



Rick Staly, Sheriff

FLAGLER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

"An honor to serve, a duty to protect."

NEWS RELEASE

Date: Tuesday September 18, 2018

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FCSO Deputies Defuse Elderly Man with a Revolver

Flagler County Sheriff's Deputies defused a threat by an armed suspect overnight. In the middle of the night, Michael Ordakowski awoke to his grandfather threatening to shoot him with a revolver, pointing the gun at him and his wife. Michael locked his grandfather, Michael Houlihan, out of the house with the gun still in his hand while Deputies were responding to defuse the situation.

The grandfather, who has dementia, was still armed with the handgun while outside the residence when deputies arrived on scene.

"Often the information given in a call has changed by the time deputies arrive on scene, so we have to be prepared for the anything, especially when we know the individual is armed," said Sheriff Rick Staly.

A response team was established using on-duty deputies and contact with Ordakowski's 82 year-old grandfather, Michael Houlihan, was made. Deputies instructed Houlihan to put his hands in the air and to walk slowly and safely towards them. The grandfather followed all verbal commands and was safely secured by Deputies.

"Fortunately this man complied with all of our instructions and we were able to secure the weapon, which was loaded and the hammer pulled back ready to fire. Our Deputies are trained in de-escalation and are prepared for situations like this. This is another success story of our deputies defusing dangerous situations and showing compassion while not risking their safety. I'm very proud of our deputies and their training. This could have ended much differently," continued Sheriff Staly. "We are hopeful he gets the treatment he needs."

The gun was retrieved from the scene, it was loaded and the hammer pulled back on the revolver.

The grandfather, Michael Houlihan, was Baker Acted and transported to Halifax.

Body camera video of the encounter can be viewed at <https://www.dropbox.com/s/vfqcsaimwvyxame/18-88265.mp4?dl=0>

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