

# THE SOUTH CAROLINA LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION



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## **For Immediate Release**

April 8, 2009

### **TEENAGER CHARGED FOR GIVING FALSE INFORMATION TO LAW ENFORCEMENT ABOUT AN ABDUCTION**

The South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) announces the arrest of a Manning teenager accused of giving false information to law enforcement which resulted in the activation of a SC Amber Alert.

Tajah Monique Hilliard, 18, of 1152 Loblolly Drive, Manning, S.C., is charged with **Unlawful Use of a Telephone** and **Giving False Information to Law Enforcement**.

According to arrest warrants, on March 17, 2009, Hilliard used the text messaging service on her Alltel cellular phone to tell her mother that she had been taken against her will by two males who were driving in a black vehicle headed for Georgia.

During the course of the investigation, it was revealed that Hilliard was not abducted.

Instead, it is believed that she traveled to Columbia to spend the day with friends.

Hilliard returned home in her personal vehicle.

SLED activated the Amber Alert before 7 PM after receiving the proper documentation from the Clarendon County Sheriff's Office.

That agency's request met the criteria for an Amber Alert activation.

The Amber Alert was canceled around 11:30 PM after SLED and the CCSO received information that Hilliard was not in danger and had not been abducted.

SLED consulted with the Third Circuit Solicitor's Office on this investigation and resulting charges.

**Unlawful Use of a Telephone** is a misdemeanor punishable up to thirty (30) days in jail and/or fines.

**Giving False Information to Law Enforcement** is a misdemeanor punishable up to thirty (30) days in jail and/or fines.

The Clarendon County Sheriff's Office assisted with this investigation.

For a booking photograph of Hilliard, please