



# *Virginia Peninsula Regional Jail*

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**For Immediate Release**  
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## **VPRJ NURSE CHARGED FOR INTRODUCING CONTRABAND INTO FACILITY**

Williamsburg, Virginia – On Tuesday, April 28, 2020, Courtney E. Shafer, a nurse at the Virginia Peninsula Regional Jail, was charged with three counts of misdemeanor Delivery of Articles to Committed Persons, in violation of the Code of Virginia §18.2-474. This is a Class 1 misdemeanor charge, punishable by up to 12 months in jail and/or up to a \$2500.00 fine. The investigation found that Shafer had been providing contraband to at least one inmate incarcerated at VPRJ. Shafer was relieved of all duties and is no longer an employee at VPRJ.

“To discover that an employee was involved in the kind of behavior that Shafer was engaged in is always an extreme disappointment, not just for myself, but for all of her now former co-workers,” said Superintendent Colonel Roy Witham. “I want to be clear: The conduct exhibited by Shafer put the safety and security of employees and inmates alike at risk. When any employee, be they an officer, a nurse, or a civilian, makes the decision to knowingly break state law and disregard VPRJ policies and procedures in order to assist an inmate in the manner Shafer did, they are willingly putting the lives of staff and inmates in danger.”

“These actions are unacceptable and will not be tolerated by me, from any staff member, at any time,” continued Colonel Witham. “Correctional officers already have a difficult and stressful job. It is unconscionable that ‘one of our own’ would choose to make that job harder and more dangerous for their co-workers with the conduct we see exhibited in this case.”

This investigation is ongoing; no additional comments will be made at this time.