

## Hostage Crisis: Court Says Nurse Can Sue Over Substandard Law Enforcement Training.

A reserve sheriff's deputy with no training in handling prisoners was assigned to guard a recently-arrested criminal suspect recovering in the hospital ICU from an overdose of OxyContin ingested right before he was taken into custody.

The inexperienced officer did not have the patient shackled bodily to the bed and left the handcuffs off after the patient finished eating.

The prisoner grabbed the officer's gun, fired a shot into the ceiling and took a nurse hostage. Eventually a savvy hostage negotiator was able to trade him narcotics for the gun and then trained deputies quickly overpowered him.

A nurse on duty in the ICU who was not the nurse taken hostage sued for PTSD from the incident. The Court of Appeal of Louisiana ruled the sheriff's department was liable to the nurse for damages for negligence for sending a deputy with substandard training. **Thomas v. Sheridan**, 2008 WL 426289 (La. App., February 8, 2008).