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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Adams County District Attorney Brian Sinnett announced today that after a thorough review of the officer-involved shooting incident involving the Pennsylvania State Police on February 13, 2019, that the Pennsylvania State Police Trooper involved was justified in using deadly force against Michael Drayer. The Adams County District Attorney's Office has reviewed the complete Pennsylvania State Police investigation, in conjunction with the investigation of Adams County Detectives and the Adams County Coroner, into the shooting death of Michael Drayer on February 13, 2019, in the intersection of Carlisle Road and Aspers-Bendersville Road, in Menallen Township, Adams County, Pennsylvania. At the time of the incident, Michael Drayer was observed by several different eye witnesses chasing his brother, Jesse Drayer, with a large kitchen knife. Jesse Drayer was able to find refuge in the bed of a pickup truck just prior to Troopers' arrival at the scene. Upon seeing the Troopers arrive, Jesse Drayer got out of the bed of the pickup truck and ran to the marked Pennsylvania State Police vehicle in an effort to find refuge again. He secured himself in the driver's seat area of the Trooper's patrol vehicle. It is obvious from numerous eye witness accounts, interviews with the Troopers involved, interviews of Jesse Drayer and the audio recording of the incident that the Troopers repeatedly gave commands to Michael Drayer to put the knife down. Jesse Drayer had already been significantly injured by a stab wound from Michael Drayer using the knife he still possessed. Despite the repeated commands by the Troopers, Michael Drayer refused to surrender the knife and continued towards Jesse Drayer in the police car in an aggressive manner. It was at this point that Michael Drayer again attempted to assault Jesse Drayer with the knife Michael was wielding within the police vehicle. In response to this attack, the Trooper fired three shots striking Michael Drayer and ultimately causing his death.

The Trooper's actions in this case were clearly and unequivocally justified concerning the use of deadly force because the Trooper reasonably believed that such force was necessary to prevent



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death or serious bodily injury to Jesse Drayer. As such, the Trooper was justified in using deadly force in accordance with *18 Pa.C.S.A. §506 and §508*.

District Attorney Sinnott commended the Troopers for their actions on February 13, 2019, as it is obvious after a thorough review of this incident that they certainly saved Jesse Drayer from either death or further serious bodily injury. The Trooper only used deadly force when it was absolutely necessary to protect the life of Jesse Drayer.

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