



# Office of the Washington County Attorney

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Kevin Magnuson, County Attorney

## News Release

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

**Phone:** 651-430-7994

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Date:** March 15, 2024

### **MCF-Oak Park Heights inmate sentenced to 15 years in prison for assault on correctional sergeant**

**STILLWATER, Minn.** -- An inmate at the Minnesota Correctional Facility in Oak Park Heights (MCF-OPH) will spend an additional 15 years in prison after attacking a correctional sergeant last January, leaving her with permanent vision loss.

Dominique Antoine Jefferson, 37, pled guilty Thursday morning in Washington County District Court to first-degree assault after he punched an MCF-OPH correctional sergeant during a confrontation on January 15, 2023. According to court documents, Jefferson requested to speak with a member of the crisis intervention team shortly after 9:30 am. After a brief exchange of words, the correctional sergeant instructed Jefferson to return to his cell. Jefferson refused and instead removed a clear plastic mouthguard from his pants pocket and placed it in his mouth. He told the sergeant to "ring the bell" and said, "I've been waiting for you." As she reached for her radio to call for assistance, Jefferson punched the sergeant with a closed fist, causing her to fall to the ground. Other officers quickly restrained Jefferson, who continued to verbally assault and threaten them.

The sergeant was transported by ambulance to Regions Hospital where she was found to have significant damage to her right eye and numerous facial fractures. Despite undergoing multiple surgeries, the injuries sustained from the attack caused irreparable damage and resulted in the permanent loss of vision in her right eye. She also required additional surgical procedures to repair the fractures to her facial bones and continues to see medical providers for follow-up care.

"In a profession already burdened with the challenges of ensuring safety and order, correctional officers should never have to face the added threat of violence," said Washington County Attorney Kevin Magnuson. "We commend the courageous correctional sergeant for her resilience in the face of adversity, and we continue to prioritize our commitment to pursuing justice in support of the safety and well-being of those who serve within our correctional facilities."

Jefferson has been incarcerated since 2005 for aiding and abetting second-degree murder. The 180-month sentence for this assault will begin after Jefferson completes the term of imprisonment for the 2005 sentence.

Assistant Washington County Attorney Marc Berris prosecuted this case.

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State of Minnesota  
County of Washington

District Court  
10th Judicial District

Prosecutor File No. CR-2023-145  
Court File No. 82-CR-23-840

**State of Minnesota,**

**COMPLAINT**

Plaintiff,

Warrant

vs.

**DOMINIQUE ANTOINE JEFFERSON DOB: 11/12/1986**

5329 Osgood Avenue N  
Stillwater, MN 55082

Defendant.

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-Great bodily harm against peace officer/prosecutor/judge or correction employee**

Minnesota Statute: 609.221.3, with reference to: 609.221.5(a)(2)

Maximum Sentence: 25 years and \$35,000

Offense Level: Felony

Offense Date (on or about): 01/15/2023

Control #(ICR#): 20230032

Charge Description: assault a peace officer, prosecuting attorney, judge, or correctional employee, to-wit: Victim, and inflict great bodily harm on the officer, attorney, judge, or employee while the person is engaged in the performance of a duty imposed by law, policy, or rule

**STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE**

The Complainant states that the following facts establish probable cause:

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Your complainant is employed by the Minnesota Department of Corrections as a Special Investigator and offers the following statement to establish probable cause:

On January 15, 2023, DOMINIQUE ANTOINE JEFFERSON, d/o/b 11/12/1986, was an inmate at the Minnesota Correctional Facility – Oak Park Heights (hereinafter "MCF-OPH") as a consequence of being convicted in 2005 of Aiding and Abetting Murder in the Second Degree. MCF-OPH is located in the City of Oak Park Heights, Washington County, Minnesota.

At approximately 9:32 a.m. on that date, JEFFERSON approached the "bubble" in Complex 1 of the prison and told the correctional officer stationed inside that he wanted to speak with a member of the crisis intervention team. A correctional sergeant identified hereinafter as "Victim" approached JEFFERSON and told him that she was a member of the crisis intervention team. JEFFERSON said that he did not want to speak with Victim, and Victim then directed JEFFERSON to "switch in" by returning to his cell. Instead of doing so, JEFFERSON removed what appeared to be a clear plastic mouthguard from his pants pocket, placed it in his mouth, and told Victim, "Better ring the bell. I ain't switching in. I've been waiting for you." Victim reached for the microphone of her portable radio to call for assistance and JEFFERSON told her, "If you tone that, I'm gonna bust you in the mouth." Before Victim could react, JEFFERSON punched Victim in the eye with a closed fist, sending her violently to the ground. Victim began bleeding profusely from her face. Other correctional officers restrained JEFFERSON and as they did, JEFFERSON told them, "90 seconds! I can knock any one of these motherfuckers out in 90 seconds!" JEFFERSON also told them, "I ain't done yet. When I get out of seg I'm hitting all of you on me now." JEFFERSON also stated, "Ha ha! I made that bitch bleed out and I only have five years left." Finally, JEFFERSON told them, "Let go of me and I'll do the same to every one and each of y'all. I'll remember y'all when I come out."

Victim was transported by ambulance to Regions Hospital in St. Paul, a Level I Trauma Center. Victim was found to have significant damage to her right eye and numerous facial fractures. Since the assault Victim has had multiple surgeries performed on her eye and has been informed that her retina has permanently detached from her eyeball and cannot be reattached. As a result Victim has permanently lost vision in her right eye. Victim has also been told by her physicians that she will require a minimum of four additional surgeries to repair the fractures to her facial bones and attempt to mitigate the scarring that will result from these procedures.

As JEFFERSON is currently in the custody of the Commissioner of Corrections a complaint warrant is requested so he can most expeditiously be brought before this court.

Additionally, the State hereby gives notice of its intent to seek the imposition of the mandatory sentence contemplated by Minnesota Statutes section 609.221, subdivision 5, based on the fact that at the time of the assault, Victim was a correctional employee engaged in the performance of her official duties.

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE: YOU MUST APPEAR FOR EVERY COURT HEARING REGARDING THIS CASE. FAILURE TO APPEAR FOR COURT IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE AND MAY RESULT ON ADDITIONAL CRIMINAL CHARGES BEING IMPOSED AND PUNISHED AS PROVIDED IN MINNESOTA STATUTES SECTION 609.49.**

**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**

Daniel Lee Barbian  
Special Investigator  
1450 Energy Park Drive  
Suite 200  
St Paul, MN  
Badge: 160

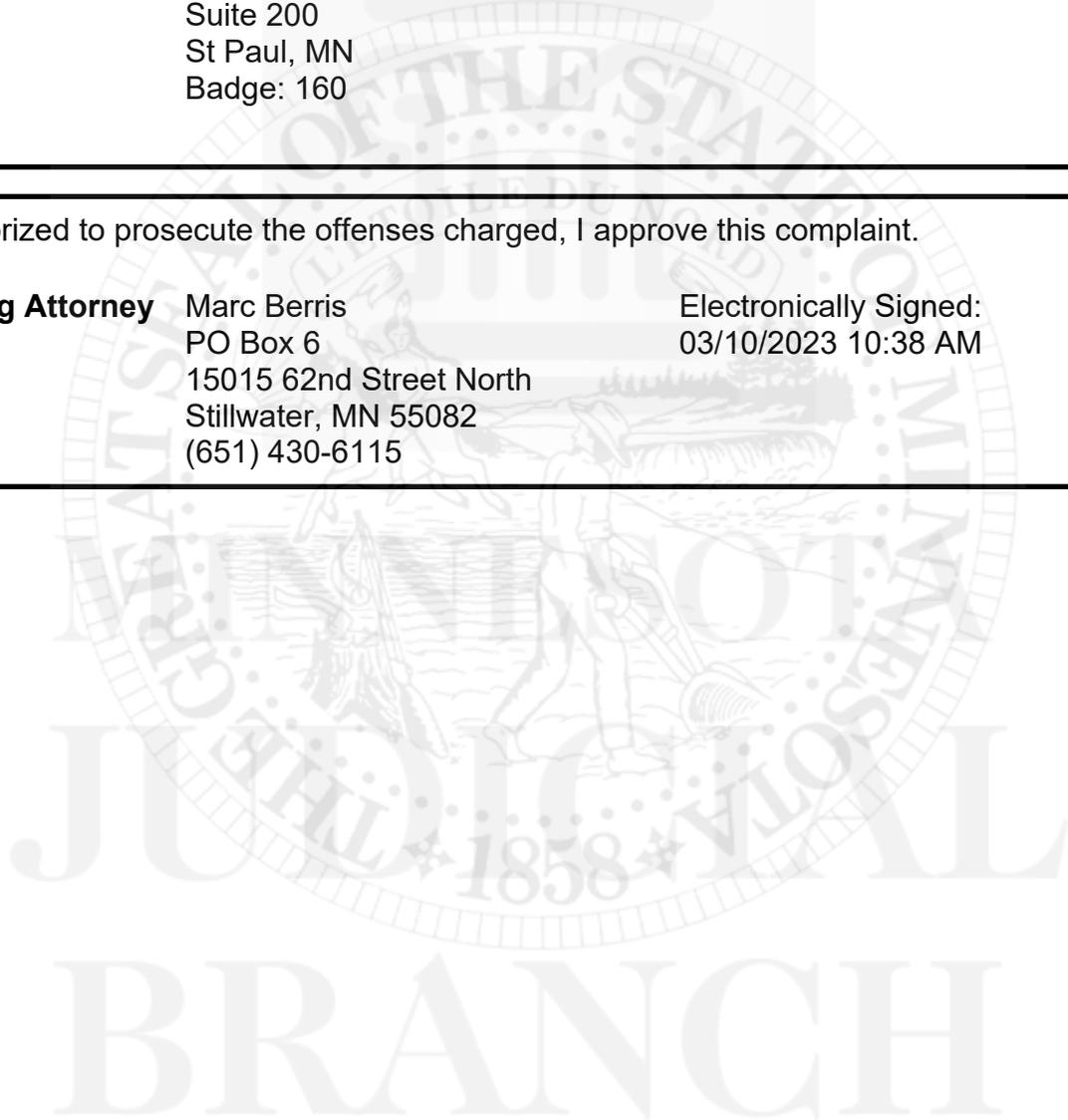
Electronically Signed:  
03/10/2023 12:13 PM  
Washington County, Minnesota

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

**Prosecuting Attorney**

Marc Berris  
PO Box 6  
15015 62nd Street North  
Stillwater, MN 55082  
(651) 430-6115

Electronically Signed:  
03/10/2023 10:38 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 as directed in the Notice of Hearing before the above-named court 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: \$35,000.00

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: March 10, 2023.

**Judicial Officer**

Gregory G Galler  
District Court Judge

Electronically Signed: 03/10/2023 12:27 PM

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

**COUNTY OF WASHINGTON  
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

**State of Minnesota**

Plaintiff

vs.

**Dominique Antoine Jefferson**

Defendant

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

Signature of Authorized Service Agent:

82-CR-23-840  
**DEFENDANT FACT SHEET**

Filed in District Court  
State of Minnesota  
3/10/2023

**Name:** Dominique Antoine Jefferson  
**DOB:** 11/12/1986  
**Address:** 5329 Osgood Avenue N  
Stillwater, MN 55082

**Alias Names/DOB:**

**SID:**

**Height:**

**Weight:**

**Eye Color:**

**Hair Color:**

**Gender:**

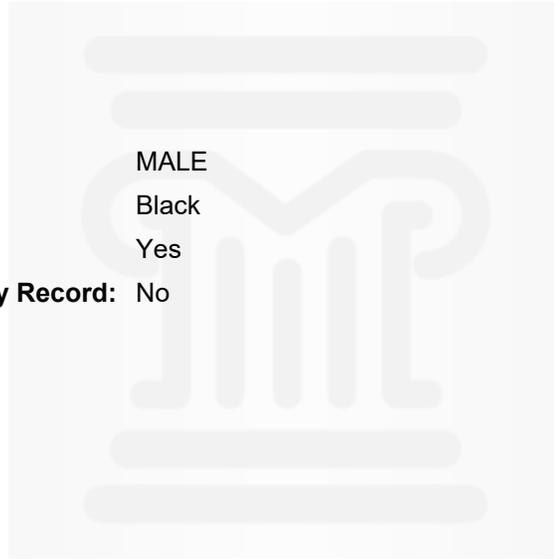
**Race:**

**Fingerprints Required per Statute:**

**Fingerprint match to Criminal History Record:**

**Driver's License #:**

**Alcohol Concentration:**



MINNESOTA  
JUDICIAL  
BRANCH

### 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	1/15/2023	609.221.3 Assault-1st Degree-Great bodily harm against peace officer/prosecutor/judge or correction employee	Felony	A115C	N	MN0622300	20230032
	Penalty	1/15/2023	609.221.5(a)(2) Assault-1st Degree-Mandatory minimum; Violation of subdivision 3	Felony	A115C	N	MN0622300	20230032



MINNESOTA  
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