


**PINELLAS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS BUREAU
INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

DATE: APRIL 04, 2022

TO: DISTRIBUTION

FROM: CAPTAIN DEANNA CAREY 
Professional Standards Bureau

SUBJECT: AI-21-019 SHERIFF'S FINDING

On April 04, 2022 at 0908 hours, Forensic Science Specialist Shantele Dixon, #58070, was terminated per Sheriff Gualtieri as a result of AI-21-019.

DISTRIBUTION:

Sheriff Bob Gualtieri
Chief Deputy George Steffen
Assistant Chief Deputy Dave Danzig
Assistant Chief Deputy Paul Halle
Colonel Paul Carey
Major Adrian Arnold
Major Dennis Garvey
Major Dennis Komar
Major Jennifer Love
Director Jennifer Crockett
Director Nancy Duggan
Director Susan Krause
Director Jason Malpass
Shannon Lockheart, General Counsel
Payroll
Purchasing-Uniform Supply

DC/blb

**PINELLAS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

DATE: APRIL 4, 2022

TO: FORENSIC SCIENCE SPECIALIST SHANTELE DIXON, #58070

FROM: SHERIFF BOB GUALTIERI

SUBJECT: CHARGES RE: AI-21-019

An investigation has been conducted by the Administrative Investigation Division, Professional Standards Bureau, of the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office. As a result of this investigation, the Administrative Review Board has determined you committed the following violation:

Between, but not limited to, November 29, 2021 through December 2, 2021 while on duty in Pinellas County, Florida, you violated the Pinellas County Sheriff's Civil Service Act Laws of Florida, 89-404 as amended by Laws of Florida 08-285, Section 6, Subsection 4, by violating the provisions of law or the rules, regulations, and operating procedures of the Office of the Sheriff.

1. You violated Pinellas County Sheriff's Office General Order 3-1.1, Rule and Regulation 5.4, Duties and Responsibilities, and General Order 3-1.1, Rule and Regulation 5.14(c), Conduct Unbecoming Members of the Agency.

Synopsis: In November 2021, you were assigned two processing requests for two separate criminal cases. This task consists of retrieving the evidentiary items from the Property and Evidence Division, maintaining an accurate chain of custody, completing sequential evidence processing, and documenting actions taken within logs, notebooks, and the agency's report management system (ACISS).

On November 29, 2021, you retrieved the two evidentiary items from the Property and Evidence Division for the two assigned processing requests. You gave both items to another Forensic Science Specialist to complete the processing requests. You failed to transfer custody to the other Forensic Science Specialist by utilizing the Change of Custody function in ACISS, knowing you were leaving the Forensic Science Division for the day, as your shift had ended. The other Forensic Science Specialist processed one item using the cyanoacrylate (superglue) fuming chamber and M-star, a luminescence dye stain chemical. The other item was processed using the cyanoacrylate fuming chamber and black magnetic powder. Both items, along with the processing request that included notes on the processing methods used, were placed in your secure locker at the Forensic Science Division by the other Forensic Science Specialist.

On December 2, 2021, you retrieved both items from your locker and reviewed the processing notes. You reprocessed one item using black magnetic powder, which resulted in no visible ridge detail. You reprocessed the second item using M-star, which resulted in visible ridge detail. In your notebook you falsely documented you used M-star and an alternative light source on the item that was processed using only black magnetic powder.

In your notebook for both items, you falsely documented all processing took place on December 2, 2021. You also did not note that another Forensic Science Specialist completed some of the processing listed in your notebook.

In your ACISS supplement reports, you intentionally and knowingly falsified the narratives, stating that you used the cyanoacrylate fuming chamber on November 29, 2021, when in fact the other Forensic Science Specialist conducted this step in the processing sequence. You also intentionally and knowingly falsified the narratives by omitting that one item was processed with M-star and the other item was processed with black magnetic powder on the same date. On one of the narratives, you intentionally and knowingly falsified the narrative, stating the item was processed with M-star and you used an alternative light source, which was a lie.

During your Administrative Interview, you admitted to omitting and falsifying your actions, and the actions of another Forensic Science Specialist, in your ACISS supplement reports and your notebook. You admitted this is a violation of both agency Standard Operating Procedures and accreditation standards. You admitted the falsification of your report could have a negative impact on criminal charges being successfully prosecuted.


During your Administrative Review Board, you admitted that you should have completed a change of custody for both evidentiary items, and agreed the chain of custody was not maintained. You admitted to intentionally and knowingly fabricating information entered into official documents, to include two separate ACISS supplement reports, and entries into your notebook. You admitted to falsifying the documentation because you "were cutting corners."

You admitted to these violations.

Disciplinary Points and Recommended Discipline Range:

You were found to be in violation of two (2) Level Five Rules and Regulation violations, totaling sixty (60) points. These points, which were affected by five (5) carry over points from previous discipline, resulting in sixty-five (65) progressive discipline points. Per policy, the lower point value of sixty (60) progressive discipline points was utilized. At this point level, the recommended discipline range is from fifty-six (56) hours Suspension to Termination.

Disciplinary action shall be consistent with progressive discipline, for cause in accordance with the provisions of the Pinellas County Civil Service Act.


CAPTAIN DEANNA CAREY
PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS BUREAU
FOR BOB GUALTIERI, SHERIFF

I have received a copy:

Date 4/4/22

Time 0906


SIGNATURE

BG:MLD:blb