

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF LEE COUNTY, ARKANSAS
CRIMINAL DIVISION

PLAINTIFF

STATE OF ARKANSAS

V.

NO. 39CR-22- 38

ASHLEY ROLLAND

DEFENDANT

211 Front Street
Moro, AR 72368

DOB 2/18/1994
RACE W
SEX Female
CID ASP-2022-1576
ATN LEE000000195

FILED
AT 2:20 O'CLOCK P M
DEC 20 2022
DIANE BOWMAN
LEE COUNTY CIRCUIT CLERK
MARIANNA, ARKANSAS

INFORMATION

Comes the Prosecuting Attorney for Lee County, Arkansas, and in the name and by the authority of the State of Arkansas, charges **Ashley Rolland** with the crime(s) of **ACCOMPLICE TO CAPITAL MURDER, PERMITTING ABUSE OF A CHILD-INVOLVED SERIOUS PHYSICAL INJURY, OR DEATH, BATTERY – I, Abuse of Corpse, TAMPERING WITH PHYSICAL EVIDENCE and ENDANGERING WELFARE OF MINOR - I** as follows:

COUNT 1: CAPITAL MURDER ARK. CODE ANN. § 5-10-101. The said defendant in LEE COUNTY, did unlawfully and feloniously on or about September 9, 2022,

while acting with another person, namely Nathan Bridges, the defendant and/or an accomplice, under circumstances manifesting extreme indifference to the value of human life, knowingly caused the death by means that involved cruelty and depravity of a person fourteen (14) years of age or younger, namely B.R., a minor, at the time the murder was committed with the defendant being eighteen (18) years of age or older at the time the murder was committed, thereby committing the Capital Murder, a Class Y Felony.

Capital Murder Class Y Felony is punishable by death or life imprisonment without parole in the Arkansas Department of Corrections.

COUNT 2: PERMITTING ABUSE OF A CHILD-INVOLVED SERIOUS PHYSICAL INJURY, OR DEATH ARK. CODE ANN. § 5-27-221. The said defendant in LEE COUNTY, did unlawfully and feloniously on or about September 9, 2022,

recklessly failed to take action or prevent the abuse of minor, namely B.R., a minor, that caused serious physical injury or death to the minor, thereby committing the offense of Permitting Abuse of a Child – Involved Serious Physical Injury, or Death, a Class B Felony.

A Class B Felony is punishable by incarceration in the Arkansas Department of Corrections for a term of 5 to 20 years, and/or a fine not to exceed \$15,000.00 and/or any such other probation or conditions as may be imposed by law.

COUNT 3: PERMITTING ABUSE OF A CHILD-INVOLVED SERIOUS PHYSICAL INJURY, OR DEATH ARK. CODE ANN. § 5-27-221. The said defendant in LEE COUNTY, did unlawfully and feloniously on or about December 16, 2022,

recklessly failed to take action or prevent the abuse of minor, namely T.R., a minor, that caused serious physical injury or death to the minor, thereby committing the offense of Permitting Abuse of a Child – Involved Serious Physical Injury, or Death, a Class B Felony.

A Class B Felony is punishable by incarceration in the Arkansas Department of Corrections for a term of 5 to 20 years, and/or a fine not to exceed \$15,000.00 and/or any such other probation or conditions as may be imposed by law.

COUNT 4: BATTERY – I ARK. CODE ANN. § 5-13-201. The said defendant in LEE COUNTY, did unlawfully and feloniously on or about December 16, 2022,

while acting with another person, namely Nathan Bridges, the defendant or an accomplice caused serious physical injury to any person, namely T.R., a minor, under circumstances manifesting extreme indifference to the value of human life, thereby committing the offense Battery – I, a Class B Felony.

A Class B Felony is punishable by incarceration in the Arkansas Department of Corrections for a term of 5 to 20 years, and/or a fine not to exceed \$15,000.00 and/or any such other probation or conditions as may be imposed by law.

COUNT 5: ABUSE OF CORPSE ARK. CODE ANN. § 5-60-101. The said defendant in LEE COUNTY, did unlawfully and feloniously on or about September 9, 2022,

disinterred, removed, dissected, or mutilated a corpse or physically mistreats or conceals a corpse, namely the body of B.R., a minor, in a manner offensive to a person of reasonable sensibilities, thereby committing the offense of Abuse of Corpse, a Class C Felony.

A Class C Felony is punishable by incarceration in the Arkansas Department of Corrections for a term of 3 to 10 years, and/or a fine not to exceed \$10,000.00 and/or any such other probation or conditions as may be imposed by law.

COUNT 6: TAMPERING WITH PHYSICAL EVIDENCE ARK. CODE ANN. § 5-53-111. The said defendant in LEE COUNTY, did unlawfully and feloniously on or about September 9, 2022,

tamper with physical evidence in an investigation by withholding any unprivileged testimony, information, document, or thing regardless of the admissibility under the rules of evidence of the testimony, information, document, or thing and notwithstanding the relevance or probative value of the testimony, information, document, or thing to an investigation, thereby committing the offense of Tampering with Physical Evidence, a Class D Felony.

A Class D Felony is punishable by incarceration in the Arkansas Department of Corrections for a term of 0 to 6 years, and/or a fine not to exceed \$10,000.00, and/or any such other probation or conditions as may be imposed by law.

COUNT 7: ENDANGERING WELFARE OF MINOR – I ARK. CODE ANN. § 5-27-205. The said defendant in LEE COUNTY, did unlawfully and feloniously on or about September 9, 2022,

engaged in conduct creating a substantial risk of death or serious physical injury to a minor, namely B.R., a minor, thereby committing Endangering Welfare of Minor, a Class D Felony.

A Class D Felony is punishable by incarceration in the Arkansas Department of Corrections for a term of 0 to 6 years, and/or a fine not to exceed \$10,000.00, and/or any such other probation or conditions as may be imposed by law.

COUNT 8: ENDANGERING WELFARE OF MINOR - I ARK. CODE ANN. § 5-27-205. The said defendant in LEE COUNTY, did unlawfully and feloniously on or about September 9, 2022,

engaged in conduct creating a substantial risk of death or serious physical injury to a minor, namely T.R., a minor, thereby committing Endangering Welfare of Minor, a Class D Felony.

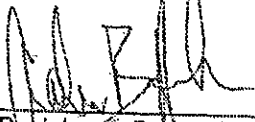
A Class D Felony is punishable by incarceration in the Arkansas Department of Corrections for a term of 0 to 6 years, and/or a fine not to exceed \$10,000.00, and/or any such other probation or conditions as may be imposed by law.

All against the peace and dignity of the State of Arkansas.

There appearing reasonable grounds for believing the alleged offense(s) was committed by defendant, a warrant is therefore prayed for his arrest to be issued by the court.

Todd H. Murray, Prosecuting Attorney

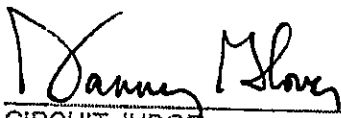
BY:


Adam B. Holman, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

PROBABLE CAUSE HEARING

I, the undersigned judicial officer, have held Probable Cause Hearing on the 19th day of December, 2022; have reviewed the affidavit attached to the within information, and upon said affidavit and other proof, matters and things before the Court, do hereby find that there is probable cause to confine the Defendant named therein, to be held for trial in the offense charged.

Said Defendant shall be or had been admitted to bail in the amount of \$ (as per arraignment) to assure his/her appearance in court on 1/17/2023 and each dated thereafter as set out by the Court until the case is disposed of on Courts Docket. **No BOND**


CIRCUIT JUDGE

DATE

12/20/2022

AFFIDAVIT FOR WARRANT OF ARREST

ASP CASE #: ASP-2022-1576

FELONY:

§ 5-10-101 - Capital murder (Y Felony)

§ 5-60-101 - Abuse of a corpse (C Felony)

§ 5-53-111 - Tampering with physical Evidence (D Felony)

§ 5-27-205 - Endangering the Welfare of a Minor in the First Degree (D Felony)

DEFENDANT'S NAME: ASHLEY ROLLAND

RACE/SEX/DOB: W/F DOB 02-18-1994

ADDRESS: NA

Pursuant to rule 7.1 of the Arkansas Rules of Criminal Procedure, the undersigned affiant(s), being duly sworn, deposes and says that he/she has reason to believe that the above named person has committed the offense of violating Arkansas Code(s):

§ 5-10-101 - Capital murder (Y Felony)

§ 5-60-101 - Abuse of a corpse (C Felony)

§ 5-53-111 - Tampering with physical Evidence (D Felony)

§ 5-27-205 - Endangering the Welfare of a Minor in the First Degree (D Felony)

On or about: **September 09, 2022** in Lee County, Arkansas, against the peace and dignity of the State of Arkansas.

FACTS CONSTITUTING REASONABLE CAUSE:

On December 26, 2022, Lee County Deputies were requested by Karen Roland to perform a civil standby at 211 Front Street to pick up two children from Ashley Roland. Ashley brought out her daughter, [REDACTED] and said her son, Blu, was not at the residence. [REDACTED] had apparent injuries that had scabbed over on top of her head, and Ashley claimed it was an allergic reaction to something. The child was taken to Forrest City Hospital, where staff determined the child had been severely burned and transported to Lebonheur Hospital in Memphis, TN. Karen Roland contacted Lee County Deputies to report she had information that

Blu was possibly deceased at her daughter's residence. Deputies arrived at 211 Front Street in Moro and met the Father of Ashley, Timmy Childers (DOB 5-27-1960 W/M), who reported Ashley had told him Blu was dead inside the home and described where he was located. Lee County Deputies entered the home to find Blu and render aid if he was alive. Deputies located where Blu was reported to be and found newly nailed-down boards. Deputies removed the boards and found disturbed earth underneath. Deputies removed the top layer of the earth and found a child's flip-flop shoes and a red and blue blanket. Removing the top layer of the earth released the pungent odor of decay. Deputies exited the home and called for the Arkansas State Police to take over the investigation.

Special Agent Travis May, Arkansas State Police, interviewed Timmy Childers on Front Street outside the residence. Childers stated his daughter Ashley had told him that Blu had recently come out of the bathroom, collapsed, and died. Ashley allegedly attempted resuscitation and told her father Blu was buried under the floor in the hallway. SA May then interviewed Rebecca Fiting (DOB 04-14-1991 W/F), on Front Street in front of 211 Front Street. Rebecca said she had heard something was wrong and came to talk to Ashley. Ashley told Rebecca that Blu had come out of the bathroom with his face/body swelling and foaming at the mouth before collapsing and dying. Ashley told Rebecca she did not know what to do and had buried Blu under the floorboards inside her residence.

Company A executed a search warrant on the residence, resulting in more flooring removal and agents digging up the area around the blanket. Under the blanket was an unidentified mass believed to be a small human body wrapped in multiple layers of plastic bags. A decision was made to transfer the remains to the Arkansas State Crime Lab without further opening the bag. Lee County Coroner Kevin Caffey took the remains into his possession for transfer to the Arkansas State Crime Lab.

Ashley Roland was interviewed at the Marianna Police Department and stated her son identified as BR (juvenile) died on September 9, 2022. BR had angered her boyfriend, Nathan Bridges by biting his finger when Bridges stuck it in BR'S mouth. Bridges took BR to the bathroom and as punishment repeatedly placed BR'S head in the water filled toilet until he drowned him. Nathan cut a hole in their wooden floor, dug a hole in the ground, and buried BR under the house. Roland stated that she was in the living room while BR was in the bathroom with Bridges. When Bridges exited the bathroom, Roland entered the bathroom and saw BR struggling to breath, and his body was limp.

Roland stated that the injuries observed on her daughter, ██████, were also caused by Bridges when he held ██████ head and upper torso under hot water in the bathtub. Roland said that ██████ suffered from behavior issues and that Bridges put Taylor in hot water as punishment for her behavior issues.

Nathan is being held at Lee County Sheriff's Department on unrelated charges and declined to be interviewed.