



NEWS RELEASE  
GREENE COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY  
DAN PATTERSON

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04/23/2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAN CHARGED WITH MURDER FOR SHOOTING MAN DURING ARGUMENT OVER  
ALLEGED THEFT AND LATER DOMESTIC ASSAULT OF GIRLFRIEND

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Greene County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Patterson announces that Cody L. Browning, 32, of Springfield, Missouri has been charged today with the April 21<sup>st</sup> murder of Jacob Rowden by shooting him during an argument about an alleged theft. Browning has also been charged with a felony domestic assault of his girlfriend in the hours following the shooting. Browning has been charged with five counts including murder in the second degree, armed criminal action, unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon, domestic assault in the second degree and tampering with a motor vehicle.

Mr. Patterson expresses his thanks to the citizens who came forward to identify the defendant as the shooter and the quick work by the Springfield Police Department in apprehending him. Mr. Patterson cautions that the charges contained in the felony complaint are merely allegations and that the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty in court.

Copies of the felony complaint and probable statement filed in this case are attached to this release. The Missouri Supreme Court ethics rules prohibit comments on the facts or investigation of this case beyond those contained in the felony complaint and probable cause statement that are part of the public record.

**This case is being prosecuted by First Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Philip Fuhrman. It is being investigated by the Springfield Police Department and Detective James Sweet is the lead investigator assigned to the case.**

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF GREENE COUNTY, MISSOURI

Associate Division \_\_\_\_\_

STATE OF MISSOURI,	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
	)	
	)	
vs.	)	Case No. 2131-CR01050
	)	
CODY L BROWNING ,	)	OCN#
	)	
Defendant.	)	PA File No. 077445243

**FELONY COMPLAINT**

COUNT I

The Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Greene, State of Missouri, charges that the defendant, in violation of Section 565.021, RSMo, committed the class A felony of murder in the second degree, punishable upon conviction under Section 558.011, RSMo, in that on or about on or about April 21, 2021, in the County of Greene, State of Missouri, the defendant knowingly or with the purpose of causing serious physical injury to Jacob Rowden caused the death of Jacob Rowden by shooting him, and defendant is further given notice that should the State submit murder in the second degree--felony under Section 565.021.1(2), RSMo, it will be based on the death of Jacob Rowden as a result of the perpetration of the Class E felony of unlawful use of a weapon under Section 571.030.4, RSMo, and/or the Class C felony of unlawful possession of a firearm under Section 571.070, RSMo, committed by defendant.

Defendant is a prior offender under Section 558.016, RSMo. Defendant is also a persistent offender and, pursuant to Sections 558.016 and 557.036, RSMo., if found guilty of a class B, C, D, or E felony is punishable by sentence to the authorized term of imprisonment for the offense that is one class higher than the offense for which the defendant is found guilty in that the defendant has been found guilty of two or more felonies committed at different times. The felonies are as follows:

1. On or about September 7, 2012, defendant was found guilty of the felony of assault in the 2nd degree in the Circuit Court of Greene County in case number 1131-CR04955-01, and
2. On or about April 20, 2012, defendant was found guilty of the felony of tampering with a motor vehicle 1st degree in the Circuit Court of Greene County in case number 1131-CR03264-01.

COUNT II

The Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Greene, State of Missouri, charges that the defendant, in violation of Section 571.015, RSMo, committed the felony of armed criminal action, punishable upon conviction under Section 571.015.1, RSMo, in that on or about April 21, 2021, in the County of Greene, State of Missouri, the defendant committed the felony of murder in the 2nd degree, and the defendant committed the foregoing felony of murder in the 2nd degree by, with and through, the knowing use, assistance and aid of a deadly weapon.

Armed criminal action under 571.015.1, RSMo, shall be punished by imprisonment by the department of corrections for a term of not less than five years because the defendant was unlawfully possessing a firearm at the time of the offense. the punishment shall be in addition to and consecutive to any punishment provided by law for the crime committed by, with, or through the use, assistance, or aid of a dangerous instrument or deadly weapon.

### COUNT III

The Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Greene, State of Missouri, charges that the defendant, in violation of Section 571.070, RSMo, committed the class D felony of unlawful possession of a firearm, punishable under Sections 558.011 and 558.002, RSMo, in that on or about April 21, 2021, in the County of Greene, State of Missouri, the defendant knowingly possessed a handgun, a firearm, and on or about September 7, 2012, defendant was convicted of the felony of assault in the 2nd degree in the Circuit Court of Greene County in case number 1131-CR04955-01.

Defendant is a prior offender under Section 558.016, RSMo. Defendant is also a persistent offender and, pursuant to Sections 558.016 and 557.036, RSMo., if found guilty of a class B, C, D, or E felony is punishable by sentence to the authorized term of imprisonment for the offense that is one class higher than the offense for which the defendant is found guilty in that the defendant has been found guilty of two or more felonies committed at different times. The felonies are as follows:

1. On or about September 7, 2012, defendant was found guilty of the felony of assault in the 2nd degree in the Circuit Court of Greene County in case number 1131-CR04955-01, and
2. On or about April 20, 2012, defendant was found guilty of the felony of tampering with a motor vehicle 1st degree in the Circuit Court of Greene County in case number 1131-CR03264-01.

### COUNT IV

The Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Greene, State of Missouri, charges that the defendant, in violation of Section 565.073, RSMo, committed the class D felony of domestic assault in the second degree, punishable upon conviction under Sections 558.002 and 558.011, RSMo, in that on or about April 21, 2021, in the County of Greene, State of Missouri, the defendant knowingly caused physical injury to K.T. by striking her, and K.T. and the defendant were family or household members in that K.T. and the defendant were persons who have a child in common.

Defendant is a prior offender under Section 558.016, RSMo. Defendant is also a persistent offender and, pursuant to Sections 558.016 and 557.036, RSMo., if found guilty of a class B, C, D, or E felony is punishable by sentence to the authorized term of imprisonment for the offense that is one class higher than the offense for which the defendant is found guilty in that the defendant has been found guilty of two or more felonies committed at different times. The felonies are as follows:

1. On or about September 7, 2012, defendant was found guilty of the felony of assault in the 2nd degree in the Circuit Court of Greene County in case number 1131-CR04955-01, and
2. On or about April 20, 2012, defendant was found guilty of the felony of tampering with a motor vehicle 1st degree in the Circuit Court of Greene County in case number 1131-CR03264-01.

COUNT V

The Prosecuting Attorney of the County of Greene, State of Missouri, charges that the defendant, in violation of Section 569.080.1(2), RSMo, committed the class D felony of tampering in the first degree, punishable upon conviction under Sections 558.011 and 558.002, RSMo, in that on or about on or about April 21, 2021, in the county of Greene, State of Missouri, the defendant knowingly and without the consent of the owner possessed automobile a 2010 Chrysler Town and Country.

Defendant is a prior offender under Section 558.016, RSMo. Defendant is also a persistent offender and, pursuant to Sections 558.016 and 557.036, RSMo., if found guilty of a class B, C, D, or E felony is punishable by sentence to the authorized term of imprisonment for the offense that is one class higher than the offense for which the defendant is found guilty in that the defendant has been found guilty of two or more felonies committed at different times. The felonies are as follows:

1. On or about September 7, 2012, defendant was found guilty of the felony of assault in the 2nd degree in the Circuit Court of Greene County in case number 1131-CR04955-01, and
2. On or about April 20, 2012, defendant was found guilty of the felony of tampering with a motor vehicle 1st degree in the Circuit Court of Greene County in case number 1131-CR03264-01.

The facts that form the basis for this information and belief are contained in the attached probable cause statement concerning this matter, which statement is made a part hereof and is submitted herewith as a basis upon which this court may find the existence of probable cause for the issuance of the warrant.

WHEREFORE, the Prosecuting Attorney prays that an arrest warrant be issued as provided by law.

DAN PATTERSON  
Prosecuting Attorney of the County of  
Greene, State of Missouri, by



Electronically signed;  
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# SPRINGFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT



## PROBABLE CAUSE STATEMENT

Date: 04/23/2021 Case #: SPD210421013426

I, JAMES SWEET, a law enforcement officer, knowing that false statements on this form are punishable by law, state as follows:

1. I have probable cause to believe that CODY L BROWNING, White/Male, DOB [REDACTED]/1988, committed one or more criminal offenses.
2. The following crime(s) happened on 2021/04/21 21:37 - 2021/04/21 21:40 at 1049 S STEWART AVE in Springfield, Greene County, Missouri.
3. The facts supporting this belief are as follows:

On 04/21/2021, officers of the Springfield Police Department responded to 1049 S. Stewart in reference to a male, identified as Jacob Rowden, who had been shot. Upon arrival, officers found Jacob and he had suffered an apparent gunshot wound to the area under his left armpit. On scene with Jacob was a female, identified as Ciara Shirley, and a second female, identified as Kelia Clift. Jacob was transported to a local hospital where he was pronounced deceased.

Using other police resources, I learned a male, identified as Cody Browning, was also a resident of the house, and he was not on scene when officers arrived.

As the initial investigation continued, Browning's mother, identified as Joyce Rich, called 911, and per the call comments, told the call taker she believed her son, Cody, was involved in the incident. Joyce said she picked Cody up at Walmart Neighborhood Market, located at 1320 S. Glenstone, and took him to a Subway, located at 1120 S. Glenstone. When Joyce dropped Cody off he told her he was going to kill himself, and he said he shot a male who was robbing him. Joyce said Cody thought the male was dead, and then said he repeated how he was going to kill himself before leaving the car.

I called and spoke to Joyce and asked her to tell me what happened. According to Joyce, she received a call from Cody who said he was at Walmart and it was an emergency. Joyce drove to Cody and picked him up. Once in her car, Cody told her to take him to the Subway, and when they got there, Cody saw the flashing police lights around his house. Cody told Joyce "mom, I shot somebody tonight. I'm going to go kill myself. He was robbing me and I shot him. And I'm gonna go kill myself now." Joyce tried to hold onto Cody but he pulled away from her and exited the car at the Subway. Cody called Joyce later and he told her he loved her and he was going to see her on the other side.

Kelia Clift was identified as a witness to the incident. Kelia first told detectives she was asleep during the incident and didn't see anything involving the shooting. Kelia did say she heard one gunshot. As the interview progressed, Kelia explained Cody had recently bought a cell phone, and earlier in the night, Cody found that cell phone in Jacob's pants pocket while he was sleeping. Kelia

stated she was in the back room when the shooting happened, and she almost got shot herself. Kelia stated she was laying on the bed and she could hear Jacob and Cody arguing about something petty. Kelia said she heard Jacob and Cody arguing about Cody's new phone being in Jacob's pocket, and they began cussing at each other. Kelia stated she heard Jacob say, "whatever pussy, fucking shoot me", and she heard Cody say he was tired of everyone taking his stuff. Kelia told the detective "he had enough of it and done what he done." Kelia then heard a single gunshot coming from her right side, and she turned to look in that direction. Kalia saw Jacob's face, heard him say "you shot me", and saw him walking towards the front door. Kalia heard Cody say "bullshit." Kalia saw Cody holding a handgun in his hand and he had a look of disbelief on his face as though he didn't think he actually shot Jacob. Kalia said Cody ran out the back door "probably." Kalia said Jacob ran to the front door but fell in the living room. Kelia and Ciara then pulled Jacob out of the house to get him closer to help, and they performed CPR on Jacob.

Damon Cunningham was identified as a witness to the incident, and he was interviewed by Cpl. K. Cantrell. According to Cunningham, he went over to Cody's house on 04/21/2021 at around 12:00. Cunningham said he took some Xanax while he was at Cody's house and fell asleep at some point. Cunningham said he was later awakened by a phone ringing and noticed Cody removing a cell phone from Jacob's pocket. Cunningham said the cell phone belonged to Cody. Cunningham said he then noticed \$60 missing from his wallet and believed it had been taken while he was asleep. Cunningham said Jacob woke up about 30 minutes later and noticed he was missing some drugs (methamphetamine) from his wallet. Cunningham said Jacob was upset about the drugs being gone. Cunningham first said he gave Jacob some of his own drugs, a quarter gram of methamphetamine, to be nice because Jacob's had been taken. Cunningham later said he was forcefully made by Cody to give Jacob his (Cunningham) drugs. Cunningham had earlier said Cody pulled out a black 40 handgun and cocked it. Cpl. Cantrell asked Cunningham if Cody used the handgun to make him (Cunningham) give Jacob the drugs. Cunningham did not answer the question and stated he was 18 and scared. Cunningham said everyone started getting along with each other until Coby and Jacob started bickering. Cunningham said Cody pulled out his handgun again and waved it at everyone. Cunningham said Jacob and Cody continued to argue and at one point Cunningham said he heard Jacob tell Cody to pull it. Cunningham explained pulling it was a reference to shooting a gun and said Cody then shot Jacob. Cunningham said Jacob and Cody were close when the shooting occurred and demonstrated by extending his arm towards me as if he was holding a gun in his hand. Cpl. Cantrell observed the distance between his body and Cunningham's hand was about 12 inches. Cunningham later said he believed the first shot went right into Jacob's chest. Cpl. Cantrell tried to clarify that Cunningham actually saw Cody shoot Jacob and he told me his first instinct was to run after he heard the gunshot. Cunningham later told Cpl. Cantrell he did not see Cody shoot Jacob but believed Cody was the person who had shot Jacob. Cunningham based this belief on knowing Cody had a handgun earlier and had waved it at everyone. Cpl. Cantrell asked Cunningham if he was in the room when Jacob was shot and Cunningham said yes. Cunningham later said the reason he did not see Cody shoot Jacob was because he (Cunningham) was distracted by an unknown female sitting next him. Cunningham said he knew for a fact that Cody killed Jacob and it was not a self-defense issue. Cpl. Cantrell asked Cunningham if he saw Jacob doing anything in an aggressive manner to Cody that would cause Cody to defend himself by shooting Jacob. Cunningham said he did not believe Jacob threatened Cody at all.

At 00:30 minutes on 04/22/2021, a 911 call was received in reference to a male assaulting a female in a van at 2404 E. Sunshine, Kum and Go. Information was then received the male left in the van while they female remained on scene. Upon arrival, officers contacted Kelsea Taylor. Kelsea informed them she had picked Cody up and drove him around Springfield until he assaulted her at

the Kum and Go. Kelsea reported Cody had also stolen her van, a silver 2010 Chrysler Town and Country (MO RG9 V2V). Kelsea informed officers she had a child in common with Cody, and they had ended their romantic relationship in January.

During an interview with Kelsey, she told me she received a phone call from Joyce "close to 10 o'clock", and Joyce told her Cody was in a very bad spot, he had done something very bad, he was talking about killing himself, and he only wanted to speak to Kelsea. Kelsea said Joyce told her Cody said he shot and killed someone. Kelsea said Cody got a hold of her through a stranger's Facebook account, and told her where to meet him. Kelsea said she picked Cody up from the laundry mat next to Archie's Lounge, located at 1817 E. Grand. Kelsea stated she and Cody drove around for an hour and she tried to talk him into turning himself in. Kelsea said she also tried talking Cody out of killing himself. Kelsea stated towards the end of the time with Cody he became aggressive with her because he wanted to know about her personal life. Kelsea stopped to get gas at the Kum and Go, and while they were there, Cody became more aggressive with her. Kelsea stated Cody threatened to hurt her, and he pulled her glasses off her face before breaking them. Kelsea said Cody punched her in the ear, poured water on her, tried to gouge her eyes out, and grabbed her by the hair. Cody also grabbed Kelsea by the throat and began choking her to the point she couldn't breathe and she thought she was going to lose consciousness. Cody threatened to take Kelsea's phone, and he already had her car keys. Kelsea said Cody wanted her to take him back to the house on Stewart. During the assault, Kelsea tried to yell for help, and Cody accidentally sounded the horn. Kelsea began honking the horn herself which gained the attention of two males were at the gas pumps. Kelsea was able to jump out of the van, but Cody came around and got in the driver's seat. Cody then drove off with Kelsea's van. Kelsea said Cody did not have permission to take her vehicle.

During the interview, Kelsea told me Cody made the incident with Jacob sound as though it was in "defense." Kelsea stated Cody told her "the guy tried to rob him and that's whenever he pulled out the gun. And the guy didn't think he was going to shoot, and what are you gonna do when someone's in your house robbing you? Especially when you got two kids there. And that's when he said he didn't, just shot him." Kelsea didn't know what the guy was trying to rob Cody of, but she thought it was probably drugs. Kelsea told me Cody made statements to her about "not doing another 25 years in jail."

On 04/22/2021, Kelsea's stolen van, the silver 2010 Chrysler Town and Country (MO RG9 V2V), was recovered at 914 S. Crutcher. Inside the van, a black wallet was found which contained two credit cards, a paper driver's license, and a California birth certificate which all belonged to Cody.

On 04/22/2021, while looking for Cody, Ofc. S. Hartman contacted Ryan Brewer near the intersection of Cherry and Kickapoo. Ryan was in possession of a black Springfield Armory XD (serial #S492297). During the contact, Ryan stated the gun had been used in a crime the night before and he was in the process of getting rid of it. After having the Miranda Warning read to him, Ryan told officers they were looking for Cody Browning for a shooting, and the gun was the pistol that was used in that shooting. Ryan stated Cody was currently inside of 622 S. Kickapoo. Ryan stated he was moving the pistol and was going to get rid of it by burying it or throwing it away. Ryan said the gun had been hidden near the address where the shooting occurred, and Cody told him where it was. Ryan said he went to get the gun for Cody. During a further interview with Ryan, he informed me Cody told him Jacob rushed him with a screwdriver, and he shot him in self-defense.

On 04/22/2021, Cody was eventually contacted and arrested at 622 S. Kickapoo. During a post-Miranda interview, Cody declined to provide a statement.

During the follow up investigation, I reviewed Cody's criminal history, and I found he was convicted of the felony crime of Possession of a Controlled Substance except 35 grams or less of Marijuana/Synthetic Cannabinod under Christian County Circuit Court case #17CTCR0191601 on 10/19/2017 which made it unlawful for him to possess the weapon during the shooting.

I am requesting that an arrest warrant be issued because (complete at least one of the following):

1. I have reasonable grounds to believe the defendant will not appear upon a summons based on the facts stated above and the following information:

During the arrest of Browning, he made a couple attempts to flee the house he was in to avoid arrest while police were outside.

Not Applicable

2. I have reasonable grounds to believe the defendant poses a danger to a crime victim, the community, or any other person based on the facts stated above and the following information:

Browning is a convicted felon and was unlawfully in possession of a firearm during this incident. Also during the incident involving Kelsea, she stated she was concerned Browning would come to her house and kill her child and new boyfriend.

Not Applicable

The facts contained above are true to the best of my information and belief.

/s/ James Sweet

1547

Detective

Signature

DSN

Title