

**IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF DOUGLAS COUNTY, KANSAS  
SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT**

**STATE OF KANSAS,**

Plaintiff,

vs.

**Case No. DG-2026-CR-000057  
Div. 1**

**DAITRON L. DANIELS STRICKLAND,**

Defendant.

**STATE'S RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR AFFIDVIT DISCLOSURE**

COMES NOW the State of Kansas by and through Eve Kemple, Senior Assistant District Attorney, and in response to the Lawrence Journal World's and Kevn A. Jones' Request for Disclosure of an Affidavit respectfully requests that the Court order the probable cause Affidavit be redacted pursuant to K.S.A. 22-2302.

IN SUPPORT, the State sets forth the following:

1. The State requests that all dates of birth, including that of the Defendant, be redacted, pursuant to K.S.A. 22-2302(b)(4)(I).
2. The State requests that information regarding the name of the minor victim be redacted, pursuant to K.S.A. 22-2302(b)(4)(H).
3. The State requests that the names of witnesses be redacted to only show the initials of their first and last names, pursuant to K.S.A. 22-2302(b)(4)(F).
4. The State has attached a redacted Affidavit pursuant to the requests set forth above.

WHEREFORE for the reasons set forth above, the State respectfully requests the Court

grant the State's request that specific information be redacted from the probable cause Affidavit.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/Eve Kemple

---

Evelyn Anne Kemple, #21218  
Senior Assistant District Attorney  
Douglas County District Attorney's Office  
111 East 11th Street  
Lawrence, Kansas 66044  
(785) 841-0211  
(785) 330-2850 (fax)  
[ekemple@dgcoks.gov](mailto:ekemple@dgcoks.gov)

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that the above State's Response to Request for Affidavit Disclosure was electronically filed and served upon Razmi M. Tahirkheli, attorney for the Defendant, by automatic transmission of the Notice of Electronic Filing done through the Kansas Courts eFiling System on the date reflected on the file stamp.

/s/Eve Kemple

Evelyn Anne Kemple, #21218  
Senior Assistant District Attorney

I hereby certify that on the [Click or tap here to enter text.](#) day of January, 2026, I transmitted a copy of the State's Motion for \* to, Attorney for the Defendant, by e-filing and emailing a true and correct copy of the same to Razmi M. Tahirkheli.

/s/Evelyn Anne Kemple

Evelyn Anne Kemple, #21218  
Senior Assistant District Attorney  
Douglas County District Attorney's Office  
111 East 11th Street  
Lawrence, Kansas 66044  
(785) 841-0211  
(785) 330-2850 (fax)  
ekemple@dgcoks.gov

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF DOUGLAS COUNTY, KANSAS  
(Seventh Judicial District)

STATE OF KANSAS,

Plaintiff,

vs.

Daitron Daniels-Strickland  
Defendant.

AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF KANSAS, COUNTY OF DOUGLAS, SS:

Evan Curtis, of lawful age, being first duly sworn upon oath, states:

Affiant is an Detective with the Lawrence Kansas Police Department. Based on an investigation, training, and experience, Affiant alleges and states:

- SUMMARY:** On January 17th, 2026 (01/17/2026), officers from the Lawrence Police Department (LPD) were dispatched for a shooting in progress at the Jayhawk Café (1340 ½ Ohio St., Lawrence, KS.) (Herein known as The Hawk). According to dispatch notes, a “subject in orange [was] pointing a gun at people” and advised that “shots fired, approximately five.” Additionally, another caller reported that two individuals had been shot and were initially presumed to be deceased. Officers responded to the scene and located one deceased male, later identified as **Aiden SULLIVAN-KNOWLES** along with a second gunshot victim, later identified as **Blaine C**, lying in front of The Hawk's southern entry/exit doorway.
- AREA SEARCH:** Officers responded to the scene and began searching the area for a male in orange. As they searched, LPD Officer Hanna located a male in all orange, later identified as **Caiden CLEM** and three other males wearing dark colored clothing, later identified as **Daitron DANIELS-STRICKLAND**, **Aiden J**, and **C** **A** in the alley of the 1100 block between Ohio St and Louisiana St. The four subjects were detained and transported back to the

AFFIDAVIT

Daitron Daniels-Strickland

Page 2

Lawrence Police Station (5100 Overland Dr.) for a recorded statement.

3. **WITNESSES STATEMENTS:** As officers began placing crime scene tape in the area, they were approached by three (3) males, later identified as M [redacted], M [redacted], J [redacted], S [redacted] and D [redacted] C [redacted], who stated they had witnessed the shooting and were familiar with the victims, C [redacted] and Knowles. The three (3) males were cooperative and agreed to be transported to the Lawrence Police Station for a recorded interview. When questioned, the three males gave a similar narrative. A summary of their narratives is as follows:

4. On 01/16/2026, M [redacted] and S [redacted] drove together to Lawrence to meet C [redacted], Knowles, and C [redacted]. When asked about their relationship, M [redacted] and S [redacted] noted that they had known C [redacted] and C [redacted] for approximately 1 year or more, but had not known Knowles prior to that evening, explaining that he had previously known C [redacted] who had been the one to bring him out that night. The group arrived at Lawrence around 2200 hours and responded to The Hawk, arriving at approximately 2212 hours. The group stayed at The Hawk for the majority of the night. While there, they met a group of men, including Strickland, J [redacted], A [redacted], and Clem. According to both S [redacted] and M [redacted], there had been no issues during the evening, and everyone had gotten along well.
5. Prior to bar closing, M [redacted] and S [redacted] walked to The Wheel (507 W. 14th St.) and then attempted to return to The Hawk, but staff would not let them in. S [redacted] and M [redacted] got into their car and went to leave, driving south on the 1300 block of Ohio St. As they arrived at W. 14th St., they noticed that C [redacted] C [redacted], and Knowles, along with some of the males they had previously met that evening, were fighting with the bouncers at The Hawk. M [redacted]

and S[REDACTED] stopped and got out to assist. At that time, the group of males, including J[REDACTED] Strickland, and A[REDACTED] was arguing with the staff, demanding the return of a cellphone (unknown owner).

6. As the arguing continued, one (1) of the bouncers handed a cellphone to S[REDACTED] who began walking away. Shortly after, a male in all orange, Clem, pulled out a semi-automatic handgun and fired approximately four (4) rounds into the air, while standing between Ohio Street and The Hawks' main entrance. Immediately after Clem fired, a second male, Strickland, pulled out a Glock semi-automatic handgun and fired a number of rounds directly at M[REDACTED] C[REDACTED] and Knowles, who were standing near The Hawks' western entrance/exit doors.
7. During his interview, M[REDACTED] explained that the male who shot C[REDACTED] and Knowles fired almost immediately after Clem. M[REDACTED] described the shooter's firearm as a black Glock handgun, explaining that he was familiar with that make and model of firearm. Further, M[REDACTED] described the first shooter as a white male wearing an all-orange jumpsuit, and the second shooter as a black male wearing black sweatpants and a black hoodie, with a "high and tight" haircut (note that these descriptions generally match those of Clem and Strickland).
8. When asked about mental state, M[REDACTED] explained he froze and had been unable to move when the male pointed and started firing at him, noting that he believed he was going to die at that time. Similarly, during S[REDACTED]'s interview, he also identified himself as being in fear for his life. According to S[REDACTED] when subjects started firing, he could hear at least two rounds fly by his head so closely that he could hear the pop and "sonic boom" of the ammunition as it passed.

9. **VIDEO REVIEW:** The Hawk has numerous video surveillance cameras both in and outside their establishment. Video footage for this incident was collected by LPD Detective MT Brown and reviewed by investigators that same day. A review of the video showed the following summary events:
10. On 01/16/2026, at approximately 2300 hours, Clem, Strickland, J, and A sneak into The Hawk through an unmanned side entrance. Inside the establishment, the group is seen interacting with M and his friends without incident. At approximately 0145 hours, Clem and his associates are approached by The Hawk staff and instructed to leave the bar (no audio, but staff later informs investigators of what was said). Clem, J, A, and at least one (1) other male (possible name of "MJ") begin to verbally and then physically fight with staff.
11. During the altercation, A and J are seen wrestling with and striking Hawk employees. As the fighting continues, Clem pulls out a semi-automatic handgun and holds it to his side. Another male, M, T, walks up and pins the weapon to Clem's side. Staff are eventually able to force most of Clem's group outside, while at least two (2) other employees, along with the DJ, are seen talking to Clem. Staff eventually convinces Clem to leave without incident. Clem begins walking toward the western exit doors. As he reaches the door, he walks up behind one of the bouncers, later identified as C M, who is attempting to keep Strickland and his group from coming back inside. As Clem reaches the bouncer, he pulls out his firearm and points it at the left side of the bouncer's head. The bouncer turns around, appears to see the weapon, and puts his hands up in the air.
12. Clem puts the weapon away and exits the bar. Shortly after exiting, Clem pulls up his

hoodie, walks towards Ohio St, and fires approximately three (3) to five (5) rounds (approximately **0149 hours**). At that same time, Strickland, who had begun to walk north and away from the incident, turns and pulls out a dark colored handgun from his waistband. Strickland points his firearm towards C , M , and Knowles, firing an unknown number of rounds towards the three (3) before fleeing the area.

13. **STATEMENT, Caiden CLEM:** After transport, Detective Verbanic attempted to interview Clem, who was mostly uncooperative. In summary, Clem admitted to being in Lawrence that evening with several associates, whom he would not identify. Clem stated he had been in the area of the incident when he saw people running, but denied hearing any gunshots. Clem denied firing any weapons, being in possession of a firearm, or being involved in the disturbance leading up to the shooting.
14. **STATEMENT, Daitron DANIELS-STRICKLAND:** Detective's Nicholson and Welch interviewed Strickland on 01/17/2026; Miranda rights given and waived at 4:12am.
15. Strickland advised that he had gone to The Hawk with his friend Clem and a group of other subjects he did not know. Strickland advised that he and Clem were "chilling" at the bar and had no issues with anyone else during the night. Strickland advised that, at closing, he observed an altercation between a group of individuals and the "door guys" at The Hawk. Strickland advised that he was outside when he observed a subject get pushed out of The Hawk. Strickland advised that he then heard multiple gunshots, so he immediately pulled out his gun from his waistband and started firing at the half-cement wall next to the front door. Strickland advised that he fired his gun because he was scared, because he heard gunshots. Strickland claimed he pointed his gun upwards and did not aim at anyone,

although there were people sharply to his left and sharply to his right. Strickland claimed he did not see where the initial shots came from, but later put it together that Clem had fired off the rounds, because when they later met up, Clem was talking about shooting.

16. Strickland advised that after he fired the rounds, he took off running to the right of the bar (North). Strickland advised that after he was away from the bar, he, Clem, and another subject started walking, and he eventually threw his gun down into the street and heard it hit off the bumper of a vehicle parked on the street.
17. Detectives showed Strickland the video and how he did not point upwards, but rather fired directly at subjects near the door. Strickland advised that he did not remember seeing anyone directly in front of him when he fired the rounds and did not see anyone drop after he shot. Strickland advised that he did not aim at anyone because if he had, he would have turned on the flashlight connected to his gun. Strickland insinuated that instead of aiming, he just quick-drew his gun from his waistband and started firing. Note: officers later located a pistol with a flashlight attached, believed to be Strickland's firearm (see below).
18. During the interview, Strickland made the comment that he believed it was maybe a "good thing he caught a body on his first adult charge."
19. **FIREARM RECOVERY:** During a search of the area, officers located two firearms believed to be related to this incident. Officers first located a tan colored semi-automatic handgun on top of a commercial HVAC unit, on the northwest side of Gertrude Sellards Pearson's (GSP) residence hall (500 block of College Dr. P.). Additionally, officers located a black Glock handgun with an extended magazine and a gun light attached, which was underneath a vehicle that was parked inside a parking garage at 1136 Louisiana St.

20. **CONCLUSION:** Based on party statements and video, affiant asserts that probable cause exists to charge the following individuals with the following crimes:

a. **Caiden Clem:**

i. Felony murder (KSA 21-5402-a-2-b) (Murder in the first degree during the commission of an inherently dangerous felony), **completed**; one count.

ii. Aggravated assault, use of a deadly weapon (KSA 21-5412-b-1-e2), **completed**

b. **Daitron Daniels-Strickland:**

i. Murder in the 2nd degree (KSA 21-5403-a-1), **completed**; **one count.**

ii. Murder in the 2nd degree (KSA 21-5403-a-1), **attempted**; **two count.**

iii. Aggravated assault, use of a deadly weapon (KSA 21-5412-b-1-e2), **completed**; **one count.**

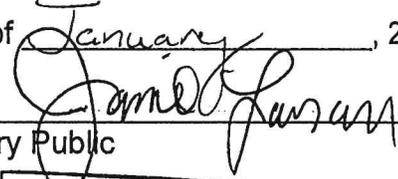
21. Both Strickland and Clem were arrested following their interviews and transported to the Douglas County Detention Facility. Affiant requests that this affidavit be forwarded to the Douglas County DA's office for review and filing.

All of the above occurred in Douglas County, Kansas.

FURTHER, AFFIANT SAYS NOT.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Det. Evan Curtis  
Lawrence Kansas Police Department

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 17 day of January, 2026.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

