



**Rachel Zimmermann Smith**  
County Attorney

**Susan D. Nehring**  
First Assistant County Attorney

Office of the  
**Johnson County Attorney**

500 South Clinton Street • Suite 400 • Iowa City, IA 52240  
Phone (319) 339-6100 • Fax (319) 339-6149

**Criminal**

Jude T. Pannell  
Michael K. Lang  
Jeffrey W. Brunelle  
Haley Huddleston  
Oubonh P. White  
Jacob Behnke  
C. Chris Widmer  
Katherine E. Schutz  
Veronica Stafford

**Juvenile**

Emily Voss  
Dan Williamson

**Civil**

Ryan A. Maas  
Lynn M. Rose  
Nathan Peters  
Dave VanCompernelle

**Child Support**

1-(888) 229-9223

**Contact:** Rachel Zimmermann Smith, Johnson County Attorney

**Contact Number:** 319-339-6100

**Contact Email:** [rzimmerm@johnsoncountyiowa.gov](mailto:rzimmerm@johnsoncountyiowa.gov)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Hawkeye Waste Systems Charged with Failure to Maintain Worker's Comp Insurance**

Friday, April 25, 2025 (JOHNSON COUNTY, IA) – The Johnson County Attorney's Office announced today that they have filed charges against Hawkeye Waste Systems, a Scott County company that does business in multiple areas in eastern Iowa, along with four of its employees and corporate officers. They have been charged with Failure to Maintain Worker's Compensation Insurance after an employee died after a workplace accident at their Iowa City location. Matthew Reuwsaat died on November 9, 2024 from injuries sustained in a workplace incident. An investigation by the Iowa Division of Worker's Compensation revealed that Hawkeye Waste Systems did not have worker's compensation insurance as required by Iowa Code.

Johnson County Attorney Rachel Zimmermann Smith said, "Prioritizing public safety means holding employers accountable for providing basic protections for workers and their families as State law requires them to do."

Arraignment is scheduled for May 19, 2025 at 1:30pm for all defendants.

A criminal charge is merely an accusation, and all defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty.

-END-

IN THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT FOR JOHNSON COUNTY

STATE OF IOWA, Plaintiff,  vs.  <b>HAWKEYE WASTE SYSTEMS, INC.</b>  <b>JAMES WATTS</b>  <b>CHRIS WATTS</b>  <b>MARY SHEEN</b>  <b>CHRIS DOHRER,</b> Defendants.	<b>Nos. FECR146312, FECR146317, FECR146321, FECR146323, FECR146325</b>  <b>TRIAL INFORMATION</b>
---	--

**COMES NOW**, Rachel Zimmermann Smith, as Prosecuting Attorney for Johnson County, Iowa, and in the name and by the authority of the State of Iowa accuses **HAWKEYE WASTE SYSTEMS INC, JAMES WATTS, CHRIS WATTS, MARY SHEEN, and CHRIS DOHRER** of the crime of:

**FAILURE TO MAINTAIN WORKERS COMP INSURANCE**, a **Class D Felony**, in violation of Iowa Code Sections **87.14A**.

The Defendants, on or about, October 1, 2024, in Johnson County, Iowa, willfully and knowingly engaged in business without first obtaining worker's compensation insurance as required by Chapter 85, the Defendants are owners and managers at Hawkeye Waste Systems, Inc. On October 31, 2024 Matthew Reuwsaat an employee at their Johnson County location at 91 Commercial Drive in Iowa City sustained severe head trauma in a work place accident, Matthew later died at University of Iowa Hospitals on November 9, 2024 an investigation by OSHA and the Iowa Division of Worker's Compensation revealed that Hawkeye Waste Systems, Inc. does not have worker's compensation insurance as required by Iowa Code, and has not been approved to be self-insured by the Iowa Insurance Division.

A TRUE INFORMATION

By: /s/ Rachel Zimmermann Smith

Rachel Zimmermann Smith

Johnson County Attorney

500 South Clinton Street, Suite 400

Iowa City, IA 52240

Phone: (319) 339-6100

Fax: (319) 339-6149

E-Mail: rzimmerm@johnsoncountyiowa.gov

Witnesses

JAMES CHRISTENSON OR DESIGNEE

SECRETARY OF STATE PAUL PATE OR DESIGNEE

CHRISTINE REUWSAAT

DOUG OMMEN OR DESIGNEE



State of Iowa Courts

**Type:** Approval of Trial Information

<b>Case Number</b>	<b>Case Title</b>
FECR146312	Hawkeye Waste Systems, Inc

On this date, I have reviewed the attached Trial Information and the accompanying Minutes of Testimony and find that they contain evidence which, if unexplained, is sufficient to warrant a conviction by a trial jury. Being satisfied from the showing made that the case should be prosecuted, I approve the Trial Information.

Release conditions are set by separate Order of the Court.

So Ordered

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "D. Minot", is written over a horizontal line.

Deborah Farmer Minot, Senior Judge,  
Sixth Judicial District of Iowa

Deborah Farmer Minot, Senior Judge, Sixth  
Judicial District of Iowa