

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

Northern District of Texas

FEB 18 2026 PM 3:57
FILED - USDC - NDTX - LU

United States of America
v.

Case No. 5-26MJ022

DANIEL TAYLOR (01)
ALISHA RED-EAGLE (02)
MACKENZIE GILCREASE (03)

Defendant(s)

CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

I, the complainant in this case, state that the following is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

On or about the date(s) of a date unknown until on or about February 18, 2026, in the county of Lubbock in the Northern District of Texas, the defendant(s) violated:

Code Section
Title 21, United States
Code, Section 846

Offense Description
Conspiracy to Distribute and Possess with the Intent to
Distribute Fentanyl.

This criminal complaint is based on these facts:
See attached affidavit.

Continued on the attached sheet.

[Handwritten signature]

Complainant's signature

Daniel Caudillo, DEA TFO

Printed name and title

Attested to by the applicant in accordance with the requirement of Fed. R. Crim. P. 4.1 by telephone this 18th day of February, 2026.

Date: 2-18-26

[Handwritten signature]

Judge's signature

City and state: Lubbock TX

Amanda "Amy" R. Burch, U.S. Magistrate Judge

Printed name and title

AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF COMPLAINT

I, Daniel Caudillo, being first duly sworn, do depose and state the following:

I. Introduction

1. My name is Daniel Caudillo. I am an investigative or law enforcement officer for the United States, within the meaning of 18 U.S.C. § 2510(7), and I am empowered by law to investigate and arrest persons for offenses enumerated in 18 U.S.C. § 2516.

2. I have been a Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Task Force Officer (TFO) since August 2025, and am currently assigned to the Dallas Field Division, Caprock HIDTA Task Force. Since 2023, I have been employed by the Lubbock County Sheriff's Office. I was assigned to the Street Crimes Unit from 2023 to April 2025. Since April 2025, I have been assigned as a Sergeant with the Lubbock County Sheriff's Office Narcotics Division. I have participated in numerous narcotics investigations and have received numerous law enforcement trainings, including for narcotics investigations. I have assisted the Federal Bureau of Investigation; United States Postal Service; Department of Homeland Security; and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives on numerous state and federal narcotics investigations.

3. Based on my training and experience, I am familiar with the ways drug trafficking organizations (DTO's) conduct their business. My familiarity includes the methods by which DTO's illegally smuggle, distribute, and transport narcotics; their use of cellular telephones and stored-value cards to facilitate narcotic and cash smuggling activities; and their use of numerical codes and code words to conduct narcotic

transactions. I am also familiar with the ways that DTO's conceal, convert, transmit, and transport currency and proceeds, and the use of third parties to purchase or hold title to assets.

4. As a DEA TFO, I am authorized to investigate narcotics trafficking, including violations of Title 21, United States Code, Section 846, that is, Conspiracy to Distribute or Possess with the Intent to Distribute Fentanyl. The elements of that offense are:¹

First. That two or more persons, directly or indirectly, reached an agreement to distribute or possess with the intent to distribute a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of N-phenyl-N-[1-(2-phenylethyl)-4-piperidinyl] propanamide (fentanyl), a Schedule II controlled substance;

Second. That the defendant knew of the unlawful purpose of the agreement; and

Third. That the defendant joined in the agreement willfully, that is, with the intent to further its unlawful purpose.

I am also authorized to investigate violations of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1), and 841(b)(1)(C), the elements of that offense being:²

First. That the defendant knowingly distributed or possessed a controlled substance;

Second. That the substance was in fact fentanyl; and

Third. That the defendant distributed the substance or possessed the substance with the intent to distribute it.

¹ Fifth Circuit Pattern Jury Instruction 2.97 (5th Cir. 2024).

² Fifth Circuit Pattern Jury Instruction 2.95A (5th Cir. 2024) (Modified to incorporate distribution of a controlled substance. See *United States v. Ambriz*, 727 F.3d 378, 382-84 (5th Cir. 2013)).

To “possess with intent to distribute” simply means to possess with intent to deliver or transfer possession of a controlled substance to another person, with or without any financial interest in the transaction.

II. Probable Cause

5. I have probable to believe that Daniel Taylor, Alisha Red-Eagle, and Mackenzie Gilcrease have violated 21 U.S.C. § 846, that is, conspiracy to distribute or possess with the intent to distribute fentanyl, a schedule II controlled substance.

6. The following information is based on my own observations, information received from other DEA agents, and information provided to me by other law enforcement officers involved in the investigation. Because I am submitting this affidavit for the limited purpose of establishing probable cause, I have not included every fact known to me and other investigators. Rather, I am only submitting the facts necessary to establish probable cause that Daniel Taylor, Alisha Red-Eagle, and Mackenzie Gilcrease conspired to knowingly and intentionally distribute or possess with the intent to distribute a mixture or substance containing a detectable amount of fentanyl.

7. In June 2025, members of the Caprock High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) task force received information from a confidential source (herein referred to as CS1) that a male who is a professor at Texas Tech University who CS1 only knew as “Dan” was distributing fentanyl powder in the Lubbock, Texas area. CS1 further stated that “Dan” had deposited funds onto an inmate’s account at the Lubbock County Detention Center (LCDC). That inmate was Alisha Red-Eagle. Your affiant conducted a search of LCDC records and observed a Daniel Taylor had deposited money into Red-Eagle’s account. A search of Texas Tech University (TTU) faculty revealed

that Daniel Taylor is employed as an assistant professor at the TTU Rawls College of Business. A search of law enforcement databases revealed 5811 102nd Street #72 as the residence of Daniel Taylor. During the months of August and September 2025, investigating agents conducted surveillance operations at 5811 102nd Street #72 and identified Taylor's primary vehicle. In January 2026, investigating agents obtained a court order to place a GPS tracker on Taylor's vehicle, a black Acura passenger car. Also in January 2026, agents installed a remote covert surveillance camera, which yielded a view of the parking lot near apartment 72. Multiple surveillance operations were conducted on Taylor in which he was positively identified as the sole occupant of 5811 102nd Street #72.

8. On January 12, 2026, LCSO Sergeant Paul Perez established electronic surveillance at 5811 102nd Street #72. LCSO Sgt. Perez observed Taylor's vehicle depart from his residence at approximately 6:27 p.m. Constant surveillance was maintained on the vehicle as it arrived at the Circle K convenience store located at 11315 Frankford Avenue, Lubbock, Texas. LCSO Sergeant Sean Helmuth observed a male exit the vehicle and enter the store alone. LCSO Sgt. Helmuth was able to positively identify the male as Daniel Taylor at that time. A short time later, Taylor exited the store and entered his vehicle. An unknown female then exited the store and also entered Taylor's vehicle. LCSO Sgt. Helmuth then observed the female exit Taylor's vehicle and enter a white Mazda SUV. Surveillance was maintained on the SUV as it exited the Circle K parking lot. Taylor also left the Circle K and travelled directly back to his residence at 5811 102nd Street. LCSO Deputy Paul Rucker then conducted a traffic stop on the white

Mazda SUV in the 5400 block of Frankford Avenue. Upon Deputy Rucker making contact with the occupants of the vehicle, they advised that a male in the back seat was overdosing. The occupants of the vehicle had just administered Narcan to the male in an attempt to revive him. EMS was requested and administered additional Narcan to the male as he was transported to University Medical Center. The occupants of the vehicle were identified as C.B. (driver), E. G-H. (passenger), Alisha Red-Eagle (passenger), and J.D. (passenger). J.D. was the subject who was overdosing. Officers learned J.D. had been given suspected fentanyl by Alisha Red-Eagle, who was the female officers observed entering Taylor's vehicle and returning to the white Mazda SUV. During a probable cause search of the vehicle, deputies located five suspected fentanyl pills, five aluminum foil wrappers containing suspected fentanyl residue, a clear baggie containing suspected fentanyl powder, and a pink baggie containing suspected fentanyl powder. The suspected fentanyl pills and powder were sent to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) South Central Laboratory for analysis. The laboratory results confirmed the powder contained fentanyl, a Schedule II controlled substance. The powder from the clear baggie and pink baggie was weighed and, in total, weighed 0.92 grams.

9. During the course of this investigation, multiple interviews were conducted with cooperating sources, who all stated that Daniel Taylor distributed two separate variations of fentanyl powder; one called "Pink Flamingo" and one called "Ghost." One of the cooperating sources stated that the "Pink Flamingo" variation of fentanyl powder distributed by Daniel Taylor is sold in a pink bag containing a pink flamingo graphic.

10. On February 17, 2026, investigating agents conducted surveillance at 5811

102nd Street #72. At approximately 5:47 p.m., Affiant observed Daniel Taylor arrive in the parking lot. Affiant observed Taylor exit his vehicle along with an unknown female. Taylor and the female then walked to the front door area of apartment #72. Constant surveillance was maintained. At approximately 6:56 p.m., Affiant observed a white GMC pickup arrive in the parking lot and park next to Taylor's vehicle. An unknown female exited the GMC and walked towards the front door area of apartment #72. At approximately 8:14 p.m., Affiant observed the female walk away from the area of apartment #72 and re-enter the GMC. Surveillance was maintained on the GMC as it departed the area. LCSO Corporal Ryan Hill then conducted a traffic stop on the GMC in the 6500 block of Bangor Avenue for failing to maintain a single lane. LCSO Cpl. Hill contacted the driver and sole occupant, who was identified as Mackenzie Gilcrease. LCSO Cpl. Hill requested consent to search the vehicle. Gilcrease denied consent. LCSO Cpl. Hill then utilized his K-9 to conduct an open-air sniff of the exterior of the vehicle. LCSO Cpl. Hill's K-9 alerted to the vehicle for the odor of narcotics. A probable cause search of the vehicle was then conducted. During the search of the vehicle, deputies located a brown purse. During a search of the purse, deputies located a pink plastic baggie containing suspected methamphetamine. Deputies also located three pink plastic baggies containing a white powder substance (suspected fentanyl) inside of a pink envelope that contained a pink flamingo graphic. The suspected methamphetamine was field tested, which yielded a positive result for methamphetamine. Mackenzie Gilcrease was then transported to the Lubbock County Detention Center. Officers also weighed the suspected fentanyl, which weighed 8.8 grams. This quantity is consistent

only with distribution.

11. At approximately 11:59 p.m. on February 17, 2026, Lubbock County District Judge Leslie Hatch signed a search warrant for 5811 102nd Street apartment 72, Lubbock, Texas. At approximately 12:10 a.m. on February 18, 2026, members of the Lubbock County Sheriff's Office executed the warrant. Daniel Taylor and M.L. were located inside of 5811 102nd Street and detained. Investigating agents then conducted a thorough and systematic search of the premises. During the search of the residence, multiple plastic baggies and containers containing a white powder substance were located in various locations. Agents also located multiple plastic baggies of a crystal-like substance in various locations. The crystal substance was tested on scene utilizing a field test kit, which yielded positive results for methamphetamine. Also located in the residence were multiple pink envelopes and plastic baggies with pink flamingo stickers and baggies containing a ghost graphic. Daniel Taylor and M.L. were then transported to the Lubbock County Detention Center. All items of evidence were seized by your affiant and transported to the Caprock HIDTA where they were stored in temporary storage.

12. On February 18, 2026, your affiant and DEA TFO Cody Kidd removed a plastic baggie containing a white powder substance and two plastic canisters that also contained a white powder substance from temporary storage. These substances were tested utilizing a field test kit, which yielded positive results for fentanyl. The gross weight of the baggie of fentanyl was 55 grams, which is consistent only with distribution.

13. Based upon the information contained in this affidavit, your affiant believes that there is probable cause to believe Daniel Taylor, Alisha Red-Eagle, and

Mackenzie Gilcrease have committed a violation of 21 U.S.C. § 846, that is, conspiracy to distribute or possess with the intent to distribute fentanyl, a schedule II controlled substance.



Daniel Caudillo
Task Force Officer
Drug Enforcement Administration

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 18 th day of February 2026.



AMANDA 'AMY' R. BURCH
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE