



**OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY
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46TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
DELAWARE COUNTY, INDIANA**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

From: Eric M. Hoffman, Prosecuting Attorney
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Date: August 19, 2024

**JUDGE CONVICTS DRUG DEALER OF DEALING IN A CONTROLLED
SUBSTANCE RESULTING IN DEATH**

Muncie Indiana – Earlier today, the Honorable John M. Feick, Judge of the Delaware Circuit Court No. 4 convicted Teagan Thatcher (DOB 10/21/2000) of Dealing in a Controlled Substance Resulting in Death, a Level 1 Felony and Count 2 Dealing in a Narcotic Drug, a Level 5 Felony. On August 12, 13, and 14 Judge Feick presided over a bench trial and at the conclusion of the presentation of evidence and argument, took the matter under advisement. Today, Judge Feick found Taylor guilty of Dealing in a Controlled Substance Resulting in Death, a Level 1 Felony and Count 2 Dealing in a Narcotic Drug, a Level 5 Felony. A copy of the Affidavit of Probable Cause for Arrest that was originally filed with the case and the Court's verdict is attached. Judge Feick set sentencing for September 11, 2024. Pursuant to Indiana law a Level 1 Felony is punishable by 20 – 40 years in prison and up to a \$10,000 fine.



After the verdict was returned, Delaware County Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Andrew Ramirez, who prosecuted the case, said “This marks the 13th drug dealer who has been convicted in Delaware County of Dealing Resulting in Death. We will continue to prosecute drug dealers who prey on the vulnerable in our society by poisoning them.”

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STATE OF INDIANA)
DELAWARE COUNTY)

IN THE DELAWARE COUNTY COURT SYSTEM
TERM

999

AFFIDAVIT OF PROBABLE CAUSE FOR ARREST WITHOUT WARRANT

~~Bluffton Police~~ COMES NOW: Detective Marjorie Heekel, a police officer of the ~~Delaware County Sheriff's Office~~, and being first duly sworn upon oath, deposes and says that the following described person was arrested, without Warrant upon the charge(s) and circumstances herein after stated, and makes this affidavit for the purpose of establishing probable cause for said arrest.

NAME OF ARRESTEE: Reginald Thatcher D.O.B. 10/21/2000

ADDRESS OF ARRESTEE: DECATOR W.

DATE OF ARREST: 4/16/24 TIME OF ARREST: 130 AM PM

CHARGES: <u>creating resulting in death</u> <u>35-47-1-1.5</u>	a class <u>1</u>	Felony <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Misdemeanor <input type="checkbox"/>
	a class _____	Felony <input type="checkbox"/>	Misdemeanor <input type="checkbox"/>
	a class _____	Felony <input type="checkbox"/>	Misdemeanor <input type="checkbox"/>
	a class _____	Felony <input type="checkbox"/>	Misdemeanor <input type="checkbox"/>
	a class _____	Felony <input type="checkbox"/>	Misdemeanor <input type="checkbox"/>
	a class _____	Felony <input type="checkbox"/>	Misdemeanor <input type="checkbox"/>

The basis and reasons why this officer believes that said arrestee committed the aforesaid offense(s) in Delaware County, State of Indiana, are as follows:

See Attached PC Form

I affirm under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and accurate to the best of my information and belief.

DATE: 4/16/24 Officer: Marjorie Heekel BIC

JUDICIAL DETERMINATION

The undersigned, being a judicial officer of Delaware County, and having reviewed the foregoing affidavit, now determines that probable cause existed for the arrest of said arrestee, and now fixes bail in the penal sum of \$ 50,000 - Cash only

Dated: 4/17/24 Signed: Judge G. Call Title: Cert Judge

PRE-INITIAL HEARING INFORMATION

Pre-initial Hearing Date: _____ Charges to be filed by Date: _____ Time: _____

STATE OF INDIANA)
) SS:
COUNTY OF DELAWARE)

IN THE DELAWARE CIRCUIT COURT

2024 TERM

STATE OF INDIANA

CAUSE NO.

VS.

Teagon Thatcher

AFFIDAVIT FOR PROBABLE CAUSE

1. The undersigned swears and affirms, under the penalties for perjury, that he/she good cause to believe that: On or about 02/26/2024, in the County of Delaware and in the State of Indiana said the Defendant, Teagon Thatcher, did knowingly commit the crime of dealing in a narcotic drug causing death, IC code 35-42-1-1.5, level 1 felony.
2. The Defendant, Teagon Thatcher, is described as a being a 5 foot 8 inch white, male, blonde hair, blue eyes, and 23 years old (DOB 10/21/2000).
3. The Affiant, Detective Marijean Heckel, is a Detective with the Bluffton Police Department. The Affiant believes and has good cause to believe that the said Defendant committed the aforesaid offense(s). The Affiant bases her belief on the fact that on 02/27/2024, Neva Petty, DOB 07/13/2005, was located deceased in Bluffton, Wells County, Indiana. The cause of death appears to be a fentanyl overdose. Through the investigation it was determined that Neva travelled to the defendant at an address in Muncie, Delaware County, Indiana to pick up fentanyl, a narcotic drug, travelled back to Bluffton, Wells County, Indiana, consumed the fentanyl, overdosed, and passed away. Through the investigation the following timeline has been discovered:
4. On 02/27/2024 at approximately 4:46PM, Amanda Lehrman found Neva unconscious and unresponsive in a bathroom in her residence located at 805 S. Johnson St., Bluffton, Indiana. In the days leading up to that date, Lehrman had been allowing Neva to stay at her residence. After Lehrman found Neva in the bathroom, 911 was called. EMS & Police thereafter responded to the scene. EMS attempted to revive Neva but were unsuccessful. She was then pronounced deceased at the residence. During a search of the bathroom where Neva was found, a bag of grayish powder (which later field-tested positive for fentanyl) and a black cut drinking straw were located with Neva body. There was also a cell phone located with Neva's body.
5. Preliminary findings from the autopsy of Neva's body show findings consistent with an overdose death. Toxicology results show the presence of multiple narcotics in Neva's blood, including Fentanyl and Methamphetamine.
6. A search of Neva's cell phone was subsequently conducted. During that search, investigators were able to locate evidence of communication between Neva and the Defendant. Included in this communication were Facebook messages between Neva and Thatcher on 02/26/2024, where Neva agreed to meet up with Thatcher in Muncie. Thatcher provided the address 1713 W 10th Street in Muncie to Neva. During this conversation, Neva and Thatcher discuss Thatcher "fronting" drugs to Neva. Thatcher agrees to front Neva 1.5 grams of "slo". "Slo" is a term used for an opiate, such as Fentanyl.
7. The Affiant subsequently conducted an interview with Neva's sister, Shianna Hodge. Shianna stated that on 02/26/2024, just before 5:00PM, she and Neva traveled from Bluffton to Muncie to meet with family members. During this trip, Shianna drove. According to Shianna, while in Muncie, Neva asked to stop at a friend's house. Shianna stated that around 7:40PM she dropped Neva off for a few minutes at a house located at 1713 W 10th Street in Muncie. Shianna stated that she was not aware of the person that Neva met with at this location. Shianna picked Neva back up around 7:43PM and they drove back to Bluffton. Shianna advised that they returned to Bluffton around 8:51PM, and she dropped Neva off at a house were Neva was staying.

8. During the search of Neva's cell phone, investigators discovered location data which indicates that Neva did not leave the 805 S. Johnson St. house after she was dropped off there by Shianna. There were also no messages with anyone indicating that anyone came to meet up with Neva at the residence.
9. Affiant states that this Affidavit of Probable Cause is not a complete recital of all material facts relevant to this investigation but is made solely for the purpose of establishing probable cause.
10. Detective Marijean Heckel has been with the Bluffton Police Department since 10/08/2012, is a graduate of ILEA, and had been in the position of detective since October of 2018. Affiant has been a member of the DETECT Drug Task Force since 2016. Affiant affirms under the penalties of perjury as specified by IC Code 35-44-2-1, that the foregoing representations are true.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marijean Heckel B12". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

Detective Marijean Heckel
Bluffton Police Department/Affiant

STATE OF INDIANA)	*	DELAWARE CIRCUIT COURT #4
)SS:	*	
DELAWARE COUNTY)	*	2024 TERM
		*	
STATE OF INDIANA		*	CAUSE NO. 18C04-2404-F1-09
		*	
VS		*	
		*	
TEAGON THATCHER		*	

ORDER


Be it remembered that heretofore on the 12th, 13th, and 14th days of August, 2024, the State of Indiana appeared by Chief Deputy Prosecutor Zachary Craig and Deputy Prosecutor Andrew Ramirez, and the Defendant appeared in person, having been produced by the Sheriff and with counsel, Angelus Kocoshis, for a Bench Trial.

Be it further remembered that on said dates, witnesses were sworn and evidence was heard and concluded, but the Court not being duly and sufficiently advised in the premises, took this matter under advisement.

And now, on this date, the Court having reviewed the testimony, pleadings, and exhibits, and being duly and sufficiently advised in the premises, finds the Defendant GUILTY of Count 1, Dealing in a Controlled Substance Resulting in Death, a Level 1 Felony, and GUILTY of Count 2, Dealing in a Narcotic Drug, a Level 5 Felony. The Defendant's conviction in Count 2 shall be merged into Count 1 in order to avoid substantive double jeopardy issues and Judgment of Conviction is so entered accordingly.

The Court further finds that a Pre-Sentence Investigation be prepared by the Probation Department and hereby sets this matter for sentencing on the 11th day of September, 2024. at 9:00 a.m.

SO ORDERED this 19th day of August, 2024.



 John M. Feick, Judge
 Delaware Circuit Court No. 4

Distribution:
 State of Indiana
 Public Defender