

FILED

STATE OF INDIANA)
) SS:
COUNTY OF ALLEN)

DEC 28 2010

IN THE ALLEN SUPERIOR COURT

CAUSE NO.

02D05-10 12 - FA - 000084

STATE OF INDIANA

CLERK OF) BY CIRCUIT
AND SUPERIOR) COURTS //

AFFIDAVIT FOR PROBABLE CAUSE

VS.

Latisha A. Lawson

I, Sandon Quate, swear or affirm under penalty of perjury, that I am a Law Enforcement Officer with the Fort Wayne Police Department, and that:

Undersigned, upon information and belief, being duly sworn upon oath, says that:

Sometime during the period of time between the 1st day of November, 2009 and the 30th day of November, 2009, in the County of Allen and in the State of Indiana, said defendant, Latisha A. Lawson, being at least eighteen (18) years of age, did knowingly or intentionally touch J. K., a person less than fourteen (14) years of age, in a rude, insolent, or angry manner, resulting in the death of said J. K.

Sometime during the period of time between the 1st day of November, 2009 and the 30th day of November, 2009, in the County of Allen and in the State of Indiana, said defendant, Latisha A. Lawson, being at least eighteen (18) years of age, having the care of J. K., a child less than fourteen (14) years of age, DOB: **REDACTED** a dependant, whether assumed voluntarily or because of a legal obligation, did knowingly or intentionally place J. K. in a situation endangering his life or health, resulting in the death of said J. K.

Sometime during the period of time between the 1st day of November, 2009 and that 30th day of November, 2009, in the County of Allen and in the State of Indiana, said defendant, Latisha A. Lawson, who having the care of a dependent, to wit: K. K., DOB: **REDACTED** did knowingly or intentionally place said K. K. in a situation that endangered K. K.s life or health, resulting in bodily injury, to wit: vomiting and/or physical pain.

Sometime during the period of time between the 1st day of November, 2009 and that 20th day of December, 2010, in the County of Allen and the in the State of Indiana, said defendant, Latisha A. Lawson, who having the care of a dependent, to wit: K. K., **REDACTED**, did knowingly or intentionally place said K. K. in a situation that endangered K. K.'s life or health.

Sometime during the period of time between the 1st day of November, 2009 and that 20th day of December, 2010, in the County of Allen and in the State of Indiana, said defendant, Latisha A. Lawson, being at least eighteen (18) years of age, did knowingly or intentionally touch in a rude, insolent, or angry manner, K. K. a person less than fourteen (14) years of age, resulting in bodily injury.

The Defendant, Latisha A. Lawson, is described as being a female black, whose date of birth is 6/8/1979, Social Security Number **REDACTED** 5'03" tall, 118 lbs, Hair Color: BRN, Eye Color: BRN.

The affiant, Sandon Quate, believes and has good cause to believe that the said Defendant, Latisha A. Lawson, committed the aforesaid offense. The affiant, Sandon Quate, bases his belief on the fact that on the 20th day of December, 2010, officers of the Fort Wayne Police Department responded to **REDACTED** in regards to a missing child. Officers learned from Natasha Hawkins, the resident of the aforementioned address that a child had died at the apartment and that the child's name was J. K. The missing child, J. K., DOB: **REDACTED** is the son of the defendant, Latisha Lawson. Ms. Lawson was not at the scene and could not be located at that time. A short time later, Elisha Harris, who is a pastor of a local church who also operates a homeless shelter, came forward with information that Latisha Lawson was

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staying at his homeless shelter located at **REDACTED**.

Detective W. Lyons and uniformed officers of the Fort Wayne Police Department proceeded to **REDACTED** and located Latisha Lawson and her daughter, K. K., **REDACTED**. Ms. Lawson was advised by Detective W. Lyons that he needed to speak with her regarding her missing child. Ms. Lawson agreed to be interviewed at the Fort Wayne Police Department. Once at the police department, Ms. Lawson was advised of her rights, and after having waived said rights, stated to Detective W. Lyons that she had given a concoction of olive oil and vinegar to her daughter K. K., and her son, J. K., believing that they were both demon possessed. The defendant advised that J. K.'s body could be found in a tote in a bedroom located at **REDACTED**. Ms. Lawson stated that her son was with God and that he had gone to be with God approximately one week prior to Thanksgiving 2009. Ms. Lawson advised that she could not take J.'K.s temper tantrums and that she gave him a combination of Olive Oil and vinegar until he stopped breathing. Ms. Lawson confirmed that she had attempted to provide J. K. with emergency medical care. Ms. Lawson was asked if she knew at that time that she had murdered her son, to which she replied, "yes". The defendant and Elisha Harris, the owner of the homeless shelter located at **REDACTED**, both signed consent forms for the property of **REDACTED** to be searched by police. Officers subsequently searched the home and located the child's body of J. K.

On the 21st day of December, 2010, a forensic interview was conducted at the Dr. Bill Lewis Center for Children. The affiant attended the interview of K. K. K. K. stated that she and J. K. were given the olive oil and vinegar concoction from their mother, as her mother believed they were demon possessed. K. K. advised that she immediately vomited after being given the olive oil and vinegar. K. K. advised that J. K. had died as he had been spitting the mixture out of his mouth. K. K. stated that her mother told her to come to the couch and say goodbye to J. K.. K. K. stated that J..K.'s body was later placed on a bed for a period of time and that she had to view the body and pray over him. K. K. advised that her mother later transferred J.K.'s body from the bed to a closet located inside of the apartment. K. K. advised that when they moved out of the apartment, J. K.'s body was placed in a plastic tote which was kept with them at their new home, **REDACTED**.

K. K. further disclosed during her interview that her mother would often beat her with a pink belt or an extension cord, leaving marks on her body, which were still present. K. K. also reported that her mother, Latisha Lawson, would also strike her with an open hand and a closed fist. The marks that were still visible on K. K.'s body were photographed by a forensic nurse.

The defendant was again interviewed at the Fort Wayne Police Department on the 27th day of December, 2010, at which time she was again advised of her rights, and waived said rights. Ms. Lawson advised both Detective W. Lyons and the affiant that as a form of discipline she would whip K. K. with a pink belt that belonged to K. K., and that sometimes she would also use an extension cord. Ms. Lawson further advised that she had given J. K. the olive oil and vinegar concoction three (3) times and on the third time she held his mouth shut for approximately ten (10) minutes until he stopped struggling. The defendant advised she then checked J.K. to see if he was breathing and if he had a heartbeat. She advised that upon finding no signs of life for J. K., she wrapped him in a blanket and placed him in a closet, but later moved his body to a plastic tote.