



## Hernando County Sheriff's Office

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### Media Release

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**From:** Michael Terry  
Deputy PIO, 352-797-3608

**Re:** HCSO Deputy Helps Spring Hill Man in Crisis

**Date:** September 18, 2020

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On 09-18-2020 at 12:21 a.m., deputies responded to a residence on Devonshire Avenue in reference to a Suicidal Subject.

A woman advised deputies that her 38-year-old father was suffering from depression, was not taking his medication, and was making suicidal statements.

The daughter advised that her father recently went through a divorce, was feeling overworked, and was having difficulties in his current relationship.

She further advised she received a text from her father indicating he was going to commit suicide.

When deputies arrived on scene, the man had barricaded himself in the bathroom of the residence with a loaded firearm.

Deputy Trey Hotchkiss immediately made contact with the man via a cellular phone.

Deputy Hotchkiss was able to quickly build a rapport with the man in crisis. After several minutes, Deputy Hotchkiss was able to convince the man to exit the bathroom without incident.

Deputies took the man into protective custody. He was transported to Springbrook Hospital for treatment.

**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 was re-elected in 2020. Sheriff Nienhuis remains accountable to the people of Hernando County.