

IN THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT IN AND FOR  
POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY

This Complaint and Affidavit is to be:

- Filed with Court Clerk (cc: CA)
- Submitted to County Attorney
- Filed with JCO - Defendant is a Juvenile

Form Number: **2026-03000066**

Arrest Date: \_\_\_\_\_

THE STATE OF IOWA

VS.

OFFENDER

Last <b>BERTOLINO</b>		First <b>JOSEPH</b>		Middle <b>EDWARD</b>		Suffix	
Address [REDACTED]				City <b>JACKSONVILLE</b>		State <b>FL</b>	Zip Code <b>32258</b>
DL# [REDACTED]	State <b>FL</b>	DL Class <b>E</b>	DL Endorsements		DL Restrictions		
Date of Birth <b>08/27/1989</b>		Gender <b>MALE</b>		Race <b>WHITE - W</b>		Ethnicity <b>NOT OF HISPANIC ORIGIN - N</b>	
Height <b>6' 00"</b>		Weight <b>230 LBS</b>		Eye Color <b>HAZEL - HAZ</b>		Hair Color <b>BROWN - BRO</b>	

OFFENSE

State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	County <input type="checkbox"/>	Local <input type="checkbox"/>	Code Section <b>707.2(1)(A)</b>	Crime Description <b>MURDER IN THE 1ST DEGREE</b>			Speed	in	Zone
Class <b>FELA</b>			Serious P.I. <input type="checkbox"/>	Fatal Accident <input type="checkbox"/>	Civil Damage Assessment <input type="checkbox"/>		Other <input type="checkbox"/>		
Location Type <b>14 - HOTEL/MOTEL/ETC.</b>									
Literal Description <b>2210 ABBOTT DRIVE, CARTER LAKE, IOWA 51510</b>									
Address <b>2210 ABBOTT DRIVE</b>				City <b>CARTER LAKE</b>			State <b>IA</b>	Zip Code <b>51510</b>	
Is Date and Time of Incident Known? <b>NO</b>		Incident Date or Low Range <b>04/28/2026</b>		Upper Date Range <b>04/28/2026</b>		Incident Time or Low Range <b>17:45</b>		Upper Time Range <b>18:30</b>	

STATUS OF OFFENDER/JUVENILE

<input type="checkbox"/> TAKEN INTO CUSTODY	CUSTODY		<input type="checkbox"/> SUMMONS TO APPEAR (Citation Issued)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WARRANT REQUESTED	<input type="checkbox"/> NO CONTACT ORDER REQUESTED		<input type="checkbox"/> RELEASED TO PARENT/GUARDIAN

NARRATIVE

Narrative of Offense Committed

On or about the above stated date and time, the Defendant did having malice aforethought, willfully, deliberately, and with premeditation kill Kenneth Gauff.

VICTIM INFORMATION (Optionally displayed, especially if NCO is requested)

Last <b>GAUFF</b>		First <b>KENNTH</b>		Middle <b>BRUCE</b>		Suffix	
Business/Organization/State/County/Municipality Name							
Address <b>2210 ABBOTT DRIVE, 102</b>				City <b>CARTER LAKE</b>		State <b>IA</b>	Zip <b>51510</b>

AFFIDAVIT

**STATE OF IOWA, POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY**

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

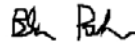
State all facts and persons relied upon supporting elements of alleged crime

On April 28th, 2026, at approximately 09:42 p.m., the Carter Lake Police Department was requested to conduct a welfare check on a male subject at the Country Inn and Suites, 2210 Abbott Drive in Carter Lake, Pottawattamie County, Iowa.

Carter Lake Police conducted the welfare check at the Country Inn and Suites room 102 located at 2210 Abbott Drive. Officers made entry and located a deceased male on the floor of room 102. The Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation was requested by the Carter Lake Police Department for assistance.

Country Inn and Suites has surveillance video that covers the property. On April 28th, 2026, at approximately 05:19 p.m. the victim, Kenneth GAUFF is observed on surveillance video entering room 102 by himself. On April 28th, 2026, Joseph BERTOLINO is observed on surveillance video entering room 102 at approximately 05:46 p.m. and leaving the room by himself at approximately 06:28 p.m. While BERTOLINO is leaving, what appears to be blood can be seen on BERTOLINO's shoes on surveillance video.

On April 28th, 2026, at approximately 11:12 p.m., I, Special Agent Blair Paulsen spoke with officers from the Lincoln Police Department. It was learned officers with the Lincoln Police Department had an incident involving BERTOLINO in Lincoln, Nebraska. BERTOLINO made statements and later gave a confession to killing GAUFF inside the hotel room 102 in Carter Lake, Iowa. The Lincoln Police Department recovered clothing items that had blood on them and a suspected murder weapon.



**PAULSEN, BLAIR 1148**

Signature of Complainant or Officer, Officer Name & Number

**GENERAL PROBABLE CAUSE**

Defendant Implicated


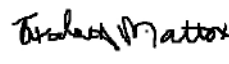
**03 - ADMISSION/STATEMENTS, 07 - IDENTIFIED BY WITNESSES, 09 - NEAR SCENE OF CRIME**

Operating Motor Vehicle in County

Other Physical Evidence

Attempted To Inflict Injury

**STATE OF IOWA, POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY**

	Subscribed and sworn to before me by the person(s) signing the Complaint and Affidavit(s) on 04/30/2026	
	Notary Name	TARALEE A MATTOX
	Commission Number	749925
	My Commission Expires	12/09/2028
		Signature of Verifying Party 
		<input type="checkbox"/> Peace Officer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notary <input type="checkbox"/> Prosecuting Attorney