



## Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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### Media Release

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**From:** Denise M. Moloney  
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**Re:** Death Investigation - Oakcrest Circle

**Date:** February 20, 2020

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On 02-19-2020 just before 6:30 a.m., Hernando County Sheriff's deputies and Hernando County Fire Rescue were dispatched to a residence on Oakcrest Circle in Brooksville regarding a Shooting. The incident was later reclassified to a Death Investigation.

Investigation revealed two males had just returned to the residence from a convenience store. One of the males was preparing to cut the other male's hair. The male who was going to have his hair cut sat down on a bucket just outside of his bedroom door. As he was waiting for the haircut to begin, he was "playing with his firearm, like he usually does."

Seconds later and for unknown reasons, the firearm discharged. The projectile struck the male who had been holding and "playing with" the firearm.

The male was pronounced deceased upon the arrival of the first deputy.

Further investigation revealed the possibility, if not the likelihood, the male was under the influence of drugs and or alcohol at the time of the incident.

Witness statements and forensic evidence located at the scene indicate the incident was not an intentional act, but just a horrible accident.

The case remains under investigation.

If additional information is found to the contrary, an update will be sent. Otherwise, no additional information will be released.

**The Office of Sheriff:**

The Office of the Sheriff is established by the Florida Constitution. As a constitutional officer, the Sheriff has the exclusive authority to administer his or her agency and is responsible for preserving the peace

throughout the entire county, carrying out the laws of the state, the orders of Florida courts, and the ordinances of the Board of County Commissioners. The Sheriff is the chief law enforcement and correctional officer of the county.

Sheriff Al Nienhuis was initially appointed as the Sheriff of Hernando County by the Governor in January of 2011. He was then elected by the people of Hernando County in 2012, ran unopposed in 2016, and remains accountable to them.