



THE UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

U.S. Attorney's Office  
Southern District of Texas

Ryan K. Patrick | United States Attorney

***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

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### **Kitchen Supervisor Pleads Guilty to Actions Related to Prohibited Relationship with Federal Inmate**

LAREDO, Texas - A 51-year-old Laredo resident has admitted she made a false statement and provided contraband in prison, announced U.S. Attorney Ryan K. Patrick.

Oralia Aparicio pleaded guilty to one count of making a false statement and one count of providing contraband to a prison inmate.

Aparicio was employed by GEO Group Inc. as a Kitchen Supervisor at the Rio Grande Detention Center in Laredo. GEO is a Florida-based company that contracts with the Office of the Federal Detention Trustee to operate private corrections facilities.

In early November 2018, Aparicio began engaging in a prohibited romantic relationship with an inmate, including consensual sexual encounters in the warehouse and cleaning utility room of the Rio Grande Detention Center. In January 2019, Aparicio engaged in prohibited favoritism by providing the inmate with contraband nude photographs of herself which Aparicio snuck into the facility in an eyeglass case. At approximately the same time, she also began knowingly providing the inmate with other contraband, including food, an unidentified over-the-counter cold medicine (Xtra), Amoxicillin and a Vicks nasal inhaler.

Aparicio also provided the inmate with weekly to biweekly commissary deposits of up to \$30. In order to conceal her prohibited relationship from officials,

Aparicio intentionally submitted a fictitious name when making commissary deposits in the inmate's account from Oct. 25, 2018, to Jan. 15, 2019.

U.S. District Judge Marina Garcia Marmolejo will impose sentencing Jan. 27, 2020. At that time, Aparico faces up to five years imprisonment as well as a \$250,000 maximum possible fine.

The FBI and Department of Justice - Office of the Inspector General conducted the investigation.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Sebastian Edwards prosecuted this case.

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