



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
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Re: Detectives Arrest Nurse for Stealing Medication

Date: July 25, 2018

On 07-24-18, administrators at the Spring Hill Health and Rehab Center, located at 12170 Cortez Boulevard in Spring Hill, reported a theft of medication from their facility. Administrators identified **Ashley Taylor W/F 04-02-1985**, a nurse at the facility, as the suspect.

On 7-25-2018, District Two detectives made contact with Taylor when she reported for duty at Spring Hill Health and Rehab. Upon interviewing Taylor, she admitted to fraudulently obtaining Norco, alprazolam hydrocodone, Percocet, morphine, morphine sulphate, clonazepam, temazepam, hydromorphone, hydrocodone, codeine, and dilaudid while on duty and assigned to the narcotics cart at the facility. Taylor stated she would order extra medication from the pharmacy to ensure that none of her patients went without their prescribed medication. Upon signing out the medication, Taylor would conceal it on her person and take it home for ingestion (at a later time). Taylor explained that she has been battling an extensive drug addiction for many years, after suffering an injury.

Taylor was cooperative with the investigation and allowed detectives to retrieve items, related to the thefts, from her residence. Upon arrival at Taylor's residence, detectives retrieved over 300 empty blister packs, which at one time contained over 10,000 tablets of the various medications (listed above).

Taylor was placed under arrested and transported to the Hernando County Detention Center with the following charges:

- Possession of Controlled Substance (12 counts)
- Grand theft of Controlled Substance
- Scheme to Defraud to Obtain Prescriptions
- Obtaining a Prescription by Fraud

- Bond - \$31,000.

The Office of Sheriff:

The Office of the Sheriff is established by the Florida Constitution. As a constitutional officer, the Sheriff has the exclusive authority to administer his or her agency and is responsible for preserving the peace throughout the entire county, carrying out the laws of the state, the orders of Florida courts, and the ordinances of the Board of County Commissioners. The Sheriff is the chief law enforcement and correctional officer of the county.

Sheriff Al Nienhuis was initially appointed as the Sheriff of Hernando County by the Governor in January of 2011. He was then elected by the people of Hernando County in 2012, and remains accountable to them.