

STATE OF INDIANA)
) SS:
COUNTY OF WHITLEY)

IN THE WHITLEY CIRCUIT COURT
CAUSE NO. 92C01-0911 MR 128

FILED

STATE OF INDIANA)
)
VS.)
)
)
RODNEY HOUSER)

AFFIDAVIT FOR PROBABLE CAUSE

Cindy Owlittle
CLERK, WHITLEY CO. CIRCUIT/SUPERIOR COURT

Based upon his investigation this affiant has probable cause to believe the Defendant committed the crime of Murder, and in support thereof states the following facts:

1. On November 18, 2009, an individual hereinafter identified as a confidential informant ("CI") came to the Whitley County Sheriff's Department and reported the following:

a. At approximately 8:30 a.m. that morning, Rodney Houser had come to the CI's residence in Waynedale in Fort Wayne Indiana and asked him to dispose of a bag of items that he had and also to help him get rid of a Dodge Durango that he was driving. Mr. Houser took the bag of items and threw them in a dumpster at the CI's residence. The CI then followed Mr. Houser to the American Legion where Mr. Houser took the license plate off of the Durango and abandoned the Durango in the parking lot.

b. Mr. Houser then asked for a ride back to a residence in Whitley County. The CI drove Mr. Houser to Whitley County. Houser told the CI that he had killed his ex-wife, Debra Houser, and that he needed help burying her body which he stated he had already hidden a short distance from the residence. Mr. Houser stated that

he was sure that Debra Houser was dead.

c. When they arrived at the residence at 4041 West Old Trail Road in Whitley County, Houser exited the CI's vehicle and said he was going in to change clothing and get a shovel. The CI then drove away from the residence and to the Whitley County Sheriff's Department to report this activity.

2. The CI arrived at the Whitley County Jail at 9:46 a.m.

3. Sheriff Mark Hodges went to the residence at 4140 W. Old Trail Road where Rodney Houser was seen arriving at the residence at approximately 10:45 a.m. He was placed into custody.

4. Mr. Houser indicated to Sheriff Hodges that Debra Houser went to work early that day and he had not seen her since. When asked where he had just come from, Mr. Houser initially denied having left the house that morning, then said he had gone to see his friend "Sam." He could not recall Sam's last name. Efforts made to verify this story have been unsuccessful. During a later interview, Mr. Houser denied that he had been fighting with his wife the previous night.

5. Employees at the Post and Mail, where Ms. Houser worked, said she did not arrive for work that morning nor did she call in.

6. Debra Houser's twenty-two year old daughter, Amanda Abbott, states that her mother and Mr. Houser had been divorced for several years, but that Mr. Houser had been staying at Ms. Houser's residence at 4041 West Old Trail Road for approximately one-and-a-half months. Ms. Abbott further stated that she spoke with her

mother over the phone at approximately 8:00 p.m. and again at 9:30 p.m. on November 17, 2009. During the first call, Ms. Houser had told Amanda that she and Rodney Houser had been fighting, that Mr. Houser had left the residence and that she had taken all of Mr. Houser's personal effects and placed them outside the residence. During the second call, Mr. Houser arrived back at the residence. Amanda asked Ms. Houser to call her back after Mr. Houser had left. Ms. Houser never called Amanda back.

7. Mr. and Ms. Houser's nine-year-old son was interviewed. He stated that his mother and father fought the previous night because Mr. Houser was not home to get him off the bus that afternoon. The nine-year old indicated that he went to bed at approximately 8:30 p.m. and was awakened in the morning and put on the bus by his father who told him that his mother had left early for work.

8. Search warrants were obtained for the residence at 4041 W. Old Trail Road and a Dodge Durango without a license plate recovered from the Waynedale American Legion parking lot.

9. In the Durango, which was determined to be registered to Debra Houser, what appeared to be fresh blood was found on the laid-down back seats of the vehicle.

10. At the residence, a bracelet confirmed by Ms. Houser's daughter to have been worn by Debra Houser was found in the driveway. Also, the sheets on the bed in the main bedroom had been removed and were found to have been washed in the laundry

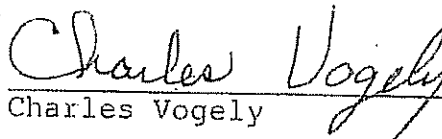
machine. Also, a soaking wet set of camouflage clothing was discovered in the house.

11. A bag has been retrieved from the dumpster at the CI's residence in Waynedale which contained Debra Houser's purse, cell phone, women's pants with what appears to be fresh blood staining them, men's pants and shirt also with what appears to be fresh blood stains, and a pair of cowboy boots.

12. Ms. Houser's body has not yet been discovered, but law enforcement officers continue to search the area around the residence. All of the evidence available at this time indicates that Debra Houser is deceased.

13. I believe the above-described statements attributed to the CI to be truthful as they have been confirmed by other sources and forensic evidence collected in this case.

I affirm the foregoing statements are true and accurate under the pains and penalties of perjury.


Charles Vogely

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 20 day of November 2009.


Notary Public

PATRICIA D. COOK
Resident of Whitley County
My Commission Expires June 24, 2015.