

Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Northern District of Alabama

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Former FCI Aliceville Corrections Officer Sentenced to 1 1/2
Years in Prison for Abusive Sexual Contact with Inmate**

BIRMINGHAM – A federal judge on Tuesday sentenced a former corrections officer at the federal prison for women in Alabama to 1½ years in prison for committing a sexual act with an inmate and lying about his contact with her while he worked at the facility. U.S. Attorney Jay E. Town and Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General, Miami Field Office, Special Agent in Charge Robert A. Bourbon announced the sentence.

U.S. District Judge Virginia E. Hopkins sentenced JESSE BAILEY, 28, of Carrolton, Ala., on one count each of abusive sexual contact and making false statements to the government. Bailey pleaded guilty to the charges in December.

“This defendant now enters the prison system as an inmate rather than a guard and will learn how critically important it is that corrections officers honor their responsibility to supervise and protect inmates,” Town said. “The Department of Justice is committed to protecting the safety of inmates and my office continues to work with the Office of Inspector General to investigate incidents of alleged abuse by correctional staff.”

“Bailey abused the trust of inmates, staff and the public, and when confronted, he lied to cover up his actions,” stated Bourbon. “Today’s sentence serves as a reminder that no correctional officer is above the law. The DOJ OIG thanks the U.S. Attorney’s Office for its diligent efforts to help bring this case to a successful conclusion.”

Bailey worked as a corrections officer at the Federal Correctional Institution at Aliceville, a low-security prison for women, from January 2015 to August 2016. He had direct custodial, supervisory and disciplinary authority over inmates, including the victim.

In January 2016, Bailey was assigned to the prison dorm unit where the victim was housed and soon began a flirtation with her that resulted in the sexual act that took place in a staff bathroom near the dorm unit. Over the course of the flirtation that lasted several weeks, Bailey began communicating with the woman, even when he was not assigned to her dorm, including by email and telephone, according to his plea. Such communication between corrections officers and inmates is strictly prohibited.

Agents from the FBI and the DOJ OIG interviewed Bailey at FCI Aliceville in August 2016 about allegations of improper communications and sexual contact with the inmate. Bailey falsely denied the sexual contact and told the agents he had never communicated with the victim or other inmates by phone or email outside of his assigned role as a corrections officer, according to his plea.

DOJ OIG investigated the case, which Assistant U.S. Attorney Xavier O. Carter Sr. prosecuted.

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