



## South Carolina Law Enforcement Division

P.O. Box 21398  
Columbia, South Carolina  
29221-1398

*Henry D. McMaster, Governor*  
*Mark A. Keel, Chief*

*Tel: (803) 737-9000*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
August 16, 2023

Renée Wunderlich  
Director of Public Information  
(803) 260 – 3020  
[rwunderlich@sled.sc.gov](mailto:rwunderlich@sled.sc.gov)

### **SLED CHARGES BARNWELL COUNTY WOMAN WITH EXPLOITATION OF A VULNERABLE ADULT**

Agents with the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) charged Simone Montrell Stephens, 34, on Tuesday, August 15, 2023, with Exploitation of a vulnerable adult.

Details can be found in the attached warrant.

Stephens was booked at the Barnwell County Detention Center.

The case will be prosecuted by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Judicial Circuit Solicitor's Office.

###

ARREST WARRANT

2023A0610300033

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

[X] County/ [ ] Municipality of

Barnwell

THE STATE 31-23-0016

against

Simone Montrell Stephens

Address: [Redacted] Barnwell, SC 29812-7218

Phone: [Redacted] SSN [Redacted]

Sex: F Race: B Height: 5 3 Weight: 167

DL State: SC DL #: [Redacted]

DOB: [Redacted] 1989 Agency ORI #: SCLED0000

Prosecuting Agency: State Law Enforcement Division

Prosecuting Officer: Jarius J Richardson - S00549

Offense: Exploitation / Exploitation of a vulnerable adult

Offense Code: 2657

Code/Ordinance Sec: 43-35-0085(D)

This warrant is CERTIFIED FOR SERVICE in the [ ] County/ [ ] Municipality of

The accused is to be arrested and brought before me to be dealt with according to the law.

(L.S.)

Signature of Judge

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

RETURN

A copy of this arrest warrant was delivered to defendant Simone Montrell Stephens on August 5, 2023

Signature of Constable/Law Enforcement Officer

RETURN WARRANT TO:

General Sessions
141 Main Street
P O Box 723
Barnwell, SC 29812

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
[X] County/ [ ] Municipality of
Barnwell

AFFIDAVIT

ORIGINAL

Form Approved by
S.C. Attorney General
April 21, 2003
SCCA 518

Personally appeared before me the affiant Jarius J Richardson who
being duly sworn deposes and says that defendant Simone Montrell Stephens
did within this county and state on or about 4/7/2020 violate the criminal laws of the
State of South Carolina (or ordinance of [X] County/ [ ] Municipality of Barnwell)
in the following particulars:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Exploitation / Exploitation of a vulnerable adult

I further state that there is probable cause to believe that the defendant named above did commit
the crime set forth and that probable cause is based on the following facts:

That on or about, April 7, 2020, through December 31, 2022, County of Barnwell, State of South Carolina, the aforesaid, one
Simone Montrell Stephens, did commit the offense of Exploitation of a vulnerable adult (43-35-0085(D)). The defendant did
willfully, unlawfully, and feloniously exploit the victim [Redacted] by utilizing [Redacted] financial resources as a source of
payment for Stephens' personal bills. This being a violation of SC Code of Laws 1976 as amended.

Signature of Affiant

[Handwritten Signature]

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
[X] County/ [ ] Municipality of
Barnwell

Affiant's Address P. O. Box 21398
Columbia, SC 29221-

Affiant's Telephone

ARREST WARRANT

TO ANY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THIS STATE OR MUNICIPALITY OR ANY CONSTABLE OF THIS COUNTY:

It appearing from the above affidavit that there are reasonable grounds to believe that

on or about 4/7/2020 defendant Simone Montrell Stephens
did violate the criminal laws of the State of South Carolina (or ordinance of
[X] County/ [ ] Municipality of Barnwell) as set forth below:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: Exploitation / Exploitation of a vulnerable adult

Having found probable cause and the above affiant having sworn before me, you are empowered and directed to arrest the said defendant and bring him or
her before me forthwith to be dealt with according to law. A copy of this Arrest Warrant shall be delivered to the defendant at the time of its execution, or as
soon thereafter as is practicable
Sworn to and subscribed before me

on 8/10/2023

[Handwritten Signature] (L.S.)
Signature of Issuing Judge
Jimmy Wade Gantt Jr. (Magistrate)
Judge Code: 5863

Judge's Address

Blackville, SC 29817-2307

Judge's Telephone (803)284-2765

Issuing Court: [X] Magistrate [ ] Municipal [ ] Circuit

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**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA**

**COUNTY OF BARNWELL**

**AFFIDAVIT**

SLED Case# 31-23-0016  
Warrant#

Personally appeared before me, a magistrate of this county, one Special Agent Jarius Richardson of the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED), who, first being duly sworn, deposes and says that defendant **SIMONE MONTRELL STEPHENS** (black female, DOB: [REDACTED] 1989), did within this county and state between the dates of April 2020, through December 2022, did violate the criminal laws of the State of South Carolina in the following particulars:

**DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE**

**Exploitation/ Exploitation of a vulnerable adult  
43-35-0085(D)**

**The affiant states there is probable cause to believe that the defendant named above did commit the crime(s) set forth, and that such probable cause is based upon the following facts:**

That on or about April of 2020 through December of 2022, County of Barnwell, State of South Carolina, the aforesaid, one Simone Montrell Stephens, did commit the offense of **Exploitation of a vulnerable adult** (43-35-0085(D)). The defendant did willfully, unlawfully, and feloniously exploit the victim, [REDACTED] by utilizing her financial resources as a source of payment for Stephens' personal bills.

The facts to establish the aforementioned are that the defendant had been the caregiver of [REDACTED] a vulnerable adult as defined by 43-35-0010(11). In an interview conducted by SLED Special Agent Richardson, the defendant confirmed she had access to [REDACTED]'s SRP Credit Union banking account information and utilized [REDACTED]'s bank account as a source of payment for Stephens' personal bills as prohibited by 43-35-10(3)(b).

The above information was revealed through the investigation conducted by the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division, all to provide the same against the form of the statute in such case made and provided against the peace and dignity of the state.

Sworn to and subscribed before me  
this 10<sup>TH</sup> day of AUGUST, 2023,

  
Signature of Judge

  
Affiant  
SLED Low Country Region  
104 Simmons Street  
Walterboro, S. C. 29488  
Ofc# (843) 782-3822