



## South Carolina Law Enforcement Division

P.O. Box 21398  
Columbia, South Carolina  
29221-1398

*Henry D. McMaster, Governor*

*Mark A. Keel, Chief*

*Tel: (803) 737-9000*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
August 22, 2022

Contact: Renée Wunderlich  
(803) 260-3020  
rwunderlich@sled.sc.gov

### **SLED CHARGES FORMER CLARENDON COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPUTY WITH MULTIPLE OFFENSES INVOLVING A MINOR**

On Thursday, agents from the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) arrested former Clarendon County deputy Antonio Pearson, 36, of Sumter, S.C. for:

- Misconduct in Office
- Disseminating Obscene Material to a person under the age of 18
- Criminal Sexual Conduct with a minor under the age of 16, 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree
- Sexual Exploitation of a Minor, 1st Degree

Details from the investigation are in the attached warrants.

The SLED investigation was requested by Clarendon County Sheriff Tim Baxley.

Pearson was booked at the Clarendon County Detention Center.

The case will be prosecuted by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Circuit Solicitor's Office.

###



*An Accredited Law Enforcement Agency*



ARREST WARRANT

2022A1410100312

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

County/  Municipality of

Clarendon

THE STATE against

Antonio Pearson

Address:

Sumter, SC 29153-

Phone:

SSN:

Sex: M Race: B Height: 5 4 Weight: 185

DL State: DL #:

DOB: /1985 Agency ORI #: SCLED0000

Prosecuting Agency: State Law Enforcement Division

Prosecuting Officer: Jacqueline T Gause - S00598

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 ANTONIO PEARSON

on 8-18-2022 6:31:17 pm

Signature of Constable/Law Enforcement Officer

RETURN WARRANT TO:

General Sessions  
Post Office Box 136  
3 West Keitt Street  
Manning, SC 29102

ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

County/  Municipality of

Clarendon

Personally appeared before me the affiant Jacqueline T Gause who

being duly sworn deposes and says that defendant Antonio Pearson

did within this county and state on or about 11/1/2019 violate the criminal laws of the

State of South Carolina (or ordinance of  County/  Municipality of Clarendon )

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:

Between November 2019 and February 2022, Antonio Pearson did, within county of Clarendon, commit the offense of Misconduct in Office, to wit: Antonio Pearson, a certified law enforcement officer, while employed with the Clarendon County Sheriff's Office, engaged in sexual relationship with a juvenile victim. Antonio Pearson also disseminated obscene material to the same juvenile victim. The affiant's belief is based upon the victim's statement and a statement provided by Antonio Pearson to agents with the State Law Enforcement Division. A lawful search warrant executed on the juvenile victim's cellphone also corroborates the sexual relationship, the dissemination of the obscene material, and the Misconduct in Office while Antonio Pearson was a certified law enforcement officer. This being in violation of Common Law, South Carolina Code of Laws. Case number:33-22-0020

Signature of Affiant

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

County/  Municipality of

Clarendon

Affiant's Address P. O. Box 21398

Columbia, SC 29221-

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 11/1/2019 defendant Antonio Pearson

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

County/  Municipality of Clarendon ) 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 8/17/2022

Signature of Issuing Judge (L.S.)

Angela D. Witherspoon

Judge Code: 7465

Judge's Address Post Office Box 371

Manning, SC 29102-

Judge's Telephone (803)435-2670

Issuing Court:  Magistrate  Municipal  Circuit

ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

ARREST WARRANT

2022A1410100313

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

[X] County/ [ ] Municipality of

Clarendon

THE STATE against

Antonio Pearson

Address:

Sumter, SC 29153-

Phone: SSN:

Sex: M Race: B Height: 5 4 Weight: 185

DL State: DL #:

DOB: /1985 Agency ORI #: SCLED0000

Prosecuting Agency: State Law Enforcement Division

Prosecuting Officer: Jacqueline T Gause - S00598

Offense: Obscene / Unlawful to disseminate obscene material to person under 18 yrs of age

Offense Code: 0375

Code/Ordinance Sec: 16-15-0345

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 ANTONIO PEARSON on 8-18-2022 @ 3:17 pm

Signature of Constable/Law Enforcement Officer

RETURN WARRANT TO:

General Sessions Post Office Box 136 3 West Keitt Street Manning, SC 29102

ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA ) [X] County/ [ ] Municipality of ) Clarendon )

AFFIDAVIT

ORIGINAL

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

Personally appeared before me the affiant Jacqueline T Gause who being duly sworn deposes and says that defendant Antonio Pearson did within this county and state on or about 10/29/2020 violate the criminal laws of the State of South Carolina (or ordinance of [X] County/ [ ] Municipality of Clarendon) in the following particulars:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Obscene / Unlawful to disseminate obscene material to person under 18 yrs of age

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 October 29, 2020, Antonio Pearson did, within the county of Clarendon, commit the offense of Disseminating Obscene Material to a person under age eighteen, to wit: Antonio Pearson, a certified law enforcement officer, while employed with the Clarendon County Sheriff's Office, knowingly disseminated a photograph of his penis, which was in a rigid and turgid state, to the juvenile victim. Antonio Pearson had knowledge that the juvenile victim was under the age of 18. The Affiant's belief is based upon the victim's statement provided to agents with the State Law Enforcement Division and electronic communications between the juvenile victim and Antonio Pearson. Those communications were located through an execution of lawful search warrant of the juvenile victim's cellphone. This being in violation of Section 16-15-345, South Carolina Code of Laws. Case #33-22-0020.

Signature of Affiant

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA ) [X] County/ [ ] Municipality of ) Clarendon )

Affiant's Address P. O. Box 21398 Columbia, SC 29221- 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 10/29/2020 defendant Antonio Pearson did violate the criminal laws of the State of South Carolina (or ordinance of [X] County/ [ ] Municipality of Clarendon) as set forth below:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Obscene / Unlawful to disseminate obscene material to person under 18 yrs of age

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 8/17/2022

Signature of Issuing Judge (L.S.) Angela D. Witherspoon Judge Code: 7465

Judge's Address Post Office Box 371 Manning, SC 29102- Judge's Telephone (803)435-2670

Issuing Court: [X] Magistrate [ ] Municipal [ ] Circuit

ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

ARREST WARRANT

2022A1410100314

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

County/ Municipality of

Clarendon

THE STATE against

Antonio Pearson

Address:

Sumter, SC 29153-

Phone:

SSN:

Sex: M Race: B Height: 5 4 Weight: 185

DL State: DL #:

DOB: /1985

Agency ORI #: SCLED0000

Prosecuting Agency: State Law Enforcement Division

Prosecuting Officer: Jacqueline T Gause - S00598

Offense: Sex / Criminal sexual conduct with minor, or Attempt - victim under 16 years of age - Second

Offense Code: 0397

Code/Ordinance Sec: 16-03-0655(B)(2)

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

ANTONIO PEARSON

on

8-18-2022 @ 3:17 pm.

Signature of Constable/Law Enforcement Officer

RETURN WARRANT TO:

General Sessions

Post Office Box 136

3 West Keitt Street

Manning, SC 29102

ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

County/ Municipality of

Clarendon

Personally appeared before me the affiant Jacqueline T Gause

being duly sworn deposes and says that defendant Antonio Pearson

did within this county and state on or about 11/1/2019

violate the criminal laws of the

State of South Carolina (or ordinance of County/ Municipality of Clarendon)

in the following particulars:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Sex / Criminal sexual conduct with minor, or Attempt - victim under 16 years of age - Second degree

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:

Between November 2019 and November 2020, Antonio Pearson did, within the county of Clarendon, commit the offense of Criminal Sexual Conduct with a Minor 2nd Degree, to wit: Antonio Pearson, a certified law enforcement officer, while employed with the Clarendon County Sheriff's Office, engaged in sexual battery with the juvenile victim, who was fifteen years of age, by participating in fellatio and anal intercourse. The Affiant's belief is based upon the victim's statement provided to agents with the State Law Enforcement Division and electronic communications between the juvenile victim and Antonio Pearson. Those communications were located through an execution of a lawful search warrant of the juvenile victim's cellphone. This being in violation of Section 16-3-655 (B) (2), South Carolina Code of Laws. Case #33-22-0020.

Signature of Affiant

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

County/ Municipality of

Clarendon

Affiant's Address P. O. Box 21398

Columbia, SC 29221-

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 11/1/2019 defendant Antonio Pearson

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

County/ Municipality of Clarendon) as set forth below:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Sex / Criminal sexual conduct with minor, or Attempt - victim under 16 years of age - Second degree

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 8/17/2022

Signature of Issuing Judge

Angela D. Witherspoon

Judge Code: 7465

(L.S.)

Judge's Address Post Office Box 371

Manning, SC 29102-

Judge's Telephone (803)435-2670

Issuing Court: Magistrate Municipal Circuit

ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

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

ORIGINAL

AFFIDAVIT

ARREST WARRANT

2022A1410100316

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

County/  Municipality of

Clarendon

THE STATE  
against

Antonio Pearson

Address:

Sumter, SC 29153-

Sex: M Race: B Height: 5 4 Weight: 185

DL State: DL #: DOB: 1985 Agency ORI #: SCLED0000

Prosecuting Agency: State Law Enforcement Division

Prosecuting Officer: Jacqueline T Gause - S00598

Offense: Sex / Sexual exploitation of a minor, First degree

Offense Code: 0379

Code/Ordinance Sec: 16-15-0395(A)

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 Antonio Pearson

on 8-18-2022 @ 3:17 PM

Signature of Constable/Law Enforcement Officer

RETURN WARRANT TO:

General Sessions  
Post Office Box 136  
3 West Keitt Street  
Manning, SC 29102

ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

County/  Municipality of

Clarendon

Personally appeared before me the affiant Jacqueline T Gause who

being duly sworn deposes and says that defendant Antonio Pearson

did within this county and state on or about 11/1/2019 violate the criminal laws of the

State of South Carolina (or ordinance of  County/  Municipality of Clarendon )

in the following particulars:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Sex / Sexual exploitation of a minor, First degree

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:

Between November 2019 and November 2020, Antonio Pearson did, within county of Clarendon, commit the offense of Sexual Exploitation of a Minor, First Degree, to wit: Antonio Pearson, a certified law enforcement officer, while employed with the Clarendon County Sheriff's Office, encouraged the juvenile victim, who was fifteen years of age, via electronic communications, to send nude photographs of juvenile's buttocks area to Antonio Pearson. The Affiant's belief is based upon the victim's statement provided to agents with the State Law Enforcement Division and electronic communications between the juvenile victim and Antonio Pearson. Those communications were located through an execution of a lawful search warrant of the juvenile victim's cellphone. This being in violation of Section 16-15-395 (A)(1), South Carolina Code of Laws. Case Number: 33-22-0020.

Signature of Affiant

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

County/  Municipality of

Clarendon

Affiant's Address P. O. Box 21398

Columbia, SC 29221-

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 11/1/2019 defendant Antonio Pearson

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

County/  Municipality of Clarendon ) as set forth below:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Sex / Sexual exploitation of a minor, First degree

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 8/17/2022

Signature of Issuing Judge

Angela D. Witherspoon

Judge Code: 7465

(L.S.)

Judge's Address Post Office Box 371

Manning, SC 29102-

Judge's Telephone (803)435-2670

Issuing Court:  Magistrate  Municipal  Circuit

ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

ORIGINAL

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

ORIGINAL

AFFIDAVIT