

19TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE
STATE OF LOUISIANA

ITEM NUMBER:
5-178

WARRANT NUMBER:
2

AFFIDAVIT FOR ARREST WARRANT

STATE OF LOUISIANA
VERSUS

JAMES JEFFERSON III - BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN/MALE

DOB: 09-29-1984

12224 Lake Sherwood Avenue South Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70816

DL/ID #: LA 8169043

SSN: ████████2966

Height: 5' 10"

Weight: 240

Eye Color: Brown

Hair Color: Black

I, Special Agent Dirk Bergeron, with the Louisiana Bureau of Investigation, certify under oath based on the information outlined below, that there is probable cause to believe James Jefferson on or about the date(s) of 02-05-2025 to 12-29-2025 did commit:

- 1 Count(s) of 14:34.7-- Aggravated Second Degree Battery
(November 1, 2025) -- (Felony)
- 2 Count(s) of 14:133-- Filing False Public Records
(November 1, 2025 & December 29, 2025) -- (Felony)
- 3 Count(s) of 14:130.1-- Obstruction of Justice
(February 5, 2025; February 20, 2025; & November 1, 2025) --
(Felony)
- 1 Count(s) of 14:35.3(I) -- Domestic Abuse Battery in the Presence of Minors
(November 1, 2025) -- (Felony)
- 1 Count(s) of 14:35.3(7)-- Domestic Abuse Aggravated Assault by Strangulation
(March 23, 2025)--(Felony)

within this State and Parish at: 12224 Lake Sherwood Avenue South, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70816 in East Baton Rouge Parish and the jurisdiction of the 19th Judicial District Court, contrary to the form of the statutes of the State of Louisiana in such case made and provided, and against the peace and dignity of the same, in that the following did occur:

This investigation was initiated on February 18, 2026, after the Louisiana Bureau of Investigation (LBI) received a referral from the Louisiana State Police (LSP) concerning a domestic incident that occurred on or about November 1, 2025, between HJ and James Jefferson III, in the vicinity of 12224 Lake Sherwood Avenue South, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Baton Rouge Police Department (BRPD) officers initially responded to the incident and documented the incident as a traffic crash; however, subsequent information obtained by LSP indicated that the incident involved domestic violence and that the explanation provided to responding officers was not accurate.

HJ and James Jefferson III were legally married on June 5, 2010. The marriage produced two minor children, both who are under the age of thirteen. HJ and James Jefferson III currently share equal physical custody of the children on a 7/7 schedule. HJ and James Jefferson III resided together at 12224 Lake Sherwood Avenue South, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70816, until August of 2025, when HJ moved from the residence. However, HJ and James Jefferson III remain legally married. Based on the marital relationship, the acts of force, violence, and assault described herein were committed against a spouse and therefore constitute domestic abuse offenses under applicable Louisiana criminal statutes.

LBI began by reviewing a prior incident that occurred on or about February 5, 2025, at the Jefferson residence located at 12224 Lake Sherwood Avenue South, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. BRPD also responded to the February 5, 2025 incident, which resulted in James Jefferson III being arrested and charged with Domestic Abuse Battery with Child Endangerment (La R.S. 14:35.3I), BRPD Incident number 25-111973. The charges associated with the February 5, 2025 incident were subsequently dismissed at the request of HJ. At the time of that request, the information available to the Office of the District Attorney for the Nineteenth Judicial District did not include all facts later developed during this investigation. The investigation further reflects that HJ's actions during that period occurred following communications from James Jefferson III, directing HJ to take certain actions in regard to the criminal charges against him.

At the request of LBI, on March 20, 2026, HJ provided LBI with a recording from the February 5, 2025, incident. The recording captures HJ yelling statements including, "help, help... he's pushing me... he threw me down on the ground... he just punched me," and captures a male voice identified by HJ as James Jefferson III.

After meeting with representatives of the Office of the District Attorney for the Nineteenth Judicial District and reviewing the prosecutorial file associated with the February 5, 2025, incident, as noted above, it was determined that the information available at the time of the prosecutorial decision did not include all relevant facts later developed during this investigation. Those facts include text messages from James Jefferson III to HJ while BRPD officers were on scene, instructing HJ to tell officers "Hurry tell them u mentally off...U had episode," the recorded audio of the incident, a February 20, 2025 text message from James Jefferson III to HJ stating, "Meet me on Florida Watch body cam right quick," within approximately one hour prior to HJ meeting with LSP investigators on that date, additional text messages from James Jefferson III to HJ during that meeting stating, "U ok???...You done yet???", and HJ emailing James Jefferson III audio recordings of the meeting with LSP investigators on the same date.

Based on the above facts, there is probable cause to believe that James Jefferson III committed **Obstruction of Justice in violation of La. R.S. 14:130.1**, which prohibits conduct that distorts, impairs, or interferes with the administration of justice or a criminal investigation.

During a separate incident occurring on or about March 23, 2025 at the Jefferson residence, 12224 Lake Sherwood Avenue South, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, LBI reviewed a surveillance recording provided by HJ. The recording shows HJ attempting to exit the residence through exterior doors when James Jefferson III grabs HJ's wrist and forearm and forcibly pulls HJ back inside of the residence. During this interaction, James Jefferson III's hand is observed positioned around the throat area of HJ while continuing to move HJ further into the interior of the residence.

Based on the above facts, there is probable cause to believe that James Jefferson III committed **Domestic Abuse Aggravated Assault by Strangulation in violation of La. R.S. 14:35.3(7)**, which prohibits an assault upon a person with whom the offender has a domestic relationship when the assault involves

strangulation, defined as the intentional impeding of normal breathing or circulation of blood by applying pressure to the throat or neck.

On or about November 1, 2025, a domestic incident occurred in the vicinity of 12224 Lake Sherwood Avenue South in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, which is the incident referred to LBI by LSP. BRPD officers initially responded and documented the incident as a traffic crash, BRPD case no. 25-212003. During the course of the LBI investigation, a 911 call placed by an independent witness regarding the incident was reviewed by LBI. The witness reported observing two vehicles stopped in the roadway with individuals yelling and arguing while children were present nearby. The witness reported that during the confrontation one of the vehicles accelerated and struck the other vehicle, and that the witness observed a person lying in the roadway immediately afterward. The witness later reiterated these observations during an interview with LBI, describing the person as looking like "a rag doll, like they were limp whenever they got picked up."

LBI interviewed HJ, who reported that during the November 1, 2025 incident James Jefferson III pushed a vehicle door into HJ, grabbed HJ by the hair, and pulled HJ downward. HJ further reported that James Jefferson III entered his vehicle and accelerated while HJ was positioned between the vehicles, causing HJ to be pinned and struck, and that HJ lost consciousness during the incident. LBI obtained and reviewed medical documentation indicating that HJ sought treatment following the incident and reported pelvic pain, hip pain, chest pain, and bruising. Additionally, an independent witness confirmed HJ's injuries. LBI also reviewed photographs and video recordings documenting damage to a GMC Denali vehicle belonging to HJ, including damage to the front passenger side area of the vehicle.

The investigation further determined that two minor children, both under the age of thirteen, were present during the November 1, 2025 incident. The independent witness observed children running near the vehicles while yelling occurred, and subsequent interviews of the children, conducted separately, described HJ being positioned between vehicles, the movement of a vehicle during the confrontation, and HJ being on the ground following the incident, believing HJ was "dead."

During the initial BRPD response to the November 1, 2025 incident, both James Jefferson III and HJ advised BRPD officers that the incident was a traffic crash. Based on those statements, the incident was documented by BRPD as a crash (BRPD case no. 25-212003), rather than a domestic violence event. BRPD issued two tickets to HJ, charging HJ with Unattended Vehicle (City of Baton Rouge statute 11:260) and Simple Obstruction of a Highway of Commerce (City of Baton Rouge statute 11:297), which is being handled in the Baton Rouge City Court. LBI reviewed telephone conversations recorded by HJ between HJ and James Jefferson III following the incident, during which they referenced the police response and the manner in which the incident had been described in official reports. During one such conversation, James Jefferson III stated, "But we ain't talking about truth. We're talking about the crash report."

LBI obtained statements from both minor children, who were interviewed separately, indicating that HJ expressed a desire to tell responding BRPD officers the truth about the incident, but did not do so at the urging of James Jefferson III. The children also described HJ's condition immediately following the incident, including that HJ's clothing appeared dirty. Additionally, an independent witness reported that HJ arrived at the witness's residence appearing dirty and disheveled, and that the witness provided HJ with a change of clothing prior to HJ's interaction with responding BRPD officers.

During the course of the investigation, LBI further determined that the residential surveillance system positioned to capture the area of the November 1, 2025 incident had been deactivated or removed following the event by James Jefferson III. LBI reviewed unrelated video footage captured by the

surveillance system prior to the incident, which demonstrated that the system recorded activity in the area where the incident occurred, and based on its positioning, the system may have contained relevant evidence of the November 1, 2025, incident.

Based on the above facts, there is probable cause to believe that James Jefferson III committed **Aggravated Second Degree Battery in violation of La. R.S. 14:34.7, Domestic Abuse Battery in the Presence of Minors in violation of La. R.S. 14:35.3(I), Filing False Public Records in violation of La. R.S. 14:133, and two counts of Obstruction of Justice in violation of La. R.S. 14:130.1.** The investigation establishes that the elements of Aggravated Second Degree Battery are met in that James Jefferson III intentionally inflicted serious bodily injury upon another by means of a dangerous instrumentality. The elements of Domestic Abuse Battery in the Presence of Minors are met in that James Jefferson III committed a battery upon his spouse while minor children, under the age of thirteen were present. The elements of Filing False Public Records are met in that false information was knowingly provided for inclusion in an official public record. The elements of Obstruction of Justice are met in that James Jefferson III engaged in conduct which distorted, impaired, or interfered with a criminal investigation and the administration of justice, including conduct affecting the accuracy and completeness of information provided to law enforcement and conduct affecting the availability of evidence.

According to HJ, on November 11, 2025, she became aware that James Jefferson III was in the parking lot of the Hampton Inn, located at 462 Lafayette Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, with an unidentified female. HJ traveled to the hotel location, where HJ observed James Jefferson III and the female in the parking lot. HJ approached and began recording James Jefferson III and the female. While recording, the female struck HJ in the face with a glass object. After the incident, HJ traveled to a BRPD station with the intent to report the incident but ultimately declined to do so due to fear of retaliation.

On or about December 29, 2025, James Jefferson III provided sworn statements in a temporary restraining order (TRO) proceeding filed in East Baton Rouge Parish, docket number F-241052A. LBI reviewed those sworn statements, in which James Jefferson III made statements in regard to the November 11, 2025, Hampton Inn incident. James Jefferson III states, HJ was "shoving the recorder in her face [customer] and attacked her leading the parties to fighting in the parking lot." LBI compared the statement to a video recording obtained during the investigation of that incident, which occurred in East Baton Rouge Parish. The statement contained in the sworn filing differed from the event depicted in the video recording, which shows the individual referred to by James Jefferson III in the filing as a "customer," striking HJ in the face with what appears to be a glass object.

Based on the above facts, there is probable cause to believe that James Jefferson III committed **Filing False Public Records in violation of La. R.S. 14:133**, which prohibits the filing or depositing of any document containing false statements or representations in a public office or with a public official, knowing such information to be false.

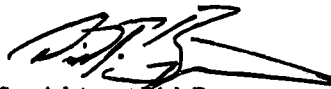
Based on the foregoing and the totality of the evidence, I respectfully request that the Court issue arrest warrants for James Jefferson III for violations of:

- 1 Count(s) of La. R.S. 14:34.7 - Aggravated Second Degree Battery
(November 1, 2025)
- 2 Count(s) of La. R.S. 14:133 – Filing False Public Records
(November 1, 2025 & December 29, 2025)
- 3 Count(s) of La. R.S. 14:130.1 – Obstruction of Justice
(February 5, 2025; February 20, 2025; & November 1, 2025)

1 Count(s) of La. R.S. 14:35.3(I) - Domestic Abuse Battery in the Presence of Minors
(November 1, 2025)

1 Count(s) of La. R.S. 14:35.3(7) - Domestic Abuse Aggravated Assault by Strangulation
(March 23, 2025)

I hereby certify under oath the information contained herein to be true and correct, to
the best of my knowledge, under penalties of perjury.



Special Agent Dirk Bergeron
Affiant

THUS DONE AND PASSED on the 31st day of March at 2026.



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JAMES JEFFERSON III - BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN/MALE

12224 Lake Sherwood Avenue South Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70816

DOB: 09/29/1984

DL/ID #: LA 8169043

SSN: ████████2966

Height: 5' 10"

Weight: 240

Eye Color: Brown

Hair Color: Black

TO ANY COMMISSIONED PEACE OFFICER:

WHEREAS, complaint has been made to me, upon the sworn affidavit of Special Agent Dirk Bergeron, with the Louisiana Bureau of Investigation, charging one James Jefferson III with:

1 Count(s) of 14:34.7-- Aggravated Second Degree Battery (November 1, 2025)-- (Felony)

2 Count(s) of 14:133-- Filing False Public Records (November 1, 2025 & December 29, 2025)-- (Felony)

3 Count(s) of 14:130.1-- Obstruction of Justice (February 5, 2025; February 20, 2025; & November 1, 2025)-- (Felony)

1 Count(s) of 14:35.3-- Domestic Abuse Battery in the Presence of Minors (November 1, 2025)-- (Felony)

1 Count(s) of 14:37.7-- Domestic Abuse Aggravated Assault by Strangulation (March 23, 2025)-- (Felony)

Committed on or about the date(s) of 02-05-2025 to 12-29-2025.

Now, therefore, you are hereby commanded, in the name of the State, to apprehend and arrest and book the said accused to answer the said complaint. You are further commanded to keep the said accused in safe custody until released according to law, and this shall be your warrant.

Given under my official signature, this 31st day of March at 2026 .



19TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE
STATE OF LOUISIANA