

3/21/12

For Immediate Release

This Office represents the Slinger homeowner related to the incident occurring at his home on March 3, 2012, and the resulting investigation by the Washington County District Attorney's Office.

Our client is a 35-year-old husband and father of two small children, who has never been accused of a crime. He regrets being put into this unexpected and frightening situation in his home that night, and though he has no doubt that he was justified in his response, he feels terrible over the tragic loss of life that occurred.

We believe that both Wisconsin's time-honored law involving self-defense and defense of others, and the so-called Castle Doctrine law recently passed would protect our client from prosecution for his response that night to the circumstances that confronted him. There was an unknown person who unlawfully entered an enclosed back room of his home, who surprised our client after he got out of bed to check the locks on his doors. His wife and children were sleeping in the home, and he reacted in an instant when this stranger came towards him. His wife called the police, he cooperated fully with the investigation, and was not under the influence of any alcohol or drugs.

Our client is saddened that some media reports have suggested that race played a role in this incident, or that he was looking for some type of confrontation, as neither was a factor during this very brief and scary encounter; if he could make it so that this entire event never occurred, he would do so in an instant.

We agree with District Attorney Bensen's decision not to charge our client with any crime for his actions, and we are thankful for the thorough investigation carried out by law enforcement and the DA's Office in this matter. At this point, our client and his family wish to put the matter behind them, and request privacy in doing so.

Mastantuono Law Office, S.C.,
Craig Mastantuono
Rebecca Coffee