

FILED
09-04-2025
Clerk of Circuit Court
Rusk County, Wisconsin
2025CF000138
Honorable Annette M.
Barna

STATE OF WISCONSIN	CIRCUIT COURT	RUSK COUNTY
STATE OF WISCONSIN	DA Case No.: 2025RU000350	
Plaintiff,	Assigned DA/ADA: John A Cabranes	
	Agency Case No.: 25C-03974	
vs.	Court Case No.:	
	ATN: 55002524100021	
STEPHANIE A CHRISTIANSON		
501 Corbett Av E	CRIMINAL COMPLAINT	
Ladysmith, WI 54848		
DOB: 11/15/1990		
Sex/Race: F/W		
Eye Color: Blue		
Hair Color: Blonde		
Height: 5 ft 11 in		
Weight: 190 lbs		
Alias:		
Defendant.		
		<i>For Official Use</i>

I, the undersigned, being first duly sworn, state that:

INTERCEPT ANY ORAL COMMUNICATION

The above-named defendant on or about Tuesday, August 26, 2025, in the City of Ladysmith, Rusk County, Wisconsin, did intentionally intercept any oral communication, contrary to sec. 968.31(1)(a) Wis. Stats., a Class H Felony, and upon conviction may be fined not more than Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000), or imprisoned not more than six (6) years, or both.

Your complainant bases this complaint upon the report of Investigator Gronski of the Rusk County Sheriff's Office and the statements of Stephanie Christianson. Your complainant and Investigator Gronski are presumed to be truthful and reliable because of the position of trust they hold as law enforcement officers and because they have proven to be truthful and reliable in the past. The statement of Stephanie Christianson is presumed to be truthful and reliable because it is a statement made against her penal interest.

PROBABLE CAUSE:

The complainant is in possession of reports by Investigator Gronski, of the Rusk County Sheriff's Office, which form the basis for this complaint.

On Friday, August 29, 2025, Sheriff Phil Grassmann assigned me, Investigator Steve Gronski to investigate an incident where an open records request was submitted to the Rusk County Information Technology (IT) department by an anonymous person. [WC] from the IT department made Sheriff Grassmann aware of this and provided him with a flash drive containing the video footage. Sheriff Grassmann in turn provided me with the flash drive. The request was to obtain video footage from the Sheriff's Office front lobby area from 8/26/2025 from the hours of 7:00pm to 1:00am on 8/27/2025. Information was

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obtained that there was a female subject in the Law Enforcement lobby located at 311 E. Miner Ave, City of Ladysmith, County of Rusk and used her cellular telephone to record a closed session meeting that was being held in the County Board Room.

On 8/29/2025 at approximately 0825 hours, I met with [WC] of the Rusk County IT Department. I advised [WC] I wanted to speak with him about a public records request he received. [WC] said on 8/28/25 he received an email assigning him to a public records request. The record/s requested came from an anonymous subject requesting "Video recording of the lobby of law enforcement center between the hours of 7 pm on Aug. 26, 2025 and 1 am Aug. 27, 2025".

[WC] stated he extracted the video requested and watched the video on fast forward while doing other work. [WC] stated he observed two females in the lobby. [WC] stated he knew there was a County Board Closed Meeting going on and observed one of the females recording the closed meeting from the lobby. [WC] stated he did not know who the female was that was recording but knew it was a crime to record a closed meeting. Therefore, [WC] advised Sheriff Phil Grassmann of the crime committed and provided Sheriff Grassmann a copy of the video via flash drive. [WC] email me the public records request he received, which I printed off and added to this case file.

On 8/29/2025, I viewed the flash drive containing the video. This is a detailed summary of my observations according to the time on the bottom of the video.

23:53-subjects viewed exiting the county board room

24:40-closed meeting sign put on county board room door. Female subject wearing black observed sitting down in a chair

25:10-a female subject comes back inside the law enforcement lobby wearing black pants and a floral shirt. This female subject is wearing glasses and talking with the other female wearing all black. Ladysmith Police Sgt. Jake Schmidt was viewing the video with me at this time and identified the female wearing the black pants, floral shirt and glasses as Stephanie A. Christianson (F/W DOB: 11/15/1990). The other female was identified as [RS]

1:24:31-county board room door opens, Stephanie and [RS] go inside and the closed meeting placard comes off the door

1:27:39-county board room door opens, Stephanie and [RS] walk out and sit down in the lobby in chairs

1:27:56-county board room door blind closes and three other females walk out and exit the lobby. The closed meeting placard is placed back on the door

1:35:14-Stephanie gets out of her chair, walks to the county board room door and puts her ear near the door. Stephanie makes a facial expression at 1:35:44 as attempting to listen or interpret what is being said in the closed meeting. Stephanie puts her ear closer to the door, manipulates her cellular telephone (black in color with something white on the back side of it) and puts the cellular telephone near the door

1:36:56-Stephanie takes the cellular telephone away from the door and manipulates it. Stephanie then places the cellular telephone to her ear to listen to it

1:37:48-Stephanie puts the cellular telephone near the door again

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1:41:35-Stephanie takes the cellular telephone away from the door, sits down on the floor next to the county board room door, puts the cellular telephone to the door for a second then takes it away

1:48:05-Stephanie is still sitting on the floor next to the door, places her cellular telephone to the door and then pulls it away at 1:50:04

1:52:30-Stephanie is still sitting next to the door and places her cellular telephone to the door

1:53:40-Stephanie takes her cellular telephone away from the door

1:59:23-Stephaine is still sitting next to the door and sets her cellular telephone on the floor against the door

2:04:49-Stephanie picks her cellular telephone off of the floor

2:07:41-Stephanie is still sitting next to the door and places her cellular telephone on the floor against the door

2:15:38-Stephanie still sitting on the floor with her cellular telephone against the door and puts her ear closer to the door to listen

2:21:26-Stephanie is still sitting next to the door and picks her cellular telephone up from the floor and manipulates it

2:22:00-Stephanie gets up from the floor and goes outside

2:36:56-Stephanie comes back into the lobby with a drink and sits down next to the county board room door again

2:37:39-Stephanie puts her ear close to the door again and is observed typing on her cellular telephone

2:42:04-Stephanie gets up, goes into the hallway between the county board room and elevator out of camera view then comes back into the lobby and sits down next to the door again. Stephanie is observed typing several times on her cellular telephone and putting her ear to the door

3:13:14-[RS] exits the law enforcement center. Stephanie still sitting next to county board room door

3:16:14-Stephanie gets up and sits in a chair in the lobby

3:28:09-Stephanie gets up and stands next to the county board room door

3:28:22-Stephanie moves quickly back to the chairs and sits down

3:28:26-the blinds on the county board room door opens, the door opens and a female subject wearing a plaid shirt exits. Stephanie then gets up and goes inside the county board room

3:30:18-the female wearing the plaid shirt enters the lobby, takes the closed meeting sign off the door and enters the county board room

3:31:43-subjects start exiting the county board room

3:35:43-Stephanie exits the county board room and is observed standing in the lobby

3:39:39-Stephanie leaves the law enforcement center

On 8/29/2025, at approximately 1214 hours I met with Stephanie Christianson at Marshfield Medical Center Ladysmith. Stephanie asked what she could help me with and I asked her if she would be willing to speak with me about a complaint I received through an open records request. I explained it was about her recording a County Board meeting while it was in closed session. Stephanie said she sat through the whole closed session. I asked where she sat and she said she originally sat across the hallway and then sat by the

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door. Stephanie said she was trying to hear what was being said but it was hard to hear because of the pop machine running. Stephanie then said she used her phone to enhance the audio to try and hear over the pop machine.

Based on the foregoing, the complainant believes this complaint to be true and correct.

Subscribed and sworn to before me on Electronically Signed By:

09/04/25

Chief Deputy Matthew Wojcik

Electronically Signed By:

Complainant

John A Cabranes

District Attorney

State Bar #: 1023311