



# SUMTER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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## Deputy Involved Shooting

On Saturday, July 13, 2019, at approximately 10:53 PM, deputies responded to a residence on E. Warm Springs Ave in Coleman, FL regarding a physical disturbance call. Upon their arrival, they found the suspect Brian H. Benfield, w/m, DOB 10/10/1972, armed with a shotgun and making threats to kill. Prior to deputy arrival, Benfield had already attacked two family members with a knife cutting them. As deputies approached the house, one of the victims fled outside at which time Benfield pursued them and was ultimately encountered. Benfield refused to drop the shotgun, instead raising it and pointing it at one of the deputy's. In response, two deputies fired their service weapons striking Benfield and stopping the attack.

Benfield was transported to Leesburg Regional Medical Center where he was later pronounced deceased. No deputies were injured during the incident. Benfield was released from the Florida Department of Corrections on Monday, July 8th after serving a 25-year sentence for his involvement in a Lake County homicide and robbery. FDLE is investigating the officer involved shooting. As is standard procedure, the two deputies are now on administrative leave.

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