
October 1, 2025



**Iowa Attorney General's Review
of Officer Involved Death**

Incident of August 27, 2025
Council Bluffs, Iowa

Iowa State Patrol Trooper Dillon Malone
Council Bluffs Police Department Officer Colton Thompson
Council Bluffs Police Department Officer Nathan Classe
Pottawattamie County Sheriff's Office Sergeant Douglas Kelsey, Jr.
Pottawattamie County Sheriff's Office Sergeant Eric Shea

Subject Involved: Michael Patrick Broyles

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Executive Summary

At approximately 5:35 p.m. on August 27, 2025, Trooper Zach Jensen attempted to stop a vehicle driven by Michael Patrick Broyles as he travelled southbound on I-29 in Harrison County. Broyles did not immediately pull over but instead took the next exit three miles down the road. When he eventually stopped, Broyles immediately got out of his car and pointed a double-barreled shotgun at Jensen. He then got back into his car and continued on the interstate toward Council Bluffs.

Numerous additional agencies responded to assist. Eventually, Broyles took the 16th Street exit and stopped under the I-29 overpass. He then got out of the car, carrying his shotgun, and took cover behind a concrete support pillar. Broyles ignored multiple commands to drop the gun and come out peacefully. Non-lethal attempts to gain compliance were unsuccessful. When officers saw him point the shotgun in their direction, they fired on him. Broyles was struck and died from his injuries.

Detailed Factual Summary

On August 27, 2025, Trooper Zach Jensen was conducting a routine patrol on Interstate 29 (I-29) south. He observed a grey Volkswagen Beetle pulling a small flatbed trailer. The driver was not wearing a seatbelt, and Jensen initiated a traffic stop

by activating his lights and sirens. The driver veered onto the right shoulder but kept moving, traveling for another three miles on the shoulder until he reached exit 72 for Loveland. As they drove, Trooper Jensen was in contact with dispatch, advising them of his situation and calling in the license plate on the trailer to determine who the driver may be.

At the exit, the driver continued until he reached the stop sign and began to angle to the right as if he was going to proceed west on Desoto Avenue but stopped. He then backed the vehicle up slightly, causing Trooper Jensen to back up slightly as well. Before Trooper Jensen was able to exit his vehicle, the driver of the Beetle got out of his car with a double-barreled shotgun and pointed it at Jensen. Jensen was able to draw his firearm and duck to the back of his vehicle for cover, ordering the man to put the weapon down multiple times.



The driver, later identified as Michael Patrick Broyles, did not put the firearm down and instead asked, “What do you want?” Trooper Jensen indicated he just wanted to talk. Jensen then advised dispatch that he needed assistance and had a person at gunpoint. Jensen ordered Broyles multiple times to put the weapon down and that he just wanted to talk to him about a traffic stop. Broyles continued to point the shotgun at Jensen and asked if he was under arrest. When Trooper Jensen indicated he was not, Broyles said he was leaving and got back in his car, putting the shotgun in the front passenger seat.

Trooper Jensen followed Broyles back onto I-29 south and was soon joined by law enforcement personnel from the Harrison County Sheriff’s Office, Pottawattamie County Sheriff’s Office, Council Bluffs Police Department, as well as additional Troopers from the Iowa State Patrol. The majority of the vehicles involved in the pursuit were marked as law enforcement vehicles, and all had activated their lights and sirens. They also received assistance from ABLE-1, the Omaha Police Department’s Air Support Unit helicopter.

The pursuit continued for approximately 15 miles until a third attempt at stop sticks was finally successful, and the tires on both the Beetle and the trailer began to deflate. Broyles then took exit 56 for 16th Street toward the Council Bluffs business district. As he

went under the I-29 overpass, Broyles pulled his vehicle over to the west shoulder of the road, exited with his shotgun, and ran into the



grassy area behind the southernmost of the three support pillars.

Multiple law enforcement officers took up positions across the travel portion of 16th Street and behind the northernmost support pillar. Authorities repeatedly ordered Broyles to drop the gun, emerge with his hands raised, and surrender peacefully – but he refused to follow any of the commands. Broyles was advised that if he pointed his gun at officers, he would be shot. Multiple officers advised Broyles that they did not want to shoot him. Broyles' only response to these commands was to ask, “Am I under arrest?” Each time he asked, he was advised that he was under arrest, that he needed to put the gun down, and come out. Officers asked what the man’s name was, and his response was “I don’t answer questions.” Both the commanding officer and Broyles were shouting as the echo and traffic noise from the road overhead made it difficult to hear.

Officers continually updated one another on their shifting positions and observations, both to maintain awareness of Broyles' location and to avoid the risk of crossfire should deadly force become necessary.

Because of the large pillar and low retaining wall, Broyles managed to conceal most of his body from the officers, leaving them unable to determine his actions. The officers in ABLE-1 were also not able to get a visual observation of his location. At times, officers on the ground could see an arm or an elbow on either side of the pillar, and on occasion could see him crouch down. Officers positioned to the east observed Broyles crouching and manipulating the firearm, appearing to load the shotgun. Officers who were trained in negotiation were requested to come to the scene.

Trooper Jensen was directed to get his pepper-ball gun from his vehicle and deploy it toward Broyles in an effort to dislodge him from his hidden position with non-lethal force. This weapon deploys small pellets filled with pepper spray, which burst on impact. Trooper Jensen positioned himself to the west of the northernmost pillar, behind Pottawattamie County Sheriff's Sergeant Eric Shea, who was armed with a rifle. Pepper balls were deployed to the west side of the pillar where Broyles was hiding. He briefly moved more to the east but did not surrender. As they waited for compliance, officers began to suffer the effects of the pepper spray that was in

the air. Broyles gave no indication that he was going to come out or communicate with officers.

Pepper balls were deployed a second time and Broyles was hit in the left arm. Iowa State Patrol Trooper Dillon Malone was in the farthest east position, posted in the gap between his squad vehicle's open driver door and driver's seat. He was able to see Broyles to some degree when Broyles would move more to the east or to the left, as officers were observing him. After the pepper balls were deployed the second time, Trooper Malone saw Broyles stand up and point the gun at him. Malone discharged a single round from his rifle, but noticed Broyles had already begun to retreat behind the pillar. Sergeant Shea then saw Broyles on the west side of the pillar put the shotgun to his shoulder and point it directly at him. Shea fired a rifle round at Broyles, as did Council Bluffs Officer Colton Thompson. Shea fired an additional two rounds at Broyles, who then fired his shotgun at Shea. Shea was able to duck behind the pillar for cover. In response, Pottawattamie County Sergeant Doug Kelsey and Council Bluffs Police Officer Nathan Classe fired on Broyles. Trooper Malone was then able to see Broyles' right shoulder emerging from the south side of the pillar, the shotgun aimed toward officers positioned to the north, prompting Malone to fire an additional rifle round.

Broyles dropped to the ground and was no longer visible to anyone. Officers were unsure if Broyles had been hit or was crouched for cover and so they waited to approach. The Pottawattamie County Sheriff's Office was able to deploy a drone to attempt to determine Broyles' location. Broyles was then partially seen on the ground between the pillar and the retaining wall. A bean bag round was deployed and hit Broyles in the arm. He did not react to being hit. Officers on the ground secured shields and used the Iowa State Patrol K-9 unit to gradually approach the location where Broyles had been hiding. Officers and the drone were able to confirm that Broyles was on the ground with gunshot wounds and was non-responsive. They secured him and immediately began lifesaving measures. Broyles was transported to a local hospital where he died from his injuries.

Subsequent Investigation

At the time of the standoff, Broyles had also been armed with a knife on his waistband. In the area where Broyles had been hiding during the standoff, investigators recovered 4 live shotgun shells. The gun was found near his body, as well as one live shotgun shell and one spent shell casing.

A search of the car found only paper maps, a printed Ebay receipt for the tires that were loaded on the trailer, and a bank envelope with just over \$1,300 in cash. He carried no form of

identification, no bank or credit cards, and no cell phone. He was ultimately identified through fingerprints as being Michael Patrick Broyles.

The Missouri license plate on the Beetle was not registered, and the Missouri license plate on the trailer was identified as being associated with a boat rather than a trailer. Investigators were eventually able to determine that the trailer belonged to Broyles' family members in Missouri. Family members confirmed Broyles' identity via the large tattoo of his last name on his back. They also indicated that he lived in Springfield, Missouri, but would not tell them where specifically. He had previous negative dealings with law enforcement in Alaska, including an armed stand-off in 2012, and was extremely anti-law enforcement. Broyles had told family members that he would never go back to jail, and that he would force law enforcement to kill him before that would happen.

While he had a valid driver's license, he did not carry it or have a phone because he did not want to be "tracked." Family members indicated Broyles had borrowed the trailer on August 26, 2025, to go to South Dakota and pick up tires that he had purchased on eBay.

Process and Authority

The Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) investigated the incident, and its investigation is complete. DCI interviewed the

officers involved and reviewed the officers' body camera recordings, if available. DCI reviewed evidence and reports from the Harrison County Sheriff's Office, Pottawattamie County Sheriff's Office, Council Bluffs Police Department, Iowa State Patrol, Battlefield, Missouri Police Department, and the Iowa Office of the State Medical Examiner.

The Attorney General's Office has authority under Iowa Code § 13.12 to assess any officer-involved death to determine whether criminal charges are warranted. The office has had a full opportunity to review the findings of the investigation and discuss the investigation with the assigned agent. All law enforcement reports, including audio or video recordings, will be returned to DCI when this report is issued.

Applicable Law

To be justified, the force an officer uses must be reasonable. Force is reasonable if a reasonable person, in like circumstances, would judge the force to be necessary to prevent an injury or loss. It can include deadly force if (1) it is reasonable to believe that such force is necessary to avoid injury or risk to the person's or another person's life or safety, and (2) it is reasonable to believe that such force is necessary to resist a like force or threat. Iowa Code §§ 704.1, 704.2, and 704.3.

In *Graham v. Connor*, 490 U.S. 386 (1989), the United States Supreme Court held that the use of deadly force by a police officer must be evaluated from the perspective of a reasonable police officer on the scene and in the same circumstances. Under *Graham*, the reasonableness of police use of force cannot be evaluated from the perspective of a civilian or the perspective afforded by 20/20 hindsight. The Court further stated that the fact that law enforcement officers are often required to react quickly in tense, uncertain, and rapidly evolving situations are factors that must be considered in determining reasonableness.

Analysis

Throughout his interactions with law enforcement on August 27, 2025, Michael Patrick Broyles proved that he was unwilling to follow lawful commands and showed lethal force against officers on multiple occasions. When Trooper Jensen initiated the traffic stop, Broyles immediately refused to pull over, instead driving three miles on the shoulder until he reached an exit. He then immediately pointed a shotgun at Trooper Jensen before he was even able to get out of the car. This threat of deadly force alone would have warranted an officer using lethal force.

Broyles then fled the stop and led multiple agencies on a pursuit, leading them into an area of Council Bluffs where there

was likely to be more civilian traffic at risk. Boyles exited his car with his weapon and took cover in an area where he had a tactical advantage. Although law enforcement made repeated efforts to discuss the situation and encourage a peaceful surrender, Broyles consistently refused to cooperate. Officers then used non-lethal means to try to end the stand-off, but Broyles' response was to raise his loaded weapon, first toward Trooper Malone, and then at Sergeant Shea. Officers responded to a threat of lethal force with lethal force. Broyles then fired on Sergeant Shea, and again, officers responded with lethal force. All officers discharged their weapons in defense of their own lives and the lives of fellow officers, making the use of force justified under the circumstances.

Conclusion

The Iowa Attorney General's Office concludes that the law enforcement officers' actions in this incident were legally justified and that criminal charges are unwarranted. It considers the criminal investigation into this incident to be closed.