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LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONS
Secretary Gary Westcott



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Former Louisiana State Penitentiary Employee Arrested *Charged with malfeasance in office related to contraband*

Baton Rouge, LA – The Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections announced the arrest of 24-year-old Alsaysia Bates, a former Louisiana State Penitentiary (LSP) employee. The West Feliciana Parish Sheriff's Office (WFPSO) arrested Bates on Monday, Jan. 5, 2026 on charges of malfeasance in office related to contraband.

Bates' arrest comes after a routine search at LSP that occurred Dec. 21, 2025, which led to the discovery of three cell phones in her vehicle. The cell phones, deemed as contraband, were immediately turned over to WFPSO through chain of custody procedures. During the WFPSO investigation, it was determined that the devices contained information, which led to a warrant being issued on Dec. 26, 2025 for Bates' arrest. Bates, who had been employed at LSP since Sept. 2, 2025, voluntarily resigned from her position, as a corrections sergeant, immediately following the incident.

"Contraband and inappropriate communication between staff and individuals who are incarcerated will not be tolerated," said Darrel Vannoy, warden, Louisiana State Penitentiary. "All employees are held to a standard and are expected to follow guidelines when carrying out their duties as a correctional professional."

Louisiana law expressly indicates that no person shall introduce or attempt to introduce or possess contraband on the grounds of any state correctional facility. The regulation also states that no person shall send, give or attempt to give contraband to an inmate. These actions may result in criminal charges, and the person who is incarcerated may also face disciplinary actions, lost visitation privileges or extended sentences.

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