



# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Inmate Assaults Officer with Broom Handle at Parchman

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JACKSON - A correctional supervisor suffered serious injuries when an inmate attacked her with a broom handle at the Mississippi State Penitentiary at Parchman earlier this week.

Lt. Clarissa Williams was assaulted in an open dorm area of Unit 26 Tuesday morning while she was performing her duties. Williams, who has been with the agency since June 1997, was treated at the prison and Bolivar Medical Center. She will be off work for an extended period as a result of the injuries.

“This is another example of the high risks that MDOC’s grossly underpaid employees face on the job on a daily basis,” Corrections Commissioner Marshall Fisher said. “We will be presenting this case to the Sunflower County District Attorney’s Office for prosecution.”

Inmate Clarence Jones, who has been in prison since 2013, is facing an aggravated assault charge.

Jones, Inmate No. 185623, is currently serving a 16-year sentence, with four years’ probation, for aggravated assault domestic violence in Warren County. Jones, 26, was sentenced on Aug. 30, 2013.

A conviction for aggravated assault upon a law enforcement officer within the scope of his or her duty is punishable by a maximum \$5,000 fine or by up to 30 years imprisonment, or both.

The motive for the attack is part of the ongoing investigation, said Corrections Investigation Division Director Sean K. Smith.

Last year, 50 MDOC officers were assaulted on the job. Most of the officers are still recovering.

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