

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

STATE OF FLORIDA

-vs-

Christopher Joshua Cooks  
Defendant,

CASE NO: 2019CF00242AKMX  
CLERK NO:

AGENCY CASE NO: 19-00172

RACE: B/M

DOB: [REDACTED]

SSN: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]

CERTIFIED A TRUE COPY  
WILLIAM D. "BILLY" WASHINGTON, CLERK  
CLERK CIRCUIT COURT  
MADISON COUNTY, FLORIDA  
BY Judith [Signature]  
DEPUTY CLERK

**AFFIDAVIT FOR ARREST**

BEFORE ME, PAUL S. BRYAN, a Judge of the above captioned court, personally appeared before me, Senior Inspector Jared Dewey, who being first duly sworn, deposes and says:

On or about January 2, 2019, your Affiant began a criminal investigation into an Introduction of Contraband.

On or about January 1, 2019, a co-defendant, Joseph Robert Eldridge (hereinafter referred to as "Eldridge"), a sworn Correctional Officer with the Florida Department of Corrections (FDC) assigned to Madison Correctional Institution (Madison CI) became the subject of an investigation involving the introduction of contraband into a correctional facility. During a search of Eldridge's vehicle, located at Madison CI, 17.10 grams of MDMA, three (3) cellular phones, and three hundred (300) grams of tobacco were discovered. The items were packaged indicative of introduction into a correctional facility.

After Eldridge's arrest, he (Eldridge) made a voluntary sworn statement and indicated the following: [REDACTED]

Eldridge and Cooks also used cellular phones to orchestrate, plan, and/or execute the introduction of contraband into Madison CI. Eldridge installed applications on his (Eldridge's) cellular phones to finalize the proceeds received from the contraband introduction. Those proceeds were used to further the criminal enterprise of Eldridge and others involved, namely Cooks. The proceeds received by Eldridge were transferred to a CashApp account used by Kirsten Arnold (Arnold). Arnold is the daughter of Eldridge's girlfriend. The proceeds were then transferred from the Arnold's CashApp account to an account belonging to Eldridge at his (Eldridge's) financial institution - Panhandle Educators Federal Credit Union. Eldridge estimated that he and Cooks

had received approximately \$15,000 each since November 2018 from the introduction of contraband into Madison CI.

Eldridge and Cooks met a family member of an inmate incarcerated at Madison CI to pick up narcotics, namely two (2) ounces of MDMA, better known as "Molly," which was later introduced into Madison CI. Eldridge indicated Cooks received compensation for the introduction of the contraband into Madison CI.

A search warrant was issued for Eldridge's cellular phones based on his statement. After receiving the data extraction from Eldridge's cellular phones, it was discovered that text messages had been sent to and received by phone number [REDACTED]. Phone number [REDACTED] was later found to be Cooks' personal cellular phone number. One such message from Cooks stated "I needa [sic] to make at least a 1,000 somehow [sic] this week. And 8508699027".

Some of the other text messages indicated the following: calling individuals who were later identified as inmates incarcerated at Madison CI; various photographs exchanged between Eldridge and Cooks consisting of large amounts of green leafy substances (based on your Affiant's training and experience, your Affiant recognized the green leafy substances as marijuana); Cooks asking Eldridge to "make packs" or package cigarettes for introduction into Madison CI; Cooks entering Madison CI and alerting Eldridge to the presence of drug detection canines by texting "10-4" and "Ok", thereby allowing the introduction of contraband into Madison CI and circumventing the interdiction procedures of the drug detection canines ([REDACTED]); and arranging a pickup of drugs from the brother of an inmate incarcerated at Madison CI.

A subpoena was submitted to Verizon, the carrier of phone number [REDACTED] requesting subscriber information and call log information. The results identified Cooks as the subscriber.

A check with Madison CI verified cellular phone number (850) 869-9027, and the associated cellular phone was assigned to Cooks as a state issued cellular phone for his duties on an emergency response team.

A subpoena was submitted to Panhandle Educators Federal Credit Union. The results revealed the total amount of transactions transferred to Eldridge from the CashApp account was \$11,574.94. These transactions occurred between November 2018 and December 2018.

During a post-Miranda interview with Cooks, he indicated the following: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Cooks denied introducing any controlled substances into Madison CI; however, he "had a feeling" Eldridge was in fact introducing controlled substances into Madison CI. [REDACTED]




A data extraction was completed on Cooks' personal cellular phone and his assigned, state issued cellular phone; however, there was no corroborating evidence discovered, even though Eldridge's cellular phones contained corroborating evidence (conversations between Eldridge and Cooks) indicating Cooks' participation in the criminal activity.

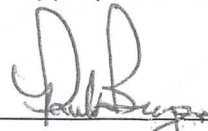
Cooks' CashApp and bank records did not provide any evidence pertinent to this case.

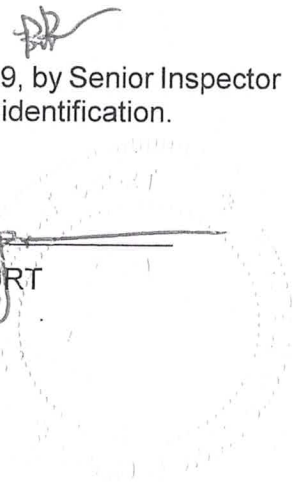
On May 11, 2019, your Affiant reviewed the findings of this case, along with this Affidavit for Arrest, with Assistant State Attorney Gayle Boudreau of the Third Judicial Circuit State Attorney's Office. After review, Assistant State Attorney Gayle Boudreau agreed to seek criminal charges against Christopher Joshua Cooks.

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 Christopher Joshua Cooks, and bring him before the court to answer the charges of: Unlawful Compensation, Disclosure or Use of Confidential Criminal Justice Information, Unlawful Use of Two-Way Communication Device, Conspiracy to Introduce Contraband – Controlled Substance, Compounding Felony, and Tampering with Evidence.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
AFFIANT  
Senior Inspector Jared Dewey

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME this 28<sup>th</sup> <sup>OCTOBER</sup> day of ~~August~~, 2019, by Senior Inspector Jared Dewey who is personally known to me or who produced appropriate 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  
JARED DEWEY OF THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS OFFICE OF  
INSPECTOR GENERAL DATED Oct. 28, 2019, SAID AFFIDAVIT ALLEGING:

**COUNT 1**

Christopher Joshua Cooks, a Correctional Officer, on or about November 2018 in Madison  
County, Florida, then and there, without authority, knowingly and intentionally requested, solicited,  
accepted, or agreed to accept, any pecuniary or other benefit not authorized by law, for the past,  
present, or future performance, nonperformance, or violation of any act or omission; contrary to  
Florida State Statute 838.016.

**COUNT 2**

Christopher Joshua Cooks, a Correctional Officer, on or about November 2018 in Madison  
County, Florida, then and there, with the intent to obstruct, impede, or prevent a criminal  
investigation disclosed intelligence information; contrary to Florida State Statute 838.21.

**COUNT 3**

Christopher Joshua Cooks, a Correctional Officer, on or about November 2018 in Madison  
County, Florida, then and there, used a two-way communications device, including, but not limited  
to, a portable two-way wireless communications device, to facilitate or further the commission of  
any felony offense, namely Unlawful Compensation, Disclosure or Use of Confidential Criminal  
Justice Information, and Conspiracy to Introduce Contraband – Controlled Substance; contrary to  
Florida State Statute 934.215.

**COUNT 4**

Christopher Joshua Cooks, a Correctional Officer, on or about November 2018 in Madison  
County, Florida, then and there, conspired, combined, or confederated with another person or  
persons to commit any offense namely; Conspiracy of Introduction of Contraband – Controlled  
Substance; contrary to Florida State Statute 777.04(4)(d).



COUNT 5

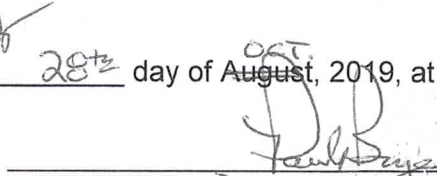
Christopher Joshua Cooks, a Correctional Officer, on or about November 2018 in Madison County, Florida, then and there, having knowledge of the commission of an offense punishable with death or by imprisonment in the state prison, took money or a gratuity or reward, or an engagement therefor, upon an agreement or understanding, expressed or implied, to compound or conceal such offense, or not to prosecute therefor, or not to give evidence thereof, when such offense of which he had knowledge is punishable with death or imprisonment in the state prison, namely Introduction of Contraband – Controlled Substance; contrary to Florida State Statute 843.14.

COUNT 6

Christopher Joshua Cooks, a Correctional Officer, on or about January 2019 in Madison County, Florida, then and there, knowing that a criminal trial or proceeding or an investigation by a duly constituted prosecuting authority, law enforcement agency, grand jury or legislative committee of this state is pending or is about to be instituted, destroyed, or concealed any record, document, or thing with the purpose to impair its verity or availability in such proceeding or investigation; contrary to Florida State Statute 918.13.

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 <sup>28<sup>th</sup></sup> day of <sup>OCT.</sup> August, 2019, at Madison County, Florida.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
PAUL S. BRYAN  
JUDGE OF THE ABOVE COURT

[ ] BAIL BOND IS FIXED AT:

- \$ 10,000 Unlawful Compensation
- \$ 10,000 Disclosure or Use of Confidential Criminal Justice Information
- \$ 10,000 Unlawful Use of Two-Way Communication Device
- \$ 10,000 Conspiracy to Introduce Contraband – Controlled Substance
- \$ 10,000 Compounding Felony
- \$ 10,000 Tampering with Evidence

\$ 60,000 total 

[ ] BAIL BOND IS TO BE SET AT FIRST APPEARANCE