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Final Update: Accidental Shooting Claims Life of 3 Year Old

(Paulding County, GA) On Tuesday April 26, 2016 at approximately 7:00 am, a 911 call was placed to Paulding E-911 in reference to a child being shot. Upon arrival, Deputies located a three year old white male child with a gunshot wound to the chest. Deputies performed CPR and other life saving measures until Fire/EMS could arrive on scene. Once Fire/EMS arrived, they transported the child to Paulding Wellstar Hospital where the child was later pronounced dead.

The incident occurred at 73 Camp Circle Dallas, GA 30132 which was where the child lived with his father, mother, and younger twin sisters. The Paulding County Sheriff's Office Crimes Against Children Unit investigated this incident from its inception. Preliminarily, Detectives believed that the child obtained the handgun from inside the residence and accidentally shot himself. Detectives later confirmed that the gun was located inside a backpack within the residence which is how the child obtained the gun. Detectives also confirmed that the boy's name was Holston Cole and that he was three years old.

On Wednesday April 27, 2016, the Georgia Bureau of Investigation Division of Forensic Science performed an autopsy on Holston Cole. According to Detectives and Forensic Pathologists, the gunshot wound was consistent with being both accidental and self-inflicted. Detectives also confirmed that the gun involved in the incident belonged to Holston Cole's father, David Cole, and is described as a Ruger LCP .380 caliber semi-automatic pistol.

Detectives with the Crimes Against Children Unit have consulted with officials at the Paulding County Judicial Circuit District Attorney's Office and decided not to move forward with any charges in this case. Detectives confirmed that this was an accidental shooting and that charges will not be pursued. Detectives further indicated that once the official results (which could take quite some time) of the autopsy return, this case will be closed.