

South Carolina Attorney General Alan Wilson announces state expands program to help sexual assault victims who may have been exposed to HIV

(FLORENCE, S.C.) – South Carolina Attorney General Alan Wilson announced that a new Florence County program has been established to meet the needs of sexual assault victims who may have been exposed to HIV. South Carolina remains at the forefront of the nation in offering a program that prevents sexual assault victims from contracting HIV, and that program is now expanding to its fifth location in the state. McLeod Regional Medical Center, HopeHealth, Inc., and Pee Dee Coalition in Florence County will provide HIV nPEP treatment and follow-up care to victims of sexual assault when they are found to be at risk for contracting HIV from the sexual assault. This treatment is offered at no cost to the victim.

Attorney General Wilson and the Department of Crime Victim Compensation are partnering with McLeod Regional Medical Center, HopeHealth, Inc., and Pee Dee Coalition in Florence County to expand the program.

“Imagine the horror of already being a victim of sexual assault and then having to worry about whether you might have contracted a deadly disease because of that assault,” Attorney General Wilson said. “This program provides life-saving treatment to prevent that, which keeps survivors from being further victimized.”

Florence County is the fifth HIV nPEP (non-occupational Post-Exposure Prophylaxis) and follow-up treatment program for crime victims of sexual assault in the state. South Carolina was the first state in the country to offer this level of service to victims of sexual assault who are found to be at risk for contracting HIV. non-occupational Post-Exposure Prophylaxis - nPEP Program

What is nPEP? It is medication that can prevent HIV transmission after a sexual assault victim has been exposed to HIV. It means the victim must take antiretroviral medicine after a potential exposure to HIV to prevent becoming infected. This medication must be started within 72 hours (3 days) of the exposure and must be taken for 28 days. The 28-day medication regimen can cost as much as \$3,000 per victim, and the expense increases with follow-up treatment; but this new program is FREE to sexual assault victims who meet the criteria below.

Individuals qualify if:

They are a victim of sexual assault and meet the CDC criteria for exposure to HIV
The sexual assault happened in South Carolina
The sexual assault occurred within 72 hours of the initial visit to the Emergency Department or Immunology /Infectious Disease Clinic

Both Sexual Assault and HIV can result in life-altering consequences; Awareness and Prevention warrants a call to action for the victim.

The Attorney General's Office Department of Crime Victim Compensation has also forged partnerships in Charleston, Richland, Lexington, Sumter, Kershaw, Horry, and Spartanburg counties to assist victims of sexual assault and is expected to bring this level of service to other areas of the state.

Kershaw Tree Planting

The Town of Kershaw was recently awarded free trees through Palmetto Pride. Andrew Jackson High School agriculture students planted the trees for the town in Stevens Park.



Advertise in this space for BIG impact.
Call 803-475-6096 or email kershawnews@gmail.com

Fentanyl Trafficking Arrest



DaJames Shaquilla Greene, age 29, of Robinson Road, Lancaster, is in jail on Fentanyl trafficking and other drug charges after the execution of a search warrant at his home on Robinson Road in Lancaster Thursday, November 2, 2023. The Lancaster County Multi-jurisdictional Narcotics Task Force obtained the search warrant based upon an investigation of complaints that drugs were being sold out of the home.

Arrest warrants charging Greene with two counts of Distribu-

tion of Fentanyl and two counts of Distribution of a Controlled Substance in Proximity to a School or Park (North Elementary School and Southside Early Childhood Education Center) had been obtained for Greene for transactions that occurred last month. Thursday, investigators with the task force located Greene at a local business and arrested him without incident on those warrants. They then went to Greene's home to conduct the search. The search revealed 110 pills of suspected Fentanyl weighing 13 grams, one suspected MDMA/Ecstasy pill, 259 grams of suspected Marijuana, and digital scales.

Additional warrants charging Greene with Trafficking Fentanyl 4-14 Grams, Possession of MDMA/Ecstasy, Possession with Intent to Distribute Marijuana, and Possession with Intent to Distribute Controlled Substances in Proximity to a School or Park (Southside Early Childhood Education Center) were served on Greene in the Lancaster County Detention Center. A magistrate denied his bond Friday, and Greene remains incarcerated. His photograph and a photograph of the items seized during the search are attached.

“The narcotics task force continues to build solid drug cases based on information received from the public and evidence they develop during these investigations,” said Sheriff Barry Faile. “From the transactions and the charges made during this investigation, it is obvious Greene has been selling a good bit of illegal drugs. I am happy we were able to make all these charges, get a large quantity of drugs out of circulation, and put Greene in jail.” (All defendants are presumed innocent unless proven guilty in court.)

Anyone with information about this or any other case should call the Lancaster County Sheriff's Office at 803-283-3388 and select Option 4 or submit a tip in one of the following ways: use the link www.p3tips.com/983 or download the P3Tips mobile app available for both Apple and Android devices. Crime tips may be made anonymously.

Official List of Candidates for 2024 South Carolina Democratic Party Presidential Primary

Columbia, S.C. -- The South Carolina Democratic Party's presidential primary filing period closed on Friday, November 10th at Noon. Tonight, the Party's Executive Council certified the following candidates to participate in our historic first in the nation primary on February 3, 2024. Per state law, SCDP Chair Christale Spain will transmit the approved candidates to the South Carolina Election Commission:

- President Joe Biden
- Congressman Dean Phillips
- Marianne Williamson

The following individuals filed, but were not certified, for the South Carolina Democratic Party presidential primary ballot:

- Eban Cambridge - Incomplete candidate filing
- Cenk Uygur - Doesn't meet constitutional requirements to hold the office of President of the United States