

# Sheriff

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## Media Release

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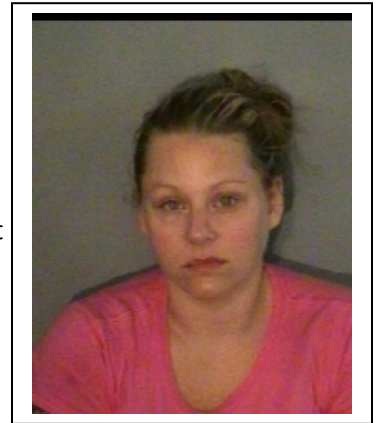
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## Trafficking in Prescription Drugs Arrest

June 19, 2013 (The Villages, FL) – Sumter Sheriff's Detectives in the agency's Pharmaceutical Diversion Unit have arrested an Ocala woman charging her with multiple counts of drug trafficking and prescription fraud.

Jodie J. McElrath, 28, of Ocala, an unemployed Nurse's Assistant, was arrested after Detectives determined she had obtained trafficking amounts of Oxycodone by fraudulent means using a stolen prescription pad. Until recently, McElrath worked in a Sumter County doctor's office before being terminated for unrelated reasons. While employed at the doctor's office, she stole a prescription pad and began using it to fraudulently obtain prescription drugs. Detectives initiated the investigation on June 13, 2013 after receiving information from a Sumter County pharmacy that McElrath had attempted to obtain prescription drugs with the stolen prescription pad.



Detectives concluded that since August 2012, McElrath, using the stolen prescription pad, had obtained trafficking amounts of Oxycodone from several pharmacies in Marion and Sumter counties using the identity of at least three different individuals. She was arrested when she arrived at the doctor's office to return the stolen prescription pad. She is charged with 21 counts of Trafficking in Oxycodone, 22 counts of Obtaining a Controlled Substance by Fraud, and 32 counts of Criminal Use of Personal Identification Information; her total bond was set at \$2,274,000 dollars.

The investigation is ongoing and additional charges are anticipated.

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