

THE STATE OF
FLORIDA

v.

ROCKELLE M SANDERS
(W/F; DOB [REDACTED])

[REDACTED]



IN THE CIRCUIT COURT,
FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR
JACKSON COUNTY, FLORIDA.
CASE NO.: 21-150CF

CHARGE(s):

- 1) Introduction of Contraband into a State Correctional Institution (Communication)
- 2) Introduction of Contraband into a State Correctional Institution (Communication)
- 3) Unlawful use of a two-way communication device
- 4) Interference with Prisoners

CERTIFIED A TRUE COPY.

3-16-2021

CLAYTON O. ROOKS, III
CLERK CIRCUIT COURT
JACKSON COUNTY, FLORIDA

[Signature]
Deputy Clerk



WARRANT

TO EACH SHERIFF OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA:

WHEREAS, a Sworn Complaint, having been this day filed before me as Judge of the Circuit Court in and for Jackson County, wherein it is alleged that:

ROCKELLE M. SANDERS, on or about August 26, 2020, in the County of Jackson and State of Florida, committed the offense of Introduction of Contraband into a State Correctional Institution (Communication) contrary to Florida Statutes 944.47 (1)(a)(1) (3 DEG FELONY), and

ROCKELLE M. SANDERS, in or about August 2020, in the County of Jackson and State of Florida, committed the offense of Introduction of Contraband into a State Correctional Institution (Communication) contrary to Florida Statutes 944.47 (1)(a)(1) (3 DEG FELONY), and

ROCKELLE M. SANDERS, on or about August 26, 2020, in the County of Jackson and State of Florida, committed the offense of Unlawful use of a two-way communication device contrary to Florida Statutes 934.215 (3 DEG FELONY), and

ROCKELLE M. SANDERS, in or about August 2020, in the County of Jackson and State of Florida, committed the offense of Interference with prisoners, contrary to Florida Statutes 944.39 (1 DEG MISD)

THEREFORE, you are hereby commanded to arrest instanter the said ROCKELLE M. SANDERS.

WITNESS my hand and the official Seal of the Judge of the Circuit Court:

ID#: 22051

___The defendant shall be admitted bail in the amount of \$_____.

No bail until first appearance, as provided by law.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS IN ADDITION TO MONETARY BAIL:

3/15/2021

Wade Mercer
WADE MERCER
Jackson County Judge 2:44 PM
Acting Circuit Judge

This warrant came to hand the _____ day of _____, A.D., 20____, and I executed the same by arresting the within named defendant on the _____ day of _____, A.D., 20____. On the _____ day of _____, A.D., 20____, the within named defendant was taken before the Court to be dealt with according to law.

SHERIFF By: _____ Deputy Sheriff

Adult Def PC Arrest
 Juvenile Def Application for
Warrant/Caples

AFFIDAVIT - COMPLAINT

Clerk's Case No. 21-150CF
SA Case No.(s) _____

PAGE 01 of 2

Agency OR#: FL037275C

1. Agency Name: Florida Department of Corrections		2. Agency Report Number: 20-16233		3. Charge Type: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Felony <input type="checkbox"/> Misdemeanor <input type="checkbox"/> Misdemeanor w/associated felony		4. Offense Type (if applicable): <input type="checkbox"/> Municipal <input type="checkbox"/> County	
4. Date/Time of Offense: August 2020		5. Date/Time of Arrest:		6. Arresting Officer:		7. Investigating Officer: Senior Inspector Jerry Basford	

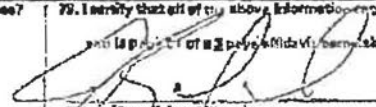
8. Defendant's Name: (Last) Sanders		(First) Rockelle		(Middle) M.		ALIAS "El Perez"		9. OBTG:	
10. Race/Sex: W/F		11. Date of Birth:		12. Residence Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Florida <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Out of State <input type="checkbox"/> City <input type="checkbox"/> County		13. Weapon Seized: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		14. Controlled Substance Seized: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No TYPE & QUANTITY:	
15. Height:		16. Weight:		17. Eye Color: Bro		18. Hair Color: Bro		19. Scars, marks, tattoos, unique physical features: (Location, type & description) Unknown	
20. Driver's License Number/State: / FDC Employee ID		21. Social Security Number:		22. Residential Telephone:		23. Business Telephone:		24. Address: (Street, Apartment Number) (City) (State) (Zip)	

25. Defendant's Name: (Last)		(First)		(Middle)		ALIAS		26. OBTG:	
27. Race/Sex:		28. Date of Birth:		29. Residence Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Florida <input type="checkbox"/> Out of State <input type="checkbox"/> City <input type="checkbox"/> County		30. Weapon Seized: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		31. Controlled Substance Seized: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No TYPE & QUANTITY:	
32. Height:		33. Weight:		34. Eye Color:		35. Hair Color:		36. Scars, marks, tattoos, unique physical features: (Location, type & description)	
37. Driver's License Number/State:		38. Social Security Number:		39. Residential Telephone:		40. Business Telephone:		41. Address: (Street, Apartment Number) (City) (State) (Zip)	

42. Defendant's Name: (Last)		(First)		(Middle)		ALIAS		43. OBTG:	
44. Race/Sex:		45. Date of Birth:		46. Residence Type: <input type="checkbox"/> Florida <input type="checkbox"/> Out of State <input type="checkbox"/> City <input type="checkbox"/> County		47. Weapon Seized: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		48. Controlled Substance Seized: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No TYPE & QUANTITY:	
49. Height:		50. Weight:		51. Eye Color:		52. Hair Color:		53. Scars, marks, tattoos, unique physical features: (Location, type & description)	
54. Driver's License Number/State:		55. Social Security Number:		56. Residential Telephone:		57. Business Telephone:		58. Address: (Street, Apartment Number) (City) (State) (Zip)	

59. Charge Description: (# 1) Introduction of Contraband (Communication) (2 counts)		60. Statute or Ordinance Number: 844.47 (1)(a)(1)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P.R. <input type="checkbox"/> Ord.	
61. Charge Description: (# 1) Unlawful Use of Two-way communication device		62. Statute or Ordinance Number: 834.215		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> F.S. <input type="checkbox"/> Ord.	
63. Charge Description: (# 1) Interference with Prisoners		64. Statute or Ordinance Number: 944.39		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> F.S. <input type="checkbox"/> Ord.	

65. Victim's Name: (if business, list legal business name) (Last) State of Florida		(First)		(Middle)		66. Race/Sex		67. Date of Birth:		68. Telephone Number:	
69. Contact Person (if victim is deceased, a minor child, or business) (Last) Senior Inspector Jerry Basford		(First)		(Middle)		70. Race/Sex		71. Date of Birth:		72. Telephone Number: 850-718-8284	
73. Address: (Street, Apartment Number) (City) (State) (Zip) 501 S. Calhoun Street Tallahassee Florida 32399										74. Secondary Phone Number:	
75. Victim Notification of Arrest: NOTIFIED BY: _____ DATE: _____ TIME: _____						76. Information Given: <input type="checkbox"/> Victim <input type="checkbox"/> Rights Card <input type="checkbox"/> App. Info			<input type="checkbox"/> Arrest Info <input type="checkbox"/> Domestic <input type="checkbox"/> Viol. Info		

77. Physical Evidence collected in this case? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		78. Witness Statements taken in this case? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		79. I certify that all of the above information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and is a part of my sworn affidavit.	
Evidence Custodian's Name: Barth Handerson		Person responsible:		 Senior Inspector Jerry Basford Type or print complainant name	

for statement by Senior Inspector William Dalton

PAGE 01 MUST HAVE PAGE 02 (MORE IF REQUIRED) TO BE A VALID AFFIDAVIT/COMPLAINT

Adult Def PC Arrest
 Juvenile Def Application for
Warrant/Capias

AFFIDAVIT – COMPLAINT (PROBABLE CAUSE NARRATIVE)

Clerk's Case No. _____
SA Case No. (s) _____

Agency ORI # FL037275C

40. Agency Name: Florida Department of Corrections	51. Agency Report Number: 20-16233	52. Date/Time of Arrest:	53. Investigating Officer: Senior Inspector Jerry Basford
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54. NARRATIVE OF THE FACTUAL BASIS FOR PROBABLE CAUSE: The undersigned certifies and swears that he/she has just and reasonable grounds to believe that the herein named defendant did commit the violations of law as stated above and the factual basis for this belief is as follows:

Your Affiant is Senior Inspector Jerry Basford of the Office of the Inspector General, Florida Department of Corrections.

Your Affiant has probable cause to believe Correctional Officer Rockelle Sanders ("Officer Sanders"), in the County of Jackson and the State of Florida, did commit two criminal offenses of Introduction of Contraband into a State Correctional Institution (Communication), in violation of s. 944.47 (1)(a)(1) Florida Statute, when Officer Sanders did actually and intentionally introduce, through unauthorized channels, into the secure perimeter of a State Correctional Institution, electronically transmitted and handwritten and/or recorded communication to an Inmate. Probable cause also exists Officer Sanders did commit an additional criminal offense of Unlawful Use of a Two-way Communication Device, in violation of s. 934.216 Florida Statute, when Officer Sanders used an electronic communication device to introduce contraband communication to an Inmate housed within a State Correctional Institution. Lastly, Officer Sanders committed the criminal offense of Interference with Prisoners, in violation of s. 944.39 Florida Statute, when Officer Sanders engaged in a personal relationship with an Inmate under the supervision of the Florida Department of Corrections, and while doing so allowed the Inmate to violate laws of the State of Florida and rules of the Department of Corrections.

Officer Sanders began her employment with the Florida Department of Corrections on or about January 10, 2020, as a correctional officer trainee working at Graceville Work Camp. As part of her initial training, Officer Sanders underwent orientation and field training during which she was warned about inmate manipulation and the consequences of inappropriate relationships with inmates.

Officer Sanders attended correctional officer basic recruit training beginning on February 17, 2020, through August 28, 2020, the date of her resignation as a correctional officer. Officer Sanders did not take the State Board prior to the discovery of an inappropriate relationship occurring between her and inmate Steven Perez-Nievas, DC# C07153.

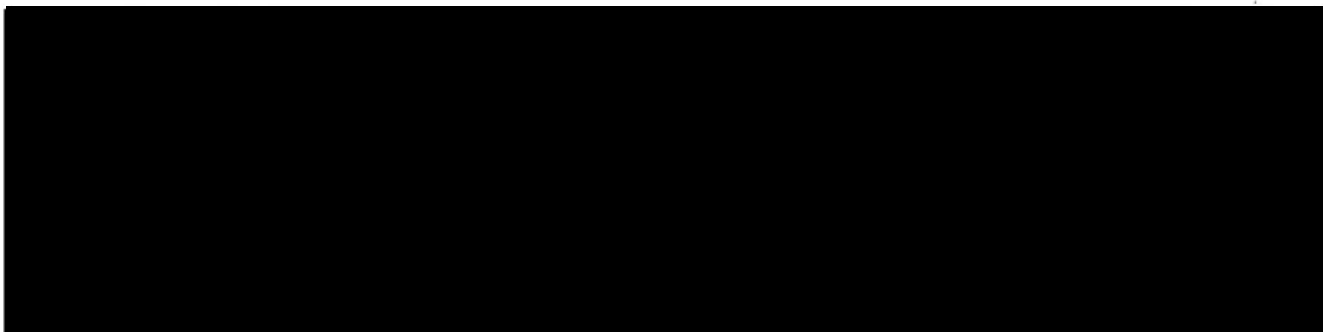
Suspicion of Officer Sander's inappropriate relationship with an Inmate began on or about August 12, 2020, when a mostly indiscernible, yet inappropriate sounding conversation was overheard between Officer Sanders and an unidentified Inmate. Officer Sanders later admitted the conversation was with Inmate Perez.

On August 28, 2020, Correctional Officer Sergeant Aaron Kirkland was reviewing electronic correspondences on J-pay, an electric email-like platform used by Inmates and their family and associates to communicate. The use of J-pay by staff to communicate with inmates is not permitted unless prior notification and approval is received by institutional administration.

Sergeant Kirkland identified a newly created suspicious account communicating with Inmate Perez. Given the prior intelligence, Sergeant Kirkland interviewed Inmate Perez who admitted the account was Officer Sanders' account.

Officer Sanders submitted her resignation on August 28, 2020, due to her inappropriate relationship with Inmate Perez.

Following her resignation, Inspector William Dalton contacted Officer Sanders who agreed to return to Jackson Correctional Institution and speak with him about Inmate Perez. Officer Sanders provided Inspector Dalton with a non-custodial sworn interview related to the allegations against her.



A review of J-pay account 26305965 indicates inmate Perez sent Officer Sanders five electronic letters, four of which occurred while she was still employed as a correctional officer at Graceville Work Camp.




Your Affiant respectfully submits probable cause has been established that Correctional Officer Rockelle Sanders did commit the criminal offense of Introduction of Contraband (Communication), in violation of s. 944.47 (1)(a)(1), Florida Statute, when Officer Sanders did actually and intentionally introduce through unauthorized channels, electronically transmitted written and/or recorded communication to an inmate, within the secure perimeter of a State Correctional Institution using J-pay, a means not approved for staff communication with inmates.

Your Affiant respectfully submits probable cause has been established that Correctional Officer Rockelle Sanders did commit the criminal offense of Unlawful Use of a Two-way Communication Device, in violation of s. 934.215 Florida Statute, when Officer Sanders used an electronic communication device to introduce electronic contraband communication to an inmate housed within a State Correctional Institution.

Your Affiant respectfully submits probable cause has been established that Correctional Officer Rockelle Sanders did commit the criminal offense of Introduction of Contraband (Communication), in violation of s. 944.47 (1)(a)(1), Florida Statute, when Officer Sanders did actually and intentionally introduce through unauthorized channels, a handwritten letter and drawing to an inmate, within the secure perimeter of a State Correctional Institution.

Your Affiant respectfully submits probable cause has been established that Correctional Officer Rockelle Sanders did commit the criminal violation of Interference with Prisoners, in violation of s. 944.39 Florida Statute, when Officer Sanders engaged in a romantic personal relationship with an inmate under the supervision of the Florida Department of Corrections, and while doing so allowed the inmate to violate laws of the State of Florida and rules of the Department of Corrections.

Your Affiant requests an arrest warrant be issued for ROCKELLE SANDERS, DOB [REDACTED], LKA [REDACTED], [REDACTED], for two counts of a violation of s. 944.47 (1)(a)(1), the laws related introducing contraband communication; one count of a violation of s. 934.215, the laws related to the unlawful use of two-way communication; and one count of a violation of s. 944.39 the laws related to the interference with prisoners.

86. The undersigned, being duly sworn, states that the foregoing information contained in an affidavit consisting of 3 pages is true and correct to the best of his/her knowledge		Sworn to and subscribed before me this <u>15th</u> day of <u>March</u> , 2021	
			
Signature of Officer/Complainant		Signature of Person Administering Oath	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Personally Known <input type="checkbox"/> Other Identification	
Signature of Officer/Complainant's Name (Printed)		ID Type	
ID Number		Seal	
87. Adult's Relation to Juvenile Defendant: <input type="checkbox"/> Parent <input type="checkbox"/> Legal Guardian <input type="checkbox"/> Other		88. Adult's Name: (Last) (First) (Middle)	
89. Address: (Street, Apartment Number) (City) (State) (Zip)		90. Residential Phone: 91. Business Phone:	
92. Notified by: (Name)		93. Date/Time:	
94. Notification Method: <input type="checkbox"/> Person <input type="checkbox"/> Telephone		95. Law Enforcement Disposition of Juvenile Contact: (Check one and complete release data)	
Released Date: Release Time: Released to (Name):		<input type="checkbox"/> Transferred to Secure Detention <input type="checkbox"/> Released to MDC intake Officer, not detained <input type="checkbox"/> Processed within the agency and released as other than MDC	