

**THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
JUDICIAL BRANCH**

<https://www.courts.nh.gov>

Court Name: 9th Circuit - District Division - Nashua



Agency Case Number: 2024172043

ARREST WARRANT

To the sheriff or his deputies of any county in this state, or any police officer state or federal, within the state:

Cristina P. Ostrowski has established under oath that probable cause exists and an arrest warrant shall issue against the defendant,

Grace Gato, D.O.B. [REDACTED],

in the county of Hillsborough ☒ for the following counts

contrary to the New Hampshire

RSA: 659:34, I(c) Descriptor: Wrongful Voting

RSA: 659:34, II Descriptor: Wrongful Voting; Penalties

RSA: _____ Descriptor: _____

RSA: _____ Descriptor: _____

RSA: _____ Descriptor: _____

We command you to take him/her, if found to be in your jurisdiction, and bring him/her before the

9th Circuit - District Division - Nashua



Court in Hillsborough



County.

October 8, 2025

Date



Signature of Judge / Magistrate / Justice of the Peace

Xiorlivette Bernazzani

Printed name of Judge / Magistrate / Justice of the Peace

RETURN

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

COUNTY OF _____

I have arrested the Defendant and now have him/her before the court as commanded.

Date

Signature of Officer

Printed name of Officer/Department

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PROBABLE CAUSE STATEMENT FOR ARREST WARRANT

I, Cristina P. Ostrowski declare under penalty of perjury:
(Name of officer)

1. I am employed by and my current assignment and experience is:

See attached supporting affidavit

(Describe position, assignment, office, etc.)

2. I have information, based upon (Describe source, facts indicating reliability and credibility of source and nature of information. If based on personal knowledge, so state).

See attached supporting affidavit

☐ See additional page(s) for more information

For these reasons I ask the Court to issue an arrest warrant for

Name Grace Gato

DOB:

For the following crimes:

RSA: 659:34, I(c) Descriptor: Wrongful Voting

RSA: 659:34, II Descriptor: Wrongful Voting; Penalties

RSA: Descriptor:

RSA: Descriptor:

RSA: Descriptor:

Date

10/8/2025

Signature of Officer

Cristina P. Ostrowski
Printed name of Officer

Signed under the penalty of perjury, the penalty for which may include a fine or imprisonment or both.

Supporting Affidavit

Cristina P. Ostrowski, Affiant, swears under oath that the facts expressed by her in the attached and incorporated Statement of Probable Cause are true and that based thereon, say:

1. I am an investigator with the State of New Hampshire's Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General, assigned to the Election Law Unit within the Civil Bureau since September 2024.

I previously served as a police officer with the Keene Police Department for 10 years. While employed with KPD, I worked on various investigations, including assaults, burglaries, sexual assaults, fraud, and thefts. I have participated in and executed several arrest and search warrants in criminal investigations. I hold a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Salem State University and a Master's degree in Justice Studies from Southern New Hampshire University. I attended the 167th class at the NH Police Standards and Training and became a full-time police officer upon completion of that academy.

2. The facts contained herein are based upon my observations, personal knowledge, review of emails, documents and information obtained from other individuals identified, as described in the following paragraphs of this affidavit:
3. On October 21, 2024, Hudson Town Clerk, Michelle Brewster, called the Election Law Unit to report that Grace Gato may have unlawfully attempted to obtain an absentee ballot for Gato's deceased mother, Ruby Cecilia Ponce.
4. On October 21, 2024, Clerk Brewster had received a letter raising a concern that Gato may attempt to obtain an absentee ballot for Ponce, who had recently deceased. The letter included two screenshots of Gato's social media posts. The first was a post from 10/12/2024 on X (formerly known as Twitter) that read: *"My mom is a WWII baby who is going to miss WWII. She made sure she voted absentee ballot while in hospice care. I just have to mail it. She said make sure that son of a bitch doesn't win. #nhpolitics."* The second was a post from 10/16/2024 on X that read: *"My mother passed away last night. #death #dying #caregiver #aging #elderly."*
5. Later on October 21, Gato went into the Hudson Town Hall and submitted an absentee ballot application for the November 5, 2024 State General Election. The absentee ballot application listed the voter's name and address as Ruby C. Ponce, [REDACTED] Hudson 03051. The application included a signature for Ruby Ponce, dated October 13, 2024. On the form, Gato signed an attestation that she assisted the applicant in executing the form because the applicant has a disability.
6. Hudson Deputy Clerk Donna Melanson received the absentee ballot application from Gato. According to Deputy Clerk Melanson, Gato said, *"I'm dropping this off for my mother so she can vote."* Deputy Clerk Melanson refused to hand Gato a ballot for her

mother, stating instead that the clerk's office would have to mail the ballot to the address on the application.

7. After Gato left, Deputy Clerk Melanson handed the Ponce absentee ballot application to Clerk Brewster. Clerk Brewster recognized that the application was for Ponce, who had recently passed away, so she put the application aside and called the Election Law Unit.
8. After receiving Clerk Brewster's report that Gato may have unlawfully attempted to obtain an absentee ballot for her recently deceased mother, I reviewed Gato's public social media posts. On or around October 16, 2024, Gato posted a picture of a painting on Instagram with the comment "*Painting while grieving my mother's death, yesterday evening.*" On or about October 20, 2024, Gato posted an article titled "*My Mother's Eulogy*" on Medium.com.
9. I contacted Clerk Brewster, who stated that she was able to confirm through New Hampshire Vital Records that Ponce had died on October 15, 2024.
10. On November 12, 2024, I called and spoke with Gato over the phone. I identified myself to Gato and explained the reason for my call. During the call, Gato stated that her mother completed the absentee ballot application prior to her death and had asked Gato to submit the application. Gato confirmed her mother died on October 15, 2024. Gato also confirmed that she went to the Hudson town hall to submit the absentee ballot application for her mother on October 21, 2024. Gato stated it was "*one of the last things she wanted me to do,*" she was trying to honor her mother's last wishes, and she was never going to commit voter fraud.
11. During my November 12 phone call with Gato, she indicated that she and her mother had been living together in Hudson prior to her mother's death. Based on information from the State Voter Registration System, Gato and Ponce were each registered to vote in Hudson with [REDACTED] Hudson, NH as their domicile address. [REDACTED] Hudson, NH is the same address on the Ponce absentee ballot application. Therefore, if the Town had mailed the absentee ballot application to Ponce at [REDACTED] Gato would have had the opportunity to obtain that absentee ballot.
12. Based on information from the State Voter Registration System, Grace Gato applied for and cast an absentee ballot in her own name during the November 5, 2024 State General Election.
13. RSA 659:34, I(c) and II provide that a person is guilty of a class A misdemeanor if they knowingly apply for a ballot in a name other than their own.
14. The foregoing constitutes probable cause to believe that Grace Gato (d.o.b. [REDACTED]) committed the crime of Wrongful Voting; Penalties for Voter Fraud (RSA 659:34, I(c) and RSA 659:34, II) in that Grace Gato knowingly applied for an absentee ballot for the November 5, 2024 State General Election in a name other than her own when she

submitted an absentee ballot application using the name of her deceased mother on October 21, 2024.