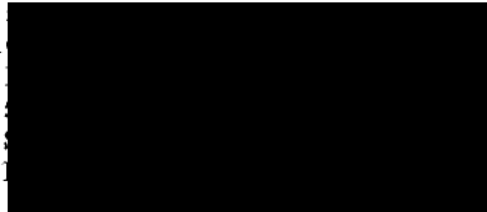


STATE OF LOUISIANA : 4th JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

VERSUS : PARISH OF OUACHITA

MERCEDIS JANE HARRIS : STATE OF LOUISIANA



Ouachita Parish
Filed Jun 15, 2026 3:20 PM
Taylor Fuller
Deputy Clerk of Court

2026-CR-2913
2H

AFFIDAVIT

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, personally came and appeared Matthew W. Downhour, Special Agent for the Louisiana Department of Justice, Criminal Division, Medicaid Fraud Control Unit, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, who having been duly sworn, did depose and say that an arrest warrant should be issued for the above named person, Mercedes J. Harris, [REDACTED], an employee of Healing Life Health Center, located at 2410 Ferrand Street, suites 9 and 10, Monroe, LA 71201, who did commit a felony criminal offense in violation of Louisiana Revised Statute 14:133, filing or maintaining false public records, one (1) count, while she was working as an administrator at Healing Life Health Center, LLC in Monroe, Louisiana, Ouachita Parish based on the following:

A brief explanation of how the Medicaid program operates is helpful in understanding the fraud perpetrated by Mercedes Harris. As part of the Medicaid program in Louisiana, HCBS is a covered service in which Medicaid reimburses the provider who renders these services. Louisiana Healthcare Connection (hereinafter LHC) is one of the Managed Care Organizations (hereinafter MCO) under contract with the Louisiana Department of Health (hereinafter LDH). Each MCO enters into a contract with various medical providers and are credentialled and subsequently qualified to provide services to eligible Medicaid recipients. Upon completion of the medically necessary service, a claim is submitted to the appropriate MCO, and payment is remitted to the provider.

On October 7, 2025, the Louisiana Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General, Criminal Division, Medicaid Fraud Control Unit (hereinafter, "MFCU") opened an investigation involving a Medicaid provider, Healing Life Health Center, LLC, hereinafter Healing Life. The investigation was open based on the allegation that someone at Healing Life altered/falsified a CPR certification

Taylor Fuller



Certified True and
Correct Copy
CertID: 2026061500395

Ouachita Parish
Deputy Clerk Of Court

Generated Date:
6/15/2026 3:21 PM

for one of their employees and submitted that falsified document to an MCO. Mercedes Jane Harris is the current Administrator of Healing Life.

Healing Life is voluntarily enrolled in Louisiana's Medicaid Program billing under National Provider Identification Number #1972975225. Specifically, Healing Life is licensed for the purpose of providing therapy and counseling services for eligible Medicaid recipients. As a Home and Community Based Service (hereinafter HCBS) provider, it is required, by Louisiana Department of Health (hereinafter LDH), that the Medicaid providers maintain a current CPR certification.

In May of 2025, Louisiana Healthcare Connections, hereinafter LHC, conducted a quality review audit of the Healing Life employees. It was discovered that Mercedes Harris falsified a CPR certificate that was sent to LHC in response to this audit. The fraudulent/falsified CPR certificate was emailed to Jasmine Quiett, the Centene SIU investigator conducting the quality review audit of Healing Life on behalf of LHC.

The CPR document was submitted to show completion of CPR course certification for Healing Life employee Kiara Chase. Attempts were made to verify the ID number on the on the certificate provided by Harris and the results came back to a different name, LaKendria Tucker. Tucker was, and still is, an employee of Healing Life.

In December 2025, Affiant interviewed Jasmine Quiett, Louisiana Healthcare Connection, and Centene SIU Investigator. Quiett relayed that the falsified document was submitted to her, via email, in response to a quality audit of Healing Life employees conducted by a Medicaid managed care organization (MCO), Louisiana Healthcare Connections.

In December 2025, Affiant obtained and reviewed the mentioned documents submitted to LHC. Included in these records were copies of the falsified CPR certificate. Affiant checked the ID number on the CPR certificate and confirmed it came back to LaKendria Tucker.

Taylor Fuller



Certified True and
Correct Copy
CertID: 2026061500395

Ouachita Parish
Deputy Clerk Of Court

Generated Date:
6/15/2026 3:21 PM

In March of 2026, Affiant interviewed Mercedes Harris, the administrator of Healing Life Health Center. In 2025, Harris received a request from LHC for documents relating to the training and certification of her employees. Harris discovered that Healing Life employee Kiarra Chase did not have a valid CPR certification when she was hired in September of 2022, and she did not obtain a valid CPR certification until February of 2023. These Dates fell within the date range of the record request sent to Healing Life from LHC.

Harris admitted that she did not report the lapse in Chase's CPR certification to LHC. Instead, Harris took a valid CPR certificate, in the name of another employee, LaKendria Tucker, and using an Adobe document software program, replaced Tucker's name with the name Kiarra Chase. Harris then had this falsified document submitted to LHC in response to their records request to falsely show her employee followed LDH guidelines.

Based on a spreadsheet composed by an MFCU Analyst, Healing Life billed and paid \$16,993.84 for Medicaid services provided by Kiara Chase during the noted time period that she did not hold a valid CRP Certification.

Both federal and state law, regulations, and/or rules that govern the Medicaid Program require Medicaid providers to maintain program-related records for a five-year period. The record retention obligation is documented in each written provider agreement, which is a requirement for any provider prior to enrollment in Louisiana's Medicaid Program. (La. R.S. 46:437.12(A)(3); La. Admin. Code. Tit.50, Pt I, §4147; Federal Regulation 42 C.F.R. §431.107.)

As a result of the investigation, based on a review of the mentioned records and interviews, there is probable cause to believe that Mercedes Jane Harris committed La. R.S. 14:133 (1) count of Filing or maintaining false public records while employed at Healing Life Health Center.

Jaylor Fuller

Ouachita Parish
Deputy Clerk Of Court

Generated Date:
6/15/2026 3:21 PM



Certified True and
Correct Copy
CertID: 2026061500395

La. R.S. 14:133 Filing or maintaining false public records is defined as the filing or depositing for record in any public office or with any public official, or the maintaining as required by law, regulation, or rule, with knowledge of its falsity, of any of the following:

- (1) Any forged document.
- (2) Any wrongfully altered document.
- (3) Any document containing a false statement or false representation of a material fact.

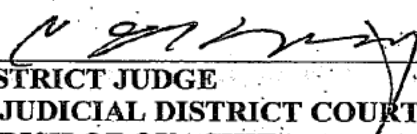
Therefore, Special Agent Matthew Downhour, with the Louisiana Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General, Criminal Division, Medicaid Fraud Control Unit, is seeking a warrant for the arrest of Mercedes Jane Harris for one count of Filing or Maintaining False Public Records in violation of La. R.S. 14:133.

THEREFORE, for the above stated reasons, Affiant prays for the issuance of a warrant of arrest for Mercedes Jane Harris, [REDACTED] for one (1) count of Louisiana Revised Statute 14:133, Filing or maintaining false public records.


AFFIANT

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED before me on this 15th day of June 2026 in Monroe, Louisiana

Time: 3:19


DISTRICT JUDGE
4th JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
PARISH OF OUACHITA
STATE OF LOUISIANA



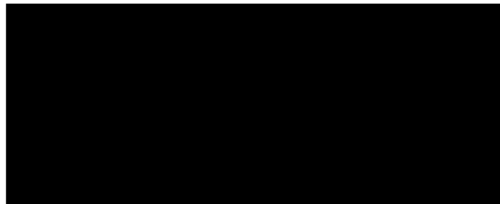


Certified True and
Correct Copy
CertID: 2026061500395

Ouachita Parish
Deputy Clerk Of Court

Generated Date:
6/15/2026 3:21 PM

STATE OF LOUISIANA : 4TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
VERSUS : PARISH OF OUACHITA
MERCEDIS JANE HARRIS : STATE OF LOUISIANA



WARRANT OF ARREST

TO: ANY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

An affidavit having been made by Special Agent Matthew W. Downhour, of the Louisiana Department of Justice; Criminal Division, Medicaid Fraud Control Unit, that on or about the 1st day of May 2025, in the Parish of Ouachita, State of Louisiana, the offender, Mercedes Jane Harris,



did commit the crime of filing or maintaining false public records, defined by Louisiana Revised Statutes 14:133:

Filing or maintaining false public records is defined as the filing or depositing for record in any public office or with any public official, or the maintaining as required by law, regulation, or rule, with knowledge of its falsity, of any of the following:

- (1) Any forged document.
- (2) Any wrongfully altered document.
- (3) Any document containing a false statement or false representation of a material fact.

You are therefore commanded forthwith to arrest the said offender and take her forthwith to be booked and charged in accordance with the law.

Bail set at \$15,000.00

ORDERED AND SIGNED this 15 day of June, 2026.

Time: 3:14 PM

DISTRICT JUDGE
4TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
PARISH OF OUACHITA
STATE OF LOUISIANA

HARRM573991ARWMWD

Taylor Fuller

Ouachita Parish
Deputy Clerk Of Court

Generated Date:
6/15/2026 3:21 PM



Certified True and
Correct Copy
CertID: 2026061500395