



PAULDING COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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To: Metro Atlanta Media

For Immediate Release

East Paulding Middle School Student Arrested for Making Threats

(Paulding County, GA) At 6:27 PM on Wednesday February 28, 2018 a parent called the Paulding County Sheriff's Office stating that her child heard another student make threats to "shoot up the school" tomorrow. The parent stated that the shooting would occur at East Paulding Middle School on Thursday March 1, 2018 at an unspecified time. Detectives with the Paulding County Sheriff's Office Juvenile Investigations Division immediately went to work and located the alleged student who made the alleged threats. As a result of interviews with witnesses and the alleged suspect, a 13 year old East Paulding middle school student was arrested and charged with the following offense:

East Paulding Middle School Student
13 YOA Female
-Terroristic Threats (F)

The student was arrested but not detained by the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice which means that she was released back into the care of her parent(s). Whatever disciplinary sanctions that are imposed by the Paulding County School District on this student, or any other student, by their policy will not be released to the public.

We want to encourage parents, students, and teachers to continue to report any and all threats to School Administrators and to the Paulding County Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff's Office will investigate every single threat made against a student, teacher, or a school in Paulding County. If there is enough evidence to support criminal charges, we will pursue them. We also want to remind parents to please talk to your children and stress the importance of the consequences for making these types of threats.



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We would like to make a point of clarification to our citizens about juveniles and how they are charged with criminal offenses in the State of Georgia.

In the State of Georgia a juvenile is considered to be anyone under the age of 18. However, and this is something that most people do not understand; an individual can be considered to be both an adult and a juvenile at 17 years old. If a 17 year old commits an offense that would warrant them going to an adult jail, they are charged as an adult and go to an adult jail. That also means that their mugshot or booking photograph along with their charges are subject to the Georgia Open Records Act and are open for the Sheriff's Office to release or anyone from the public to access this information. If a 17 year old commits a "status offense" they would be subjected to the penalties and sentences of the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice and the Juvenile Court System. Some examples of status offenses are runaway, truancy, disorderly juvenile, disobedient to parents (continuously), and curfew violation.

We hope this explanation clears up some of the confusion that was swirling around on social media yesterday regarding the arrest of the 17 year old student at North Paulding High School.