

WOOD LAW FIRM, P.A.

501 East 4th Street, Suite 4
Russellville, AR 72801
Ph: (479) **967-WOOD** (9663)
Fax: (479) 967-9664
E-mail: RWood@WoodLawFirmPA.com

Russell A. Wood, J.D., B.A.*
Gail Wood – Office Manager
Kim Yarber – Legal Assistant

*Licensed in Arkansas and Tennessee

Website: www.WoodLawFirmPA.com

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PRESS RELEASE – CRAWFORD COUNTY DEPUTIES INCIDENT

I represent Deputy Levi White and Corporal Zack King regarding the incident that occurred while arresting a violent suspect in Mulberry, AR. There is another video from the Mulberry Police Department’s patrol unit that shows the full, unedited version of events that occurred and this has not been released. Deputy White was responding to a person matching the description of a suspect that threatened to cut a woman’s face off with his knife. Upon contacting the suspect, the suspect provided a false identity. While checking this false identity, the suspect became irate and viciously attacked Deputy White by grabbing him by the legs, lifting him up and body slamming him, head first, on the concrete parking lot. Deputy White struck his head on the concrete and the suspect then got on top of Deputy White and began striking him in the back of the head and face. Deputy White was incapacitated momentarily but remembers getting repeatedly hit in the head and then seeing the suspect fighting with Corporal King and the Mulberry officer. Deputy White re-engaged and used all force necessary to get the violent suspect under control and detained.

Such a violent suspect cannot be allowed to remain unrestrained and all necessary force is authorized to arrest this type of violent suspect. The amount of force authorized under the law is always relative to the offense the suspect commits. In this case, this violent suspect showed his willingness to commit serious violence and then he continued to resist arrest, spit and bite at the officers, and refused to allow the officers to get the handcuffs on him- hence the necessity for three officers. Deputy White’s interactions with the suspect were cordial up to the point the suspect viciously attacked him. Likewise, there was no use of force after the handcuffs were secured. The suspect also stated he had no injuries when booked into the jail and he did not need or request any medical attention. This shows that the compliance strikes administered by the deputies were used exactly as trained. Deputy White needed medical attention and sustained a concussion as result of the attack, 4” circular swelling and bruising above his right eye and is currently suffering from concussion symptoms. I have requested release of the full Mulberry dash cam but have not received a response to my request. I understand that edited, video snippets are the new rage for social media and the news channels, but these Deputies deserve the full truth to come out. The Deputies would like to thank the Southern States Police Benevolent Association (PBA) for always supporting law enforcement officers, even when it feels like no one else will.

Russell A. Wood, J.D., B.A