WARRANT/OTTIC AFFIDAVIT

OKALOOSA CO SHERIFF'S OFFICE

REPORT NO: OCSO17ARR011998

Jail Booking No	Offense No OCSO17OFF015684	Other No OCSO17CAD210773	OBTS		
[ SUSPECT ]					
Last	<u>First</u>	<u>Middle</u>	Title Race Sex D		
HAGWELL Eyes Hair MNI Numb BRO BRO OCSO05M	— <i>V////////////////////////////////////</i>	M D.No.	W M 8/ <u>St Type</u> FL E	/1/1988 29 5'10" 160 OCA/Agency ID	
Birth Location: City: County: State: CALIFORNIA Nation: UNITED STATES Citizenship: UNITED STATES Address 4700 BOBOLINK WY CRESTVIEW FL 32539 Occupations (Current/Last Known is Listed First) * none found in MNI * Aliases (Last, First Middle Title DOB) * none found in MNI * Street Names * none found in MNI *					
[INCIDENT INFORMA	пон ]				
Occurred Date Range: 1	1/9/2017 18:00 to 11/10/20	017 12:18 Lat/Long	g <b>30.74486/-86.3</b>	9591	
No. Di Stro		Lot City	ST Zip	(GEO)	
4700 BO	BOLINK WY	CRESTVIEW	FL 32539	1 - 2 - PG23 - W-18	
[CHARGES]					
782.04.1al					
HOMICIDE	er didementeration				
MURDER FIRST DEGRI Counts Level	ELPREMEDITATED  Degree GOC	UCR NO	IC AON	Bond Amount	
l Felony			912	<u>Dona minoam</u>	

[STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE / NARRATIVE]

On November 10, 2017, at approximately 1218 hours, the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) Communications Center received a phone call from co-defendant, Destinee Jade Merrell. Destinee Merrell told dispatch her three (3) year old daughter, Adelynn Merrell, had been missing for approximately fifteen (15) minutes. Destinee Merrell stated Adelynn is not wearing any shoes or a jacket and she believes she may have been kidnapped.

On November 10, 2017, at approximately 1236 hours, OCSO deputies began arriving at the scene located at 4700 Bobolink Way, Crestview, Florida. Upon arrival contact was made with Destinee Merrell and Defendant, Cory Michael Hagwell. Destinee and Cory told deputies that approximately thirty (30) minutes ago, they noticed that their daughter was missing. Destinee and Cory stated they talked to told them that he last saw Adelynn go into the backyard with their family dog. Destinee and Cory described Adelynn as a white female with short, curly blonde hair and blue eyes. Destinee and Cory further stated they last saw Adelynn wearing a pink "Harley Davidson" long sleeve shirt (with black sleeves) and blue jean pants. Adelynn was not wearing any shoes. According to Destinee and Cory, they located the family dog, in the back yard, but did not find Adelynn.

Destinee and Cory gave deputies verbal consent to search their property for Adelynn. A search of all areas that could hold a small child was conducted but met with negative results. The backyard was fenced in, by a wooden privacy fence, with a gate. The latch on the gate was broken however, there was a large dirt patch in front of it, and a cement cinderblock on the other side preventing the gate from opening very far. The dirt patch did not have any signs that someone had walked through the gate. The fence also has a small hole on the east side of the property. The hole had a muffler in front of it that blocked the hole, and did not appear to have been moved recently.

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Post-Miranda, the defendant, Cory Michael Hagwell, indicated on November 10, 2017 he woke up to find Destinee Merrell in the living room along with At the time, Adelynn Merrell was outside, in the backyard, playing with the family dog. Leaving the residence, Cory said he received a telephone call from Destinee saying Adelynn was "missing" from the house. Cory said he returned home and started to canvass the area in hopes of finding her.

As the interview with him continued, Cory would change his version of events to say he had left the house during the morning hours of November 10, 2017 when he received a telephone call from Destinee. This call was to report Adelynn was at the home and found to not be breathing. Returning there, Cory found Adelynn in the foyer area, near the guest bathroom, not breathing. Cory said he attempted to administer life saving measures, to-wit: CPR but was unsuccessful. While doing this, Cory said there was blood in her mouth. Given a towel by Destinee, Cory said he covered Destince's body with the towel, took her to his car, which was parked in the garage of their home, placed her in the back seat, and then proceeded to drive her to a wooded area near the home. Cory said he remained in this wooded area for approximately three (3) minutes before departing.

Regarding the death of Adelynn, Cory said when it was first realized she was not alive, they did not call 911 to report it but instead called to report the fact Adelynn was missing. This was done with Cory's knowledge and knew this to be false and done with the intent to mislead law enforcement.

When relayed items discovered at the scene as well as statements provided to law enforcement by Destinee, he said Destinee was implementing corporal punishment, to-wit: spanking, to Adelynn in the guest bathroom when Adelynn's chin struck the tub and this was what caused her fatal injuries.

On November 10, 2017, Adelynn Nichole Merrell's body was located on Palmetto Avenue, Crestview, Florida. Adelynn was located in the woods, laying on her back, and she was wearing the same clothing described previously.

Destinee Merrell stated on November 10, 2017, at approximately 0630 hours, she heard Adelynn call out for her. Cory got up, walked from their bedroom and into the kid's bedroom and began "velling" at Adelynn. When I asked Destinee why she didn't get up she stated because Cory got up first. Destinee stated she then heard Adelynn crying and Cory walking into the guest/hall bathroom. Once in the bathroom, Destinee heard a loud "thump" and then two doors shut. Destinee demonstrated the "thump" she heard by hitting her hand on the counter. After hearing the second door shut, Cory walked back into the bedroom and she no longer heard Adelynn crying. Destinee stated she figured Adelynn was quiet because she listened to Cory.

On November 10, 2017, a forensic interview was conducted on
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ras in the bath tub. Cory put Adelynn in the bedroom closet and he never saw or heard Adelynn again.

An autopsy was conducted on Adelynn Nichole Merrell's body at which time Dr Andrea Minyard advised she observed a skull fracture on the back of Adelynn's skull. According to Dr Minyard, the skull fracture she observed is the cause of death and was caused by a blow to the head. Dr Minyard also observed signs of previous abuse which is consistent with Destinee Merrell's statement of repeated abuse done by Cory Hagwell.

The victim's body displayed obvious signs of blunt force trauma to the back of the skull, not consistent with a natural death.

I am a sworn law enforcement officer in Okaloosa County, Florida and am currently an Investigator assigned to the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigations Section. Both the home where the offense occurred and

### WARRANT/OTTIC AFFIDAVIT

### OKALOOSA CO SHERIFF'S OFFICE

REPORT NO: OCSO17ARR011998

the location where the body was discovered are in Okaloosa County.

Based on the above information, I have reason to believe and do believe the defendant, Cory Michael Hagwell committed the offense of 1st Degree Murder in violation of F.S.S. 782.04.

Signature (Arresting Officer)	Name		ID/SSN	
Signature (imostate career)	Ti datto		127661	
Subscribed and sworn to (or affirmed) before me	this 12 day of November	A.D., 2017 by		
who is personally known to me or has produced		as identifics	ation.	
	Notary Public	LEO	CO	
Signature	,,			
Commission No:	My Commission Expi	res		
Supervisor Signature	Date Supervisor Na	ume (Please Print)	Rank	
[ PHYSICAL EVIDENCE ] [NO PHYSICAL :	EVIDENCE LISTED]			
[ARREST INFORMATION]	,			
Arrested Residency Within jurisdiction	Injured	Extent of Injury	Resist	
<del>-</del>	d Prior Arrest Jurisdiction	n Alcohol	Drugs	
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Arresting Officer	Unit	(GEO)	Officer Type	
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Bond Set by LEO at Time of Arrest & Booking:	00.0\$			
() None () ROR () Cash () Pro				
Bond Set by Judge () Nor	h	( ) ROR/Sign ( ) PTR		

OCSO17ARR011998

Printed On: 11/12/2017 9:40:26 AM Page 3 of 4

[HENDERK 11/11/2017 21:49]

WARRANT/OTT REPORT NO: 0	TIC AFFIDAVIT DCSO17ARR011998		OKALOOSA	CO SHERIFF'S OFFICE
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Court Case Numb	er			
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[ ADDITIONAL F	·			
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○ No Bill / Petiti	on 🔘 Issue Wa	rrant () Prosecution App	proved Signature of Assistant State Atto	mev Date

WARRANT/OTTIC AFFIDAVIT

OKALOOSA CO SHERIFF'S OFFICE

REPORT NO: OCSO17ARR011999

Jail Booking No	Offense No OCSO17OFF015684	Other No OCSO13	CAD210773	BTS	
[SUSPECT]					
<u>Last</u> MERRELL	<u>First</u> <b>DESTINE</b> E	<u>Middle</u> <b>J</b>	<u>Tit1</u>	e <u>Race Sex D0</u> <b>W F</b> 3/	<u>DB Age Hgt Wgt</u> 19/1994 23 5'03"115
Eyes Hair MNI Numb BLU RED OCSO17M	— <i>V///////</i>	I.D.No.		St Type KS	OCA/Agency ID
Birth Location: City: Cou Address 4700 BOBOLINK WY Occupations (Current/La: * none found in MNI * Aliases (Last, First Middl * none found in MNI * Street Names * none found in MNI *	CRESTVIEW FL 3253 st Known is Listed Firs	19			
[ INCIDENT INFORMAT	TON ]				
Occurred Date Range: 1	1/9/2017 18:00 to 1	1/10/2017 12:18	Lat/Long 30	.74486 / -86.39	9591
No. Di Stre 4700 BO	et BOLINK WY	Apt/Lot City CRES	S' IVIEW FI	-1	(GEO) 1 - 2 - PG23 - W-18
[CHARGES] 777.03. PUBLIC ORDER CRIME ACCESSORY AFTER TH Counts Level 1 Felony		ONY <u>GOC</u> Principal	<u>UCR NCIC</u> <b>9000</b>	<u>AON</u> <b>7399</b>	Bond Amount

[STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE / NARRATIVE]

On November 10, 2017, at approximately 1218 hours, the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office (OCSO) Communications Center received a phone call from the Defendant, Destinee Jade Merrell. The Destinee Merrell told dispatch her three (3) year old daughter, Adelynn Merrell, had been missing for approximately fifteen (15) minutes. Destince Merrell stated Adelynn is not wearing any shoes or a jacket and she believes she may have been kidnapped.

On November 10, 2017, at approximately 1236 hours, OCSO deputies began arriving at the scene located at 4700 Bobolink Way, Crestview, Florida. Upon arrival contact was made with Destinee Merrell and co-defendant/live-in boyfriend, Cory Hagwell. Destinee and Cory told deputies that approximately thirty (30) minutes ago, they noticed that their daughter was missing. Destinee and Cory stated they talked to told them that he last saw Adelynn go into the backyard with their family dog. Destinee and Cory described Adelynn as a white female with short, curly blonde hair and blue eyes. Destinee and Cory further stated they last saw Adelynn wearing a pink "Harley Davidson" long sleeve shirt (with black sleeves) and blue jean pants. Adelynn was not wearing any shoes. According to Destinee and Cory, they located the family dog, in the back yard, but did not find Adelynn.

Destinee and Cory gave deputies verbal consent to search their property for Adelynn. A search of all areas that could hold a small child was conducted but met with negative results. The backyard was fenced in, by a wooden privacy fence, with a gate. The latch on the gate was broken however, there was a large dirt patch in front of it, and a cement

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OKALOOSA CO SHERIFF'S OFFICE

cinderblock on the other side preventing the gate from opening very far. The dirt patch did not have any signs that someone had walked through the gate. The fence also has a small hole on the east side of the property. The hole had a muffler in front of it that blocked the hole, and did not appear to have been moved recently.

When I spoke to Destinee Merrell, Destinee stated she woke up on November 10, 2017, at approximately 0730 hours, and all of the kids were still sleeping. Destinee decided to take a shower and around 0800 hours, she heard the children start to wake up. The children got up, walked to the living room and began playing with blocks while Destinee continued to get ready, due to having an unscheduled job interview at Winn Dixie. Destinee went onto say Adelynn and their family dog went into the backyard of the residence and when she went to check on her, Adelynn was gone. According to Destinee, she never heard their dog bark and Adelynn has never wondered off from this residence prior to this incident.

Destinee provided a physical description of Adelynn to include the clothing she was last seen wearing.

During my conversation with Destinee Merrell, Destinee appeared very calm and was not showing any emotion. Due to her behavior and the inability to provide specific details, such as times, and why she waited to contact law enforcement, I began to explain to Destinee the severity of this incident and that I felt she was not telling everything. A short time later, Destinee stated she doesn't want to get in trouble and went onto say Cory took her. When I asked Destinee what she meant by that, Destinee said Adelynn is dead and Cory took her to the woods. Destinee then provided the following statement:

On November 10, 2017, at approximately 0630 hours, she heard Adelynn call out for her. Cory got up, walked from their bedroom and into the kid's bedroom and began "yelling" at Adelynn. When I asked Destinee why she didn't get up she stated because Cory got up first. Destinee stated she then heard Adelynn crying and Cory walking into the guest/hall bathroom. Once in the bathroom, Destinee heard a loud "thump" and then two doors shut. Destinee demonstrated the "thump" she heard by hitting her hand on the counter. After hearing the second door shut, Cory walked back into the bedroom and she no longer heard Adelynn crying. Destinee stated she figured Adelynn was quiet because she listened to Cory. A short time later, Destinee got up, took a shower and began getting ready for her interview. Destinee never checked on Adelynn until Cory left the residence at approximately 1130 hours when he left to get coffee.

Once Cory left, Destinee went to the bathroom and knocked on the door but did not get an answer. Destinee stated she then attempted to open the door but something was blocking it. Destinee was able to open the door just enough to get in and climb over the bathroom sink. Destinee then moved the wooden chair what was blocking the closet door in the bathroom and opened the door. It was then when observed Adelynn laying on the floor. Destinee stated Adelynn was laying on her back and her eyes were looking at her. She observed bruising on her forehead and cheek. According to Destince, she knew immediately Adelynn was dead so she left the bathroom without performing any life saving measures. Destinee called Cory, via telephone, and told him he needed to return home because Adelynn is not breathing and she does not know how to perform CPR. According to Destinee, Cory returned home approximately five (5) minutes later and immediately walked into the bathroom. Once in the bathroom, Cory began CPR on Adelynn but it was too late. Destinee stated she then got her other two children and took them into the bedroom to watch a movie. Destinee then heard the garage door open so she looked outside and saw Cory carrying Adelynn to the garage. Destinee went back into the bedroom where her children were watching a movie and approximately five (5) minutes later, Cory returned home. Destinee stated she asked Cory where he went with Adelynn and Cory told her he took her to "Rainbow Road". Destinee stated when Cory told her he went to Rainbow road he pointed to the left if you were looking out the front door of the residence. According to Destinee, she understood this to be the second street on the left from her residence. Destinee stated Adelynn was in the woods located off of Rainbow Road. Cory decided to leave, with the other two children, and she called 911. Cory returned home, approximately five (5) minutes later and that is when they came up with the missing/abduction story to tell law enforcement.

Destinee went onto say she believes Cory took her other two children away from the residence so he could tell //////// what to tell law enforcement regarding Adelynn's disappearance.

During my conversations with Destinee Merrell, her statements regarding this incident kept changing and the last verbal statement she provided to me is that Adelynn was placed in the bedroom closet, by Cory Hagwell, on November 9, 2017 between 1800 hours and 1900 hours. Adelynn got in trouble because she got out of her car seat to early and without permission so Cory took her into the bedroom, "spanked" her, and put her in the closet. Adelynn stayed in the closet until November 10, 2017. On November 10, 2017, at an unknown time, Cory took Adelynn out of the bedroom closet

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OCSO17ARR011999 REPORT NO:

and carried her into the hall bathroom. It was there where she heard the loud "thump" and the two doors "slam" shut. Destinee stated everything else she previously told me was the same as far as when she checked on Adelynn and how her body was disposed of.

On November 11, 2017, an interview was conducted with Destinee Merrell at the Okaloosa County Jail. Post-Miranda, Destinee said there has been a tendency for violence by Cory towards Adelynn; the violence intensifying over the past month. She said this began on or around the time in which Cory lost his job. While Destinee indicates she never witnessed the violence, she describes hearing "thuds" and other loud noises, followed by Adelynn crying and/or Cory yelling. These would occur in either the closet of the front bedroom, the closet in the guest bathroom, or the tub. She put the number of instances within the past month at approximately 15 to 16 times. Destinee said Cory would also withhold food from Adelynn and what he would describe as punishment and would also place her overnight and/or extended period of times in either the front bedroom closet or the guest bathroom closet. This caging of Adelyan was done without her being able to escape as the door would be secured.

Destinee said on or around November 5, 2017, the family had been out of town to see Cory's biological daughter when she had gotten into trouble. After being dealt with by Cory, Destinee said Adelynn did not show any appetite for pizza, which was strange. At no point and time did Adelynn complain of headaches, sensitivity to light, and/or nausea.

Concerning the events of November 10, 2017, Destinee stands by her statement concerning the series of events that started with Adelynn waking up during the early morning hours, crying from having spent the previous evening in the front closet. The only thing Destinee changed was the fact that when it came time to contact 911 to report this matter, she came up with some of the version of events to tell law enforcement and not just Cory. This included telling the 911 operator she had taken the dog out to track for Adelynn.

On November 10, 2017, Adelynn Nichole Merrell's body was located on Palmetto Avenue, Crestview, Florida, Adelynn was located in the woods, laying on her back, and she was wearing the same clothing described previously.

On November 10, 2017, a forensic interview was conducted on provided the following information.
stated he saw Cory "kick" Adelynn when she was in the room playing with cory and Adelynn were in the bathroom, he heard Cory tell Adelynn to "stop talking and crying" and Adelynn said "yes sir". During the interview said "said" knew she said stop Cory". said he did not see Adelynn on the morning this incident was reported but did see her in the bedroom closet, the night before, "not talking" and "laying with clothes". According to Adelynn had an "owie" and pointed to his own cheek and chin area. said he saw Cory hit Adelynn on her cheek. stated everyone was eating hamburgers but Adelynn didn't get to eat because she was in the bath tub. Cory put Adelynn in the bedroom closet and he never saw or heard Adelynn again.

An autopsy was conducted on Adelynn Nichole Merrell's body at which time Dr Andrea Minyard advised she observed a skull fracture on the back of Adelynn's skull. According to Dr Minyard, the skull fracture she observed is the cause of death and was caused by a blow to the head. Dr Minyard also observed signs of previous abuse which is consistent with Destinee Merrell's statement of repeated abuse done by Cory.

The victim's body displayed obvious signs of blunt force trauma to the back of the skull, not consistent with a natural death.

I am a sworn law enforcement officer in Okaloosa County, Florida and am currently an Investigator assigned to the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigations Section. Both the home where the offense occurred and the location where the body was discovered are in Okaloosa County.

Based on the above information, I have reason to believe and do believe the defendant, Destinee Jade Merrell, did commit the offense of Accessory After the Fact in violation of F.S.S 777.03.

## WARRANT/OTTIC AFFIDAVIT

## OKALOOSA CO SHERIFF'S OFFICE

REPORT NO: O	CSO17ARR011999					
Signature (Arresting Officer)		1	Name		ID/SSN	
Subscribed and sw	vorn to (or affirmed) before r	nethis 12 da	y of November	A.D., 2017 by		
who is personally	known to me or has produc	ed		as identifica	tion.	
			Notary Public	LEO	co	
Signature			1100000 y 1 00000			
Commission No:		Му	Commission Expire	es		
Supervisor Signat	ure	Date	Supervisor Nan	ne (Please Print)	Rank	
[PHYSICAL EVID	ENCE ] [NO PHYSICA	L EVIDENCE	LISTED]			
[ ARREST INFOR	MATION ]					
Arrested	Residency <b>Within jurisdiction</b>	Injured	E	xtent of Injury	Resist	
	•	ted Prior	Arrest Jurisdiction	Alcohol	Drugs	
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Arresting Officer		Uni	t	(GEO)	Officer Type	
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Bond Set by Judg				( ) ROR/Sign		
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Return Court: Instructions:	CIRCUIT COURT: FELOI 1904 LEWIS TURNER BI		Date: .32547	Time:		

WARRANT/OTTIC AFFIDAVIT REPORT NO: OCSO17ARR011999			OKALOOSA CO SHERIFF'S OFFICE		
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Court	Judge	Date			
Sent					
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Release Date Relea	se Time Release (	Officer	Printed Printed By No		
Released To					
Court DispositionTyp	<u>e</u>	Court Disposit	ion Description		
[ ADDITIONAL PERS	ONS]				
COURT DISPOSITION					
			(ri	ght index)	
○ No Bill / Petition	() Issue Warra	nt () Prosecution App	proved		
-	•	- 11	Signature of Assistant State Attorney	Date	