

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

District of New Mexico

United States of America

v.

Brian Adam Archuleta
Year of birth: 1984

Case No. MJ 26-101 LF



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 9/18/2025 in the county of San Juan in the
 District of New Mexico, the defendant(s) violated:

Code Section
 18 U.S.C. § 1153
 18 U.S.C. § 113(a)(6)

Offense Description
 Crimes committed in Indian Country,
 Assault resulting in serious bodily injury.

This criminal complaint is based on these facts:

See attached affidavit.

☒ Continued on the attached sheet.

Courtney S. Gale
 Complainant's signature

Courtney S. Gale, Special Agent
 Printed name and title

Telephonically sworn and electronically signed.

Date: 01/10/2026City and state: Albuquerque, New Mexico

Laura Fashing
 Judge's signature

Hon. Laura Fashing, U.S. Magistrate Judge
 Printed name and title

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW MEXICO

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

VS

BRIAN ADAM ARCHULETA
Year of birth: 1984

Case No. _____

AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF
PROBABLE CAUSE ARREST

AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF A PROBABLE CAUSE ARREST

I, Courtney S. Gale, being duly sworn, hereby depose and state as follows:

INTRODUCTION AND AGENT BACKGROUND

1. I make this affidavit is made in support of a Criminal Complaint and an Arrest Warrant for Brian Adam Archuleta (hereinafter referred to as ARCHULETA), year of birth 1984.

2. I am currently serving as an FBI Special Agent assigned to the FBI, Albuquerque Division, Farmington Resident Agency, where I primarily investigate crimes that occur in Indian Country to include homicide, aggravated assault, child sexual assault, kidnapping and rape. I have been with the FBI for approximately three years. I received on the job training from other experienced agents, detectives, Indian Country criminal investigators, and tribal police officers. My investigative training and experience include, but is not limited to, processing crime scenes, conducting surveillance, interviewing subjects and witnesses, writing affidavits for executing search warrants and arrest warrants, examining cellular telephones, managing confidential human sources and cooperating witnesses/defendants, serving subpoenas, collecting evidence and analyzing public records.

3. This affidavit is based upon information reported to me by other federal, state, tribal and local law enforcement officers during the course of their official duties. Throughout this affidavit, reference will be made to law enforcement officers. Law enforcement officers are

those federal, state, and local law enforcement officers who have directly participated in this investigation. This affidavit is also based upon information gained from interviews with cooperating witnesses, whose reliability is established separately herein.

4. Based on my training, experience, and the facts set forth in this affidavit, there is probable cause to believe that ARCHULETA violated 18 U.S.C. §§ 1153 and 113(a)(6), that being assault resulting in serious bodily injury.

5. Because this affidavit is being submitted for the limited purpose of securing authorization for a Criminal Complaint and Arrest Warrant, I have not included each and every fact known to me concerning this investigation. I have set forth facts that I believe are sufficient to establish probable cause to obtain the requested warrant.

TERRITORIAL JURISDICTION MATTERS

6. Title 18 U.S.C. § 1153(a) and 18 U.S.C. § 113(a)(6) provide as follows:

- a. 18 U.S.C. § 1153: “Any Indian who commits against the person or property of another Indian or other person any of the following offenses, namely, murder, manslaughter, kidnapping, maiming, a felony under chapter 109A, incest, a felony assault under section 113, an assault against an individual who has not attained the age of 16 years, felony child abuse or neglect, arson, burglary, robbery, and a felony under section 661 of this title within the Indian country, shall be subject to the same law and penalties as all other persons committing any of the above offenses, within the exclusive jurisdiction of the United States.”
- b. 18 U.S.C. § 113(a)(6): “Whoever, within the special maritime and territorial jurisdiction of the United States, is guilty of an assault shall be punished as

follows: (6) Assault resulting in serious bodily injury, by a fine under this title or imprisonment for not more than ten years, or both.”

- c. To define the term “serious bodily injury,” § 113(b)(2) cross-references 18 U.S.C. § 1365, which defines this term as bodily injury involving “(A) a substantial risk of death; (B) extreme physical pain; (C) protracted and obvious disfigurement; or (D) protracted loss or impairment of the function of a bodily member, organ, or mental faculty.” 18 U.S.C. § 1365(h)(3).

FACTS AND CIRCUMSTANCES ESTABLISHING PROBABLE CAUSE

7. On September 18, 2025, the Farmington Resident Agency of the FBI was notified by Navajo Nation of Criminal Investigations (NNCI) of a man (hereinafter referred to as G.K.), year of birth 1975, was assaulted in Shiprock, New Mexico and was at Northern Navajo Medical Center Emergency Room (NNMC) in Shiprock, NM with injuries.

8. G.K. was interviewed by law enforcement on September 18, 2025, at NNMC. It was learned that ARCHULETA had returned to the residence where G.K. and ARCHULETA live, at GPS Location 36.775183, -108.663740 on September 17, 2025. ARCHULETA wanted G.K. and his girlfriend (hereinafter referred to as H.J.) to move out of the residence. H.J. called the police in Shiprock because G.K. and H.J. felt threatened by ARCHULETA. The Navajo Police Department (NPD) did not show up.

9. On September 18, 2025, ARCHULETA continued to escalate in verbal threats towards G.K. and H.J. H.J. called NPD again, who showed up after ARCHULETA had left the residence. G.K. made a report with NPD about the situation. At approximately 2:45pm, ARCHULETA returned to the residence and went to G.K.’s door, opened it, and pulled G.K. out. ARCHULETA grabbed G.K. and started hitting him over and over in the face. G.K. was

able to push ARCHULETA away from him and fled towards his Aunt and Uncle's house next door for help.

10. H.J. and G.K.'s father arrived at the residence shortly after the assault and found G.K. with blood on his face. H.J. called NPD and G.K.'s father transported them to an NPD station and the Emergency Room at NNMC. It was reported that ARCHULETA was wearing a black t-shirt, grey basketball shorts, and a tall black sock and G.K. was wearing only his boxers.

11. NNMC records indicated G.K. suffered from a right orbital wall fracture and G.K. received ten stitches above his right eye. G.K. reported his level of pain was a 10 out 10 on a pain scale of 1 being no pain and 10 being the worst pain.

12. Security footage from the neighboring house of G.K.'s residence was shown to law enforcement on September 18, 2025. The witnessed footage showed a male in a black t-shirt, grey shorts, and tall black socks walking to G.K.'s door. This male then grabs another male from the doorway, who is wearing only blue shorts, and proceeds to punch him approximately six times in the head and face before the two males go out of the frame of the camera.

13. A review of ARCHULETA's criminal history included dispositions of "Guilty" or "Proven" for charges of Assault 1-Extreme Indifference (Felony), Violent Crime – Used a Weapon (Misdemeanor), Violent Crime – Cause Death/ Serious Bodily Injury (Misdemeanor), Assault 2-Reckless Serious Bodily Injury with Deadly Weapon (Felony). ARCHULETA is a sexual offender.

14. On September 18, 2025, at approximately 8:47 pm NPD officers located ARCHULETA at gas station in Shiprock, NM and arrested him on charges for unrelated charges in connection with a battery on a household member. With respect to that charge, a protection order through the Navajo Nation was issued against ARCHULETA prohibiting contact with G.K. That protection order was served on ARCHULETA in December 2025.

15. On September 19, 2025, ARCHULETA was interviewed by law enforcement at Navajo Nation Corrections Department in Crownpoint, New Mexico. ARCHULETA was read his *Miranda* rights. ARCHULETA waived his rights and agreed to speak with law enforcement. ARCHULETA stated he had “busted up” and “beat up” his uncle the previous day, September 18, 2025. It is known to me that ARCHULETA’s “uncle” is G.K. ARCHULETA wants his uncle and his uncle’s girlfriend off of the property, where they all live in Shiprock, New Mexico. G.K.’s girlfriend picked up a bat and ARCHULETA had picked up an item to use as a weapon and at that time G.K.’s girlfriend dropped the bat. G.K.’s dad had picked up a pole and ARCHULETA picked up a pitchfork. ARCHULETA is aware the incident is recorded.

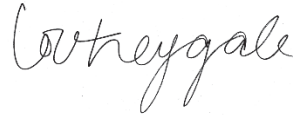
16. The reported incident took place at GPS Location 36.775183, -108.663740, which is within the exterior boundaries of the Navajo Nation, a federal recognized Indian tribe and “Indian country” for purposes of federal criminal law.

17. ARCHULETA and G.K. are certified and enrolled members of the Navajo Nation.

CONCLUSION


18. Based on my training, experience, and the facts as set forth in this affidavit, your affiant submits there is probable cause to believe ARCHULETA violated 18 U.S.C. §§ 1153 and 113(a)(6), that being assault resulting in serious bodily injury.

19. Supervisory Assistant United States Attorney Jack Burkhead reviewed and approved this affidavit for legal sufficiency to establish probable cause.



Courtney S. Gale
Special Agent
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Electronically submitted and telephonically before me on January 10, 2026.



The Honorable Laura Fashing, United States Magistrate Judge