



## South Carolina Law Enforcement Division

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### **SLED INVESTIGATING OFFICER INVOLVED SHOOTING IN RICHLAND COUNTY**

Agents from the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) are investigating an officer involved shooting which occurred on Friday, September 29, 2023 in Richland County.

The U.S. Marshals Service's Carolinas Regional Fugitive Task Force responded to a hotel in the City of Columbia, SC, on Friday, September 29, 2023, where they had located a Georgia fugitive, George Curtis, 78. Curtis was wanted by the Richmond County Sheriff's Office in Augusta, GA, for Child Rape, Aggravated Child Molestation, Aggravated Sexual Battery and 2 counts of Child Molestation. When Deputy Marshals arrived at the hotel to serve an arrest warrant, there was an exchange of gunfire between Curtis and members of the U.S. Marshals Service. Two members of the U.S. Marshals Service were shot, treated at the hospital, and are now recovering from their injuries. Curtis suffered a gunshot wound and died at the scene. SLED was requested to investigate the officer involved shooting by the U.S. Marshals Service.

This is an ongoing investigation. As such, no other information about the case will be disclosed by SLED at this time.

SLED conducts law enforcement officer involved shooting (OIS) investigations at the request of the agency involved in the incident or the agency with jurisdiction. When requested to investigate an OIS, SLED's goal is to conduct a thorough, independent criminal investigation as timely as is possible under the circumstances. SLED agents will conduct interviews with all potential witnesses in this matter. Further, SLED will collect all relevant evidence and will forensically test such evidence as needed. Information gathered in the SLED investigation of the incident will be summarized in a case file report to be submitted to prosecutors.

The incident in Richland was the 31<sup>st</sup> officer involved shooting in South Carolina in 2023. This is the 1<sup>st</sup> officer involved shooting for the U.S. Marshals Service in South Carolina this year.

In 2022, there were 32 officer involved shootings in South Carolina. The U.S. Marshals Service had no officer involved shootings in South Carolina last year.

A copy of this news release is also on SLED's website: [www.sled.sc.gov](http://www.sled.sc.gov)

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