

# AFFIDAVIT AND APPLICATION FOR A SEARCH WARRANT

IN THE Magistrate COURT OF Columbia COUNTY  
STATE OF GEORGIA

2009W 0002

Docket No. CLERK OF SUPERIOR & JUVENILE COURTS  
FILED FOR RECORD

2009 MAY -7 AM 10:18

The undersigned Inv. James Edmunds, being duly sworn, deposes and says I am an officer of the State of Georgia or its political subdivisions charged with the duty of enforcing the criminal laws, and that I have reason to believe that in Columbia County, Georgia, on the person, COLUMBIA COUNTY, GEORGIA premises, or property described as follows: (state detailed description of person, property, or location)

*4086 Briarwood Drive Martinez, GA 30907 in Columbia County. The residence is an A frame brick/vinyl single family dwelling situated on an elevated lot facing Northwest. The residence has green shutters and a red, white and black Georgia Bulldog flag and pole attached to the front porch. The residence has a one car garage that is ground level with the street. The mailbox is dark colored and has white and black numbers of 4086 affixed. From Old Evans Road, Martinez, GA it is the eighth residence on the right traveling northeast.*

there is now located certain instruments, articles, person(s), or things, namely: (specify evidence, contraband, or person(s) to be searched for)

*Items that may contain human blood, human tissue, hair, fibers or glass. Articles of clothing, garments, towels, blankets, fabrics, or shoes which may contain human blood. Trace evidence to include fingerprints, blood, hair, fibers, or glass which may be inside the residence on any item. Any backpacks which may contain clothing. Any and all locked boxes inside the residence. Any weapons in the residence to include stun guns. Any writings or documentation present to include those stored by electronic means which may contain any information involving the murder of Laverne Parsons.*

Which is (name the law being violated)  
**MURDER 16-5-1**

The facts tending to establish probable cause that a crime has been, or is being committed and the above described instruments, articles or things described above are presently located at the above described premises or property are as follows: (state in detail the facts you believe create probable cause, including statement of ownership, possession, or control, if known)

*This affiant is a Criminal Investigator with the Columbia County Sheriff's Office and has been employed with the Sheriff's Office for 13 years. This affiant is currently assigned to the Crimes Against Persons Unit, a unit within the Criminal Investigations Division. This affiant has conducted, supported, and assisted in hundreds of criminal investigations and has received extensive training in the investigation and detection of criminal activity. This affiant has received specialized training in the investigation of violent crimes to include murder.*

*On March 25, 2009 at approximately 0855 hours the Columbia County sheriff's Office responded to 229 and 227 Hot Springs Drive in Grovetown in reference to burglary. Sgt. Bill Wood arrived on the scene and was met by Rebecca Sears, Michael Bowers, Chris Bowers and Mitch Cozart. Mitch Cozart advised Sgt. Wood that he is employed by Laverne Parsons and has been doing work on the back door of her residence at 229 Hot Springs Drive. Mr. Cozart stated that he arrived at the residence at approximately 0845 hours and found the rear glass door to the residence shattered and open. Mr. Cozart called out for Mrs. Parsons and did not receive an answer. Mr. Cozart called Mrs. Parsons phone and did not receive an answer. Mr. Cozart then called 911 to report the burglary.*

*Sgt. Wood and SSG. Harper entered the residence and observed blood on the floor and walls. They followed the blood trail to the garage where they found Mrs. Parsons lying on the ground bleeding from a serious head injury. Mrs. Parsons was transported to the Medical College of Georgia with life threatening head injuries. During Mrs. Parsons treatment at MCG, Rebecca Sears was observed by SSG Mike Cullinan and Senior Investigator Wynn Howard at the hospital and demanding hospital personnel to provide her with Mrs. Parsons' condition. Mrs. Parsons later died as a result of her injuries.*

*At 229 Hot Springs Drive Lt. Shedd and Deputy Baxley observed the front door of the residence to be open. They cleared the residence and found the master bedroom to be ransacked. Lt. Shedd also observed blood on the back door of the residence. A thorough crime scene investigation was conducted at 227 and 229 Hot Springs Drive where trace evidence was located.*

*On 022709 this affiant conducted an interview with a confidential informant (C.I.) who advised he believed Rebecca Sears was responsible for or involved in the murder of Mrs. Parsons. C.I. advised me he had personal knowledge of Mrs. Sears being involved in a romantic relationship with Mrs. Parsons' husband, David Parsons. C.I. also stated that on more than one occasion Mrs. Sears asked him to kill Mrs. Parsons. C.I. stated he refused Mrs. Sears request. C.I. also stated Mrs. Sears asked her sons, Christopher Bowers and Michael Bowers, to murder Mrs. Parsons.*

*On 032709 this affiant interviewed Michael Bowers in reference to this case. Michael advised that he believed his mother was involved in a romantic relationship with David Parsons. Michael is the twenty-two year old son of Mrs. Sears and lives with her*

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MINUTES 5-7-09 JTD

at 227 Hot Springs Drive, directly next door to David and Laverne Parsons. Michael stated his mother showed him text messages on her phone that made it clear she was having an affair with someone. Michael stated during these conversations about the affair his mother made it clear to Michael that she wished she knew someone who would kill someone for her. Michael stated based on these statements he believed she wanted to have someone killed. Michael and the C.I. stated Mrs. Sears is very close to her son Christopher. On the morning the murder was discovered Christopher and his mother arrived together in her car. Rebecca and Christopher were both interviewed and they stated they were together on the morning of the murder. Both have given statements to investigators and neither mentioned the relationship between Rebecca and David Parsons. Nor has either made any statements about conversations they had discussing murdering Mrs. Parsons. The murder of Laverne Parsons was exceptionally violent and a great deal of blood was found in the kitchen, living room, garage, and hallway of the residence where she was beaten to death. It is certain that the person or persons who killed her would have blood on them and their clothing after committing this murder. Based on the statements given by the C.I. and Michael Bowers it is clear Rebecca and Christopher had the motive and opportunity to commit this murder and they have discussed killing Mrs. Parsons on more than one occasion. The homes of Rebecca Sears and Christopher Bowers have been thoroughly searched and no bloody clothing has thus far been located.

On 032709 an interview was conducted with Rebecca Sears. Rebecca was read her Miranda Warning and waived her right to counsel. During th interview, Rebecca stated on the morning of the murder she went and picked Christopher up at his residence in the early morning hours and brought him back to her residence in her listed vehicle. Rebecca stated Christopher hid in her room at her house until she took the younger children to school. Rebecca stated Christopher then went to the backyard and waited for Mrs. Parsons to leave. Rebecca stated Christopher then used a hammer and broke in the back door. Rebecca stated Christopher went upstairs and staged a burglary. Rebecca stated Christopher then waited in the house for Mrs. Parsons to come home. Rebecca stated Mrs. Parsons came in the garage door and Christopher told her that he "beat the fuck out of her". Rebecca stated he beat her with the hammer and then the baseball bat. Rebecca stated Christopher then went back to her house and entered through the back door. Rebecca stated Christopher staged the burglary at her house and then left. Rebecca stated Christopher called her and told her to pick him up on Hickory Drive, which she did. Rebecca stated that when she picked up Christopher he had blood on his face and he said he took care of everything. Rebecca stated Christopher changed his clothes in her car and placed his bloody clothes in a backpack. Based on the evidence this affiant believes probable cause exists to search the above described residence for the above described evidence.

I swear or affirm that all of the information contained in the Affidavit and all other testimony given by me under oath is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Sworn to and subscribed to before me this 12:16 (P.M.)

2nd day of

AFFIANT: [Signature]

TITLE: Investigator

April 20 09, at

[Signature]

Judge of the Superior Court

Columbia County

SEARCH WARRANT

IN THE Magistrate COURT OF Columbia COUNTY

STATE OF GEORGIA

CLERK OF SUPERIOR & JUVENILE COURTS FILED FOR RECORD

2009 W 0002

Docket No.

2009 MAY -7 AM 10: 18

TO: ALL PEACE OFFICERS OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

Affidavit having been made before me by Inv. James Edmunds, at Columbia County, Georgia duty of enforcing the Criminal Laws, that he has reason to believe that in Columbia County, Georgia on the following described person, premises, or property: (state detailed description of person, property, or location)

4086 Briarwood Drive Martinez, GA 30907 in Columbia County. The residence is an A frame brick/vinyl single family dwelling situated on an elevated lot facing Northwest. The residence has green shutters and a red, white and black Georgia Bulldog flag and pole attached to the front porch. The residence has a one car garage that is ground level with the street. The mailbox is dark colored and has white and black numbers of 4086 affixed. From Old Evans Road, Martinez, GA it is the eighth residence on the right traveling northeast.

There is now located certain instruments, articles, person(s), or things, namely: (specify evidence, contraband or person(s) to be searched for)

Items that may contain human blood, human tissue, hair, fibers or glass. Articles of clothing, garments, towels, blankets, fabrics, or shoes which may contain human blood. Trace evidence to include fingerprints, blood, hair, fibers, or glass which may be inside the residence on any item. Any backpacks which may contain clothing. Any and all locked boxes inside the residence. Any weapons in the residence to include stun guns. Any writings or documentation present to include those stored by electronic means which may contain any information involving the murder of Laverne Parsons.

Which is (name the law being violated)

MURDER 16-5-1

Based upon the affidavit given under oath or affirmation and all other evidence given to me under oath or affirmation, I am satisfied that there is probable cause to believe that a crime is being committed or has been committed and that the property described above is presently located on the person, premises, or property described above.

You are hereby commanded to enter, search and seize within ten (10) days of this date, the person, premises, or property described above. A copy of this Warrant is to be left with the person searched, or if no person is available, on the premises or vehicle searched, and a written return, including an inventory of any things seized, shall be made before me or a Court of competent jurisdiction without unnecessary delay after the execution of this Search Warrant.

SO ORDERED this 2nd day of July, 20 09, at 12:16 P.M.

JUDGE OF THE Superior COURT AUGUSTA Judicial Circuit

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NO-KNOCK PROVISION (Not Valid Unless Signed)

IT APPEARING from the aforementioned Affidavit that there are reasonable grounds to believe that the giving of verbal notice would greatly increase the officer's peril and (or) lead to the immediate destruction of the instruments, articles or things ordered to be seized.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED that entry be made without knocking and the giving of verbal notice of the officer's authority and purpose.

SO ORDERED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_\_ .M.

JUDGE OF THE Magistrate COURT

RETURN OF SERVICE

{ } This Search Warrant was not executed and is returned to the judicial officer who issued it.

{X} I executed this Search Warrant on the 2nd day of April, 20 09, at 1P .M. and searched the person, premises or properly described in the warrant. A copy of this warrant:

{ } Was left with \_\_\_\_\_

{X} Was left in the following conspicuous place: Kitchen Counter

\_\_\_\_\_ because no one was available to be given the warrant:

Attached hereto is an inventory consisting of 2 pages, of the instruments, articles or things which were seized pursuant to this Search Warrant. This inventory was made in the presence of Tom Digsby and I swear (affirm) that this inventory is a true and detailed account of all instruments, articles or things seized pursuant to this Search Warrant.

[Signature]
Affiant

Sworn and subscribed to before

me this 17th day of May, 20 09

[Signature]
DEP. CLERK

TITLE

CLERK OF SUPERIOR & JUVENILE COURTS
FILED FOR RECORD
2009 MAY -7 AM 10: 18
COLUMBIA COUNTY, GEORGIA

RECORDED & SCANNED IN MINUTES 5-7-09 JD

Columbia County Sheriff's Office  
PROPERTY RECEIPT

No P 27090

DATE: 040209 TIME: 1357 CASE# 09-005597

LOCATION WHERE PROPERTY WAS RECEIVED: 4286 Briarwood / Mike Brown's Bedroom

RECEIVED FROM: Search Warrant Owner: YES/NO

ADDRESS OF ABOVE PERSON: 4286 Briarwood Dr. Martinez CA 90907

DOMESTIC INVOLVED: YES: \_\_\_\_\_ NO: ✓

(Circle classification of property below)

FOUND ABANDONED **EVIDENCE** SAFEKEEPING RECOVERED

| ITEM # | QUANTITY | DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY     | SERIAL # |
|--------|----------|-----------------------------|----------|
| 1      | 1        | Brown North Face Jacket     |          |
| 2      | 1        | Khaki Austin Clothing Pants |          |
|        |          | Lost Item                   |          |
|        |          |                             |          |
|        |          |                             |          |
|        |          |                             |          |
|        |          |                             |          |
|        |          |                             |          |
|        |          |                             |          |

James Edmunds [Signature] 1357  
 PRINTED NAME OF DEPUTY RECEIVING PROPERTY SIGNATURE I.D.#

**CHAIN OF CUSTODY**

| ITEM # | DATE/TIME      | RELINQUISHED BY<br>PRINT / SIGN / ID# | RECEIVED BY<br>PRINT / SIGN / ID# | REASON FOR CHANGE<br>OF CUSTODY |
|--------|----------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1-2    | 040209<br>1515 | <u>[Signature]</u>                    | <u>[Signature]</u>                | Evidence                        |
|        |                |                                       |                                   |                                 |
|        |                |                                       |                                   |                                 |
|        |                |                                       |                                   |                                 |
|        |                |                                       |                                   |                                 |
|        |                |                                       |                                   |                                 |
|        |                |                                       |                                   |                                 |

NOTICE TO PERSON FROM WHOM PROPERTY WAS ORIGINALLY RECEIVED  
 Your signature indicates that you have received a copy of this form. Your signature is not an admission of responsibility. Please review the back of this sheet for an explanation of your rights in reference to the above property.  
 SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ PRINTED NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Columbia County Sheriff's Office  
PROPERTY RECEIPT

No P 7087

DATE: 040209 TIME: 1353 CASE# 09-005597

LOCATION WHERE PROPERTY WAS RECEIVED: 4086 Briarwood Dr Mrs. Bowers Berlin

RECEIVED FROM: Search Warrant Owner: YES/NO: NO  
(LAST NAME, FIRST, MI.)

ADDRESS OF ABOVE PERSON: 4086 Briarwood Dr

DOMESTIC INVOLVED: YES:      NO:   ✓  

(Circle classification of property below)

FOUND    ABANDONED    EVIDENCE    SAFEKEEPING    RECOVERED

| ITEM # | QUANTITY | DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY                     | SERIAL # |
|--------|----------|---|----------|
| 1      | 1        | Black in Color 6.69 Type Taser<br>Last Item |          |
|        |          |   |          |
|        |          |   |          |
|        |          |   |          |
|        |          |   |          |
|        |          |   |          |
|        |          |   |          |
|        |          |   |          |
|        |          |   |          |
|        |          |   |          |

James Edmunds      [Signature]      1837  
PRINTED NAME OF DEPUTY RECEIVING PROPERTY      SIGNATURE      I.D.#

**CHAIN OF CUSTODY**

| ITEM # | DATE/TIME      | RELINQUISHED BY<br>PRINT / SIGN / ID# | RECEIVED BY<br>PRINT / SIGN / ID# | REASON FOR CHANGE<br>OF CUSTODY |
|--------|----------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1      | 040209<br>1355 | <u>[Signature]</u>                    | <u>[Signature]</u>                | Evidence                        |
|        |                |                                       |                                   |                                 |
|        |                |                                       |                                   |                                 |
|        |                |                                       |                                   |                                 |
|        |                |                                       |                                   |                                 |
|        |                |                                       |                                   |                                 |
|        |                |                                       |                                   |                                 |
|        |                |                                       |                                   |                                 |

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Your signature indicates that you have received a copy of this form. Your signature is not an admission of responsibility. Please review the back of this sheet for an explanation of your rights in reference to the above property.  
SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ PRINTED NAME: \_\_\_\_\_