



South Carolina Department of Corrections

Sept. 7, 2023

For immediate release

Contact: Chrysti Shain, (803) 413-8206

Shain.Chrysti@doc.sc.gov

COLUMBIA, S.C. – The SCDC Inspector General released arrest warrants today for two employees at Lee Correctional Institution.

Brian Darold Keely, 58, of Sumter, is charged with providing prisoners with contraband and criminal conspiracy. The charges against Keely, who was a food service supervisor at the prison, involve a large quantity of cellphones and narcotics found in his cafeteria office. During Tuesday's search, officers also found evidence of contraband deals with inmates on his cellphone. He was fired.

Brittany Nicole Welch, 33, of Rembert, is charged with misconduct in office and obstructing justice. The charges against Welch, a correctional officer at Lee, involve tipping inmates off to contraband searches, keeping weapons for inmates and allowing inmates to trade and share weapons. She was fired.

The arrests are part of a targeted investigation into employees at the Bishopville prison. Multiple other employees were suspended without pay, and the investigation continues.

"If you come to work at SCDC and have bad intent to bring in contraband to make money on the side, we're not going to put up with this conduct," SCDC Director Bryan Stirling said. "This is not just at Lee but across the state at all of our 21 prisons."

The S.C. Department of Corrections reminds members of the public that after an arrest, the burden of proof is on the state to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt within a court of law.

Copies of the arrest warrants are attached.

ARREST WARRANT

2023A3110100137

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Lee

THE STATE

02-2023-063

against

Brian Darold Keely

Address:

Phone:

SSN:

Sex: M Race: W Height: 5 11 Weight: 200

DL State: SC DL #:

DOB: Agency ORI #: SC040095C

Prosecuting Agency: S C Department Of Corrections Investig;

Prosecuting Officer: Jarrett L Greenway - S00448

Offense: Conspiracy / Criminal Conspiracy, Common Law
conspiracy defined

Offense Code: 0049

Code/Ordinance Sec: 16-17-0410

This warrant is CERTIFIED FOR SERVICE in the

☐ County/ ☐ Municipality of

The accused

is to be arrested and brought before me to be
dealt with according to the law.

(L.S.)

Signature of Judge

Date:

RETURN

A copy of this arrest warrant was delivered to
defendant on

Signature of Constable/Law Enforcement Officer

RETURN WARRANT TO:

General Sessions
123 South Main Street
P O Box 387
Bishopville, SC 290100387

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Lee

Personally appeared before me the affiant Jarrett L Greenway who
being duly sworn deposes and says that defendant Brian Darold Keely
did within this county and state on or about 8/11/2023 violate the criminal laws of the
State of South Carolina (or ordinance of ☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of Lee)
in the following particulars:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Conspiracy / Criminal Conspiracy, Common Law conspiracy defined

I further state that there is probable cause to believe that the defendant named above did commit
the crime set forth and that probable cause is based on the following facts:That on August 11, 2023, the South Carolina Department of Corrections(SCDC) office of Inspector General (OIG) Special Agent
(SA) Jarrett Greenway conducted a target search of Lee Correctional Institution (LECI) cafeteria, located in Lee County. To WIT:
Brian Keely possessed contraband furnishing or attempt to furnish by a search of secured offices at the LeeCI Cafeteria, a large
quantity of contraband to include cellphones and narcotics was found. Of the devices recovered it was found that cellular device
bearing [REDACTED] was discovered to belong to inmate [REDACTED]. Recovered from the device were multiple
telephone calls and text messages from [REDACTED] that per SCDC records is listed as Food Services Employee Brian Keely
telephone number. Text messages from July 2, 2023 until August 6, 2023 detailing Keely and inmate [REDACTED] conspire to introduce
contraband into LeeCI on different occasion as well as the exchange of money. This evidence was obtained through inmate

Signature of Affiant

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Lee

Affiant's Address P.O. Box 21787
Columbia, SC 29221-1787

Affiant's Telephone

ARREST WARRANT

TO ANY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THIS STATE OR MUNICIPALITY OR ANY CONSTABLE OF THIS COUNTY:

It appearing from the above affidavit that there are reasonable grounds to believe that

on or about 8/11/2023 defendant Brian Darold Keely
did violate the criminal laws of the State of South Carolina (or ordinance of
☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of Lee) as set forth below:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Conspiracy / Criminal Conspiracy, Common Law conspiracy defined

Having found probable cause and the above affiant having sworn before me, you are empowered and directed to arrest the said defendant and bring him or
her before me forthwith to be dealt with according to law. A copy of this Arrest Warrant shall be delivered to the defendant at the time of its execution, or as
soon thereafter as is practicable
Sworn to and subscribed before me
on 9/5/2023Signature of Issuing Judge
Windi King
Judge Code: 7454Judge's Address P.O. Box 2
Bishopville, SC 29010-
Judge's Telephone (803)484-5905
Issuing Court: ☒ Magistrate ☐ Municipal ☐ Circuit

DEFENDANT COPY DEFENDANT COPY DEFENDANT COPY DEFENDANT COPY DEFENDANT COPY DEFENDANT COPY DEFENDANT COPY

ARREST WARRANT

2023A3110100136

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Lee

THE STATE

02-2023-063

against

Brian Darold Keely

Address

Phone: SSN: Sex: M Race: W Height: 5 11 Weight: 200

DL State: SC DL #: DOB: Agency ORI #: SC040095C

Prosecuting Agency: S C Department Of Corrections Investig;

Prosecuting Officer: Jarrett L Greenway - S00448

Offense: Prisoners / Contraband, possession by prisoner, furnishing or attempt to furnish prisoner with

Offense Code: 0074

Code/Ordinance Sec: 24-03-0950

This warrant is CERTIFIED FOR SERVICE in the

☐ County/ ☐ Municipality of

The accused is to be arrested and brought before me to be dealt with according to the law.

(L.S.)

Signature of Judge

Date:

RETURN

A copy of this arrest warrant was delivered to

defendant on

James Perry 9/5/23

Signature of Constable/Law Enforcement Officer

RETURN WARRANT TO:

General Sessions
123 South Main Street
P O Box 387
Bishopville, SC 290100387

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Lee

AFFIDAVIT

ORIGINAL

Form Approved by
S.C. Attorney General
April 21, 2003
SCCA 518

Personally appeared before me the affiant Jarrett L Greenway who being duly sworn deposes and says that defendant Brian Darold Keely did within this county and state on or about 8/11/2023 violate the criminal laws of the State of South Carolina (or ordinance of ☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of Lee) in the following particulars:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Prisoners / Contraband, possession by prisoner, furnishing or attempt to furnish prisoner with

I further state that there is probable cause to believe that the defendant named above did commit the crime set forth and that probable cause is based on the following facts:

That on August 11, 2023, the South Carolina Department of Corrections(SCDC) office of Inspector General (OIG) Special Agent (SA) Jarrett Greenway conducted a target search of Lee Correctional Institution (LEECI) cafeteria, located in Lee County. To WIT: Brian Keely possessed contraband furnishing or attempt to furnish by a search of secured offices at the LeeCI Cafeteria, a large quantity of contraband to include cellphones and narcotics was found. Of the devices recovered it was found that cellular device bearing [REDACTED] was discovered to belong to inmate [REDACTED]. Recovered from the device were multiple telephone calls and text messages from [REDACTED] that per SCDC records is listed as Food Services Employee Brian Keely telephone number. Text messages from July 2, 2023 until August 6, 2023 detailing Keely and inmate [REDACTED] conspire to introduce contraband into LeeCI on different occasion as well as the exchange of money. This evidence was obtained through inmate [REDACTED]

Signature of Affiant

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Lee

Affiant's Address P.O. Box 21787
Columbia, SC 29221-1787

Affiant's Telephone

ARREST WARRANT

TO ANY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THIS STATE OR MUNICIPALITY OR ANY CONSTABLE OF THIS COUNTY:

It appearing from the above affidavit that there are reasonable grounds to believe that

on or about 8/11/2023 defendant Brian Darold Keely did violate the criminal laws of the State of South Carolina (or ordinance of ☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of Lee) as set forth below:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Prisoners / Contraband, possession by prisoner, furnishing or attempt to furnish prisoner with

Having found probable cause and the above affiant having sworn before me, you are empowered and directed to arrest the said defendant and bring him or her before me forthwith to be dealt with according to law. A copy of this Arrest Warrant shall be delivered to the defendant at the time of its execution, or as soon thereafter as is practicable Sworn to and subscribed before me on 9/ 5/2023

Signature of Issuing Judge (L.S.)

Windi King

Judge Code: 7454

Judge's Address P.O. Box 2
Bishopville, SC 29010-

Judge's Telephone (803)484-5905

Issuing Court: ☒ Magistrate ☐ Municipal ☐ Circuit

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ARREST WARRANT

2023A3110100134

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Lee

THE STATE agonal 06-2023-019

Brittany Nicole Welch

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED] BSN: [REDACTED]

Sex F Race W Height 5 4 Weight 180

DL State SC DL # [REDACTED]

DOB: [REDACTED] Agency ORI # SC040095C

Prosecuting Agency S C Department Of Corrections Investig

Prosecuting Officer Trevor W Sherbert - S00459

Offense: Misconduct / Misconduct in office, malfeasance, misfeasance, or nonfeasance

Offense Code: 0819

Code/Ordinance Sec: 17-25-0030

This warrant is CERTIFIED FOR SERVICE in the

☐ County/ ☐ Municipality of

The accused is to be arrested and brought before me to be dealt with according to the law.

(L.S.)

Signature of Judge

Date:

RETURN

A copy of this arrest warrant was delivered to defendant on Sept 5, 2023 to Brittany Welch

Signature of [REDACTED]

RETURN WARRANT TO:

General Sessions

123 South Main Street

P O Box 387

Bishopville, SC 290100387

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Lee

AFFIDAVIT

ORIGINAL

Form Approved By
S.C. Attorney General
April 21, 2009
SCCA 1-18

Personally appeared before me the affiant Trevor W Sherbert who being duly sworn deposes and says that defendant Brittany Nicole Welch did within this county and state on or about 8/ 8/2023 violate the criminal laws of the State of South Carolina (or ordinance of ☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of Lee) in the following particulars:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Misconduct / Misconduct in office, malfeasance, misfeasance, or nonfeasance

I further state that there is probable cause to believe that the defendant named above did commit the crime set forth and that probable cause is based on the following facts:

Special Agent T. Sherbert states the defendant, Brittany Nicole Welch, did commit the act of Misconduct in Office on or between the dates of August 08, 2023, and August 16, 2023, at Lee Correctional Institution, located at 990 Wisacky Hwy, in Lee County SC. Welch, a sworn SC Department of Corrections (SCDC) Lieutenant, who has been with employed with SCDC for approximately six years, did willfully and knowingly commit the crime of Misconduct in Office. Welch did engage in misconduct in the form of malfeasance, misfeasance, and/or nonfeasance by committing acts in violation of her duty of good faith, honesty, and accountability of public trust as a State Corrections Officer. (See attached supplemental affidavit).

Signature of Affiant [REDACTED]

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Lee

Affiant's Address P.O. Box 21787
Columbia, SC 29221-1787

Affiant's Telephone

ARREST WARRANT

TO ANY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THIS STATE OR MUNICIPALITY OR ANY CONSTABLE OF THIS COUNTY:

It appearing from the above affidavit that there are reasonable grounds to believe that

on or about 8/ 8/2023 defendant Brittany Nicole Welch did violate the criminal laws of the State of South Carolina (or ordinance of ☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of Lee) as set forth below:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Misconduct / Misconduct in office, malfeasance, misfeasance, or nonfeasance

Having found probable cause and the above affiant having sworn before me, you are empowered and directed to arrest the said defendant and bring him or her before me forthwith to be dealt with according to law. A copy of this Arrest Warrant shall be delivered to the defendant at the time of its execution, or as soon thereafter as is practicable.

Sworn to and subscribed before me on 9/ 1/2023

Signature of [REDACTED] (L.S.)

Judge's Address P.O. Box 2
Bishopville, SC 29010-

Judge's Telephone (803)484-5905

Issuing Court: ☒ Magistrate ☐ Municipal ☐ Circuit

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South Carolina Department of Corrections Office of Inspector General

AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF APPLICATION FOR ARREST WARRANT

I, Special Agent T. Sherbert, being duly sworn, do hereby depose and state:

I am a certified Law Enforcement Officer in the State of South Carolina. I am currently a Special Agent for the South Carolina Department of Corrections (SCDC), Office of Inspector General (OIG). I am currently assigned to the OIG Major Crimes & Public Corruption Unit. I am authorized to conduct complex criminal investigations, conduct searches/seizures, and make arrests.

Based on information set forth within this affidavit, there is probable cause to believe evidence of the following offenses were committed Brittany Nicole Welch (DOB: [REDACTED] SSN: [REDACTED]), who is currently a sworn Correctional Lieutenant for SCDC:

Misconduct in Office 17-25-0030 / CDR Code: 0819

PROBABLE CAUSE:

Special Agent T. Sherbert states the defendant, Brittany Nicole Welch, did commit the act of Misconduct in Office on or between the dates of August 06, 2023, and August 16, 2023, at Lee Correctional Institution, located at 990 Wisacky Hwy, in Lee County SC. Welch, a sworn SC Department of Corrections (SCDC) Lieutenant, who has been with employed with SCDC for approximately six years, did willfully commit the crime of Misconduct in Office. Lt. Welch did engage in misconduct in the form of malfeasance, misfeasance, and/or nonfeasance by committing acts in violation of her duty of good faith, honesty, and accountability of public trust as a State Corrections Officer to wit: On August 08, 2023, Lt. Welch provided SCDC inmate(s) with confidential information related to a pre-planned search of her assigned LeeCI unit, F-3, by the SCDC Agency Search Team (AST). This leaked confidential information did allow inmates to dispose of contraband weapons that would have otherwise resulted in their seizure and possible SCDC administrative and/or criminal charges against inmates if found in the inmate's possession by the AST. Lt. Welch took possession of the contraband weapons; however, knowing that such weapons are illegal and dangerous within SCDC by inmates, Lt. Welch failed to perform her lawful duty of reporting the seizure and/or turning in the items into evidence. The current whereabouts of the contraband weapons are unknown. On August 08, 2023, Lt. Welch did take possession of an electronic device that shared the physical characteristics of a cellphone from an inmate; however, knowing that the possession of such device is illegal and dangerous within SCDC by inmates, Lt. Welch failed to perform her lawful duty of reporting the seizure, charging the inmate and/or turning the device into evidence. The current whereabouts of the device are unknown. On August 08, 2023, after having knowledge of an institutional lockdown (no inmate movement) due to pre-planned searches by the AST, Lt. Welch knowingly and willfully allowed inmates to move in and



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out of her assigned unit. Lt. Welch also knowingly and willfully allowed and assisted in the unauthorized transfer of a box containing unknown items between two inmates during the aforementioned institutional lockdown before the AST conducted a search of her assigned unit. On August 16, 2023, Lt. Welch failed to perform her lawful duties by leaving her assigned unit's wing doors unsecured which resulted in the transfer of contraband from one wing to another. On the same day, Lt. Welch witnessed an inmate going to a wing he was unauthorized to be in and she failed to perform her lawful duties by not stopping the inmate from being in an unauthorized area and this resulted in the transfer of suspected contraband from the inmate to another inmate.

Probable Cause based on OIG Police Investigation, witness statements, and video surveillance footage.

Ref: OIG Case 05-2023-010

S/A T. Sm 9/1/23
Signature of Affiant Date

[Signature] 9-1-23
Signature of Judge Date

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ARREST WARRANT

2023A3110100135

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Lee

THE STATE

against

Brittany Nicole Welch

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED] SSN: [REDACTED]

Sex: F Race: W Height: 5 4 Weight: 180

DL State: SC DL #: [REDACTED]

DOB: [REDACTED] Agency ORI #: SC040095C

Prosecuting Agency: SC Department Of Corrections Investig

Prosecuting Officer: Trevor W Sherbert - S00459

Offense: Obstructing / Obstructing justice

Offense Code: 0118

Code/Ordinance Sec: 17-25-0030

This warrant is CERTIFIED FOR SERVICE in the

☐ County/ ☐ Municipality of

The accused

is to be arrested and brought before me to be

dealt with according to the law.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Lee

AFFIDAVIT

ORIGINAL

Form Approved by
S.C. Attorney General
April 21, 2020
SCCA 515

Personally appeared before me the affiant Trevor W Sherbert who

being duly sworn deposes and says that defendant Brittany Nicole Welch

did within this county and state on or about 8/8/2023 violate the criminal laws of the

State of South Carolina (or ordinance of ☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of Lee)

In the following particulars:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Obstructing / Obstructing justice

I further state that there is probable cause to believe that the defendant named above did commit the crime set forth and that probable cause is based on the following facts:

Special Agent T. Sherbert states the defendant, Brittany Nicole Welch, did commit the act of Obstruction of Justice on or between the dates of August 08, 2023, and August 16, 2023, at Lee Correctional Institution, located at 990 Wisacky Hwy, in Lee County SC. Welch, a sworn SC Department of Corrections (SCDC) Lieutenant, who has been with employed with SCDC for approximately six years, did obstruct and/or otherwise impede the administration of justice. (See attached supplemental affidavit.)

Signature of Affiant [Signature]

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Lee

Affiant's Address P.O. Box 21787

Columbia, SC 29221-1787

Affiant's Telephone [REDACTED]

ARREST WARRANT

TO ANY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THIS STATE OR MUNICIPALITY OR ANY CONSTABLE OF THIS COUNTY:

It appearing from the above affidavit that there are reasonable grounds to believe that

on or about 8/8/2023 defendant Brittany Nicole Welch

did violate the criminal laws of the State of South Carolina (or ordinance of

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of Lee) as set forth below:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Obstructing / Obstructing justice

Having found probable cause and the above affiant having sworn before me, you are empowered and directed to arrest the said defendant and bring him or her before me forthwith to be dealt with according to law. A copy of this Arrest Warrant shall be delivered to the defendant at the time of its execution, or as soon thereafter as is practicable.

Sworn to and subscribed before me

on 9/1/2023

[Signature] (L.S.)

Judge's Address P.O. Box 2

Bishopville, SC 29010-

Judge's Telephone (803) 484-5905

Issuing Court: ☒ Magistrate ☐ Municipal ☐ Circuit

(L.S.)

Signature of Judge [Signature]

Date: [REDACTED]

RETURN

A copy of this arrest warrant was delivered to

defendant Brittany Welch

on Sept. 5, 2023

[Signature]

Signature of Constable/Clerk/Deputy Sheriff

RETURN WARRANT TO:

General Sessions

123 South Main Street

P O Box 387

Bishopville, SC 290100387

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South Carolina Department of Corrections Office of Inspector General

AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF APPLICATION FOR ARREST WARRANT

I, Special Agent T. Sherbert, being duly sworn, do hereby depose and state:

I am a certified Law Enforcement Officer in the State of South Carolina. I am currently a Special Agent for the South Carolina Department of Corrections (SCDC), Office of Inspector General (OIG). I am currently assigned to the OIG Major Crimes & Public Corruption Unit. I am authorized to conduct complex criminal investigations, conduct searches/seizures, and make arrests.

Based on information set forth within this affidavit, there is probable cause to believe evidence of the following offenses were committed Brittany Nicole Welch (DOB: [REDACTED] - SSN: [REDACTED]), who is currently a sworn Correctional Lieutenant for SCDC:

Obstruction of Justice 17-25-0030 / CDR Code 0118

PROBABLE CAUSE:

Special Agent T. Sherbert states the defendant, Brittany Nicole Welch, did commit the act of Obstruction of Justice on or between the dates of August 08, 2023, and August 16, 2023, at Lee Correctional Institution, located at 990 Wisacky Hwy, in Lee County SC. Welch, a sworn SC Department of Corrections (SCDC) Lieutenant, who has been with employed with SCDC for approximately six years, did obstruct and/or otherwise impede the administration of justice to wit: On August 08, 2023, Lt. Welch provided SCDC inmate(s) with confidential information related to a pre-planned search of her assigned LeeCI unit, F-3, by the SCDC Agency Search Team (AST). This leaked confidential information did allow inmates to dispose of contraband weapons that would have otherwise resulted in their seizure and possible SCDC administrative and/or criminal charges against inmates if found in the inmate's possession by the AST. Lt. Welch took possession of the contraband weapons; however, knowing that such weapons are illegal and dangerous within SCDC by inmates, Lt. Welch failed to perform her lawful duty of reporting the seizure and/or turning in the items into evidence. The current whereabouts of the contraband weapons are unknown. On August 08, 2023, Lt. Welch did take possession of an electronic device that shared the physical characteristics of a cellphone from an inmate; however, knowing that the possession of such device is illegal and dangerous within SCDC by inmates, Lt. Welch failed to perform her lawful duty of reporting the seizure, charging the inmate and/or turning the device into evidence. The current whereabouts of the device are unknown. On August 08, 2023, after having knowledge of an institutional lockdown (no inmate movement) due to pre-planned searches by the AST, Lt. Welch knowingly and willfully allowed inmates to move in and out of her assigned unit. Lt. Welch also knowingly and willfully allowed and assisted in the unauthorized transfer of a box containing unknown items between two inmates during the institutional lockdown before the AST



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conducted a search of her assigned unit). These willful acts did allow inmates to dispose of contraband items that would have otherwise resulted in their seizure and possible SCDC administrative and/or OIG criminal charges if found in the inmate's possession by the AST.

Probable Cause based on OIG Police Investigation, witness statements, and video surveillance footage.

Ref: OIG Case 05-2023-010

SLA TSS 9/1/23
Signature of Affiant Date

SS ind. Ky 9-1-23
Signature of Judge Date

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