



Office of the County Executive

Ralph Malicki

730 Wisconsin Avenue

Racine, WI 53403

262-636-3273

fax: 262-636-3549

Ralph.Malicki@racinecounty.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA CONTACT:

Attorney Sam Hall

Crivello, Nichols & Hall, S.C.

Racine County acknowledges that any use of force involving a juvenile is deeply serious and requires careful scrutiny. When juveniles are involved, important privacy protections must be respected, but Racine County has been and remains transparent in its response to this incident.

Immediately after the May 27, 2025, incident occurred, Racine County notified the mother of the youth involved and the Wisconsin Department of Corrections. While a short video of the incident was apparently publicly shared by the youth's family, staff's interaction with the youth transpired over several minutes and included the youth clenching his fists and making multiple threats of physical violence to other juveniles and staff.

After the incident occurred, the primarily involved staff member was immediately placed on administrative leave. He later resigned within three days of the incident. Despite the resignation, law enforcement and independent human services agencies still fully investigated and reviewed this incident. The details of the investigation and relevant video were provided to the Racine County District Attorney's Office for review and consideration of potential criminal charges. After evaluating the evidence, the District Attorney's Office declined to pursue prosecution.

The safety, dignity, and well-being of the youth in our care is our highest priority, and Racine County recognizes the heightened responsibility that comes with working with juveniles. Racine County remains committed to accountability, transparency, and continued evaluation of policies, training, and practices to ensure appropriate, professional, and trauma-informed interactions with the youth entrusted to our care.

"Maintaining the safety of youth and staff in our facilities is our highest priority," said Amberlyn Yohn, Administrator of Youth Rehabilitation Services. "Situations like this are complex and unfold quickly. While one employee's actions became the focus of this incident, our broader team followed established protocols and cooperated fully with the review process. We maintain our commitment to ensuring that staff have the training, oversight, and support needed to manage difficult situations appropriately and professionally.

In light of the threatened litigation against Racine County in this matter, any further questions may be directed to the county's legal counsel in this matter, Attorney Sam Hall, with Crivello, Nichols & Hall, S.C.

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