

PC488-21

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

COUNTY OF:


**PRIVATE
CRIMINAL COMPLAINT**

Magisterial District Number:	BRIAN M. MCGOWAN
MDJ Name:	DISTRICT JUDGE 06-3-05
Address:	1230 TOWNHALL RD. WEST SUITE 300 ERIE, PA 16509
Telephone:	

Docket No.:	
Date Filed:	
OTN:	

 COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
VS.

DEFENDANT:

NAME and ADDRESS

 Elizabeth Hirz
 Erie County Courthouse
 140 West Sixth Street
 Suite 506
 Erie, PA. 16501

(Above to be completed by court personnel)

(Fill in defendant's name and address)

Notice: Under Pa.R.Crim.P. 506, your complaint may require approval by the attorney for the Commonwealth before it can be accepted by the magisterial district court. If the attorney for the Commonwealth disapproves your complaint, you may petition the court of common pleas for review of the decision of the attorney for the Commonwealth.

Fill in as much information as you have.

Defendant's Race/Ethnicity <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> White <input type="checkbox"/> Black <input type="checkbox"/> Asian <input type="checkbox"/> Native American <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	Defendant's Sex <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Male	Defendant's D.O.B. Not known	Defendant's SID (State Identification Number) Not known
Defendant's AKA (also known as) Not known	Defendant's Vehicle Information Plate Number State Not known Not known	Registration Sticker (MM/YY) Not known	Defendant's Driver's License Number State Number Not known Not known

1. Jeremiah Van Tassel

(Name of Complainant-Please Print or Type)

do hereby state: (check appropriate box)

1. ☒ I accuse the above named defendant who lives at the address set forth above
☐ I accuse the defendant whose name is unknown to me but who is described as _____
☐ I accuse the defendant whose name and popular designation or nickname is unknown to me and whom I have therefore designated as John Doe

 with violating the penal laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania at Erie, Pennsylvania
 (Place Political Subdivision)

 in Erie County on or about April 19, 2018

Participants were: (if there were participants, place their names here, repeating the name of the above defendant)

Elizabeth HirzTayla Van Tassel

RECEIVED

JUN 01 2021

 DISTRICT ATTORNEY
 ERIE COUNTY PENNSY

Defendant's Name:	Elizabeth Hirz
Docket Number:	



**PRIVATE
CRIMINAL COMPLAINT**

2. The acts committed by the accused were:
(Set forth a summary of the facts sufficient to advise the defendant of the nature of the offense charged. A citation to the statute allegedly violated, without more, is not sufficient. In a summary case, you must cite the specific section and subsection of the statute or ordinance allegedly violated. The age of the victim at the time of the offense may be included, if known. In addition, social security numbers and financial information (e.g. PINs) should not be listed. If the identity of an account number must be established, list only the last four digits. 204 Pa.Code §§ 213.1 - 213.7.)

Intimidation of witnesses or victims.

(a) Offense defined.— A person commits an offense if, with the intent to or with the knowledge that his conduct will obstruct, impede, impair, prevent or interfere with the administration of criminal justice, he intimidates or attempts to intimidate any witness or victim to:

- (1) Refrain from informing or reporting to any law enforcement officer, prosecuting official or judge concerning any information, document or thing relating to the commission of a crime.
- (2) Give any false or misleading information or testimony relating to the commission of any crime to any law enforcement officer, prosecuting official or judge.
- (3) Withhold any testimony, information, document or thing relating to the commission of a crime from any law enforcement officer, prosecuting official or judge.

(b) Grading.—

(1) The offense is a felony of the degree indicated in paragraphs (2) through (4) if:

- (i) The actor employs force, violence or deception, or threatens to employ force or violence, upon the witness or victim or, with the requisite intent or knowledge upon any other person.
- (ii) The actor offers any pecuniary or other benefit to the witness or victim or, with the requisite intent or knowledge, to any other person.

The facts are as follows:

During the prosecutor's questioning of my daughter in my criminal case, no. 2154-2016, Court of Common Pleas of Erie County, there was alot of facial expressions and talking with her hands. I had no idea at the time that such activity was actually witness tampering on the part of the prosecutor, Elizabeth Hirz. An experienced paralegal pointed this out to me after reviewing the trial transcripts (he noticed that there were way too many 'I don't remember', which usually indicate hand signals from the prosecutor to the testifying witness. My back was to the prosecutor during my questioning. I noted that my daughter was looking past me most of the time. When I look back to the prosecutor, I saw her looking at my daughter with her hands folded on the table and smiling.

Complainant submits that an investigation into other trials Elizabeth Hirz has prosecuted will reveal numerous examples of witness tampering.

All of which were against the peace and dignity of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and contrary to the Act of Assembly, or in violation of 4952 and Chapter 49
(Section) (Subsection)

of the Title 18
(PA Statute)

3. I ask that process be issued and that the defendant be required to answer the charges I have made.

4. I verify that the facts set forth in this complaint are true and correct to the best of my knowledge or information and belief. This verification is made subject to the penalties of Section 4904 of the Crimes Code (18 Pa.C.S. § 4904) relating to unsworn falsification to authorities.

4-22-21
Date

Frank S. Van Horn
Signature of Complainant

Office of the Attorney for the Commonwealth ☐ Approved ☒ Disapproved because: PROSECUTORIAL MERIT

JACK DANERI
(Name of Attorney for Commonwealth-Please Print or Type)

Jack Daneri
(Signature of Attorney for Commonwealth)

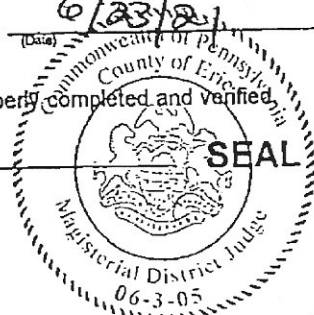
6/23/21
(Date)

AND NOW, on this date 23rd day of MAY, 2021, I certify that the complaint has been properly completed and verified.

[Signature]
(Magisterial District)

06-3-05

(Issuing Authority)



CRIMINAL COMPLAINT AFFIDAVIT

AFFIANT / VICTIM

NAME: Jeremiah Van Tassel
ADDRESS: NLD 329 PO Box 33028
CITY: Saint Petersburg, Fla. 33733
PHONE: HOME N/A
WORK N/A
AGE: _____

DEFENDANT

NAME: Elizabeth Hirz
ADDRESS: 140 West Sixth Street Suite 506
CITY: Erie
PHONE: HOME Unknown
WORK Unknown
AGE: _____

AFFIANT (IF DIFFERENT FROM VICTIM)

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
CITY: _____
PHONE: HOME _____
WORK _____

DATE OF INCIDENT: April 19, 2018
TIME OF INCIDENT: All day
DATE OF FILING: _____

LOCATION OF INCIDENT: Erie Courthouse 140 West Sixth Street Erie PA 16501

WITNESS

NAME: _____	NAME: _____	NAME: _____
ADD: _____	ADD: _____	ADD: _____
PHONE: _____	PHONE: _____	PHONE: _____

NOTE: IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A PHONE PUT IN A NUMBER WHERE YOU CAN BE CONTACTED. EITHER A WORK NUMBER, A FRIEND OR FAMILY MEMBER.

WERE THE POLICE CALLED AS A RESULT OF THIS INCIDENT? No.
DID THE POLICE FILE CHARGES AS A RESULT OF THIS INCIDENT? No
DID THE POLICE SUPPLY YOU WITH A REPORT NUMBER? No
OFFENSE TO BE CHARGED: Obstruction of justice

YOUR VERSION OF FACTS: Be specific. Include in detail what led up to the incident and what actually happened. Also, why you believe the defendant is the person responsible. Include your relationship with the defendant and any previous contact you may have had. **PLEASE ATTACH ALL NECESSARY DOCUMENTATION INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO COPIES OF NOTICES SENT TO DEFENDANT, CERTIFIED RECEIPTS, CANCELED CHECKS AND FINGERPRINT CARDS. Write legibly. If your complaint cannot be easily understood it will be returned.**

YOU MUST BE AS SPECIFIC AS POSSIBLE - IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU EXPLAIN HOW YOU KNOW THE DEFENDANT IS THE PERSON WHO COMMITTED THIS CRIME. AND HOW IT CAN BE PROVEN IN COURT. A SEPARATE COMPLAINT MUST BE FILED FOR EACH DEFENDANT.

(OVER)

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 - (ii) The actor offers any pecuniary or other benefit to the witness or victim or, with the requisite intent or knowledge to any other person.

The facts are as follows:

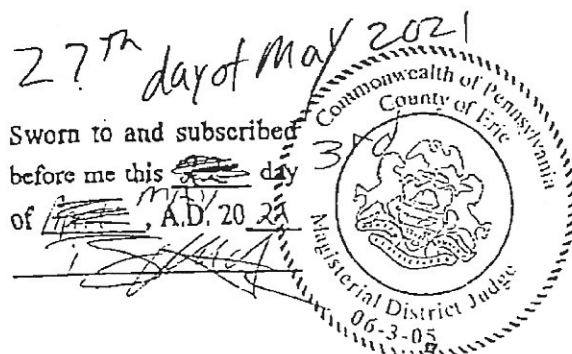
During the prosecutor's questioning of my daughter in my criminal case, no. 2154-2016, Court of Common Pleas of Erie County, there was a lot of facial expressions and talking with her hands. I had no idea at the time that such activity was actually witness tampering on the part of the prosecutor, Elizabeth Hirz. An experienced paralegal pointed this out to me after reviewing the trial transcripts (he noticed that there were way too many 'I don't remember' which usually indicate hand signals from the prosecutor to the testifying witness. My back was to the prosecutor during my questioning. I noticed that my daughter was looking past me most of the time. When I look back to the prosecutor, I saw her looking at my daughter with her hands folded on the table and smiling. Complainant submits that an investigation into other trials Elizabeth Hirz has prosecuted will reveal numerous examples of witness tampering.

I Jeremiah Lyle Van Tassel
(print your name)

being duly sworn according to law, depose and say

the facts set forth in the foregoing affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief. I further certify that these criminal proceedings are not being brought for purposes of collecting civil debt.

CAUTION: SECTION 4904 OF THE PENNSYLVANIA CRIMES CODE MAKES IT A CRIME PUNISHABLE BY UP TO TWO (2) YEARS IN PRISON TO MAKE UNSWORN FALSE STATEMENTS TO AUTHORITIES. SECTION 4903 MAKES IT A CRIME TO FALSELY SWEAR IN OFFICIAL MATTERS.



Jeremiah Lyle Van Tassel
(your signature)