

GENERAL SESSIONS COURT OF BENTON COUNTY TENNESSEE

Received by the

State of Tennessee vs. Richard B Merrell

AUG 21 2025

State Control # 003000025717

County Case # 202504029

Benton County
Sheriff's Office

2025-CR-491(U) ARREST WARRANT
TO ANY LAWFUL OFFICER OF THE STATE

FILED

AUG 22 2025

SAM RAINWATERS
BENTON CO. CIRCUIT CLERK

☒ Based on the affidavit of complaint filed in this case, there is probable cause to believe that the offense(s) of violation(s) of
TCA 39-17-1003- Offense of sexual exploitation of a minor

_____ have been committed by the Defendant

☐ Defendant has failed to appear in court or to report to jail when required to do so

☐ _____

You are therefore commanded in the name of the State of Tennessee to immediately ARREST the defendant named above and bring the defendant to this court to answer the charges.

Bail is set at \$ 250,000- GPS monitor- no release w/o source hearing Date: 8-20-2025
no internet- no leaving 24th judicial district w/o court approval
Judge/Clerk/Judicial Commissioner [Signature]

INFORMATION ABOUT THE DEFENDANT

Name: Richard B Merrell
Address: [Redacted]
DOB: 07/07/1970 Sex: Male Race: White Ht: 5'8" Wt: 178 Hair: Brown Eyes: Hazel
Phone# [Redacted]
Place of Employment: Big Sandy School

JUDGE'S COMMENTS

INFORMATION ABOUT THE DEFENDANT

☒ Warrant served by arresting defendant today or on 08/20/25
☐ Warrant not served because defendant can not be found or _____

Officer's Signature: [Signature] Officer's Agency (Printed): BCSO
Officer's Name (Printed): SETTINA WINDSEY WRIGHT Date: 08/20/25

GENERAL SESSIONS COURT OF BENTON COUNTY TENNESSEE

State of Tennessee vs. Richard B Merrell

State Control # 003000025717

County Case # 202504029

Attorney for Def.

Witnesses See attached Witness List

Court Date

State, Deft. to General Sessions at 0900hrs am/pm

State, Deft. to at am/pm

State, Deft. to at am/pm

State, Deft. to at am/pm

State, Deft. to at am/pm

AFFIDAVIT OF COMPLAINT

I, the affiant named below, after being sworn, state under oath that on or about July 29, 2025 in Benton County, Tennessee Richard B Merrell committed the offense(s) of violation(s) of TCA 39-17-1003- Offense of sexual exploitation of a minor

I further state under oath that the essential facts constituting the offense(s), the sources of my information and the reasons why this information is believable and reliable are as follows:

On July 29, 2025 while in Benton County, TN, Richard B Merrell did commit the offense of Sexual exploitation of a minor when he knowingly possessed multiple images, contained in his blue in color TCL smart phone, with pre-pubescent and pubescent children engaged in sexual activity and/or lascivious sexual behavior.

Affiant's Signature:

Name (Printed): Sgt Inv Lindsey Lough #104

Address (Printed): 116 Rosemary Ave.

Camden, Tennessee 38320

Phone Number: 731-584-4632

Sworn to and subscribed before me on

8 - 10 , 20 25

Judge/Clerk/Judicial Commissioner

PROBABLE CAUSE DETERMINATION

Based on the affidavit of complaint, I find there is probable cause to believe that on the date set forth above in Benton County, Tennessee the defendant committed the offense(s) of violation(s) of TCA 39-17-1003- Offense of sexual exploitation of a minor

() defendant given citation or arrested without warrant (X) arrest warrant shall issue () criminal summons shall issue

Date

8-20-2025

Judge/Clerk/Judicial Commissioner

NOTIFICATION OF POSSIBLE EXPIRATION OF CRIMINAL RECORDS

If the defendant's charge is dismissed; a no true bill is returned by the Grand Jury; the defendant is arrested and released without being charged with an offense; or the court enters a nolle prosequi in the defendant's case, the defendant is entitled, upon petition by the defendant to the court having jurisdiction over the action and pursuant to T.C.A. § 40-32-101, to the removal and destruction of all public records relating to the case without cost to the defendant.

GENERAL SESSIONS COURT OF BENTON COUNTY TENNESSEE

Received by the

State of Tennessee vs.

Richard B Merrell

AUG 21 2025

State Control #

003000025717

County Case # 202504029

FILED

Benton County
Sheriff's Office

2025-CR-491(2)

ARREST WARRANT

AUG 22 2025

TO ANY LAWFUL OFFICER OF THE STATE

SAM RAINWATERS
BENTON CO. CIRCUIT CLERK

☒ Based on the affidavit of complaint filed in this case, there is probable cause to believe that the offense(s) of violation(s) of
TCA 39-17-1003- Offense of sexual exploitation of a minor

have been committed by the Defendant

☐ Defendant has failed to appear in court or to report to jail when required to do so

☐

You are therefore commanded in the name of the State of Tennessee to immediately ARREST the defendant named above and bring the defendant to this court to answer the charges.

Bail is set at \$250,000- GPS monitor- no release w/o source hearing

Date:

8-20-25

no internet- no leaving 24th judicial district w/o court approval

Judge/Clerk/Judicial Commissioner

INFORMATION ABOUT THE DEFENDANT

Name: Richard B Merrell

Address:

DOB: 07/07/1970

Sex: Male

Race: White

Ht: 5'8"

Wt: 178

Hair: Brown

Eyes: Hazel

Phone#

Place of Employment: Big Sandy School

JUDGE'S COMMENTS

INFORMATION ABOUT THE DEFENDANT

☒ Warrant served by arresting defendant today or on

08/20/25

☐ Warrant not served because defendant can not be found or

Officer's Signature:

Officer's Agency (Printed): BCSO

Officer's Name (Printed):

SETT INV. Kinasey Long

Date:

08/20/25

GENERAL SESSIONS COURT OF BENTON COUNTY TENNESSEE

State of Tennessee vs. Richard B Merrell

State Control # 0030000 25717

County Case # 202504029

Attorney for Def.

Witnesses See attached Witness List

Court Date
State, Deft. to General Sessions at 0900hrs am/pm
State, Deft. to at am/pm
State, Deft. to at am/pm
State, Deft. to at am/pm
State, Deft. to at am/pm

AFFIDAVIT OF COMPLAINT

I, the affiant named below, after being sworn, state under oath that on or about July 29, 2025 in Benton County, Tennessee Richard B Merrell committed the offense(s) of violation(s) of TCA 39-17-1003- Offense of sexual exploitation of a minor

I further state under oath that the essential facts constituting the offense(s), the sources of my information and the reasons why this information is believable and reliable are as follows:

On July 29, 2025 while in Benton County, TN, Richard B Merrell did commit the offense of Sexual exploitation of a minor when he knowingly possessed multiple images, contained in his blue in color TCL smart phone, with pre-pubescent and pubescent children engaged in sexual activity and/or lascivious sexual behavior.

Affiant's Signature

Name (Printed): Sgt Inv Lindsey Lough #104

Address (Printed): 116 Rosemary Ave.

Camden, Tennessee 38320

Phone Number: 731-584-4632

Sworn to and subscribed before me on

8-20, 2025

Judge/Clerk/Judicial Commissioner

PROBABLE CAUSE DETERMINATION

Based on the affidavit of complaint, I find there is probable cause to believe that on the date set forth above in Benton County, Tennessee the defendant committed the offense(s) of violation(s) of TCA 39-17-1003- Offense of sexual exploitation of a minor

() defendant given citation or arrested without warrant ☒ arrest warrant shall issue () criminal summons shall issue

Date

8-20-2025

Judge/Clerk/Judicial Commissioner

NOTIFICATION OF POSSIBLE EXEMPTION OF CRIMINAL RECORDS

If the defendant's charge is dismissed; a no true bill is returned by the Grand Jury; the defendant is arrested and released without being charged with an offense; or the court enters a nolle prosequi in the defendant's case, the defendant is entitled, upon petition by the defendant to the court having jurisdiction over the action and pursuant to T.C.A § 40-32-101, to the removal and destruction of all public records relating to the case without cost to the defendant.

GENERAL SESSIONS COURT OF BENTON COUNTY TENNESSEE

Received by the

State of Tennessee vs. Richard B Merrell

State Control # 003000025717

County Case # 202504029

AUG 21 2025

FILED

Benton County
Sheriff's Office

2025-CR-491(3)

ARREST WARRANT

AUG 22 2025

TO ANY LAWFUL OFFICER OF THE STATE

SAM RAINWATERS
BENTON CO. CIRCUIT CLERK

☒ Based on the affidavit of complaint filed in this case, there is probable cause to believe that the offense(s) of violation(s) of
TCA 39-17-1003- Offense of sexual exploitation of a minor

_____ have been committed by the Defendant

() Defendant has failed to appear in court or to report to jail when required to do so

() _____

You are therefore commanded in the name of the State of Tennessee to immediately ARREST the defendant named above and bring the defendant to this court to answer the charges.

Bail is set at \$ 250,000- GPS monitor- no release w/o source hearing
no internet- no leaving 24th judicial district w/o court approval

Date: 8-20-2025

[Signature]
Judge/Clerk/Judicial Commissioner

INFORMATION ABOUT THE DEFENDANT

Name: Richard B Merrell

Address: 443 Main Chapel Rd

DOB: 07/07/1970 Sex: Male Race: White Ht: 5'8" Wt: 178 Hair: Brown Eyes: Hazel

Phone# [Redacted]

Place of Employment: Big Sandy School

JUDGE'S COMMENTS

INFORMATION ABOUT THE DEFENDANT

☒ Warrant served by arresting defendant today or on 08/20/25

() Warrant not served because defendant can not be found or _____

Officer's Signature: [Signature]

Officer's Agency (Printed): BCSO

Officer's Name (Printed): STT Inv. Lindsey Lough

Date: 08/20/25

GENERAL SESSIONS COURT OF BENTON COUNTY TENNESSEE

State of Tennessee vs. Richard B Merrell

State Control # 003000025717

County Case # 202504029

Attorney for Def. _____

Witnesses See attached Witness List

Court Date _____

State, Deft. to General Sessions at 0900hrs am/pm

State, Deft. to _____ at _____ am/pm

State, Deft. to _____ at _____ am/pm

State, Deft. to _____ at _____ am/pm

State, Deft. to _____ at _____ am/pm

AFFIDAVIT OF COMPLAINT

I, the affiant named below, after being sworn, state under oath that on or about July 29, 2025 in Benton County, Tennessee Richard B Merrell committed the offense(s) of violation(s) of TCA 39-17-1003- Offense of sexual exploitation of a minor

I further state under oath that the essential facts constituting the offense(s), the sources of my information and the reasons why this information is believable and reliable are as follows:

On July 29, 2025 while in Benton County, TN, Richard B Merrell did commit the offense of Sexual exploitation of a minor when he knowingly possessed multiple images, contained in his blue in color TCL smart phone, with pre-pubescent and pubescent children engaged in sexual activity and/or lascivious sexual behavior.

Affiant's Signature: _____

Name (Printed): Sgt Inv Lindsey Lough #104

Address (Printed): 116 Rosemary Ave.

Camden, Tennessee 38320

Phone Number: 731-584-4632

Sworn to and subscribed before me on

8-20, 2025

[Signature]
Judge/Clerk/Judicial Commissioner

PROBABLE CAUSE DETERMINATION

Based on the affidavit of complaint, I find there is probable cause to believe that on the date set forth above in Benton County, Tennessee the defendant committed the offense(s) of violation(s) of TCA 39-17-1003- Offense of sexual exploitation of a minor

() defendant given citation or arrested without warrant ☒ arrest warrant shall issue () criminal summons shall issue

Date

8-20-2025

[Signature]
Judge/Clerk/Judicial Commissioner

NOTIFICATION OF POSSIBLE EXPUNCTION OF CRIMINAL RECORDS

If the defendant's charge is dismissed; a no true bill is returned by the Grand Jury; the defendant is arrested and released without being charged with an offense; or the court enters a nolle prosequi in the defendant's case, the defendant is entitled, upon petition by the defendant to the court having jurisdiction over the action and pursuant to T.C.A. § 40-32-101, to the removal and destruction of all public records relating to the case without cost to the defendant.

GENERAL SESSIONS COURT OF BENTON COUNTY TENNESSEE

Received by the

State of Tennessee vs.

Richard B Merrell

AUG 21 2025

State Control #

003000025717

County Case # 202504029

Benton County
Sheriff's Office

2025-CR-491(4) ARREST WARRANT
TO ANY LAWFUL OFFICER OF THE STATE

FILED

AUG 22 2025

SAM RAINWATERS
BENTON CO. CIRCUIT CLERK

☒ Based on the affidavit of complaint filed in this case, there is probable cause to believe that the offense(s) of violation(s) of
TCA 39-17-1003(d)- Offense of sexual exploitation of a minor

have been committed by the Defendant

() Defendant has failed to appear in court or to report to jail when required to do so

()

You are therefore commanded in the name of the State of Tennessee to immediately ARREST the defendant named above and bring the defendant to this court to answer the charges.

Bail is set at \$ 250,000- GPS monitor- no release w/o source hearing

Date:

8-20-2025

no internet- no leaving 24th judicial district w/o court approval

Judge/Clerk/Judicial Commissioner

INFORMATION ABOUT THE DEFENDANT

Name: Richard B Merrell

Address: 10000 Chapel Hill

DOB: 07/07/1970

Sex: Male

Race: White

Ht: 5'8"

Wt: 178

Hair: Brown

Eyes: Hazel

Phone# 731-441-6691

Place of Employment: Big Sandy School

JUDGE'S COMMENTS

INFORMATION ABOUT THE DEFENDANT

☒

Warrant served by arresting defendant today or on

08/20/25

()

Warrant not served because defendant can not be found or

Officer's Signature:

Officer's Agency (Printed): BCSO

Officer's Name (Printed):

SETT INV. Lindsey Wright

Date:

08/20/25

GENERAL SESSIONS COURT OF BENTON COUNTY TENNESSEE

State of Tennessee vs. Richard B Merrell

State Control # 003 0000 25717

County Case # 202504029

Attorney for Def. _____

Witnesses See attached Witness List

Court Date _____

State, Deft. to General Sessions at 0900hrs am/pm

State, Deft. to _____ at _____ am/pm

State, Deft. to _____ at _____ am/pm

State, Deft. to _____ at _____ am/pm

State, Deft. to _____ at _____ am/pm

AFFIDAVIT OF COMPLAINT

I, the affiant named below, after being sworn, state under oath that on or about July 29, 2025 in Benton County, Tennessee Richard B Merrell committed the offense(s) of violation(s) of TCA 39-17-1003(d)- Offense of sexual exploitation of a minor

I further state under oath that the essential facts constituting the offense(s), the sources of my information and the reasons why this information is believable and reliable are as follows:

On July 29, 2025 while in Benton County, TN, Richard B Merrell did commit the offense of Sexual exploitation of a minor when he knowingly possessed 51 images, contained in his blue in color TCL smart phone, with pre-pubescent and pubescent children engaged in sexual activity and/or lascivious sexual behavior.

Affiant's Signature: _____

Name (Printed) Set Inv Lindsey Lough #104

Address (Printed): 116 Rosemary Ave.

Camden, Tennessee 38320

Phone Number: 731-584-4632

Sworn to and subscribed before me on

8-20, 2025

[Signature]
Judge/Clerk/Judicial Commissioner

PROBABLE CAUSE DETERMINATION

Based on the affidavit of complaint, I find there is probable cause to believe that on the date set forth above in Benton County, Tennessee the defendant committed the offense(s) of violation(s) of TCA 39-17-1003(d)- Offense of sexual exploitation of a minor

() defendant given citation or arrested without warrant (X) arrest warrant shall issue () criminal summons shall issue

Date 8-20-2025

[Signature]
Judge/Clerk/Judicial Commissioner

NOTIFICATION OF POSSIBLE EXPUNCTION OF CRIMINAL RECORDS

If the defendant's charge is dismissed; a no true bill is returned by the Grand Jury; the defendant is arrested and released without being charged with an offense; or the court enters a nolle prosequi in the defendant's case, the defendant is entitled, upon petition by the defendant to the court having jurisdiction over the action and pursuant to T.C.A. § 40-32-101, to the removal and destruction of all public records relating to the case without cost to the defendant.

GENERAL SESSIONS COURT OF BENTON COUNTY TENNESSEE

Received by the

State of Tennessee vs. Richard B Merrell

AUG 21 2025

State Control # 003000025717

County Case # 202504029

FILED

Benton County
Sherriff's Office

2025-CR-491(5) ARREST WARRANT
TO ANY LAWFUL OFFICER OF THE STATE

AUG 22 2025

SAM RAINWATERS
BENTON CO. CIRCUIT CLERK

☒ Based on the affidavit of complaint filed in this case, there is probable cause to believe that the offense(s) of violation(s) of
TCA 39-17-1003- Offense of sexual exploitation of a minor

_____ have been committed by the Defendant

☐ Defendant has failed to appear in court or to report to jail when required to do so

☐ _____

You are therefore commanded in the name of the State of Tennessee to immediately ARREST the defendant named above and bring the defendant to this court to answer the charges.

Bail is set at \$ 250,000- GPS monitor- no release w/o source hearing

Date: 8-20-2025

no internet- no leaving 24th judicial district w/o court approval

[Signature]
Judge/Clerk/Judicial Commissioner

INFORMATION ABOUT THE DEFENDANT

Name: Richard B Merrell

Address: [Redacted]

DOB: 07/07/1970 Sex: Male Race: White Ht: 5'8" Wt: 178 Hair: Brown Eyes: Hazel

Phone# [Redacted]

Place of Employment: Big Sandy School

JUDGE'S COMMENTS

INFORMATION ABOUT THE DEFENDANT

☒ Warrant served by arresting defendant today or on 08/20/25

☐ Warrant not served because defendant can not be found or _____

Officer's Signature: [Signature]

Officer's Agency (Printed): BCSO

Officer's Name (Printed): SETT INV. Lindsey Lough

Date: 08/20/25

GENERAL SESSIONS COURT OF BENTON COUNTY TENNESSEE

State of Tennessee vs. Richard B Merrell(10-45-265)

State Control # 0030000 25717

County Case # 202504029

Attorney for Def.

Witnesses See attached Witness List

Court Date

State, Def. to General Sessions at 0900hrs am/pm

State, Def. to at am/pm

State, Def. to at am/pm

State, Def. to at am/pm

State, Def. to at am/pm

AFFIDAVIT OF COMPLAINT

I, the affiant named below, after being sworn, state under oath that on or about July 29, 2025 in Benton County, Tennessee Richard B Merrell committed the offense(s) of violation(s) of TCA 39-17-1003- Offense of sexual exploitation of a minor

I further state under oath that the essential facts constituting the offense(s), the sources of my information and the reasons why this information is believable and reliable are as follows:

On July 29, 2025 while in Benton County, TN, Richard B Merrell did commit the offense of Sexual exploitation of a minor when he knowingly possessed multiple images, contained in his blue in color TCL smart phone, with pre-pubescent and pubescent children engaged in sexual activity and/or lascivious sexual behavior.

Affiant's Signature

Name (Printed): Sgt Inv Lindsey Lough #104

Address (Printed): 116 Rosemary Ave.

Camden, Tennessee 38320

Phone Number: 731-584-4632

Sworn to and subscribed before me on

8-20, 2025

Judge/Clerk/Judicial Commissioner

PROBABLE CAUSE DETERMINATION

Based on the affidavit of complaint, I find there is probable cause to believe that on the date set forth above in Benton County, Tennessee the defendant committed the offense(s) of violation(s) of TCA 39-17-1003- Offense of sexual exploitation of a minor

() defendant given citation or arrested without warrant ☒ arrest warrant shall issue () criminal summons shall issue

Date

8-20-2025

Judge/Clerk/Judicial Commissioner

NOTIFICATION OF POSSIBLE EXPIRATION OF CRIMINAL RECORDS

If the defendant's charge is dismissed; a no true bill is returned by the Grand Jury; the defendant is arrested and released without being charged with an offense; or the court enters a nolle prosequi in the defendant's case, the defendant is entitled, upon petition by the defendant to the court having jurisdiction over the action and pursuant to T.C.A. § 40-32-101, to the removal and destruction of all public records relating to the case without cost to the defendant.