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Two Mercer County Correction Officers Charged in Inmate Assault

Two Mercer County correction officers have been charged in connection with the assault of an inmate earlier this month, Acting Mercer County Prosecutor Angelo J. Onofri reported.

Complaints were signed on Wednesday charging Isaac Wood III, age 40, of Ewing, with two counts of official misconduct and one count of aggravated assault. Trachell Syphax, age 31, of Trenton, is charged with official misconduct.

It is alleged that, on May 11, Wood punched the inmate in the face, causing him to fall to the floor. Wood then kicked the inmate multiple times about the head and body. Preliminary investigation revealed that the inmate did not provoke or resist the officer. Syphax witnessed the assault and did not intervene. The inmate was transported to the hospital for treatment. Both officers filed false police reports regarding Wood's use of force on the inmate.

According to correction officials, Wood and Syphax are engaged to be married.

Wood and Syphax were each charged on summons complaints. Both were suspended without pay shortly after the May 11 incident.

A preliminary investigation into an April 2016 incident at the Mercer County Correction Center being conducted by the prosecutor's Internal Affairs Unit shows no evidence of involvement by either Wood or Syphax.

Despite having been charged, every defendant is presumed innocent until found guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

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