

STATE OF IOWA, POTTAWATTAMIE -
78 COUNTY

I, the undersigned, being duly sworn, that all facts contained in this Affidavit, known by me or told to me by other reliable persons form the basis for my belief that the defendant committed this crime

State all facts and persons relied upon supporting elements of alleged crime

On 2/15/23 reports 60 year old Ilene Gowan missing. Gowan was last seen on video leaving E Kanesville Blvd in Council Bluffs with former boyfriend, Ivan "Sam" Brammer in his 1999 Ford F-150 on 2/13/23. Gowan is wearing her eyeglasses, a tan jacket, green shirt and blue jeans. Gowan was known to have had in her possession her purse, cell phone and a personal safe containing \$1,200 in cash. On the day Gowan went missing the temperature was well above freezing however this would change the following day and by the early morning hours of the 16th it was snowing heavily. Several inches of snow would cover the ground for many days with temperatures remaining below freezing for much of the day.

During the course of this missing person investigation interviews were conducted of several individuals including and a multitude of other family, friends and co-workers. This investigation found the relationship between Brammer and Gowan was on-again/off-again and volatile with much verbal fighting and alcohol involved. Family Member K.H. states Brammer was not a nice person and did not treat Gowan with respect. states when they were not drinking they seemed to get along good but it became bad when they were drinking. states at one point Gowan told her Brammer had choked her during a loud argument.

Witnesses T.T. and K.S. both state about one week before Ilene Gowan went missing, she had been kicked out of the apartment she was sharing with Sam Brammer at 800 N 34th Street. Gowan told them both Brammer was holding her personal safe until she provided him \$300 in cash. Gowan told both T.T. and K.S. during separate conversations she had \$1,500 cash in her safe. Gowan also told them she needed \$600 to pay for an OWI class she needed to take and Brammer wouldn't let her have her safe until she paid him. verified this information stating she had to pay for that class and Gowan had not yet paid back by the time she went missing. When Gowan finally received her safe from Brammer she took it to for safekeeping. Gowan told the safe now contained \$1,200. Prior to residing at Cottonwood, both Brammer and Gowan resided in Omaha with states she knew her mother kept cash inside her safe and has observed her remove cash from it in the past. In the days just before last Christmas, less than two months before she went missing, said she saw her remove cash from her safe as Brammer stood by watching. said this was not uncommon as Brammer and her mother have lived together for some time and they are both aware of what the other has.

Ivan "Sam" Brammer was interviewed four times between 2/15/23 and 2/24/23. Brammer initially states he picked up Gowan at 8:30 and drove her directly to a house located just off Railroad Highway where she was staying with an acquaintance, then he returned home. This was proven to be a false statement and each interview after, when presented with inaccuracies in his previous statements, Brammer would change his story to conform to the facts presented. Evidence shows Gowan was with Brammer at least through 11:00AM on that morning when his truck turns north onto Railroad Highway from Kanesville Blvd. His statements show he is omitting relevant information in order to misdirect this investigation. Also between these dates, Brammer's actions become erratic. On 2/19/23 he threatens suicide on 2/22/23 he threatens the life of and eludes police during a traffic stop In the threats incident, states he received a phone call from Brammer who said "Say another word and is going to pay for two funerals" and disconnected the call. had made comments he thought Brammer had something to do with disappearance. At this time Ilene Gowan was still missing. states he believes Brammer is threatening to kill him and the "two funerals" statement insinuates Sam Brammer knows was deceased. During the last interview with Brammer on 2/24/23 he requests we drive the area so he can show us exactly where he went after turning onto Railroad Highway at 11:00AM on 2/13/23. I agreed to accommodate him. Traveling north on Railroad Highway from Kanesville, Brammer takes us to a location between 20004 and 20096 205th Street and states this is where he dropped Gowan off. He told us he had stopped, turned around and let her out of his truck before driving away very slowly. He said he did this in hope to see her walk toward a house so he would "know where lived" but "she just stood there watching me leave". On 2/25/23 Brammer took his 1999 Ford Truck to a salvage yard in Carter Lake, Lakeside Recyclers, and sold it. The truck was crushed and shredded the same day. We later discover on 2/15/23 Brammer deposits \$1,200 cash into his account. On 2/26/23 Ilene Gowan is located deceased in a ditch along County Road L-19 under the Old Mormon Bridge Road overpass which spans the Union Pacific rail line and Pidgeon Creek. This location receives limited sunlight and is an area where snow would melt slowly. Her body was still frozen to the ground and it is believed she had been in this location possibly since the time she went missing. The weather on 2/13/23 was unseasonably warm however this would change the following day with light rain, temperatures in the mid-forties dropping to the mid-thirties. On the 15th it remains cloudy with temperatures continuing to fall throughout the day and then heavy snow by the early morning hours of the 16th. With the rain and temperature dropping well below freezing, she would freeze to the ground and the following snow would have covered her completely keeping her unseen until being discovered on the 26th. Gowan is wearing the same clothing she was seen wearing on 2/13/23 while with Brammer. Missing are one shoe, her glasses (\$150), purse and contents (\$100), cell phone (\$250) and the small safe (\$25) containing \$1,200 cash. Total loss to the estate is \$1,725.

Video evidence from city cameras and private businesses show Brammer's movements the morning of 2/13/23 between 08:30 and 11:20AM. Brammer leaves Council Bluffs for about one hour, between 9:28AM and 10:28AM. Phone records indicate they both are in the area of Carter Lake during this time. From 8:30AM to 9:28AM Gowan is walking, acting normal in all respects and uninjured sitting upright on the passenger side of Brammer's truck while traveling. When Brammer's truck is seen on camera returning to Council Bluffs at 10:28AM, it appears something is different with the way Gowan is sitting or positioned in his truck. At multiple locations with different angles and views, it appears Gowan is awkwardly slumped in the passenger seat. Passing the Frank and Kanesville intersection at 10:56AM, she appears to have not moved or changed position. They turn north onto Railroad Highway at approximately 11:00AM. According to video from Railroad Highway it takes three and a half minutes for Brammer's truck to pass the same location traveling north and then south. Video from Railroad Highway shows a three minute span between the north and south travel, consistent with a shorter distance. Brammer is seen pulling into Sherwood Drive at 11:06AM; Gowan is no longer visible in the truck.

On 3/15/23 I timed the travel from the video location to various turn-around points to get an idea of the area Brammer may have turned around in this timeframe. I drove to several locations along Railroad Highway and back timing each trip while traveling at or slightly above the posted speed limit. No stops were made except for stop signs. The only location that falls within the timeframe for Brammer to have turned around and is far enough off the highway to avoid attention is Yellow Pole Road to Washboard and back to This round trip took 2 minutes and 53 seconds stopping only for the stop sign at Railroad Highway. Had Brammer actually driven all the way to the location he claims to have dropped Gowan off, between 20004 and 20096 205th Street, wait for her to gather her things and exit his truck before driving off very slowly, it would have taken him over 6 minutes to pass

Phone records show both Gowan and Brammer's phones go "off network", meaning they either were turned off or were placed on airplane mode, at the same time; 10:59AM. This would account for the phones going off network while he traveled from North Avenue to the Kanesville Blvd / Railroad Highway intersection. Brammer is seen on camera traveling east on Highway 6 toward I-80 at 11:20AM after leaving and again traveling east on Highway 92 through Treynor at 11:46AM. He is next seen traveling west through Treynor on Highway 92 at 12:34PM. At 12:35PM both phones come back online. Brammer is tracked and seen on camera traveling into Council Bluffs, taking I-29 north from Highway 92 to the 9th Avenue exit and arriving home at 800 N 34th Street at 12:59PM. Gowan does not appear to be in his truck at this point as he is in and out of both the passenger and driver side doors of the truck and has the bed of the truck open for an extended length of time. He carries unknown items from inside his truck and the back of the truck to a trash dumpster located on the southeast corner of the apartment's parking lot. He then secures his truck and walks into his apartment building approximately 15 minutes after arriving. Both Brammer and Gowan's phones are still located together, now in the area of 800 North 34th Street. Between 1:30PM and 2:45PM there are text messages sent and received by Gowan's cell phone while at this location.

On 5/15/23 I spoke with Assistant State Medical Examiner Dr. Kelly Kruse. During this conversation we discussed the autopsy of Ilene Gowan including injuries sustained just prior to her death and tox screen results. The facts of this examination show Ilene Gowan had multiple injuries on her body. These injuries include multiple contusions and abrasions of the head and an "L" shaped laceration of the head which was significant but not life threatening and a broken tooth. There were contusions on the right side of the upper neck, contusions on the chest, lower back and left hip. There were also abrasions and contusions on the right and left elbows left arm and wrist and scattered contusions across the right lower thigh, right knee, right lower leg and left lower leg. Due to the level of decomposition Dr. Kruse was unable to determine if the head injuries could have caused concussion or unconsciousness. In regard to the L shaped head injury she said this could have caused severe and prolonged bleeding. None of these injuries however would have been so severe as to have caused her death. In addition to these injuries there was an injury on the upper left side of her neck. We initially believed this to be a ligature mark however Dr. Kruse said this was not a ligature mark. This was a mark caused by something which would have been pressed against her neck at the time of death leaving a mark. Because this mark was on the left side of Ilene's neck it could not have been caused by a seatbelt. It does however appear to be similar to the strap of the purse Ilene had with her that morning as seen in video from Dr. Kruse states she could not rule out this theory as to how that mark was left. Dr. Kruse was also provided photos of Gowan as she was seen in Brammer's truck. I asked her about the possibility of positional asphyxia as a possible cause of death and Dr. Kruse said she could not rule this out as a possibility. Another possibility Dr. Kruse could not rule out was death by blood loss as due to decomposition, she could not say how much blood was in her body. Head wounds bleed a lot and she could not rule out the possibility of death by blood loss or passing out from blood loss and then dying from positional asphyxia. All these possibilities could explain her death but there is no evidence to support them other than the photos of her in the truck sitting in an awkward, unnatural position. This is not enough evidence to support a conclusion. There were no signs Gowan died of exposure or hypothermia. The tox screen shows only nicotine and caffeine in her system as well as a maintenance level of a prescription drug, Wellbutrin. In the end, Dr. Kruse lists Gowan's death as "cause of death unknown, manner of death unknown".

In conclusion, the facts of this investigation show the relationship between Sam Brammer and Ilene Gowan was volatile. Ilene was last known to be with Brammer and there is no evidence he dropped her off where he claims he did. The facts dispute this claim and show Brammer did not have enough time to drop her off at the location he said he did. Ilene appears to be unconscious while Brammer drives through Council Bluffs between 10:28AM and 11:00AM. Both Gowan and Brammer's phones go off-line at 10:59AM while Ilene is known to have still been inside his truck and Brammer leaves the city of Council Bluffs at 11:20AM. The phones go back on-line at 12:34PM as he is driving back to Council Bluffs on Highway 92. Brammer arrives home at about 12:59PM and Gowan is not seen. Brammer places several unknown items into the dumpster. Both phones are in the same location for several hours in the area of Brammer's residence as text messages are sent and received by Gowan's phone. Brammer's actions and activities are completely out of the ordinary following this event and he suddenly has his truck, which Gowan was last seen inside of, crushed and shredded at an auto recycler company. Gowan is found on 2/26/23 wearing the same clothing she was wearing on the day she went missing. I believe the evidence and facts of this case show Ilene was likely deceased during the time she was in Brammer's truck and Brammer dumped her body. He then attempted to hide this fact by sending text messages from her phone in order to make others think she was alive and had left. He deposits \$1,200 cash into his bank account on 2/15/23 and on 2/25/23, one day after his last interview with police, destroys evidence by having his truck crushed and shredded. I believe these fact support the charges of Theft 2 of an Older Individual, 714.2A(b) and Abuse of a Corpse, 708.14

Ron J. [Signature] #6088
 Signature of Complainant or Officer, Officer Name & Number

Subscribed and sworn to before me by the person(s) signing the Complaint and Affidavit(s) on:
 5/23/2023 (DATE)

GENERAL PROBABLE CAUSE

Defendant Implicated		
Operating Motor Vehicle in County Pottawattamie - 78	Other Physical Evidence	Attempted To Inflict Injury

