



EAU CLAIRE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

MEDIA RELEASE

Date: March 31, 2023

Authority: Sheriff Dave Riewestahl

Below is an update of our previous press release from October 20, 2021.

In December 2022 the Eau Claire County Sheriff's Office, with the assistance of WIPFLI LLP completed its criminal investigation into the Eau Claire County Department of Human Services. At the request of the Eau Claire County District Attorney's Office, a final report, and WIPFLI's findings were provided to the La Crosse County District Attorney's Office for review.

It is standard practice once a criminal investigation is completed to provide the reports and associated documents to a District Attorney's Office in order to determine if any crimes were committed, or if criminal charges are appropriate. La Crosse County District Attorney Tim Gruenke completed a review of the materials provided and determined that criminal charges would not be appropriate in this circumstance.

District Attorney Gruenke did find that the investigation was necessary and was completed in a thorough and proper manner. His written decision memo is attached to this media release.

Our report along with WIPFLI's report will be posted on our website, in the future, once it has been reviewed by Corporation Counsel.

All search warrants associated with this criminal investigation have been unsealed and the records custodian for the warrants is the Eau Claire County Clerk of Courts.

Date: October 20, 2021

In May of 2020 the Eau Claire County Sheriff's Office began an investigation into the financial deficits of the Eau Claire County Department of Human Services. The investigation has been met with minimal cooperation and continued unfulfilled requests. The Sheriff's Office requested the assistance of a forensic auditor to work with Detectives.

"The taxpayers of Eau Claire County should have confidence in the fiscal responsibility of our county government. We have asked for cooperation numerous times and have been met with denials which have significantly delayed the completion of this investigation." -Sheriff Ron Cramer

On Monday, Detectives served court authorized search warrants related to this matter. This necessary information will assist in completing the fact-finding process. All investigative reports will be forwarded to the Eau Claire County District Attorney's Office for criminal review. Any county policy violations will be turned over to Eau Claire County leadership.

This investigation remains active and no further information will be released at this time. Search warrants and probable cause affidavits will be available from the Eau Claire County Clerk of Courts Office after 180 days.

The Sheriff's Office thanks the public for their continued patience in this matter.