

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, MERCER COUNTY, OHIO
CRIMINAL DIVISION

STATE OF OHIO,

CASE NO. 25-CRM-140

Plaintiff

VS.

COTY W OTIS
326 North Marion Street
Bluffton, IN
DOB: 11/27/1992
SSN: XXX-XX-3751

COMPLAINT

Defendant.

Count One **Having Weapons While Under Disability - F3**
§2923.13(A)(2), 2923.13(B)

Date of Offense On or about August 16, 2025

Complainant being duly sworn states that Coty W Otis, in Mercer County, Ohio, on or about August 16, 2025, unlawfully

did knowingly acquire, have, carry, or use a firearm or dangerous ordnance when he was under indictment for or had been convicted of a felony offense of violence, to wit: on or about April 3, 2013, in Adams Superior Court, Adams County, Indiana, Escape, a Class D Felony, in violation of IN Code 35-44-3-5(b), in Case No. 01D01-1207-FD-000078.

Specification for Forfeiture of a Weapon while under Disability - §2941.1417(A)

Coty W Otis is the owner and/or possessor of a Sig Sauer P365 Black Firearm, Serial No. 66B418090, which was contraband and/or property derived from or through the commission or facilitation of the offense, and/or was an instrumentality the offender used or intended to use in the commission or facilitation of the offense

The offense is contrary to the form of the statute in such case made and provided, and against the peace and dignity of the State of Ohio.

MERCER COUNTY
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

119 NORTH WALNUT ST
CELINA, OHIO 45822
419-586-8677
FAX: 586-8747

FILED

10:20
AUG 18 2025
Jm

Shirley J. Farmer
MERCER COUNTY CLERK OF COURTS
CELINA, OHIO

Count Two

Tampering With Evidence - F3

§2921.12(A)(1), 2921.12(B)

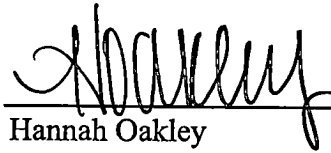
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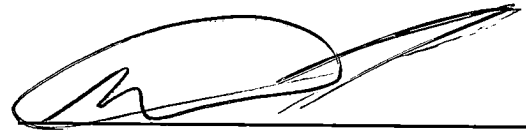
did, knowing that an official proceeding or investigation was in progress, or was about to be or likely to be instituted, alter, destroy, conceal, or remove any record, document, or thing, with purpose to impair its value or availability as evidence in such proceeding or investigation.

The offense is contrary to the form of the statute in such case made and provided, and against the peace and dignity of the State of Ohio.



Hannah Oakley
Mercer County Sheriff's Office

Sworn before me by Hannah Oakley, Mercer County Sheriff's Office, on this 18 day of August, 2025.



JUDGE/Clerk/Notary Public

MERCER COUNTY
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

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MERCER COUNTY CLERK OF COURTS
CELINA, OHIO

IN THE COMMON PLEAS COURT, MERCER COUNTY, OHIO

STATE OF OHIO,
Plaintiff

FILED

CASE NO. 25-CRM-110

vs.

AUG 18th 2025

COTY W OTIS,
Defendant.

Shirley J. Fennell
MERCER COUNTY CLERK OF COURTS
CELINA, OHIO

AFFIDAVIT ON COMPLAINT
(O.R.C. 2935.09)

STATE OF OHIO, MERCER COUNTY, SS:

I, Deputy Hannah Oakley, do hereby state that I am employed at the Mercer County Sheriff's Office. The following did occur:

On or about August 16, 2025, deputies were dispatched to 2301 Elm Street, Celina, Mercer County, Ohio on the report of a male (identified as Coty Otis) possibly intoxicated and waving a gun in the air. Dispatch further advised that Otis had discarded the firearm in a blue bin by the house and was walking away on Harbor Point Drive. Dispatch advised that Otis was wearing a red shirt and khaki shorts.

Deputy Nixon arrived on scene first. She observed a male matching Otis's description walking on Harbor Point Drive toward SR 703. Otis looked at Deputy Nixon and abruptly turned to his left, walking through the yard of 305 Harbor Point Drive. Deputy Nixon exited her patrol cruiser and called out Otis's name, advising him multiple times that he needed to stop. Otis kept walking away from Deputy Nixon, so Deputy Nixon ran to Otis and placed him in handcuffs. While patting Otis down for weapons, Deputy Nixon detected a strong odor of alcohol emitting from Otis's person. Deputy Nixon detained Otis and placed him in the back of her cruiser.

I arrived on scene and read Otis his *Miranda* rights. Otis advised that he understood his rights. I questioned Otis as to what was going on. Otis stated that he had gotten into an argument with his fiancé. When I questioned Otis if he had a weapon on him at some point, Otis denied having any weapons other than a pocket-knife that Deputy Nixon had just retrieved from his person.

Deputies Fox, Huber, and Nixon searched the outside of the residence for a firearm. They located a Sig Sauer P365 black firearm, Serial No. 66B418090, tucked between a concrete slab (with an air conditioning unit on it) and the foundation of the residence. There was a blue bin next to the air conditioner. The firearm contained a live round, partially ejected from the chamber. Deputies also located a loaded magazine for the firearm, removed from the firearm, sitting on the concrete slab behind the air conditioner, near the firearm.

Deputies photographed the firearm and magazine, then seized the items as evidence. Later, while deputies were searching Otis incident to his arrest, deputies located a loaded magazine in Otis's waistband and an empty holster. The magazine was the same brand as the firearm and would function with the firearm that was located. When questioned about the holster, Otis claimed it was for a pellet gun that he had.

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Deputies also found a bag lying near the residence that contained 2 unmarked pill containers, along with a marked pill container that had Otis's name on it. In one of the containers, officers found a green pill that appeared to be a pressed pill. Officers also found pills that Otis claimed were suboxone. The pills were seized and will be sent off for testing.

While doing a criminal history check, it was discovered that Otis had been convicted of felony Escape in 2013 in Adams County, Indiana. Escape is an offense of violence under Ohio law. Therefore, Otis was precluded from owning or possessing a firearm.

Otis was arrested for Having Weapons While Under Disability and transported to the Mercer County Jail.


Deputy Hannah Oakley

Sworn to before me by Hannah Oakley, Mercer County Sheriff's Office on August 18, 2025.


JUDGE/Clerk/Notary Public

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