



**OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
TOWALIGA JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
STATE OF GEORGIA**

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June 2, 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Death of Monroe County Sheriff's Office K9 Kahn

On May 14, 2021, K9 Kahn died from heat exhaustion after mistakenly being left in his patrol car. The Monroe County Sheriff's Office investigated the cause of death and presented their findings to our office. I reviewed this case in accordance with O.C.G.A. §16-12-4, which states causing the death or suffering of an animal by failing to provide proper ventilation is a misdemeanor.

The facts of this case show that the MCSO deputy worked overtime and arrived at his residence after completing his shift at 6:00 a.m. The deputy turned off all his patrol equipment, to include the vehicle temperature sensor, per standard procedure. However, instead of exiting the vehicle with the K9 at that time, he remained inside the vehicle to finish writing reports on the laptop installed in his patrol vehicle. The deputy fell asleep while still inside the vehicle with his K9 partner. Once the deputy woke a few hours later and exited the patrol vehicle, he forgot to remove K9 Kahn.

These findings make it impossible to determine if Kahn died before or after the deputy exited the vehicle. These findings also show the deputy did not intend to leave his K9 partner in the vehicle. Although the statute does not require an individual to intend to cause harm to the animal, I do believe the statute requires an intent to cause the act that causes the harm.

The MCSO suspended the deputy without pay, demoted him, and transferred him from patrol to the jail. We will continue to work to help ensure this tragedy is never repeated and to help end the threats of violence made toward the deputy and his family.

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Jonathan L. Adams
District Attorney