



State of Connecticut
 Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection
 Division of State Police



CRIMINAL INFORMATION SUMMARY

DATE 03/03/2021	TIME 11:53	INVESTIGATING TROOPER LT DAVID RADFORD	BADGE # EC32	CFS NO. 2100086982	TROOP TROOP E
LOCATION OF INCIDENT (STREET NAME AND CITY/TOWN ONLY): Grassy Hill Rd Montville 06370					

Other Agency Involved: Record of Arrest: Under Investigation: Arrest Warrant Attached:

ARRESTEE SECTION

(DO NOT IDENTIFY ANY JUVENILE/CHILD BY NAME OR ADDRESS- IF JUVENILE/CHILD, WRITE "JUVENILE/CHILD" IN THE NAME FIELD & "AGE" IN DOB FIELD)

NAME	Frischling, Steven E
D.O.B.	6/18/1975
SEX	M
RACE	W
ADDRESS	45 Carraige Hill Dr Niantic CT 06375 US
AGE ARREST	45
AGE INCIDENT	45
ARREST DATE	03/09/2021
COURT	NORWICH (21)
COURT ADDR	1 Court House Sq, Norwich, CT 06360
COURT DATE	04/15/2021
INJURED	NO
AMBULANCE	NO
HOSPITAL	

CHARGES	CNTS	BOND TYPE	BOND AMOUNT
1 53-341 II Trnsmit Photo By 1st Respnd	2		\$1,000

BOND WILL BE:

TOTAL: \$1,000

SUMMARY OF INCIDENT: An arrest warrant shall be attached when applicable excluding Juvenile/Child warrants.

On February 7, 2021 the Montville Police Department began an investigation into a Facebook post made by the Chesterfield Fire Co. Public Information Officer Steven Frischling. Through the course of the investigation, the accused Steven Frischling DOB 06/18/1975 was found to have posted photographs of victim's, at an accident scene, on social media web sites without permission. An arrest warrant application was submitted to Norwich Superior Court and signed.

On March 9, 2021 the members of the Montville Police Department, with the assistance of the East Lyme Police, located Frischling at his residence. Frischling was taken into custody on an active arrest warrant; stemming from this investigation. Frischling was subsequently arrested and charged with the following violation:

SUPERVISOR'S APPROVAL REQUIRED: INITIALS: **/SGT ALBERT G GOSSELIN/** ID #: 0213 DATE: 03/10/2021

THIS INFORMATION IS BEING RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON MAJOR CRIMES OR ARRESTS, CONTACT THE DIVISION OF STATE POLICE PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE @

PHONE: 860-685-8230 FAX: 860-685 8301



State of Connecticut
Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection
Division of State Police



CRIMINAL INFORMATION SUMMARY

SUMMARY OF INCIDENT: An arrest warrant shall be attached when applicable excluding Juvenile/Child warrants.

2 counts of Unauthorized Transmitting, by First Responder, of Image of Accident Victim - C.G.S. 53-341c

Frischling was released on a \$1,000.00 non-surety bond and was assigned a Norwich Superior Court date of April 15, 2021.

Due to technical difficulty with equipment, no booking photo is available.

SUPERVISOR'S APPROVAL REQUIRED: INITIALS: /SGT ALBERT G GOSSELIN/ ID #: 0213 DATE: 03/10/2021

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INFORMATION

JD-CR-71 Rev. 8-10

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
SUPERIOR COURT

Disposition date

Police Case number
21-00086982

Agency name
Montville Police Department

Agency number
086

Title, Allegation and Counts

State of Connecticut vs. (Name of accused)
Frischling, Steven, E.

Residence (Town) of accused
East Lyme

Docket number

Address
45 Carriage Hill Dr. Niantic, CT.

Date of birth
06/18/1975

To be held at (Town)
Norwich

Geographical area number
21

Court date

The undersigned Prosecuting Authority of the Superior Court of the State of Connecticut charges that:

Count One — Did commit the offense of:
Unauthorized Transmitting, by First Responder, of Image of Accident Victim

Continued to Purpose Reason

At (Town) On or about (Date) In violation of General Statute number

Montville 02/07/2021 53-341c

Count Two — Did commit the offense of:
Unauthorized Transmitting, by First Responder, of Image of Accident Victim

At (Town) On or about (Date) In violation of General Statute number

Montville 02/07/2021 53-341c

Count Three — Did commit the offense of:

At (Town) On or about (Date) In violation of General Statute number

See other sheet for additional counts

Date **3/9/21**

Signed (Prosecuting Authority)

Court Action

Defendant advised of rights before plea

(Judge) (Date) Bond Surety 10 % Election (Date)

Attorney Public defender Cash CT JY

Guardian Bond change Seized property inventory number

Count	Plea date	Plea	Plea withdrawn		Verdict finding	Fine	Remit	Additional disposition
			Date	New plea				
1						\$	\$	
2						\$	\$	
3						\$	\$	

Date	Other Court Action	Judge

Receipt number Cost IMP NCI Bond information Bond forfeited Forfeiture vacated Forfeiture vacated and bond reinstated

Application fee - receipt number if paid Circle one W I Q Program fee - receipt number if paid Circle one W I Q Probation fee - receipt number if paid Circle one W I Q

Prosecutor on original disposition Reporter/monitor on original disposition Signed (Clerk) Signed (Judge)

ARREST WARRANT APPLICATION

JD-CR-64b Rev. 8-10
C.G.S. § 54-2a
Pr. Bk. Sec. 36-1, 36-2, 36-3

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
SUPERIOR COURT**
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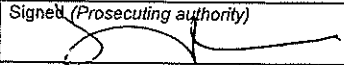
For Court Use Only	
Supporting Affidavits sealed	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

Police Case number 21-00086982	Agency name Montville Police Department	Agency number 086
Name (Last, First, Middle Initial) Frischling, Steven, E.	Residence (Town) of accused East Lyme	Court to be held at (Town) Norwich
		Geographical Area number 21

Application For Arrest Warrant

To: A Judge of the Superior Court

The undersigned hereby applies for a warrant for the arrest of the above-named accused on the basis of the facts set forth in the: Affidavit Below. Affidavit(s) Attached.

Date 3/9/21	Signed (Prosecuting authority) 	Type/print name of prosecuting authority Sarah Bonner
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Affidavit

The undersigned affiant, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

1) That, this affiant, David Radford II #09, has been a member of the Montville Police Department since May of 1999. That this affiant is currently the Executive Officer of the Montville Police Department and hold the rank of Lieutenant and have been since January of 2019. That this affiant has been involved in criminal investigations that have resulted in the execution of search and seizure warrants, and the issuance of arrest warrants, which have subsequently led to the felony arrests of those persons involved. That, this affiant has personal knowledge of the facts and circumstances hereinafter related as a result of his own investigative efforts and those of fellow officers. That the following circumstances are true and accurate to the best of this affiant's knowledge.

2) That, on 02/07/21 at 0916 hours there was a motor vehicle accident at the intersection of Route 85 and Grassy Hill Road, in the Oakdale section of Montville. The fire departments were started due to the reports of injuries. While the different fire department personnel were on scene, it was determined that the driver of a Gray 2006 Toyota Camry needed to be extricated from the vehicle. This entailed using an extricating tool to force the driver's door open, to treat and transport the operator / victim.

3) That, it was brought to my attention that later that day (02/07/21) the Chesterfield Fire Co. PIO, Steven Frischling (the accused), posted on Facebook a narrative and photos of the crash. The accused is an active first responder with the Chesterfield Fire Co., located at 1606 Hartford New London Tpke, Oakdale, CT. The accused identifies himself as the Chesterfield PIO and responds to scenes as a first responder to take pictures of the scene and post them on social media platforms; specifically, Facebook. The accused will also identify as fire police and occasionally direct traffic at a scene.

4) That, the accused's post had a narrative of the incident and included several pictures of the scene. The pictures of the scene included occupants of the vehicles and in one particular picture, the victim was still in the vehicle being extricated. This picture showed fire personnel using the tool to open the victim's door and it depicted the victim still in the car. A second photo also depicted a male standing next to an individual being strapped onto a stretcher for transport. This picture only depicts a silhouette of the body of the individual under a blanket on the stretcher. After posting the narrative and pictures, the accused then put in parenthesis "Images may have a digital blur to obscure portions of a patient's identity and their license plate". Addressing that he

(This is page 1 of a 3 page Affidavit.)

Date 3/8/21	Signed (Affiant) LT - Radford II #09
Jurat Subscribed and sworn to before me on (Date) 3-8-21	Signed (Judge/Clerk, Commissioner of Superior Court, Notary Public) Sgt. [Signature] # 213

Finding

The foregoing Application for an arrest warrant, and affidavit(s) attached to said Application, having been submitted to and considered by the undersigned, the undersigned finds from said affidavit(s) that there is probable cause to believe that an offense has been committed and that the accused committed it and, therefore, that probable cause exists for the issuance of a warrant for the arrest of the above-named accused.

Date and Signature Norwich	Signed at (City or town)	On (Date) 3/9/21	Signed (Judge/Judge Trial Referee) N. Droney	Name of Judge/Judge Trial Referee Droney, J
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ARREST WARRANT APPLICATION

JD-CR-64a Rev. 8-10
C.G.S. § 54-2a
Pr. Bk. Sec. 36-1, 36-2, 36-3

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
SUPERIOR COURT**
www.jud.ct.gov

Name (Last, First, Middle Initial) Frischling, Steven, E.	Residence (Town) of accused East Lyme	Court to be held at (Town) Norwich	Geographical Area number 21
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Affidavit - Continued

posted the victim's photos without consent.

5) That, on 03/03/21 I contacted and met with the witness and obtained a signed sworn statement regarding the victim's crash. The witness is a Power of Attorney for the victim and stated that the victim was still in a rehab facility. The witness also stated that the victim would not want his information posted on social media. The witness stated that the victim did not give anyone permission to post his picture on Facebook or any other social media. The witness also stated that there was a juvenile family member affected by the crash and believes it could be due to the Facebook post. The witness then stated that nobody involved in the crash had even known that the crash scene was posted on Facebook.

6) That, on 03/05/2021 at approximately 1200 hours I contacted Steven Frischling, the accused, by phone and attempted to set up a meeting with him. The accused asked what it was about and I informed him that it was in regards to a Facebook post that he made. The accused stated that he had to call his chief and would get back to me. The accused called back and stated that he did not want to meet at the Public Safety Complex, but wanted to meet at Chesterfield Fire house at 1500 hours. I informed the accused that I declined to meet him at the Chesterfield Fire House, but would meet him at the Montville Town Hall at 1500 hours. The accused stated that he was bringing his chief and asked if I had a problem with it being recorded. I told him that it had nothing to do with his chief, but I would extend the courtesy and I had nothing to hide, so he could record what he wanted.

7) That, at 1500 hours Sgt. Pierce and I met with the accused and Chief Truex at the Montville Town Hall. The accused set up a Go-Pro camera to record the meeting and I had a hand-held tape recorder sitting on the table recording the meeting as well. The meeting began at approximately 1500 hours and I informed the accused that he was free to leave anytime he wanted and that he didn't have to say anything if he didn't want to. I then asked the accused when he takes scene photos, specifically crash scene ones, does he obtain permission from victims in vehicles to post them on social media platforms. The accused stated that for one, permission in the right of the public view is not required and any face is blurred. I then asked the accused if that was a yes or a no answer to my question. The accused then stated, "There is no requirement to obtain any permission from any victim in the right of the public view in any photo as per policy, the faces are pixilated". "They are unidentifiable".

8) That, I then asked the accused what he meant by "As per policy". He stated that they have an internal policy that anything that would directly show a victim's face would be blurred or typically pixilated. He then stated that he believed I was referring to a picture that was shot on Route 85 and Route 161 and you can not see the victim. I then stated to the accused that he goes by his department policy and the accused responded that he is failing to see that this is a police matter. He continued that the Supreme Court has ruled that anything that can be seen in the public's view can be photographed.

9) That, I then followed up stating that the answer to my question, if he gets permission from anybody, is a no and he goes by his department policy of what needs to be pixilated. The accused stated, "My answer is that he doesn't understand how this is even a legal matter given that if anything, it would be civil because the Supreme Court has ruled that anything that you can see in the right of the public's view can be photographed, so how is this criminal?" I then informed the accused that I was not there to debate, just simply to ask him a couple

(This is page 2 of a 3 page Affidavit.)

Date 3/8/21	Signed (Affiant) <i>LT. [Signature] #09</i>
Jurat Subscribed and sworn to before me on (Date) 3-8-21	Signed (Judge/Clerk, Commissioner of Superior Court, Notary Public) <i>[Signature]</i> # 213
Reviewed (Prosecutorial Official) <i>[Signature]</i>	Date 3/9/21
Date 3/9/21	Reviewed (Judge/Judge Trial Referee) <i>N. Droney</i>

ARREST WARRANT APPLICATION

JD-CR-64a Rev. 8-10
 C.G.S. § 54-2a
 Pr. Bk. Sec. 36-1, 36-2, 36-3

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
 SUPERIOR COURT**

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Name (Last, First, Middle Initial) Frischling, Steven, E.	Residence (Town) of accused East Lyme	Court to be held at (Town) Norwich	Geographical Area number 21
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Affidavit - Continued

questions. The accused then stated that he was going to decline to answer that question. The accused then ended the meeting and left.

10) That, I reviewed Montville Police Department mobile video recorder footage and confirmed that the accused was on scene as both a first responder and the PIO. The accused was clearly wearing a high visibility jacket with Chesterfield Fire Company on the back. The video depicts him sweeping up at one point and then grabbing his cameras and walking around the scene.

11) That, based upon the aforementioned information this affiant requests that an arrest warrant be issued for Steven E. Frischling W/M DOB - 06/18/1975 LKA - 45 Carriage Hill Dr Niantic, CT. for the charges listed on the face page of this affidavit.

(This is page 3 of a 3 page Affidavit.)

Date 3/8/21	Signed (Affiant) LT. [Signature] #09
Jurat Subscribed and sworn to before me on (Date) 3-8-21	Signed (Judge/Clerk, Commissioner of Superior Court, Notary Public) Sgt [Signature] #213
Reviewed (Prosecutorial Official) [Signature]	Date 3/9/21
Reviewed (Judge/Judge Trial Referee) N. Droney	Date 3/9/21