

Press Release

LAKE CITY
POLICE
DEPARTMENT



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@LCFlaPD

Chief of Police Gerald Butler

For Immediate Release

August 4, 2025

Greg Burnsed, Public Information Officer

Ph. (386) 247-1148

Mother Arrested After Children Found Unattended

On Sunday, August 3, 2025, at approximately 5:20 P.M., officers from the Lake City Police Department responded to Cedar Park Apartments, located at 443 NW Bascom Norris Drive, Apartment 105, following a report of multiple young children left unattended.

Upon arrival, officers met with the property manager and a nearby tenant who reported that a six-year-old child knocked on her door seeking help feeding an infant sibling. The tenant brought four children, all aged six or younger, into her apartment and contacted the property manager, who in turn notified law enforcement.

During the investigation, officers identified the children as ages six years to five months. The six-year-old explained that their mother left the previous night and that their father had been present until earlier that day. However, no adult was present with the children at the time of the call. Attempts to reach the mother were initially unsuccessful, and conflicting accounts were provided regarding who was responsible for supervising the children.

The mother, later identified as Iesha D. Smith, arrived at the apartment around 6:00 P.M. and claimed that the children were left in the care of their father, who is trespassing from the apartment complex, stated by phone that he had left the children in the care of an unidentified woman. Neither parent could provide adequate information to confirm who was supervising the children, and no adult was present when officers arrived.

Iesha D. Smith was arrested and transported to the Columbia County Detention Center without incident. Charges against the father are pending further investigation.

"The safety of our children is a community responsibility, and we are grateful for the neighbor who intervened on behalf of these kids," stated Chief of Police Gerald Butler. "Parents and guardians must understand the serious consequences of leaving young children unattended and without proper care."

Anyone with information regarding this or any other crime is encouraged to contact the Lake City Police Department at (386) 752-4343 or report information anonymously through the LCPD TIPS line at (386) 719-2068 or Crime Stoppers of Columbia County at (386) 754-7099.



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Chief of Police Gerald Butler

Name: SMITH, IESHA DENISE
DOB: 05/04/1995
Sex/Race: Female/Black
Hair/Eyes: Black/Brown
Address: 443 NW Bascom Norris Dr Apt 105 Lake City, FL 32055

Charge(s): Neglect of Child without Great Bodily Harm



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