



# Office of the Washington County Attorney

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Kevin Magnuson, County Attorney

## Press Release

**Contact:** Laura Perkins, Public Information Manager

**Phone:** 651-430-7994

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Date:** November 13, 2023

### **MCF-Stillwater inmate sentenced to ten years in prison for assault on correctional sergeant**

**STILLWATER, Minn.** -- An inmate at the Minnesota Correctional Facility in Stillwater (MCF-Stillwater) will spend an additional decade in prison after stabbing and injuring a correctional sergeant in 2020, Washington County Attorney Kevin Magnuson announced.

Adrian Dominique Bell, 35, was sentenced Monday to 120 months in prison on charges of first-degree assault after he stabbed a correctional sergeant with a 5 ½" metal shank during an altercation. According to the criminal complaint, Bell and another inmate became confrontational with correctional staff over loss of privileges on June 12, 2020. During the argument, the other inmate lunged at a correctional sergeant and punched him in the head. Additional correctional staff immediately responded and attempted to restrain the inmate. As the physical struggle continued, Bell removed a shank from his pocket, ran up to the group, and stabbed a correctional sergeant in the lower torso. The shank, described as being made from a piece of rigid, thin metal with a sharp tip and handle made from black fabric, fell from Bell's hand and both men were able to be detained.

The sergeant and two additional correctional staff injured in the altercation were transported to Lakeview Hospital for medical treatment. All three were treated for visible injuries, including a puncture wound to the sergeant's lower torso.

"Inmate assaults on correctional officers are grave offenses that undermine the safety of our prison system and will not be taken lightly," said Washington County Attorney Kevin Magnuson. "We are grateful to the Minnesota Department of Corrections and the department's Office of Special Investigations for their dedicated efforts in bringing this case forward. Together, we remain resolute in our pursuit of justice for any acts of violence committed against our dedicated correctional staff."

At the time of the assault, Bell was serving a 161-month sentence at MCF-Stillwater for attempted first-degree murder. Following his scheduled release from the Minnesota Department of Corrections in 2021, Bell's custody was transferred to the Washington County Jail for the duration of the trial. He remains in custody at the Washington County Jail while he awaits transfer to the Minnesota Department of Corrections to serve his new sentence.

Assistant Washington County Attorney Justin Collins prosecuted this case.

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State of Minnesota  
County of Washington

District Court  
10th Judicial District

Prosecutor File No.  
Court File No.

CR-2020-972  
82-CR-20-2652

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**State of Minnesota,**

Plaintiff,

vs.

**ADRIAN DOMINIQUE BELL DOB: 07/29/1988**

970 Pickett Avenue N  
Bayport, MN 55003

Defendant.

**COMPLAINT**

Summons

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The Complainant submits this complaint to the Court and states that there is probable cause to believe Defendant committed the following offense(s):

**COUNT I**

**Charge: Assault-1st Degree-Use of deadly force against peace officer/prosecutor/judge or correction employee**

Minnesota Statute: 609.221.2(a), with reference to: 609.221.2(b)

Maximum Sentence: 20 years and \$30,000

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 06/12/2020

Control #(ICR#): 20200437

Charge Description: assault a peace officer or correctional employee, to wit: Sgt. Peterson, by using or attempting to use deadly force against the officer or correctional employee who was engaged in the performance of a duty imposed by law, policy, or rule

**COUNT II**

**Charge: Assault-2nd Degree-Dangerous Weapon**

Minnesota Statute: 609.222.1, with reference to: 609.222.1

Maximum Sentence: 7 years and \$14,000

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 06/12/2020

Control #(ICR#): 20200437

Charge Description: assault another, to-wit: Sgt. Peterson, with a dangerous weapon, to wit: a shank

**COUNT III**

**Charge: Assault-4th Deg-Correctional Employee; Probation Officer; Prosecutor; or Judge**

Minnesota Statute: 609.2231.3, with reference to: 609.2231.3

Maximum Sentence: 2 years and \$4,000

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 06/12/2020

Control #(ICR#): 20200437

Charge Description: assault an employee of a correctional facility as defined in Section 241.021, subd. 1(5), to-wit: Sgt. Peterson, while the employee is engaged in the performance of a duty imposed by law, policy, or rule and inflicts demonstrable bodily harm

#### **COUNT IV**

**Charge: Assault-4th Deg-Correctional Employee; Probation Officer; Prosecutor; or Judge**

Minnesota Statute: 609.2231.3, with reference to: 609.2231.3

Maximum Sentence: 2 years and \$4,000

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 06/12/2020

Control #(ICR#): 20200437

Charge Description: assault an employee of a correctional facility as defined in Section 241.021, subd. 1(5), to-wit: Sgt. Sugranis, while the employee is engaged in the performance of a duty imposed by law, policy, or rule and inflicts demonstrable bodily harm

## STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

The Complainant states that the following facts establish probable cause:

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Your complainant is a Special Investigator with the Minnesota Department of Corrections, Office of Special Investigations. Your complainant offers the following statement to establish probable cause.

On June 12, 2020, ADRIAN DOMINIQUE BELL (DOB: 7/29/88), the Defendant herein, was an inmate in Minnesota Correctional Facility—Stillwater, located in Bayport, Washington County, Minnesota. In the evening, the Defendant confronted a Correctional Officer (CO) concerning a loss of privileges action the CO took against a different inmate. A second inmate, Robert Castillo (DOB: 1/29/83), approached the CO and stood with his arms crossed while the Defendant confronted the CO. The CO felt threatened and reported the situation to the Watch Commander. The Watch Commander decided to place the Defendant and Castillo on investigative restriction.

Sergeant Sugranis and CO Hansen called the Defendant and Castillo to the security bubble to notify them they were placed on investigative restriction. The Defendant and Castillo became upset and demanded an explanation for why they were placed on investigative restriction. Castillo began to walk up a stairwell toward his cell, but stopped and turned around to argue with Sgt. Sugranis. The Defendant was standing nearby talking with Sergeant Peterson, who had arrived to assist.

Castillo then lunged at Sgt. Sugranis and punched him in the head. CO Hansen and Sgt. Peterson immediately responded and attempted to restrain Castillo. The four men fell to the ground. The Defendant then removed a shank from his pocket, ran up to Sgt. Peterson, and stabbed Sgt. Peterson in his lower right torso. The shank fell from the Defendant's hand after he stabbed Sgt. Peterson. The Defendant then struck Sgt. Peterson several times in the face with a closed fist. Sgt. Sugranis regained his footing and attempted to wrap up the Defendant from behind. The Defendant threw Sgt. Sugranis to the ground and struck him with his hands. Several COs arrived and detained the Defendant and Castillo.

The COs recovered the shank, which was lying on the ground. The shank is approximately five and a half inches long. It is made from a piece of rigid, thin metal with a sharp tip and a handle made from black fabric. The shank is capable of producing great bodily harm or death.

CO Hanson, Sgt. Peterson, and Sgt. Sugranis went to Lakeview Hospital for medical treatment. All three had visible injuries from the fight. Sgt. Peterson had a puncture wound on his lower right torso.

The Defendant is serving a sentence for attempted first-degree murder (court file number 02-CR-12-8572), and has an anticipated release date of December 27, 2021.

## SIGNATURES AND APPROVALS

Complainant requests that Defendant, subject to bail or conditions of release, be:  
(1) arrested or that other lawful steps be taken to obtain Defendant's appearance in court; or  
(2) detained, if already in custody, pending further proceedings; and that said Defendant otherwise be dealt with according to law.

Complainant declares under penalty of perjury that everything stated in this document is true and correct. Minn. Stat. § 358.116; Minn. R. Crim. P. 2.01, subds. 1, 2.

**Complainant**

Trevor Owen Sass  
Special Investigator  
1450 Energy Park Drive  
Suite 200  
St Paul, MN  
Badge: 121

Electronically Signed:  
07/13/2020 10:59 AM  
Washington County, Minnesota

Being authorized to prosecute the offenses charged, I approve this complaint.

**Prosecuting Attorney**

Justin M. Collins  
PO Box 6  
15015 62nd Street North  
Stillwater, MN 55082  
(651) 430-6115

Electronically Signed:  
07/13/2020 10:31 AM

**FINDING OF PROBABLE CAUSE**

From the above sworn facts, and any supporting affidavits or supplemental sworn testimony, I, the Issuing Officer, have determined that probable cause exists to support, subject to bail or conditions of release where applicable, Defendant's arrest or other lawful steps be taken to obtain Defendant's appearance in court, or Defendant's detention, if already in custody, pending further proceedings. Defendant is therefore charged with the above-stated offense(s).

**SUMMONS**

THEREFORE YOU, THE DEFENDANT, ARE SUMMONED to appear on \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ AM/PM before the above-named court at 14949 62nd Street N PO Box 3802, Stillwater, MN 55082-3802 to answer this complaint.

IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR in response to this SUMMONS, a WARRANT FOR YOUR ARREST shall be issued.

**WARRANT**

To the Sheriff of the above-named county; or other person authorized to execute this warrant: I order, in the name of the State of Minnesota, that the Defendant be apprehended and arrested without delay and brought promptly before the court (if in session), and if not, before a Judge or Judicial Officer of such court without unnecessary delay, and in any event not later than 36 hours after the arrest or as soon as such Judge or Judicial Officer is available to be dealt with according to law.

*Execute in MN Only*

*Execute Nationwide*

*Execute in Border States*

**ORDER OF DETENTION**

Since the Defendant is already in custody, I order, subject to bail or conditions of release, that the Defendant continue to be detained pending further proceedings.

Bail: \$  
Conditions of Release:

This complaint, duly subscribed and sworn to or signed under penalty of perjury, is issued by the undersigned Judicial Officer as of the following date: July 13, 2020.

**Judicial Officer** John C Hoffman  
Judge of District Court

Electronically Signed: 07/13/2020 11:09 AM

Sworn testimony has been given before the Judicial Officer by the following witnesses:

**COUNTY OF WASHINGTON  
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

**State of Minnesota**

Plaintiff

vs.

**Adrian Dominique Bell**

Defendant

**LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER RETURN OF SERVICE**  
*I hereby Certify and Return that I have served a copy of this  
Summons upon the Defendant herein named.*

Signature of Authorized Service Agent:

## STATUTE AND OFFENSE GRID

Cnt Nbr	Statute Type	Offense Date(s)	Statute Nbrs and Descriptions	Offense Level	MOC	GOC	Controlling Agencies	Case Numbers
1	Charge	6/12/2020	609.221.2(a) Assault-1st Degree-Use of deadly force against peace officer/prosecutor/judge or correction employee	Felony	A1F3C	N	MN0622300	20200437
	Penalty	6/12/2020	609.221.2(b) Assault-1st Degree-Use of deadly force - mandatory minimum - penalty	Felony	A1F3C	N	MN0622300	20200437
2	Charge	6/12/2020	609.222.1 Assault-2nd Degree-Dangerous Weapon	Felony	A233C	N	MN0622300	20200437
	Penalty	6/12/2020	609.222.1 Assault-2nd Degree-Dangerous Weapon	Felony	A233C	N	MN0622300	20200437
3	Charge	6/12/2020	609.2231.3 Assault-4th Deg-Correctional Employee; Probation Officer; Prosecutor; or Judge	Felony	A433C	N	MN0622300	20200437
	Penalty	6/12/2020	609.2231.3 Assault-4th Deg-Correctional Employee; Probation Officer; Prosecutor; or Judge	Felony	A433C	N	MN0622300	20200437
4	Charge	6/12/2020	609.2231.3 Assault-4th Deg-Correctional Employee; Probation Officer; Prosecutor; or Judge	Felony	A435C	N	MN0622300	20200437
	Penalty	6/12/2020	609.2231.3 Assault-4th Deg-Correctional Employee; Probation Officer; Prosecutor; or Judge	Felony	A435C	N	MN0622300	20200437

