



## **Former Corrections Officer Convicted for Assault on Inmate**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Earlier today, a Warren County jury found John Hinkle, 52, of Trenton, Ohio, guilty of two counts of felonious assault, both felonies of the second degree. The jury convicted Hinkle of knowingly causing serious physical harm to another, and for knowingly causing physical harm to another by means of a deadly weapon.

On September 16, 2018, Hinkle, who was employed as a corrections officer at Lebanon Correctional Institution, assaulted an inmate who was incarcerated at the institution. Hinkle used a PR-24 baton and struck the inmate in the face while the inmate was kneeling and handcuffed behind his back. The inmate suffered a broken jaw which required surgery, and required his jaw to be wired shut for six weeks.

“The corrections officers in our state and our county face verbal and physical abuse from inmates on an almost daily basis. They are required to maintain order when inmates create chaos. The overwhelming majority of these corrections officers do their jobs in an extraordinarily professional manner. But despite the challenging environment in which they work, they are not above the law. They cannot use deadly force against an inmate when it is not justified,” said Warren County Prosecutor David P. Fornshell.

Fornshell commended Sgt. Jeff Madden of the Ohio State Highway Patrol, Assistant Prosecutors Steven Knippen and Derek Faulkner, and Legal Assistant Jaclyn Zaczek for their work on the case.

[Note - Video of the incident is available upon request. Please provide a portable thumb drive.]



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