

BRITTANY L. WILLIAMS
Deputy County Attorney
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ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF

IN THE JUSTICE COURT OF RECORD OF MISSOULA COUNTY,
STATE OF MONTANA

<p>STATE OF MONTANA, Plaintiff, -vs- JOSHUA MICHAEL PANIAGUA, Defendant.</p>	<p>Dept. Cause No. AFFIDAVIT OF PROBABLE CAUSE</p>
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STATE OF MONTANA)
 : ss
County of Missoula)

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

I have read the law enforcement reports regarding the investigation of
JOSHUA MICHAEL PANIAGUA for allegedly committing the offense of:

COUNT I: ASSAULT WITH WEAPON, a felony, in violation of § 45-5-
213, MCA.

I believe that the facts as set forth in the law enforcement reports, if true, constitute sufficient probable cause to justify the filing of the charges.

Those facts are as follows:

On or about the 6th day of June, 2020, Missoula County Sheriff's Deputies were dispatched to a report of a disturbance at 21334 Hwy 93 South in Florence, within Missoula County. Deputies were informed that a female, Traci Paniagua called 911 to report that her son, Joshua Paniagua, the above-named Defendant, age 19, was "freaking out." Traci stated the Defendant had screwed all of the doors shut and told Traci that "she's possessed by the devil."

Traci advised 911 that earlier the Defendant had come at her with a hammer and she had fled to a nearby neighbor's house. Traci advised the Defendant had a similar episode before and that episode was induced by drugs, alcohol and coke; further advising that there was unknown drugs or alcohol used by the Defendant tonight and there were unknown weapons besides the hammer.

Sgt. Volinkaty contacted Traci who stated the Defendant had told Traci that he "had to get the demons out of her" and that Traci reported the Defendant had made a "torture chamber" in the home. Traci stated she was fearful of injury when the Defendant attempted to assault her with the

hammer. Sgt. Volinkaty further reported that the Defendant had barricaded himself within the residence. When additional deputies arrived at the residence, they reported hearing hammering noises from inside the home. Deputies reported seeing the Defendant go out onto a balcony, but returned inside, while turning lights on and off in the residence.

Detective Hochhalter again spoke with Traci, who clarified that the incident began when she heard the Defendant using a power drill inside the home. Traci confronted the Defendant, who was putting boards up over the windows and doors. Traci stated the Defendant accused her of having “demons” and that he had the hammer in his hand during the argument. As Traci began to leave the home, the Defendant began chasing her with the hammer for approximately 20-30 feet. Traci got into her truck and attempted to leave, but had to stop at the driveway gate. As Traci exited her truck to open the gate, the Defendant ran to her location, Traci attempted to call 911, but the Defendant took her phone. The Defendant also took the keys out of the ignition. Traci was able to run on foot to a neighbor’s home to call 911.

At this given time, the Defendant continues to barricade himself within the home, with unknown drugs and weapons, therefore the State is requesting an arrest warrant to apprehend the Defendant. This Defendant is also known to law enforcement to be dangerous and is currently facing

charges for Distribution of Dangerous Drugs, in which an individual he encountered was stabbed and later declared deceased.

DATED this 7th day of June, 2020.

/s/ Brittany L. Williams
BRITTANY L. WILLIAMS
Deputy County Attorney

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before me, a Justice of the Peace, in and for the State of Montana, County of Missoula.