

FILED
09-24-2025
Clerk of Circuit Court
Rusk County, Wisconsin
2025CF000145
Honorable Annette M.
Barna

STATE OF WISCONSIN	CIRCUIT COURT	RUSK COUNTY
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STATE OF WISCONSIN

Plaintiff,

DA Case No.: 2025RU000350

Assigned DA/ADA: John A Cabranes

Agency Case No.: 25CH05184

vs.

ALAN B CHRISTIANSON

400 E 6th St S

Ladysmith, WI 54848

DOB: 02/08/1988

Sex/Race: M/W

Eye Color:

Hair Color:

Height: 6 ft 00 in

Weight: 220 lbs

Alias:

Defendant

Court Case No.:

ATN:

STEPHANIE A CHRISTIANSON

Co-defendant

Court Case No.:

ATN: 55002524100021

CRIMINAL COMPLAINT*For Official Use*

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

INTERCEPT ANY ORAL COMMUNICATION - PTAC, AS A PARTY TO A CRIME (As to defendant Alan B Christianson)

The above-named defendant on or about Tuesday, August 26, 2025, in the City of Ladysmith, Rusk County, Wisconsin, as a party to a crime, did intentionally intercept any oral communication, contrary to sec. 968.31(1)(a), 939.05 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 reports of Investigator Gronski of the Rusk County Sheriff's Office and Lt. Darin Williams of the Chippewa County Sheriff's Office and the statements of Stephanie Christianson and Alan Christianson. Your complainant and Investigator Gronski and Lt. Williams 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 statements of Stephanie Christianson and Alan Christianson are presumed to be truthful and reliable because they are statements made against their penal interests.

PROBABLE CAUSE:

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

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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. [WITNESS 1] 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 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 [WITNESS 1] of the Rusk County IT Department. I advised [WITNESS 1] I wanted to speak with him about a public records request he received. [WITNESS 1] 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".

[WITNESS 1] stated he extracted the video requested and watched the video on fast forward while doing other work. [WITNESS 1] stated he observed two females in the lobby. [WITNESS 1] 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. [WITNESS 1] stated he did not know who the female was that was recording but knew it was a crime to record a closed meeting. Therefore, [WITNESS 1] advised Sheriff Phil Grassmann of the crime committed and provided Sheriff Grassmann a copy of the video via flash drive. [WITNESS 1] 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. The video is 5 hours 57 minutes and 24 seconds long. This is a detailed summary of my observations according to the time on the bottom of the video. See video maintained by the Rusk County Sheriff's Office for full depiction.

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 [WITNESS 2]

1:24:31-county board room door opens, Stephanie and [WITNESS 2] go inside and the closed meeting placard comes off the door

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1:27:39-county board room door opens, Stephanie and [WITNESS 2] 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

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-[WITNESS 2] 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

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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

3:38:04-Stephanie observed speaking with [WITNESS 3].

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

Due to the public not allowed to record a Wisconsin County Board closed session meeting, Stephanie is in violation of Wisconsin State Statute 968.31(1)(a) Interception and disclosure of wire, electronic or oral communications prohibited.

The following is a synopsis of my (Lt. Darin Williams, Chippewa County Sheriff's Office) review of the phone download.

There are 103 messages between Stephanie and Alan Christianson via Facebook Messenger. These messages occur from 8:06pm until 10:59pm.

8:09pm "Still in first or in 2nd?"

8:26pm Stephanie sends "10 days unpaid suspension for training"

8:28pm Alan responds "For the person in closed 1?"

Stephanie sends some additional information on what is said in closed session.

8:30pm Alan responds "I think that was a forestry position"

8:34pm Alan sends "Did they keep [WITNESS 4] in for a while to give any testimony or answer any questions?"

8:35pm Alan sends a screen shot image of a Facebook post from 1 day prior on what appears to be the Ladysmith, Wisconsin Facebook page with a message encouraging visitors to the Ladysmith and Rusk County area.

8:36pm Alan sends a screen shot image of a message posted by [-] 12 hours prior which states "Who wrote this? Whose idea was this? That person deserves recognition and credit. Way to go! It's great."

8:36pm Alan sends "[WITNESS 4] of course...".

8:36pm Stephanie replies "Was it?"

8:36pm Alan replies "Me", "But I'm a fat ugly asshole"

8:37pm Alan sends "Funny how [WITNESS 5] referenced the buying the Prevea as an [WITNESS 4] thing. City initiated a meeting with county about it. And county board voted to do it".

8:45pm Stephanie records a video where you can hear voices speaking in the background. Video is 3 minutes and 54 seconds long.

8:45pm Stephanie sends "How do I make it so you can watch a video", I picked up audio from closed session"

8:46pm Stephanie sends "The audio call started.", "Audio call 45sec"

8:47pm Alan sends a screen shot from what appears to be his phone with a menu titled 'Select your audience'.

8:48pm Stephanie sends "I caught the audio"

8:48pm Alan replies "What did it say?", Also sends another attachment of what appears to be a screen shot from his cell phone where the user of the phone was typing in the search

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box for a page titled 'Specific friends'. Entered was the name "[WITNESS 6]" and below the search box is the name [WITNESS 6]. Behind and above this box in the screen shot is the name Alan Christianson and the top

half of the same incredibly similar photo as that on Alan Christianson's Facebook page.

8:48pm Alan also sends "Otherwise do only you for now, can change privacy later"

8:54pm Alan sends "You cut out"

8:55pm Stephanie sends "Can you hear any of them"

8:56pm Alan replies "A little here and there"

8:56pm Stephanie replies "Ill put it on the floor [WITNESS 7] is talking now"

8:56pm Alan sends "If you are on wifi they might be watching you and limiting your ability"

8:57pm Alan continues "Should switch to just your cell network"

8:57pm Stephanie replies "Not on their wifi"

8:58pm Alan sends "They are probably watching you on camera"

8:59pm Stephanie replies "So?", "What can they do im outside the door lol"

Additional discussion between the two (Alan/Stephanie) about her phone dying and she left and would return.

9:31pm Alan sends "You didn't still stay to listen?", "God you are pathetic sometimes"

9:31pm Stephanie replies "The ice machine kept kicking in so I couldn't hear"

9:31pm Alan replies "So is it basically [WITNESS 7] and [WITNESS 8] backing her?", "Unplug it"

9:31pm Stephanie sends "Keep watching with a new mean name", "You heard all that"

9:32pm Alan sends "Cut off when [WITNESS 7] jumped in after [WITNESS 8]"

Both go back and forth with additional conversation

9:34pm Alan sends "I heard one of your videos him saying he reached out to [-] and something about wind down and something

that she said to the board that wasn't forthcoming or something"

9:34pm Alan sends "Should have sent you with the City voice recorder", "Better get your ass back so you can report"

9:35pm Alan Sends "[WITNESS 9]'s gone for the rest of the week"

More messages between the two about her battery low and wanting Alan to bring her a charger, but Alan is in bed.

9:42pm Alan sends "You'll just have to take mental notes"

9:44pm Alan sends "Go home grab your stuff and go back"

They both go back and forth with other comments.

9:50pm Alan sends "No. I'm in bed. My contacts are out"

On 9/22/2025 I, Lt. Darin Williams, went to the Rusk Co Sheriff's Office where I met with Investigator Gronski. I gave him the flashdrive containing the cell phone download of Stephanie Christianson's cell phone. Investigator Gronski coordinated for a Rusk Co Sheriff's Office patrol deputy assist with the arrest of Alan Christianson.

Initially we went to the Ladysmith City Hall, however were informed that Alan was not there and still out at lunch. We next went to Alan's address of [...] in the City of Ladysmith, WI where I observed a green chevy pickup truck in the driveway. I along with Rusk County Deputy Fenstermacher went to the door. Deputy Fenstermacher knocked on the front door and a female came to the door. She was asked if Alan was home and she said she'd get

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him and left my view into the house. A short time later Alan came to the door and stepped outside. I was wearing my fully marked 'SHERIFF' vest. I identified myself to Alan and advised him he was under arrest. When asked if he had anything on him Alan retrieved his cell phone from his pocket. I took custody of it. Alan requested it be given to his wife. I advised him that I would be seizing it incident to arrest. I gave the phone to Investigator Plehal on scene.

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

Subscribed and sworn to before me on	Electronically Signed By:
09/24/25	Chief Deputy Matthew Wojcik
Electronically Signed By:	Complainant
John A Cabranes	
District Attorney	
State Bar #: 1023311	