

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

STATE OF FLORIDA

-vs-

Belinda Rena Huston

Defendant,

CASE NO:
CLERK NO:

AGENCY CASE NO: 18-14295

RACE: W/F

DOB: [REDACTED]

SSN: [REDACTED]

AFFIDAVIT FOR ARREST

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

Beginning August 17, 2018, the above-named individual, 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 sources and video footage.

On August 17, 2018, Senior Inspector Justin Bates (hereafter referred to as "Your Affiant") was contacted by John Godwin, the Warden at Columbia Correctional Institution (CCI) in regard to an inmate having information pertaining to a staff member being involved with said inmate.

On August 17, 2018, Your Affiant and Inspector John Santerfeit spoke with Inmate [REDACTED] about his involvement with the Defendant, Correctional Officer Belinda Huston. Inmate [REDACTED] provided testimony indicating he was in a business arrangement with the Defendant to introduce various types and amounts of contraband into the facility. According to Inmate [REDACTED] he was [REDACTED] at CCI where the Defendant was assigned to work each day. Inmate [REDACTED] indicated that his girlfriend, [REDACTED] (Ms. [REDACTED]) would send the Defendant money via Cash App, a mobile phone money wire service in exchange for the contraband the Defendant would introduce. Inmate [REDACTED] indicated the contraband ranged from tobacco, cocaine, to synthetic cannabinoids ("K2"). According to Inmate [REDACTED] he and the Defendant would arrive [REDACTED] and the Defendant would place contraband in a "red bag" (a bag designated for contaminated medical waste) and give it to him for disposal. Inmate [REDACTED] would exit the Medical Department with the items and enter the confinement unit, which is directly behind the Medical Department. Inmate [REDACTED] would then disburse the illegal items. Inmate [REDACTED] advised that his family could provide evidence of the Cash App money wire transfers to the Defendant.

After speaking with Inmate [REDACTED] video footage was reviewed from the Medical Department. During a review of the footage, Your Affiant observed the Defendant approach Inmate [REDACTED] on August 10, 2018, with a red bag and give it to him. Inmate [REDACTED] was then escorted to the back of the Medical Department by the Defendant and allowed to walk out the back door. Inmate

██████ then entered the adjoining confinement building with the red bag in his possession. This information is consistent with Inmate ██████ testimony.

On August 20, 2018, Your Affiant was contacted by ██████ the sister of Inmate ██████ Ms. ██████ provided the name, address and phone number for the Defendant. Ms. ██████ also provided via a text message to Your Affiant's state issued cellular phone "screenshots" of the Cash App payments from Ms. ██████ to the Defendant. Upon review, Your Affiant noted two (2) transactions on July 23, 2018, each for \$300.00 and two (2) others on August 5, 2018, one for \$400.00 and the other for \$100.00.

With this information, a subpoena for records was obtained and submitted to Cash App for the physical transaction information. A subpoena was also submitted to the Florida Department of Financial Services (DFS) to obtain the Defendant's bank account information in which the Cash App deposits were possibly made.

On November 29, 2018, a subpoena return was obtained from the DFS. A review revealed the Defendant was utilizing Campus USA Credit Union as her banking institution. With this, a subpoena was obtained and submitted to Campus USA requesting transaction information from the Defendant's account during the period indicated by Ms. ██████ for the Cash App transactions.

On December 17, 2018, Your Affiant received the Cash App subpoena return. The Cash App transactions were in fact sent to the Defendant and deposited in the Campus USA account being utilized by the Defendant for her State of Florida salary disbursements. In total, the Defendant received \$1,100 dollars from Inmate ██████ girlfriend and attempted to receive an additional \$300.00 that was eventually "revoked" for an unknown reason. This was later confirmed from a subpoena return received on December 21, 2018, from Campus USA Credit Union showing the transactions from Ms. ██████ that were deposited into the Defendant's account.

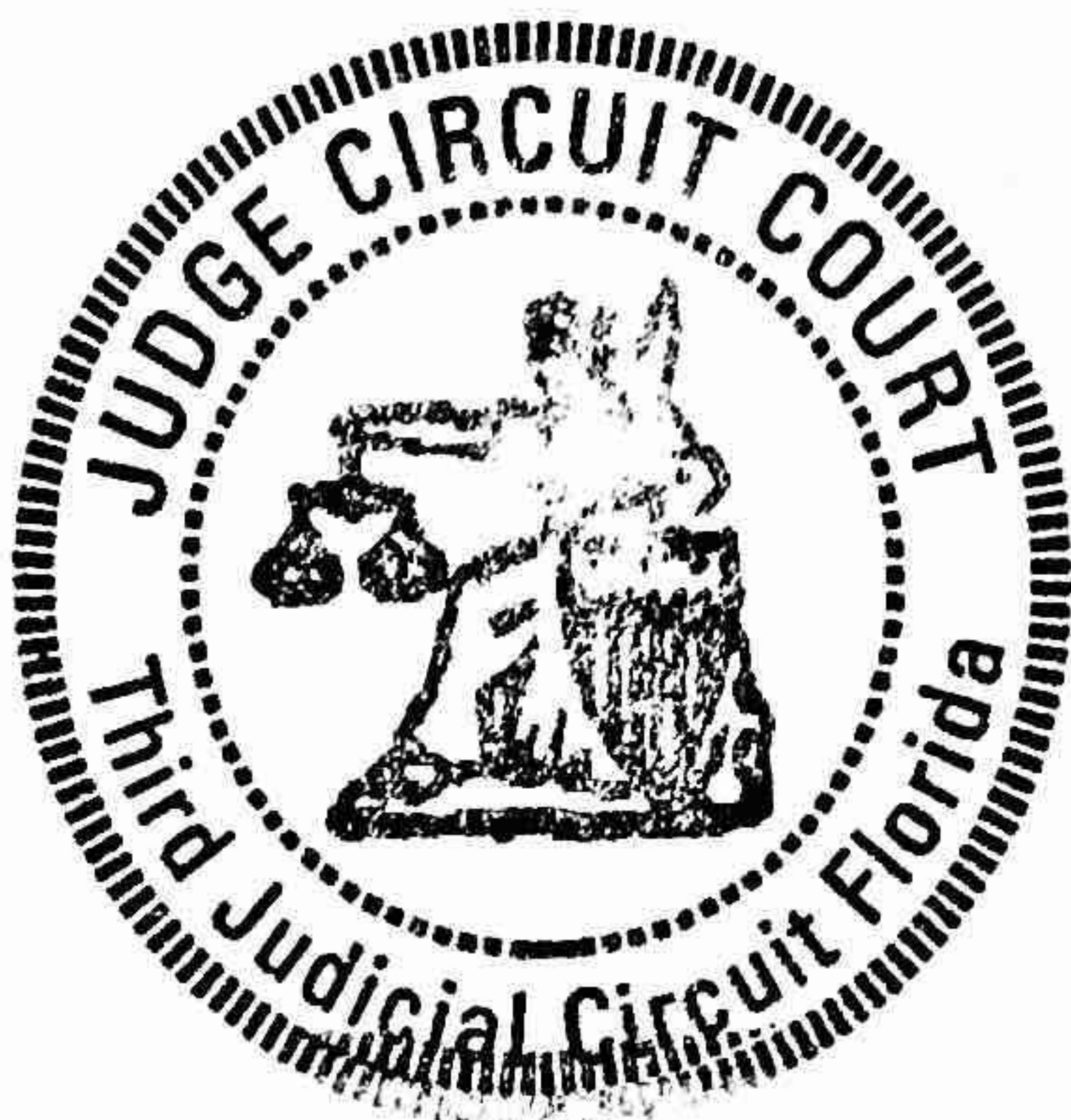
WHEREFORE, Your Affiant prays that an arrest warrant be issued according to law commanding all and singular the Sheriffs of the State of Florida to forthwith arrest the said Belinda Rena Huston, and bring her before the court to answer the charges of Unlawful Compensation.

SE INSP
AFFIANT

SWORN AND SUBSCRIBED before me this 18th day of January, 2019, by who is personally known to me/~~produced proper identification~~

Mark Foy

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 January 15, 2019, said
affidavit alleging:

Count 1: On June 23, 2018, the Defendant did in fact receive a Cash App wire transfer for \$300.00
from [REDACTED] the girlfriend of Inmate [REDACTED] DC# [REDACTED] This wire transfer
was sent to the Defendant at the behest of Inmate [REDACTED] Inmate [REDACTED] requested [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] wire the monies to the Defendant for the introduction of contraband; Contrary to Florida
State Statute 838.016 (1) or Unlawful Compensation.

Count 2: On June 23, 2018, the Defendant did in fact receive a Cash App wire transfer for \$300.00
from [REDACTED] the girlfriend of Inmate [REDACTED] DC# [REDACTED] This wire transfer
was sent to the Defendant at the behest of Inmate [REDACTED] Inmate [REDACTED] requested [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] wire the monies to the Defendant for the introduction of contraband; Contrary to Florida
State Statute 838.016 (1) or Unlawful Compensation.

Count 3: On August 5, 2018, the Defendant did in fact receive a Cash App wire transfer for
\$400.00 from [REDACTED] the girlfriend of Inmate [REDACTED] DC# [REDACTED] This wire
transfer was sent to the Defendant at the behest of Inmate [REDACTED] Inmate [REDACTED] requested
[REDACTED] wire the monies to the Defendant for the introduction of contraband; Contrary to
Florida State Statute 838.016 (1) or Unlawful Compensation.

Count 4: On August 6, 2018, the Defendant did in fact receive a Cash App wire transfer for
\$100.00 from [REDACTED] the girlfriend of Inmate [REDACTED] DC# [REDACTED] This wire
transfer was sent to the Defendant at the behest of Inmate [REDACTED] Inmate [REDACTED] requested

██████ wire the monies to the Defendant for the introduction of contraband; Contrary to Florida State Statute 838.016 (1) 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 [#]15 day of January, 2019, at Columbia County, Florida.

Mark Singh

JUDGE OF THE ABOVE COURT

BAIL BOND IS FIXED AT:

Ct. 1 \$ 4,000 Unlawful Compensation
Ct 2 \$ 4,000 Unlawful Compensation
Ct 3 \$ 4,000 Unlawful Compensation
Ct 4 \$ 4,000 Unlawful Compensation

\$ 4,000 ^{to} Bond Total
Mark Singh
1-15-19

