

Jailer Terminated

January 7, 2013

Jailor David Pirkle was terminated on January 7, 2013, after being involved in an altercation inside the Hall County Jail on December 30, 2012. The jailor had struck a handcuffed inmate without due cause and the Georgia Bureau of Investigation was contacted to conduct an independent investigation into the matter. Pirkle had been on paid administrative leave while the investigation proceeded. While disappointed by Pirkle's actions, it was reassuring that the other jailors present brought the misconduct to their supervisor's attention for an investigation.

Sheriff Couch stated "As law enforcement personnel we must conduct ourselves in a professional manner and use only that force which is necessary to enforce the laws of Georgia. Many fine men and women work at our jail and those same dedicated people helped quickly resolve this disappointing incident by reporting it to their supervisors. We should not let the dishonorable acts of one individual color all our employees in the same light. As your Sheriff I expect my employees to be professional and act according to law. If they deviate from that course I will take appropriate measures such as in this case."

This case remains under investigation by the Georgia Bureau of Investigation.