



# News Release

---

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL ALAN WILSON  
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

For Immediate Release  
July 23, 2015

Contact: J. Mark Powell  
(803) 734-3670  
[mpowell@scag.gov](mailto:mpowell@scag.gov)

## **Former Williamsburg Sheriff & Deputy Indicted By County Grand Jury *Both Charged with Misconduct in Office***

(COLUMBIA, S.C.) South Carolina Attorney General Alan Wilson announced the Williamsburg County Grand Jury returned indictments against former Williamsburg Sheriff Michael L. Johnson and former Deputy Sheriff Jason Derek Lyerly on July 23, 2015. Each were charged with one (1) count of Misconduct in Office.

The indictments allege that Johnson bought and repaired a Gator Utility Vehicle and an all-terrain vehicle with Sheriff's Office Funds, and allowed Lyerly to use them for his personal use.

Misconduct in Office is a misdemeanor offense punishable upon conviction by up to ten (10) years imprisonment.

The case will be prosecuted by Assistant Attorney General LaRone Washington. The investigation was conducted by agents of the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division.

Attorney General Wilson stressed all defendants are presumed innocent unless and until they are proven guilty in a court of law.

###