

COUNTY COURT  
COUNTY OF DOLORES  
STATE OF COLORADO

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DATE FILED: September 17, 2021  
ss. AFFIDAVIT FOR ISSUANCE  
OF AN ARREST WARRANT

I, Don Wilson, your Affiant herein, being first duly sworn upon oath, have probable cause to believe that:

Name: Morosko, Ronald J, Date of Birth: 04-10-1954, Social Security Number: Unknown, Weight: 215lbs., Height: 6'00", Sex: M, Race: W, Hair: Gray, Eyes: Brown has committed the crime(s) of:

**Criminally Negligent Homicide in violation of C.R.S. 18-3-105 a class 5 Felony,**

As grounds therefore, your Affiant states as follows:

- 1) Your Affiant is and at all times herein pertinent was a Colorado Peace Officer employed by the Dolores County Sheriff's Office, County of Dolores, State of Colorado for 13 years.
- 2) Your Affiant was notified by Dolores County Sheriff's Office Dispatch on 09-17-2021 at approximately 1048 hrs, there had been a report of a hunter near Kilpacker Trailhead on Forest Service Road 535, Dolores County, with coordinates of 37.81369 N -108.04147 W, killed by a hunter. Your Affiant was told the hunter who shot the individual was identified as Ronald J. Morosko from Pennsylvania. Your Affiant was told Ronald Morosko was hunting with Slade M. Pepke.
- 3) Your Affiant was told Ronald Morosko was hunting with a black powder 50 caliber rifle. Your Affiant was told Slade Pepke was calling for elk to come within range for Ronald Morosko to shoot.
- 4) Lieutenant Braiden Banks of the Dolores County Sheriff's Office and Sergeant Anderson from Montezuma County Sheriff's Office spoke with Ronald Morosko about the incident. Lieutenant Banks record the interaction on his body cam. Ronald Morosko told Lieutenant Banks he was hunting for elk with a black powder gun. Ronald Morosko stated the calling was being done by Slade. Ronald Morosko said he heard a bugle and scream from a bull elk and thought the elk was coming in his direction. Ronald Morosko said when he saw a white in the pines, he took a shot at what he thought was an elk. Ronald Morosko stated he heard a gurgling sound. Ronald Morosko said he reloaded thinking he had shot an elk. Ronald Morosko stated he went and checked where the shot was made, Ronald found he had shot and killed another archery hunter. Ronald Morosko said the archery hunter did not have orange on and was wearing a dark brown camo.
- 5) Slade Pepke was interviewed by Lieutenant Banks and there is body cam footage of the interview. Slade Pepke stated he was hunting with Ronald Morosko on the

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Kilpacker Creek area. Slade Pepke said he was doing the calling of the elk. Your Affiant knows this is done by using an artificial device to mimic the sound a bull would make when challenging other bulls or trying to find cow elk. Slade Pepke said he heard several bulls answering him and making a lot of noise. Slade Pepke told Ronald Morosko to set in a tree area and wait for the bull to come toward him. Slade Peke stated he continued to call the bull in closer and could hear the bull scream and make loud scraping noises while moving toward Ronald Morosko. Slade Pepke stated the elk were going crazy. Slade Pepke said he heard one shot from the area where Ronald Morosko was setting. Slade Pepke stated he said to himself, alright he got one. Slade Pepke stated when he walked toward Ronald Morosko, he saw Ronald walking toward him. Slade Pepke said Ronald told him, I think there was somebody there. This is a summary of Slade Pepke interview, for the full interview see body cam footage. Slade Pepke stated this all occurred at approximately 830 this morning. Slade Pepke stated there was no medical attention given to the person that was shot. Slade said he did not go and check on the person shot. Slade Pepke stated he told Ronald Morosko they needed to get down the mountain and get help and let someone know what had happened.

- 6) Your Affiant knowing the basic hunting knowledge to identify what your target is and beyond before shooting the gun. Ronald Morosko did fall below the standard of care by failing to properly identify his target, resulting in the shooting of a person. During this season the black powder and archers are hunting at the same time. Black powder hunters are required to wear blaze orange and the archer is not required to wear blaze orange.
- 7) Authorities went to the area where Morosko stated the body would be found. The authorities did find a deceased male where they were told the body would be found. It was apparent that the male had suffered a gunshot wound. The male remains a John Doe at this time.

Based on the facts and circumstances listed above, Your Affiant believes probable cause exists that evidence of the crime of Criminal Negligent Homicide in violation of C.R.S. 18-3-105 a class 5 Felony, by negligently discharging his firearm causing the death of another person.

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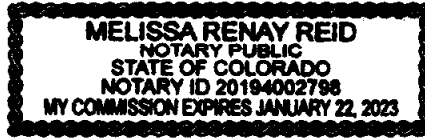
FURTHER YOUR AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.

*[Signature]*  
AFFIANT

Subscribed to and sworn before me this 17th day of September, 2021.

*Melissa Renay Reid*  
Notary Public  
January 22, 2023

*[Signature]*  
JUDGE



*#3913, DDA*