

Adult Def  PC Arrest   
Juvenile Def  Application for Warrant/Capias

# AFFIDAVIT - COMPLAINT

Clerk's Case No. \_\_\_\_\_  
SA Case No.(s) \_\_\_\_\_

PAGE 01 of 4

Agency ORI # **FL037279C**

1. Agency Name: <b>Florida Department of Corrections</b>		2. Agency Report Number: <b>21-02933</b>		3. Charge Type: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Felony <input type="checkbox"/> Misdemeanor <input type="checkbox"/> Misdemeanor without associated felony <input type="checkbox"/> Municipal <input type="checkbox"/> County		3a. Ordinance Type: (If applicable)	
4. Date/Time of Offense: <b>January 2021 - June 2021</b>		5. Date/Time of Arrest:		6. Arresting Officer:		7. Investigating Officer: <b>Senior Inspector Jerry Basford</b>	

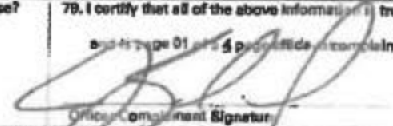
8. Defendant's Name: (Last) <b>Byrge</b>		(First) <b>Sara</b>		(Middle) <b>Ellen</b>		ALIAS <b>"Aralyn Stephens"</b>		8. OBTS:	
10. Race/Sex <b>W/F</b>		11. Date of Birth:		12. Residence Type: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Florida <input type="checkbox"/> Out of State		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: <b>Blue</b>		18. Hair Color: <b>Brn</b>		19. Scars, marks, tattoos, unique physical features: (Location, type & description) <b>Unknown</b>	
20. Driver's License Number/State:		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. OBTS:	
27. Race/Sex		28. Date of Birth:		29. Residence Type: <input type="checkbox"/> City <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Florida <input type="checkbox"/> Out of State		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. OBTS:	
44. Race/Sex		45. Date of Birth:		46. Residence Type: <input type="checkbox"/> City <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Florida <input type="checkbox"/> Out of State		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) <b>Introduction of Contraband (Communication) (2 counts)</b>		60. Statute or Ordinance Number: <b>944.47 (1)(a)(1)</b>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> F.S. <input type="checkbox"/> Ord.	
61. Charge Description: (# 1) <b>Unlawful Use of Two-way communication devices (2 counts)</b>		62. Statute or Ordinance Number: <b>934.215</b>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> F.S. <input type="checkbox"/> Ord.	
63. Charge Description: (# 1) <b>Interference with Prisoners</b>		64. Statute or Ordinance Number: <b>944.39</b>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> F.S. <input type="checkbox"/> Ord.	

65. Victim's Name: (If business, list legal business name) (Last)		(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)		(First)		(Middle)		70. Race/Sex		71. Date of Birth:		72. Telephone Number: <b>850-718-8284</b>	
73. Address: (Street, Apartment Number)		(City)		(State)		(Zip)		74. Secondary Phone Number:			
76. Victim Notification of Arrest:		NOTIFIED BY: _____		DATE: _____		TIME: _____		76. Information Given: Victim <input type="checkbox"/> Rights Card <input type="checkbox"/> App. Info <input type="checkbox"/>		<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 page 01 of 4 pages of this complaint.	
Evidence Custodian's Name:		Person responsible for statements: _____		 Senior Inspector Jerry Basford Type or print Complainant name	

Adult Def  PC Arrest  
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Warrant/Capias

### AFFIDAVIT – COMPLAINT (PROBABLE CAUSE NARRATIVE)

Clerk's Case No.

SA Case No.(s)

Agency ORI # **FL937275G**

80. Agency Name: <b>Florida Department of Corrections</b>	81. Agency Report Number: <b>21-02933</b>	82. Date/Time of Arrest:	83. Investigating Officer: <b>Senior Inspector Jerry Basford</b>
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84. 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 heretofore 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 Sara Ellen Byrge ("Officer Byrge"), in the County of Holmes 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) Fla. Stat., when Officer Byrge did actually and intentionally introduce, through unauthorized channels, into the secure perimeter of a State Correctional Institution, electronically transmitted and/or recorded communication, images, and videos to an Inmate. Probable cause also exists Officer Byrge did commit an additional two counts of the criminal offense of Unlawful Use of a Two-way Communication Device, in violation of s. 934.215 Fla. Stat., when Officer Byrge used an electronic communication device to introduce contraband communication to an Inmate housed within a State Correctional Institution. Lastly, Officer Byrge committed the criminal offense of Interference with Prisoners, in violation of s. 944.39 Fla. Stat., when Officer Byrge 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 Byrge began her employment with the Florida Department of Corrections in or about July 2015 as a correctional officer at Jackson Correctional Institution. During her employment at Jackson Correctional Institution, Officer Byrge has worked in various positions as a correctional officer. Officer Byrge is currently assigned to the administrative shift as the institutions Administrative Housing Officer. During the course of the investigation, it was determined Officer Byrge engaged in a personal romantic relationship with Inmate Andre Stephens, DC# 465780 ("Inmate Stephens"), while Inmate Stephens was incarcerated at Jackson Correctional Institution and assigned as a security orderly under Officer Byrge's direct supervision. The relationship between Officer Byrge and Inmate Stephens has continued following Inmate Stephens' transfer from Jackson Correctional Institution to Holmes Correctional Institution.

While Inmate Stephens was housed at Jackson Correctional Institution, several incidents were noted by security staff that raised suspicion about an existing inappropriate relationship between Officer Byrge and Inmate Stephens. On or about January 26, 2021, Inmate Stephens was transferred to Holmes Correctional Institution. Following his transfer to Holmes Correctional Institution, suspicious mail was intercepted to and from Inmate Stephens believed to be communication with Officer Byrge.

In January and February 2021, Inmate Stephens' lawfully recorded telephone calls were reviewed. During telephone conversations with his mother, Inmate Stephens requested his mother contact Officer Byrge. During a February 24, 2021 telephone call, Inmate Stephens' mother tells Inmate Stephens about her receiving a card in the mail from Officer Byrge. During the call, Inmate Stephens' mother provides Inmate Stephens with Officer Byrge's personal cellular telephone number (██████████) and home address (██████████). The address and telephone number provided by Inmate Stephens' mother is the same address and telephone number on Officer Byrge's employment records with the Florida Department of Corrections.

On or about April 16, 2021, J-pay account ██████████ was created in the name Aralyn Stephens and began frequent communication with Inmate Stephens. J-pay is 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 the institution's warden. When email correspondences are transmitted through J-pay, J-pay captures the IP address of the device used to transmit the message. A frequently reoccurring IP address is indicative of a static IP address commonly used by internet servers for home and business internet service. While reviewing J-pay, a suspected static IP address was identified. Through subpoena duces tecum, the subscriber information and service location information for the internet service using the static IP address was obtained from Comcast. According to Comcast, the subscriber of the account is Brenda Proctor, Officer Byrge's mother. The service location is ██████████. Florida driver's license information indicates Ms. Proctor and Officer Byrge both reside at ██████████.

Based on the content of communication exchanged between Inmate Stephens and the Aralyn Stephens J-pay account, coupled with the location of the internet service used to transmit messages being Officer Byrge's home address and the subscriber her mother, Officer Byrge was identified as the user of the Aralyn Stephens account.

Between April 16, 2021 and June 14, 2021, Officer Byrge sent (133) messages to Inmate Stephens. During the same time, (184) messages were received by Officer Byrge from Inmate Stephens. The content of the messages indicate Officer Byrge and Inmate Stephens are engaged in a romantic relationship. Officer Byrge and Inmate Stephens frequently discuss their future together and how their life will be following Inmate Stephens' release from prison despite Inmate Stephens currently serving a life term in prison. Through your Affiant's personal knowledge, Officer Byrge has an elementary school age daughter. According to Officer Byrge's public Facebook profile, her daughter's name is ██████████. During communication between Officer Byrge and Inmate Stephens, Officer Byrge's child is frequently referred to as "██████████" which correlates with the child's middle name ██████████. During some J-pay correspondences, conventional mail, and telephone calls, Officer Byrge's child communicates personally with Inmate

Stephens. Communication indicates Officer Byrge's daughter is aware Officer Byrge and inmate Stephens are in a relationship, but is not aware inmate Stephens is an inmate.

On April 21, 2021, Officer Byrge sent inmate Stephens an image via J-pay. The image is of what appears to be an adult hand holding a child's hand. The image has the text, "Missing You" and a red heart imposed over the wrist of the adult's arm.

On May 1, 2021, Officer Byrge sent inmate Stephens an image via J-pay. The image appears to be the legs and feet of a white female sitting pool side at a hotel. There is a young female in the swimming pool looking at the camera. The young female's face is included in the image and bears likeness to Officer Byrge's daughter. Officer Byrge posted similar images on her public Facebook profile near the time she sent inmate Stephens the image.

On May 8, 2021, Officer Byrge sent inmate Stephens an image via J-pay. The image appears to be the left hand of a white female with a ring on her ring finger. The included message indicates she received the ring for mother's day.

On May 22, 2021, Officer Byrge sent inmate Stephens an image via J-pay. The image is of the swimming area at Blue Springs Recreational Park near Marianna, Florida.

On May 27, 2021, Officer Byrge sent inmate Stephens an image via J-pay. The image is of Officer Byrge's sleeping daughter.

On June 11, 2021, Officer Byrge sent inmate Stephens two images via J-pay. One image is of Officer Byrge and her daughter. The second image is of Officer Byrge's daughter with glasses imposed on the child's face.

On June 12, 2021, Officer Byrge sent inmate Stephens an image via J-pay. The image is of Officer Byrge's daughter and appears to be taken at a trampoline park.

Throughout communication between Officer Byrge and inmate Stephens, Officer Byrge frequently references physical characteristics about inmate Stephens' person. Conversation indicates some degree of a physical relationship occurred while inmate Stephens was housed at Jackson Correctional Institution under Officer Byrge's supervision; however, the extent of that relationship is undetermined, but it is evident their physical contact was of a romantic nature and far exceeding the purview appropriate staff/inmate contact.

In addition to the physical relationship, Officer Byrge and inmate Stephens often discuss candy and other food items he received from Officer Byrge.

J-pay communication indicated Officer Byrge and inmate Stephens were communicating on the telephone. The telephone number Officer Byrge provided on her fictitious J-pay account [REDACTED] was queried in Global Tel Link (GTL), the contract telecommunications company provider for the Florida Department of Corrections inmate telephone system. Between March 28, 2021 and June 13, 2021, (109) telephone calls were identified between Officer Byrge and inmate Stephens. On three occasions, inmate Stephens used other inmate's accounts to call Officer Byrge.

Contact was made with Jackson Correctional Institution Warden Scott May (Warden May). Warden May advised Officer Byrge did not disclose inmate Stephens as being a relative or being in a personal relationship with this inmate. Warden May further advised he had not received or approved any requests for communication or visits to any inmate(s) from Officer Byrge.

Based on the facts established through this investigation, Officer Byrge, despite her training and years of experience as a correctional officer, engaged in an unauthorized personal romantic relationship with an inmate under the care, custody and control of the Florida Department of Corrections, and under Officer Byrge's direct supervision. In an effort to maintain her unpermitted relationship, Officer Byrge created and used a fictitious J-pay account to send unlawful contraband communication (written text and image) to inmate Stephens. Throughout their relationship, Officer Byrge has permitted inmate Stephens to violate the policies of the Florida Department of Corrections and the laws of the State of Florida without fulfilling her lawful obligations as a correctional officer, thus interfering with the discipline and good conduct of inmate Stephens.

Your Affiant respectfully submits probable cause has been established that Correctional Officer Sara Byrge did commit the criminal offense of Introduction of Contraband (Communication), in violation of s. 944.47 (1)(a)(1), Florida Statute when Officer Byrge 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 Sara Byrge did commit the criminal offense of Introduction of Contraband (Communication), in violation of s. 944.47 (1)(a)(1), Florida Statute when Officer Byrge did actually and intentionally introduce through unauthorized channels, electronically transmitted written and/or recorded communication (Digital Images) 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 Sara Byrge did commit the criminal offense of Unlawful Use of a Two-way Communication Device, in violation of s. 934.215 Fla. Stat., when Officer Byrge used an electronic communication device to introduce electronic contraband communication, images and videos to an inmate housed within a State Correctional Institution.

Your Affiant respectfully submits probable cause has been established that Correctional Officer Sara Byrge did commit the criminal violation of Interference with Prisoners, in violation of s. 944.39 Fla. Stat., when Officer Byrge 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 SARA ELLEN BYRGE / DOB [REDACTED] / LKA [REDACTED] for two counts of a violation of s. 944.47 (1)(a)(1), the laws related introducing contraband communication; two counts 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 1 pages is true and correct to the best of his/her knowledge

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 3rd day of July, 2021

*[Signature]*  
Signature of Person Administering Oath  
 Personally Known  Other Identification

*[Signature]*  
Signature of Officer/Complainant  
ID Type \_\_\_\_\_

*Juan G. "Tony" Basford*  
Officer/Complainant's Name (Printed) ID Number 54009

87. Adult's Relation to Juvenile Defendant:  Parent  Legal Guardian  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:  Person  Telephone

95. Law Enforcement Disposition of Juvenile Contact: (Check one and complete release data)

Transferred to  Secure Detention  Released to  HRS Intake Officer, not detained

Processed within the agency and released  to other than HRS

Release Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Release Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Released to (Name): \_\_\_\_\_

WARRANT FOR ARREST

IN THE 14th JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COURT IN AND FOR HOLMES COUNTY, FLORIDA

IN THE NAME OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA TO ALL AND THE SINGULAR SHERIFFS OF THIS STATE AND TO ALL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS OF THIS STATE

You are commanded to arrest

Sara Ellen Byrge W/F DOB [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
FL DL# [REDACTED]

There is probable cause that Sara Ellen Byrge has committed crimes in Holmes County, Florida, including the offense(s) Introduction of contraband into a State Correctional Institution, to wit communication; Unlawful use of two way communication; and Interference with prisoners. You are to bring her before me to answer a complaint charging her with each of the following:

F.S.S. 944.47 (1)(a)(1) Introduction of Contraband into a State Correctional Institution (Communication) (2 counts)

F.S.S. 934.215 Unlawful use of a two-way communication device (2 counts)

F.S.S. 944.39 Interference with prisoners (1 counts)

Given under my hand and seal on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2021, in Holmes County, Florida.

CIR 7/14/2021 10:02:39 AM 

BAIL ENDORSEMENT

The defendant herein described and named shall have bail set in the amount of

To be set

\$ \_\_\_\_\_.