

FILED
06-11-2020
Circuit Court
Columbia County, WI
2020CF000266

STATE OF WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT COLUMBIA COUNTY

STATE OF WISCONSIN
Plaintiff,

DA Case No.: 2020CO001406
Agency Case No.: 20-4371

vs.

Zarate, Benjamin A
N1095 US Hwy 12 and 16
Lyndon Station, WI
DOB: 01/14/1995
Defendant.

CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

The undersigned, being first duly sworn, states that:

Count 1: ATTEMPT POSSESSION OF METHAMPHETAMINE

The above-named defendant, on or about Thursday, June 4, 2020, in the City of Wisconsin Dells, Columbia County, Wisconsin, did knowingly attempt to possess methamphetamine, contrary to sec. 961.41(3g) (g) Wis. Stats., a Class I Felony, and upon conviction may be fined not more than Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000), or imprisoned not more than three (3) years and six (6) months, or both.

And the Court may suspend the defendant's operating privileges for not less than six (6) months nor more than five (5) years. If the defendant's driving privileges are already suspended, any suspension imposed must be served consecutively.

Count 2: POSSESSION OF TETRAHYDROCANNABINOLS (THC)

The above-named defendant, on or about Thursday, June 4, 2020, in the City of Wisconsin Dells, Columbia County, Wisconsin, did knowingly possess a controlled substance, Tetrahydrocannabinols (THC), contrary to sec. 961.41(3g) (e) Wis. Stats., a Misdemeanor, and upon conviction may be fined not more than One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000), or imprisoned for not more than six (6) months, or both.

And the Court may suspend the defendant's operating privileges for not less than six (6) months nor more than five (5) years. If the defendant's driving privileges are already suspended, any suspension imposed must be served consecutively.

PROBABLE CAUSE:

Your complainant is informed by the written reports of Special Agent Haverley and Special Agent Simon, of the Wisconsin Department of Justice – Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI). Special Agent Haverley reports the following: On June 4, 2020, Special Agent Haverley made contact with United States Postal Inspector Hinckley. Inspector Hinckley told Special Agent Haverley the following: Inspector Hinckley identified a parcel containing 24 grams of Methamphetamine traveling through the postal system. The parcel was addressed to "Benjamin Zerate" in Lyndon Station, Wisconsin. The post office had received calls from both BENJAMIN A. ZARATE and his girlfriend, Christina A. Perez, asking about the parcel.

Inspector Hinckley arranged a controlled delivery of the package to occur at the post office in the City of Wisconsin Dells, Columbia County, Wisconsin on June 9, 2020. On June 9, 2020, ZARATE came into the post office and was given the package that once contained the Methamphetamine. Perez entered the post office approximately one minute after ZARATE had entered. ZARATE and Perez were detained as they exited the post office. ZARATE had two baggies of suspected marijuana on his person. The suspected marijuana later tested positive for the presence of THC.

Special Agent Simon reports the following: On June 9, 2020, Special Agent Simon made contact with BENZAMIN A. ZARATE. ZARATE eventually admitted that was had arranged for a source in Arizona to send him the Methamphetamine. ZARATE sent the source \$500 via money transfer approximately two weeks ago in exchange for the Methamphetamine. ZARATE recently moved to Wisconsin and did not have any local sources for obtaining Methamphetamine. ZARATE is addicted to Methamphetamine.

Your complainant believes the statement of the defendant to be truthful and reliable inasmuch as it is against the defendant's penal interests.

Based on the foregoing, the complainant believes this complaint to be true and correct.

Subscribed and sworn to before me on 06/11/20

Electronically Signed By:

Crystal N Long

Assistant District Attorney

State Bar #: 1025524

Electronically Signed By:

Sgt. Max A. Jenatscheck

Complainant