texas County/Guymon Firefighters
Tracy Pietz, Hugoton PD
Kenny Pike, Hugoton PD
Melissa Padilla, C/O District Attorney's Office
Joey Padilla, C/O District Attorney's Office
Patrick Vasquez, C/O District Attorney's Office
Kenya Gonzalez, C/O District Attorney's Office
Eloy Torres, C/O District Attorney's Office
Jamie Beasley, C/O District Attorney's Office
C.W., C/O District Attorney's Office
Cuinton White C/O District Attorney's Office
Debi Knox-Davis C/O District Attorney's Office
Cheryl Brune, C/O District Attorney's Office
Garret Oates, C/O District Attorney's Office

IN THE DISTRICT COURT IN AND FOR TEXAS COUNTY, OKLAHOMA

Courthouse, Guymon, Oklahoma

STATE OF OKLAHOMA,

Plaintiff,

Docket #: *CF-2024-71*

NAME: TAD BERT CULLUM **DEFENDANT(s),**
D.O.B.: 12/10/1980
Hgt/Wgt 511/236
SSN: 442-90-4546
DL: M083363193/OK
Address 52335 EW 20
KEYES, OK 73947

**TEXAS COUNTY
FILED**

APR 12 2024

**M. RENEE ELLIS
COURT CLERK
By MRE Deputy**

AFFIDAVIT OF PROBABLE CAUSE FOR ARREST WARRANT

The undersigned, of lawful age, being first duly sworn, upon oath, deposes and states as follows:

I am Special Agent Jason Ott of the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation. I have been a law enforcement officer in the states of Kansas and Oklahoma for approximately 27 years and served in the capacity of an investigator for over 20 years. I have read and prepared certain official investigative reports and statements of witnesses regarding the above-named defendant and, from these statements and reports it appears as follows:

On Saturday, March 30, 2024, the Texas County Sheriff's Office requested Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation (OSBI) investigative services with the suspicious disappearance of Veronica Butler (27) and Jilian Kelley (39) from rural Texas County after their vehicle was found abandoned near Highway 95 and Road L South of Elkhart, KS. Butler and Kelley were traveling to Oklahoma from Hugoton, Ks.

Interviews were conducted related to their disappearance, and it was discovered that Butler was in a problematic custody battle with Tiffany Adams for the custody of Butler's two children. The father of those children was Wrangler Rickman, Adams' son. Butler's visitation with her children was court ordered to be supervised every Saturday. Adams had a particular person she preferred to supervise those visitations and that was Cheryl Brune. The court ordered Adams to pay Brune to supervise visits if that was who she wanted to be present, otherwise Butler was to choose and pay for the person to supervise. Adams said Brune was unavailable to supervise the visitation on March 30, 2024, so Butler was required to arrange the supervision with one of her three approved individuals. Butler contacted Kelley of Hugoton, KS and planned to have her supervise the visit.

Butler told family members she was going to pick up her children from Adams at 1000 hours at Four Corners (Intersection of Highway 95 and US 64 West, a location in Texas County OK). Butler and Kelley left Hugoton, KS and traveled to Highway 95 and Road L about 5 miles north of Four Corners. Butler and Kelley arrived at that location at approximately 0940 hours. Butler planned to bring her daughter to a birthday party but after they did not arrive, the family began looking for Butler. Melissa and Joey Padilla, who were Butler's family members, located Butler's abandoned vehicle just west of the intersection of Highway 95 and Road L. The Padillas then contacted law enforcement at 1209 hours. An examination of the vehicle and area surrounding the vehicle found evidence of a severe injury. Blood was found on the roadway and edge of the roadway. Butler's glasses were also found in the roadway south of the vehicle, near a broken hammer. A pistol magazine was found inside Kelley's purse at the scene, but no pistol was found.

Adams told OSBI that on Friday night (March 29, 2024) Rickman and Butler's children stayed the night with Barrett and Lacy Cook. Adams said she planned to pick them up that morning before visitation. Adams said she called Butler at 0900 hours to confirm the meeting and Butler told Adams something came up and she

was not going to make it. Butler's phone records confirmed the call occurred; however, at the time of the call, Butler was in Hugoton, Ks in the process of picking Kelley up to go meet Adams. Adams stated she was home at the time that Butler and Kelley went missing. Adams picked the children up before 1200, from the Cook's residence.

OSBI interviewed Brune and she said she was available to supervise the visit that day but Adams told her to take a couple of weeks off from the visitation so Adams could question the children related to how Butler's approved visitation supervisors were. Butler and Kelley's phone records indicated their devices were actively sending signals to their carriers until approximately 0942 hours, after which the devices were no longer seen by the networks and stopped transmitting. Neither phone was found at the scene or within the vehicle and they are currently missing. Adams was the last known person to communicate with Butler and was scheduled to meet Butler and Kelley for visitation at 1000 hours on March 30, 2024.

Through the child custody case, recordings were obtained where Rickman discussed death threats by Adams and Adams' boyfriend, Tad Cullum. The custody battle began in February of 2019 with many hearings and court appearances. On March 18, 2024, and March 20, 2024, motions were filed requesting extended visitation for Butler. A hearing was scheduled to occur on April 17, 2024. Butler's attorney informed OSBI that Butler was likely to receive unsupervised visitation with her children at that hearing. At times Adams refused to let Rickman have his children, even though Rickman had legal custody of them. Law enforcement previously responded to a call for service where Adams refused to give Rickman his children. Reportedly the officer told Rickman he believed the children were better off in Adams' care.

Rickman's grandmother, Debi Knox-Davis, reported that in mid to late February 2024, Rickman told her they didn't have to worry about the custody battle much longer because Adams had it under control, that Adams knew the path the judge walked to work, and "we will take out Veronica at drop off." Rickman was confirmed to be in a rehabilitation facility in Oklahoma City, OK at the time of the disappearance. The children remain in the custody of Adams. Rickman denied having that conversation with Knox.

On April 1, 2024, OSBI agents obtained a search warrant for Adams cellular phone, OSBI agents performed an extraction on the device. Information gained from the device included web searches for taser pain level, gun shops, prepaid cellular phones and how to get someone out of their house.

On April 3, 2024, OSBI interviewed CW (age 16 years). CW is the daughter of Cora Twombly and Coby White. Cora is married to Cole Twombly. CW stated that she had overheard group conversations related to Butler not protecting her children from her brother, all in reference to a sexual abuse allegation. CW advised that she was told by Cora that Adams, Cullum, Cora, Cole, and Paul Grice were involved in the deaths of Butler and Kelley. She stated that Adams had provided "burner" phones to use so they could communicate without using their personal devices. CW saw two "burner" phones charging on Cora's nightstand in her bedroom.

CW described Cora, Cole, Adams, Cullum, Paul Grice as being part of an anti-government group that had a religious affiliation. Through OSBI investigation it was learned that they call their group, God's Misfits. Regular meetings are held weekly at Twombly's and the home of Barrett and Lacy Cook.

CW was told on March 29, 2024, that Cora and Cole would not be home in the morning when she woke and were going to be on a "mission". When CW awoke at approximately 1000 hours, Cora and Cole were not home, but came home around 1200 hours. CW knew that Cole and Cora took a blue and gray Chevrolet pickup owned by them and a blue flatbed pickup, owned by Clint Twombly, when they left and returned in the same vehicles. CW was told to clean the interior of the Chevrolet pickup. CW asked Cora what had happened and was told that things did not go as planned, but that they would not have to worry about her (Butler) again. CW was told that Cora and Cole blocked the road to stop Butler and Kelley and divert them to where Adams, Cullum and Grice were. CW asked about Kelley and why she had to die and was told by Cora that she wasn't innocent either, as she had supported Butler. CW asked Cora if their bodies were put in a well, and Cora

replied, "something like that". CW also disclosed that other attempts to kill Butler occurred during February of 2024, near Hugoton, Ks, in which Adams, Cullum, Cole, Cora and Grice went to Hugoton, but Butler did not leave her residence, this is consistent with the web search discovered on Adams' phone about how to get someone out of their house. According to Cora, the plan was to throw an anvil through Butler's windshield while driving, making it look like an accident because anvils regularly fall off of work vehicles.

While in Kerrick, Tx, interviewing CW and her brother, Cora and Cole arrived and tried to get access to CW and her brother. Cora was verbally aggressive and was very upset with your affiant that she was not granted access to CW and her brother. Cole exited the vehicle armed with a handgun in a holster on his belt.

OSBI investigation showed that Adams searched for gun shops on her cellular phone. A search of local gun shops showed Adams buying five stun guns at the Big R store in Guymon, Ok. The purchase was made on March 23, 2024.

OSBI investigation showed that Adams purchased three pre-paid cellular phones from Wal-Mart in Guymon, OK on February 13, 2024. The phones were identified by phone numbers (620) 417-5752, (806) 390-9141 and (806) 390-9085. Search warrants for information related to location services and phone usage were completed for each device. It was learned that all three phones were at the area where Butler's car was located and the last known location of Butler and Kelley, at the time of their disappearance. All three phones were powered on and accessed the cellular network for the first time at or near Cullum's residence at different times, prior to March 30, 2024. On March 30, 2024, phone numbers (806) 390-9141 and (806) 390-9085, before Butler and Kelley's disappearance, were at the Twombly's residence, prior to going to or near Cullum's residence. Butler and Kelley's disappearance, at 1005 and 1016 hours, phone numbers (806) 390-9085 and (620) 417-5752 were in the area at or near Cullum's residence.

After Butler and Kelley's disappearance, on March 30, 2024, between 1016 and 1035 hours, it was determined that phone numbers (620) 417-5752 and (806) 390-9085 were at a property owned by Jamie Beasley, below a dam, in the pasture, where fresh dirt work was located by your affiant. Concrete was moved from a location near Beasley's residence, approximately 150-200 yards below the dam, where it was discovered that a hole had been dug and filled back in and then covered with hay. The location where Butler and Kelley disappeared from and where Butler's vehicle was located is approximately 8.5 miles away from the location below the dam on Beasley's property, giving drive time from the location of where Butler's vehicle was located to Beasley's property, well within the 34 minutes between the time of Butler/Kelley's phones stopping transmission and pre-paid phone numbers (620) 417-5752 and (806) 390-9085 arriving at the dam on Beasley's property. All pre-paid phones stopped transmitting on the morning of March 30, 2024, at locations near Twombly's residence and Beasley's property.

Beasley advised that the dirt work was done with a skid steer, by Cullum on March 29, 2024 and was possibly finished on March 30, 2024 in the morning hours. Beasley knew that Cullum left his skid steer on his property the night of March 29, 2024, and when he awoke on March 30, 2024, at approximately 1200 hours, the skid steer was gone. Cullum rents the pasture property owned by Beasley for cattle grazing and has access to it at any time. On March 28 or 29, 2024, Cullum asked Beasley if he could cut a tree down, remove a stump, bury some concrete, do dirt work where the concrete pile was and below the dam. Adams was with Cullum, at Beasley's property, when that conversation was had. In a contact with Cullum, your affiant learned from Cullum that Adams is his "significant other". Beasley agreed to allow Cullum to do the work. Cullum brought up the idea of doing the work to Beasley.

On Sunday, March 31, 2024, in the morning hours, Cullum was at Beasley's house and told Beasley that people were looking at him for the disappearance of Butler and Kelley. Cullum told Beasley that he didn't want the police or people to cause problems for Beasley and said that all the skid steer tracks on his property without a skid steer looked bad. Beasley said that if anyone asked, he would tell them that Cullum had done tree and dirt work for him.

WHEREFORE, affiant prays this Court to issue a Warrant for the Arrest of the within-named Defendant, that he or she may be brought before a magistrate and held to answer for the offenses of:

Count 1, 21 O.S. § 701.7 Murder in the 1st Degree
Count 2, 21 O.S. § 701.7 Murder in the 1st Degree
Count 3, 21 O.S. § 741 Kidnapping
Count 4, 21 O.S. § 741 Kidnapping
Count 5, 21 O.S. 988 Conspiracy

Affiant: [Signature]

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 12th day of April, 2024.

(Seal)

Court Clerk / Notary [Signature]

Commission Number 0600756 Expires 01/19/2026

FINDING OF PROBABLE CAUSE

On this 12th day of April, 2024, the above styled and numbered case came on for hearing before me, the Undersigned Judge of the District Court of Texas County, Oklahoma, upon the above and foregoing Affidavit, requesting that a Warrant of Arrest be issued for the within named Defendant, that he/she might be arrested and held to answer for the offenses of:

TAD BERT CULLUM

Count 1, 21 O.S. § 701.7 Murder in the 1st Degree
Count 2, 21 O.S. § 701.7 Murder in the 1st Degree
Count 3, 21 O.S. § 741 Kidnapping
Count 4, 21 O.S. § 741 Kidnapping
Count 5, 21 O.S. 988 Conspiracy

Based upon said affidavit, I am satisfied and do hereby find that the within named Defendant has committed the aforementioned offense, and that there is probable cause to believe the within named Defendant has committed said offenses and that a Warrant of Arrest should be issued.

Dated this 12th day of April, 2024.

[Signature]
Judge of the District Court