

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONS

Secretary Gary Westcott

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### **Malfeasance in Office Leads to Elayn Hunt Correctional Center Employee Arrests**

Two other employees under investigation, placed on leave

Baton Rouge, LA – The Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections is announcing the arrests of two Elayn Hunt Correctional Center (EHCC) employees for malfeasance in office. On Tuesday, Feb. 3, the Iberville Parish Sheriff's Office arrested Registered Nurse Canecia Burrell and Sgt. Christiana Hardin who had been employed with the Department respectively since Aug. 4, 2025 and March 3, 2025.

"My office will continue to work jointly with correction's leadership and staff to carryout arrests of anyone who fails to abide by the laws that govern their role," said Brett Stassi, sheriff, Iberville Parish Sheriff's Office. "We stand ready to execute additional arrests and to maintain a safe community."

These arrests come after the Department's press conference on Monday, where leaders gathered to address employees who are willing to risk their careers and life due to inmate manipulation. The Department also gave updates on measures to combat contraband at EHCC, which is a daily issue correctional facilities across the country face.

"Contrary to news organizations who attempt to take credit or attribute these ongoing efforts to their media reporting, the Department has consistently been doing the work to weed out bad employees and address contraband head on," said Gary Westcott, secretary, Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections. "My leadership team and I, have made it abundantly clear that any type of malfeasance in office is absolutely unacceptable and we will hold those staff members accountable."

Additionally, two EHCC correctional officers have also been placed on investigative leave pending further review into alleged wrongdoing. The Department will continue to provide timely updates, information and transparency on matters surrounding corrections.

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