

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,

IN AND FOR VOLUSIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

VSO Case Number  
VP260003027

IN RE: PETITION FOR RISK PROTECTION ORDER

AGAINST {Name of Respondent} \_\_\_\_\_

AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF FLORIDA  
COUNTY OF VOLUSIA

I, {full legal name} Zarren Rutledge, in my position as {job title} Detective with the {name of law enforcement officer/agency} Volusia Sheriff's Office, swear and affirm that the following facts are true and correct.

1. {Name of Respondent} \_\_\_\_\_ poses a significant danger of causing personal injury to himself/herself or others by having a firearm or any ammunition in his/her custody or control or by purchasing, possessing or receiving a firearm or any ammunition. The following specific statements, actions, or facts give rise to a reasonable fear of significant dangerous acts by the respondent:

See continuation forms

4 Additional pages are attached.

2. {Name of Witness} N/A provided the following information based on his/her personal knowledge:

N/A

0 Additional pages are attached.

AFFIDAVIT CONTINUATION

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On February 12, 2026, at approximately 2223 hours, Deputy Shaheen responded to [REDACTED], Pierson, in reference to threatening videos that were sent via text message to [REDACTED] (V1) from [REDACTED] (S1). Upon arrival, Deputy Shaheen made contact with V1, [REDACTED], who provided the following statement:

At approximately 2200 and 2203 hours, [REDACTED] received two phone calls from [REDACTED] from his known cell phone number [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] identified [REDACTED] as the caller because he was saved in his phone contacts as "[REDACTED] Pierson Peach Farm." [REDACTED] advised that he ignored both calls because he was aware that [REDACTED] had been exhibiting signs of mental instability and making unusual statements.

[REDACTED] explained that he believed [REDACTED] was suffering from mental illness based on prior voice messages [REDACTED] sent on February 11, 2026, to [REDACTED]'s friend "[REDACTED]" later identified as [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] provided screenshots of these messages to Deputy Shaheen. The messages contained concerning and aggressive language, including repeated requests for contact and escalating hostility toward [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] further stated that [REDACTED] sent him two videos via text message depicting himself holding and firing a rifle while making threatening and aggressive statements. Although [REDACTED]'s face was not visible in the videos, [REDACTED] stated that his voice was clearly identifiable.

When asked how he knew [REDACTED], [REDACTED] stated they met through work at a local peach farm located at US 17 and Hagstrom Road, Pierson, where [REDACTED] had been hired to perform drainage work. [REDACTED] advised that after viewing the videos, he felt threatened and feared for his safety, despite [REDACTED] not mentioning [REDACTED]'s name directly. [REDACTED] completed a sworn written statement and declined Marsy's Law protection.

**AFFIDAVIT CONTINUATION**

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Detective Rutledge of the Volusia Sheriff's Office Domestic Security Unit was forwarded case #260003027 for further review.

Upon review of video two (2), a 1-minute and 25-second video transmitted from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ via text message, Detective Rutledge observed the following:

The video displayed a forward-facing camera view of a field containing a pond surrounded by trees and a deteriorated dock. \_\_\_\_\_ is observed holding the camera and manipulating an AR-style rifle equipped with a fixed A-frame front sight post, carrying handle, black sling, and clamshell-style handguard. \_\_\_\_\_ is heard speaking and stated the following:

“Gentlemen, I hate to motherfucking disturb your goddamn peace at home in silence. But I just wanna show you, this is what's coming to the Pierson mother fucking county, Pierson and motherfucking Crescent City. Motherfucking, uh, all y' all' s. The bitches don't want to talk to me. Don't, they don't wanna tell me what the fuck's going on. We gonna have 50, 60 mother fuckers pointing lasers and shit in my fucking eyes. You know what? I'm done with this bullshit. This is what's gonna happen. Got all the sheriff's department, DEA.. motherfucking FBI and all the motherfucking rest, the goddamn, goddamn associations. I don't give a fuck. I'm done. I'm done. I'm fucking done. trying to stick up for me. Fuck everybody. So this is what in store.”

\_\_\_\_\_ then fired one round into the pond and continued:

“This is what in store. This is whats fucking in store. You hear me? This is what fucking in store. You hear that shit. This is what is in fucking store. This is what? This is in goddamned store. I have nothing to fucking hide. I'll do the best that I can to defend myself. Fuck everybody.”

\_\_\_\_\_ then fired the rifle approximately 10 to 15 times in rapid succession into the water near the end of the dock. The camera frame included the barrel of the firearm and the area of the pond where the rounds were discharged. Throughout the video, the individual appeared to be actively manipulating the firearm. His face was not visible at any point during the recording.

Detectives Howard and Rutledge later made contact with \_\_\_\_\_ via telephone. \_\_\_\_\_ advised that approximately five to six months prior, he conducted drainage work on property owned by \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ stated that \_\_\_\_\_ was a “strange” individual and claimed that his behavior

**AFFIDAVIT CONTINUATION**

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had become noticeably worse approximately one to one and a half months prior. [REDACTED] further claimed that [REDACTED] began believing people were after him and began threatening [REDACTED] a nearby landowner. [REDACTED] had known [REDACTED] for approximately a year. [REDACTED]'s phone number is saved in his phone as "[REDACTED]" Additionally he recognized the voice in the threatening videos as [REDACTED] as he has spoken to him numerous times.

[REDACTED] advised he perceived the videos as a threat toward him and multiple law enforcement agencies. [REDACTED] believed [REDACTED] had the ability to carry out the threat and would act on his threats. [REDACTED] said he has observed [REDACTED] with an assortment of firearms to include handguns and rifles. [REDACTED] stated the videos placed him with a well-founded fear that [REDACTED] was making threats to his personal safety. [REDACTED] stated he wished to pursue criminal charges against [REDACTED]

Detective Fortier contacted [REDACTED] who forwarded the voicemails left by [REDACTED] These voicemails were the same messages previously provided to Deputy Shaheen and did not contain any direct threats.

Detective Rutledge reviewed Legal Bulletin LB 20-05 outlining threats under F.S. 836.10 and referencing State v. Cowart, 45 Fla. L. Weekly D361a (Fla. 5th DCA February 14, 2020), which confirmed that a photograph or depiction of a weapon sent directly to a person, when accompanied by context that would cause alarm, constituted a written/electronic threat under Florida law.

Detective Campisi obtained subscriber information from Verizon, which confirmed that phone number [REDACTED] was registered to [REDACTED] Verizon also provided continuous location pings for the device, which placed [REDACTED] in close proximity to the Daytona International Speedway during Daytona Race Week. It should further be noted that on September 23, 2025, the Daytona Beach Police Department completed Incident Report DB250013882, in which [REDACTED] for NASCAR, reported alleged threats made by [REDACTED] The report indicated that [REDACTED] had previously requested sponsorship resources from NASCAR and did not receive them, which suggested a potential grievance toward NASCAR. Additionally, ERMS listed a possible address for [REDACTED] as 1840 Checkered Flag Blvd, [REDACTED] Daytona Beach, which was located directly across from Daytona International Speedway, further emphasizing his proximity to the venue during Race Week at the time of this incident. Daytona Beach Police Department determined there were no threats to harm and no criminal findings through their investigation for that incident.

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Based on the foregoing, including the content of the video, the accompanying statements, and the manner in which the video was transmitted directly to the victim, [REDACTED] knowingly and willfully made threats to kill or cause serious bodily harm. These threats were communicated in a manner that could be viewed by another person and were intended to be taken as true threats. [REDACTED] utilized a two-way communications device to transmit the video and statements for the purpose of facilitating and furthering the commission of the offense. [REDACTED]'s vehicle, a red Infiniti QX60 bearing FL temp tag [REDACTED] was located in the parking lot near 1840 Checkered Flag Blvd. An AR style rifle, matching the rifle in the video, was observed laying on the floor behind the driver's seat of the vehicle.

Detective Howard made contact with [REDACTED] at 1840 Checkered Flag Blvd and placed him in custody. [REDACTED] was read his Miranda Rights in which he and advised he understood and wished to speak. Post Miranda, [REDACTED] admitted to sending the videos to [REDACTED] and advised he knew it was wrong.

[REDACTED] gave detectives consent to search his vehicle in which they retrieved the AR style rifle (D.P.M.S. Model A-15 S/N: N0003980), a 5.56 AR magazine 51 live Remington 223 ammunition and one fired 223 shell casing.

[REDACTED] was present for the duration of the consensual search. During his arrest, [REDACTED] phone was removed from his person and later submitted to evidence for further forensic examination.

The rifle, magazine, and ammunition were submitted to evidence.

3. Affiant  is  is not aware of any existing protection order governing the respondent under any applicable statute.

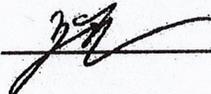
0 Known protection orders are attached

4. The quantities, types, and locations of all firearms and ammunition the petitioner believes to be in the respondent's current ownership, possession, custody or control are as follows:

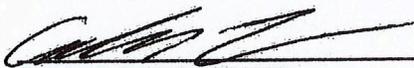
Quantity	<u>1</u>	Type	<u>DPMS A-15 rifle</u>	Location	<u>VSO</u>
Quantity	<u>51</u>	Type	<u>223 ammunition</u>	Location	<u>VSO</u>
Quantity	<u>1</u>	Type	<u>223/5.56 AR mag</u>	Location	<u>VSO</u>
Quantity	_____	Type	_____	Location	_____
Quantity	_____	Type	_____	Location	_____
Quantity	_____	Type	_____	Location	_____

0 Additional pages are attached.

**AFFIANT HEREBY CERTIFIES UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY THAT THE STATEMENTS AND FACTS IN THIS AFFIDAVIT AND IN ANY ATTACHMENTS ARE TRUE AND CORRECT TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE.**

Dated: 02/16/2026 Signature of Affiant: 

Sworn to (or affirmed) and subscribed before me by means of  physical presence or  online notarization, this 16 day of February, 2026, by Det. Z. Rutledge  
Affiant's name

  
Signature of Attesting LEO Witness

Adam Fertier  
Print name of Attesting LEO Witness

OR

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Notary Public

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Print, Type, or Stamp Commissioned Name of Notary Public)

Personally known or Produced Identification

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Type of Identification Produced)