



Indiana Department of Correction  
Pendleton Correctional Facility  
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### **Marion County Woman Arrested for Trafficking**

Pendleton, Ind. - An investigation by the Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC) resulted in the August 4<sup>th</sup> arrest of Latasha McKinzie, 37 of Marion County, Indiana. The investigation developed information alleging McKinzie was trafficking into the Pendleton Correctional Facility. As a result of the investigation more than two dozen grams of suspected heroin were recovered.

On August 4, 2019 Ms. McKinzie, and her two minor children, entered the Pendleton Correctional Facility to visit an offender. Following the visitation, the offender was discovered to have three packages of suspected contraband on his person and was moved to the administrative housing area pending further investigation. Also, at the same time, Ms. McKinzie was escorted out of the visitation area by Correctional Police Officers (CPO) to be interviewed by the Office of Investigations and Intelligence (OII).

As a result of the interview, information was developed alleging McKinzie trafficked substances believed to be tobacco, suspected marijuana and a yet to be determined controlled substance to the offender's possession. After the interview Correctional Police Officers and OII searched McKinzie's vehicle and home, which resulted in the discovery of additional suspected illegal drugs.

This investigation determined there was sufficient probable cause to arrest McKinzie and allege the following criminal violations:

- Level 5 Felony Trafficking with an inmate;
- Level 3 Felony Dealing in a schedule I controlled substance;
- Level 4 Possession of a controlled substance;
- Level 5 Possession of marijuana, hash oil, hashish;
- Level 5 Dealing marijuana, hash oil, hashish.

McKinzie was lodged at the Madison County jail without incident and her juvenile children were placed in the custody of an Indiana Department of Child Services representative.

Vigilant attention to detail by our correctional officer staff kept illegal substances out of the Pendleton Correctional Facility, and the ensuing investigation led to the questioning and ultimate arrest of the visitor," stated Deputy Warden Dennis Reagle. "Make no mistake, anyone caught trafficking illegal drugs to any Department of Correction facility will be arrested and prosecuted to the fullest extent possible by law."

**All suspects are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.**

**About Trafficking:**

Trafficking in a correctional facility environment is defined as the act of buying or selling of illegal substances or substances that may be legal but are not permitted in a correctional environment, such as the sale or trade of tobacco products.

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Pictured Above: Latasha McKinzie