



Former Corrections Officer Pleads Guilty

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**DAVID P. FORNSHELL
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Former Lebanon Correctional Institution corrections officer Walter Richardson, 23, of Cincinnati, Ohio, pled guilty yesterday to illegal conveyance of drugs into a detention facility, a felony of the 3rd degree, and possession of drugs, a felony of the 4th degree, before Warren County Common Pleas Court Judge Timothy N. Tepe. Sentencing is scheduled for February 27, 2017. Because Richardson was an employee of the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, a mandatory prison term is required.

On Friday, August 26, 2016, Richardson reported to duty at LeCI and was subjected to a routine administrative inspection. LeCI officials discovered that he had 100 Suboxone strips, a Schedule III controlled substance, concealed in the finger of a rubber glove in his pocket. Further investigation by ODRC investigators and the Ohio State Highway Patrol revealed that another inmate, who Richardson would not identify, paid Richardson \$1,000 to deliver a package of the drugs into the institution. Richardson immediately resigned his employment and was placed under arrest by OSHP officers.

“This is the second conviction within the past month of a corrections officer attempting to convey drugs into one of our local prisons. We hope this sends a message to other prison personnel that if we catch you bringing drugs into the prison, you’ll be joining the inmates behind bars,” said Warren County Prosecutor David P. Fornshell.

Fornshell commended ODRC Investigator J.T. Hall and officers at LeCI, Trooper Joseph Griffith of the OSHP, Assistant Prosecutor John Arnold, and Legal Assistant Kathy Fink for their work on the case.



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