



# NEWS RELEASE

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Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **FORMER BON AIR JUVENILE CORRECTIONAL CENTER EMPLOYEE CHARGED WITH SEXUAL ASSAULT OF RESIDENT**

**CHESTERFIELD COUNTY, VIRGINIA** – A Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) investigation has resulted in the arrest of a former Bon Air Juvenile Correctional Center (BAJCC) security staff member on charges related to the alleged sexual assault of a female resident.

On March 23, Chesterfield County Police arrested Cedric Alonzo Thomas, 60, of Chesterfield, who was charged with three counts of indecent liberties with a child by a custodian and one count of object sexual penetration.

DJJ immediately began an initial investigation upon being made aware of the alleged assault, which is believed to have taken place at the facility in May 2024 but was not disclosed until weeks later. After investigators were able to identify the alleged perpetrator, the agency made a report to Chesterfield Police on June 28, 2024, and complied with all other state and federal reporting requirements. DJJ has continued to cooperate with Chesterfield Police, which has special training and experience in investigating sensitive cases such as this, and appreciates their diligence in seeking justice for the victim. The female victim has since left BAJCC.

Thomas was immediately placed on predisciplinary leave during DJJ's internal investigation, during which time he applied for retirement. The Virginia Retirement System approved Thomas' retirement from the agency before the conclusion of the investigation and charges were secured.

According to [§ 51.1-124.13](#) of the Code of Virginia, state employees forfeit their retirement benefits if they are convicted of a felony arising from misconduct related to their employment.

Prior to working at BAJCC, DJJ employees are required to undergo a background investigation, which includes fingerprinting and checks with state and federal authorities and the Virginia Department of Social Services Child Protective Services.

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