



# PRESS RELEASE

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## MDOC Arrests South Mississippi Corrections Institution Correctional Officer for Extortion

Jackson—The Mississippi Department of Corrections (MDOC) today announced the arrest of Correctional Officer Fernandez Denson for his alleged involvement with an inmate and the inmate's sister to introduce narcotics into the South Mississippi Correctional Institution (SMCI) in Leakesville, Miss. Denson has been placed on administrative leave without pay pending an administrative review hearing.

"I will not tolerate the intentional abuse and violation of correctional policy and procedure by any MDOC staff member," said MDOC Commissioner Robert L. Johnson. "We will be aggressive in our investigations of staff who by their abuse potentially disrupts the integrity and safety of the correctional system and public safety."

Correctional Officer Denson, of Stateline, Miss., was arrested today, July 22 at the Greene County Sheriff's Department in Leakesville, Miss. He was charged with extortion and is being held in the Clarke County Jail pending a bond hearing.

MDOC investigators believe Denson was conspiring with the sister of an inmate to bring the drugs into the prison. The inmates sister, Rose Davis of Quitman, Miss. was arrested July 19, 2002, and charged with conspiracy to introduce contraband (marijuana) and has posted bond. The inmate, Ricky Davis, who is serving two (2) life sentences for robbery and aggravated assault in Clarke County, has formal charges pending against him.

The East Mississippi Narcotics Task Force, Greene County Sheriff's Office and the Clarke County Sheriff's Office assisted the MDOC with the investigation. The arrest is a part of MDOC's continuous effort to stop the introduction of illegal contraband & drugs being brought in to the prison system.

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