

Safety SCENE

By Scott County Sheriff
Luke Hennen

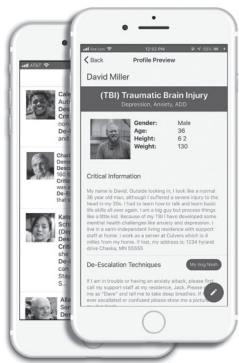


Serving vulnerable populations

Law enforcement is most effective when it has the necessary training and tools to ensure the safety of all residents, particularly its vulnerable populations. Understanding the specialized needs of our community's children, elderly, and individuals with developmental or physical disabilities, helps us respond to their needs with understanding, compassion, and customized services.

The Sheriff's Office has partnered with several advocacy groups and offers a number of services to respond effectively and appropriately to those with special challenges or are especially vulnerable:

Project Lifesaver/SafetyNet by LoJack. Project Lifesaver/SafetyNet is a system to rapidly locate vulnerable people that have a tendency to wander off and get lost. In the event a vulnerable person becomes separated from caregivers, this tracking tool will quickly bring him/her to safety. Care providers can register their loved one directly through www.safetynettracking.com. You may also contact Sgt. Bob Ryan via rryan@co.scott.mn.us or at (952) 496-8410.



Vitals App. A new phone app being used by the Sheriff's Office that provides deputies with important information regarding vulnerable individuals they may encounter and how best to interact with them. Participants or their caregivers can create a digital profile and wear a beacon that sends a signal to nearby phones of first responders equipped with the app. When law enforcement comes within 80 feet of a beacon, they will receive a notification about the individual allowing them to access the user's profile and to customize their response if needed. To create a profile or for more information, visit www.thevitalsapp.com.

File of Life. The File of Life program allows you to write down important medical information on a card and store it in a magnetized envelope. All of your latest medical information will be in one safe place, including allergies, medications, contact persons, and more. That way, if you're unresponsive when EMTs arrive, they know your medical history. Find more information about this program at www.folife.org. File of Life ID cards are available for free at the Sheriff's Office customer service window.

First Responder Emergency Alert Window Decals. These 3"x3" peel-and-stick vinyl weather-resistant window stickers can be placed on a vehicle's window or entrance to a home to alert law enforcement, firefighters, and emergency medical providers of medical conditions and/or disabilities that could affect how the patient is responding or should be treated, especially in cases where the victim is unconscious or otherwise unable to communicate to first responders important information about their medical conditions or disabilities. Alert stickers are available for free at the Sheriff's Office customer service window.

Canvas Health. Canvas Health is Scott County's mobile mental health crisis service provider, housed in the Law Enforcement Center (Sheriff's Office), that provides mental health, chemical health, crisis services, 24/7 phone triage, and a mobile response for people who are experiencing a mental health crisis. Comprised of mental health professionals, community health workers, and/or peers, these teams have the knowledge and skills to respond and refer individuals in crisis to the appropriate resources. They work closely with law enforcement, crisis services, and communities to support individuals and their families in navigating systems and supports and help prevent crises and avoid unnecessary hospitalization, police interactions, and arrests. Learn more about Canvas Health by visiting their website at www.canvashealth.org or contact them at (952) 818-3702.

TRIAD. TRIAD is a cooperative effort of law enforcement, senior citizens, and senior organizations focused on reducing crimes against the elderly. The goal of TRIAD is to reduce the fear of crime and victimization among seniors by increasing awareness of scams and frauds targeting them, strengthening communication between the law enforcement and senior communities, and educating seniors on local and state resources that are available in their community. For more information on TRIAD, contact Sgt. John Kvasnicka via jkvasnicka@co.scott.mn.us or at (952) 496-8130 or visit the Minnesota Sheriff's Association TRIAD webpage at <https://tinyurl.com/y4keqwlq>.

Community Engagement. Hosting events like "Sensory-friendly Safety Day," "Coffee with a Cop," and participating in senior-focused community programs allows us to build in-person, positive relationships with vulnerable groups so we can better get to know their individual needs. To learn more about our community engagement initiatives, please contact Community Engagement Deputy Amy Lueck at alueck@co.scott.mn.us or (952) 496-8862.

As a law enforcement official, I understand the importance of recognizing the needs of all our community members and ensuring that we have the resources and tools available to protect, serve, and increase the overall safety and health of our communities.

If you have questions about any of these programs, please feel free to contact me anytime using one of the following methods: by email at lhennen@co.scott.mn.us; by phone at (952) 496-8625; via social media @sheriffhennen; or by mail or in person at Scott County Sheriff's Office, 301 Fuller Street South, Shakopee, MN 55379. You can also visit our website at www.scottcountymn.gov.

Law Library News

New laws may affect you

Everyone is talking about the new "Hands Free" law, but there were some other laws that changed this summer that might have an impact on your life. Here are a few from the Minnesota House of Representatives website.

Move Over Law

This new law, sponsored by Representatives Brad Tabke (Shakopee) and Michael Goggin (Red Wing) expands on the type of vehicles included in the "move over" law. **Recycling and garbage trucks** have now been included with stopped emergency vehicles, road maintenance vehicles, utility company vehicles, and tow trucks. As drivers, you are required to slow down or move over. Formerly, the law was for four-lane roads. Two-lane roads are now also included. The "move over" law was originally passed in honor of State Patrol Officer Ted Foss, who was killed when he was on the side of the road writing a citation. The statute change can be found in Minnesota Statutes 169.18 sub 11.



The "move over" law now includes recycling and garbage trucks.

Wage Theft

Wage theft can now be charged as a felony and could include a penalty of five years in prison and a fine up to \$10,000. The Legislature is sending a tough message to employers. Almost \$2.05 million has been appropriated to the Department of Labor for the 2010-2021 biennium for a wage theft prevention initiative. Employers who retaliate against employees reporting wage theft can be charged with a felony and up to a five year prison sentence and a fine up to \$10,000.

The new law defines wage theft as "when an employer fails to pay an employee all wages, salary, gratuities, earnings, or commissions at the employee's rate or rates of pay required by law." Monies coming from this new law will be used to help fund community economic development programs, job training, and skills development. The bill will instruct DEED to create an inventory of all economic development programs receiving state funding by Jan. 15, 2020. A report will be required every other even-numbered year. This will assist the Legislature to make informed decisions when evaluating funding.

Parental Rights

This new law will allow parents that

have had their parental rights terminated to petition the Court for reestablishment of their legal parent-child relationship. Before the law change, only the County Attorney could file this petition. This law was enacted in hopes of reuniting families that have been stuck in the foster care system. This law is aimed at parents that were unable to care for their children because of mental illness or drug/alcohol addiction. They would need to prove that they have corrected those issues. As part of the application process, the parent must supply details regarding treatment and work histories and reasons that the parent is seeking reunification. Parents need to show that they have their lives back on track. The court hearing will include the testimony of the guardian ad litem and any case-workers that were involved in the case. The new law also removes the provision that the children are at least 15 at the time of the petition, but it also increases the amount of time that the child/children have been in foster care from 36 months to 48 months. With all custody cases, the judge will make a decision based on the best interests of the children.

Disability Plates

Disability plates and permits will be easier to obtain for those who need them, under a new law that took effect Aug. 1, 2019.

Sponsored by Rep. Jennifer Schultz (Duluth) and Sen. Jeff Howe (Rockville), the change will authorize licensed physical therapists to provide a required medical statement that an individual can use to obtain a disability parking permit or disability license plates.

Other changes include: All remodeled public buildings must be accessible to disabled people, permitting email -- in addition to existing methods of communication -- to transmit construction codes, and licensing code violations made by unlicensed people. The new law also prohibits retainage (money set aside) for warranty work and requiring final payment for work done by a contractor to be released within 60 days of the home owner taking occupancy or use of the improvement.

To find out more about these changes and more laws, check out <https://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/newlaws/#/>. If you have any questions about the clinics we offer or need help finding the right legal forms or helpful resources, give us a call or send us an email: Scott County Law Library, (952) 496-8713 or lawlib@scottlib.org.



Sight in guns at RTF range

With deer hunting rapidly approaching, the SCALE Regional Public Safety Training Facility shooting range will be open for hunters to sight their guns. The range will be monitored by trained range safety personnel during the public shooting times.

Public rifle and shotgun slug shooting dates and times are:

Sunday, October 27,
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Saturday, November 2,
12 noon – 4 p.m.



The fee to use the facility range is \$15 for 20 minutes of shooting time. Reservations are not required. Check the RTF website at www.scottcountymn.gov/rtf for additional info. For questions or additional information contact Mike Briese, Facility Manager, at (952) 496-8948 or via email at mbriese@co.scott.mn.us