

COPY

STATE OF FLORIDA

-vs-

Corey Joseph Griffis

Defendant(s),

RACE: W/M

DOB: [REDACTED]

SSN: [REDACTED]

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTH
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR
BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA.

CASE NO:

CLERK NO:

AGENCY CASE NO: 19-09839

ARREST WARRANT

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

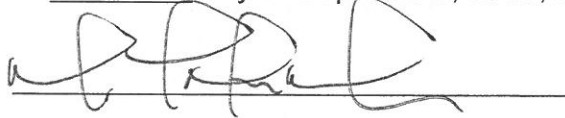
Having received and considered the sworn affidavit of Lead Senior Inspector Justin Bates of the
Florida Department of Corrections Office of Inspector General dated 9/10 2019, said
affidavit alleging:

Count 1: On June 29, 2019, Correctional Officer Major Corey Griffis did in fact order two
subordinate staff members to falsify departmental incident reports which are official state records
out of fear of retaliation, in regards to the discovery of a large amount of contraband found on the
premises of Lawtey Correctional Institution to avoid an institutional lock down while the defendant
was the "Duty Warden"; Contrary to Florida Statute 838.022 or Official Misconduct

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 10 day of September, 2019, at
Bradford County, Florida.



JUDGE OF THE ABOVE COURT

BAIL BOND IS FIXED AT:

\$25,000 Official Misconduct

\$25,000 Bond Total

* No contact w/ [REDACTED] CO Michael Griffis,
[REDACTED], Sgt. David Piggot.

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-vs-
Corey J. Griffis

Defendant,

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RACE: W/M

DOB: [REDACTED]

SSN: [REDACTED]

AFFIDAVIT FOR ARREST

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

Beginning June 10, 2019, the above-named individual, a Corrections Officer Major with the Florida Department of Corrections became the subject of an investigation concerning Official Misconduct. Such information was derived from the independent testimony of several other staff member's.


On June 10, 2019, your affiant was assigned a complaint for investigation that was made by Steven Wellhausen, the Warden at Lawtey Correctional Institution (LCI) in regards to the above defendant ordering subordinate staff members to falsify the reporting of a large amount of contraband found on LCI property.

On the morning of May 29, 2019, Officer Michael Griffis (*no relation to the defendant*) was assigned as an Outside Grounds Officer at LCI and tasked with [REDACTED] inmates were released to work for contraband. As Officer Griffis was [REDACTED] he found a large black trash bag lying between two inoperable tractors near the facilities "plow line". Officer Griffis recovered the bag and alerted his supervisor, Sergeant David Piggot of the discovery. Due to the high volume of inmates leaving the facility that day, Sergeant Piggot advised Officer Griffis to bring the bag to him and he would handle the discovery accordingly. Sergeant Piggot took possession of the bag and met with [REDACTED] in Sergeant Piggot's office. The two began removing the items from the bag that contained over seventy (70) packs of 305 brand cigarettes and six (6) cellular phones. [REDACTED] notified the "Duty Warden" Major Corey Griffis of the find along with [REDACTED] and Sergeant Piggot were in the [REDACTED] going through the bag of contraband when Major Griffis arrived and observed the contraband that was being laid out on a table. Major Griffis looked over the contraband and what was left in the bag when he arrived. During this time, [REDACTED] arrived in the office as well. While looking over the contraband, Major Griffis made a comment that if the amount of contraband there was reported, the institution would be placed on lockdown.

Lockdown is a situation where the facility is placed on restrictive movement. Meaning inmates cannot move on the compound without a staff escort and are not allowed to leave the facility. This requires more staff to operate and becomes burdensome for command staff at the facility to ensure staffing levels are appropriate for an institutional lock down.

Major Griffis then ordered [REDACTED] to only report thirty packs of cigarettes and two phones when clearly there was more tobacco and phones discovered. When [REDACTED] questioned him about false reporting, Major Griffis said he did not care and wanted [REDACTED] to just dispose of the contraband. Upon further questioning to Major Griffis by staff involved, Major Griffis ordered [REDACTED] to only report finding thirty packs of cigarettes and two phones if they wanted to keep their jobs. In fear of retaliation, staff went on with the orders of Major Griffis. A few days later, [REDACTED] felt remorse for going along with the false reporting and notified the institutional command staff of what took place. Both [REDACTED] testified that Major Griffis had threatened their jobs before in regards to incidents that occurred at the facility and felt like they would certainly be retaliated against if they did not follow the unlawful orders.

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 Corey Joseph Griffis, and bring him before the court to answer the charge of Official Misconduct.

LSI  26607
AFFIANT

SWORN AND SUBSCRIBED before me this 10 day of September, 2019, by who is personally known to me/produced proper identification.



JUDGE OF THE ABOVE COURT