

**FILED**  
**06-25-2025**  
**Clerk of Courts**  
**Fond du Lac County WI**  
**2025CF000581**

STATE OF WISCONSIN		CIRCUIT COURT	FOND DU LAC COUNTY
STATE OF WISCONSIN		Plaintiff,	DA Case No.: 2025FL002297 Assigned DA/ADA: Eric J. Toney Agency Case No.: 25FP18957 Court Case No.: ATN: 20002506230012
vs.			
HAYDEN LYLE DAFFINSON 530 Lincoln St Ripon, WI 54971 DOB: 02/01/1991 Sex/Race: M/W Alias:			<b>CRIMINAL COMPLAINT</b>
Defendant.			

The undersigned law enforcement officer with City of Fond du Lac Police Department being first duly sworn, states that:

**Count 1: ATTEMPT FIRST DEGREE INTENTIONAL HOMICIDE, USE OF A DANGEROUS WEAPON, DOMESTIC ABUSE ASSESSMENTS**

The above-named defendant on or about Sunday, June 22, 2025 at 2:39 PM, in the City of Fond du Lac, Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin, attempted to cause the death of Victim 1, with intent to kill that person, contrary to sec. 940.01(1)(a), 939.50(3)(a), 939.32, 939.63(1)(b), 973.055(1) Wis. Stats., a Class B Felony, and upon conviction may be sentenced to a term of imprisonment not to exceed sixty (60) years.

And further, invoking the provisions of sec. 939.63(1)(b) Wis. Stats., because the defendant committed this offense while possessing a dangerous weapon, the maximum term of imprisonment for the felony may be increased by not more than 5 years.

And further, invoking the provisions of sec. 973.055(1) Wis. Stats., because this charge is an act of domestic abuse, and further, invoking sec. 973.055(1), Wis. Stats., the court shall impose the domestic abuse assessment of \$100 for this offense because this charge is an enumerated crime under sec. 973.055(1)(a)1, Wis. Stats., and the conduct constituting the violation involved an act by the defendant against his or her spouse, against an adult with whom the defendant resides or formerly resided, or against an adult with whom the defendant has created a child.

**Count 2: FIRST DEGREE SEXUAL ASSAULT, USE OF A DANGEROUS WEAPON, DOMESTIC ABUSE ASSESSMENTS**

The above-named defendant on or about Tuesday, June 24, 2025, in the City of Fond du Lac, Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin, did have sexual contact with Victim1, without that person's consent by use of a dangerous weapon, contrary to sec. 940.225(1)(b), 939.50(3)(b), 939.63(1)(b), 973.055(1) Wis. Stats., a Class B Felony, and upon conviction may be sentenced to a term of imprisonment not to exceed sixty (60) years.

And further, invoking the provisions of sec. 939.63(1)(b) Wis. Stats., because the defendant committed this offense while possessing a dangerous weapon, the maximum term of imprisonment for the felony may be increased by not more than 5 years.

And further, invoking the provisions of sec. 973.055(1) Wis. Stats., because this charge is an act of domestic abuse, and further, invoking sec. 973.055(1), Wis. Stats., the court shall impose the domestic abuse assessment of \$100 for this offense because this charge is an enumerated crime under sec. 973.055(1)(a)1, Wis. Stats., and the conduct constituting the violation involved an act by the defendant against his or her spouse, against an adult with whom the defendant resides or formerly resided, or against an adult with whom the defendant has created a child.

**Count 3: MAYHEM, USE OF A DANGEROUS WEAPON, DOMESTIC ABUSE ASSESSMENTS**

The above-named defendant on or about Sunday, June 22, 2025 at 2:39 PM, in the City of Fond du Lac, Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin, with the intent to disable Victim 1, did cut the bodily member of Victim 1, contrary to sec. 940.21, 939.50(3)(c), 939.63(1)(b), 973.055(1) Wis. Stats., a Class C Felony, and upon conviction may be fined not more than One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000), or imprisoned not more than forty (40) years, or both.

And further, invoking the provisions of sec. 939.63(1)(b) Wis. Stats., because the defendant committed this offense while possessing a dangerous weapon, the maximum term of imprisonment for the felony may be increased by not more than 5 years.

And further, invoking the provisions of sec. 973.055(1) Wis. Stats., because this charge is an act of domestic abuse, and further, invoking sec. 973.055(1), Wis. Stats., the court shall impose the domestic abuse assessment of \$100 for this offense because this charge is an enumerated crime under sec. 973.055(1)(a)1, Wis. Stats., and the conduct constituting the violation involved an act by the defendant against his or her spouse, against an adult with whom the defendant resides or formerly resided, or against an adult with whom the defendant has created a child.

**Count 4: MAYHEM, USE OF A DANGEROUS WEAPON, DOMESTIC ABUSE ASSESSMENTS**

The above-named defendant on or about Sunday, June 22, 2025 at 2:39 PM, in the City of Fond du Lac, Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin, with the intent to disable Victim 1, did cut the bodily member of Victim 1, contrary to sec. 940.21, 939.50(3)(c), 939.63(1)(b), 973.055(1) Wis. Stats., a Class C Felony, and upon conviction may be fined not more than One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000), or imprisoned not more than forty (40) years, or both.

And further, invoking the provisions of sec. 939.63(1)(b) Wis. Stats., because the defendant committed this offense while possessing a dangerous weapon, the maximum term of imprisonment for the felony may be increased by not more than 5 years.

And further, invoking the provisions of sec. 973.055(1) Wis. Stats., because this charge is an act of domestic abuse, and further, invoking sec. 973.055(1), Wis. Stats., the court shall impose the domestic abuse assessment of \$100 for this offense because this charge is an enumerated crime under sec. 973.055(1)(a)1, Wis. Stats., and the conduct constituting the violation involved an act by the defendant against his or her spouse, against an adult with whom the defendant resides or formerly resided, or against an adult with whom the defendant has created a child.

**Count 5: FIRST DEGREE RECKLESS INJURY, USE OF A DANGEROUS WEAPON, DOMESTIC ABUSE ASSESSMENTS**

The above-named defendant on or about Tuesday, June 24, 2025, in the City of Fond du Lac, Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin, did recklessly cause great bodily harm to Victim 1, under circumstances which show utter disregard for human life, contrary to sec. 940.23(1)(a), 939.50(3)(d), 939.63(1)(b), 973.055(1) Wis. Stats., a Class D Felony, and upon conviction may be fined not more than One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000), or imprisoned not more than twenty five (25) years, or both.

And further, invoking the provisions of sec. 939.63(1)(b) Wis. Stats., because the defendant committed this offense while possessing a dangerous weapon, the maximum term of imprisonment for the felony may be increased by not more than 5 years.

And further, invoking the provisions of sec. 973.055(1) Wis. Stats., because this charge is an act of domestic abuse, and further, invoking sec. 973.055(1), Wis. Stats., the court shall impose the domestic abuse assessment of \$100 for this offense because this charge is an enumerated crime under sec. 973.055(1)(a)1, Wis. Stats., and the conduct constituting the violation involved an act by the defendant against his or her spouse, against an adult with whom the defendant resides or formerly resided, or against an adult with whom the defendant has created a child.

**Count 6: AGGRAVATED BATTERY, USE OF A DANGEROUS WEAPON, DOMESTIC ABUSE ASSESSMENTS**

The above-named defendant on or about Sunday, June 22, 2025 at 2:39 PM, in the City of Fond du Lac, Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin, did intentionally cause bodily harm to Victim 1, by conduct that created a substantial risk of great bodily harm, contrary to sec. 940.19(6), 939.50(3)(h), 939.63(1)(c), 973.055(1) 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.

And further, invoking the provisions of sec. 939.63(1)(c) Wis. Stats., because the defendant committed this offense while possessing a dangerous weapon, the maximum term of imprisonment for the underlying crime may be increased by not more than four (4) years.

And further, invoking the provisions of sec. 973.055(1) Wis. Stats., because this charge is an act of domestic abuse, and further, invoking sec. 973.055(1), Wis. Stats., the court shall impose the domestic abuse assessment of \$100 for this offense because this charge is an enumerated crime under sec. 973.055(1)(a)1, Wis. Stats., and the conduct constituting the violation involved an act by the defendant against his or her spouse, against an adult with whom the defendant resides or formerly resided, or against an adult with whom the defendant has created a child.

**Count 7: FELONY INTIMIDATION OF A VICTIM, DOMESTIC ABUSE ASSESSMENTS, USE OF A DANGEROUS WEAPON**

The above-named defendant on or about Tuesday, June 24, 2025, in the City of Fond du Lac, Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin, knowingly and maliciously did prevent Victim 1, who has been the victim of a crime, from making a report of the victimization to a law enforcement agency, where the act is accompanied by force or violence or attempted force or violence, contrary to sec. 940.45(1), 939.50(3)(g), 973.055(1), 939.63(1)(b) Wis. Stats., a Class G Felony, and upon conviction may be fined not more than Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000), or imprisoned not more than ten (10) years, or both.

And further, invoking the provisions of sec. 973.055(1) Wis. Stats., because this charge is an act of domestic abuse, and further, invoking sec. 973.055(1), Wis. Stats., the court shall impose the domestic abuse assessment of \$100 for this offense because this charge is an enumerated crime under sec. 973.055(1)(a)1, Wis. Stats., and the conduct constituting the violation involved an act by the defendant against his or her spouse, against an adult with whom the defendant resides or formerly resided, or against an adult with whom the defendant has created a child.

And further, invoking the provisions of sec. 939.63(1)(b) Wis. Stats., because the defendant committed this offense while possessing a dangerous weapon, the maximum term of imprisonment for the felony may be increased by not more than 5 years.

**Count 8: FALSE IMPRISONMENT, DOMESTIC ABUSE ASSESSMENTS, USE OF A DANGEROUS WEAPON**

The above-named defendant on or about Tuesday, June 24, 2025, in the City of Fond du Lac, Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin, did intentionally confine Victim 1, without that person's consent, and with the knowledge that he had no lawful authority to do so, contrary to sec. 940.30, 939.50(3)(h), 973.055(1), 939.63(1)(b) 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.

And further, invoking the provisions of sec. 973.055(1) Wis. Stats., because this charge is an act of domestic abuse, and further, invoking sec. 973.055(1), Wis. Stats., the court shall impose the domestic abuse assessment of \$100 for this offense because this charge is an enumerated crime under sec. 973.055(1)(a)1, Wis. Stats., and the conduct constituting the violation involved an act by the defendant against his or her spouse, against an adult with whom the defendant resides or formerly resided, or against an adult with whom the defendant has created a child.

And further, invoking the provisions of sec. 939.63(1)(b) Wis. Stats., because the defendant committed this offense while possessing a dangerous weapon, the maximum term of imprisonment for the felony may be increased by not more than 5 years.

**PROBABLE CAUSE:**

Complainant bases the allegations of this complaint upon the report and investigation of officer(s) Amy L. Jost, of the City of Fond du Lac Police Department. Complainant and the officer(s) Trenton Smith and Kristina Meilhan are reliable as sworn law enforcement officials.

On June 22, 2025 at approximately 2:48 p.m. Officers Schlosser and Jost were dispatched to the 300 block of E. Merrill Ave., in the City and County of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. A female 911 caller, identified as Victim 1, stated she was attacked by an axe and was bleeding. Dispatch advised they had difficulty hearing her and that Victim 1 informed Dispatch that the suspect had left the residence.

Officers Meudt and Meier arrived to the scene first and observed Victim 1 with multiple lacerations to the extremities, back, and head. Officers Jost and Schlosser arrived at the scene and the residence was searched and no one else was located in the residence.

Officers observed Victim 1 was located on the living room floor of the residence, partially naked, and lying on her stomach with her arms above her head. Ofc. Meudt observed an extremely large amount of blood on and around the female to include numerous parts of the floor in the living room, as well as by the staircase leading to the upstairs. Ofc. Meudt observed blood spatter on the walls, window, and curtains next to the front door into the residence as well. Officer Maier applied tourniquets to both of Victim 1's arms, near her shoulders in an effort to stop or slow what was believed by officers to be life threatening bleeding from the victim.

Victim 1's head was covered in blood and there were several visible open gashes to her arms. Victim 1's left wrist and left pinky finger appeared to be almost severed from her body due to the extreme lacerations. Officer Maier asked Victim 1 who did this to her and she was initially hesitant to tell officers who did this to her. She stated that the person who did this told her if she tells the cops, he will kill her. Victim 1 said that her ex-boyfriend, Hayden Daffinson, the defendant, was the person that repeatedly struck her with an axe/ "hatchet". Victim 1 stated she just broke up with the defendant prior to this occurring, that he was at her house to pick up some of his personal property, and that he attacked her with the hatchet prior to leaving her residence in a red SUV.

Paramedics arrived to treat Victim 1, who was transported by ambulance to St. Agnes Hospital, where Victim 1 was flighted to Theda Medical Center in Neenah, due to the extent of her injuries. It was later learned that Victim 1 went into surgery for her injuries a short time after arriving at Theda Medical Center, which was about a 7-8 hr. surgery that was not fully completed. Victim 1 was later scheduled for a second surgery on 6/26/25, due to the extent of her injuries and a likely amputation of her left pinky finger.

A Ring Camera, at a residence directly across the street from Victim 1's residence. captured the red SUV in the driveway of Victim 1's residence on June 22, 2025 at 2:23 p.m., and the following audio was captured on this recording:

Female, believed to be Victim 1 based on the investigation (yelling)- "Get out of my house!... No!... No!... Get out of my house! Stop!... Ugh, Oh! Ugh, Oh! (Screaming) [Inaudible cries]."

Witness 1, who lives across the street from Victim 1. at this same residence where the Ring Camera footage was located, observed a male subject entering Victim 1's residence. around 2:18 p.m. Witness 1 stated it was a "white guy" going up the steps into the house and smoking a vape. The male subject appeared to fit Daffinson's physical description. That subject appeared to be going back and forth from the house to a red SUV in the driveway, before the SUV leaves the area at some point after 2:31 p.m., but before law enforcement arrived at the residence.

Officers learned from the defendant's Aunt, Linda Morris, that Daffinson text messaged her that he was going to Fond du Lac "to Victim 1's," and that he was picking up his items there, a microwave and lamps. He also indicated via text message to Morris at 3:46 p.m., after the attack, that he was heading home and that he just left Fond du Lac. This was contrary to Flock Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) hits as well as cell phone pings for Daffinson's vehicle and phone, which showed that he drove from Fond du Lac, to Greenfield, WI, and was last observed just over the Wisconsin boarder into Illinois around 5:15 p.m.

On June, 22, 2025 around 7:00 p.m., Daffinson's vehicle, a red 2017 Chevrolet Equinox SUV, was located in the area of Germantown, WI. A pursuit with law enforcement ensued, with Daffinson's vehicle reaching over 110 mph. As Officer. Priesler with Germantown PD was deploying spike strips on Daffinson's vehicle, Daffinson swerved the vehicle towards Officer. Priesler. The spike strips successfully deflated the front passenger's side tire of Daffinson's vehicle, and the vehicle was ultimately forced to a stop via two separate pit maneuvers by Wisconsin State Patrol. The one occupant of this vehicle was taken into custody, and he was verbally identified as Hayden Daffinson. Det. Meilahn spoke to Germantown Police Department officers, and learned that Officer. Clemens with Germantown, WI Police Department inquired with Daffinson if the blood spatter on his legs was from officers breaking out his car window, and Daffinson replied that it was from "fighting with my girlfriend." It was observed that Daffinson's clothing and shoes were covered in what appeared to be dried blood stains, and that his legs were spattered with a dried red substance, also believed to be blood.

On June, 23 2025, Detectives Chevremont and Mikulec executed a search warrant on Daffinson's red SUV. During that search, a store receipt for Dollar General in Ripon, Wisconsin was located. This receipt showed that "UTILITY CORD" and "PARACORD HANDLE H" were purchased on June 22, 2025 at 1:11 p.m.. In addition, the cardboard packaging for a "paracord handle hatchet", the black nylon sheath for a hatchet, a steak knife and paracord 60' length (still in the packaging) were also located. The paracord and the paracord handle hatchet appeared to match up to the purchased items on the Dollar General receipt.

Detectives Chevremont and Mikulec responded to the Dollar General in Ripon, WI, and were able to locate visually identical items to the Path and Stream Co. utility cord/ paracord in 60' length located in Daffinson's vehicle, as well as the Path and Stream Supply Co. Paracord Handle Hatchet, which advised that it was a 10 inch rust-resistant steel, compact and lightweight, and wrapped handle." This package also included a black sheath which was visually similar to the sheath located in Daffinson's SUV. Upon review of camera footage from the time of the purchase, Det. Chevremont observed a male subject, who visually appeared to be Daffinson, and was wearing what appeared to be identical clothing to that which was recovered from Germantown PD after Daffinson's arrest, and is now covered in suspected blood.

On June 23, 2025, Detectives Meilahn and Smith made contact with Victim 1 in the ICU at Theda Medical Center. Victim 1 was in the process of having approximately 10-15 open lacerations on her head cleaned out, prior to her having these lacerations both stitched up and stapled shut. Meilahn noted that the physician was taking measurements of these lacerations, and they ranged from 2.5 inches to 8 inches in length.

Detective Meilahn observed numerous lacerations, which had already been stapled shut on Victim 1 back, eye brow, and chin. Victim 1 arms were completely covered in bandages, and the extent of her injuries were unable to be observed at that time. However, Det. Meilahn observed photographs and body camera footage of responding officers at the scene of the initial attack, and Victim 1 arms had significant lacerations to them. Victim 1 left wrist and left pinky in particular were lacerated down to the bone, which could be observed, and were both nearly severed from her body. Meilahn was advised by medical staff at Theda that Victim 1's left pinky will likely need to be amputated in the coming days. Victim 1 reported that her arms and hands took most of the blows from the hatchet, as she was trying to protect her face and head.

It was confirmed through medical staff at Theda, that Victim 1's left and right arms are broken, and that she has several skull fractures as well.

Victim 1 shared the following:

Victim 1 and Daffinson have been in a domestic relationship for several months and Daffinson has been living with Victim 1 at her residence for approximately the last month. Victim 1 decided to end her relationship with Daffinson about a week prior to the attack and he has been very verbally abusive to her since. Victim 1 allowed Daffinson to come to her residence on June 22, 2025, the day of the attack, to retrieve his personal property from the residence. Victim 1 allowed detectives to view her Facebook messenger messages between her and Daffinson, which state:

June 19th, 2025 at 8:37 PM.

"Hayden Daffinson forward an image"

(The image was of a red Chevrolet Equinox)

June 20th, 2025 at 6:15 PM



Vctim 1:- "Nice"

June 21st, 2025 at 6:13 PM

Hayden- "Hey don't leave me shit outside I'm sorry"

Hayden- "I'll be there tomorrow to pick it up"

Hayden- "Then we're done"

Vctim 1:- "If you get here at 10 am with all my shit I won't put your stuff outside but I'm not feeling with this shit anymore you pick up the rest of your stuff up and I don't wanna hear a fucking word from you"

June 22nd, 2025 at 10:07 AM

Hayden- "On way"

Vctim 1: - "Park near the front"

Hayden- "Ok"

June 22nd, 2025 at 12:58 PM

Hayden- "I'm leaving shortly for the rest of my stuff"

Vctim 1:- "Okay"

June 22nd, 2025 at 1:55 PM

Vctim 1:- "Are you coming"

Hayden- "Yes I'm just running one errands"

Hayden- "I'll be there at 2:10"

Hayden- "Sorry"

These message times match up with the time Daffinson would have been at Victim 1's residence, and the attack on Victim 1.

Victim 1 reported that Daffinson came in her residence through the front door and that he had a backpack with him. Victim 1 advised that he went upstairs while she was sitting on the couch in her living room, and when he came downstairs he had a hatchet out and in his hand. Victim 1 indicated that she questioned what Daffinson was doing with the hatchet, and then asked him to leave her house. It was at this point that Daffinson attacked Victim 1 with the hatchet, striking her approximately five times with it prior to stopping.

Daffinson then forced Victim 1 to perform oral sex on him, prior to forcing her to take her pants off, and lay on the ground, where he attempted to force his penis into her vagina. Victim 1 advised that she had already been attacked with the hatchet by Daffinson, was injured and bleeding, and scared for her life. Victim 1 reported that Daffinson was having a hard time getting his penis erect, and this is when he said "fuck it, I'm just going to kill you, because I'm going to prison anyway."

This is when Daffinson struck Victim 1 approximately 25 or more additional times with the hatchet on her back, hands, arms, and head. Victim 1 advised that Daffinson was calling her a "bitch" and "a fucking bitch" as he was swinging the hatchet and striking her with it. Victim 1 advised that she was fighting for her life, and begged Daffinson to let her live. Victim 1 advised, "he was trying to kill me."

The only reason he didn't kill me was because I said I wasn't gonna... that I'd tell you guys I fell down the stairs or something." Victim 1 reported that Daffinson was going to kill her and even advised her that he thought she would tell on him if he let her live. Victim 1 stated that she promised not to call or tell the cops what he did and he advised her "I'm going to kill you if you do." Victim 1 felt like the assault took place for approximately 20 minutes.

Victim 1 advised that Daffinson was mad at her because she broke the relationship off but did not think he would do something like this to her. Victim 1 advised that Daffinson coming to her residence was prearranged, but he was running late because he had an errand. Victim 1 indicated that she felt "running an errand meant picking the hatchet up." Victim 1 reported that she was afraid Daffinson was going to finish her off and she thought she was dead for sure. Victim 1 described herself as being terrified. Victim 1 further reported that Daffinson took her phone away from her so she couldn't call 911, during the attack. Eventually, Daffinson left with Victim 1 still alive, and bleeding profusely on her living room floor. She was ultimately able to get to her phone and call 911 for help.

Victim 1 reported that she was terrified of Daffinson, and feels that if he ever gets out of jail, he's going to kill her.

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

Subscribed and sworn to before me on 06/25/25

Electronically Signed By:

Eric J. Toney

District Attorney

State Bar #: 1079214

Electronically Signed By:

Det. K. Meilahn #140

Complainant