



# COLUMBIA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

**Roger L. Brandner, Sheriff**

## SHERIFF'S STATEMENT REFERENCE SAFER AT HOME ORDER

03/25/20

Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers announced the "Safer at Home Order" to the people of Wisconsin in an effort to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. Earlier today he released the actual details of his order. Law enforcement leaders throughout Columbia County have been working together reviewing and interpreting what it means to all of us and especially to our Columbia County citizens. Many inquiries are coming into my office seeking guidance on what this order means to them. Unfortunately, I do not have all the answers at this time as we were given the order at the same time you received it and are still actively working to fully understand the intended scope.

My leadership direction is that The Columbia County Sheriff's Office is dedicated to providing a safe and secure community through partnerships that build trust while providing professional law enforcement services with integrity.

During these difficult, challenging, and unprecedented times, some of our individual rights are certainly being restricted. These rights are being restricted at the recommendation of medical health professionals for the greater good of all, so that others may live. This is a community effort that requires collaboration and cooperation from all of us. I ask the people of Columbia County to voluntarily comply with the "Safer at Home Order" issued by Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers so that together we can get through these difficult times. I understand and appreciate the great personal sacrifices being made right now.

I am also here to assure you that the words in my leadership direction matter. My staff and I are committed and dedicated to protecting your constitutional rights. We are not under "martial law." You will not be stopped without reasonable suspicion that a violation of law has occurred. This is the same standard that existed prior to this order.

We will investigate and take enforcement action on blatant and defiant violations of this order that put our community at greater risk. We are asking for voluntary compliance with this order so we can move forward and defeat this pandemic.

I want to end by thanking the people of Columbia County for their compliance, patience, and great personal sacrifice. Like most law enforcement agencies, we have had to change how we operate during this healthcare crisis. I am here to assure you that the entire Columbia County Sheriff's Office is standing ready to protect and serve for you.

SHERIFF ROGER BRANDNER