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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.

**LORI MEERS,**  
**DOB: 12/08/1971**  
**AKA: Lori A Meers**  
**2560 E CANTERBURY LN**  
**Cottonwood Heights, UT 84121**

Defendant.

Screened by: HOMICIDE TEAM  
Assigned to: TO BE ASSIGNED

**INFORMATION**

DAO # 25.023683

BAIL: NO BAIL WARRANT

WARRANT/RELEASE: NOT BOOKED

Case No.

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The undersigned Detective B. Phelps - Cottonwood Heights Police Department, Agency Case No. CH25-2822, upon a written declaration states on information and belief that the defendant, LORI MEERS, committed the crime(s) of:

COUNT 1

MANSLAUGHTER, 76-5-205, a Second Degree Felony, as follows: That on or about March 19, 2025, in Salt Lake County, the defendant did recklessly cause the death of another.

COUNT 2

AGGRAVATED ABUSE OF A VULNERABLE ADULT INTENTIONALLY OR KNOWINGLY, 76-5-111.2(2)+(3A), a Second Degree Felony, as follows: That on or about January 1, 2025, through March 10, 2025, in Salt Lake County, the defendant did intentionally or knowingly, under a circumstance likely to produce death or serious physical injury:

- (a) caused a vulnerable adult to suffer serious physical injury;
- (b) having the care or custody of a vulnerable adult, caused or permitted the vulnerable adult's person or health to be injured; or
- (c) caused or permitted a vulnerable adult to be placed in a situation in which the vulnerable adult's person or health is endangered.

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

Officer W. Kener, R.M., L.M., Detective B. Phelps, Detective M. Alcivar, and Dr. Phillip Bennett

DECLARATION OF PROBABLE CAUSE:

Your affiant bases probable cause on information and evidence collected by Cottonwood Heights Police Department, Case No. CH25-2822 and the following:

The statement of Cottonwood Heights Police Officer W. Kener is that he was dispatched to an elder abuse investigation at Intermountain Medical Center (IMC). W.P. was 77 years old, was nonverbal and had dementia. It had been reported that W.P.'s twin sister, R.M., had gone over to visit her sister on or about March 10, 2025, and found W.P. on the floor covered in feces. Doctors at IMC found that the feces were a few days old, that W.P. was in "poor medical physical shape" and had obvious bodily damage. W.P. was so cold; she was hyperthermic, and it took doctors hours to warm her up. Officer Kener learned that W.P.'s primary caretaker was her daughter, LORI MEERS.

The statement of R.M. is that her twin sister, 77-year-old W.P., has been in the care of W.P.'s daughter, MEERS, for a long time. R.M. stated that when she visited W.P., R.M. usually only stayed at the house for 20-30 minutes because the house was not clean and was always a mess. R.M. wanted to find W.P. a permanent care facility but MEERS was dragging her feet and not following through with it. R.M. stated that a few weeks prior, MEERS had told R.M. that she had called the elder abuse hotline on herself because she was tired and not able to take care of W.P. like she wanted to. R.M. followed up with MEERS the next week and MEERS said that the elder abuse people didn't get back to her. R.M. waited for three weeks to hear back from MEERS and hadn't seen her sister for those three weeks, so she went to see her on or about March 10, 2025.

R.M. stated that when she got to the house on March 10, she opened the door and walked into the house. R.M. observed her nephew, L.M., at the top of the stairs on the phone and MEERS was at the neighbor's house. R.M. stated that she checked W.P.'s bed and she was not there, and she wasn't on the couch either. R.M. stated that she found W.P. lying on the downstairs floor, naked with a sheet over her buttocks. R.M. yelled at her nephew and said, "what the hell is going on?" Her nephew stated that they had a little problem. R.M. stated she put her hand on W.P.'s back and W.P. was "ice cold." MEERS then walked through the back door. R.M. asked MEERS what was going on and MEERS said that W.P. had not eaten in four days. R.M. asked MEERS if she had called anyone and MEERS said no. MEERS told R.M. that their doctor told them that when people are dying, they stop eating. R.M. asked MEERS if she had called 911 and MEERS said no, she wanted to clean up W.P. first. R.M. pulled out her phone, dialed 911 and handed the phone to MEERS.

Paramedics arrived and R.M. stated that when the paramedics took the sheet off W.P. to assess the injuries, what R.M. saw was awful. R.M. stated that every time the paramedics moved W.P. she cried out in pain. R.M. stated that when she saw W.P. three and a half weeks before this, she could talk, and at Christmas, W.P. was still moving around and in good spirits.

L.M. stated that his grandmother, W.P., had been in a state of decline for several years and his mother, MEERS, was the primary caretaker. L.M. stated that he moved out of the residence four to five months ago but continued to visit two to three times a week to assist with his grandmother's care. L.M. stated that MEERS often called him for help when his grandmother fell, as MEERS was unable to lift her on her own. L.M. told Detectives that while MEERS was his grandmother's primary caretaker, MEERS would often stay at a neighbor's house, leaving his grandmother alone. L.M. admitted that his grandmother frequently fell off the bed and he would come over to help when available, although his work schedule sometimes delayed his response.

L.M. stated that his grandmother's condition had been deteriorating and MEERS was struggling with her own health conditions, which affected her ability to care for his grandmother. L.M. admitted that MEERS did not reach out for external help, despite MEERS telling him and R.M. that she had. L.M. described the condition of the house stating that it had been in disrepair since 2023 due to the presence of animals and his grandmother's accidents. L.M. expressed his belief that his grandmother was neglected, particularly in terms of physical care, and MEERS would often leave food on the ground for his grandmother when she couldn't lift her back onto the bed.

Post-Miranda, MEERS stated that her mom, W.P., developed dementia. MEERS talked at great length about the house and then said, "This is nerve wracking because I'm not stupid. I know exactly what you guys think or were told. And I don't blame the hospital for wanting an investigation to be done either because they saw the condition of my mom and it's sickening, and it's very sad and embarrassing."

MEERS admitted that she didn't want to call 911 when R.M. told her to, "cause I thought I knew what I was looking at. She's in her last or final stages of Alzheimer's. Shame on me for not noticing it sooner. I could have gotten help sooner, but I kind of given up on that idea when I tried it the first time and I couldn't even get the information they wanted." MEERS admitted that she never called the elder abuse agency. MEERS stated, "I'm not saying that there was never abuse, there was, not abuse. Wrong word, neglect, me allowing my mom to play in her own crap, is neglect. I don't care. Yeah, there might be reasoning behind it. There might be, you know, to me, justify not, maybe not justifiable, but, but there was reasoning behind it."

MEERS admitted that W.P. had been on the floor for 5 or 6 hours on March 10. MEERS stated that she wasn't going to take W.P. to the hospital or call 911 until she got W.P. cleaned up. MEERS admitted that she only stayed at W.P.'s place when her son didn't come home, but she was over there every day, more than once a day.

The statement of Cottonwood Heights Detective M. Alcivar is that when he went into the residence, he noted a foul odor of old urine and feces mixed with food and filth. Detective Alcivar observed that each step leading upstairs was carpeted and covered in a thick film of dirt, grime, and what appeared to be feces. The upstairs bathroom had dirty toilet water, and the shower had grime on the walls, tub, and curtain.

The statement of Cottonwood Heights Police Detective B. Phelps is that he reviewed W.P.'s medical records. It was noted that when W.P. had arrived at the hospital, she was covered in feces and bed sores. W.P. was also hypothermic. W.P. was diagnosed with severe sepsis with septic shock, skin sores, pancreatitis, transaminitis, pressure injury of left hip, pressure injury of right hip, unstageable pressure injury of right lower leg, pressure injury of deep tissue of right foot, pressure injury of deep tissue of left knee, pressure injury of deep tissue of right knee, wound of sacral region, palliative care encounter. W.P. passed away on March 19, 2025.

Dr. Phillip Bennett with the Medical Examiner's office conducted an autopsy on W.P. Dr. Bennett noted that the autopsy revealed W.P. had significant trauma. The pancreas was acutely inflamed and infected, which was the most likely cause of the infection causing septic shock. W.P. had multiple decubitus ulcers (pressure sores) on her chest, back, and lower extremities. Dr. Bennett noted that malnutrition and decubitus ulcers can increase the risk of developing infections and septic shock. Dr. Bennett noted that the circumstances surrounding W.P.'s death and findings at autopsy indicate the manner of death to be natural, and the immediate cause of death to be septic shock due to acute pancreatitis.

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 two Second-Degree felonies and 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 State has just learned that the defendant has left the State of Utah and is in California staying with a younger sister.

Due to the serious nature of this offense and the defendant leaving the State of Utah, the State is requesting no bail until a formal detention hearing will permit the parties to assess whether release conditions are appropriate in this matter.

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: 9th day of September, 2025.

/s/ BRAYDEN PHELPS

Declarant

Authorized for presentment and filing:

SIM GILL, District Attorney

/s/ Jamie Whiteway

Deputy District Attorney

9th day of September, 2025

JW / MM / DAO # 25.023683

**OTHER PENDING CASES FOR THE DEFENDANT**

<b>Court</b>	<b>Court Case #</b>	<b>Trial Judge</b>	<b>DAO #</b>	<b>Charge</b>
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