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Siblings charged with attempting to traffic drugs into Miami Correctional Facility

Precious and Wendell Russell accused of conspiracy to deal Suboxone at state prison

INDIANAPOLIS (MAY 16, 2018) – Marion County Prosecutor Terry Curry announced that Precious Russell and Wendell Russell have been charged for allegedly attempting to deal a controlled substance at an Indiana Department of Correction facility in Miami County. Precious Russell, a Marion County resident, has been charged with two counts of Conspiracy to Commit Dealing in a Schedule III Controlled Substance (Level 5 Felonies). Wendell Russell, an inmate at Miami Correctional Facility and the brother of Precious Russell, is charged with Conspiracy to Commit Dealing in a Schedule III Controlled Substance (Level 5 Felony).

The charges are a result of an investigation by the Indiana Office of the Inspector General in cooperation with the Indiana Department of Correction and the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration.

According to the probable cause affidavit filed in this case, in March 2018 Wendell Russell allegedly began to enlist individuals to facilitate the trafficking of Suboxone, a schedule III controlled substance, into the facility.

On March 4, Wendell Russell is alleged to have used his personal PIN number and other inmates' PIN numbers to call his sister Precious Russell. It is believed Wendell Russell suggested that his sister mail the Suboxone in an envelope from the post office and track the package. Over the next several days, it is alleged that Wendell Russell placed several calls to have his sister to send an envelope containing drugs to a third party's residence in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

On March 19, detectives with the Fort Wayne Police Department seized an envelope that contained 47 Suboxone strips with a return address that matched Precious Russell's residence.

A Pretrial Conference for Precious Russell is set for July 25 at 1:30 p.m. in Marion County Criminal Court 21.

An Initial Hearing for Wendell Russell is currently set for June 4 at 1:00 p.m. in Marion County Criminal Court 21.

A charge of a crime is merely an accusation, and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.