

LAWS VIOLATED, HOW THEY WERE VIOLATED, AND THE PUNISHMENTS FOR EACH

Malfeasance in Office (La. R.S. 14:134): This law was violated when Sheriff Parker knowingly failed to perform his legally required duties by allowing inmate Carlton Church, a convicted killer, to live in an unsecured non-jail structure, travel freely, possess prohibited communication devices, operate sheriff's vehicles, and have access to police radios, a sheriff-issued cellphone, a patrol-vehicle laptop that could potentially access law-enforcement databases, and potential access to weapons stored inside the unit. Allowing these unlawful privileges constitutes intentional misuse of public office. Punishment is up to five years imprisonment with or without hard labor, a fine up to \$5,000, and mandatory removal from office.

Simple Escape / Improper Release (La. R.S. 14:110): Church was not confined in the jail and was instead living off-site, moving through the parish freely, entering public locations, and driving on and off the federal Camp Minden installation without supervision. Any inmate being outside lawful confinement—whether permitted by a sheriff or not—is legally classified as escape. The penalty is an additional two to five years imprisonment at hard labor, added to the inmate's current sentence, and any official who permits escape can be charged as a principal.

Improper Transfer / Custody Violation (La. R.S. 14:402): Church repeatedly left lawful custody with no transport logs, no escort, and no supervision. Allowing a prisoner to “self-transport” in a sheriff's patrol vehicle is a direct violation of the statute. Punishment includes one to five years imprisonment and potential forfeiture of office for any public official involved.

Unauthorized Use of a Movable (La. R.S. 14:67.2): Church, an incarcerated felon, was photographed driving and using a marked Webster Parish patrol vehicle. This qualifies as intentional unauthorized use of government property valued over \$5,000 and includes his access to radios, a sheriff-issued cellphone, the mobile data computer, and potential access to weapons. The punishment includes up to ten years imprisonment and fines up to \$3,000, with mandatory restitution.

Failure to Maintain Legal Custody (La. R.S. 15:706): Church was not housed in a secure facility and was allowed unrestricted movement without jail staff supervision. This statute reinforces the sheriff's obligation to maintain legal custody and directly supports criminal liability for malfeasance, escape, and conspiracy when custody is violated.

Failure to Remain in Lawful Custody (La. R.S. 14:108): Church left lawful confinement, visited public businesses, traveled off the DOC-approved property, and entered areas near state borders. This is a violation of lawful custody requirements. Punishment ranges from

six months to three years imprisonment and fines up to \$500, with enhanced penalties when tied to escape or unauthorized movements.

Filing or Maintaining False Public Records (La. R.S. 14:133): Because Church was outside lawful custody for years, every inmate count sheet marking him “present” was false. Approximately 10,020 count entries over six years were invalid or falsified. Each individual false record is a separate felony. Punishment for each count includes up to five years imprisonment and fines up to \$5,000. With thousands of counts involved, this represents the largest cumulative exposure in the case.

Criminal Conspiracy (La. R.S. 14:26): The sheriff and inmate Church coordinated actions to violate custody laws, manipulate DOC procedures, provide contraband, enable access to restricted law-enforcement systems, and falsify records. Conspiracy applies when two or more individuals agree to commit a crime. Punishment is the same as the underlying offense, multiplying exposure for malfeasance, escape, false records, and unauthorized use crimes.

Abuse of Office (La. R.S. 42:1414): Sheriff Parker used the power of his office to provide unlawful, personal privileges to a violent offender, including special housing, access to a patrol vehicle, an official cellphone, radios, a patrol laptop, potential access to weapons, and unsupervised movement. Punishment includes civil penalties, removal from office, and criminal exposure when tied to additional offenses.

Providing Contraband to an Inmate (18 U.S.C. §1791): Church possessed federally classified contraband including a sheriff-issued cellphone, unrestricted access to police radios, potential access to weapons, and control of a sheriff’s vehicle. Each item is classified as contraband under federal law. Punishment ranges up to twenty years imprisonment, with enhanced penalties when a law-enforcement officer supplies or allows the contraband.

Federal Escape / Aiding Escape (18 U.S.C. §751): Church repeatedly entered and exited Camp Minden military installation while unlawfully outside DOC custody. Crossing into federal jurisdiction makes this a federal escape offense. Punishment is up to five years imprisonment for the inmate, and officers who facilitate such escape face identical penalties.

Conspiracy to Commit Federal Offenses (18 U.S.C. §371): Sheriff Parker and Church cooperated in actions violating federal contraband laws, escape regulations, database security standards, and military access control rules. Conspiracy requires only an agreement and one overt act. Punishment includes up to five years imprisonment and fines up to \$250,000.

False Records / Obstruction (18 U.S.C. §§1001 and 1519): Falsification of inmate counts, concealment of Church's true location, and failure to report his unlawful access to communications, vehicles, and potential database systems constitute false statements and obstruction of federal processes. Penalties include up to five years imprisonment under §1001 and up to twenty years imprisonment under §1519.

Unauthorized Access to a Military Installation (Federal Security Law): Church entered the Camp Minden military installation in a sheriff's patrol vehicle without lawful authorization. This violates Department of Defense access control regulations and federal security statutes. Punishment ranges from six months to ten years imprisonment depending on severity, with increased penalties when facilitated by a law enforcement officer.

Computer Fraud and Abuse Act – Unauthorized Access or Potential Access to Law Enforcement Databases (18 U.S.C. §1030): Church had access to a patrol vehicle laptop that could potentially access Louisiana CJIS and federal systems such as NCIC or NLETS. Unauthorized possession of a device capable of accessing protected systems is a federal crime. Penalty includes up to ten years imprisonment.

Felon in Possession / Constructive Possession Due to Potential Access to Weapons (18 U.S.C. §922(g)): By having control of a sheriff's patrol unit, Church had potential access to any firearm stored inside. Federal law treats immediate or potential access as constructive possession. Punishment is up to ten years imprisonment.

Theft or Misuse of Government Property (18 U.S.C. §641): Church used or possessed access to government-owned radios, laptops, patrol vehicles, communication systems, and potentially weapons. Punishment is up to ten years imprisonment.

Overall Punishment Exposure: Sheriff Parker faces cumulative exposure including thousands of years on paper for false records, five years for malfeasance, additional years for escape facilitation, conspiracy, unauthorized use, and up to forty or more years under federal law for contraband and obstruction offenses. Inmate Church faces an additional thirty to fifty years based on escape, contraband possession, vehicle misuse, and federal security violations.

Summary of Punishment Exposure:

For Sheriff Jason Parker

- Up to 5 years – Malfeasance in Office
- Up to 5 years – Escape Facilitation (La. R.S. 14:110)
- Up to 5 years – Criminal Conspiracy (La. R.S. 14:26)

- Up to 10 years – Unauthorized Use of a Movable
- Up to 20 years – Federal Contraband Violations (18 U.S.C. §1791)
- Up to 20 years – Federal Obstruction / False Records (18 U.S.C. §1519)
- Up to 10 years – Theft or Misuse of Government Property (18 U.S.C. §641)
- Up to 10 years – Felon-Related Weapons Exposure (Constructive Access)
- Up to 5 years – Federal Escape / Aiding Escape (18 U.S.C. §751)
- Up to 5 years – Federal Conspiracy (18 U.S.C. §371)
- Up to 10 years – Computer Fraud and Abuse Act (18 U.S.C. §1030)
- Up to 10 years – Unauthorized Entry to a Military Installation
- Thousands of years on paper – False Public Records (10,020+ counts × up to 5 years each)
- Mandatory removal from office
- Permanent loss of law-enforcement certification
- Permanent disqualification from public office

Realistic combined potential imprisonment:
40+ years, not including false-records counts.

For Inmate Carlton Church

- Up to 5 years – Simple Escape (La. R.S. 14:110)
- Up to 10 years – Unauthorized Use of Patrol Vehicle and Equipment
- Up to 20 years – Federal Contraband Possession (18 U.S.C. §1791)
- Up to 20 years – Obstruction / False Records (18 U.S.C. §1519)
- Up to 10 years – Misuse of Government Property (18 U.S.C. §641)
- Up to 10 years – Constructive Possession of Firearm (18 U.S.C. §922(g))
- Up to 5 years – Federal Escape (18 U.S.C. §751)
- Up to 5 years – Federal Conspiracy (18 U.S.C. §371)
- Up to 10 years – Unauthorized Access or Potential Access to Federal Databases (18 U.S.C. §1030)
- Up to 10 years – Unauthorized Entry to Military Installation

Realistic combined potential imprisonment:
30–50 years added to his current sentence.