



Dear Parents,

As many of you are aware, a terrible school shooting at Apalachee High School in Georgia resulted in four deaths and spawned a rash of school threats across the country. Unfortunately, Monroe County was not spared from such threats. As a result, several students from the area face serious charges.

You and your child face severe consequences if they engage in the aforementioned behavior. Students face criminal charges and/or incarceration up until his/her 19th birthday, if convicted. In more serious cases, your child could be tried as an adult and even face prison time. Parents will be prosecuted under new laws which require that parents lock up firearms if they have children in the home. Failure to do so will result in charges against a parent. If someone dies as a result of a firearm that should have been locked up, the parent faces a felony which carries up to 15 years in prison. As we saw in Oxford and even in the case in Georgia, a parent could also be charged with murder if their child kills someone in a school shooting.

Most of the school threats that we see originate on social media. We implore you to monitor your child's phones, computers and other social media sources. Educate your child as to the consequences of their behavior and reiterate the importance of telling an adult when they see something of this nature or hear about it, whether at home or at school. Report school threats to 9-1-1, Central Dispatch, a teacher, a principal or report it by text or online tip to the OK2SAY website or call OK2SAY at 855-565-2729. DO NOT RE-POST THE THREAT ON SOCIAL MEDIA.

None of us want to face the tragedies we have seen around the country over the past few years. Educating our children and nourishing their mental health starts at home. We all have a role and it's important that we work together to ensure the safety of our schools and our children.

Sincerely,

Jeffery A. Yorkey
Prosecuting Attorney

Troy Goodnough
Monroe County Sheriff