

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRD  
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF FLORIDA, IN AND  
FOR LAFAYETTE COUNTY, FLORIDA.

STATE OF FLORIDA

CASE NO.

-vs-

AGENCY CASE NO. 17-20137

Correctional Officer Cody Ford

Defendant(s).

RACE/SEX: White/Male

DOB: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]

STEVE LAND - CLERK  
LAFAYETTE COUNTY, FL  
2018 APR -3 AM 10:42  
FILED

ARREST WARRANT

IN THE NAME OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA, TO ALL AND SINGULAR SHERIFFS OF THE  
STATE OF FLORIDA:

HAVING RECEIVED AND CONSIDERED THE SWORN AFFIDAVIT OF SENIOR INSPECTOR  
CHESTER POTTER, DATED THE DAY OF 3 MARCH, 2018, SAID AFFIDAVIT ALLEGING:

COUNT 1

That Cody Ford, a Correctional Officer acting in his official position as a public servant  
did on or about the 6<sup>th</sup> day of November 2017, in Lafayette County, Florida, then and there,  
malicious intent, battered Inmate [REDACTED] while Inmate [REDACTED] was housed at  
Mayo Correctional Institution, contrary to Florida Statute 944.35(3)(a)1.

COUNT 2

That Cody Ford, a Correctional Officer acting in his official position as a public servant  
did on or about the 6<sup>th</sup> day of November 2017, in Lafayette County, Florida, then and there  
unlawfully falsify his Use of Force Report and Incident report (*Official State Documents*) while  
working at Mayo Correctional Institution, contrary to Florida Statute 839.13(2)(a).

THESE ARE THEREFORE TO COMMAND YOU TO FORTHWITH ARREST AND BRING THE  
ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANT BEFORE ME TO BE DEALT WITH ACCORDING TO LAW.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL THIS 3<sup>rd</sup> DAY OF APRIL, 2018, AT LAFAYETTE  
COUNTY, FLORIDA.

BOND IS FIXED AT \$ 5,000  
 BOND IS TO BE SET AT FIRST APPEARANCE

a true and correct copy of the original  
This 3<sup>rd</sup> day of April 2018

By Steve Land  
STEVE LAND  
CLERK CIRCUIT COURT

[Signature]  
JUDGE OF THE ABOVE COURT

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DOB: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]

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AFFIDAVIT FOR ARREST

Before me, Circuit Court Judge Darren K. Jackson, personally appeared Senior Inspector Chester Potter, who being first duly sworn, deposes and says:

COUNT 1

That Cody Ford, a Correctional Officer acting in his official position as a public servant did on or about the 6<sup>th</sup> day of November 2017, in Lafayette County, Florida, then and there, with malicious intent, battered Inmate [REDACTED] while Inmate [REDACTED] was housed at Mayo Correctional Institution, contrary to Florida Statute 944.35(3)(a)1.

COUNT 2

That Cody Ford, a Correctional Officer acting in his official position as a public servant did on or about the 6<sup>th</sup> day of November 2017, in Lafayette County, Florida, then and there unlawfully falsify his Use of Force Report and Incident report (*Official State Documents*) while working at Mayo Correctional Institution, contrary to Florida Statute 839.13(2)(a).

On November 06, 2017, Officer Ford was assigned as security for Inside Grounds Inmates. Inmate [REDACTED] was an inmate assigned to Officer Ford's inside grounds squad. Officer Ford, with the assistance of Officer Jason Lee, searched Inmate [REDACTED] foot locker. Paint thinner and tape were located inside Inmate [REDACTED] locker, so Officer Ford ordered Inmate [REDACTED] into the bathroom area. Officer Lee entered the bathroom area first ([REDACTED]) with Inmate [REDACTED] and Officer Ford followed with Inmate [REDACTED]. Inmate [REDACTED] testified; once they arrived in the bathroom area he was handcuffed, and Officer Ford sprayed him with chemical agents for no reason. As Inmate [REDACTED] was going down to the ground, Officer Ford kned him in the shoulder and then proceeded to kick him several times while he was down. Numerous inmates heard the commotion in the bathroom and witnessed Officer Ford beating Inmate [REDACTED]. Six total inmates called the Office of Inspector General's Tips line, to report the abuse. When additional staff

arrived to remove Inmate [REDACTED] from the dormitory, Officer Ford prepared his Incident Report, and Use of Force Report documenting; Inmate [REDACTED] elevated his voice, clinching both fists, and bladed his body in a fighting posture. According to Officer Ford, he and Officer Lee approached Inmate [REDACTED] to apply hand restraints, when Inmate [REDACTED] reached out with his left hand and struck Officer Ford in the face, causing Officer Ford to utilize his chemical agents. Because of continued resistance by Inmate [REDACTED] Officer Ford took Inmate [REDACTED] to the ground where hand restraints were applied and all force ceased.

During his interview, Officer Lee testified; he was in the bathroom but was looking around to ensure there were no objects laying around that could be used as weapons. Officer Lee denied hearing Inmate [REDACTED] say anything, and he denied Officer Ford or himself providing verbal orders to Inmate [REDACTED] as is documented in reports, prior to Inmate [REDACTED] being sprayed with chemical agents. Officer Lee denied abusing Inmate [REDACTED] and only testified; he heard a commotion and when he turned around Inmate [REDACTED] had been sprayed and was on the floor being held down by Officer Ford. Officer Lee testified; he assisted in applying hand restraints after Officer Ford and Inmate [REDACTED] were already on the ground. Officer Lee admits he signed his Incident Report, without thoroughly reading it, since it was typed by someone else, and during my interview admits it was not accurate; it read like Officer Ford's report, which documented Inmate [REDACTED] as being combative and resistant, which he was not.

Officer Lisa Michaels was the dormitory officer during this incident, and testified; although she did not see what initially transpired in the bathroom, she did see Officer Ford deliver several kicks to the body of Inmate [REDACTED] who was, at the time, laying on the floor.

The allegations against Officer Ford are supported by Inmate, and officer testimony. All supporting documents, and testimony referred to in this affidavit will be available for judicial review and will be further explained in your affiant's report of investigation.

WHEREFORE, your Affiant prays that an arrest warrant be issued according to law, commanding all and singular, the Sheriffs of the State of Florida, to forthwith, arrest said Cody Ford, and bring him before the court to answer the charge of: Malicious Battery, and Falsifying Records.

*[Handwritten Signature]*

AFFIANT

2018 APR - 3 AM 10: 41  
FILED  
STEVE LAND - CLERK  
LAFAYETTE COUNTY, FL

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME THIS 3rd th DAY OF April, 2018.

*[Handwritten Signature]*

JUDGE OF THE ABOVE COURT,  
Lafayette County, State of Florida

I hereby certify the above is a true and correct copy of the original  
This 3rd day of April, 2018

STEVE LAND  
CLERK CIRCUIT COURT

By *[Handwritten Signature]*