



## Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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### Media Release

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**From:** Denise M. Moloney  
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**Re:** Missed Depositions Result in Disciplinary Action

**Date:** March 21, 2024

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On February 29, 2024, Sheriff Al Nienhuis received notification that five deputy sheriffs within the HCSO had each missed two crucial case depositions.

Case depositions are a critical part of the judicial process, allowing for the gathering of evidence and testimonies vital to the progression of legal proceedings. The absence of these deputy sheriffs undermines the integrity of the legal system and impedes the pursuit of justice for the community.

Sheriff Nienhuis immediately directed the appropriate supervisory personnel to ascertain the reasons behind the missed depositions and to address any systemic issues within the agency that may have contributed to this situation. The subsequent investigation revealed no systemic issues, nor valid reasons for the missed depositions. The deputies, therefore, each received written reprimands at the end of February, as a result of that investigation.

While no systemic issues were noted, additional safeguards have been added to ensure depositions are not missed going forward.

Sheriff Nienhuis stated, "The Hernando County Sheriff's Office is committed to upholding the highest standards of professionalism and accountability. We take this matter seriously and will take appropriate action to ensure that such lapses do not recur in the future."

The Sheriff's Office is working closely with the judicial authorities to reschedule the missed depositions promptly and to mitigate any potential impact on ongoing legal proceedings.

The deputies who missed depositions are as follows:

- Deputy M. Vesper / Date of Hire 03-04-2019 / Written Reprimand
- Deputy C. Reid / Date of Hire 03-04-2019 / Written Reprimand
- Detective K. Keiper / Date of Hire 12-29-2014 / Written Reprimand
- Deputy J. Longobardi / Date of Hire 08-06-2018 / Written Reprimand
- Deputy C. Milne / Date of Hire 01-06-2020 / Written Reprimand.

Sheriff Nienhuis went on to say, I'm deeply disappointed by the conduct displayed by these five deputies. Their actions not only tarnish their own badge but also sully the reputation of every one of us who wear it with honor and integrity."