



**U.S. Department of Justice**

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**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**April 22, 2025**

**Wisconsin Man Pleads Guilty to Possession of Chemical Weapon  
Precursors**

Richard G. Frohling, Acting United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Wisconsin, announced that on April 21, 2025, United States District Judge Brett Ludwig accepted the guilty plea of James Morgan (formerly Karactus Blome) to one count of possession of chemical weapon precursors—chemicals that combine to create chlorine and chlorine gas—not intended for peaceful purposes, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 229(a).

According to court documents, on December 21, 2023, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) executed a search warrant at Morgan's storage unit and found the precursor chemicals. Morgan had studied chemistry at the University of Wisconsin–Whitewater and had described himself as a weapon designer who did not need a conventional weapon. In a video, Morgan displayed the chemicals and said they were for making a lot of chlorine very quickly. In messages in 2022, he said that what he had was "scary," and that the chemicals react to produce a lot of chlorine gas, which can be "effective if your enemy is not ready for it." He sent links for purchasing the chemicals and discussed the amounts needed to make a lot of chlorine gas really fast. In messages in 2023, Morgan discussed a plan to defeat the government, if it came for his guns, by producing a large amount of chlorine that he claimed could be used against approximately twenty government agents. The FBI Laboratory determined that the chemicals Morgan possessed could produce a large amount of chlorine that could result in rapid, serious health effects, including death.

Sentencing is scheduled for August 1, 2025, before Judge Ludwig. Morgan faces up to life in prison, a \$250,000 fine, and five years of supervised release after any period of imprisonment.

The FBI, the Janesville Police Department, and the Whitewater Police Department investigated the case, which also resulted in Morgan's conviction for possession of destructive devices in the Western District of Wisconsin.

Assistant U.S. Attorney John Scully is prosecuting the case in the Eastern District of Wisconsin, Assistant U.S. Attorney Meredith Duchemin prosecuted the case in the Western District of Wisconsin, and Trial Attorney Justin Sher of the National Security Division, Counterterrorism Section, assisted on both prosecutions.

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