

**STATE OF WISCONSIN                      CIRCUIT COURT                      MILWAUKEE COUNTY**

**STATE OF WISCONSIN**  
   **Plaintiff,**

**DA Case No.: 2023ML024749**  
**Court Case No.:**

vs.

**CRIMINAL COMPLAINT**

MOYE, ROMUAN JOVAES  
4160 NORTH ELMHURST ROAD  
MILWAUKEE, WI 53216  
DOB: 09/08/1978

**Defendant(s).**

*For Official Use*

THE BELOW NAMED COMPLAINANT BEING DULY SWORN, ON INFORMATION AND BELIEF STATES THAT:

**COUNT ONE: CHRONIC NEGLECT OF A CHILD - CONSEQUENCE IS DEATH – AS TO THE NUTRITIONAL NEGLECT OF JR**

The above-named defendant between August 1, 2023, and October 10, 2023, at 4160 North Elmhurst Road, in the City of Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin, being a person responsible for the welfare of a child, JR, DOB 08/19/2011, through his action or failure to take action, for reasons other than poverty, did negligently fail to provide necessary care so as to seriously endanger the physical, mental, or emotional health of the child, and the child suffered death as a consequence, and the actor is guilty of chronic neglect as he, to wit:, contrary to sec. 948.215(1) and (2)(a), 939.50(3)(b) Wis. Stats.

Upon conviction for this offense, a Class B Felony, the defendant may be sentenced to a term of imprisonment not to exceed sixty (60) years.

**COUNT TWO: CHRONIC NEGLECT OF A CHILD - CONSEQUENCE IS BODILY HARM – AS TO THE FAILURE TO SEEK MEDICAL CARE FOR JR’S FRACTURES**

The above-named defendant between August 1, 2023, and October 10, 2023, at 4160 North Elmhurst Road, in the City of Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin, being a person responsible for the welfare of a child, JR, DOB 08/19/2011, through his failure to take action, for reasons other than poverty, did negligently fail to provide necessary medical care so as to seriously endanger the physical, mental, or emotional health of the child, and the child suffered bodily harm as a consequence, and the actor is guilty of chronic neglect as he, to wit:, contrary to sec. 948.215(1) and (2)(d), 939.50(3)(f) Wis. Stats.

Upon conviction for this offense, a Class F Felony, the defendant may be fined not more than Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000), or imprisoned not more than twelve (12) years and six (6) months, or both.

**COUNT THREE: CHRONIC NEGLECT OF A CHILD – AS TO THE LIVING CONDITIONS AT 4160 N. ELMHURST ROAD**

The above-named defendant between August 1, 2023, and October 10, 2023, at 4160 North Elmhurst Road, in the City of Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin, being a person responsible for the welfare of a child, JR, DOB 08/19/2011, through his failure to take action, for reasons other than poverty, negligently failed to provide necessary care so as to seriously endanger the physical, mental,

or emotional health of the child, and the natural and probable consequences of this violation would be harm under 948.21(3) par (a), (b), (c) or (d), Wis. Stats., although the harm did not actually occur, and the actor is guilty of chronic neglect as he, to wit., contrary to sec. 948.215(1) and (2)(e), 939.50(3)(h) Wis. Stats.

Upon conviction for this offense, a Class H Felony, the defendant may be fined not more than Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000), or imprisoned not more than six (6) years, or both.

#### **COUNT FOUR: FAILURE TO REPORT DEATH OF A CHILD**

The above-named defendant between August 1, 2023, and October 10, 2023, at 4160 North Elmhurst Road, in the City of Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin, as the parent of JR, did fail to report to law enforcement the death of a child, JR, immediately after discovering the death, or as soon as practically possible if immediate reporting is impossible, and the death is or appears to be a homicide, contrary to sec. 948.23(1)(b), 939.50(3)(i) Wis. Stats.

Upon conviction for this offense, a Class I Felony, the defendant may be fined not more than Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000), or imprisoned not more than three (3) years and six (6) months, or both.

#### **Probable Cause:**

This complaint is supported by the written reports of City of Milwaukee law enforcement officers and detectives whose written reports were prepared through the normal course of police business and which your complaining witness has relied upon in the past and found to be truthful and accurate. Based on a review of the reports pertaining to the investigation of this matter, your complaining witness believes that:

At 6:15 PM on October 10, 2023, City of Milwaukee Police officers were dispatched to the address of 4160 N. Elmhurst Road, in the City of Milwaukee, County of Milwaukee, for a dead on entry complaint. The initial call reported that the body of a deceased twelve-year-old child was located inside the residence. The body was in an advanced state of decomposition.

City of Milwaukee Police Officers Theodore Chandler, Refugio Frias, Benjamin Hillesheim, Monica Koscoelak, Lorenzo Maholmes, and Jordan Ossanna-Rehil responded to the scene and cleared the residence to ensure there was no ongoing threat or additional injured or deceased persons within the residence.

City of Milwaukee Police Officer Michael Budziszewski conducted an interview of citizen witness JM 3/19/2001 DOB, who provided the following initial statement to police. JM's father is the above Defendant, Romuan Moye. The Defendant has three children who historically live with the Defendant: BR 2/21/2006 DOB, SR 1/20/2008 DOB, and JR 8/19/2011 DOB. For at least the past two weeks, BR and SR were staying with their mother, YR, leaving only JR in the Defendant's care.

JM stopped by the Defendant's residence approximately four to five days ago to visit with the Defendant. During the visit, JM and the Defendant stayed outside of the residence. JM observed the Defendant to be acting abnormal, repeatedly taking deep breaths. JM expressed concern for the Defendant and asked the Defendant to stay in contact with JM. JM never went inside the Defendant's residence, nor did JM see JR.

After visiting with the Defendant, JM continued to exchange text messages with the Defendant. JM's siblings, BR and SR, wanted to go back home to the Defendant's residence. As a result, on October 8, 2013, JM attempted to drop BR and SR off at the Defendant's residence. The Defendant initially told JM

that it was okay to drop BR and SR off. When JM attempted to drop BR and SR off, the Defendant responded in a text message that the Defendant was not home. JM was confused because the Defendant previously indicated that it was okay to drop BR and SR off. JM disclosed that this was the second time that JM came to the Defendant's residence and the Defendant would not answer the door.

On October 10, 2013, JM went to the Defendant's residence in an attempt to check on the Defendant. JM knocked on the front door and asked the Defendant, "if you are in there, please come out." The Defendant did not answer the door. When nobody answered the door, JM went into the residence. Upon entering the residence, JM was immediately struck by the strong odor from inside. JM did not locate anyone inside the residence. JM went through the Defendant's residence a second time. Upon entering the living room, JM observed a human foot protruding from covers on the living room floor. JM pulled the covering back and observed "his face eaten up." JM identified the deceased person's body as, JR 8/19/2011 DOB, JM's little brother.

After making the discovery, JM told police he was lost, confused, and "I don't even know how to fucking feel right now." JM appeared to be in a state of shock, having found the body of his little brother in a state of decay.

City of Milwaukee Police Officer Theodore Chandler took a detailed statement from JM after the scene was secured. According to JM, the Defendant disclosed being diagnosed with cancer a few years ago. For the past month, the Defendant has claimed that the cancer has progressed and the Defendant does not have long to live. As a result, JM has been attempting to spend more time with the Defendant. The Defendant has been evasive to JM's attempts to spend time together.

During the past week, the Defendant became even more evasive. JM attempted to drop off his siblings, BR and SR, at the Defendant's residence. When JM arrived at the residence with BR and SR, the Defendant claimed to not be home.

The Defendant has never dodged JM like this before. On October 10, 2023, JM and JM's girlfriend went to the Defendant's residence. JM went to the front door, knocked, and said "Dad, if you are in there, please come out". When there was no response, JM went into the residence and looked around but nobody was home. JM went back into the residence to look for some belongings that were important to the Defendant. As JM entered the living room, JM noticed a foot protruding from covers on the living room floor. JM immediately yelled out because JM knew it was JR's body. JM pulled the cover back and observed JR's face in an advanced state of decomposition with maggots present.

Officer Chandler asked JM about the Defendant's treatment of JR. JM responded that the Defendant has been keeping JR away from the family for the past few months. During that time, the Defendant reported that JR was acting "really bad". The Defendant would let BR and SR leave the residence to go with JM, but would not let JR leave. On the rare occurrences where JM has personally seen JR, JM observed that JR was extremely skinny. The last time JM recalled seeing JR alive was August 19, 2023, which is JR's birthday. JM recalled thinking, "damn, what the fuck is JR eating?"

When JM would see JR, JR would often appear sullen. JM would ask JR if JR was okay, to which JR would respond, "no". Reflecting back, JM noted that a little kid is supposed to be happy, and for the past few months on the rare occasions when JM saw JR, JR never was happy.

JM disclosed that the Defendant was a "harsh" punisher, as the Defendant's punishments would often last for weeks, though the Defendant did not use physical punishment often.

As officers were on scene, CA 2/20/1956 DOB, the mother of the Defendant arrived on scene. CA reported speaking with the Defendant over the phone at 2:49 PM on October 10, 2023. During the phone call, CA asked about JR. The Defendant reported that JR was fine and with the Defendant.

At 6:59 PM, City of Milwaukee Police Detective Justin Sokolowski arrived on scene to assist with the investigation into the circumstances surrounding the death of JR. Upon arriving on scene, Detective Sokolowski conducted an interview of YR 2/26/1967 DOB, the mother of SR, BR, and JR. SR and BR have lived with YR for the past two weeks. YR has not seen JR for three years, though YR reports talking with JR on the phone approximately five weeks ago.

The Defendant has informed YR multiple times over the past number of weeks that JR was misbehaving and stealing food. The Defendant put JR on punishment. The Defendant would only allow SR and BR to visit YR, not JR. YR showed Detective Sokolowski a text message she sent to the Defendant at 2:14 PM on October 10, 2023, asking to see JR. The Defendant did not respond. As Detective Stokolwski was interviewing YR, YR was shaking and crying.

City of Milwaukee Police Detective Brian Maciejewski arrived on scene and conducted a detailed interview of the Defendant's mother, CA 2/20/1956 DOB. CA reported that she last saw JR approximately six years ago. CA has not been inside the Defendant's residence in three years.

Two years ago, the Defendant disclosed that he was diagnosed with cancer. CA is not sure whether she believes that the Defendant actually has cancer.

On October 10, 2023, CA received a phone call from JM telling her to come to the Defendant's residence immediately, that JR was deceased. CA responded to the residence and immediately noted the foul odor from inside. JM was crying uncontrollably. The last time saw the Defendant was on October 7, 2023, when the Defendant came over to her residence. The Defendant never mentioned JR while visiting with his mother.

After finding out that JR was deceased, CA and the Defendant had the following text message exchange:

CA: You may as well turn yourself in, you are going to prison for life.  
Defendant: Your son (the Defendant) is dying, he won't be around for that.  
CA: Turn yourself in now. You're still living.  
CA: Romuan, stop playing around and man up.

City of Milwaukee Police Detective Michael Braunreiter responded to 4160 N. Elmhurst Street, in the City of Milwaukee, County of Milwaukee, and conducted an investigation of the scene. 4160 North Elmhurst Street is a two-story single family residence having grey brick with white trim. The front door was stuck shut. It appeared that the doorknob did not work. The primary entrance was a side door which was located on the south side of the residence.

Inside the residence there was an overwhelming smell of mold, feces, and decay. The kitchen had a large pile of garbage located in the center of the floor. The kitchen table was covered in garbage. The kitchen sink was covered in what appeared to be mold. There was molded food on the counters of the kitchen. The refrigerator appeared to be functional but was filled with molded food.

The bathroom was filled with garbage and the toilet was filled with human feces. The vanity sink and shower were covered in mold.

The living room was located in the southwest corner of the residence. The thermostat was located in the living room which read 64 degrees. The heat worked but was not turned on. There were numerous televisions located in the living room along with a coffee table located in the center of the room. On the coffee table there were several plastic bottles filled with what appeared to be urine. There were several identifiers for Romuan Moye located on the coffee table.

The body of JR was located in front of the couch on the floor. The body was wrapped up in a blue blanket and had a white torn t-shirt covering the head. The body appeared to be extremely malnourished. JR's body had maggots covering his face and mouth. There were several drops of dried blood towards the feet of JR's body.

City of Milwaukee Police Detectives Paul Miner and Matthew Bughman were assigned to locate and interview BR and SR. Upon locating BR and SR, Detective Miner conducted an interview of SR. SR reported that she, BR, and JR are homeschooled by the Defendant. According to SR, the Defendant punishes JR for stealing food. The Defendant will pop JR or whoop JR. At night JR sneaks into the kitchen and steals food.

SR and BR have not been at home for the past two weeks because the Defendant "needed to take care of something". During that time frame SR and BR stayed with their mother. Detective Miner asked to see SR's cell phone to see text message exchanges between SR and the Defendant. On October 8, 2023, SR sent a text message to the Defendant telling the Defendant that their mother was going to call the police on the Defendant because the Defendant would not let anyone see JR.

As Detective Miner was interviewing SR, Detective Matthew Bughman conducted an interview of BR, who provided the following statement. BR disclosed that the Defendant homeschooled BR, SR, and JR.

BR disclosed that JR misbehaves and gets into constant trouble. BR last saw JR two weeks ago. Since that time BR and SR have stayed with their mother while the Defendant "took care of some things". JR could not go with BR and SR to their mother's residence because JR was grounded. BR disclosed that JR was not eating and was sleeping a lot. While BR and SR were staying with their mother, their mother became concerned for JR.

On October 11, 2023, Dr. Lauren Decker MD, an Assistant Medical Examiner with the Milwaukee County Medical Examiner's Office, performed an autopsy on the body of JR 8/19/2011 DOB. JR had a fractured right humerus with callous bone formation (healing). Dr. Decker noted the fracture was very large and in an irregular pattern for a fracture. The left humerus also appeared to be fractured. The right 7<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> posterior ribs also had callous formation consistent with healing fractures.

The body was extremely malnourished and emaciated, with moderate decomposition of the body. The body of JR weighed 54 pounds at autopsy. An ultimate ruling on the cause of death for JR is pending toxicology, histology, and further investigation.

The investigation into the circumstances surrounding the death of JR is still under investigation and the information and charges contained within the criminal complaint are based on the preliminary investigation in this matter. Further charges may be forthcoming based on the fractures identified at autopsy.

\*\*\*\*End of Complaint\*\*\*\*

**Electronic Filing Notice:**

This case was electronically filed with the Milwaukee County Clerk of Circuit Court office. The electronic filing system is designed to allow for fast, reliable exchange of documents in court cases. Parties who register as electronic parties can file, receive and view documents online through the court electronic filing website. A document filed electronically has the same legal effect as a document filed by traditional means. You may also register as an electronic party by following the instructions found at <http://efiling.wicourts.gov> and may withdraw as an electronic party at any time. There is a \$ 20.00 fee to register as an electronic party. If you are not represented by an attorney and would like to register an electronic party, you will need to contact the Clerk of Circuit Court office at 414-278-4120. Unless you register as an electronic party, you will be served with traditional paper documents by other parties and by the court. You must file and serve traditional paper documents.

Criminal Complaint prepared by Matthew J. Torbenson.

Subscribed and sworn to before me on 10/14/23

Electronically Signed By:

Matthew J. Torbenson

Deputy District Attorney

State Bar #: 1049925

Electronically Signed By:

Detective Michael Braunreiter

Complainant