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NEWPORT—Newport Police Department officer James (“Travis”) Gorrell, 38, of Brookview Drive, in Newport, was arrested Sunday, Sept. 21, and charged with domestic assault after a verbal altercation with his wife, Wendy L. Gorrell, the Cocke County Sheriff’s Department reported.

Cocke County Sheriff Armando Fontes stated in a brief press release that patrolman Gorrell made threats, but did not physically harm his wife.

The release states: “The warrant was for domestic assault with no bodily injury or physical violence. These are allegations and Gorrell is considered innocent until proven guilty.”

The brief arrest report by Sgt. Bob Schaff, the investigating officer, and Lt. Robert Thornton states that officers went to the couple’s residence to investigate a domestic complaint and an existing warrant taken out for Gorrell by his spouse.

It states, “After several hours of investigation, James Travis Gorrell was placed under arrest and taken to the Cocke County Jail” at about 12:30 a.m. on Sunday.

Newport Police Department Chief Maurice Shults said on Monday, Sept. 22 that Travis Gorrell was put on administrative leave without pay effective effective immediately when he got arrested.

A jail employee told the Plain Talk on Monday that they had been ordered to not release any information about the case, but later Chief Shults stated that Gorrell’s bond was set at \$1,000, and he bonded out on Sunday, the same day he was arrested.

The Sept. 20 arrest warrant by Sgt. Schaff and Wendy Gorrell states she and her husband had been arguing verbally since she returned home from church, on Wednesday, Sept. 17.

On Saturday, their argument allegedly started over picking up their daughter at her friend’s residence, according to the arrest warrant. Travis Gorrell allegedly said he could not pick up his daughter because he had “too many” things to do around the house.

Wendy Gorrell allegedly left and picked up their daughter and returned home. The verbal argument continued, the arrest warrant stated.

Wendy Gorrell said she decided to leave with their daughter and go to her mother’s residence. She said as she walked toward the door from the bedroom, Travis Gorrell allegedly stood in front of it, refusing to let her leave. When she finally got by, she left out the front door and got in her vehicle with her daughter, the arrest warrant stated.

Travis Gorrell then allegedly got in on the passenger side door, sat down, and shut the door.

The verbal argument allegedly escalated. Travis Gorrell refused to get out of the vehicle.

The arrest warrant further states that Wendy Gorrell started to leave the driveway. Travis Gorrell allegedly opened the door and had his leg hanging out the door. Wendy Gorrell stopped the vehicle at a stop sign. Their daughter allegedly told her dad she was recording on her phone what he was doing.

Travis Gorrell then allegedly got out and opened the back passenger door and grabbed his daughter's cell phone from her. The arrest warrant states that the daughter then fought with her dad to get her phone back and got back in the vehicle.

Travis Gorrell then allegedly "slammed his own head in the door and in the process slammed (his daughter's) knee." Wendy Gorrell then drove off to her mother's residence.

The arrest warrant states that Wendy Gorrell then called Det. Paula Wilson of the Cocke County Sheriff's Department, asking for advice, allegedly because of past disputes where Travis Gorrell had allegedly stated to her that his best friend is a mortician, and if she decided to leave him or get him fired from his job, that no one would be able to find her body.

Wendy Gorrell allegedly told Sgt. Schaff that she wants to obtain an Order of Protection and sign a warrant for his arrest. She also allegedly stated she is going to file for divorce.