

SIM GILL, Bar No. 6389  
District Attorney for Salt Lake County  
VINCENT MEISTER, Bar No. 5653  
Deputy District Attorney  
35 East 500 South  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111  
(385) 468-7600  
vmeister@saltlakecounty.gov

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IN THE THIRD DISTRICT COURT, SALT LAKE DEPARTMENT  
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SALT LAKE, STATE OF UTAH

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THE STATE OF UTAH,  
  
Plaintiff,

vs.

**JOSEPH LE PAGE LEE,**  
**DOB: 01/04/1979**  
**13885 South Kesler Peak Dr**  
**Riverton, UT 84065**  
**OTN#: 68303882**  
**SO#: 457980**  
**SID#/BCI#: 3113760**  
**Booking#: 25029918**

Defendant.

Screened by: HOMICIDE TEAM  
Assigned to: TO BE ASSIGNED

**INFORMATION**

DAO # 25.010997

BAIL: NO BAIL WARRANT

WARRANT/RELEASE: IN JAIL PRD  
06/26/2025

Case No.

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The undersigned Detective G. Johnson - Riverton Police Department, Agency Case No. RV25-10444, upon a written declaration states on information and belief that the defendant, JOSEPH LE PAGE LEE, committed the crime(s) of:

COUNT 1

MANSLAUGHTER, 76-5-205, a Second Degree Felony, as follows: That on or about June 17, 2025, in Salt Lake County, the defendant did recklessly cause the death of another.

COUNT 2

RECKLESS ENDANGERMENT, 76-5-112, a Class A Misdemeanor, as follows: That on or about June 17, 2025, in Salt Lake County, the defendant did, under circumstances not amounting to a felony offense, recklessly engage in conduct that created a substantial risk of death or serious bodily injury to another person.

To wit: M.L.

COUNT 3

RECKLESS ENDANGERMENT, 76-5-112, a Class A Misdemeanor, as follows: That on or about June 17, 2025, in Salt Lake County, the defendant did, under circumstances not amounting to a felony offense, recklessly engage in conduct that created a substantial risk of death or serious bodily injury to another person.

To wit: S.M.

COUNT 4

RECKLESS ENDANGERMENT, 76-5-112, a Class A Misdemeanor, as follows: That on or about June 17, 2025, in Salt Lake County, the defendant did, under circumstances not amounting to a felony offense, recklessly engage in conduct that created a substantial risk of death or serious bodily injury to another person.

To wit: C.M.

COUNT 5

RECKLESS ENDANGERMENT, 76-5-112, a Class A Misdemeanor, as follows: That on or about June 17, 2025, in Salt Lake County, the defendant did, under circumstances not amounting to a felony offense, recklessly engage in conduct that created a substantial risk of death or serious bodily injury to another person.

To wit: M.M.

THIS INFORMATION IS BASED ON EVIDENCE OBTAINED FROM THE FOLLOWING WITNESSES:

Officer H. Coy, and Detective G. Johnson

DECLARATION OF PROBABLE CAUSE:

Your affiant bases probable cause on information and evidence collected by Riverton Police Department, Case No. RV25-10444 and the following:

The statement of Riverton Police Officer H. Coy that on June 17, 2025, in Salt Lake County, he responded to a report of a shooting. Upon arrival, Officers located 18-year-old H.M. lying on the floor with a gunshot wound to the head. Officers observed a pistol on the floor with a magazine out and the slide locked to the rear. H.M. was transported to the hospital where he was pronounced deceased. Officer Coy learned that H.M.'s stepfather, JOSEPH LE PAGE LEE had fired the pistol.

Post-Miranda LEE stated that it was an accidental shooting, and it was all caught on video surveillance. LEE stated that he just got home from OPSEC in Midway, where he had purchased a "hip pack", two suppressors, two body armor plates, and medic patches for his emergency kit. LEE explained that H.M. was sitting on the couch in front of him, and his stepdaughter, M.M., was standing to the right of him. LEE stated that M.M. had asked him a question about the guns, and he picked up a Glock 19x. LEE explained that it was muscle memory, you take the mag out, you rack, aim it down, and pull. LEE stated that the barrel of the gun was up and not down because he was showing M.M. something. LEE stated that in his mind, it [the magazine] was not in there and "bam", H.M. fell. While LEE was explaining this, he showed with both of his hands, a racking motion as if the gun was in his right hand, and him racking the slide with his left hand. LEE told his wife to call 911. He told M.M. to put the guns away so that no one else got hurt. LEE stated that he took off his hat, gave H.M. a blessing, and then started CPR. LEE explained that he had just cleared the same gun and thought he had picked up the cleared gun. LEE explained that he has two Glock 19x's and the cleared gun did not have the magazine in it. LEE stated that he always wondered why people have accidental shootings and always called those people idiots. LEE stated that he always taught his kids to aim down. LEE claimed that he was "following protocol" when he was handling the guns.

The statement of Riverton Police Detective G. Johnson that he reviewed the video surveillance from the home. The video is 7 minutes and 44 seconds long and the beginning time stamp is 15:10:39. The video starts with LEE sitting on the floor. H.M. is sitting on the couch next to C.M., S.M. is in the kitchen, M.L. is seated on the couch to the left of LEE, and M.M. is standing next to LEE. At 15:12:15 hours, LEE starts talking to M.M. and showing her the items he had purchased. At approximately 15:12:34 hours, LEE reached down to his right side while staring at the floor and picks up a handgun with his right hand to show M.M. LEE opens the slide of the gun with his left hand racking it back, while H.M. stands up from the couch and moves towards LEE. As H.M. is in the process of sitting back down on the couch, a gunshot is heard and H.M. immediately falls to the ground and does not move. H.M.'s mother and sisters can be seen jumping from the couches after the handgun goes off. LEE jumps up and tells M.L. to call 911.

At approximately 15:13:11 hours, LEE walks over to the guns, and racks a slide back. LEE tells M.M. to put the other guns away and tells M.M. to give him the gun that was just fired. At 15:14:49 hours, LEE is kneeling next to H.M. and gives him a blessing. Just before LEE starts the blessing, M.L. tells LEE that 911 wants him to perform CPR. LEE tells M.L. he will and to give him one second. At 15:16:16 hours LEE starts doing CPR until Officers arrive. Detectives noted that it took LEE approximately 4 minutes from the time of the shooting before he started CPR on H.M.

#### MOTION FOR NO BAIL HOLD:

Pursuant to Utah Code 77-20-201(1) the State requests that the defendant be held without bail until further notice in this matter on the following grounds:

The defendant is charged with a Second-Degree felony and four Class A Misdemeanors and based upon the above probable cause statement, there is substantial evidence supporting the charges and clear and convincing evidence that the defendant would constitute a substantial danger to any other individual or to the community or is likely to flee the jurisdiction of the court, if released on bail.

The defendant is currently in the Salt Lake County Jail and has been placed on suicide watch.

In this case, the defendant was at home with his family after going out with his wife. They had gone to Midway where the defendant had purchased items for his guns. While he was sitting on the floor, a daughter asked him a question about the guns; there were at least three other firearms near the defendant at this time. The defendant picked up a Glock pistol. The defendant was seen on video surveillance, racking the pistol and then discharging the pistol and H.M. dropping to the floor. The defendant stands up, tells his wife to call 911, proceeds to manipulate and remove a magazine from at least one pistol, and then puts the guns away without checking on H.M. The defendant then gives H.M. a blessing before moving H.M.'s body to start CPR. Detectives noted that on video surveillance that from the time of the shooting to when the defendant started CPR, approximately four minutes had passed. The defendant claimed that he didn't immediately render aid, because he knew H.M. wouldn't come back from this and CPR was just standard procedure. While watching video surveillance, Detectives also noted that the defendant's wife and the other three children were also in the line of fire of the pistol before and during the discharge of the pistol.

The defendant claimed he was a medic in the military, but it took him approximately 4 minutes to start rendering aid to H.M. Additionally, Detectives located a trauma kit in the home that the defendant did not use to help the victim.

The defendant's actions on this day were reckless. The defendant stated that he was in the United States Army as a Green Beret, meaning that he has extensive training in the operation and safe handling of firearms. Defendant also admitted that he was aware of the rules of how to properly and safely handle a firearm. The defendant did not follow safety protocols when he was handling the gun, when he had it pointed towards the members of his family, and when he pulled the trigger firing one round that killed his stepson.

Due to the serious nature of the allegations, and the defendant's reckless actions with a firearm, he should be held without bail.

Pursuant to Utah Code Annotated § 78B-18a-106 (2018) I declare under criminal penalty of the State of Utah that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my belief and knowledge.

Executed on: 26th day of June, 2025.

/s/ GAVIN JOHNSON

Declarant

Authorized for presentment and filing:

SIM GILL, District Attorney

/s/ Vincent Meister

Deputy District Attorney

26th day of June, 2025

VM / MM / DAO # 25.010997

**OTHER PENDING CASES FOR THE DEFENDANT**

Court	Court Case #	Trial Judge	DAO #	Charge
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