

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

DALE K. SCHMIDT, SHERIFF

12-20-2016

Town of Erin Residents

As you may know, the Washington County Sheriff's Office was requested by the WI Dept. of Health Services to provide a report with information relating to a prospective residential option for placement of a "serious child sex offender," by the Dept. of Health Services under WI Statute 980.08. The statute does not permit me to disclose the address or name of the person considered for placement.

The Sheriff's Office completed the report and forwarded to the Dept. of Health Services on 12/19/2016. A redacted copy is attached.

The potential release of this offender under statute 980 "Sexually Violent Persons Commitment" is not the same as the more common release of offenders who have served their prison sentence. The offender in question has been held in custody by the state past his prison sentence under provisions in the statute. His release requires a more formal process of evaluation by court appointed examiners, and review by a judge. If in the opinion of the judge, certain criteria are met the judge can order "supervised release" or "discharge." In this case, the petition by the offender was for "supervised release" and the judge has granted it. That actually occurred in June of 2015. The offender has not yet been released because there are more requirements.

The Dept. of Health Services must prepare a report that includes numerous items, including where the offender will live and the supervision required. Without getting into great detail, the judge has reviewed such a plan and ordered placement at a residence in Fond du lac County. He has since suspended that order pending further investigation of residences in Washington County, which is the original residence of the offender. This case is still in the investigation stage prior to the Dept. of Health Services issuing a report to the judge. It is my understanding that the department is still searching for/reviewing possible places of residence for the offender in Washington County. If none is found, the judge may move forward with his original decision.

If a new acceptable release plan with a residence in Washington County is presented to the judge and he orders that placement, the Sheriff's Office will receive a Special Bulletin Notification on the offender, and a determination on public notification will be made at that time.



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This is the best information I can give you in a concise format at this time. Our Office will certainly stay engaged on this issue. Below are two links that may provide more information for you.

https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/sandridge/index.htm

http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/980/08

Please know that when a serious sex offender is released and establishes a residence in the Townships, I am willing to commit an appropriate level of resources to keep residents as safe as possible.

Sincerely

Dale K. Schmidt, Sheriff Washington County



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