

1 BRITTANY L. WILLIAMS  
2 Deputy County Attorney  
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4 Missoula County Attorney  
5 Missoula County Courthouse  
6 Missoula, Montana 59802  
7 (406) 258-4737  
8 ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF

9  
10 IN THE JUSTICE COURT OF THE STATE OF MONTANA  
11 IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF MISSOULA

12 STATE OF MONTANA,  
13  
14 Plaintiff,  
15  
16 -VS-  
17 FRANCIS CARLTON CROWLEY,  
18 Defendant,

Department No.1  
Cause No.CR-2018-744

**AFFIDAVIT OF PROBABLE  
CAUSE**

19 STATE OF MONTANA )  
20 : ss  
21 County of Missoula )

22 BRITTANY L. WILLIAMS, Deputy County Attorney, Montana, being first duly sworn  
23 upon oath, deposes and says:

24 I have read the official law enforcement reports and received statements from  
25 investigating officers regarding the investigation of Francis Carlton Crowley for allegedly  
26 committing the offenses of COUNT I: ASSAULT ON MINOR UNDER 36 MONTHS (1ST  
27 OFFENSE), a Felony, in violation of Montana law, namely: Mont. Code Ann. 45-5-  
28 212(2)(b) COUNT II: CRIMINAL ENDANGERMENT, a Felony, in violation of Montana law,  
namely: Mont. Code Ann. 45-5-207.

1           Based upon the following facts which have been obtained from reports and  
2 statements of the law enforcement officer which, if true, constitute sufficient probable  
3 cause to justify the filing of the charges. The facts from those reports are as follows:  
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5           On or about the 6th day of July, 2018, around 8 pm, Missoula County Sheriff's  
6 Deputies were called to Lolo Hot Springs, in Missoula County, for a report of a  
7 disturbance. Law enforcement received information that Francis Crowley, the above-  
8 named Defendant, had previously been trespassed from the hot springs and had returned  
9 and was threatening to fire a gun. Law enforcement then received further information that  
10 a crash had occurred, in which the Defendant was the driver and a five-month-old baby,  
11 G.C., was the passenger.  
12

13           Upon arrival, officers spoke with numerous witnesses, including the baby's mother  
14 and were informed that a crash had occurred. The driver of the vehicle was identified as  
15 Francis Carlton Crowley, the above-named Defendant. Officers had an opportunity to  
16 speak with the Defendant, but the baby was not with him. Officers quickly ascertained that  
17 he was under the influence of dangerous drugs, based on his behavior and admissions to  
18 ingesting methamphetamine and bath salts.  
19

20           The Defendant stated he would take officers to the baby's location, but the  
21 Defendant was disoriented and ultimately unable to do so. Officers continued to search in  
22 the various areas where the Defendant stated the baby was located, but they had difficulty  
23 given the Defendant's numerous inconsistent statements about the baby's whereabouts.  
24 These statements included saying he could see the baby holding his arms up and  
25 reaching for the Defendant; the baby was laying on the side of the road; and that the baby  
26 had died and he buried him in the mountains; all of which were found to be false.  
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1           After a few hours of searching, law enforcement paged the Missoula County search  
2 and rescue team and numerous law enforcement agencies, including Montana Highway  
3 Patrol, Bureau of Land Management and United States Forest Service. At the request of  
4 Corporal Sargent, Forest Service Officer Scholz arrived with an off-highway vehicle.  
5 Officer Scholz and Deputy Jessop followed the road the Defendant stated he had traveled.  
6 The officers followed the road for approximately one mile before it ended, at this time, they  
7 observed a game trail and continued on the trail, finding multiple small diameter trees that  
8 had been damaged, indicating the car had continued to travel through the woods without a  
9 road being present. Approximately 100 yards from where the officers began their foot  
10 search, they found the blue Chevy Corsica the Defendant had been driving and found it  
11 had been crashed into a tree.  
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13           Officers searched the car, but were unable to find the baby. They continued to  
14 follow a trail of personal items, including baby formula, a diaper bag and children's trivia  
15 cards, which led them down the slope. Missoula County Sheriff's Deputy Ross Jessop and  
16 United States Forest Service Officer Nick Scholz then turned their attention up the slope,  
17 where they located a baby carrier. They continued to follow a game trail until they both  
18 heard a very faint noise. They followed the noise and Deputy Jessop located the five-  
19 month-old child. The infant was face down, covered in small sticks, was cold to the touch  
20 and was dressed only in a onesie, that had been soiled throughout the day. Officers did  
21 not observe any food or water near the baby and it was apparent the baby was exhausted.  
22 The baby was found in a heavily wooded area on private property. The baby was taken  
23 down the slope and was taken via ambulance to the hospital. While being transported to  
24 the hospital, the baby began coughing up small sticks. He was ultimately treated for  
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1 dehydration, lack of food and the scratches, cuts and bruises he had received as a result  
2 of being left on the ground.

3  
4 In a subsequent statement to law enforcement, the Defendant stated after he had  
5 crashed the car, he began walking with the baby, but eventually stated he left the baby, as  
6 he was very heavy. The Defendant had no time reference for when this had occurred, only  
7 stating it was hot outside. The baby had been in the Defendant's care beginning at 7:30  
8 AM and it was not until approximately 2:30 AM, the next day. According to the weather  
9 service, temperatures ranged from a high of 91 degrees to a low of 51 degrees.  
10

11 DATED this 10th day of July, 2018.

12  
13 /s/ Brittany L. Williams  
14 BRITTANY L. WILLIAMS  
15 Deputy County Attorney

16 SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before me, a Justice of the Peace, in and for the  
17 State of Montana, County of Missoula.  
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Electronically Signed By:  
Hon. Judge Marie A. Andersen  
Tue, Jul 10 2018 12:14:09 PM