



**Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Investigative Report**



2026-1831
Officer Involved Critical Incident - 905 E. Warren St.,
Bucyrus, OH 44820, Crawford County

Investigative Activity: Search Warrant - Apple iPhone
Involves: Paul Desmarais (S)
Activity Date: 06/04/2026
Activity Location: BCI – Bowling Green
Authoring Agent: SA David Hammond

Narrative:

Search Warrant Obtained

Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) Special Agent (SA) David Hammond (SA Hammond) drafted a search warrant for an Apple iPhone, with a black case, BCI Crime Scene Evidence Item 2026-1831 – 015, with an additional Matrix evidence identifiers of 015 and P00020-1047967, relative to the officer-involved critical incident which occurred on May 10, 2026.

On Monday, May 18, 2026, SA Hammond met with Wood County Court of Common Pleas Judge Mathew L. Reger (Judge Reger). Judge Reger reviewed the search warrant and search warrant affidavit. On, May 18, 2026, at approximately 1330 hours, Judge Reger signed / authorized the search warrant.

Search Warrant Executed

On Wednesday, May 27, 2026, at approximately 1448 hours, the search warrant was executed by submitting the cell phone to the Cyber Unit at the BCI Office in London, Ohio.

During the search, the following items of potential evidence were seized:

- One (1) electronic file containing a partial file system extraction

Search Warrant Returned

On Thursday, June 4, 2026, SA Hammond met with the Common Please Clerk of Court. The search warrant, affidavit, inventory and return were reviewed, signed and file stamped.

A copy of the search warrant documents and search inventory are attached to this investigative report. The search warrant was uploaded to the Matrix along with a Cyber Crimes Unit Lab Submission sheet. A copy of the search warrant was placed into

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evidence item 2026-1831-015 as listed in the search warrant return. A copy of the partially extracted cell phone data was uploaded to Axon Justice, Reference Item Q.

References:

Reference Item Q Cyber Crimes Cell Phone Data – stored in Axon Justice

Attachments:

1. Search Warrant – Returned – Cell Phone
2. CCU Submission Sheet 5.20.26

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STATE OF OHIO)
)SS:
COUNTY OF WOOD)

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
CRIMINAL DIVISION

SEARCH WARRANT

TO: Special Agent David M. Hammond #120, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and/or any Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation Agent, and/or any other duly authorized Law Enforcement Officer or Computer Forensic Specialist as authorized.

WHEREAS there has been filed with me an affidavit, a copy of which is attached hereto, and incorporated herein as though fully rewritten, wherein the Affiant avers that he believes and has good cause to believe that within the cellular telephones described as:

- 1. A black Apple iPhone with a black screen with a black case. Listed as Matrix item #15 (Crime Scene Search Warrant Inventory #15) from report #2026-1831. The phone was further described as plugged in, on a nightstand from the house, upstairs bedroom off of stairwell, collected by CST E. Miller on May 11, 2026.**

Said cellular telephone is currently located in the possession of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation, Bowling Green Office, 750 N. College Dr., Bowling Green, Ohio, Wood County, State of Ohio, there is now being unlawfully kept, concealed, and possessed the following:

- Data that may be of evidentiary value that is stored in an electronic form, which may include data that may be located in unallocated space (deleted data) and allocated space (saved data)
- Data to establish the identity of the person in control of the device(s) and/or ownership of the device(s)
- Data that includes any and all personal communication including, but not limited to, ownership information, email correspondence, document files, message files (including chats, instant messages), social media related correspondence, etc.
- Data that may be in the form of graphic image files/picture files and/or video files.
- Data that may be in the form of emails, notes, audio recordings, and calendar
- Data that may be in the form of device contacts, including the native phonebook/address book, social media contacts, 3rd party application contacts, and

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COMMON PLEAS COURT

2026 JUN -4 AM 9:28

DOUGLAS F. CURDERLEY

email contacts, associated ringtones, favorites / speed dialing settings, “In Case of Emergency” contacts, etc.

- Data that may be in the form of incoming, outgoing, missed calls – also known as call history/call logs
- Data including location and global positional system (GPS) history, as well as, data associated with WiFi
- Data including internet browser activity including, but not limited to favorites, cookies, bookmarks, searched items, web history
- Data including personal settings and preferences established on the device
- Any and all electronic data contained on the device’s storage device, including, but not limited to: call history, names, phone numbers, addresses contact information, data, text, messages, images, voice memos, photographs, videos, audio recordings, personal settings and preferences established on the device such as but not limited to, internet favorites, email processing such as forwarding addresses, internet cache settings calendars, notes and note taking, other preferences such as but not limited to, speed dialing assignments voice dialing assignments, ring tone assignments, internet sites, internet access, wifi information, documents or other information, contained in the devices’ cellular phone internal, external, removable memory devices, which may include SIM cards and micro SD cards.
- Any and all electronic data contained on the device’s SIM card and/or eSIM, which may include carrier information, the phone number of the device, contacts, call history, messages, and/or other files.

All other evidence tending to establish violation of the criminal laws of the State of Ohio, to wit: R.C. 2903.01, Attempted Aggravated Murder of a Law Enforcement Officer, R.C. 2921.31, Obstructing official business, R.C. 2903.11, Felonious Assault, R.C. 2913.02, and/or other violations of the Ohio Revised Code.

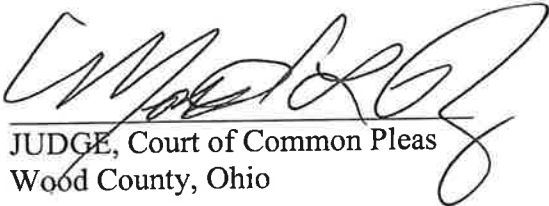
I am satisfied that there is probable cause to believe that the above-described electronic data is being concealed within the above-described cellular telephone, and that grounds for issuance of this search warrant exist.

THEREFORE: You are hereby commanded in the name of the State of Ohio, with the necessary and proper assistance, to serve this warrant and search the above-described cellular

telephone forthwith within three days of the date hereof for the property specified, and if the electronic data or any part thereof be found there, you are commanded to seize it, leaving a copy of this warrant and a receipt for the property taken, to prepare a written inventory of the property seized, to return this warrant to the undersigned or any Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, and to bring the property found on such search forthwith before said Judge, or some other judge or magistrate of the county having cognizance thereof.

Pursuant to Crim. R. 45, the three-day period of time to execute the warrant under Crim. R. 41 is waived for good cause shown. The cell phone to be searched was taken as evidence as part of a criminal investigation and it is expected that completion of forensic analysis would exceed three days. The search shall be executed within three hundred and sixty-five days of the date herein and any analysis may be performed thereafter.

Given my hand this 18th day of May, 2026. 1:20 p.m.


JUDGE, Court of Common Pleas
Wood County, Ohio

2026 JUN -4 AM 9:28

AFFIDAVIT FOR SEARCH WARRANT DOUGLAS F. CUBBERLEYSTATE OF OHIO
COUNTY OF WOOD)
) SS:
)**COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
CRIMINAL DIVISION**

Before me, a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, Wood County, Ohio, personally appeared the undersigned Special Agent David M. Hammond, badge #120 of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and being first duly sworn states his training and experience include the following: approximately thirty-one years as a law enforcement officer; approximately seventeen years as a Special Agent with the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation Crime Scene Unit. The previous fourteen years were with the Lima Ohio Police Department, seven years of which he has been an Identification Officer with the department's Detective Bureau. Special Agent Hammond has received training in various types of investigations, particularly officer involved critical incident investigations, homicides, property crimes and general criminal investigations; Special Agent Hammond received a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from Tiffin University and an Associate's Degree in Law Enforcement from the Lima Technical College (currently Rhodes State College). During his career he investigated approximately two-hundred and fifty homicides, in addition to numerous other felony investigations and officer involved shootings. These investigations have resulted in numerous arrests and convictions in Federal, State and Local Jurisdictions.

Affiant avers that he believes and has good cause to believe that within the cellular telephone described as:

- 1. A black Apple iPhone with a black screen and a black case. Listed as Matrix item #15 (Crime Scene Search Warrant Inventory #15) from report #2026-1831. The phone was further described as plugged-in, on a nightstand from the house, upstairs bedroom off stairwell, collected by CST E. Miller on May 11, 2026.**

Said cellular telephone is currently located in the possession of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation, Bowling Green Office, 750 N. College Dr., Bowling Green, Ohio, Wood County, State of Ohio, there is now being unlawfully kept, concealed, and possessed the following:

- Data that may be of evidentiary value that is stored in an electronic form, which may include data that may be located in unallocated space (deleted data) and allocated space (saved data)

- Data to establish the identity of the person in control of the device(s) and/or ownership of the device(s)
- Data that includes any and all personal communication including, but not limited to, ownership information, email correspondence, document files, message files (including chats, instant messages), social media related correspondence, etc.
- Data that may be in the form of graphic image files/picture files and/or video files.
- Data that may be in the form of emails, notes, audio recordings, and calendar
- Data that may be in the form of device contacts, including the native phonebook/address book, social media contacts, 3rd party application contacts, and email contacts, associated ringtones, favorites / speed dialing settings, "In Case of Emergency" contacts, etc.
- Data that may be in the form of incoming, outgoing, missed calls – also known as call history/call logs
- Data including location and global positional system (GPS) history, as well as, data associated with WiFi
- Data including internet browser activity including, but not limited to favorites, cookies, bookmarks, searched items, web history
- Data including personal settings and preferences established on the device
- Any and all electronic data contained on the device's storage device, including, but not limited to: call history, names, phone numbers, addresses contact information, data, text, messages, images, voice memos, photographs, videos, audio recordings, personal settings and preferences established on the device such as but not limited to, internet favorites, email processing such as forwarding addresses, internet cache settings calendars, notes and note taking, other preferences such as but not limited to, speed dialing assignments voice dialing assignments, ring tone assignments, internet sites, internet access, wifi information, documents or other information, contained in the devices' cellular phone internal, external, removable memory devices, which may include SIM cards and micro SD cards.
- Any and all electronic data contained on the device's SIM card and/or eSIM, which may include carrier information, the phone number of the device, contacts, call history, messages, and/or other files.

All other evidence tending to establish violation of the criminal laws of the State of Ohio, to wit: R.C. 2903.01, Attempted Aggravated Murder of a Law Enforcement Officer, R.C. 2921.31, Obstructing official business, R.C. 2903.11, Felonious Assault, R.C. 2913.02, and/or other violations of the Ohio Revised Code.

The facts upon which affiant bases such beliefs are as follows:

1. On Sunday, May 10th, 2026, at approximately 10pm, Bucyrus Police Officers were dispatched to the area of 905 E. Warren Street in Bucyrus, Crawford County, Ohio to investigate a possible domestic violence incident.
2. Affiant was informed by the Bucyrus Police Department that Officers attempted to speak with the subject, Paul Desmarais (Desmarais) at his home [REDACTED] was the alleged victim of the domestic violence incident. Shortly after arriving, Officers were confronted by Desmarias who was wearing tactical gear including a bullet proof vest and helmet. He was armed with several weapons.
3. A stand-off ensued between Desmarias and the Bucyrus Police Department. During the standoff, swat teams from Crawford County, Mansfield and the Ohio State Highway Patrol were deployed. Officers reported that during the standoff, Officers attempted to peacefully negotiate Desmarias' surrender. Chemical irritant rounds were deployed.
4. Officers reported that Desmarias fired five rounds at officers, positioned at the rear of the home during the incident. Desmarias could be heard yelling at officers that he had a hand-grenade in his possession, that he "will defend" his house and the "government is tyrannical." The standoff lasted for approximately 12 hours.
5. Desmarias called 911 during the incident and wanted to speak with "President Trump or Andrew from Special Forces or someone from the C.I.A."
6. During the incident, a member of the ASORT tactical unit, fired one round. Paul Desmarias suffered a gunshot wound to the head, and passed away at the scene from his injuries.
7. Ohio BCI Agents arrived on scene and learned the following information. A search of the home, conducted by Special Agents of the Crime Scene Unit, located several weapons, fired cartridge casings, a ballistic vest, helmet and inert hand grenade. Also located inside the scene were home surveillance cameras and a cell phone believed to belong to Desmarias. The cell phone described in this search warrant and affidavit in question was located in close proximity to the primary area of activity and the location of Desmarias when Desmarias was firing rounds at law enforcement. It was plugged into a power source when located.
8. While additional phones were located inside the home, none were equipped with batteries and appeared to be older, damaged phones. Preliminary information gathered from family members indicated, Desmarais had been planning this type of event for an extended period of time. Agents have learned that Desmarais used his cell phone to monitor, record or share video footage of the event via the TP Link video camera system, a cloud-based surveillance system that users access via a mobile application where they can view, save, and share videos recorded by their camera surveillance system using their cellular device. This cell phone is probable to contain recordings of the event from the vantage point of the inside and outside of the home. In the affiant's, and fellow BCI Agents, training and experience in order for subjects to share videos or screenshots of video footage captured they typically share their videos or screenshots through text messaging or emails. The

phone may also contain emails, text messages from Desmarais indicating his intentions or motivations for the incident that occurred.

9. Based on Affiant's training and experience, individuals who engage police in violent confrontations will usually express anti-police ideology via social media and/or other electronic phone means. Affiant also believes that due to Desmarias' actions, he was going through a mental health crisis. Affiant believes that communications on the cell phone may provide an insight as to why Desmarias reacted the way he did with law enforcement, from answering the door initially armed with firearms and wearing bullet proof tactical gear.
10. Affiant avers that it is necessary to search the data on this cellular phone to determine times, and specific facts leading up to the incident with law enforcement.
11. Affiant avers that it is necessary to search the above-described cell phone for any personal communications including but not limited to opened and unopened e-mail messages, instant messages (IM), text messages, letters, and other electronic records, documents, correspondence stored and/or exchanged in electronic form, notes, memoranda, address lists, telephone directories, screen name lists, buddy lists, advertisements, faxes, audio and visual tape recordings, materials or items reflecting or relating in any way to communications or contacts between any individuals.
12. Based on these facts, Affiant avers that he has probable cause to believe, and does believe, that the above-described electronic data will be found within the above-described cellular telephone.
13. Affiant avers that he will contact and consult with law enforcement, and technical experts for the necessary and proper assistance regarding the process to safely view, download, preserve and/or record the electronic data contained within the above-described cellular telephone.
14. Affiant avers that he is aware that seizing stored communications may implicate privacy rights, which Congress believed important enough to protect under the Electronic Communication Privacy Act (ECPA), specifically 18 U.S.C. 2703. Such material is further protected by Ohio Revised Code 2933.51, et. seq. In executing this warrant, it is possible that such communications may be seized, along with other material encompassed in the warrant. In this instance the cellular device named in this affidavit is probable to belong to Paul Desmarias, based on the location of the device during and at the conclusion of the incident. Also, due to Paul Desmarias being deceased as a result of the incident there is no expectation of privacy for the cellular device that is probable to have been used by Paul Desmarias.

Searching Digital Evidence

Based upon my training, experience and discussions with those involved in digital forensics, I know that searching all areas of an electronic device is necessary in order to conduct a complete search for electronic evidence relevant to the investigation for the following reasons:

1. All electronic devices have a “file system,” which is how the device organizes directories and files. The “file system” is a representation of the storage device’s organization as opposed to the actual data that is stored inside of the files. In other words, the “file system” is like a table of contents or an index in a book; it is a mechanism that keeps track of where the actual file or data is located on the hard drive. Each “file system” works in different ways and can vary between devices. “File systems” have their own conventions for the naming of files, such as how long a name can be or what characters are permissible in a file name.
2. Keyword searches may assist the examiner in locating electronic evidence, due to the vast amount of storage contained on electronic devices; however, the software and applications used to create or store the files may be such that it is not conducive to finding relevant evidence by solely using a keyword search. Software and applications may save data in a proprietary format, in an encrypted format, or in a compressed format that is not human readable and therefore not conducive to keyword searching. Therefore, the forensic examiner must review and analyze the operating system, software, and application configurations.
3. In addition, the user can take other steps that inhibit law enforcement from discovering the information that is the subject of the search relevant to the investigation. This includes, but is not limited to, renaming files or file extensions, using encryption or compression, password protecting files, using software or applications specifically designed to allow a user to hide portions of the storage area, or to embed a file within another file or files. In other words, a keyword search or merely looking at a file name or file type may lead an examiner to conclude, for example, that a data file contains text, when the file actually contains a picture, or vice-versa. A user does not need extensive computer knowledge to perform these steps and software and applications are readily available for free on the internet that will perform these steps for the user.
4. When a file is deleted, it may still be possible to recover the file because the file system usually just changes the entry related to that file as to where a file is located but does not actually go to the physical location on the storage media and remove the information at that physical location. Therefore, it may be possible to recover deleted data for a substantial period of time after the deletion occurred.

Therefore, personnel executing the search warrant must examine all areas of an electronic device, including but not limited to, scanning storage areas to discover and possibly recover deleted data, scanning storage areas for deliberately hidden files, performing electronic keyword searching through all electronic storage areas, and opening and previewing various file folders or directories and the individual files they contain, because evidence relevant to the investigation can reasonably be expected to be found anywhere on the device.

Conclusion

Based on the foregoing information there is probable cause to believe that within the **black Apple iPhone with a black screen and a black case. Listed as Matrix item #15 (Crime Scene Search Warrant Inventory #15) from report #2026-1831. The phone was further described**

as plugged-in, on a nightstand from the house, upstairs bedroom off stairwell, collected by CST E. Miller on May 11, 2026, currently being held in evidence at the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation in Bowling Green, Wood County, Ohio, there is likely evidence contained within the electronic device relative to the above-mentioned ORC violations, and that evidence could be used to further this investigation. Users of smart phones communicate, document with photos and text, and the electronic device itself has the ability to log and records information that can be used to further this investigation.

Request For Modification of Three (3) Day Execution Deadline

This Affiant states that the requested search of the electronic media to be performed by a qualified computer forensic examiner is expected to require more than three (3) days due to logistical and technical concerns. Hence, the "execution" of the requested warrant may require several weeks from beginning to end. If the term "execution" were deemed to occur at the completion of the examination rather than the initiation of the examination, then it would be pragmatically impossible for law enforcement officers to comply with the three (3) day deadline and still properly conduct the search. Therefore, pursuant to revised Code 2933.24(A), this Affiant requests this Court require said seizure and/or search be initiated, by delivering the electronic evidence to the examiner, within three (3) days, unless and until otherwise authorized by this Court.

Permission for nighttime search (from 8:00 PM to midnight and from midnight to 7:00 AM) (X) is not requested, () is requested for the above reasons and facts and these: **[LIST FACTS FOR A NIGHT TIME SEARCH IF APPLICABLE]**

Permission for Waiver of the Statutory Precondition for Nonconsensual Entry (X) is not requested, () is requested for the above reason and facts and those facts detailed below: : **[LIST FACTS FOR A NO KNOCK WARRANT IF APPLICABLE]**

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NAUGHT.



Special Agent David Hammond #120
Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigations

Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence this 18th day of May 2026. 1:19 p.m.



JUDGE
Court of Common Pleas
Summit County, Ohio

RETURN; RECEIPT; INVENTORY OF SEARCH WARRANT

State of Ohio

Wood County ss.

I, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation **Special Agent David Hammond**, the person taking property hereunder, received ~~the~~ attached search warrant on the 4th day of June, 2026, and (check appropriate box):

☐ I am returning the Warrant without having executed the same.

☒ Ohio BCI executed it as follows: On the 27th day of May , 2026, Ohio BCI searched the cellular device: **A black iPhone smart phone, believed to belong to Paul Desmarais, contained in a clear evidence bag labeled #P00020-104967 Property #2026-1831-15, seized during an Officer Involved Shooting Incident being investigated by the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation**, as described in the warrant, and left a copy of the warrant (check one):

☒ at the premises/cell phone.

☐ at Summ County Common Pleas

Furthermore (check appropriate box): ☐ no evidence was seized.

The following is an **INVENTORY** of property taken pursuant to the warrant prepared by Special Agent David Hammond and the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation:

Item No.	Quantity and description of property taken
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1	Digital Cellular Phone Extraction
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I swear this Inventory is a true and detailed account of all property taken by me on the Warrant; and a copy of this Inventory was deposited with the person or at the premises from which the property was taken as a Receipt of the items taken.

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WOOD COUNTY CLERK
COMMON PLEAS COURT
2026 JUN -4 AM 9:29
DOUGLAS F. CUBBERLEY

S/A D.M.H. D 120
Signing Agent

This 4th day of June, 2026

Sworn to before me, and subscribed in my presence by

Notary Public/Clerk of Courts/Deputy Clerk



BCI CYBER CRIME UNIT LAB SUBMISSION

Notice: Items will not be accepted for submission without a search warrant, signed consent to search form, or documentation of other lawful authority to search and/or analyze submitted items.

Please provide storage media large enough for the anticipated data duplication at the time of submission.

New BCI Submission (case is not being worked by any other BCI investigative unit, excluding laboratory)

Addition to Existing Submission Existing BCI case number (if known) _____

Note: Select addition if any BCI unit has assisted (Crime Scene, Special Victims, SIU, CCU, etc.)

Requesting Agency _____ Agency Case Number _____

Submitting Agency _____ Submitter _____

Primary ORC _____ Dates of Offense _____ to _____

Case Investigator _____ Case Invest. Phone _____

Case Investigator email _____

Offense Address _____ County _____

Subject/ Victim	Name	Gender	Race	DOB	SSN

Synopsis:	
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Extraction Only: The device will be connected to a forensic tool and the most comprehensive type of data extraction supported will be conducted. **If selecting this option, please be aware that you will need forensic tools to make the data human-readable.**

Extraction and Parsing: The device will be connected to a forensic tool and the most comprehensive type of data extraction supported will be conducted. **No analysis will be conducted by BCI personnel; however, the contents will be made human-readable, and the tools will be provided to review the data.** Uncommon applications might not be parsed into a human-readable format.

Forensic Analysis: The device will be connected to a forensic tool and the most comprehensive type of data extraction supported will be conducted. That data will be loaded into one or more forensic tools and reviewed by BCI personnel.

Item Make: _____	Item Model: _____
Agency Property Number: _____	Existing Damage: _____
Passcode: _____	
Select one: ☐ Extraction Only ☐ Extraction and Parsing ☐ Forensic Analysis	
Media being submitted has been exposed to ☐ biological or ☐ pharmacological contaminants	
☐ Prior examination has been done on media being submitted	When: _____

Item Make: _____	Item Model: _____
Agency Property Number: _____	Existing Damage: _____
Passcode: _____	
Select one: ☐ Extraction Only ☐ Extraction and Parsing ☐ Forensic Analysis	
Media being submitted has been exposed to ☐ biological or ☐ pharmacological contaminants	
☐ Prior examination has been done on media being submitted	When: _____

Item Make: _____	Item Model: _____
Agency Property Number: _____	Existing Damage: _____
Passcode: _____	
Select one: ☐ Extraction Only ☐ Extraction and Parsing ☐ Forensic Analysis	
Media being submitted has been exposed to ☐ biological or ☐ pharmacological contaminants	
☐ Prior examination has been done on media being submitted	When: _____