

Specific Search Examples

(Includes affidavit, search warrant, and return and inventory)

SSE #17: Vehicle: physical evidence (Format A)

On CD as:	#64
Type of warrant:	Search warrant only: "Evidentiary search"
Authority for search:	CCP Article 18.02(a)(10)
Place to be searched:	Vehicle
Controlled by:	Suspect in underlying offense
Thing to be seized:	Weapon(s) used in offense; blood; clothing and footwear
Offense charged:	None in this warrant; homicide investigation
Probable cause source:	Investigation by affiant
Other features:	Format A; out-of-county removal of evidence requested in affidavit, ordered in warrant; place to be searched is vehicle used by suspect to go to and from scene of offense; suspect in custody, charged with the offense under investigation and which the evidence sought with warrant tends to prove
Forms used:	Affidavit: #s 10, 39; Search Warrant: #s 13, 40; Return and Inventory: #14

CAUTION:

Always read thoroughly and carefully every word of any affidavit and requested warrant submitted to a magistrate. Use of a form inapplicable to the specific circumstances of the case may invalidate results of the investigation and possibly expose affiant and others to criminal penalties and civil liabilities.

READ IT BEFORE YOU SUBMIT IT!

THE STATE OF TEXAS

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DOCKET # 8891

COUNTY OF DENTON

COURT: County Court at Law No. 3

AFFIDAVIT FOR SEARCH WARRANT **{Article 18.02(a)(10), Texas Code of Criminal Procedure}**

BEFORE ME, THE UNDERSIGNED AUTHORITY, PERSONALLY APPEARED THE AFFIANT HEREIN, A PEACE OFFICER UNDER THE LAWS OF TEXAS, WHO, BEING DULY SWORN, ON OATH MADE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS:

My name is John Edsel and I am commissioned as a peace officer by the City of Denton. I am assigned to the criminal investigations section of the Denton Police Department as a detective.

1. There is in Denton County, Texas, a vehicle described and located as follows:

In the City of Denton at 3456 Coventry Lane, or at a location unknown to me, a 2010 Chevrolet Malibu automobile, blue in color, four door, bearing Texas vehicle license registration RMH 84M, and vehicle identification number 2X69G9W106502. Said automobile shall hereafter be referred to as "suspected place" and was last seen located in the driveway, and presumably within the curtilage, of the residence at 3456 Coventry Lane, Denton, Denton County, Texas.

The location of the residence where the suspected place was last seen is to be found by proceeding eastward in said City on Coventry Lane from its intersection with Markham Street to the third house on the right, or south side, of Coventry Lane, and being otherwise known as "3456 Coventry Lane."

2. Said suspected place is in the charge of and controlled by each of the following named and/or described suspected parties (hereafter called "suspected party," whether one or more), to wit: Kathy L. Ford and Robert L. Ford.

3. It is my belief that said suspected party has possession of and is concealing at said suspected place the following property:

- Blood: In the form of spatter, splatter, droplets, smears, and pools and other residue constituting evidence of bleeding injuries or other violent trauma, in sufficient amounts to recover samples for determination of DNA, typing, and other forensic classification and comparison. Property to be seized includes, if necessary for collection and seizure, the substance in which or surface on which said blood evidence is found.
- Blunt striking device: Bludgeons, clubs, and other club-like instruments or devices capable of use as a weapon for infliction of bleeding injuries or other violent trauma, whether one or more, of size and configuration consistent with injuries described in Paragraph 4, below.
- Knife or cutting device: Whether one or more, of size and configuration consistent with injuries described in Paragraph 4, below.
- Clothing: Unknown as to color, type, or style, with blood stains consistent with those likely on a garment worn by an individual responsible for assaults described in Paragraph 4, below.
- Rags, towels, or other cloth-like objects: Capable of being used to wipe blood and other residue from hands, persons, and weapons.
- Footwear: Workboot style, with lug-type sole pattern consistent with imprints described in Paragraph 4, below.

Said property constitutes evidence that the offense described in Paragraph 4, below, was committed and that said suspected party committed the offense described.

4. I have probable cause for said belief by reason of the following facts and circumstances: On January 31, 2014, the bodies of Hazel Story and Carol R. Young were discovered in their home at 1600 Phoenix Dr., in the City of Denton, Texas. An autopsy of the body of Carol R. Young revealed the causes of her death to be blunt trauma to the head and stab wounds to the chest. The autopsy of the body of Hazel Story revealed that the cause of her death was a stab wound to the heart. Excessive amounts of blood throughout the home provided evidence of the movements and purposes of someone likely to be the killer. The murders of Hazel Story and Carol R. Young are presently under investigation by me, a detective with the Denton Police Department.

On May 13, 2014, Robert L. Ford walked into the Police Department in the City of Frisco, in Collin County, and said to the dispatcher on duty, "I killed two people in Denton and I want to

turn myself in.” Robert L. Ford was accompanied by his sister, Kathy L. Ford, and was acquainted with the dispatcher at the Frisco Police Department. I was notified and I went to Frisco and confirmed the non-custodial, inculpatory statement was given to Angie Ramirez, the dispatcher on duty at the time of Ford’s confession.

I interrogated Ford who volunteered that the “two people” about whom he was talking were Hazel Story and Carol R. Young. Robert L. Ford told me that he drove his sister’s automobile, a 2010 Chevrolet Malibu to the home of the victims on the night of their deaths; that he killed them with a large knife; that there was “blood everywhere;” that he was wearing workboots with lug-type soles and probably walked in the blood and tracked same throughout the home of the victims; and that he walked out of the house to his automobile immediately after the killings and drove to his home at 3456 Coventry Lane in Denton, Texas. A complaint charging Robert L. Ford with Murder was prepared and filed in this precinct. Ford was taken into custody and while being fingerprinted at the Denton Police Department, Ford explained that a scar on his finger was the result of a cut wound he received when he killed the two women.

Lug sole footprints at the scene indicated that the intruder walked outside after the assaults and tracked bloody footprints on the paved walkway. Other evidence of fresh blood outside indicated that the intruder may have suffered a personal wound. Weapons used in the offenses were not found at the scene and presumably were taken by the killer. If the assailant promptly went to a vehicle after the murders, evidence of blood would probably be in the vehicle, having been transferred from boots or shoes, weapons, and the person of the vehicle occupant. Further, the weapon or weapons, as well as clothing and footwear, are reasonably still within the vehicle.

Today, May 14, 2014, I went to the home of Robert L. Ford where he lives with his sister, Kathy L. Ford, at 3456 Coventry Lane. Parked in the driveway of the residence is a 2010 blue Chevrolet Malibu; state motor vehicle records indicate that Kathy L. Ford is the registered owner of the vehicle. Three and a half months have passed since the murders were discovered and I believe material evidence tending to prove that Robert L. Ford committed the offenses is probably inside or on the vehicle. I believe that the foregoing facts establish probable cause that the offense of murder was committed on or before January 31, 2014, in Denton County, Texas; that blood evidence, clothing and weapons, if found in the vehicle described above, constitute evidence of said offense and that Robert L. Ford committed said offense; and that the evidence to be searched for is likely to be located in said vehicle.

Wherefore, I ask for issuance of a warrant that will authorize me to seize said vehicle and to search same for the property described above and to seize said property if so found. I request authority from the Court to transport, remove, or take any property or evidence seized pursuant to the warrant requested herein to any location deemed necessary for purposes of safekeeping and completion of any investigation or proceedings related to the activities described in this Affidavit. Further, I request authority to relocate said vehicle to a place where it may be secured to enable accomplishment of the purposes of the warrant.

/s/ John Edsel
Affiant

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME BY SAID AFFIANT ON THIS THE 14th DAY OF MAY, 2014.

/s/ Randolph Wright
Judge, County Court at Law No. 3
Denton County, Texas

THE STATE OF TEXAS

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DOCKET # 8891

COUNTY OF DENTON

COURT: County Court at Law No. 3

SEARCH WARRANT

{Article 18.02(a)(10), Texas Code of Criminal Procedure}

The State of Texas: To the Sheriff or any Peace Officer of Denton County, Texas, or any Peace Officer of the State of Texas:

Whereas I have been presented an affidavit requesting issuance of a search warrant by the affiant therein, and whereas I find that the verified facts stated by affiant in said affidavit show that affiant has probable cause for the belief he/she expresses therein, and whereas I believe said affidavit properly establishes grounds for issuance of this Warrant;

Now, Therefore, you are commanded to enter the suspected place and premises located at 3456 Coventry Lane in the City of Denton, Texas, or any public or public access location in Denton County, Texas, and seize the vehicle described in said affidavit, to-wit: a 2010 Chevrolet Malibu automobile, blue in color, four door, bearing Texas vehicle license registration RMH 84M, and vehicle identification number 2X69G9W106502.

Upon seizing and securing said vehicle, you shall search same for and, if same be found, seize and bring before me, the property described in the affidavit, to-wit:

- Blood: In the form of spatter, splatter, droplets, smears, and pools and other residue constituting evidence of bleeding injuries or other violent trauma, in sufficient amounts to recover samples for determination of DNA, typing, and other forensic classification and comparison. Property to be seized includes, if necessary for collection and seizure, the substance or surface on which said blood evidence is found.
- Blunt striking device: Bludgeons, clubs, and other club-like instruments or devices capable of use as a weapon for infliction of bleeding injuries or other violent trauma, whether one or more.
- Knife or cutting device: Whether one or more.
- Clothing: Unknown as to color, type, or style, with blood stains.
- Rags, towels, or other cloth-like objects: Capable of being used to wipe blood and other residue from hands and persons.
- Footwear: Workboot style, with lug-type sole pattern.

It is further ordered that any and all property seized by authority of this Warrant or during the execution thereof shall be and remain under the care, custody, and control of any peace officer to whom this Warrant is delivered for execution. Further, said property may be removed and taken to any location as deemed necessary by such peace officer for purposes of safekeeping and completion of any investigation or proceedings related to the activities described in the Affidavit upon which the foregoing Warrant was issued.

Herein fail not, but have you then and there this Warrant to be executed without delay; and upon compliance with the orders herein, make return forthwith showing how you have executed same within three days of the date shown below, exclusive of said date and the day of its execution.

Issued this the 14th day of May, 2014, at 4:00 o'clock P.M. to certify which witness my hand this day.

Randolph Wright
Judge, County Court at Law No. 3
Denton County, Texas

THE STATE OF TEXAS

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DOCKET # 8891

COUNTY OF DENTON

COURT: County Court at Law No. 3

**RETURN AND INVENTORY
FOR SEARCH WARRANT**

{Article 18.02(a)(10), Texas Code of Criminal Procedure}

BEFORE ME, THE UNDERSIGNED AUTHORITY, PERSONALLY APPEARED THE AFFIANT HEREIN, A PEACE OFFICER UNDER THE LAWS OF TEXAS, WHO, BEING DULY SWORN, ON OATH MADE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS:

My name is John Edsel and I am commissioned as a peace officer by the City of Denton, Texas.

The attached Search Warrant came to hand on the day it was issued and it was executed on the 14th day of May, 2014, by conducting the search directed therein and by seizing during such search the following described property:

A 2010 Chevrolet Malibu automobile, blue in color, four door, bearing Texas vehicle license registration RMH 84M, and vehicle identification number 2X69G9W106502, which was removed from 3456 Coventry Lane in the City of Denton and secured on the premises under the control of the Denton Police Department. The following items were removed from said vehicle during the search of same:

- 9 blood samples from the passenger compartment of the vehicle
- 1 man's shirt, size medium, with possible blood spatter on the front, from the passenger compartment of the vehicle
- 1 lug wrench from the trunk of the vehicle
- 1 knife, diving style, with 4 1/2 inch blade and serrated blade spine

Executing officers preserved images of the searched place, the vehicle, and the evidence prior to seizure with photographic and video recording devices.

/s/ John Edsel
Affiant

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME BY SAID PEACE OFFICER WHOSE NAME IS SIGNED ABOVE ON THIS THE 14th DAY OF MAY, 2014.

/s/ Randolph Wright
Judge, County Court at Law No. 3
Denton County, Texas