

IN THE COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA IN AND FOR HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY
CRIMINAL JUSTICE DIVISION

STATE OF FLORIDA

CASE NO: 2026-CF-5269

vs

JOSE PAGAN

DIVISION: O

MOTION FOR PRETRIAL DETENTION

COMES NOW, the state of Florida by and through the undersigned attorney, pursuant to Florida Statue 907.041, and Rule 3.132, to respectfully petition this Honorable Court to order Pretrial Detention and as grounds therefore would show:

1. There is a substantial probability, based on the defendant's past and present patterns of behavior, the criteria set forth in Florida Statute § 903.046, and other relevant facts that the below circumstances exist.
2. The Defendant is presently charged with a "dangerous crime," as defined by Florida Statue §907.041(5), to wit: Attempted Arson Second Degree and Written or Electronic Threat to Conduct a Mass Shooting or Act of Terrorism. There is a substantial probability that the Defendant committed the enumerated offenses - as well as additional offenses of Possession of Child Pornography (10 or More Images and Content of Images) (29 counts), In State Transmission of Child Pornography by Electronic Device (1 count), and Unlawful Use of Two Way Communications Device (1 count) - and based on the defendant's past and present patterns of behavior, consideration of the criteria in Florida Statute §903.046, and any other relevant facts, that no conditions of release or bail will reasonably protect the community from risk of

- physical harm, ensure the presence of the defendant at trial, or assure the integrity of the judicial process.
3. On January 31, 2026, state and federal law enforcement officers executed a search warrant at the home where defendant resides.
 4. The search warrant was in relation to tips received regarding the possession of child sexual abuse material, as well as written threats to conduct mass shooting or act of terrorism.
 5. During the execution of the search warrant, contact was made with the defendant.
 6. A post-Miranda interview of the defendant was conducted within the home with the defendant's father present during the entirety of the interview.
 7. During the interview, the defendant confirmed his Discord account information (including multiple user names) and that he utilized Discord across multiple devices.
 8. The defendant confirmed that he had viewed and was actively in possession of child sexual abuse material.
 9. The defendant also confirmed he had received child sexual abuse material from other individuals, shared child sexual abuse material with others, and saved material that he thought was "rare" and difficult to find.
 10. The defendant advised that he does get sexually aroused while viewing the child sexual abuse material.
 11. A live preview of the devices was conducted on scene.
 12. During the live preview, files depicting sadomasochistic abuse with children being bound and hung during acts of sexual battery were observed.

13. The children observed in the child sexual abuse material were primarily [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
14. Also located during the live preview was a video showing the defendant putting containers of gasoline in a bag while wearing a mask and showing a No Lives Matter shirt.
15. The defendant confirmed it was him in the video and that the observed clothing was in a backpack in his room.
16. The defendant explained during the interview that he has been a member of several Telegram groups that discuss the blood covenant, no lives matter, 764 group, and the exchange of child sexual abuse material.
17. The defendant further indicated he first became fascinated with school shooters the summer after his fifth-grade school year.
18. The defendant acknowledged watching videos of shootings on the “watchpeopledie” website.
19. When questioned about planning a school shooting or committing an act of arson against a church (based on information received in the initial tips), the defendant did admit to having searched two local churches about one month prior to law enforcement contact, as well as trying to determine how long it would take for the fire department to respond to a fire at one of the churches.
20. During in depth reviews of devices utilized by the defendant, specific messages from the defendant detailing a plan to set a local church on fire were observed.
21. Within the conversations, the defendant stated “shooting up a school doesn’t seem interesting to me” followed by “a church is a way better target.”

22. In one message thread, the defendant sent photographs of guns that were kept in his home.
23. The messages further included photos of the same gas containers which were observed in the homemade video by defendant, discussion regarding the use of accelerants to have the greatest impact, and the route the defendant would take to avoid detection from cameras.
24. In another message thread, the defendant indicates that he did in fact travel to one of the churches in question with his guitar case filled with the containers of gasoline, but that the arson was a failure because someone was at the church.
25. The defendant went on to state that he additionally planned to vandalize a home near his house that had a Black Lives Matter flag displayed, by putting a swastika, no lives matter, or Temple ov Blood sigil on the home.
26. The defendant was taken into custody on January 31, 2026.
27. On February 6, 2026, while the defendant was still in custody, HCSO received a call from a post office employee who reported that the defendant's parents were present and attempting to acquire a passport for the defendant.

Based on the foregoing, there are no conditions of release or bail that will reasonably protect the community from risk of physical harm, ensure the presence of the defendant at trial, or assure the integrity of the judicial process.

The undersigned Assistant State Attorney certifies that she has received testimony under oath supporting the grounds and the essential facts alleged in the motion.

WHEREFORE, the State respectfully prays this Honorable Court to order Pretrial Detention.

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing MOTION FOR PRETRIAL DETENTION has been furnished by email to LUKE LIROT, LUKE2@LIROTLAW.COM, 2240 BELLEAIR ROAD SUITE 190, CLEARWATER, FL 33764, attorney for the defendant, on the 1st day of April, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

SUSAN S. LOPEZ
STATE ATTORNEY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Couvertier', written over a horizontal line.

JESSICA COUVERTIER
ASSISTANT STATE ATTORNEY
FLORIDA BAR# 102567
SERVICE@HILLSBOROUGHSAO.GOV
STATE ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
419 N. PIERCE ST.
TAMPA, FL 33602-4022
(813) 272-5400