



South Carolina Department of Corrections

Sept. 12, 2025

For immediate release

Contact: Chrysti Shain, (803) 413-8206

Shain.Chrysti@doc.sc.gov

COLUMBIA, S.C. – The SCDC Inspector General released the arrest warrant today for a staff member at Lee Correctional Institution for criminal conspiracy.

Sharon Elizabeth Smith, 36, of Sumter, is charged with conspiring to bring a set of custom jewelry teeth coverings, commonly referred to as grillz, to an inmate. She was fired.

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.

A copy of the arrest warrant is attached.

ARREST WARRANT

2025A3110100166

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of

Lee

THE STATE

02-2025-080

against

Sharon Elizabeth Smith

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED] SSN: [REDACTED]

Sex: F Race: B Height: 4 11 Weight: 110

DL State: SC DL #: [REDACTED]

DOB: [REDACTED] Agency ORI #: SC040095C

Prosecuting Agency: S C D C Office Of The Inspector General

Prosecuting Officer: Jeremy R Bell - S00498

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: [REDACTED]

RETURN

A copy of this arrest warrant was delivered to

defendant Sharon Smith

on 9-5-2025

[Signature]

Signature of Constable/Law Enforcement Officer

RETURN WARRANT TO:

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

ORIGINAL

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ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

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 Jeremy R Bell who

being duly sworn deposes and says that defendant Sharon Elizabeth Smith

did within this county and state on or about 9/10/2025 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:

On or about September 10, 2025, at Lee Correctional Institution located at [REDACTED] in Lee County, one Sharon Smith, while employed as a canteen manager with the South Carolina Department of Corrections (SCDC), did unlawfully and willfully agree, combine, or conspire with one or more individuals to commit the offense of Introduction of Contraband into a Prison, in violation of South Carolina Statute 16-17-0410. The defendant knowingly participated in a plan to introduce contraband into Lee Correctional Institution, specifically a set of custom jewelry teeth coverings (commonly referred to as "grillz") valued at approximately \$2,500. Said contraband was discovered inside the defendant's vehicle, which was located on institutional property. Evidence supporting this charge includes the recovery of the contraband as well as a written confession voluntarily provided by the defendant to the Office of the Inspector General. ***CONTINUED ON PAGE 2***

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

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 9/10/2025 defendant Sharon Elizabeth Smith

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 9/10/2025

[Signature] (L.S.)

Shirley Cockman Davidson

Judge Code: 7269

Judge's Address Post Office Box 2
Bishopville, SC 29010-

Judge's Telephone (803)484-6463

Issuing Court: ☒ Magistrate ☐ Municipal ☐ Circuit

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Warrant #: 2025A3110100166

Defendant: Sharon Smith

Continued from Warrant:

in which the defendant admitted to knowingly attempting to bring the prohibited items into the facility, and acknowledged coordination with at least one other individual.

Affiant: Tex Red

Special Agent [REDACTED]

Judge: Shirley C. Davidson

Shirley Cockman Davidson

Date: 9-10-2025

