

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

STATE OF FLORIDA

-vs-

Tara Marie Simpson

Defendant,

CASE NO:
CLERK NO:

AGENCY CASE NO: 18-12608

RACE: B/F

DOB: [REDACTED]

SSN: [REDACTED]

AFFIDAVIT FOR ARREST

BEFORE ME, Andrew J. Decker, a Judge of the above captioned court, personally appeared before me, Senior Inspector Justin Bates who being first duly sworn, deposes and says:

Beginning September 7, 2018, the defendant, a corrections officer with the Florida Department of Corrections became the subject of an investigation concerning the unlawful introduction of contraband and unlawful compensation. Such information was derived from inmate and civilian sources.

On September 6, 2018, Inmate [REDACTED] (Inmate [REDACTED], DC# [REDACTED] provided information to security staff at Hamilton Correctional Institution (HCI) alleging the defendant was introducing contraband inside the secure facility, and was involved in a sexual relationship with Inmate [REDACTED] (Inmate [REDACTED]), DC# [REDACTED]

On September 7, 2018, a sworn recorded interview was conducted with Inmate [REDACTED] at HCI. Inmate [REDACTED] stated he was approached by Inmate [REDACTED] about introducing contraband into HCI. According to Inmate [REDACTED] Inmate [REDACTED] was involved in a sexual relationship with the defendant, as he (Inmate [REDACTED]) served as their "look out". On or about July 2018, the defendant was introducing contraband into HCI Work Camp at the behest of Inmate [REDACTED]. This illegal contraband consisted of MDMA or "Molly", cellular phones, and cigarettes. Inmate [REDACTED] stated inmates at HCI Work Camp would wire money to Inmate [REDACTED] mother, [REDACTED] ([REDACTED]) for the purpose of introducing the contraband. Once the money was collected, [REDACTED] would wire the money to the defendant as payment for introducing the contraband into the facility. The defendant would then travel to Ocala, Florida and meet with Inmate [REDACTED] sister to obtain whatever contraband the inmates requested. On some occasions the defendant would be given additional cash payments at these meetings with his (Inmate [REDACTED] sister. The defendant would later smuggle the contraband into HCI where it would be distributed to the inmates involved. During the interview, Inmate [REDACTED] provided two (2) money wire transfer numbers he had recorded in an address book.

On September 18, 2018, a subpoena was submitted to RIA Financial Services regarding the two (2) money wire transfer numbers.

On October 17, 2018, RIA Financial Services provided the requested information. After review, it was discovered that the defendant received the two (2) money wire transfers from members of Inmate ██████████ family. The first transaction was sent on July 16, 2018, by ██████████ ██████████ in the amount of \$150.00. ██████████ was determined to be Inmate ██████████ uncle. The second transaction was sent on July 24, 2018, by ██████████ in the amount of \$100.00. Both transactions were sent to the defendant and were subsequently redeemed in Valdosta, Georgia. This information was verified using the defendant's State of Georgia driver's license number compared with the defendant's driver's license information in a State of Florida employment record.

On October 24, 2018, a sworn recorded interview was conducted with ██████████ ██████████ confirmed that the two (2) money wire transfers were sent to the defendant. ██████████ indicated she was sent the money from several different individuals she did not know. ██████████ would then receive further instructions from Inmate ██████████ for forwarding the money to the defendant. ██████████ indicated she had her brother, ██████████ conduct the first transaction because she asked him to wire the money. Once the money was sent, ██████████ would provide the money wire transfer numbers to Inmate ██████████ to give to the defendant.

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 the defendant, Tara Marie Simpson, and bring her before the court to answer to the charge of Unlawful Compensation.


AFFIANT

SWORN AND SUBSCRIBED before me this 1st day of November, 2018, by who is personally known to me/produced proper identification.



JUDGE OF THE ABOVE COURT

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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 Justin Bates of the Florida Department of Corrections' Office of Inspector General dated November 1, 2018, said affidavit alleging:

Count 1: Officer Tara Simpson did in fact on July 16, 2018, receive a RIA Financial Money Wire Transaction in the amount of \$150.00 from a [REDACTED] the uncle of Inmate [REDACTED] [REDACTED] for the payment of introducing contraband into the secure facility at Hamilton Correctional Institution Work Camp; Contrary to Florida State Statute 838.016 or Unlawful Compensation.

Count 2: Officer Tara Simpson did in fact on July 24, 2018, receive a RIA Financial Money Wire Transaction in the amount of \$100.00 from a [REDACTED] the mother of Inmate [REDACTED] [REDACTED] for the payment of introducing contraband into the secure facility at Hamilton Correctional Institution Work Camp; Contrary to Florida State Statute 838.016 or Unlawful Compensation.

AND HAVING DETERMINED PROBABLE CAUSE TO EXIST FOR SAID CHARGES,
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 1st day of November, 2018, at
Hamilton County, Florida.

Andrew Parker

JUDGE OF THE ABOVE COURT

BAIL BOND IS FIXED AT: → *To Be set By First Appearance Judge*
\$ _____ Unlawful Compensation
\$ _____ Unlawful Compensation
\$ _____ Bond Total