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

THE STATE OF UTAH,

Plaintiff,

vs.

MADLINE CHRISTENSEN,
DOB: 10/13/1993
AKA: MADLINE LYAL WRIGHT
10784 S Ozarks Dr
South Jordan, UT 84009
OTN#: 68118447
SO#: 428192
SID#/BCI#: 3063586
Booking#: 24052749

Defendant.

Screened by: HOMICIDE TEAM
Assigned to: TO BE ASSIGNED

INFORMATION

DAO # 24.020770

BAIL: NO BAIL WARRANT

WARRANT/RELEASE: IN JAIL PRD
11/22/2024

Case No.

The undersigned Detective R. Williams - South Jordan Police Department, Agency Case No. SJ24-32407, upon a written declaration states on information and belief that the defendant, MADLINE CHRISTENSEN, committed the crime(s) of:

COUNT 1

ATTEMPTED MURDER, 76-5-203, a First Degree Felony, as follows: That on or about November 11, 2024, in South Jordan City, in Salt Lake County, the defendant attempted to intentionally or knowingly cause the death of another; or intending to cause serious bodily injury to another individual, committed an act clearly dangerous to human life that constituted a substantial step toward causing the death of the other individual; or acting under circumstances evidencing a depraved indifference to human life, knowingly engaged in conduct that created a grave risk of death to another individual and that conduct constituted a substantial step forward toward causing the death of the other individual.

COUNT 2

AGGRAVATED CHILD ABUSE - INTENTIONALLY OR KNOWINGLY, 76-5-109.2(2)+(3A), a Second Degree Felony, as follows: That on or about November 11, 2024, in South Jordan City, in Salt Lake County, the defendant did intentionally or knowingly inflict upon a child, serious physical injury.

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

Detective R. Williams, Officer Breeze, and B.W.

DECLARATION OF PROBABLE CAUSE:

Your affiant bases probable cause on information and evidence collected by South Jordan Police Department, Case No. 2024-32407 and the following:

The statement of Officer Breeze that on November 11, 2024, she was dispatched to a psychiatric problem located at a residence in South Jordan City, in Salt Lake County. The complainant, B.W. was calling to report his wife MADELINE CHRISTENSEN (AKA MADELINE WRIGHT) had attempted suicide using a knife and cut him as well. B.W. reported to dispatch that his hands were bleeding, and MADELINE was bleeding from the throat, had possibly overdosed, and she drank household bleach. When Officer Breeze arrived, B.W., MADELINE, and their three-month-old daughter D.W. were out in the front yard of the residence. MADELINE no longer had the knife and was laying face down in the grass with her arms out in front of her. MADELINE was checked for weapons and was wearing a one-piece dress that was wet and smelled like household bleach. Officer Breeze asked MADELINE where she was hurt. MADELINE had a laceration on her neck and had blood on her hands and dress. MADELINE was cut on her neck and stated she drank $\frac{3}{4}$ a bottle of Drano. Officer Breeze asked MADELINE "So what happened tonight." MADELINE responded, "Um I just felt like the future for my daughter and I could end up being awful." Officer Breeze then stated, "Okay. And you just felt like hurting yourself to end it?" MADELINE stated, "I wanted to save me and my daughter." MADELINE stated that she had cut her throat and drank bleach in an attempt to end her life. According to Officer Breeze, at the hospital, MADELINE mentioned that she had done this before and said something about a water filled bathtub and a toaster.

The statement of B.W. that things began after November 5, 2024. B.W. stated that MADELINE's mood and personality shifted. B.W. stated that on Friday November 8, 2024, MADELINE attempted to kill herself by placing a toaster in the bathtub with her. B.W. convinced MADELINE to be admitted to the hospital for help on Friday but was released with a safety plan on Saturday. B.W. stated that Sunday went normally and there were no issues. B.W. stated that on November 11, 2024, MADELINE went grocery shopping with her mother, then later he and MADELINE went for a run together. Afterwards, they began their evening routine and MADELINE began preparing D.W. for bed. B.W. stated that while MADELINE was getting D.W. ready for bed, he was in his gaming room/office on the second floor, when he noticed MADELINE running towards the bathroom holding D.W. as well as another object. B.W. then heard the bathroom door slam closed. B.W. stated this alarmed him and he began to pound on the bathroom door and attempted to speak with MADELINE, but there was no response. B.W. stated he thought about unscrewing the door to get it open, but the alarm of the situation led him to physically break the door in.

When the bathroom door swung open, B.W. observed MADELINE kneeling in the bathtub, leaning forward with D.W. in her arms. The baby was in the water and the toaster was plugged into the wall and in the bathtub. B.W. stated he lunged forward and quickly removed the toaster, and then was able to pry D.W. away from MADELINE. B.W. stated that as he backed out of the bathroom, MADELINE retrieved a large kitchen knife from somewhere in the bathroom and began to stab herself in the stomach. B.W., while holding D.W. in one arm, was able to pull the knife away from MADELINE. B.W. stated that MADELINE then ran down the stairs towards the first floor and he began to follow her. B.W. realized he was still holding D.W. and needed to put her somewhere safe, so he went to D.W.'s room and placed her in her bassinet. B.W. noticed that MADELINE was throwing up throughout the house during the course of this incident. B.W. then went down to the first floor and found MADELINE in the kitchen with another kitchen knife, attempting to stab herself in the stomach again. B.W. wrestled this knife away from her and in the process, several of his fingers on his right hand were severely cut. B.W. stated that MADELINE then dumped cooking oil on herself and attempted to light herself on fire with a lighter. When that didn't work, MADELINE ran down into the basement. B.W. followed MADELINE and began the call to Emergency Services. While in the basement B.W. noticed a bottle of Gatorade which he believed had Drano inside of it. B.W. stated that MADELINE then ran back upstairs, and he feared she was going back for D.W., so he ran upstairs, grabbed D.W., and the 911 call-taker told him to get himself and the baby out of the house to find a safe place. B.W. stated he retrieved his slippers and when he saw MADELINE again, he noticed she had slash marks on her neck. B.W. stated that he went outside holding D.W. and MADELINE followed him. MADELINE then put her hands in the air and laid face-down in the grass. Shortly afterwards police officers arrived.

The statement of Detective R. Williams with South Jordan Police Department, that he observed a red mark on D.W.'s leg. When Detective Williams asked B.W. about the red mark, B.W. stated that the mark on D.W.'s leg was new.

When South Jordan Police Department detectives entered the house, they immediately smelled a strong odor of Drano. Detectives observed large amounts of blood all over the floor, carpet, stairs, and walls throughout the house. The door to the bathroom had fist-sized damage as though it was physically forced inwards from the outside. A white extension cord was connected to a toaster which was on the floor between the sink and the toilet. The extension cord was unplugged from the wall and hanging from the sink counter. On the sink counter was a large kitchen knife which had what appeared to be a small amount of blood on it. On the floor next to the bathtub was what appeared to be a baby carrier. The bathtub had standing water within it, and the drain plug was closed. In the bathwater, had what appeared to be burnt remains of bread and other items from the toaster. A strong odor of Drano wafted out of the master bedroom when the door was opened, and large amount of vomit was in the master bedroom. In the master bathroom, a Walmart bag was located with a container of Walmart brand "Drano" which only had a small quantity of liquid left inside the container. There was blood on the sheets in the baby basinet in the nursery and the sheets appeared to be wet. Detectives located two empty prescription bottles for prescriptions that were prescribed to MADELINE on 11/8/2024 with a quantity of 60 pills per bottle. A second knife used in the incident was located in the kitchen. The kitchen counter was covered with several large pools of blood.

Post-Miranda MADELINE stated ever since the election, she believed the outcome was her fault and she believed her family would be tortured and killed unless she was perfect. MADELINE also believed that her family would be tortured and killed if she didn't kill herself. MADELINE didn't know why she felt this way and informed Detectives that she was diagnosed with a mental health disorder. MADELINE stated that she has had manic episodes in the past. When MADELINE was asked about the incident, she said she couldn't remember, but remembers her husband's hand was cut, remembers blood on the counter at night-time and waking up in the hospital. MADELINE stated that she also remembers taking a bottle and a half of her Buspirone and she drank "drano." After a few questions, MADELINE told detectives that she and her baby were sitting on the couch together, when her head told her, "You have to do this. It's now or never." MADELINE stated that she retrieved the "baby backpack", removed her baby's legs from her "sleep sack" in order to put her in the carrier, so her hands were free. MADELINE then retrieved an extension cord, the toaster, and the kitchen knife.

MADELINE stated that she had gone into the bathroom to attempt suicide with the toaster. MADELINE described that she had plugged the toaster in with the extension cord in the outlet next to the sink and placed the toaster in the bathtub. MADELINE stated that she turned on the water and plugged the drain. She then got into the sitting position on her knees and the baby was on her chest in the baby carrier. When the bathtub had water in the bottom, she unclipped the carrier and placed the baby on her back in the water. The baby immediately began to cry because the water was too hot. MADELINE picked the baby up and that's when her husband broke the door and entered the bathroom.

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 now charged with a felony while on probation for a felony conviction in case number 211907132, and there is substantial evidence to support the current charge; and

The defendant is charged with felonies, 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 was previously convicted in the Third District Court case #211907132 of Disarming a Police Officer a Second-Degree Felony. The defendant pled guilty and was subsequently sentenced on May 30, 2023, to 48 months probation to be supervised by Adult Probation and Parole. According to the Court Docket on that case, the defendant is still on probation (which may be court probation at this time.)

In this case, the defendant made statements to Detectives that included the following: she stated that ever since the election she believed that the outcome was her fault, and believed her family would be tortured and killed unless she was perfect. The defendant said she believed her family would be tortured and killed if she didn't kill herself. The defendant stated she is diagnosed with a mental health disorder. The defendant told detectives that on the date of the incident in this case, she had D.W. and the two of them were on the couch together. The defendant stated her head was telling her "You have to do this. It's now or never." The defendant stated that she retrieved the "baby backpack" and removed D.W.'s legs from her "sleep sack" in order to place her in the carrier. The defendant stated this was so she could have her hands free. The defendant then retrieved an extension cord, the toaster, and the kitchen knife. The defendant stated she ran into the bathroom and soon after B.W. began trying to break down the door. MADLINE put D.W. in the bathtub with her when she got in. MADLINE stated she had gone into the bathroom to attempt suicide with the toaster.

The defendant is clearly a danger to herself and her child. The defendant went to great lengths to commit suicide and kill her 3-month-old daughter. If the child's father had not intervened the situation would have had a different outcome. Based upon the serious nature of the allegations, the defendant should be held with no 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: 21st day of November, 2024.

/s/ REACE WILLIAMS

Declarant

Authorized for presentment and filing:

SIM GILL, District Attorney

/s/ Melanie Serassio

Deputy District Attorney

21st day of November, 2024

MS / MM / DAO # 24.020770

OTHER PENDING CASES FOR THE DEFENDANT

Court	Court Case #	Trial Judge	DAO #	Charge
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