

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLORADO**

Criminal Case No.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff

v.

- 1. STEVEN CLAY ROMERO,**
and
- 2. MELISSA MARIE LOCKHART,**

Defendants

**INDICTMENT
18 U.S.C. §13
C.R.S. §18-9-202(1.5)(b)
18 U.S.C. §4**

The Grand Jury charges that:

COUNT ONE

On or about and between December 29 and 30, 2009, in the State and District of Colorado and on lands administered by the United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, the defendant,

STEVEN CLAY ROMERO,

did knowingly torture, needlessly mutilate, and needlessly kill an animal, that is, "Buddy" the dog, by dragging the dog behind a vehicle with a rope tied to the dog's neck until the dog was dead.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 13 and Colorado Revised Statutes 18-9-202(1.5)(b).

COUNT TWO

On or about and between December 30 through 31, 2009, in the State and District of Colorado,

MELISSA MARIE LOCKHART,

the defendant, having knowledge of an actual commission of a felony cognizable by a court of the United States, that is, aggravated animal cruelty committed by Steven Clay Romero, did conceal by making false statements to law enforcement, and did not as soon as possible make known the same to some judge or other person in civil or military authority under the United States.

In violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 4.

A TRUE BILL

Ink signature on file in the Clerk's Office
FOREPERSON

DAVID M. GAOUILLE
United States Attorney

s/ Michelle M. Heldmyer
MICHELLE M. HELDMYER
Assistant United States Attorney
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Grand Junction, CO 81501
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Attorney for Plaintiff United States

DEFENDANT: Steven Clay Romero

YOB: 1972

ADDRESS (CITY/STATE): Grand Junction, CO

COMPLAINT FILED? YES NO

IF YES, PROVIDE MAGISTRATE CASE NUMBER: 09-mj-01218-LTM
IF NO, PROCEED TO "OFFENSE" SECTION

HAS DEFENDANT BEEN ARRESTED ON COMPLAINT? YES NO

IF NO, A NEW WARRANT IS REQUIRED

OFFENSES: **COUNT ONE:**
Aggravated Animal Cruelty, in violation of Title 18 U.S.C. §13 and C.R.S. 18-9-202(1.5)(b).

PENALTY: **COUNT ONE:**
NMT 3 years imprisonment; NMT \$100,000.00 fine, or both; 1 year supervised release; \$100.00 Special Assessment Fee

LOCATION OF OFFENSE (COUNTY/STATE): Mesa County, CO

AGENT: Clint Forte, LE Ranger

AUTHORIZED BY: Michelle M. Heldmyer
Assistant U.S. Attorney

ESTIMATED TIME OF TRIAL:

five days or less over five days other

THE GOVERNMENT

will seek detention in this case will **not** seek detention in this case

The statutory presumption of detention is **not** applicable to this defendant.

OCDETF CASE: Yes No

DEFENDANT: Melissa Marie Lockhart

YOB: 1977 |

ADDRESS(City/State): Grand Junction, CO

COMPLAINT FILED? _____ YES ___X___ NO

IF YES, PROVIDE MAGISTRATE CASE NUMBER: _____
IF NO, PROCEED TO "OFFENSE" SECTION

HAS DEFENDANT BEEN ARRESTED ON COMPLAINT? _____ YES ___X___ NO
IF NO, A NEW WARRANT IS REQUIRED

OFFENSE: **COUNT TWO:**
Misprision of felony in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 4.

PENALTY: **COUNT TWO:**
NMT 3 years imprisonment, NMT \$250,000 fine or both.

LOCATION OF OFFENSE: Mesa County

AGENT: Clint Forte, LE Ranger

AUTHORIZED BY: Michelle M. Heldmyer
Assistant U.S. Attorney

ESTIMATED TIME OF TRIAL:

___X___ five days or less _____ over five days _____ other

THE GOVERNMENT

___X___ will seek pretrial detention in this case _____ will **not** seek pretrial detention in this case

The statutory presumption of detention **is not** applicable to this defendant.

OCDETF CASE: _____ Yes ___X___ No