

# Sheriff

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**WILLIAM O. "BILL" FARMER, JR. –**

**SUMTER COUNTY**

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Sex Offense/Suicide**

On Sunday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> at approximately 5:13PM the Sumter County Sheriff's Office responded to Family Dollar located at 2085 N C-470, in Lake Panasoffkee in reference to a sex offense complaint involving a juvenile victim. The mother of the victim advised, her daughter disclosed she was molested and raped by the suspect. The victim advised the molestation began when she was nine years old while residing out of state.

The victim, her mother, and siblings were brought to the Sumter County Sheriff's Office to investigate the allegations. While at the Sheriff's Office the suspect sent various text messages to the mother of the victim. The suspect had a history of suicidal threats, and the content of one of the text message caused deputies concern. Deputies responded to the suspect's residence in an attempt to make safe contact with him/her.

A detective was able to make contact with the suspect by phone and asked him to exit the residence. While on the phone with the suspect, a gunshot was heard by both



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A graphic of a fingerprint.

the detective and deputies outside the residence. Deputies made entry into the residence and discovered the suspect in the master bedroom, with what appeared to be a gunshot wound to the right side of the head. The suspect/decedent's identity is being withheld at this time to protect the identity of the victim.

###END###