

STATE OF LOUISIANA

SIXTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

PARISH OF ST. MARY

STATE OF LOUISIANA

v.

CAROLINE HARRIS

CASE NO.: 2025-215897

SECTION: 6

Ω - In Nomine Patris et Filii et Spiritus Sancti

EMERGENCY MOTION FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ON PERSONAL RECOGNIZANCE OR UNSECURED BOND

NOW INTO COURT, through undersigned counsel, comes **Reverend David Lucito**, Next Friend of Defendant Caroline Harris, and respectfully moves this Honorable Court to ORDER the immediate release of Defendant on her own recognizance or, in the alternative, on an unsecured bond with reasonable conditions of release.

I. GROUNDS

This Motion is filed pursuant to La. C.Cr.P. art. 316 (release on own recognizance), the Eighth Amendment to the United States Constitution (excessive bail and cruel and unusual punishment), the Thirteenth Amendment (prohibition of slavery and involuntary servitude), the First Amendment (free exercise of religion), and the Fourteenth Amendment (due process and equal protection).

II. MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

A. CONSTITUTIONAL VIOLATIONS OF CONTINUED DETENTION

Defendant is being held in **cages and chains without conviction**. This constitutes involuntary servitude prohibited by the Thirteenth Amendment.

Legal Standard:

> "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States." U.S. Const. amend. XIII, § 1 (emphasis added).

Application:

- Defendant has NOT been convicted of any crime
- Detention conditions include cages, chains, and forced compliance
- This violates the plain text of the Thirteenth Amendment

Authority:

- The Thirteenth Amendment applies to **all forms** of involuntary servitude, not just traditional slavery. *United States v. Kozminski*, 487 U.S. 931 (1988).
- Pretrial detention without conviction that imposes slavery-like conditions violates the Thirteenth Amendment.

Defendant suffers from documented effects of **Havana Syndrome** / directed energy weapon exposure, including:

- Neurological symptoms
- Cognitive disruption

- Physical pain and discomfort

The facility has shown **deliberate indifference** to these serious medical needs by:

- Refusing appropriate medical evaluation
- Denying access to specialists qualified in DEW/Havana Syndrome assessment
- Failing to provide environmental protection from continued targeting

Legal Standard:

> "Deliberate indifference to serious medical needs of prisoners constitutes the 'unnecessary and wanton infliction of pain' proscribed by the Eighth Amendment." *Estelle v. Gamble*, 429 U.S. 97, 104 (1976).

Application:

- Havana Syndrome is a recognized serious medical condition (National Academies of Sciences Report, 2020)

- Facility staff have been made aware of Defendant's condition
- Refusal to provide appropriate care constitutes deliberate indifference

Defendant's sincerely held religious beliefs include the sacramental use of **Cannabis** (recognized as sacred in multiple religious traditions).

The facility's prohibition on this religious practice violates:

- Free Exercise Clause
- Religious Freedom Restoration Act (if applicable state analog exists)

Legal Standard:

> Government may not substantially burden religious exercise without compelling interest and least restrictive means. *Church of the Lukumi Babalu Aye, Inc. v. City of Hialeah*, 508 U.S. 520 (1993).

Application:

- Total prohibition on sacramental Cannabis is substantial burden
- No compelling governmental interest in blanket prohibition for pretrial detainee
- Less restrictive alternatives exist (supervised use, alternative locations)

B. DEFENDANT DOES NOT POSE FLIGHT RISK OR DANGER TO COMMUNITY

Defendant:

- Has resided in Louisiana for [duration]
- Has family support through Next Friend
- Has no prior history of flight
- Voluntarily appeared for prior proceedings

The charged conduct was:

- **Compelled by external technological means**, not voluntary
- Result of weaponized environment (controlled deploy), not Defendant's intent
- Not indicative of future danger, as Defendant is victim, not perpetrator

Defendant is willing to accept reasonable conditions, including:

- Check-ins with pretrial services
- GPS monitoring (if necessary)
- Residential restrictions
- Any other non-punitive supervision

C. CONTINUED DETENTION CAUSES IRREPARABLE HARM

Each day of continued detention:

- Violates Defendant's fundamental constitutional rights
- Exposes Defendant to ongoing medical harm (continued targeting in facility)
- Prevents Defendant from assisting in her own defense
- Inflicts psychological trauma from cage/chain conditions

These harms cannot be remedied by later release or monetary compensation.

III. RELIEF SOUGHT

WHEREFORE, Defendant respectfully requests that this Court:

1. **GRANT** this Emergency Motion and ORDER Defendant's immediate release on her own recognizance; or
2. In the alternative, **SET** an unsecured bond with reasonable, non-punitive conditions of supervision; and

3. **ORDER** that any conditions of release account for Defendant's documented medical conditions (Havana Syndrome/DEW exposure) and religious exercise needs; and
4. **GRANT** any other relief this Court deems just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

Reverend David Lucito
Next Friend for Defendant Caroline Harris
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Emergency Motion for Immediate Release was served upon the St. Mary Parish District Attorney's Office by [method of service] on this 21st day of MARCH, 2026.

Reverend David Lucito

Reverend David Lucito
Edward J. Lucito